

Annual Outcome Improvement Report

2025/2026



**Community
Planning
Aberdeen**

Foreword

By Councillor Allard and Shantini Paranjothy

Welcome to Community Planning Aberdeen's Annual Outcome Improvement Report 2025/26, which sets out how partners across the city have worked together over the past year to improve outcomes for people who live and work in Aberdeen.

This has been another year shaped by complexity and uncertainty. Ongoing cost of living pressures, persistent health inequalities, climate change and rising demand for public services continue to affect communities across the city, with the greatest impacts too often felt in our priority neighbourhoods. At the same time, partners have continued to demonstrate commitment, innovation and collaboration in responding to these challenges and in working towards the Stretch Outcomes set out in our Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2016-26.

The report highlights clear areas of progress. Employment has exceeded its target at 76.4%, improving from 74.7% the previous year and 72.9% at baseline. Cost of living pressures have eased for some households, with the proportion of residents worried about heating their home reducing to 20.4% in 2026, down from 32% in 2022. At the same time, income maximisation and cash-first approaches have supported households to increase their income, including £1.057m generated through benefit uptake and an average identified gain of £289 per household per week. There is also strong evidence of impact from preventative approaches. Early years activity has contributed to a 64% reduction in children requiring social work intervention, while prevention activity within youth and justice services has supported a 14% decrease since 23/24 (602 to 518) in under 18s charged with an offence.

At the same time, this report is clear that progress has been uneven. For several stretch outcomes, performance remains below what we set out to achieve. Rising homelessness, continuing health inequalities, harmful use of alcohol and drugs, and ongoing pressures on families and communities all underline that improvement is rarely linear and that progress in one area can be fragile if wider system pressures are not addressed. Being honest about where we are is essential if we are to learn, adapt and focus our collective effort where it is most needed.

The progress described reflects the combined efforts of community groups, third sector organisations, public services, businesses and, people with lived experience. We are grateful to everyone who has contributed their time, skills and expertise during the year, and to those who have shared their experiences to help improve how services are designed and delivered.

As we approach the transition to our new Local Outcome Improvement Plan for 2026–2036, this report provides both a record of what has been achieved and a reminder of the work still to be done. The learning from 2025/26 will inform our future priorities, helping us to focus on prevention, reduce inequality and support communities to thrive.

We encourage you to read the report, reflect on the evidence it presents and consider how you might get involved in Community Planning Aberdeen's work in the year ahead. Together, we remain committed to improving outcomes for everyone in Aberdeen. Details on how to get involved are available on page 99, or by contacting: communityplanning@aberdeencity.gov.uk



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

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Professor Shantini Paranjothy, Director of Public Health, NHS Grampian, Vice Chair of Community Planning Aberdeen

SUMMARY OF PROGRESS

This is a summary of our headline achievement during 2025/26 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	
<u>Stretch Outcome 1</u> 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.		<u>Stretch Outcome 3</u> 95% of all children will reach their expected developmental milestones by their 27-30 month review by 2026.		<u>Stretch Outcome 9</u> 10% fewer adults (over 18) charged with more than one offence by 2026		<u>Stretch Outcome 13</u> Addressing climate change by reducing Aberdeen's carbon emissions by at least 61% by 2026 and adapting to the impacts of our changing climate	
<u>Stretch Outcome 2</u> 74% employment rate for Aberdeen City by 2026.		<u>Stretch Outcome 4</u> 90% of children and young people report they feel listened to all of the time by 2026.		<u>Stretch Outcome 10</u> Healthy life expectancy (time lived in good health) is five years longer by 2026.		<u>Stretch Outcome 14</u> 38% of people walking and 5% of people cycling as main mode of travel by 2026.	
		<u>Stretch Outcome 5</u> 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.		<u>Stretch Outcome 11</u> Reduce the rate of both alcohol related deaths and drug related deaths by 10% by 2026.		<u>Stretch Outcome 15</u> 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.	

		<u>Stretch Outcome 6</u> 95% of children living in our priority neighbourhoods (Quintiles 1 and 2) will sustain a positive destination upon leaving school by 2026.		<u>Stretch Outcome 12</u> 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.		<u>Stretch Outcome 16</u> 50% of people report they feel able to participate in decisions that help change things for the better by 2026.	
		<u>Stretch Outcome 7</u> 83.5% fewer young people (under 18) charged with an offence by 2026.					
		<u>Stretch Outcome 8</u> 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 improvement 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. 	8.1% of City Voice respondents reported in 2026 that during the last 12 months there was a time when they were worried they would not have enough food to eat, down from 9.4% in 2024, but up from 5.4% in 2019. 20.4% of City Voice respondents reported in 2026 that they were worried they would not be able to heat their home, down from 32% in December 2022 and 24.2% in 2024, but up from 10% in 2021.
SO2 74% employment rate for Aberdeen City by 2026. 	Stretch Outcome 2 exceeded with a 76.4% employment rate for October 2024-September 2025, up from 74.7% employment rate for October 2023-September 2024 and from 72.9% in 2016/27.



STRETCH OUTCOME 1 PROGRESSING

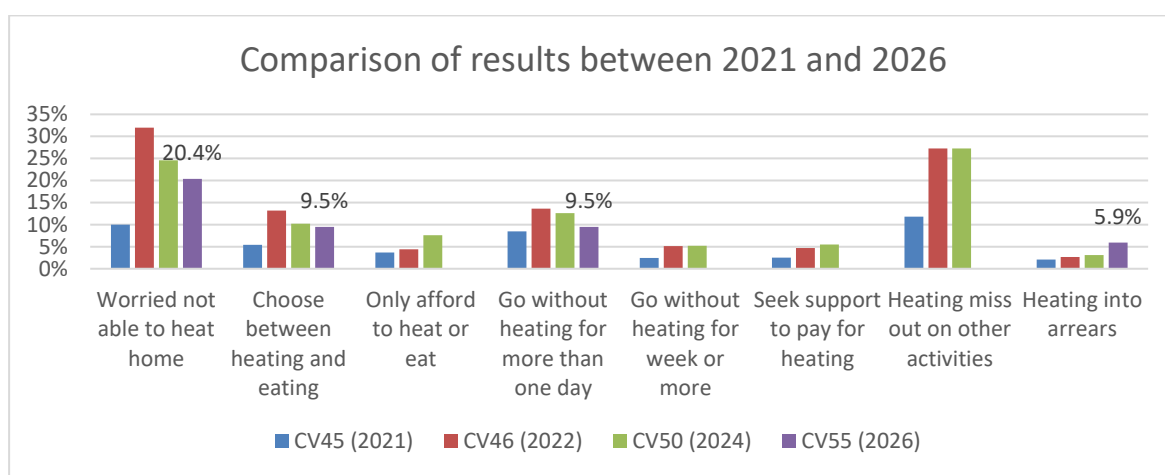
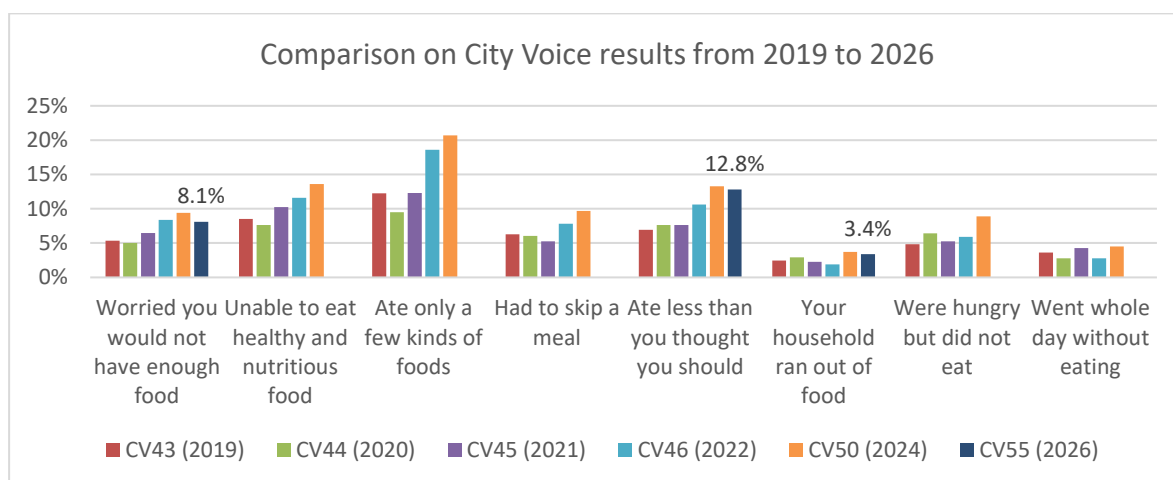
with 11.6% fewer people worried they can't heat their home and 3.7% reduction in people having to choose between heating and eating.

Across Aberdeen, many households continue to experience pressure from rising living costs, with some residents worried about being able to afford enough food or heat their home. Community Planning Aberdeen is committed to reducing this and making a number of improvements locally, detailed below, to mitigate the underlying causes of these concerns, from improving home energy efficiency and reducing fuel poverty, to maximising income, supporting people experiencing crisis, and increasing access to benefits. Together these activities contribute to reducing financial worry for families across the city.

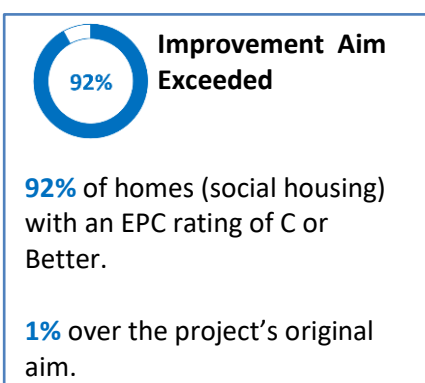
Data from our latest City Voice survey shows that 20.4% of people were worried about not being able to heat their homes. That figure is a decrease from 2024 (24.6%) and 2022 (32%). However, the 2026 figure remains higher than the 10% of people worried about heating their homes in 2021. This trend reflects the long-term impact of increased energy bills and cost of living pressures.

Rising living costs, coupled with long-standing inequalities, continue to place significant pressure on communities in Aberdeen. The impacts of increased financial strain and poverty are not felt evenly across the city. Households already at risk of hardship are finding it increasingly challenging to meet their basic needs and cover essential costs. Our focus remains on working alongside our partners, including people living in the communities most exposed to cost of living increases, to design and deliver practical responses to poverty. This commitment includes initiatives that help people living in warm, safe homes, and supporting their access to affordable and nutritious food.

In the City Voice 2026, panellists were asked about their ability to access healthy or nutritious food. Survey responses show that, compared to 2024, there was a drop in the proportion of people who answered 'yes' to questions about being worried about not eating enough food, eating less than people thought they should and households running out of food. Taking a longer term view, the proportion of people who answered 'yes' to each of these questions has increased since 2019. Since 2019, the largest increase was in the proportion who reported that they are less food than they thought they should (6.9% to 12.8%)



Helping more homes become warm, energy-efficient and affordable to heat

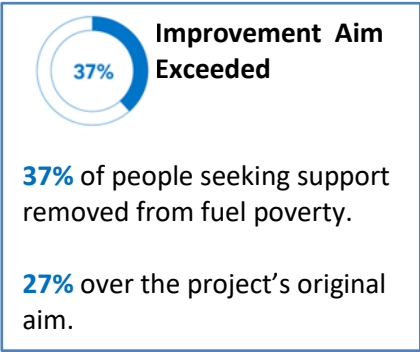


Being able to heat your home affordably is essential for health and wellbeing, and improving energy efficiency helps reduce fuel bills for households across Aberdeen. Energy efficiency improvements can reduce energy costs but the upfront expense is often unaffordable for individual households. Straightforward improvements like loft or cavity wall insulation, updated heating controls, or replacing an inefficient boiler can improve a home's energy performance significantly, even though these upgrades may still be out of reach for many households without additional support.

Through our energy efficiency project, we have been working towards improving the energy efficiency of Aberdeen's social housing, supporting residents to keep their homes warm and reduce energy costs. Activity this year focused on progressing insulation work in mixed-tenure blocks, including developing improved communication with tenants and owners to secure majority consent for works. Letters have now been updated and issued, and the team is working with legal services to address barriers, such as how tenants are notified and challenges with loft clearance for insulation.

The project has achieved its improvement aim, with the percentage of social homes meeting an EPC rating of C or better increasing from 91% to 92% between 2023 and 2024. The work is now being embedded as business as usual, recognising that upcoming national changes to EPC calculations (expected from late 2026) may affect future ratings.

Raising Awareness of Support for Fuel Poverty



Rising energy costs mean many households are finding it harder to heat their homes, so providing practical and accessible support is essential to reducing fuel poverty.

Raising awareness and working with communities have been central to efforts to reduce fuel poverty in Aberdeen. Our fuel poverty project has exceeded its aim, receiving 2473 enquiries in 2025/26, compared with 866 enquiries received in 2024/25. This year, 188 people (37%) have been removed from fuel poverty, compared with 197 people (34%) removed from fuel poverty last year. This increase is partly the result of an improved system for

logging enquiries, which supports longer-term, accurate reporting, the capture of ongoing data points, and an improved workflow for advisors. This gives us a clearer, detailed impact of the client journey and a true reflection of the level of demand for support with fuel poverty.

Towards Ending the Need for Food Banks in Scotland

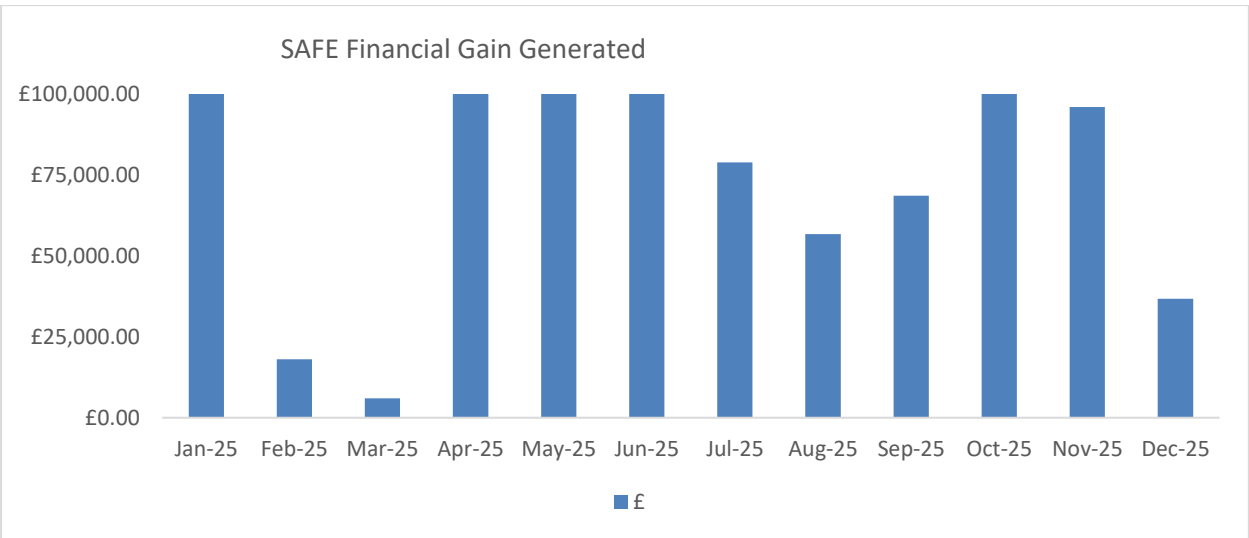
When people experience a financial crisis, cash support combined with income maximisation advice helps them retain dignity, choice and the ability to cover essential needs while reducing the need to access emergency food provision.



Cash First Aberdeen

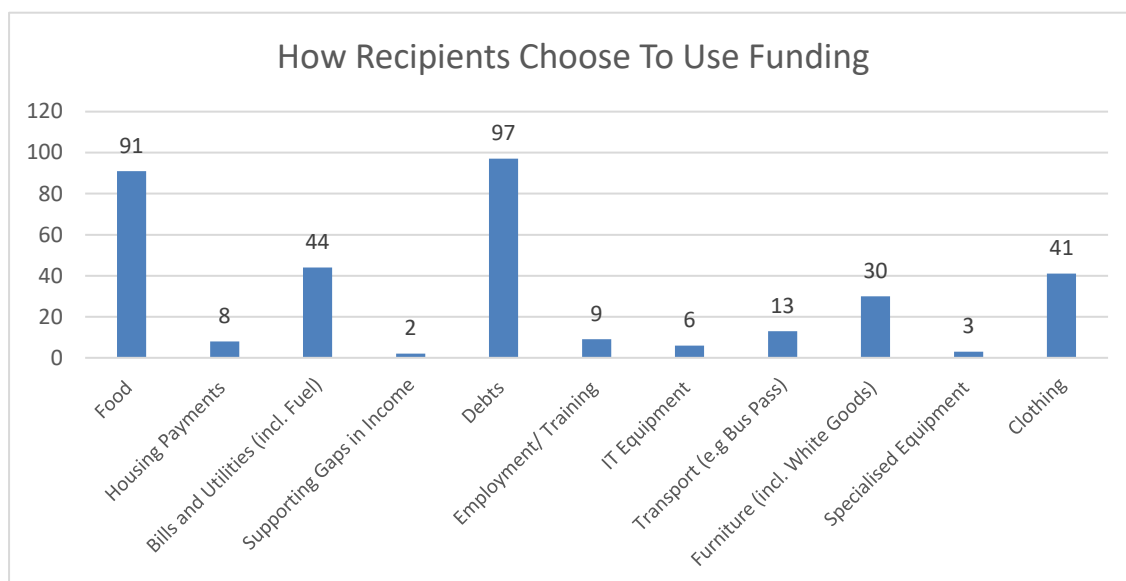
Through our cash-first and income maximisation projects in Aberdeen, we have maintained a flexible crisis fund delivered by trusted partners. Our partners offer a range of support mechanisms, including cash, vouchers or direct payments alongside wraparound help such as debt support, welfare rights guidance and advice about financial resilience. Promoting this project through social media, posters and awareness sessions helped increased awareness of referral routes.

Between January and December 2025, there has been a 94% reduction in people accessing emergency food where they have received cash first payments alongside a considerable impact on other outcomes such as increased access to wrap around support, and improved mental health and wellbeing. CFINE's SAFE Team also generated over £1,057,000 in financial gain for residents through benefit uptake.



People who receive Cash First payments are using them for a wide range of essential costs. In recent months, the proportion of people using the money for food has increased. However, the majority of the

cash payments are used for non-food support, including debts and utility bills. High food inflation and an increase in knowledge from trusted partners about external funding opportunities to tackle wider support needs – for example, the Aberdeen City Council Rent Assistance Fund – contributed to the increase in people using cash first support to buy food.



Cash First does not mean ‘cash only’. A key component of the intervention has been providing wrap-around services that tackle the root cause of poverty and food insecurity. Combining cash with other support services, including welfare-rights advice, the Financial Inclusion Team, specialist debt services and financial-resilience courses, has been crucial to the project’s performance. Through close partnership working, the cash first project has demonstrated the positive impact of collaboration around the design and delivery of services. Partners involved in the cash first project have reported enhanced communication between organisations, an increased awareness of services available, and more efficient referral pathways.

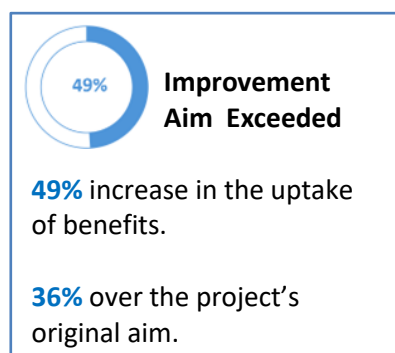
Lived-experience has been central to design and delivery of the Cash First approach. Interviews highlighted the barriers people face and how Cash first projects could suit their needs. Additionally, the Food Poverty Lived Experience Group has used their first-hand experience of living on low incomes to develop a manifesto ahead of the Scottish Parliament election in May 2026. The need for a Cash First approach to be scaled up towards a Minimum Income Guarantee is an important element of the manifesto document.

While Cash First is making a positive impact, demand for emergency food remains very high. CFINE’s food bank regularly exceeds 4,500 food parcels per month. CFINE’s analysis shows a moderate link between food-bank use and community-pantry access, underscoring the importance of continuing to support households struggling with cost of living pressures. Providing people monetary support, alongside help to maximise their income, instead of food aid gives them more dignity and agency as they can buy what they need. Through various Cash First and other income maximisation projects across Aberdeen, we aim to destigmatise the need to access food.

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. A Challenge Poverty event was held by Fairer Aberdeen Fund partners aimed at raising awareness of the lived experience of poverty and included short films on the stigma and inequality of poverty in our communities.

Reaching out to People to Maximise Their Income



Growing financial insecurity is closely linked to rising poverty. Maximising household income through increased uptake of unclaimed benefits is essential to helping people move out of poverty and strengthen their financial stability. Through our benefit-uptake project, we continue to address known barriers that prevent individuals from accessing the support to which they are entitled.

Funding from the Scottish

Government supported the development of a Low Income Family Tracker (LIFT), which combines poverty-related indicators from Council systems, the Department for Work and Pensions, and other publicly available data. Using LIFT has enabled us to identify people eligible for specific benefits and contact them directly to raise awareness and offer support with applications where needed.



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.

Alongside these delivery outcomes, analysis using LIFT data reviewed the wider impact of targeted DHP take-up by comparing households who received a DHP with those who were invited but did not take up support. It found that DHP support improved household financial resilience and reduced hardship over time, including a 30% reduction in fuel poverty, a 26% reduction in relative poverty, and a 34% reduction in Housing Benefit overpayments (around £1,934). Households receiving DHP were also 24% less likely to fall into large council tax arrears than those who did not receive DHP support. The analysis further noted that by December 2025 there were 10 fewer households affected by the benefit cap within the supported cohort.

Since March 2025, we have also identified 113 families experiencing both relative poverty and fuel poverty. These families were targeted for support through the Rent Assistance Fund, resulting in £100,151.03 being awarded to clear their rent arrears.

We have used LIFT to identify households that are entitled to additional support through educational benefits. In November 2025, we identified 73 households via LIFT as likely to be eligible for Educational Maintenance Allowance but not receiving it. After contacting these households, we made 16 awards. LIFT data identified 498 pupils who were eligible for Free School Meals. All pupils were issued Free School Meal voucher for Christmas. From January 2026, these pupils will be auto awarded Free School Meals under low income eligibility, removing the need for further applications.

We recognise that no single communication method meets the needs of all individuals and communities. Since October 2024, the CFINE SAFE Team has been based at the Middlefield Hub Café on the first Friday of each month, offering support with benefit access and budgeting advice. In addition to direct engagement, we have continued to design and deliver targeted campaigns aimed at specific benefits and communities to raise awareness of the online benefit calculator. This tool enables individuals to assess their benefit entitlement independently and confidentially, helping to reduce stigma. Campaigns such as our Pension Credit social media activity and the distribution of our family information booklet have produced positive results.

Overall, use of the online benefit calculator has remained strong during 2025/26. Between 1 April 2025 and 31 March 2026, 7,833 have used the calculator with £781,831.99 per week benefits identified. This means that around 65% of calculations identified a financial gain. For households, this equates to an average of £289 per week per household. This represents a significant increase compared to 2024/25, when the average level of unclaimed benefits identified for households completing the calculator was £205 per week.



People experiencing homelessness are often also facing financial crisis. Ensuring they receive a benefit check is important to maximising their income and preventing further hardship. Through our financial assessments for people presenting as homeless, we are committed to ensuring that everyone presenting as homeless could access the benefits to which they are entitled. In 2025, 100% of people assessed as homeless have been offered a financial assessment to check they are accessing all appropriate benefits. This has been achieved by the introduction of automated reminders and an enhanced follow-up process. The enhanced follow up process saw engagement increase by

reduced the proportion of people we could not reach from 59% to 9%. All 1,407 people assessed as statutorily homeless received the benefit calculator link. Engagement increased significantly, with 64% completing a benefit check. Half of those completing a check identified financial gains, amounting to £199,233.74, demonstrating clear progress in both reach and impact between 2024 and 2025.

We continue to collaborate with partners in the city, including Aberdeen Citizens Advice Bureau, CFINE, Turning Point Scotland and Instant Neighbour to widen access to our services and make it easier for people to find support.

Fairer Aberdeen Fund 2025-26

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 2025-26 £1.5m was made available to support this work and 34 initiatives were funded. Impact figures from 2024-25 show that over 52,000 people were involved or benefitted from the funded initiatives within the programme and 752 volunteers contributed 137,210 hours of volunteering with a value of over £2.3m.

806 people took part in employability programmes and 227 people moved into work. 5,566 people received money and income maximisation advice, with 1,500 of them receiving a total financial gain of £2m the equivalent of £1,350 per person. 166 parents and families with complex needs were supported, and 698 people accessed mental health counselling provision provided locally. 562 tonnes of free food was distributed including 47,266 emergency food parcels. Over 1,250 food bank users were referred to additional support services. There were 3,527 shops at community pantries and the mobile cooperative vehicle.

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
EXCEEDED 76.4%
employment rate**

We are pleased to share that Stretch Outcome 2 continues to be achieved with a 3.5% point increase in our working age population who are employed (72.9% (2016/27 our baseline) to 76.4%, 2% higher than the rate for Scotland. However, we recognise there has been a 1% decrease since the previous reporting period (Oct 2023-Sept 2024).

However, we know the picture isn't the same for everyone. The number of people claiming out-of-work support has increased by 8%, (5,280 from 4,875), and 45% of people claiming live in our priority neighbourhoods. This tells us that while progress is being made, too many residents are

still facing real barriers to stable, good-quality employment.

We're continuing to focus on helping people access the financial support they're entitled to, strengthening long-term financial resilience, and creating more routes into secure, fair paid jobs. A key priority is supporting people in our priority communities and vulnerable groups, such as young parents, by supporting new business creation, helping people gain digital skills and increasing the number of accredited Real Living Wage employers across Aberdeen.

Providing targeted and outreach employability support for people our priority neighbourhoods and over 50s



**Improvement
Project Aim
Exceeded**

692 individuals aged over 50
have moved into sustained
employment

592% over the original aim

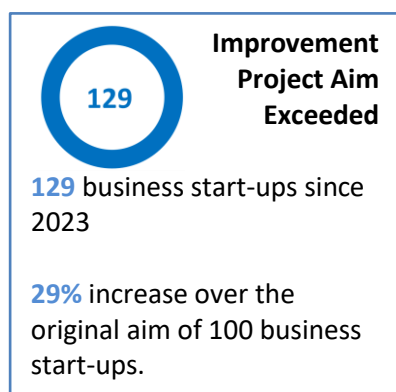
Through our [priority neighbourhood and over 50 employment](#) project, we continue to see a positive impact from providing community based employability support through local venues, and providing specific services aimed at different groups, reflective of their needs.

The project achieved its improvement aim and has sustained progress in 2025/26 with 405 people aged 50 and over receiving employment support through ABZ Works, with 37 moving into positive destinations, including 20 into employment. 63% of people aged over 50 receiving employability support in 2025/26 are from

our priority neighbourhoods, with 23 positive destinations, including 12 into work, showing the impact of providing support in the community.

Given the impact of the improvement activity, employability training and support continues across community venues including the Skills Hub, Old Torry Community Centre and Greyhope School Community Centre and DWP continues to support people with specific services aimed at people aged over 50.

Supporting People to Start a Business



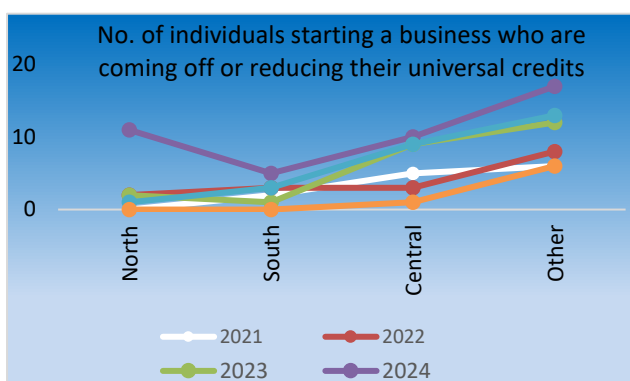
For many people, the idea of starting a business can feel out of reach. Our [business start-up project](#) has shown what can happen when barriers are lifted and the right support is in place. Since the project began, 280 city residents receiving Universal Credit have explored business creation, and 129 people have now successfully started their own business, surpassing the aim of 100.

In 2025/26, there has been a 34% increase in business start-ups (96 to 129) and 57% of the 13 new businesses in 2025/26 were from priority neighbourhoods.

Overall, of the 129 people who started a business, 52% (67) were from priority neighbourhoods, 16 in North, 14 in South and 37 in Central.

The project continues to use targeted seed funds to help businesses get set up and relieve the financial pressures of starting up, with 116 individuals referred to the Seed Funds with ABZ Works for support. This support, along with Business Gateway advisers embedded in communities, continues to make support more accessible than ever and has shown the impact of providing support in the local community.

The businesses that have started have been wide ranging. The team has supported individuals to start up as hairdressers, nail technicians, driving instructors, plumbers, cleaners, gardeners, and cake makers to name a few. The transition to business ownership has been life changing for participants. The impact is reflected in the below case study:



Impact of our support: Case Study

KM Nail Lounge

Karen approached Business Gateway Aberdeen City & Shire in February 2026 seeking support to re-enter the working world after leaving her full-time retail role several years earlier. Following a challenging period managing her mental health and completing extensive counselling, she identified an opportunity to retrain as a nail technician and eyebrow specialist, to establish herself as self-employed.

Karen engaged fully with Business Gateway and the support available. She attended a series of Business Gateway workshops to build her knowledge and confidence, while also exploring funding options to help her transition into her new career. Through this process, her business adviser, Donna, recommended that Karen apply for the ABZ Works Seed Fund, and her application was subsequently approved.

Karen demonstrated strong commitment by working closely with Donna to undertake market research, write a Business Plan and develop a Cash Flow Forecast in just over a month. Regular meetings at the Torry Skills Centre ensured she remained on track throughout the process. In March 2026, her plan was formally approved by ABZ Works, resulting in an award of £5,000 to fund her initial training and essential equipment purchases.

Business Gateway's accessible, local support played a vital role in enabling Karen to move forward and establish her new business.

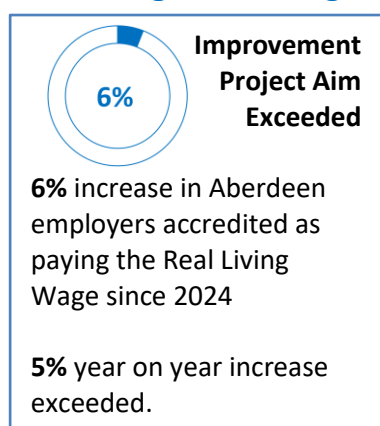
Testing new approaches to help people into Health and Social Care Jobs

Traditional recruitment processes can unintentionally create barriers for people with valuable life experience and skills. Through our [health and social care jobs project](#) we have been testing a more supportive, flexible approach to help people explore and move into domestic and care roles.

A new application pathway focused on values and experience rather than qualifications has been tested. This has included pre-employment programmes, open sessions with the Domestic team to offer the opportunity for individuals to understand more about the role and job requirements; interview support by Aberdeen Foyer; interview and if successful appointment. The project has now supported **6 people** secure paid employment in Domestic Services. Further work has started with Project Flourish using the same methodology, with 10 attendees to a workshop, of which 9 have applied for placements.

Given the impact with the initial pilot, work is also now under way to replicate this model in areas such as catering and to improve matching between applicants and job locations. The project is helping people build confidence, gain hands-on experience and access meaningful work.

Increasing Real Living Wage Employment Opportunities



The Real Living Wage is a key lever in tackling in-work poverty, helping ensure that employment provides a genuine route to financial security by enabling people to meet everyday expenses and maintain a decent standard of living.

Our [real living wage project](#) has focused on sustained engagement with employers, from large organisations to small local businesses. As of April 2026, 124 employers in the city are now Real Living Wage accredited. This represents a 6% increase since the end of 2024 (117 employers) and a 202% increase since the project began (from 41 to 124). These accreditations have led to nearly 2000 employees receiving a pay rise to the Real Living Wage rate to date.

Accreditations during 2025 have come from a range of employers and sectors including Mother Technologies Ltd, Newton Dee Camphill Community, Northwind Healthcare and Weavecentrix.

The project has also helped raise the profile of Living Hours scheme, with employers such as SCARF joining CFINE and Four Pillars in offering more secure and predictable working hours. This focus on fair pay and fair hours is giving people in Aberdeen greater financial stability, an important step in reducing poverty across the city.

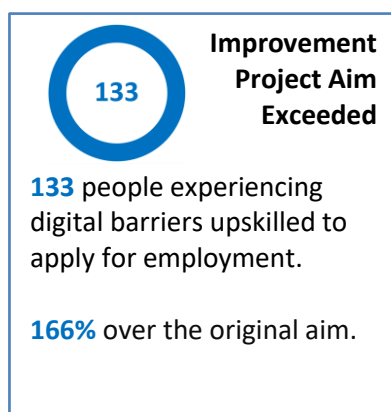
Latest data available showed that 90.7% of employees in the city were in living wage employment, 1% lower than in 2023 but 7% higher than in 2017.



Impact of our support

Around 2,000 employees in the city have benefitted from a rise in their wages as a result of their employers accrediting to the real Living Wage. One retail employee said “The real Living Wage makes me feel valued, it does make a difference due to the cost of things like petrol, and the cost of everything in general. If people are getting paid more, they’ll enjoy working more as well”.

Removing Digital Barriers and Opening Up Digital Employment Opportunities



Digital skills are now essential for almost every job, however people across Aberdeen still face barriers that make it harder to access available jobs, apply for opportunities or take part in training. Our [digital skills project](#) set out to change that.

The aim was to upskill 50 residents experiencing digital barriers by 2026. Thanks to a mix of community-based training, targeted support, and improved access to digital equipment, the project has far exceeded this ambition. To date, 133 individuals have been supported to apply for employment opportunities, a 129% increase since 2024/25 (58) with 243 people recorded as having benefited from digital support overall. Of the 133, 39 are from the North

locality, 34 from South and 60 from Central.

A range of activities has been tested across community settings, including CV workshops, job-application workshops, interview workshops, digital and media skills training, sector-specific IT training, and promotion of digital equipment access. These have been delivered in local community venues including Powis Community Centre, Tory Skills Centre, Woodside and the Marywell Centre.

Of the 133 supported, 45 are now in employment.

Alongside this, the project tested ways of improving access to digital equipment. There has been a 307% increase (27 in 2024/25 to 110 in 2025/26) in the number of people receiving laptops, complete with 12-month Microsoft subscriptions, to help them participate in employability programmes and move closer to work. Libraries have also played a key role, offering public-access laptops, digital learning resources, device-loan collaborations, and even a quiet video-interview room for online interviews.

Feedback from participants highlights the value of this support.

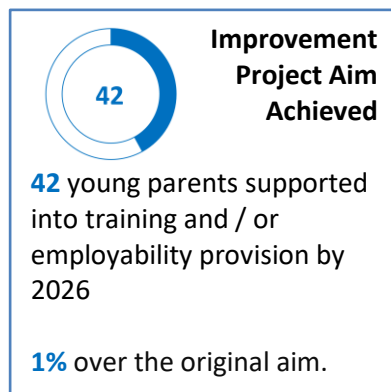
Impact of our support

One 27-year-old from the North locality described the digital and media course as “a good learning opportunity for anybody looking to enhance or refresh their IT or employability skills,” while others spoke about new ambitions in radio, music or photography, with one person describing the experience as “SHMU therapy.”

People Supported:

- 39 people completed CV workshops
- 44 people took part in job-application workshops
- 30 completed a digital and media skills course, with 14 moving into a positive destination
- 20 completed sector-specific IT training, with several progressing directly into work and others moving into further training

Reducing the barriers to employment for young parents



Supporting young parents into training and employment is a priority because additional barriers can restrict their access to services and opportunities. Research from our [young parents project](#) showed the barriers faced locally, and that young parents would benefit most from support that is tailored, flexible and easy to access.

To address these barriers, the project tested the development of a targeted employability support package co-designed with young parents and increased awareness of available support through targeted promotion. They took a proactive, community-based approach by meeting parents where they already are, at Northfield hub during parent sessions, community cafés, Homestart volunteer sessions, and during the Tall Ships event. These sessions helped raise

awareness of employability provision and provided direct opportunities for young parents to be referred for support.

Support has also expanded through a new employability programme for parents delivered by Aberdeen Foyer, funded through No One Left Behind. This work is helping young parents gain skills, confidence, and pathways into jobs that work for them and their families. Specifically, since September 2024:

- **43 young parents** (aged 25 or under) registered with ABZWorks. Of those
- **19** completed a commissioned training course
- **<5** received seed funding to start their own business
- **6** secured employment
- **<5** gained paid work experience, with more placements due once PVG checks are complete



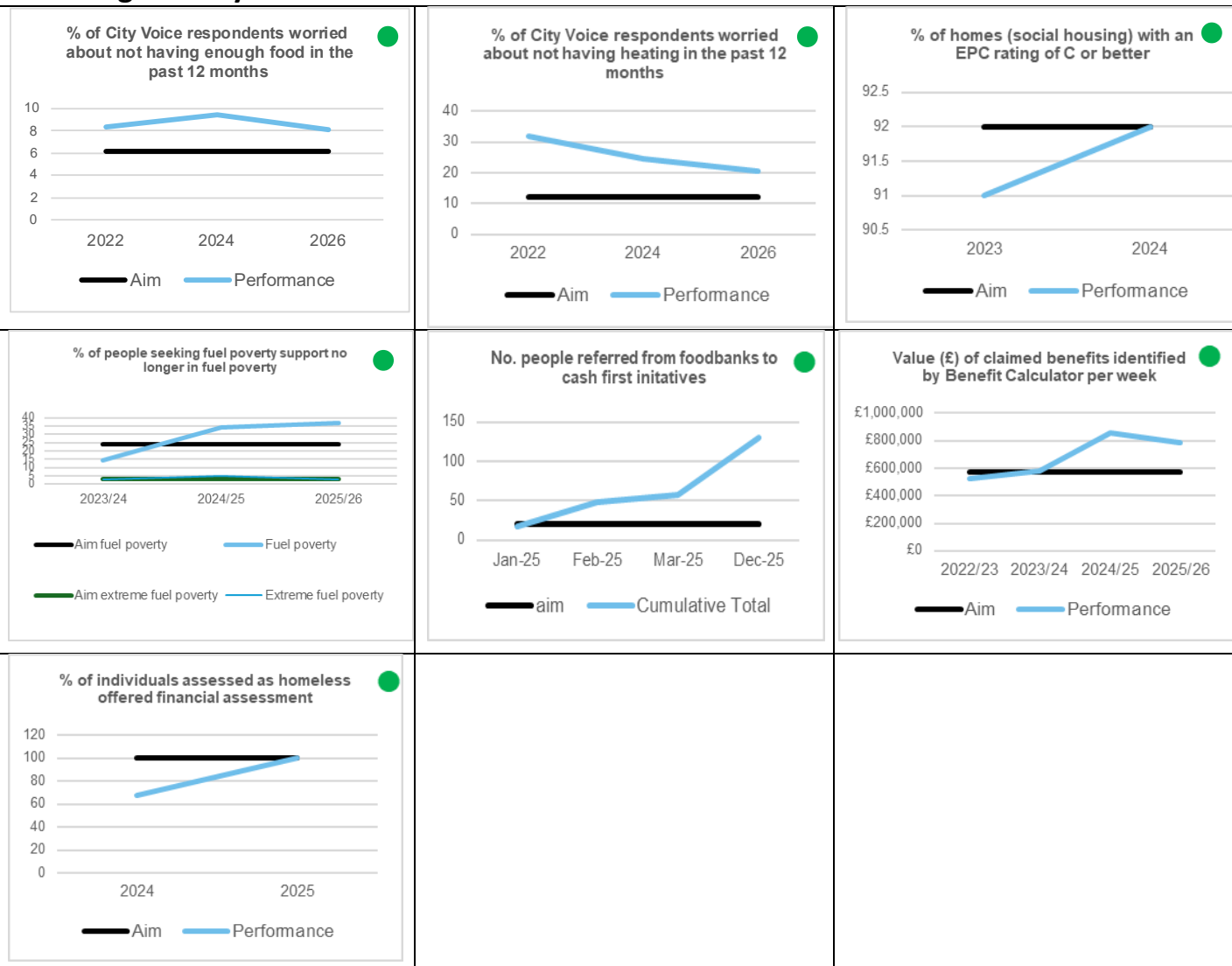
What impact have we had?



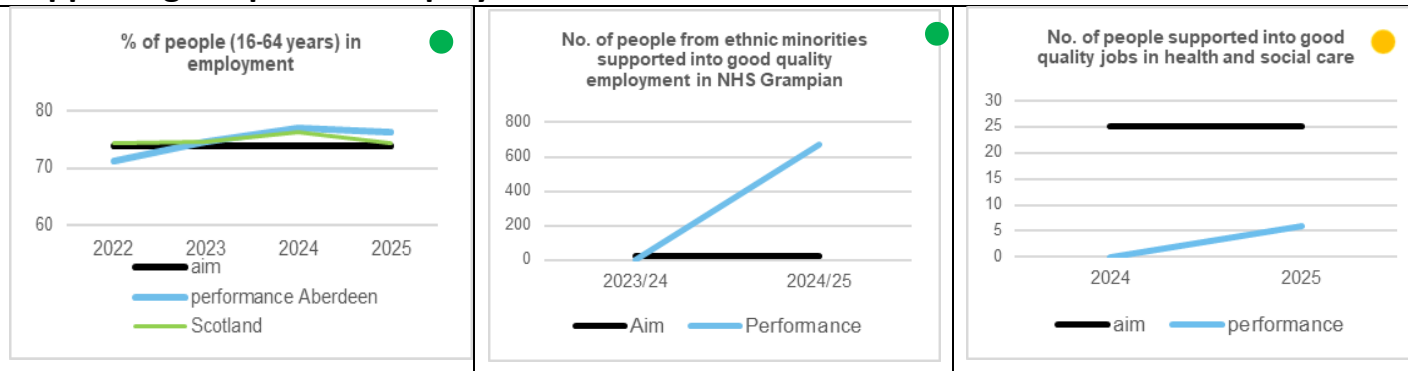
— 24/25/26 improvement aim — Performance

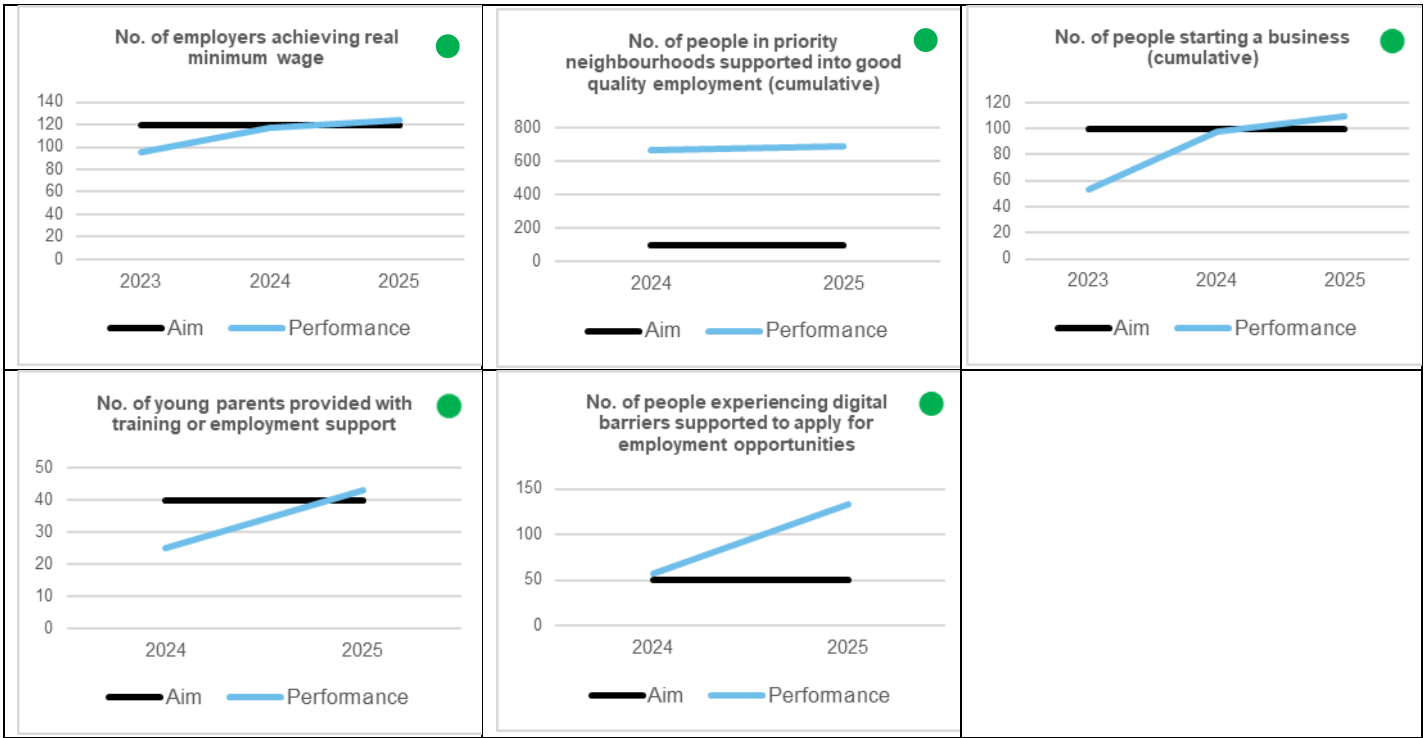
- Yes
- Getting there
- Not yet

Reducing Poverty



Supporting People Into Employment





Improvement Priorities 2026/27



- **Families and Communities Support Model**

Develop a place-based system of hubs, personal casework, integrated pathways and outreach support providing a single co-ordinated experience of access to financial empowerment, housing support and pathways to safe and affordable homes, food sharing, health, employability and family support. This system change aims to ensure people receive the right support at the right time, and seeks to reduce health inequalities and the risk of poverty and homelessness, while preventing avoidable harms such as poor mental wellbeing, domestic abuse and substance use.

- **Inclusive routes to Emerging and Growing Sectors**

Develop inclusive access routes that connect individuals to emerging and growing employment sectors providing skills development, and employer led opportunities, underpinned fair work principles.



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 	86.3% of children assessed at their 27-30 month review met their developmental milestones in 2023/24 down from 89.8% (2022/23), and from 91.8% in 16/17. 80.4% of eligible children were assessed in 2023/24 up from 68.4% (22/23)
SO4 90% of children and young people report they feel listened to all of the time by 2026. 	72% of children and young people in 2025/26 reported feeling listened to all of the time, up from 70% in 2024/25 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.	30.1% gap between the % of care experienced young people (60%) and all young people (90.1%) achieving a positive and sustained destination in 22/23. 21.3% decrease in % of experienced young people achieved a positive and sustained destination in 23/24 (60%), down from 81.3% in 2022/23 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. 	1.9% increase in % of Young People from Quintile 1 achieving a sustained positive destination (91.3% in 24/25 compared to 89.4% in 23/24 and higher than 2016/17 at 84.5%) 0.6% increase in % of Young People from Quintile 2 achieving a sustained positive destination (90.6% in 24/25 compared to 90% in 23/24, and higher than in 2016/17 at 87.9%).
SO7 83.5% fewer young people (under 18) charged with an offence by 2026. 	46% decrease in number of young people being charged with an offence (518 in 24/25 compared to 965 in 15/16, and a 14% decrease since 23/24 (602 to 518).
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%) 24/25 data not yet published

Progress made during 2025/26



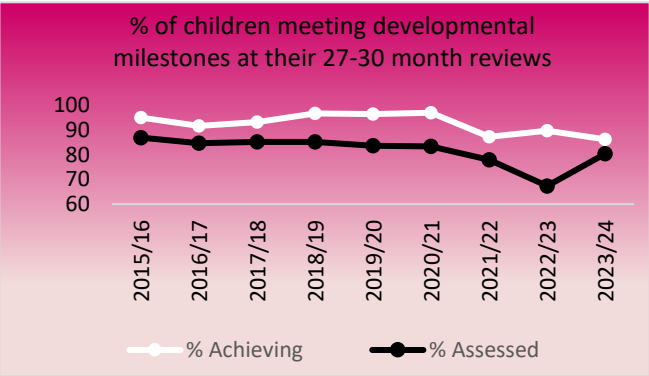
Supporting children to get the best start in life

86.3% 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.

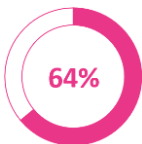
Latest data available at the end of 2025/26 shows that 86.3% of children assessed in Aberdeen met their developmental milestones in 2023/24, down from 89.8% in 2022/23 but remains higher than the figure for Scotland (83.3%).

However, this year's data shows a 12% increase in the in the percentage of eligible children who received an assessment, up from 68.4% in 2022/23 to 80.4% in 2023/24. Among other things this has been attributed to an increase in Health Visitors in the city. The increase in assessments may also influence the decline in the number of children reported as meeting their development milestones as significantly more children are now being assessed.



We know that some families, particularly within our priority neighbourhoods, face challenges that reduce their children's ability to reach these milestones. We continue to deliver targeted support and early intervention for families with children under five, focusing on income maximisation, cash-first access to infant formula, and dental and parenting support where required.

Support for families at risk



Improvement Project Aim Achieved

64% decrease in number of children meeting threshold for social work intervention

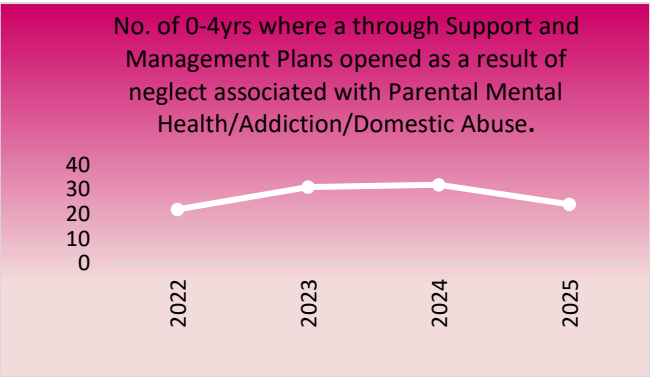
59% over the original aim.

During 2025/26, the **Early Intervention for Parenting and Family Support project** strengthened early intervention for families with children aged 0–4 where there are concerns relating to parental mental health, substance misuse and domestic abuse. The focus was on consistent early identification, stronger referral pathways and expanding support that helps families avoid crisis and statutory intervention.

Health visitor and family nurse data shows a 250% increase in earlier identification through Support and Management Plans (4 in 2024 to 14 in 2025), reflecting improved confidence and consistency in recognising risk. Crucially, this has not led to increased statutory intervention. The number of children meeting the threshold for

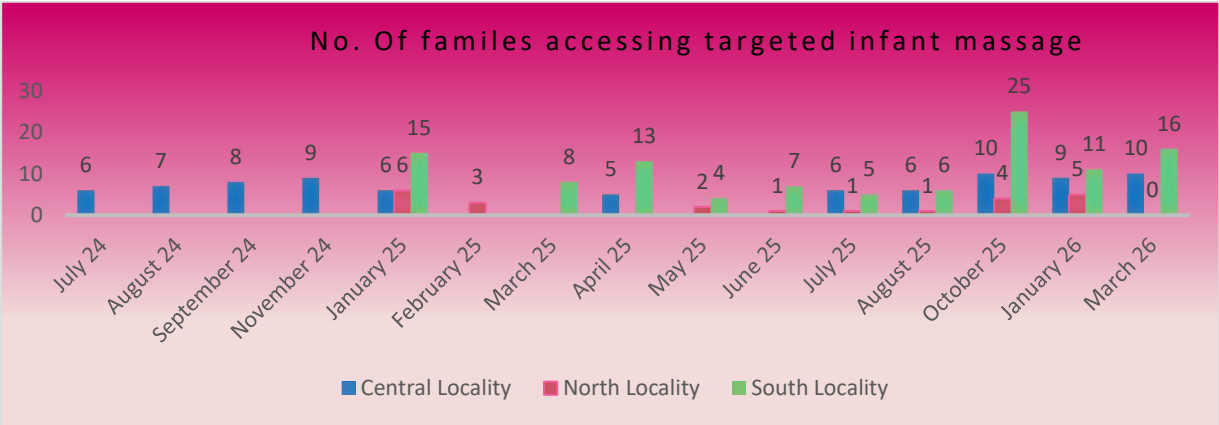
social work intervention has reduced by 64% since the project started (39 in 2022 to 14 in 2025), indicating that timely support is helping to prevent escalation.

In 2025, referrals from health visitors and family nurses increased for neglect associated with parental mental health (44%), substance misuse (71%) and domestic abuse (49%), suggesting improved early recognition of risk. Over the same period, there was a 25% reduction in the number of 0–4 year olds requiring a Support and Management Plan due to neglect linked to parental mental health, addiction or domestic abuse.



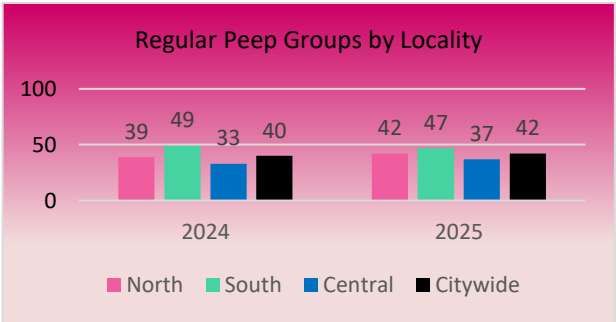
A key preventative development was the introduction of targeted infant massage, delivered through universal and targeted health visiting pathways. The intervention supports parent–infant relationships and aligns with GIRFEC, trauma-informed practice and prevention priorities. Feedback shows improved parental confidence, stronger attachment, reduced isolation and better emotional wellbeing, with families progressing to further support such as Peep.

Additional targeted supports included a new referral pathway into Homestart’s antenatal Peep group and perinatal peer support. Between August 2023 and June 2025, 38 families were supported across all localities, with consistently positive feedback. Antenatal Peep delivery is now led directly by Peep, supported by training for 25 multi-agency professionals to widen local delivery and sustainability.



Expanding parental support programmes

We know that support needs are different for families depending on their circumstances and through **our peep programme** we have developed and expanded targeted Peep programmes. Peep previously known as Parents as Early Education Partners offers group and one to one support for new parents helping them to learn how to support the early education of their children, though the likes of reading, song and play:- Intergenerational Peep, Healthier Families programme, Antenatal Peep, Peep TALK, Empowering Families, English as an Additional Language programme, Additional Support Needs/Relaxed Peep, Outdoor groups, and more. In 2025, overall we delivered 213 peep sessions, a 2.4% increase since 2024 (208).



We have been able to offer more families a chance to take part in the programme due to the project's work to increase the number of multi agency partners delivering Peep, which has seen the number of partners double since the project started.

The project tested a range of approaches to increase multi-agency delivery of Peep, including co-delivery models between services across North, South and Citywide localities; support for ELC settings to deliver Peep through non-classroom committed practitioners; practitioner networking events to strengthen connections and shared learning; targeted promotion of the benefits of delivering Peep to managers and staff; use of dedicated funding to expand access to Peep training; and the development of follow-up and support sessions for trained practitioners to sustain delivery and accreditation

In the past 2 years 164 practitioners, including resettlement workers, Childsmile, Sport Aberdeen, Barnardos, Children First, MiSS, Homestart Aberdeen, various ACC and NHS services, childminders, parents, and third sector workers have been trained to deliver the Peep programmes. Some have commented that "it has changed how they approach and interact with families for the better- using a more strength based approach."

The impact of the sessions is evident through the annual survey feedback

- both parents and children rating their enjoyment of Peep at 4.8 out of 5.
- Since attending Peep, 44.6% of families reported sharing more books and stories, 69.6% singing more songs and nursery rhymes, 59.6% socialising more with others and 64.7% having more conversations together.
- 73.3% of parents reported feeling more confident as a parent,
- 58.1% felt their relationship with their child had improved and
- 77.1% felt more confident in supporting their child's learning and development

Cash first approach to accessing infant formula



**Improvement
Project Aim
Achieved**

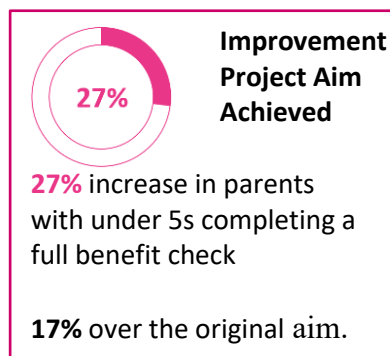
100% of referrals to the infant feeding in a crisis pathway have received support

Cost of living pressures for families have exacerbated food insecurity difficulties, with many unable to afford infant formula. Through our Access to Emergency Infant Formula project our infant feeding in a crisis pathway continues to deliver a 'cash first approach' supporting families with money for infant formula, as well as support to maximise income.

In 2025, 89 families were referred and 100% were supported and offered a benefit check. 57 referrals were from midwifery/ health visiting and 32 from community partners. This is a 117% increase in referrals compared to 2024 (41 to 89). Key activity this year has

been refreshing the referral pathway and expanding it to community partners.

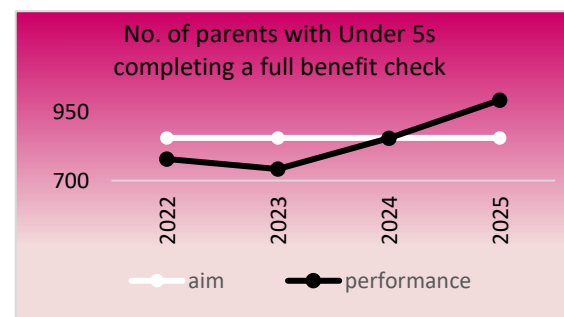
Helping families claim the benefits they are entitled to



The challenges created by the Cost of Living crisis create a greater risk of families falling into poverty. The rate of children in relative poverty Aberdeen is currently estimated to be 19.1% suggesting that nearly 1 in 5 households with dependent children in the city are living in poverty. As such 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 a sustained positive impact through increased use of the benefit calculator. The number of benefit calculations completed rose from 778 in 2022 to 992 in 2025, representing a 27.5% increase. Weekly financial gains generated through the calculator also increased over the period, rising from £192,321.60 in 2022 to a peak of £261,665.60 in 2024, a 33.5% increase compared to 2023 (£195,965.08). Although weekly financial gains reduced in 2025 to £217,507.90, this coincided with the highest level of benefit calculator usage to date, indicating continued high demand and ongoing financial gains for households supported.



As well as the new referral pathway, a targeted approach has been developed using the Low-Income Family Tracker (LIFT), building on the income maximisation work detailed above. With funding secured from the Scottish Government, LIFT brings together indicators of poverty from Council-held data, Department for Work and Pensions data, and other publicly available sources. This enables the Council to identify households most at risk and to prioritise support more effectively.

This work builds on previous targeted benefit cap activity undertaken by the Financial Inclusion Team, which focused on identifying affected households and offering discretionary housing payments alongside wider income maximisation support. Learning from this earlier work has informed the development of LIFT and the Council's approach to targeted engagement and prioritisation.

As at March 2026, LIFT data shows 541 households, including 1,875 children, impacted by the two-child limit. Of these, 368 households, comprising 1,295 children, include a child aged under five. The two-child limit is due to be lifted from April 2026; however, the number of families who may subsequently be affected by the benefit cap will not be known until updated data becomes available in May/June 2026. Once this data is available, LIFT will be used to identify households who remain impacted by the benefit cap and to target discretionary housing payments (DHP) accordingly, helping to mitigate ongoing income shortfalls.

In addition, partnership working with NHS colleagues is being developed to use LIFT to identify families with children under five to ensure they have applied for Best Start Grants. This work will initially be piloted in two localities to test the approach before considering wider roll-out.

Dental Health at Primary 1

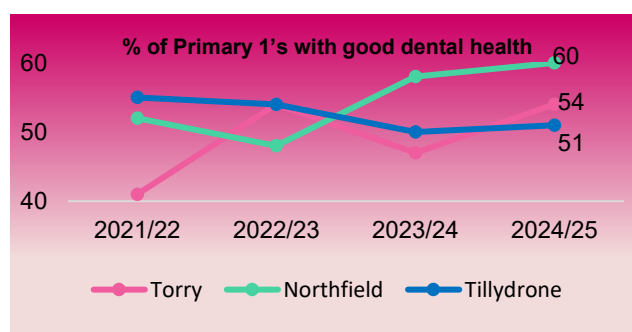
The health of a young child teeth can be a good indicator of overall health and our **dental health project** has been working to address signs of tooth decay for Primary 1 (P1) children in Torry, Tillydrone and Northfield.

The project has undertaken a wide range of community-focused activities. These include regular sessions at the new Bumps and Babies group, integration of dental health into the Peep 'Healthier Families' programme, widespread distribution of hundreds of toothbrushing packs, and targeted support to help families register with dental practices. Schools and nurseries have embedded twice-yearly varnish applications, daily supervised toothbrushing, and incentivised brushing challenges, with Greyhope now fully embracing whole-school brushing.



Data from 2023/24 to 2024/25 shows encouraging progress, with increases in the percentage of children displaying no obvious signs of tooth decay:

- Torry up 7%,
- Tillydrone up 1%, and
- Northfield up 2%.



The activities have support rises in fluoride varnish uptake, Greyhope from 82% to 90% (8% increase) and Tullos from 80% to 93% (13% increase), alongside 68% nursery and 80% school participation in Tillydrone and Northfield.

Over the course of the project we have received positive feedback from both parents and staff:

'Thank you for your support in getting registered with a dentist – the treatment we have received has made a difference',

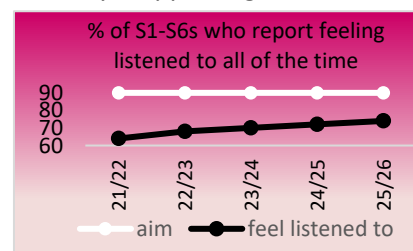
"Staff will be there with us through the journey and if we have any concerns we get the help we need."

Nursery and school staff have reported feeling more knowledgeable about how and who to raise concerns regarding a child's wellbeing due to dental issues/pain

Developing interventions to support children's mental health

8% INCREASE in young people reporting that they feel listened to all the time.

Mental health and wellbeing are important for everyone. They influence our emotions, how we manage daily challenges, connect with other people, and engage in society. Supporting mental wellbeing for both children, young people and adults calls for efforts that go well beyond healthcare alone. Findings from our yearly surveys of school pupils show



a 8% rise in those who feel they are always heard, increasing from 64% in 2021/22 to 72% in 2025/26, reflecting advancement towards our Stretch Outcome. Though the aim has not been met, these figures show a steady trend towards it.

Over the past year, partners have been working together to develop a Population Mental Health Action Plan for Aberdeen City. The plan focuses on promoting mental health and wellbeing, preventing mental health problems, and reducing inequalities for all ages. To support the development of the plan two evidence reports on children, young people and adult mental health in Aberdeen were completed in 2025. Extensive engagement with partners, services and communities took place throughout 2025 and early 2026 and priority themes and actions for Year One (2026–2027) were developed collaboratively between February and March 2026.

The action plan:

- Takes a whole-city, prevention-focused approach to mental health and wellbeing.
- Recognises that mental wellbeing is shaped by where people live, learn, work and grow.
- Focuses on strengthening the conditions that promote good mental health, not only responding to distress.

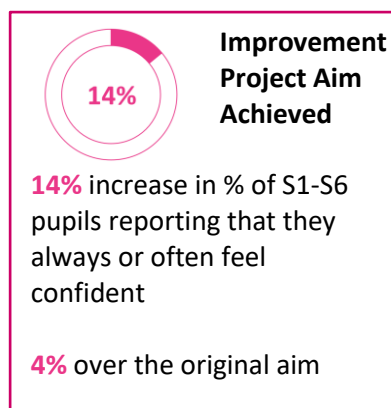
The plan is organised around:

- A life-course approach (from infancy through to older age).
- A set of cross-cutting priorities that support city-wide change.
- This reflects the evidence that mental health is shaped across life, while also requiring

The full Population Mental Health Action Plan, including detailed actions and shared governance arrangements, will be published in end of April/early May 2026.

In addition to the action plan, our projects during 2025/26 have focused on improving children and young people's confidence and feeling safe in their community.

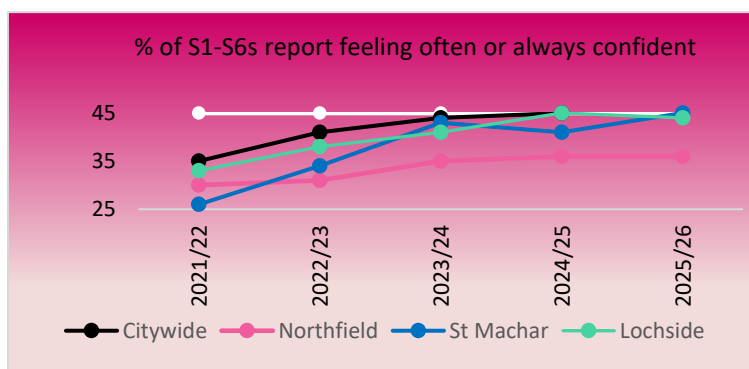
Supporting Young People to Feel More Confident



Helping children and young people develop confidence, self-esteem and emotional resilience is essential to their wellbeing and long-term success. Our **improving confidence in Children and Young People project** is focusing on strengthening these protective factors, particularly for young people in Northfield where targeted work is underway. As reported last year, the project achieved its improvement aim, and work has continued throughout 2025/26 to build on this progress and strengthen feelings of safety for young people across Aberdeen.

Citywide, confidence levels have continued to steadily improve, with a 14% increase in S1–S6 pupils who always or often feel confident (35% in 2021/22 to 49% in 2025/26). 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 45% in 2025/26.

To support this, a range of new approaches has been introduced. Schools are strengthening S1 Health and Wellbeing curriculum content around relationships, change, resilience and harmful



behaviours, with early feedback from the Glasgow Wellbeing Scale showing positive movement. Training programmes for staff, delivered in partnership with Grampian Women's Aid and Educational Psychology, are building practitioner confidence in recognising domestic abuse and offering safe, informed responses. The Stronger Families programme has provided sessions for parents and carers on topics such as self-harm and teenage brain development, with highly positive feedback from families who feel better equipped to support their children.

Feedback following the Stronger Families Self Harm Session:

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

"Very informative and educational. This is a great eye opener and better understanding for parents to help support."

"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."

Supporting Young People to Feel Safe in Their Communities

Providing accessible and varied activities is a key part of strengthening young people's feeling safe in their communities and reducing youth-related anti-social behaviour. Our **Children and Young People Feeling Safe** and the **Youth Anti-Social Behaviour projects** have tested differed ways to encourage young people to participate in activities in their community and across the city. These have included:

- Collaboration with Scottish Fire and Rescue on joint breakfast clubs during the holidays, with participation from City Wardens.
- Enhanced delivery of the Youth Horizons programme over school holidays, providing a series of activities and opportunities for young people aiming to improve health and wellbeing and to divert from risky behaviours.
- Established new initiatives for females and those at risk of offending, over 2025 as part of the Streetsport Programme by Denis Law Legacy Trust, this initiative has focused on creating welcoming, supportive environments and has laid important foundations for increased female engagement.
- Establishment of a Youth Café at the Foyer, co-designed with young people to create a safe, inclusive space for socialising and support.



As a result, we have achieved a 10.4% reduction of Youth Anti Social Behaviour Calls between 2023-2025 (3536 to 3170). There has also been reductions in anti-social behaviour over 2025 in areas where youth activities had been targeted at: Torry (**65%** reduction), Mastrick (**52%** reduction). Both areas benefiting from targeted delivery of the Denis Law Legacy Trust Streetsport Programme, which provided over 450 free sessions in 2025 and resulting in 28,969 participations.

Engagement with the expanded activities has been positive:

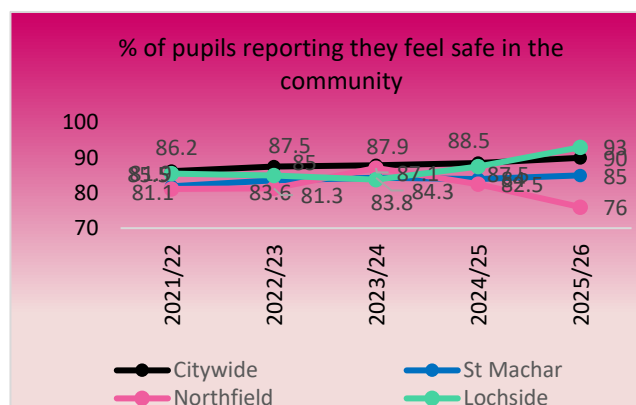
- Youth Horizons engaged 376 young people during the October 2025 school break, achieved an average satisfaction score of 4.7 out of 5, and has now run three times across school holidays.
- The Foyer Youth Café has a core group of 30 young people

Detached Youth Workers have been a visible and regular presence in the city centre since September 2025. The role of the detached youth workers is to engage with young people who use the city centre and to build positive relationships with them. Working with partners such as Police Scotland, Community Safety and local businesses the aim is to make young people feel safe and to have trusted adults they can talk to when they need them.



Youth work teams continue to provide trusted spaces across Lochside, Greyhope, Bucksburn and the city centre, supported by school-based drop-ins, harm reduction sessions and social prescribing pilots. Alongside this, Police Scotland’s Community Action Team and Aberdeen City Wardens have increased visibility through targeted patrols, coordinated through the Youth Connect Group.

Citywide, the percentage of S1–S6 pupils reporting that they often or always feel safe has continued to steadily increase from 86.2% in 2021/22 to 90% in 2025/26. In priority neighbourhoods, Lochside has seen a significant year on year increase from 87.5% in 2024/25 to 93% in 2025/26, a more modest improvement was made in St Machar from 84% to 85%. Northfield however has seen a decline over the past couple of years from 87.1% in 2023/24 to 76 in 2025/26.



Feedback on the Youth Horizons Project:

“The way everything was organised was amazing and also getting a chance to make new friends is a great opportunity”

“Togetherness for activities is more fun”

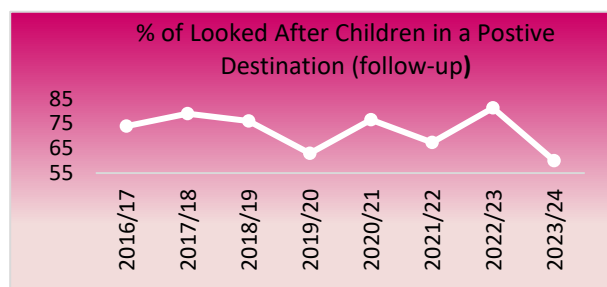
“I like having a place to go and chill out and meet people who are the same as me”

Improving outcomes for care experienced young people

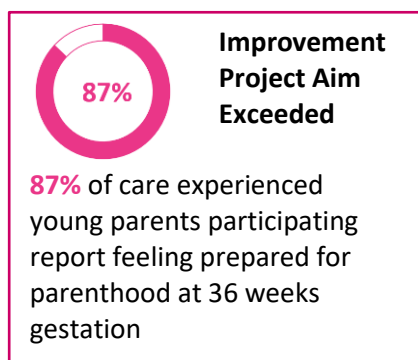
Central to the work of the Children’s Services Board is delivery of The Promise. For full information on our work to support Care Experienced Children Young People you can find it in our Children’s Services Plan Annual Report 2025/26.

There was a reduction in the number of Care Experience Young People achieving a positive and sustained destination recorded this year. Of those who left school in academic year 2023/24, 60% were in a positive destination in 2025 a year after leaving school. This was a 21.3% reduction from 81.3 for 2022/23 cohort. These variances in figures can often be attributed to the very small number of children that this data relates to.

We remain focussed on providing support of all kinds to those who are care experienced. Our projects continue to work to reduce the gaps in the outcomes of care experienced young people and those who are not and with a continued focus on supporting care experienced young people to have a positive experience into, through and out of care.



Supporting Care Experienced Young Parents



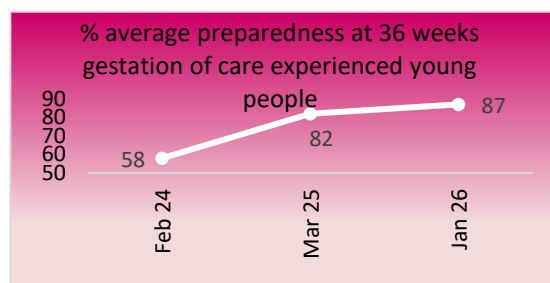
Whilst many young people will find it hard to be a confident first time parent. It is particularly difficult for our cohorts of Care Experienced Young People, who may have had quite traumatic experiences in their own childhood and have less direct family support networks.

Our **Supporting Care Experienced Young Parents** project continues 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, ensuring a single point of contact and a whole system approach. A total of 72 young women have now completed the course and 38 care experienced parents are actively being supported through FNP, with data collection established to compare outcomes with parents who do not have care experience.

Evidence indicates improvement in self reported preparedness for parenthood. At recruitment (around 16 weeks gestation), young parents reported feeling 67% prepared for parenthood; by 36 weeks, this had risen to 87%, with more than half of participating parents reporting increased preparedness over time. Additional evaluation through a Snap Survey shows that 60% of respondents feel “very confident” about being prepared to parent their child. Staff are embedding ongoing data review into monthly team meetings, using feedback from Family Nurses and clients to refine the approach. The project also gathers qualitative insights continuously from pregnancy to toddlerhood, ensuring that the voice of parents shapes improvements.



Since November 2024, 100% of the babies of the parents participating have met their developmental milestones. Feedback from those involved in the programme has been very positive:

‘I found it really helpful to have a family nurse. It helped me prepare myself for having a child and when I was scared or lost or unsure, my family nurse was always there to keep me right.’

‘I’m so grateful to have been given the option to have a family nurse and to have connected with her so well. I would take the option again in a heartbeat to have met such an incredible person.’

Impact after receiving help from the Family Nurse

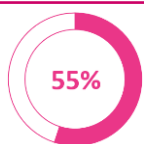
After receiving support from the family nurse, the young women involved felt more empowered, less anxious and overall more confident in being a parent and well as having the confidence to know when and how to ask for advice.

The family nurse provided extensive non judgmental emotional and wellbeing support over and above medical and practical advice on an ongoing basis, throughout pregnancy and afterwards, helping to build a trusting and lasting bond.

This meant the young women always felt comfortable to open up when they needed help. This included support in helping one young child's she was struggling to feed and on a feeding tube. For another this was in helping her to encourage her baby to breastfeed.

The young women felt very confident and capable thanks to the support and very optimistic about her future as a new parent

Supporting Children and Young People Leaving Care



Improvement Project Aim Exceeded

55% increase in the number of care experienced young people receiving throughcare/aftercare support

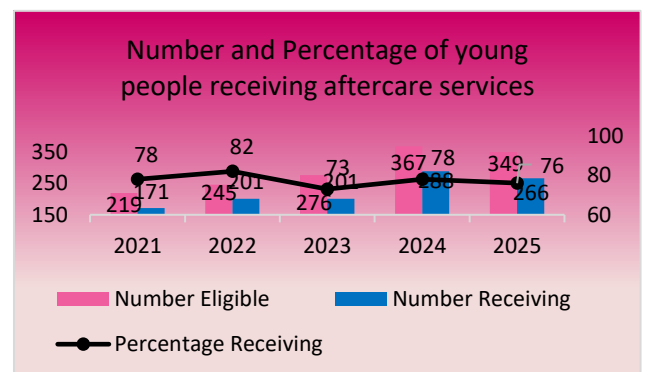
45% over the original aim

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.

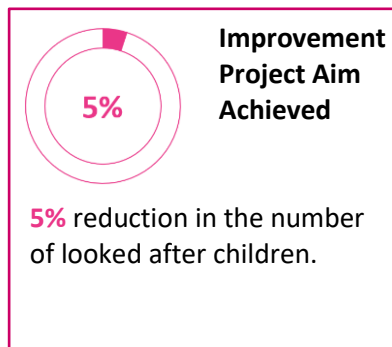
Our **Improving Throughcare and Aftercare** project has continued to provide a verity of support for care leavers such as: providing more targeted support to help Care Experienced Young People get into education, employment and training; improved welfare assessment training; and working with foster carers 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 55.6% increase in the number of eligible young people receiving aftercare (171 in 2021 to 266 in 2025). Work continues to ensure that young people are provided aftercare support with 86.5% of eligible young people receiving support in March 2026 (340 of 393), these engagement levels are consistently higher than the national figure.

ABZ Works continue to provide 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. Ongoing engagement with ABZ Works has both helped the service to tailor its support to those young people, as well as better to promote to them the opportunities available. Across the course of 2025/26 ABZ Works worked directly with 69 Care Experienced Young People participating in a range of activities including the RiteWorks project delivered by Working Rite specifically for care experienced young people, and paid work experience placements.



Reduction in 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 committed to putting in place the support to enable this. The number of looked after

children in Aberdeen City has been relatively steady this year. As of March 2026 there were 443 looked after children in Aberdeen City. As such the project has sustained its aim of 5% reduction across this year from the original baseline of 467 in 2023.

To support families, the project has focused on improving how quickly adults within a child's family network are identified as potential alternative carers when a Child Protection Planning Meeting (CPPM) decides to refer a child to the Scottish Children's Reporter Authority (SCRA). A process map and new procedures were implemented to ensure this happens within ten weeks. Benchmarking with other local authorities has helped inform these changes, and practitioners were supported with new guidance, resources, and training sessions. This targeted approach continues its aim to provide children with safe and familiar care alternatives more quickly, reducing uncertainty and improving outcomes.

Corporate Parenting Training

As part of delivering The Promise, our partnership continues to focus on strengthening understanding of corporate parenting across the workforce. This includes helping staff recognise how their roles and decisions shape the experiences and outcomes of Looked After Children, and the shared responsibility services hold in providing the care and stability a family would normally offer. Through the **Corporate Parent Training project**, we have continued to expand access to learning, including the introduction of an online, multi-agency training module to increase reach and consistency across services.



The training has been developed using the latest resources and content from the Promise and has also involved co-development from care experienced young people. 54% of the 11,842 staff identified as having a role in supporting those that are care experienced have now been trained, reflecting workforce growth and wider role identification rather than reduced training activity.

A short video was made over Feb / March 2026, reflecting the salient points and key learning from the online module which is intended to reach colleagues in frontline operational services.

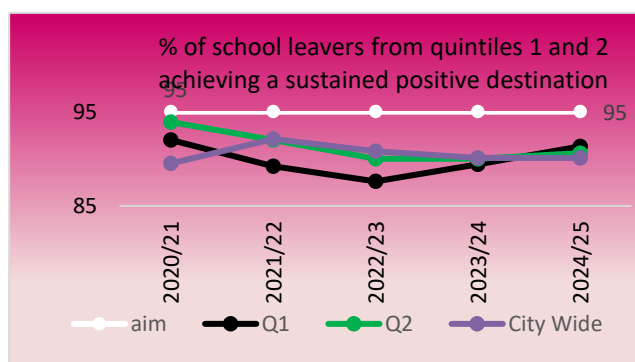
Focusing on young people in our priority neighbourhoods

STRETCH OUTCOME 6

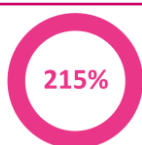
91.3% Positive
Destinations in SIMD1
&
90.6% Positive
Destinations in SIMD2

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% by 2023/24, 3% 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.

However the latest data show some positive trends, latest data on the cohort of young people that left school in academic year 2024/25 shows that the sustained positive destinations for children in Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) 1 have increased 1.9% (89.4%- 91.3%) and 0.6% for Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2 (90% - 90.6%) since 2023/24. Indicating that targeted interventions appear to be having a positive impact on the Stretch Outcome to increase positive destinations for this cohort. Extensive work continues to expand and improve our on this figure continues.



Improving Our Curricular Offer

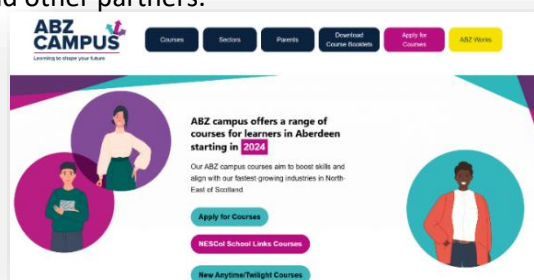


**Improvement
Project Aim
Exceeded**

215% increase in rate of completion of National Progression Awards/Foundation Apprenticeships/ Higher National Certificate courses available to young people

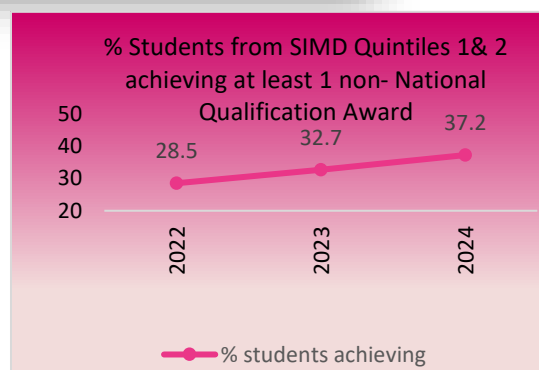
205% over the project's original aim.

Supporting young people into positive destinations requires a wide range of courses that aligns to young people's needs. In 2025/26, our **ABZ Campus project** has continued to expand its course delivery with over 1500 applications for the now 80 courses offered across a range of providers in schools, NESCOL and other partners.



As a result, the project has far surpassed its aim of 10% in completion of National Progression Awards/Foundation Apprenticeships/ Higher National Certificate courses available to young people With:

- a 215% increase in the completion of wider Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework/National Progression Awards courses in 2024/25 (3165) compared to 2021/22 (1005).



Between 2024/25 and 2022/23 there was a 40% increase (2265 in 2022/23 to 3165 in 2024/25)

- 43% Increase in completion of Foundation
- Apprenticeships (127 in 2022-23 to 173 students in 2024/25)

There has been a 20% increase in the number of vulnerable young people supported through the Pathways Advocates programme between the 2023/24 and 2024/25 academic years, rising from 250 to 300 individuals. In both years, approximately one fifth of those supported required regular or intensive intervention. Now in the second year of delivery of this role, there is increased confidence that intensive support is being more effectively targeted towards those young people with the highest levels of need.

Current data for the 2025/26 academic year (as at April 2026) indicates that 336 young people have been supported during the year to date. This represents a 34% increase compared to 2023/24 and a 12% increase from 2024/25. Where a young person's level of need reduces, the intensity of support provided by the Pathways Advocate is correspondingly stepped down. This reduction in intensity is viewed positively, as it evidences progress and increased resilience. As at April 2026, 13% of young people currently receiving support are accessing regular or intensive interventions.

Overall, there has been a positive impact of the role on attendance, progress and relationships. Case study below evidences the impact through one learner.

Case Study

Pupil is S4 and Care experienced. They have the academic ability to pass all subjects at National 5 but were underperforming across the board and failed all prelims. This pupil's relationships with teachers were also suffering as a result of classroom behaviour. Staff believe this pupil shows signs of undiagnosed ADHD and is on a waiting list for this.

Pupil and the pathways advocate (PA) had previously established a positive relationship. PA understood that the pupil needed a trusted adult to confide in about why they were struggling to listen and complete work in class. PA and Pupil met twice a week with a well-being focus, talking about activities outwith school, friendships and what had happened in class if there were any issues that week. Pupil then had prelims which resulted in them being removed from the exam hall because they were unable to sit quietly and were distracting others. PA had a conversation with the pupil regarding prelims after the results showed that despite being able academically, they had not passed any exam. Pupil was able to open up and talk about how they struggled with the exam environment, PA was able to ensure pupil got separate accommodation for any upcoming assessments and exams.

- The PA was involved in conversations with pupil and guidance about SQA exam presentation levels as pupil and home went against recommendations to complete National 4 instead of 5.
- The PA took pupil out of classes to a different environment to complete assignments for National 5 History and Modern Studies, which the pupil had been struggling to complete.
- The PA completed a study timetable with pupil to help manage time.

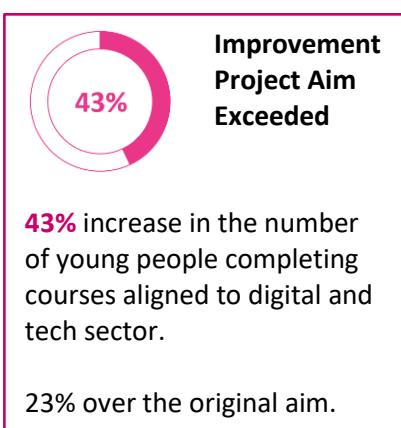
As a result of the support from the Pathways Advocate Pupil was able to complete National 5 coursework required to sit the exam, which they would not have done otherwise. Pupil completed a National 5 History assessment in March after 5 months of work with PA, taking their grade from 4% to 60%. Pupil completed PA evaluation to say that PA gave them confidence to do well in school and to attend an apprenticeship career fair and begin to think about their future. At present they have chosen to stay on at school for S5.

The Pathways Advocate continues to support pupil through study leave.

We know that young people learn in different ways and through **our positive destinations project** they have expanded access virtual, twilight and “anytime” options have also expanded, increasing flexibility for learners with complex timetables or additional needs. ABZ Campus is also enhancing support for young people with additional support needs through the #WHATif (Inspiring Futures) employability pathway, enabling progression from classroom learning into supported work experience and volunteering.

Evidence from attainment data shows the programme is successfully improving breadth and depth in the senior phase, contributing to more ambitious presentation policies and increased SQA entries. Looking ahead, Phase 3 will deepen regional collaboration, while Phase 4 (26/27) will introduce structured work placement pathways to further strengthen positive destinations.

Increasing the Uptake of Digital and Technology Courses



Our offer of Digital and Technology courses in the city continues to expand. Digital and Tech remains 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 technology** project the continued development of our National Participation Award’s (NPA) at Level 5 and 6 in Games Design, Esports at Level 4 & 5 and National Progression Awards Cyber Security to ABZ Campus.

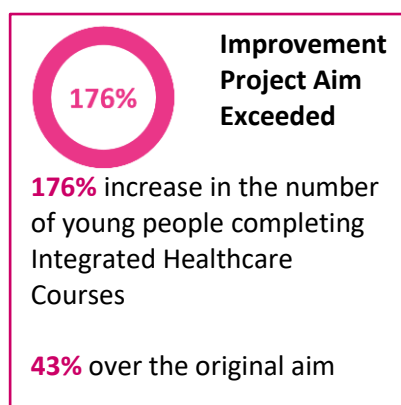
In 2024/2025, 1349 young people completed such courses, an increase of 43.2% from the baseline figure of 942 in 2021/22. Of

the three new digital NPA courses, data for 2024/25 showed:

- Esports - that across Level 4 and 5, 13 young people completed the Esports course with a 100% pass.
- Games Design, 43 young people completed level 6 with a 96% pass rate, with 81 at level 5 and a 74% pass rate and 13 at level 4, with a 92% pass rate.
- Cybersecurity - 10 young people completed level 5, with an 80%

Digital development is closely integrated with curriculum expansion, including ABZ Campus programmes and pathways linked to computing science. The ABZ Campus continues to broaden opportunities through virtual courses and digital learning models, with a notable increase in applications for digitally-enabled courses.

Integrated Healthcare Courses



A key sector which offers opportunities for young people to achieve employment is in Healthcare. Through our **Integrated Healthcare Courses** project, 149 young people completed integrated health and care courses in 2024/25, 43% over the improvement aim of 104 young people and a 176% increase since the baseline (54 in 2022/23). Through pathfinder projects and work directly with school, the project has continued the development and promotion of the availability of jobs and career progressions associated with healthcare professions. We also delighted to report that 197 young people were enrolled in healthcare courses in 2025/26 and await the competition rate.

Increasing co-delivery of education and health services



Improvement Project Aim Achieved

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

Our **Co-delivery project** has continued to promote the benefits from and opportunities for co-location. As a result there are now 4 co-located and delivered services by health and education.

The new co-delivered service is the opening of Aberdeen's Bairns' Hoose in October 2025. This is more than a building, it is a promise. A promise to our children and young people that their safety, recovery, and dignity are at the heart of everything we do.

Rooted in trauma-informed practice, this model brings together child protection, justice, health, and recovery services under one roof. It is a whole-system transformation designed not just to respond to harm, but to help children heal from it.

Our Bairns' Hoose, has been shaped by the voices of children and young people. They told us what felt safe, what felt intimidating, and what needed to change. We listened. Ceilings were lowered, colours softened, and spaces redesigned to feel welcoming and empowering. This is a place where children who have experienced or witnessed abuse, or whose behaviour has caused harm, can talk about harm they have experienced and access health, justice and recovery in a setting that respects their rights and their humanity. It is also a space where professionals, interviewers, clinicians, recovery workers can collaborate more closely than ever before, breaking down silos to deliver truly integrated support.

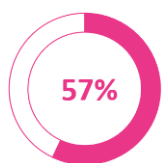
Reducing Youth Offending

46% reduction in young people under 18 charged with an offence since 2015/16

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 14% decrease in the number of under 18s charged with an offence from 602 in 2023/24 to 518 in 2024/25 and 46% reduction since the baseline period (965 in 2015/16). Our work continues and we have had a number of successes in supporting this cohort through our improvement projects.

Reducing the Number of Care Experienced Children and Young People Cautioned and Charged



Improvement Project Aim Exceeded

57% reduction in the number of care experienced young people cautioned or charged

37% over the original aim

Young people in Care are significantly more likely to be involved in the justice system to come into conflict with the law. They are also a cohort that is more vulnerable than their peers to taking part in such activities or from repeat offending. Such young people need to be supported to ensure that they avoid being charged and/or do not re-offend. Our **reduce the number of Care Experienced Young People Cautioned and Charged with an Offence project** has shown strong and sustained progress in achieving its aim of reducing charges against Care Experienced Young People by 20%.

The average monthly number of Care Experienced Young People cautioned/charged has reduced from 7 in 2022 to 3 in 2025, a 57% reduction. Young people on Compulsory Supervision Order saw a drop from 3 to below 1 per month.

A key strand of activity has been the significant rollout of Multi-Agency Trauma-Informed (TI) Training. In 2022, no local police officers had completed TI training; now, 40 officers, including the full North East Children and Young People Team, have been trained and serve as Trauma-Informed Champions. This has been central to improving police interactions with CEYP, addressing previous patterns where negative experiences contributed to escalations and additional charges.

The project team has expanded to include MCR Pathways, Includem, and the Denis Law Legacy Trust, strengthening multi-agency collaboration. New initiatives include:

- MCR Pathways referrals, with three young people referred for mentoring to date;
- A StreetSports programme for young people not fully engaged in education, where 40% of participants were care-experienced;
- Deployment of two Youth Engagement Officers to build positive relationships with children's homes, helping reduce unnecessary criminalisation.

Increasing Community Needs Assessments for 16–17 Year Olds

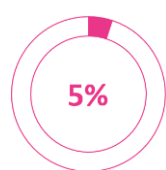
86% of 16/17 year olds appearing in court received a Community Needs Assessment

Timely assessment of the community support needs of 16 and 17 year olds appearing in court is essential to protecting their wellbeing and ensuring they receive the right support at a critical point in their lives. Through our **16/17 year old community support needs project** we are promoting trauma-informed practice and improving access to assessment of needs to improve support and reduce further involvement in the justice system.

There has been a 21% increase in the number of children appearing in court from police custody or on undertaking who have had their needs assessed (65.2% in 2023/24, 86% in 2025/26), demonstrating strong progress towards the project's aim.

A number of actions were taken to support this improvement. Revised guidance was developed to clarify responsibilities across children's and justice social work services, ensuring assessments are age-appropriate, developmentally informed and trauma-responsive. This guidance was shared with the courts predisposal team to improve consistency in recording and reporting. To further strengthen practice, a new information-sharing process was launched at a webinar in mid-July 2025. This has made it easier for relevant teams to share information promptly, supporting earlier identification and assessment of children appearing in court.

Diversion from Prosecution for Looked After Children



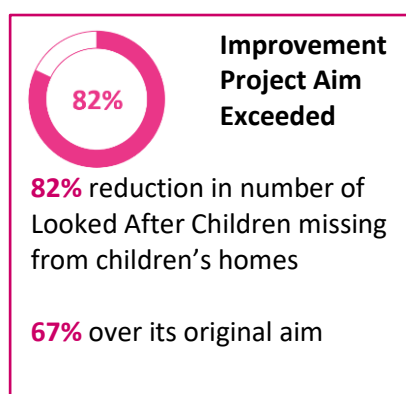
Improvement Project Aim Achieved

5% increase in the number of care experienced young people diverted from prosecution.

Supporting children and young people to avoid formal prosecution is critical to improving life chances, reducing harm, and preventing longer-term involvement with the justice system. Through our diversion from prosecution project we have increased the number of 16–17-year-old Looked After Children diverted from prosecution by 5% (rising from 75 young people in 2022 to 79 in 2025). This demonstrates continued progress in embedding diversion as a consistent and effective approach across local systems.

Key activity has focused on strengthening decision-making and consistency across agencies. A revised guidance package, supported by targeted training and a shared toolkit, was developed to clearly set out the information required to support diversion decisions. This work helped create a shared understanding among partners of the key factors influencing diversion from prosecution and promoted a more consistent, informed approach. Updated national standards have also been promoted, with self-evaluation activity undertaken to assess local practice.

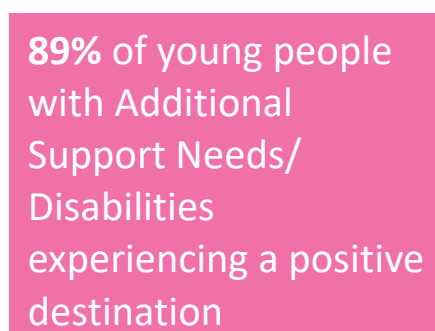
Reducing Young People Going Missing From Our Children's Homes



Care experienced young people going missing from Children's Homes had been a key concern for the professionals who support them. As reported in our 2024/25 report to address this our Missing Looked After Children project changed 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. We continue to see the impact of the policy with the number of young people going missing being 7 this year, an 82% (39 to 7) reduction since the project started in 2023.

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.

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



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 2.6% decrease from 2022/23 (91.6%).

Key interventions have included the rollout of the CIRCLE framework, adapted for ACC schools and supported through professional learning events for early years, primary and secondary staff. Tools such as the child participation scale, Up and Away, and the EPS Spotlight programme have been widely disseminated. Staff feedback indicates these resources have prompted improvements in classroom organisation, universal supports, collaboration, and environmental assessment. However, barriers such as staff capacity and competing priorities remain.



A Sensory Ambassador Pilot involving four primary schools and one secondary has created deeper specialist knowledge, supported by a multi agency Sensory Advisory Group. Additional improvement programmes include ELSA, emotion coaching, training on emotionally based school non attendance, and the refreshed Educational Psychology Digital Hub. Over 250 staff attended the 2025 Supporting Learners Festival.

In the Dee locality where the work has been tested, all three secondary schools increased attendance for learners with disabilities, remaining above the national average (90.2%). Aggregated data shows modest gains, e.g., ASN attendance rising from 90.77% (2022/23) to 91.1% (2023/24). Importantly, the proportion of ASN learners attending more than 80% increased from 83.95% (2022) to 87.1% (2024–25), and the number of learners with less than 80% attendance reduced from 1757 (2022) to 1686 (2025), a 4% improvement.

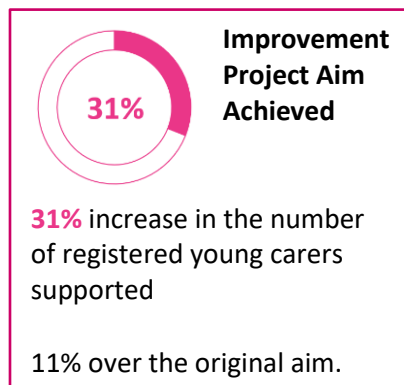
Overall,

- Attendance for learners with ASN has shown improvement: in 2022, 83.95% had attendance above 80%; in 2023 this rose to 84.98%, and the latest figures for 2024/25 suggest 87.1% for ASN learners and 89% for disabled learners.
- A decline in attendance for pupils with disabilities from 97.69% in 2022/23 to 94.80% in 2023/24, though some secondary schools in the Dee locality achieved attendance rates above the national average (90.2%).. Unverified initial 2024/25 data suggests some fluctuations due to individual circumstances.
- The number of learners with ASN/disability and attendance below 80% fell from 1,757 in 2022 to 1,686 in 2025, reflecting increased engagement (a 5.65% improvement).

Qualitative feedback suggests the interventions are reshaping practice, improving environmental assessments, supporting transitions, and fostering stronger child participation.

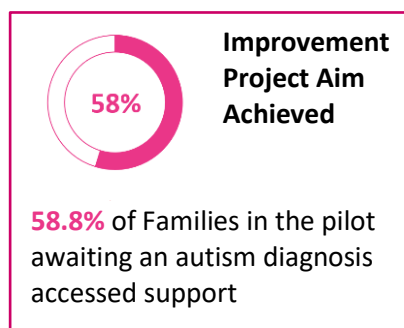
A major element tested is a pilot positive destination programme delivered through ABZCampus and ABZWorks. Providers across key sectors: sport, hospitality, retail and creative industries have been recruited, and a targeted training programme has been developed, including individualised risk assessment guidance. Young people have been identified by schools, and a new profile tool capturing needs, motivators and environmental considerations has been piloted. Early qualitative feedback from pupils, staff and employers is described as “extremely positive,” with data currently being gathered to shape the next phase.

Increasing the number of young carers supported



Young carers are one of our the biggest single groups of children in need. As reported in 2024/25, our Young Carers project has focused on increasing the number of young carers identified and supported across the city. Since last year the project has had continued to sustain the success, having increased the number of young carers accessing support by 9% from 151 in 2024 to 165 in 2025. Since the project started this is a 31% increase (165 in 2025 from 126 in June 2023)

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 came to a close having achieved its aim, supporting 58.8% (10) of the children and families referred (17), to receive multiagency support through

the new pilot aiming to provide support for families awaiting an autism diagnosis. The pilot tested providing interdisciplinary, health led support to families whose children were identified as neurodivergent. This was provided via the school, helping families get the interim supports they need and speed up the referral/ diagnosis process.

In addition times between referral and receiving support 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. Building on the impact of the pilot tested, this year the project has successfully secured 2 years more funding for the project and will now be spread as part of our new LOIP 2026-36.

What impact have we had?



- Yes
- Getting there
- Not yet

24/25/26 improvement aim Performance

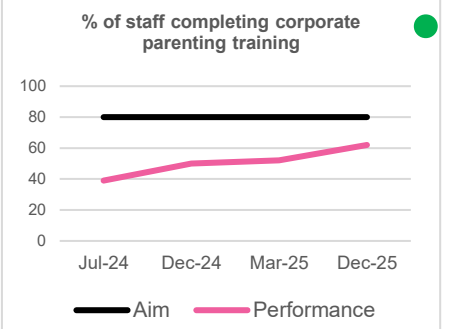
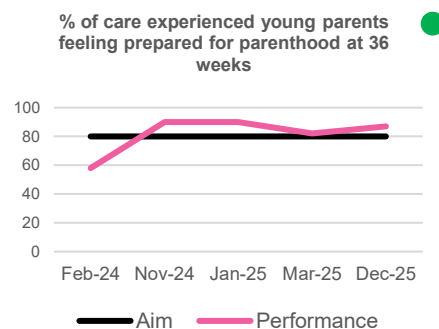
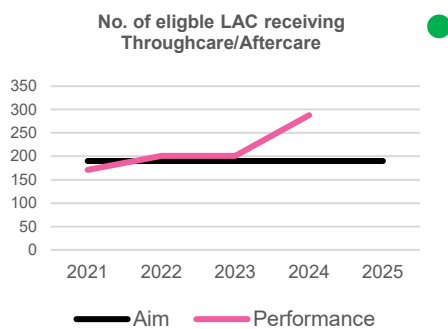
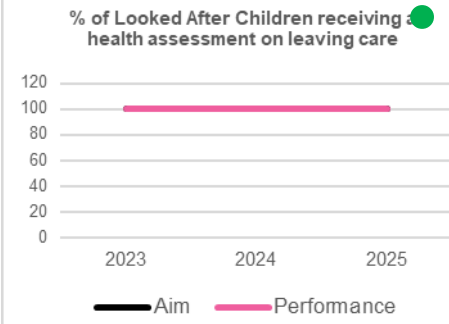
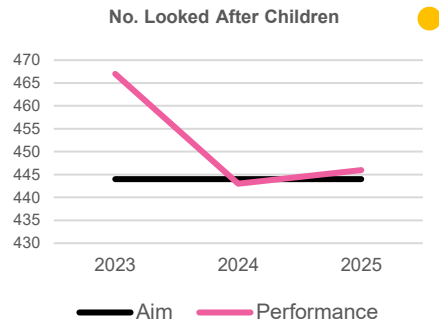
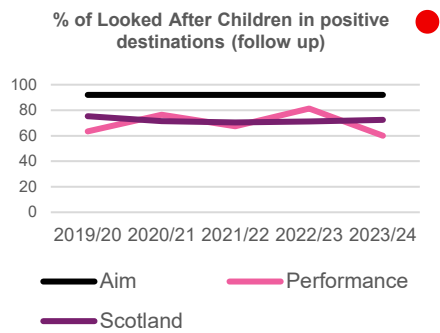
Children have the best start in life



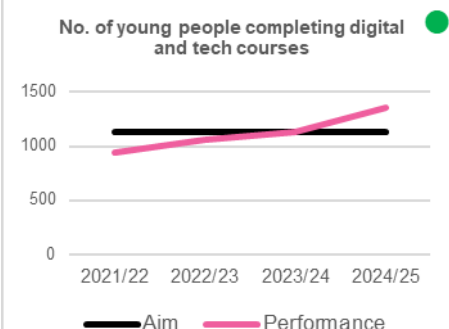
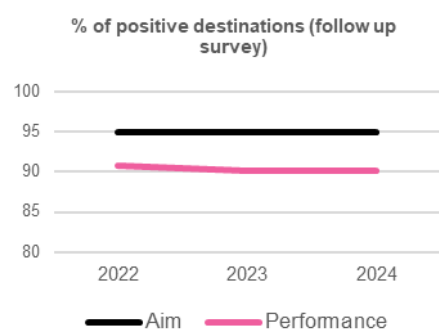
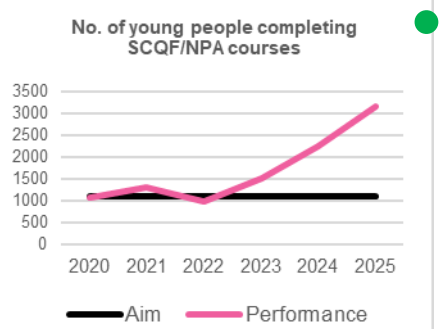
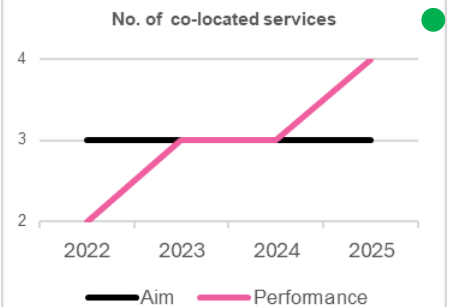
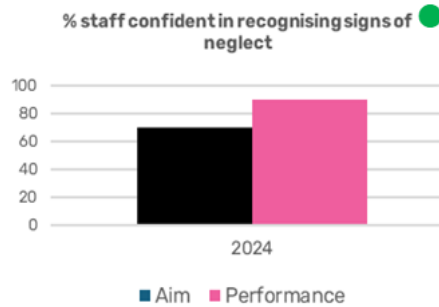
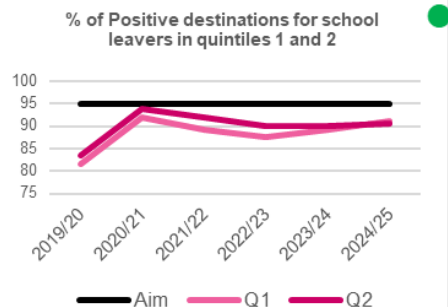
Children are listened to



Care Experienced Young People are included and achieving



All Young People are achieving their potential

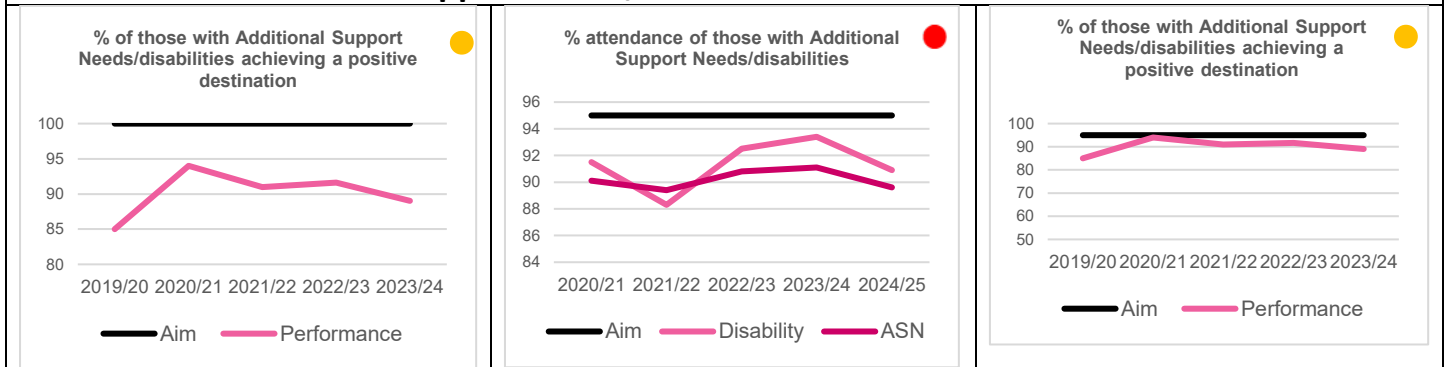


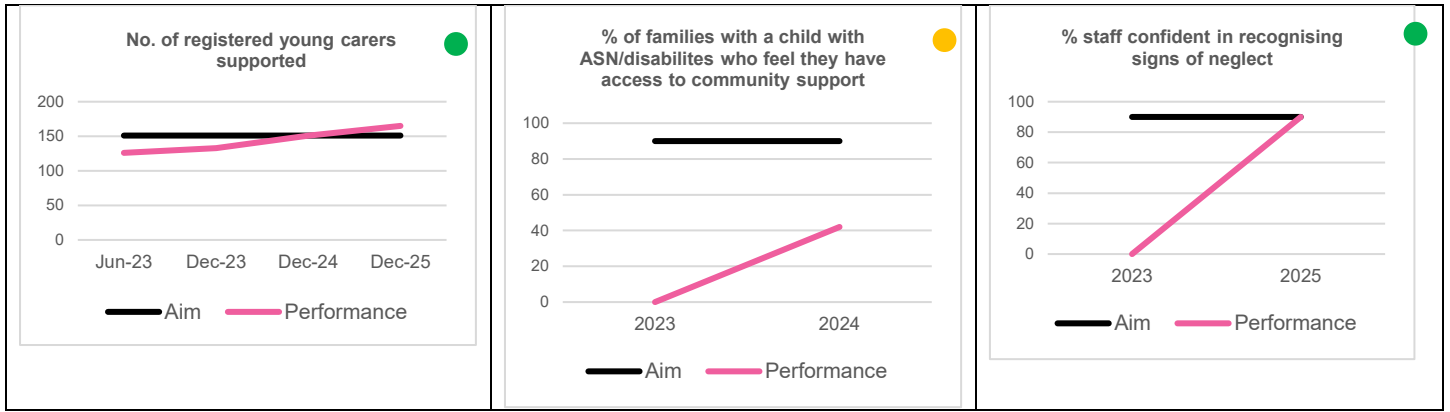


Children are Safe and Involved



Children with additional support needs/disabilities





Improvement Priorities: 2026/27



- Safe, co-designed spaces offering onsite support, person centred activities and individual progression pathways for young people at risk**
 Co-design and deliver a joined-up system of safe, supportive spaces and approaches, targeted interventions and personalised progression pathways that identifies and supports young people at risk of harm, disengagement from education, substance use or child criminal exploitation.

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 	The number of adults charged with more than one offence fell by 14%, from 1,411 in 2020/21 to 1,220 in 2025/26, and a 1.9% reduction since 2024/25.
SO10 Healthy life expectancy (time lived in good health) is five years longer by 2026. 70-73	Healthy Life Expectancy at birth for males has risen slightly to 58.8 years in 2022–24, from 57.96 years in 2021–23 and 0.3 lower than Scotland. However, this remains 2.7 years lower than the 2015–17 baseline of 61.5 years. Healthy Life Expectancy at birth for females has risen slightly to 59.0 years in 2022–24, from 58.1 years in 2021–23 and 0.4 lower than Scotland. However, this remains 4.8 years lower than the 2015–17 baseline of 63.8 years.
SO11 Reduce the rate of both alcohol related deaths and drug related deaths by 10% by 2026. 	In 2020-2024, the rate of drug related deaths was 23.3, a slight decrease of 0.2 from 2019-2023 (23.5). However, up from 17.3 since 2013-17. In 2020-2024, the rate of alcohol specific deaths was 21.7 per 100,000 population, an increase of 2 from 2019-2023 (19.7). Compared with the 2014–17 baseline of 18.7 per 100,000, the latest figure is 3 higher. However, 21.7 is slightly lower than Scotland (21.9).
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. 	In 2025/26 there was 2128 homeless applications, a 21.9% increase from 1746 in 2024/25, 42.8% higher than baseline (1490 in 2016/17) In 2025/26 there was 562 youth homeless applications, a 14.2% increase from 492 in 2024/25, and a 32% increase since baseline (426 in 2016/17).

Progress made during 2025/26



Reducing adults charged with more than one offence

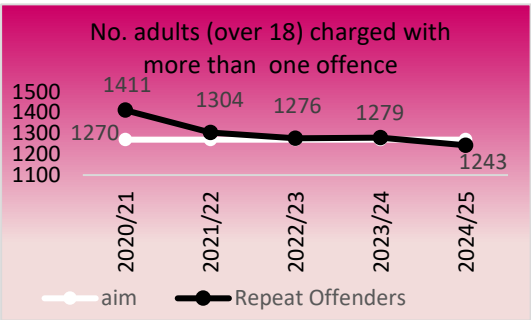
STRETCH OUTCOME
9 less people being
Charged with
more than one
offence



Stretch Outcome 9 continues to show sustained evidence of the impact of our interventions, with data showing a 14% reduction in repeat offending charges, from 1,411 in 2020/21 to 1,220 in 2024/25 and a 1.9% reduction since 2024/25.

We are committed to supporting people with convictions to change their behaviour, rebuild their lives, and make a positive contribution to their communities. Through a range of targeted projects, we work with individuals

involved in the justice system to address the underlying causes of offending and reduce the risk of further harm.



Through our improvement activity we have focused on supporting people to access stable housing, employability support, and engage with specialist professional services and substance use support. By removing practical barriers and strengthening personal resilience, we help individuals move away from offending and reduce the likelihood of repeat offending and a return to custody.

Supporting pathways to employment on release from prison

Improvement Project Aim Achieved

105 people engaging with employability support upon release

11% over the original aim

Supporting people into employment on release from prison is critical to reducing reoffending and improving long-term outcomes for individuals, families and communities in Aberdeen. Our **Support Upon Release from Prison** project continues to show positive impact on improving employability outcomes for people leaving custody by strengthening skills, confidence and pathways into work prior to and immediately following release. A total 105 people have been supported with employability support, an increase of 11% since the project started.

The improvement activity is centred in HMP Grampian and focused on early engagement within the prison, including the delivery of accredited training such as CSCS and WorldHost, alongside the continued development of the Greene King Training Academy, which provides hospitality training, work placements and routes into employment on release. Of the 105 people supported, 72 engaged with the CSCS training and 33 the Greene King model, of which 80% completed, or ongoing in the programme (71).

Over the last year the adult learning tutor from the Community Learning and Development Healthy Minds team has offered core skills, numeracy, literacy and ICT accredited courses in the Cornhill Hospital Forensic Unit to patients increasing their employability options on release. One patient is also being supported to complete a degree course BSc STEM through the Open University.

Improving access to substance support within the justice system



Substance use is a significant driver of health inequality, offending, and repeat contact with the justice system, making early, consistent access to support is critical for individuals, communities, and public services.

Our **Substance Support project** has continued to sustain improvements with 100% of people identified with substance concerns in justice offered or accessing support. This has been achieved by testing and embedding a consistent approach to identifying and supporting substance use needs across Justice

Social Work. Anyone engaging with Court Social Work services at Aberdeen Sheriff Court who identifies concerns about substance use is offered support as part of routine practice. This support is available at multiple stages of involvement in the justice system, including at court (from custody and on release from prison), through supervised bail, diversion from prosecution, and court-imposed orders. This ensures support can be offered at the earliest opportunity and maintained throughout an individual's journey within Justice Social Work.

As well as 100% of people with needs identified being supported, the project continues to expand the impact of the approach with a 61% increase in the number of people screened for substance use needs (970 in 2025, compared to 603 in 2024).

Impact of our support

Feedback from Justice Social Work practitioners advised that court-based support enables individuals to engage at the earlier stage, reducing the risk of drug and alcohol-related harm escalating whilst waiting for an allocated social worker or court-imposed order. Early contact establishes a holistic, preventative approach and clearly sets out the level and type of support that is available if an order is imposed. This support allows individuals to 'address practical issues immediately' - such as access to medication, harm-reduction support and referrals to drug and alcohol services, further reducing risk. There are also 'wider community benefits'. Family members or friends supporting an individual to court can also access this information and harm - reduction support, strengthening protective networks around individuals. Overall, this approach supports earlier intervention, safer transitions, and more co-ordinated, person-centred care.

Building confidence to report abuse and understand gender-based violence



Building confidence to report domestic abuse and raising awareness and understanding of gender-based violence is essential to ensuring individuals receive the right support at the right time. When people feel safe to come forward and professionals share a consistent understanding of how to respond, services can intervene earlier, reduce harm, and improve outcomes.

Our **Gender Equality and Domestic Abuse projects** have shown steady progress through capacity building and prevention activities. There has been an increase of 695% (from 40 in 2024 to 318 in 2025) of multi-agency staff that have completed either the Safe and Together Training or the Gender Equality module of Equally Safe in Practice, representing an increase of 59% beyond the original target (200 staff).



Feedback from participants indicates that this training has strengthened awareness and understanding of the links between gender equality and gender-based violence. We have seen positive signs of impact from the projects. Between 2024/25 and 2025/26, self-referrals and agency referrals to Aberdeen City Council's Domestic Abuse Team increased by 29%, while police referrals increased by 52%. Although this will not be down to one thing alone, it may reflect increased confidence in identifying abuse and making referrals, as well as increased confidence among women in reporting abuse to police.



Impact of our support

- Two days of specialist commercial sexual exploitation training delivered to frontline staff
- A coordinated 16 Days of Action campaign raised awareness
- Updated multi-agency guidance on domestic abuse and Adult Support & Protection published
- Bronze reaccreditation for Equally Safe at Work was achieved

Healthy life expectancy in Aberdeen City

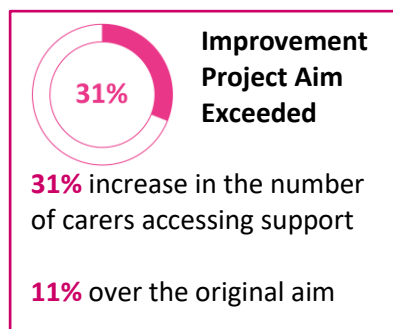
STRETCH OUTCOME 10 Healthy life expectancy is five years longer by 2026

Healthy life expectancy is an important indicator of population health, reflecting the average number of years people can expect to live in good health.

For the period 2022–2024, healthy life expectancy in Aberdeen City was 59.0 years for females and 58.8 years for males. While these figures show a marginal increase from 2021-23, (58.1 and 58.8 respectively) they represent a drop from 2015-17 when healthy life expectancy was 62.7 years for females and 62.1 years for males. Healthy life expectancy is slightly lower than Scotland, 0.3 lower for males and 0.4 for females.

Improvement projects have focused on increasing Healthy Life Expectancy by tackling both immediate health risks and the wider factors that shape long-term wellbeing.

Increasing the number of carers accessing support



Unpaid carers play a vital but often unseen role in supporting individuals, families and local health and social care services. Through our **Unpaid Carers project**, the number of carers accessing support increased by 31% from the start of the project in 2023/24 and 2025/26, rising from 1,006 to 1318 carers. This increase reflects improved identification and earlier engagement with unpaid carers, rather than a sudden rise in caring responsibilities.

Earlier identification of unpaid carers is critical, as unsupported carers are more likely to experience stress, poor mental health and burnout, increasing the risk of crisis. Improving this has been a key area for the project and through new same-day carer registration pathways staff have a streamlined referral process, significantly reducing waiting times and improving timely access to practical and emotional support. Between April and June 2025, 96 new referrals were received, with a shift in referral sources demonstrating the success of these new pathways.

Permanent pathways are now in place at Woodend Hospital, the Alzheimer's Dementia Resource Centre, and the Bon Accord Vaccination Centre, with further pathways being tested through CLAN Cancer Support and Community Appointment Days. Community based engagement, including monthly drop-ins and Community Appointment Day attendance, has enabled face-to-face conversations with carers who may not self-identify or engage with traditional services.

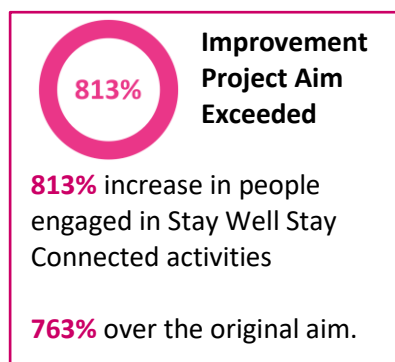


Thank you for listening,
for recognising I am a
carer and the help that is
available

Impact of our support

Feedback from carers highlights increased awareness, reassurance, and emotional validation, with carers reporting feeling recognised, listened to, and clearer about where to seek help. Carers particularly valued being able to access support in familiar, accessible settings and at times that suited their needs.

Staying well, staying connected after the age of 50



Staying well and socially connected in later life plays an important role in maintaining physical health, mental wellbeing and independence, all of which contribute to healthier ageing and healthy life expectancy.

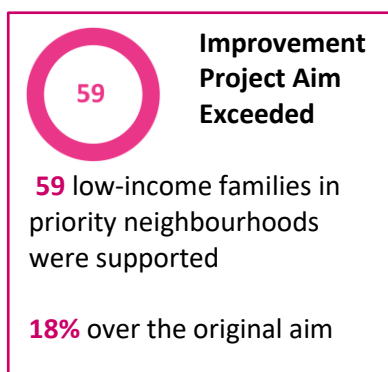
Our **Stay Well Stay Connected project** continues to expand its reach. In 2025, 6,029 people engaged in wellbeing activities, compared with 1,777 in 2024, representing a 239% increase in participation over one year. Since the project began, engagement has risen from 660 to 6,029 people, an increase of 813% with

participation now 736% above the original target.

Building on this success, the project continues deliver and scale a range of community-based wellbeing activities aligned to the Five Ways to Wellbeing, supporting people to connect, be active, keep learning, take notice and give. Six tests of change were delivered across the city, including Cornhill Soup and Sannies, Wellbeing Wednesdays, a community radio wellbeing programme, and targeted physical activity initiatives delivered in partnership with Sport Aberdeen and Aberdeen Football Club Community Trust. Participant feedback continues to highlight increased confidence, learning and social connection, demonstrating the project's ongoing contribution to reducing isolation and supporting healthier ageing across Aberdeen City.



Supporting Healthy Choices for Families



Maintaining a healthy weight is important for physical and mental wellbeing and helps prevent long-term health conditions. For many people, particularly those living in low-income households, achieving a healthy weight is shaped by wider factors such as access to affordable food, skills, confidence and opportunities to be active.

Between March 2024 and March 2025 our **Healthy Life Choices project**, supported 59 adults from low-income families in priority neighbourhoods, representing an 18% increase over the original target. In addition, 117 children and young people were supported

over the same period, and by December 2025 176 individuals (adults, children and young people) had benefited overall. Delivery focused on areas with higher levels of deprivation, including Torry, Northfield, Tillydrone, Seaton, Middlefield and Woodside.

Key activities included delivery of the NHS Grampian Confidence to Cook programme through trained Food Champions, family learning cooking sessions, and targeted provision for young carers, LGBTQ+ groups and ethnically diverse communities. The project also addressed wider social determinants by improving access to affordable food, promoting health walks and nature-based activity, and supporting digital self-management through libraries and online resources. Healthy Life Choices is supporting families to build healthier habits, reduce inequalities and improve long-term health outcomes across Aberdeen City.

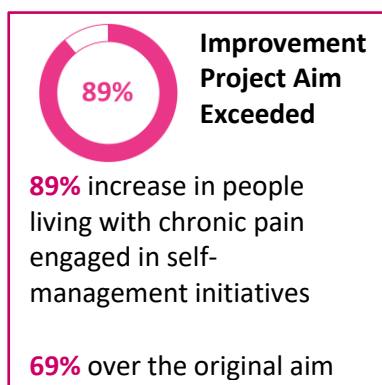
Impact of our support: improved school attendance and opened career avenues in hospitality

KS initially demonstrated poor school attendance and experienced physical conflicts with peers, leading to a modified school timetable. Family health challenges also impacted KS's circumstances. Following the commencement of Confidence to Cook sessions within the school environment, KS exhibited strong engagement and displayed a notable aptitude for food preparation. KS undertook challenging recipes, and the school attendance improved significantly, contributing to greater confidence and increased participation.

Based on KS's feedback, there was a marked improvement in the understanding of food hygiene and rated the cooking skills as excellent. The sessions were described as enjoyable, appropriately paced, and supportive. KS reported enhanced confidence and expressed pride in their achievements and learning outcomes. As a result, KS has shown an enthusiasm for pursuing further opportunities in cooking.

Facilitator Contact: Lindsay, Deeside Family Centre

Community based support for people living with chronic pain



Chronic pain affects many aspects of daily life, limiting activity, independence and long-term health, especially in more deprived communities. Our **Chronic Pain Management project** introduced Community Appointment Days to make it easier for people living with chronic pain to access the right support, closer to home. By offering earlier, more holistic help, the project aims to improve quality of life and support people to feel more confident in managing their condition. It seeks to increase engagement in self-management and supportive pathways by recognising that long waits for specialist services can leave people feeling isolated, less well, and unsure about how to manage their pain.

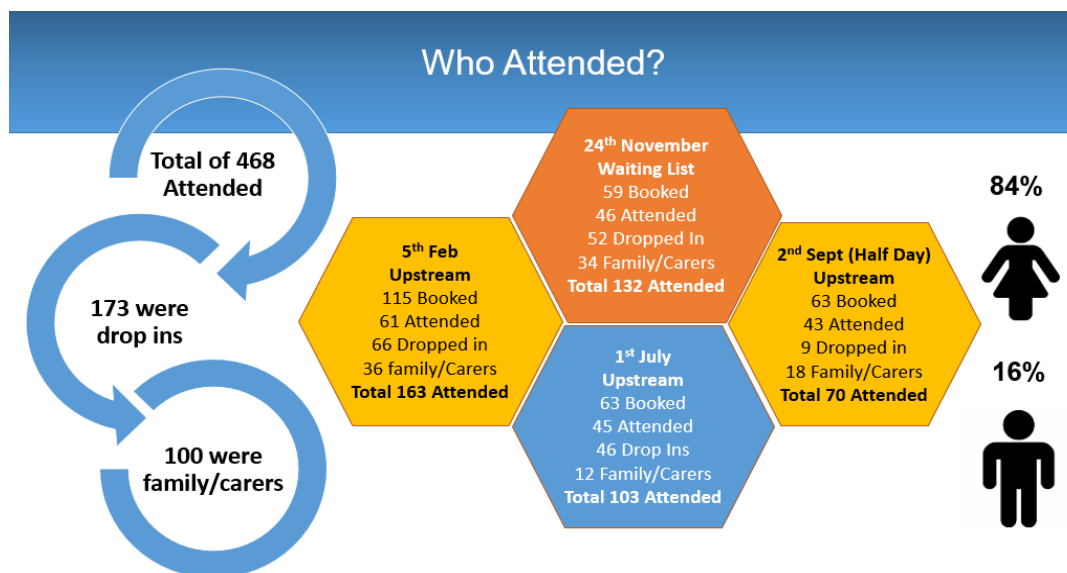
Since the project started in Oct 2024, there has been an 89% increase in the number of people with chronic pain engaging in self-management initiatives, rising from 66 in October 2024 to 125 in March 2026 and a 15% increase since June 2025 (109), exceeding the original target by 69%.

In parallel, there was a 330% increase in services engaging in the chronic pain pathway, demonstrating strong system-wide collaboration. The first two Community Appointment Days, held at Get Active @ Northfield and Aberdeen City Vaccination and Wellbeing Hub, were attended by 225 people, with a near-equal split between pre-booked appointments (48%) and drop-in attendees (52%), highlighting strong public demand for accessible, flexible support

The Community Appointment Days model brings together health, social care and third-sector services in community venues, enabling personalised conversations focused on what matters most to individuals. This approach has been particularly effective in reaching people earlier, with 86% of pre-booked attendees having no previous contact with the Chronic Pain team, supporting a preventative, population-level approach.



Feedback from attendees demonstrates strong qualitative impact. (Based on 63 responses from CAD attendees); 92% would recommend the model to others, and 78% felt their knowledge about other services and support to help them live well was better or much better than before. Participants described feeling listened to, less isolated, and more confident in managing their condition. As a result of its success, Community Appointment Days are now routine, with wider public access and expansion into other health pathways.



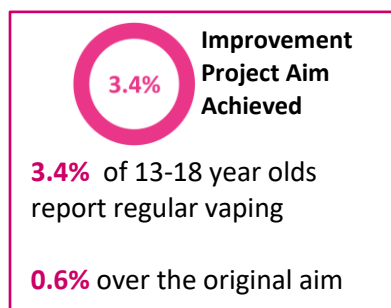
Impact of our support

"The CAD has given that opportunity to meet others and talk about acceptance of chronic pain and giving optimism and hope that life is what it is, but it's how you deal with everyday living safely. It's about taking and sharing experience with other people"

"These classes have been a blessing and have helped me exercise regularly. I didn't think that would be possible without exacerbating pain, but I've learned so much about how it can help. We've all supported each other." ESCAPE-pain participant

"So many of the multi-disciplinary team here, as were groups who can support pain conditions. They gave me time to talk, and I felt free and open to go and talk to them about anything. Don't think you are alone, there are people here today and others experiencing the same thing as you are. It's a fantastic idea."

Reducing regular vaping among 13–18 year olds

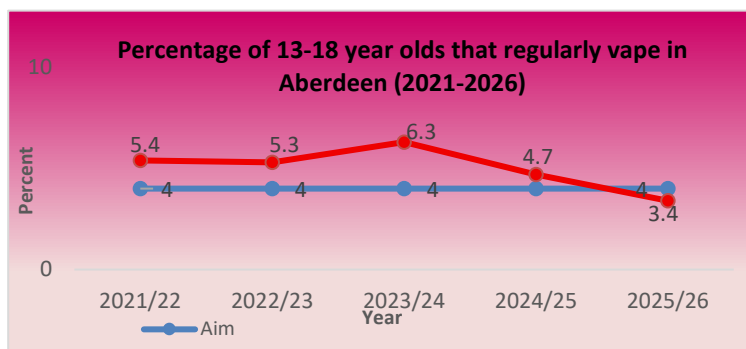


Vaping among children and young people is an increasing public health concern, driven by greater availability, targeted marketing and the perception that it is a low-risk alternative to smoking.

Through our **vaping project**, the proportion of young people who regularly vape fell by 1.3% over the last academic year, from 4.7% in 2024/25 to 3.4% in 2025/26. Since the start of the project, there has been a 2% reduction in the % of young people who regularly vape from falling from 5.4% in 2021/22 to 3.4% in 2025/26, exceeding the original target by 33%. There has been a

decrease of 13% in the priority neighbourhood and an overall decrease of 31.3% who have tried smoking/e-cigarettes all in the last academic year.

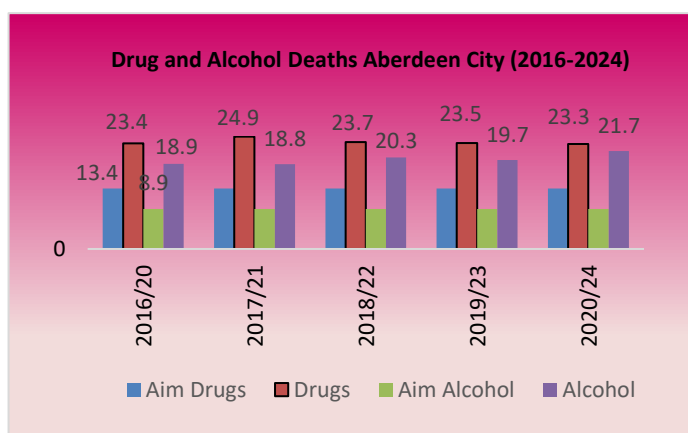
Key achievements were driven by two community-led ideas: piloting the Fast Forward peer-education programme, where young people explored the risks of vaping and created their own social media content, and developing new educational resources using materials from Absafe and Police Scotland. Absafe workshops were especially well received, with teachers reporting greater confidence in discussing vaping. These workshops are now being built into the Health and Wellbeing curriculum at Countesswells, with shared resources on SharePoint to support consistent delivery across PSE and Health and Wellbeing.



Strengthening prevention and support to reduce drug and alcohol deaths

STRETCH OUTCOME 11: Reduce the rate of both alcohol and drug related deaths by 10% by 2026

Reducing alcohol and drug-related deaths remains a critical priority for Aberdeen, as these harms are preventable and contribute significantly to long-term ill health, early mortality and widening health inequalities.



Rates sit above baseline levels, particularly in our most deprived communities, highlighting the need for sustained, coordinated action. The latest 5-year average alcohol-specific death rate has risen to 21.7 deaths per 100,000 population (2020–2024), up from 19.7 the previous period and higher than the baseline (2014-17 (18.7)). This continued upward trend reinforces the wide-ranging impact of harmful drinking and the need to accelerate prevention, early intervention and improved access to support.

For drugs, the 5-year average drug-related death rate is 23.3 deaths per 100,000 population to the end of 2024, a slight reduction from 23.7 in 2019–2023 but still above the 2013-2017 baseline (17.3).

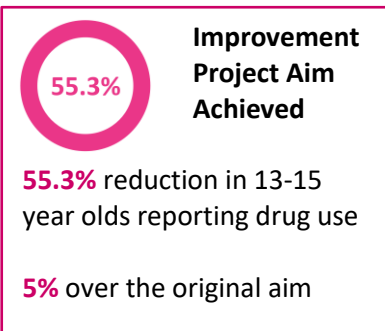
Supporting children earlier to reduce future drug and alcohol harm

Identifying children at an earlier age is critical to preventing future harm associated with drug and alcohol use, as early intervention provides greater opportunity to build resilience and reduce risk.

Through our [Identifying Requirement for Preventative Support project](#), in April 2025 we started a pilot programme for delivering prevention based educational support and sessions to late-primary

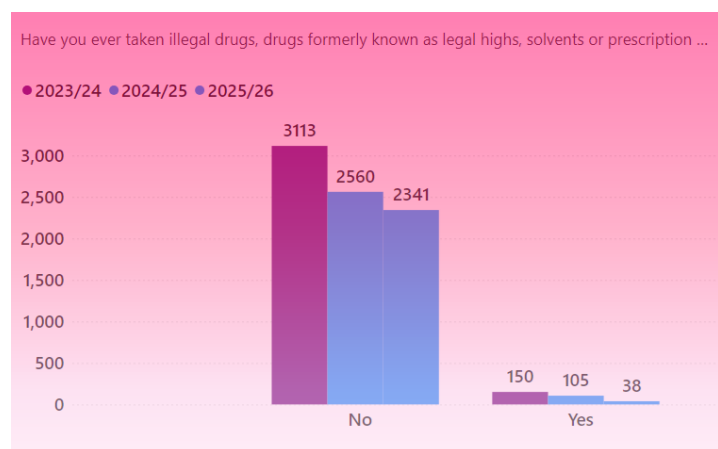
school aged children. 57 young people have been supported through this early prevention pilot. In As a result, as of November 2025, there had been an 6.9% reduction in the average age at which children were identified as requiring preventative support engaged in the pilot from 11.7 to 10.9 years. This is also considerably lower when compared to the average age of identification of 15 years within the Fit Like HUBS and 12.5 years overall. By embedding prevention within primary school settings, the pilot is helping to identify risk and provide support at earliest opportunity.

In addition to the education based support, a Community Appointment Day was held in Torry to test uptake; although attendance was low, valuable conversations were held with local community members.



As well as the targeted support above, through our **Preventing Youth Drug Use project** all schools are delivering pupil informed consistent, age appropriate drug education, strengthening knowledge, resilience and informed decision making.

The

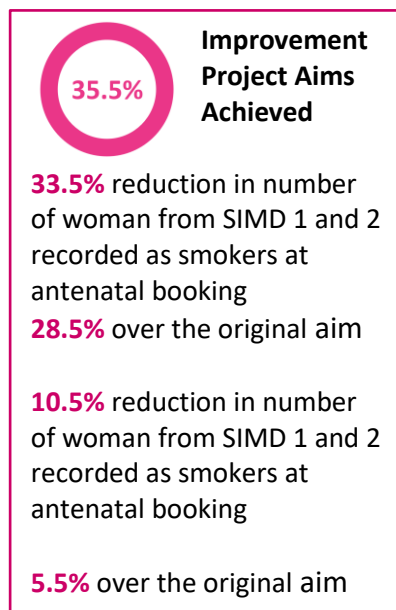


impact has been positive, with a 37.5% reduction in reported illegal drug use among 13–15 year olds between 2022/23 and 2025/26 (from 0.4% to 0.25%). This includes a 55.3% reduction in cannabis use (from 0.47% to 0.21%), 5% over the original target and a 44.4% reduction in ketamine use (from 0.09% to 0.05%). Together, these outcomes highlight the effectiveness of a preventative, whole-school approach to drug education and awareness.

The project is also contributing to a national evaluation funded by NIHR and the Department of Health and Social Care, assessing the impact of an evidence-based drug education programme for young people aged 13–15.

The project has improved access to consistent, age appropriate drug education has increased pupils' knowledge and confidence to make safer choices, reducing exposure to harm. Schools report improved wellbeing and readiness to learn, alongside greater staff confidence in delivering a shared approach to prevention and early intervention. For families, the work provides reassurance and clearer, evidence-based support to enable informed conversations and access to help when needed, contributing to safer learning environments and improved wellbeing for children and young people across Aberdeen.

Supporting healthier pregnancies by improving access to support



Drinking alcohol and smoking during pregnancy can have significant and lifelong impacts on a child's health, development and wellbeing. There is no known safe level of alcohol use at any stage of pregnancy, and stopping smoking at any point in pregnancy can improve outcomes for both parent and baby.

Our **Smoking and alcohol During Pregnancy project**, sought to reduce harm from tobacco and alcohol during pregnancy, with a particular focus on women living in the 40% most deprived SIMD areas, recognising the strong links with deprivation, stress, financial pressure, and wider inequalities. There has been a 33.5% reduction in the number of women from SIMD 1 and 2 recorded as smokers at antenatal booking from 164 in 2023 to 109 in 2025, 28.5% over the original aim of a 5% reduction.

Similarly, there has been a 10.5% reduction in the number of women from SIMD 1 and 2 recorded as drinking at antenatal booking from 19 in 2023 to 17 in 2025, 5.5% over the original aim

of a 5% reduction. In 2024, 15 women reported drinking alcohol at booking. Data on alcohol consumption in pregnancy is thought to be under reported by mothers, therefore actual levels could be higher.

Activity of the project has been centred on prevention, early identification and compassionate, non-judgemental support to improve maternal and infant outcomes, including reducing risks such as premature birth and low birth weight.

During 2025–26, significant progress was made in embedding system and community approaches. The new Tobacco Dependency in Pregnancy (TDIP) pathway, launched in March 2025, has been fully implemented across maternity services, enabling earlier identification, automatic referrals and more consistent wellbeing conversations. Between March 2025 and March 2026, pregnant women in Aberdeen City have been proactively offered support to address tobacco dependency as part of routine maternity care. Local data shows that 37 pregnant women were supported to set a quit date, with the clear majority living in communities experiencing the greatest disadvantage. Over four-fifths of women supported (31 out of 37) lived in SIMD 1 and 2 areas, demonstrating that support is reaching those at highest risk of tobacco-related harm. The approach focuses on non-judgemental, wellbeing-focused conversations that recognise different levels of readiness to change and reduce barriers to engagement. Many women also access wider wellbeing support alongside smoking cessation, helping to address the broader factors that influence smoking during pregnancy and contributing to a reduction in health inequalities.

In parallel, work has focused on embedding consistent, stigma-free alcohol-free pregnancy conversations across maternity and community settings. Our **Drinking During Pregnancy project** Drymester resources have been tested locally to support this, and learning from this testing is now informing which materials should be localised for Aberdeen. Healthpoint staff also undertook refreshed alcohol brief intervention training to strengthen confidence and consistency in prevention conversations. Community-level prevention has been further supported through recruitment of Health Champions, development and testing of new harm-reduction sessions covering smoking and alcohol in pregnancy, and improved public-facing messaging via the Aberdeen Protects resource.



Increasing alcohol screening and access to support

Alcohol-related harm continues to drive poor health outcomes and inequalities across Aberdeen, particularly in priority neighbourhoods. While many people recognise alcohol guidelines, this awareness is not translating into action, with over half of drinkers rarely considering units despite risky drinking levels (Aberdeen City Voice: 54th Survey Report).

Our **Alcohol Support and Awareness project** is increasing screening and access to support where need is greatest. 43% of referrals and 42% of the Alcohol Service caseload come from priority communities across the 5 years 2021/22 to 2025/26, demonstrating strong engagement in areas of highest need.

Through Alcohol and Drugs Action Services, in 2025, 96 individuals from key communities were supported, representing a 7% increase from 2024. Screening activity has expanded through digital tools, including the Alcohol Aberdeen online quiz, resulting in 208 online screenings and 10 direct self-referrals. A 15% conversion rate from screening to referral indicates these tools are effectively reaching people who are at the highest risk.

96 (Key community) individuals presented with Alcohol and Drugs as a Primary Presenting Substance, were supported through ADA Alcohol Services between Jan 2025 and December 2025 (12 months)

When broken down by locality, this is:



Increasing access to naloxone and reducing drug-related deaths



Suspected Drug Related Deaths in Aberdeen City have increase from 2024/25 to 2025/26, from 49 to 56. This increase is also expected to be seen across other areas in Scotland. The increase is thought to be linked to a particular increase in the availability of potent new synthetic opioids particularly around March to June time 2025. There has been a 11% decrease in suspected drug related deaths over the 6 years 2020/21 to 2025/26 and suspected Drug Related Deaths still remain below the 2023/24 suspected Drug Related Deaths. An average of 48% of suspected drug related deaths over the 6 years were from individuals living in priority neighbourhoods. 38% of Drug Related Deaths in 2025/26 were from people living in non priority areas, compared to 53% in 2024/25.

Through our **Drug Related Deaths/Naloxone project** we have focused on developed a dashboard that shows 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.

A continued key focus of activity has been on increasing Naloxone, as a result, we have seen a 55% increase in the supply of Naloxone to people at risk in 2025/26. Over the same time period we have seen a 58% increase in the number of ambulance callouts relating to overdose, and a 39% increase in assertive outreach referrals, suggesting higher numbers of people experiencing harm but also engaging in harm reduction measures we have put in place.

Based on Naloxone reason for re-supply data, data shows that in 2025/26 15% of Naloxone supplies were due to the previous Naloxone kit being used, (note that this excluded Scottish Ambulance Service data). This is an increase from 12% in 2024/25, and from 9% in 2023/24. Looking at data from April 2025 to March 2026 15% of Naloxone supplies to a person at risk were recorded as due to the previous kit being used. Following the launch of a Naloxone App, there has been 619 downloads to date. Despite an expected rise in drug-related deaths linked to potent synthetic opioids, data shows increased use of naloxone kits, rising outreach and ambulance responses supported by improved local intelligence through a new citywide dashboard.

Torry Men's Wellbeing Day

The Torry Men's Wellbeing Day piloted a Community Appointment Day (CAD) model in June 2025 during National Men's Health Week to improve engagement with men who are often less likely to access health and wellbeing support. The pilot responded to local analysis highlighting a lack of place-based approaches for vulnerable groups in Torry and aimed to build trust, reduce barriers and support earlier intervention.

Targeted, relationship-based engagement was central to the pilot's success. This included Men's Breakfast sessions in the weeks leading up to the event, door-to-door outreach, translated flyers, community radio, and a GP text message sent to all male patients aged 18+, which many attendees cited as the reason they attended. An estimated 30–50 people attended, primarily aged 56–74, with 34 stalls and activities delivered by health services and community organisations at Greyhope Community Hub, supported by free transport and external funding. The pilot demonstrated the value of trusted local relationships and place-based delivery in engaging men and shaping future CAD approaches in Aberdeen.

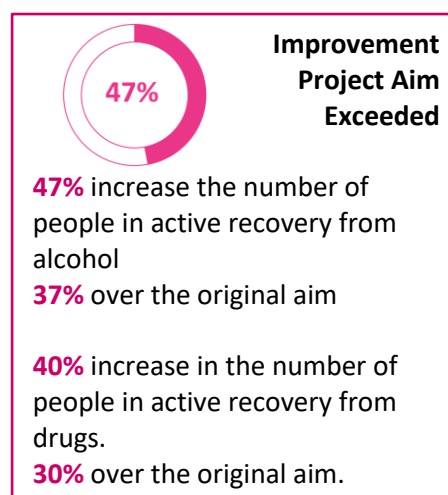


Impact of our support: People who attended the session said:
'This is the longest interaction I've had in months'

'I am Interest in new hobbies/meeting people'

'I am interested in my general health and I want to stop smoking'

Supporting Alcohol and Drug Recovery Across Aberdeen



Supporting people to recover from alcohol and drug use is vital for the people of Aberdeen, as recovery underpins improved health, wellbeing, employability and community inclusion, while reducing pressure on health, housing and justice services.

Through our **Alcohol and Drug Recovery project**, in 2024/25, 75 people were in active recovery from alcohol, compared to 70 people in 2023/24, representing a 7% increase. Since the start of the project, the number of people in active recovery from alcohol has increased by 47%, rising from 51 in 2022/23 to 75 in 2024/25, 37% over the original target.

In 2024/25, 146 people were in active recovery from drugs, compared to 117 people in 2023/24, representing a 25% increase year on year. Since the start of the project, the number of people in active recovery from drugs has increased by 40%, rising from 104 to 146, 30% over the original target.



Key activity focused on expanding recovery support and strengthening pathways into employment. Aberdeen in Recovery (AiR) delivered an average of 14 peer-led recovery groups per week, supporting 144 members during 2024/25 and providing 18,229.5 SAFE (Stable Addiction-Free Engagement) hours, equivalent to 2,430 full days of safe, positive engagement. Weekend provision was expanded, with AiR sessions now running on Sundays and Alcohol and Drugs Action open on Saturdays and Sundays, improving access at critical times.

An employability pilot supported people in recovery into training and work. In 2025, 38 people were referred, with 79% engaging and 20% securing employment, alongside others moving into training, volunteering or paid work experience. People with lived experience have been actively involved in shaping and co-designing the programme, ensuring support is responsive and person-centred.

As at December 2025, outcomes for individuals engaging with recovery-focused employability support include:

- 10 people moving into full-time employment/participating in paid work-experience placements
- 5 actively seeking employment
- 10 engaging with ABZWorks employability courses/progressing into further education at college
- 5 undertaking volunteering opportunities

Preventing homelessness through early intervention and support

STRETCH OUTCOME 12 **Reduce homelessness** **by 10% and Youth** **homelessness by 6% by** **2026**

Homelessness remains a significant challenge in Aberdeen City, with serious impacts on people's health, wellbeing and life chances, particularly for young people. In recent years, the number of people presenting as homeless has remained high, with total homelessness applications increasing to 2128 in 2025/26, a 21.9% increase from 1746 in 2024/25, and 42.8% higher than baseline (1490 in 2016/17).

In 2025/26 there was 562 youth homeless applications, a 14.2% increase from 492 in 2024/25, and a 32% increase since baseline (426 in 2016/17). Addressing homelessness early and preventing repeat episodes is essential to improving outcomes and reducing long-term inequality.

Over the past two years, this work has been strengthened through Homewards Aberdeen, a five-year, locally led programme supported by The Royal Foundation of the Prince and Princess of Wales. Homewards has brought together a strong coalition of public, private and third-sector partners, alongside people with lived experience, to drive a more coordinated, prevention-focused approach to homelessness. By aligning activity, testing new approaches and focusing on



sustainable housing solutions, Homewards is helping to shift the system towards earlier intervention and long-term stability for people at risk of homelessness across the city.

Aberdeen Foyer has received Homewards funding to deliver *Upstream Aberdeen*, an early intervention programme aimed at preventing youth homelessness through risk identification and tailored support in secondary schools. Initially operating in two schools and expanding to four, the programme supports young people and families early, while driving longer-term systems change by shifting focus from crisis response to prevention through strong multi-agency collaboration.

Partnering with private sector organisations to prevent homelessness



Partnering with the private sector is important to preventing homelessness, as employers and businesses have the influence and reach to create secure employment, shape inclusive workplace practices and intervene early when individuals are at risk of housing insecurity.

In 2024 our **Partnering with the Private Sector project** engaged with 10 private sector organisations to actively work in partnership to reduce homelessness. Overall there are 20 private sector organisations actively working in partnership to reduce

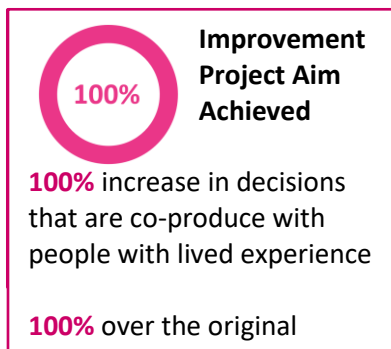
homelessness exceeding the original target by 100%.

Key activity focused on employer engagement and awareness raising. An employer engagement event held in June 2025 attracted 60 businesses, civic and community leaders. Some of the businesses sharing their inclusive practices on the day include Hays PLC, Specsavers, Greene King, Altrad and Sodexo with follow-up conversations progressing with several organisations on specific actions they could take. Ongoing engagement has included collaboration with initiatives such as Invisible Cities, Only A Pavement Away, Change Please and Jobs First, alongside continued dialogue with major employers and business networks. Read more about Invisible Cities [here](#) and its successes since launching in Aberdeen in this vogue article [here](#).



Homewards Aberdeen collaborates with a wide variety of businesses from different sectors. This includes manufacturing and construction companies such as **Glencraft**, **Altrad**, and **Robertson Group**; creative organisations like **FortyTwo Studios**; recruitment and technology firms including **Hays Plc** and **PCL Group**; and retailers like **IKEA**, **BOSCH**, **Dunelm**, **DFS**, **PRET**, and **Specsavers**. Transport companies like **FirstBus Plc** are also involved. These organisations have supported Homewards Aberdeen by providing resources, goods, or by adopting inclusive practices for those at risk of homelessness.

Embedding Lived Experience in Homelessness Prevention



Lived experience is essential to addressing homelessness in Aberdeen, ensuring that decisions and services are shaped by the realities faced by people most affected, and that prevention activity is grounded in what works in practice as well as policy.

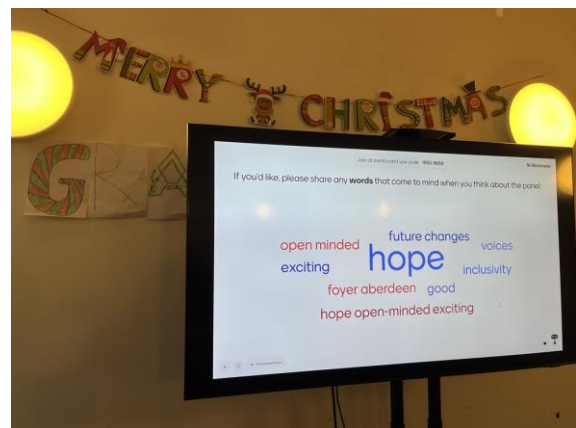
Our **Lived Experience project** set out to ensure that people with lived experience are directly involved in shaping decisions on homelessness prevention. In 2025, 100% of Community Planning Aberdeen decisions which impact on preventing homelessness were co-produced with people with lived experience. This

represents performance at 100% over the original target.

Central to this progress has been the establishment of a living and lived experience panel, **officially known as “Experts through Experience-Homewards Aberdeen”** alongside the introduction of good practice in remuneration and supported participation. These foundations have helped remove barriers to involvement and embed co-production as standard practice rather than an exception.

Engagement activity has already led to clear, measurable contributions. In late 2025, nine people with lived experience took part in three workshops, while eight individuals directly informed the refreshed Homewards Action Plan and the draft LOIP refresh, ensuring lived experience influenced both strategic direction and delivery.

Homewards funding has enabled Grampian Regional Equality Council (GREC) to establish a Living and Lived Experience Panel, strengthening homelessness prevention in Aberdeen by embedding co-production in decision-making. The 12-person, fairly remunerated panel brings lived experience directly into the design and governance of homelessness activity, influencing citywide prevention efforts and supporting delivery of the Homewards Aberdeen Local Action Plan.



Impact of our support

In response to ‘What you would like to achieve as part of the panel?’, members who joined our workshops said:

“I would like to raise the voice of the youth that experience homelessness, raise awareness, assist in prevention, help signpost and generally help people. Inclusive of substance misuse issues.”

“To improve people’s living condition or change narrative/people perspective. To make a change. I want people to be listened to. Breaking the stigma and also improve what’s going on in the city...”

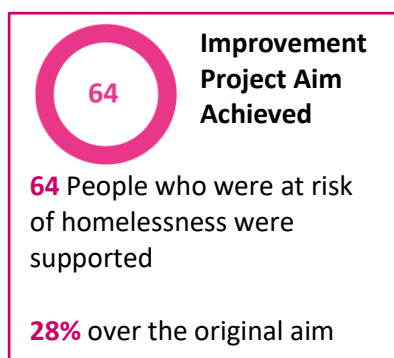
“...to make real change in the lives of those experiencing homelessness.”

“To help with the experience that I have and support those in the city that might be experiencing something similar.”

“To help bridge the gap of awareness and connections.”

“The ability to go through the community for feedback and for the youth, specifically schools/academies and finding out their thoughts and awareness”

Preventing Homelessness Through Rapid Multi-Agency Response



Preventing homelessness at the earliest possible stage is a priority in Aberdeen, particularly for people experiencing multiple and intersecting risks linked to housing insecurity, health, trauma, justice involvement and poverty. The **Aberdeen Tasking and Activation Partnership (ATAP)**, led by **Aberdeen Cyrenians**, provides a rapid, co-ordinated, multi-agency response bringing together housing associations and third sector partners to act before crisis point is reached.

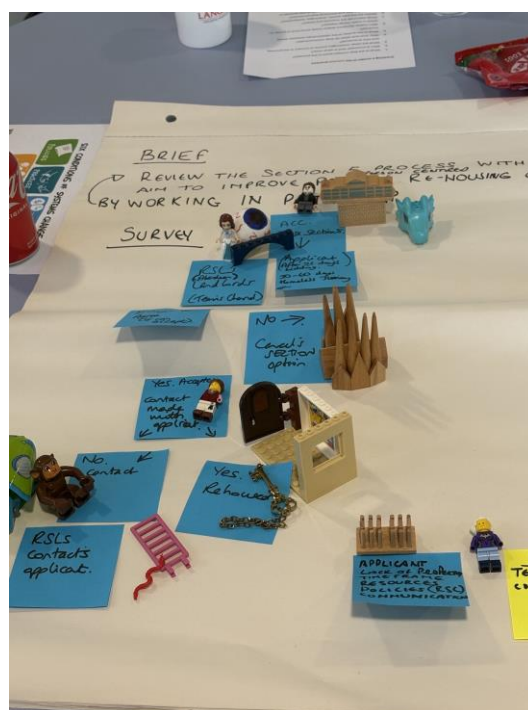
During 2025/26, ATAP moved from design into live delivery, testing how early identification, shared decision-making and flexible support can prevent escalation into statutory homelessness. Evidence from live cases shows that early, coordinated intervention is enable people to sustain tenancies, secure suitable permanent housing, or avoid statutory homelessness altogether, particularly for individuals with complex needs who traditionally present late in crisis.

Between June 2025 and March 2026 ATAP's cash first approach has processed 20 housing referrals, alongside 40 cash-first referrals, supported 40 households across Aberdeen City. Interventions included tenancy advocacy, coordinated housing action, and deployment or approval in principle of c.£50k in targeted prevention funding addressing critical risks such as rent, utility and energy arrears, unsafe housing conditions, and lack of essential household items.

Early outcomes demonstrate strong preventative impact, with recorded results including:

- Tenancy sustainment and eviction avoidance
- Moves into suitable permanent accommodation without statutory homelessness presentation
- Reduced escalation for people with overlapping housing, health and justice needs

Young people and single adults with multiple needs have seen particularly positive outcomes, where rapid, relationship-based engagement and joint action helped stabilise situations that would otherwise have escalated into crisis. Partners report improved engagement, quicker decision-making and more sustainable outcomes compared to traditional crisis-led response.



Impact of our support

"It hasn't just been about changing a process. It's been about helping that person and then hearing what that has meant for them. Having the time and space to work together has led to real, practical outcomes that have genuinely helped people stay in their homes."

"Being asked about my housing early on meant I got help before things fell apart." – Service User

Asking Early and Acting to Prevent Homelessness

Housing insecurity is often hidden and only identified once people reach crisis. Our Ask & Act project, led in partnership by Aberdeen City Council and Aberdeen Cyrenians, is addressing this by embedding routine conversations about housing within frontline services and ensuring early action is taken when risk is identified.

Following the Housing Bill in November 2025, Aberdeen was selected as a national test-and-learn area, placing the city at the forefront of early implementation. A major milestone during 2025/26 was the successful joint bid to the Scottish Government's £4 million Ask & Act Fund enabling:

- Development of the Ask:ENACT digital tool, supporting consistent, secure identification of housing risk
- Expanded workforce training across statutory and third-sector partners
- New partners joining delivery, including NHS Grampian and Police Scotland



During 2025/26, Ask:Enact moved from prototype into live testing, with Turning Point Scotland actively using the system and further testing underway with NHS Grampian and Police Scotland. Governance, accessibility and analytics have been strengthened to support scale-up and future sustainability.

Parallel work with Registered Social Landlords has strengthened the application of domestic abuse policy within housing pathways, ensuring earlier identification of risk and safer housing responses for those affected.

Early feedback from partners indicates that routine, structured conversations about housing are leading to earlier support, reduced escalation, and improved joint working across health, social care and housing services.



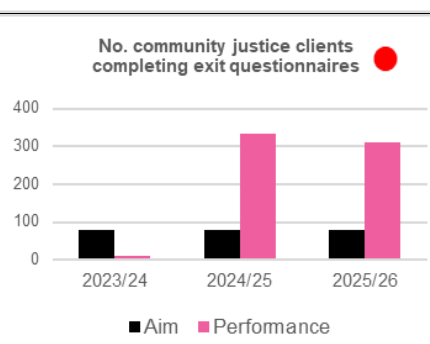
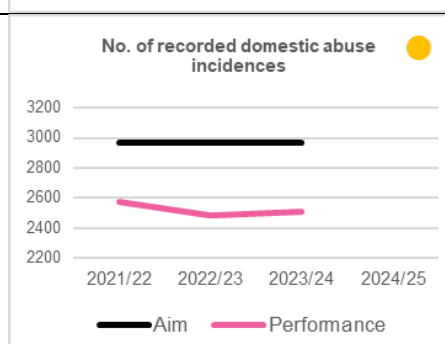
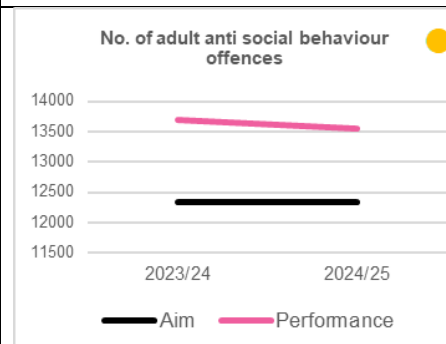
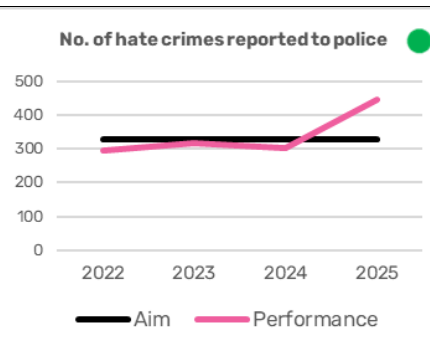
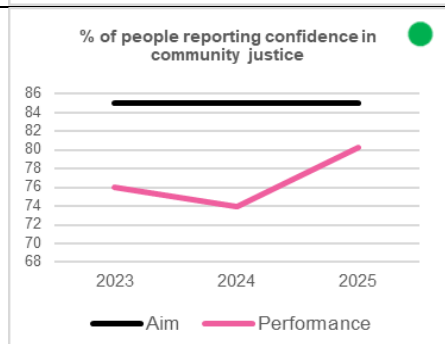
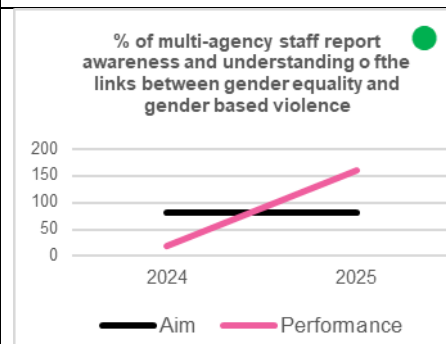
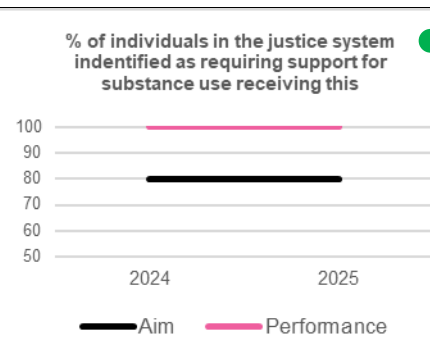
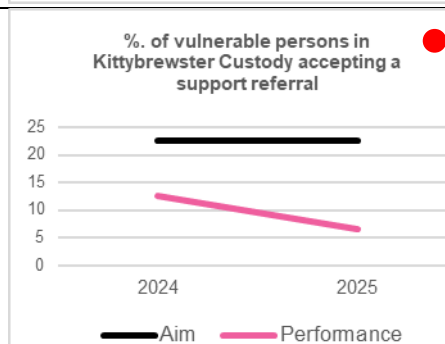
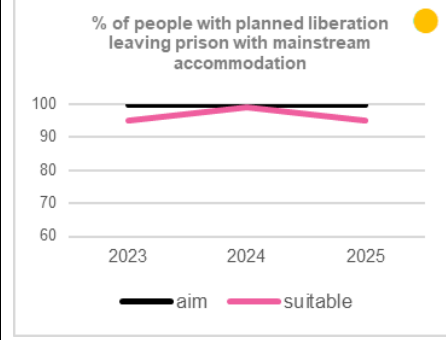
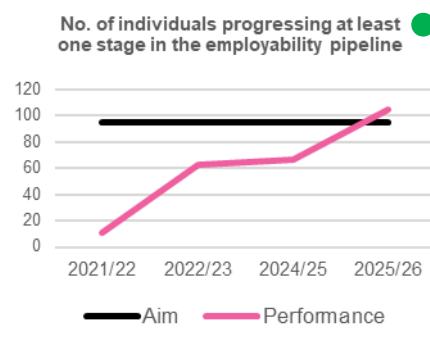
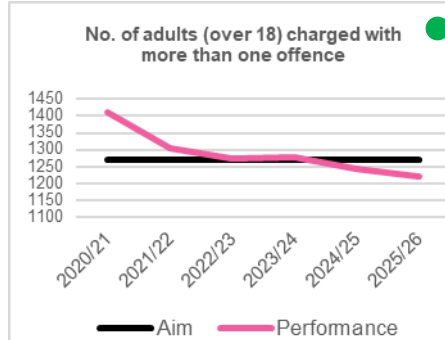
Progress made during 2025/26



- Yes
- Getting there
- Not yet

24/26 improvement aim Performance

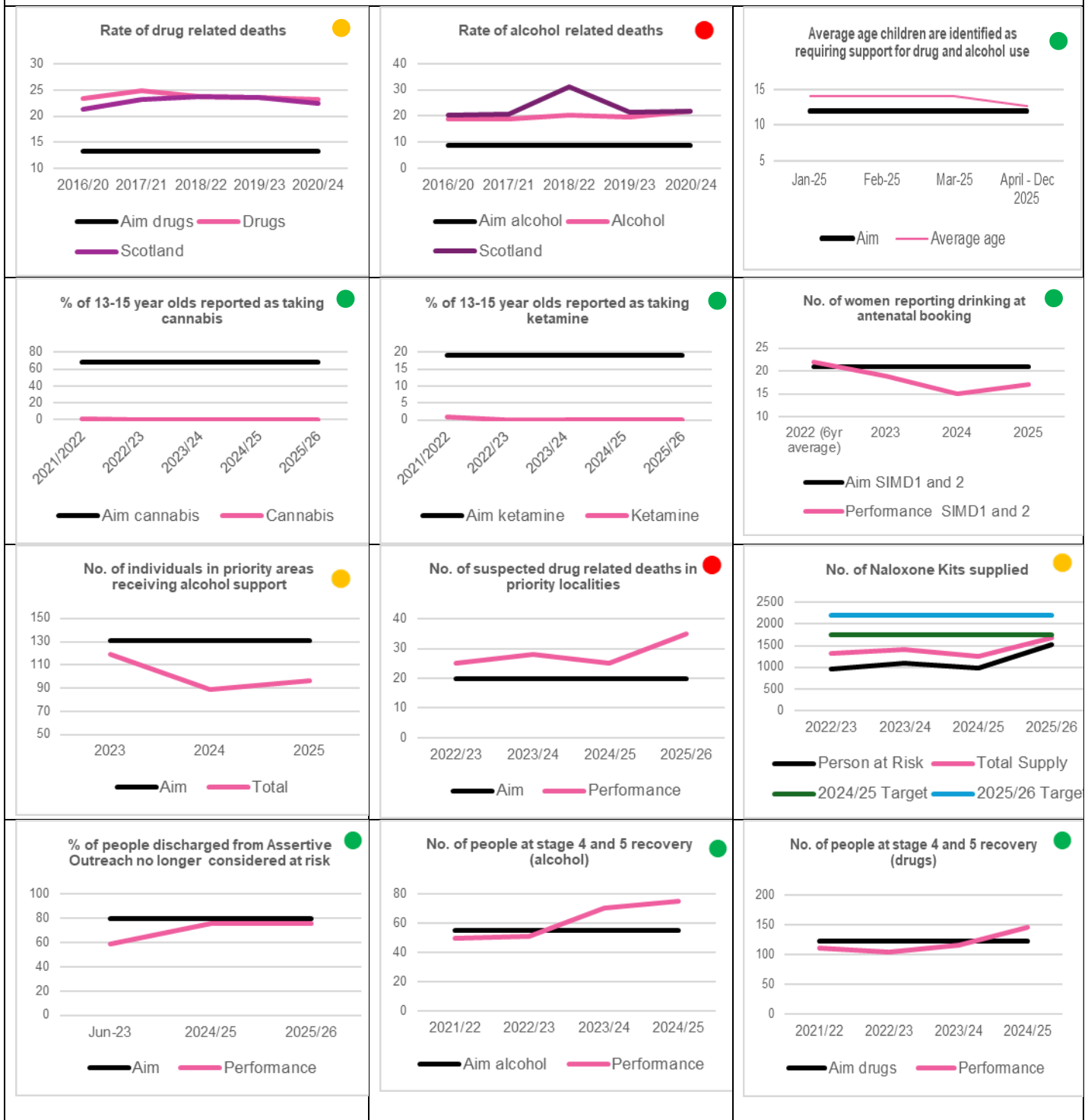
Fewer Convictions and Reconvictions



Healthy Life Expectancy



Lower Substance Use



Preventing Homelessness



Improvement priorities 2026/27



- **New recovery approaches for people with existing and emerging complex needs.**
Develop trauma-informed, integrated and coordinated recovery pathways including peer-led approaches to reduce stigma and isolation for people already experiencing factors that contribute to harms relating to substance use, gambling and risk of suicide.



Prosperous Place

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.	48% reduction in carbon emissions in 2023 compared to the baseline from 2005 and a 6.3% reduction since 2021 to 2023
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.	25% of people walking in 2024, a 11% decrease from the baseline in 2017. 1% of people cycling, a 1.4% point decrease from 2017 and 1% from 2022. 2% reduction in car Kms in 2024 (1,238) compared to the 2019 baseline (1,258), however there has been a 2% increase in car Kms when compared to 2023.
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.	25% increase in % of land is protected for nature 17 to 21.3% in 2025, compared to 17% in 2021 25% reduction in the proportion of people reporting that spaces and buildings are well cared for, from 49% in 2020 to 36.7% in 2025.

Progress made during 2025/26



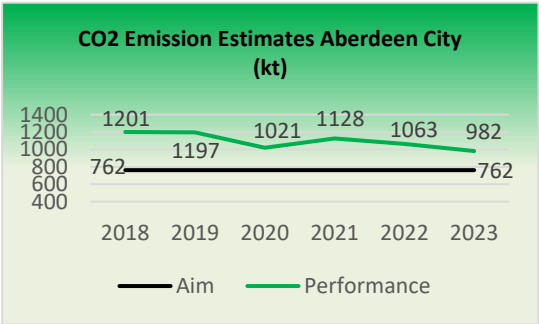
Stretch Outcome 13 progressing with 48% reduction in carbon emissions

STRETCH OUTCOME 13 PROGRESSING WITH 48% reduction in carbon emissions.

Stretch Outcome 13 focuses on reducing Aberdeen’s carbon emissions while strengthening the city’s ability to adapt to the growing impacts of climate change. This remains critical to protecting population health and supporting community and economic resilience at a time when Aberdeen is experiencing more frequent weather events, and rising energy costs.

Community Planning Aberdeen improvement projects support this outcome through practical, locally led action across organisations and communities. Collectively, these projects promote behaviour change, build local capacity and strengthen partnership working, contributing to delivery of the Net Zero Aberdeen Routemap and Aberdeen Adapts framework.

Latest published data shows that Aberdeen achieved a 48% reduction in emissions in 2023 compared to the 2005 baseline, including a 6.3% reduction in emissions between 2021 and 2023, demonstrating continued and substantial progress towards the city’s net zero ambitions. While further reductions are still required to meet future targets, the overall trend remains positive and reflects the combined impact of national policy, organisational change and locally delivered improvement activity across the city.



Reducing public sector carbon emissions through Green Champion-led action

Improvement Project Aim Exceeded

12% reduction in public sector carbon emissions

5% over the original aim.

As reported last year, we are pleased to confirm that we are continuing progress on the **Reducing Public Sector Carbon Emissions project** continues to contribute to Aberdeen’s wider net zero ambitions by supporting behavioural change and practical low-carbon action across public sector organisations.

Latest published emissions data for 2023 shows a 12% reduction in public sector emissions, with levels falling from 85.4ktCO₂e in 2016 to 75.5 ktCO₂e in 2023, 5% over the original aim of a 7% reduction.

During 2025, the project focused on enabling action through the city-wide Green Champions Network, with 30 initiatives tested to support reductions in public sector emissions. These initiatives included practical, accessible activities such as swap shops, Plastic Free July events, seed swaps, workplace growing, nappy libraries, beeswax wrap workshops, litter picks, and seed socials, many of which were open to staff, communities, and members of the public. These activities not only reduced emissions directly but also increased awareness, skills, and engagement around low-carbon living.



As a result of initiatives delivered in 2025, an estimated 7,945.5 kg (same as last year's report) CO₂e of emissions were saved. Since the project began in 2021, cumulative emissions savings from Green Champion-led initiatives now total 8,829.94 kg CO₂e, evidencing the growing impact of grassroots, staff led action alongside wider organisational carbon reduction programmes. The Green Champions Network has continued to expand and strengthen, with 98 Green Champions now active across four Community Planning Aberdeen partners.

Community-led action to reduce falls during icy weather



**Improvement
Project Aim
Achieved**

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

14.7% over the original aim.

Our **Icy Weather project** is a partnership between community councils, volunteers, the local authority and NHS Grampian, working to reduce falls during icy conditions through targeted, community-led pavement gritting. Led by three community councils and around 15– 20 volunteers, “ice crews” grit high-risk pavement routes in the AB15 and AB16 postcode areas to help residents stay mobile and safe.

As reported last year, the project achieved its improvement aim and continues to sustain and build on this progress.

STRETCH OUTCOME 14 **Increase sustainable travel: 38% of people walking and 5% of people cycling and 5% reduction in car miles by 2026**

efforts are helping to make active travel easier, safer and more appealing for people across Aberdeen.

Stretch Outcome 14 focuses on supporting more people in Aberdeen to walk, wheel and cycle as part of their everyday lives, creating healthier communities and reducing carbon emissions. Across the city, partners are improving walking accessibility, expanding cycling opportunities, and trialling new approaches to reduce car kilometres. Recent progress includes community-led improvements to local walking routes and benches in Dyce, alongside the promotion of city and heritage trails through the Get About platform, school programmes, community cycling sessions, and bike-reuse initiatives that prevent bikes from going to landfill. Together, these

Increasing the number of people who cycle or wheel



Improvement Project Aim Achieved

16.9% people reported they had cycled in the last year

14.9 % over the original aim

Aberdeen's ambition is to increase active travel by encouraging more people to cycle and wheel as part of everyday journeys. Through our [Cycling Improvement project](#), we have continued to support and widen participation in cycling. In 2025, 16.9% of City Voice respondents reported that they had cycled in the last year, representing a 2.1% increase since the start of the project (14.8% in 2022) and 14.9 % increase over the original target.

Over 130 cycling sessions were delivered to school-aged children through Sport Aberdeen's Learn to Bike, Bikeability Level 1 and Bike Doctor programmes, supporting early skills development and confidence.

The project has focused on practical, inclusive initiatives through the Nestrans People & Place programme. Under Cycling UK's Connecting Communities project, 91% of participants reported regularly using cycling for local journeys. Access has also expanded through the North East Cycle Hub, which recovered 198 unwanted bikes from SUEZ recycling centres in Aberdeen during Q4, preventing them from going to landfill. Inclusive provision has strengthened through the Grampian Inclusive Cycling Bothies, where additional staffing enabled a second weekly session in Aberdeen from early 2025, with growing participation from local schools and young people with additional support needs.



Walking and Cycling Index 2025

Sport Aberdeen has continued to deliver its adaptive cycling sessions through Grampian Inclusive Cycling Bothy. Scottish Cycling's Rock Up & Ride initiative, as well as Cycling UK's Connecting Communities programme, In Cycling UK's follow up surveys, participants reported increased levels of cycling and improved feelings of safety when doing so.

Through People and Place, Nestrans has been able to support:

- School Streets initiative (with ACC) for two schools, restricting motor traffic on the street outside the school gate for short periods of time at the beginning and end of the school day. This approach has been trialled in many other cities across Scotland and results in a safer, healthier street environment for everyone.
- Expansion of residential cycle parking at multi-story housing blocks (with ACC), providing an additional 150 secure spaces for Council tenants to store their bicycles.
- Surfacing of Core Path 17 connecting Aulton Bothy to the Beach (with Sport Aberdeen), improving accessibility for adaptive cycle users and an important connection for communities with the beach front area.

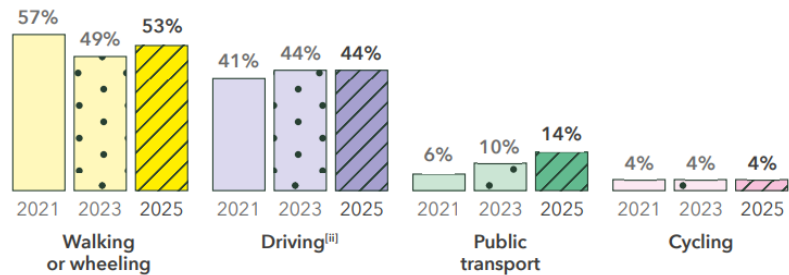
Through the latest walking and cycling index data, walking and wheeling is the most common mode of travel amongst Aberdeen residents. Since 2023, walking and wheeling has increased by 4% (49% to 53% in 2025).

Frequency of different modes of travel

Walking and wheeling is the most common mode of travel amongst Aberdeen residents. Since 2023 walking and wheeling appears to be increasing.

i. NRS mid-year 2024 population estimates. This is the most recent available for Aberdeen.

Residents who travel by the following modes five or more days a week in the city



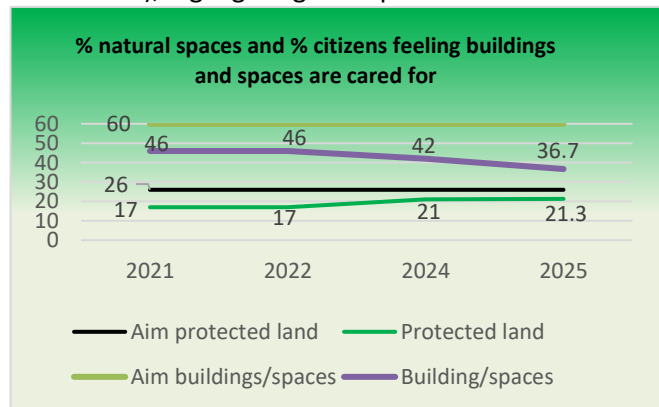
ii. Travelling as driver or passenger of car, van or motorcycle.

STRETCH OUTCOME 15

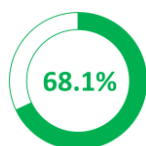
26% of Aberdeen's areas will be protected for nature and 60% of people feel that spaces and buildings are well cared for

continued focus. Across the city, projects are helping to expand access to high-quality natural spaces, promote the wellbeing benefits of nature, support community-led environmental improvements, and encourage organisations to actively manage their land for wildlife. This work is strengthening biodiversity, improving local environments, and helping communities feel more connected to the natural spaces around them.

Stretch Outcome 15 focuses on protecting Aberdeen's natural environment and ensuring that people feel proud of the places where they live. The aim is for 26% of Aberdeen's areas to be protected for nature and for 60% of people to feel that local spaces and buildings are well cared for by 2026. Recent progress shows encouraging growth in nature protection, with protected land increasing by 4.3% from 17% in 2021 to 21.3% in 2025. During the same period perceptions of how well spaces are cared for have declined by 9.3% (46 to 36.7% in 2025), highlighting an important area for



Improving access to good-quality natural spaces



Improvement Project Aim Achieved

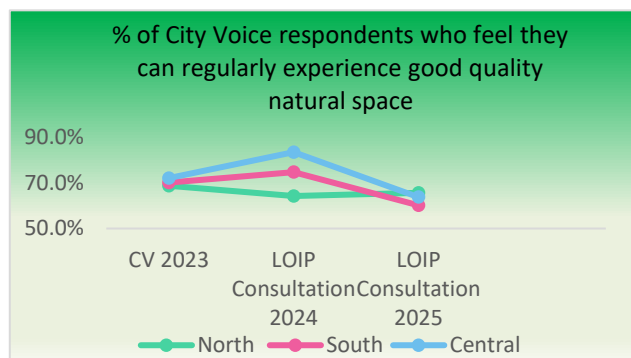
68.1% people reported they can experience good-quality natural spaces

3.1% over the original aim

Access to nature plays a vital role in supporting physical and mental wellbeing, strengthening community connection, and improving environmental resilience.

Through our **Natural Space project**, the overall proportion of people who feel they can regularly experience good-quality natural space has increased to 68.1%, representing a 9.3% increase since 2024 and a 17.1% increase since 2022 and exceeds the original target by 3.1%. The project has focused on helping more people feel able to regularly enjoy good-quality

natural spaces in their neighbourhoods, recognising the importance of everyday contact with nature for quality of life and long-term sustainability.



Progress during 2025 has been driven by a range of practical, visible activities designed to encourage people of all ages to connect with nature. Countryside Rangers delivered 18 Summer Seabird Safaris, welcoming over 220 cruise-ship visitors and showcasing Aberdeen's coastline and wildlife.

Community growing initiatives expanded, with more than 200 Meadow in a Box planters built in partnership with HMP

Grampian and distributed to nurseries, schools, and community groups. Building on this success, Salad in a Box and Hedge in a Box programmes were introduced, alongside the distribution of 170,000 spring bulbs to brighten neighbourhoods and support biodiversity. In addition, over 15,000 trees have been planted during the 2025/26 season.



Environmental enhancement has been a key feature of delivery. The Aberdeen B-Lines project, delivered in partnership with Buglife, has created and enhanced over 12 hectares of wildflower-rich grassland across 13 coastal and riverside sites, strengthening pollinator habitats and wildlife corridors. Further activity includes the development of Nectar Network sites and Aberdeen Park trails were updated and reprinted. The Junior Countryside Ranger programme was introduced with 10 young rangers.

This progress highlights how sustained investment in natural spaces can deliver meaningful improvements in access, environmental quality, and community wellbeing, while supporting wider climate, biodiversity, and public health ambitions for Aberdeen.

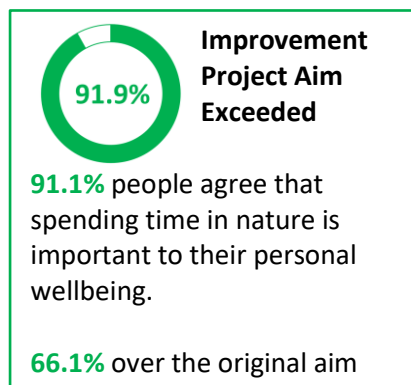


Feedback from Seabird Safaris

"Brilliant! What a great way to show visitors another side of the City and coast."

The Viking Line passengers on the Seabird Safaris were overwhelmingly happy with where we took them and the nature we pointed out. They've commented on how close they've got to the Kittiwakes, Fulmars, other seabirds and bottle-nosed dolphins.

Raising awareness of the importance of nature



Nature plays a vital role in supporting individual wellbeing and enhancing neighbourhood quality of life.

Through our [Understanding the Importance of Nature project](#), an overall 91.1% of respondents (City Voice 51), reported that spending time in nature is important to their personal wellbeing, indicating a high level of awareness of the value of nature and 66.1% over the original aim. This significantly exceeds the original target by 66.1%. These findings indicate growing recognition of the value of green spaces and access to nature and the importance to person wellbeing.

Social prescribing of nature

Supporting people to improve their health and wellbeing through a greater connection with local nature is an important part of strengthening preventative approaches in our communities. Through our [social prescribing nature project](#), 58 people have been socially prescribed nature (As of October 2025), a 246% increase since 2024 (13 to 45 in 2025). 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.

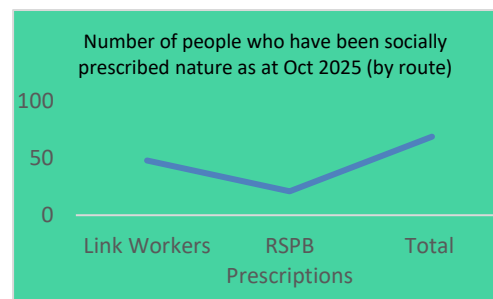
Our Communities - Green Health Map



The project continues to pilot:

- the RSPB Nature Prescriptions with Torry and Garthdee GP practices,
- testing nature-based prescribing by GP Link Workers in the Central Locality, and
- have developed and launched a Green Health Map to support referral from social prescribing and increase information for people searching directly online.

As a result, 48 people have been prescribed through Link Workers and 21 through the RSPB Nature Prescriptions. Between January and September 2025, the Green Health Map received 803 views, with 228 active users and an average engagement time of 2 minutes per user. Between May and September 2025, 410 services were viewed, and 76 services aligned with Green Health Map themes received 962 views. A Nature Based Social Prescribing Network Event was held in June 2025 to raise awareness of nature based social prescribing.



Feedback from a link practitioners has been positive:

For the Link Practitioners, the application of the RSPB Nature Prescriptions has been incredibly rewarding to see how such a simple, yet effective tool has helped people reconnect and given people a renewed sense of purpose each morning.

Position pre social prescription for nature

Case Story 1 - Person A had a diagnosis of dementia and had suffered a severe stroke. Person A was discharged from hospital. Person A adjusted to significant changes, including the use of wheelchairs, regular visits from carers. and managing medications. Person A begun to feel increasingly isolated, they were no longer able to attend the activities they once enjoyed.

Position post social prescription for nature

Case Story 1 - A Links Practitioner was assigned to support Person A and introduced the RSPB Nature Prescription. With a beautiful garden at home, person A now spends time in the garden using the RSPB calendar booklet to record the different species visiting the garden.

Person A now feels well enough to go out in the wheelchair and takes the RSPB booklet, noting down what they see.

For the Link Practitioner, it was incredibly rewarding to see how such a simple, yet effective tool had helped Person A reconnect with activities loved before. It also supported improvements in Person A's speech and gave person A a renewed sense of purpose, something to look forward to each morning.

Position pre social prescription for nature

Case Story 2 - Person B had been unemployed since Covid lockdowns which affected them quite adversely with severe anxiety and depression with suicidal ideation. Person B expressed an interested in outdoor activity.

Position post social prescription for nature

Case Story 2 – Person B was connected into a local gardening group and then began attending a weekly walking group close to home. Still keen for more activity Person B has now joined in with another walking group around the City, as well as attending an outdoor sports facility every week during the spring and summer months and has started the cycling resource near home on a weekly basis.

Person B feels supported and has an active life. Person B has made some good connections and feels less isolated and not sitting about the house so much.

Communities leading environmental improvements



**Improvement
Project Aim
Exceeded**

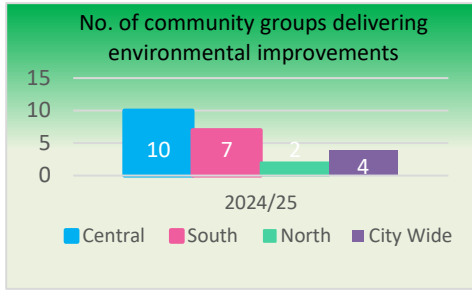
100% increase in number of community groups delivering environmental improvements

50% over the original aim

Through our community environmental project, Community Planning Aberdeen are committed to supporting communities to lead environmental initiatives and we are heartened to see that the changes tested being embedded and continuing to have positive outcomes for our communities.

The continuation of the both Local Environmental Action Fund (LEAF) 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, and the Just Transition Participatory Budgeting (JTPB) Fund, has

enabled 46 community groups received funding for environmental improvements in 2025.



Of the 23 LEAF funded projects in 2025, 10 are in Central, 7 in South, 2 in North and 4 are City Wide. 61% of the projects are working in our priority neighbourhoods, 35% in central priority neighbourhoods, 17% in South and 9% in north priority neighbourhoods.

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 projects. Some examples:



What impact have we had?

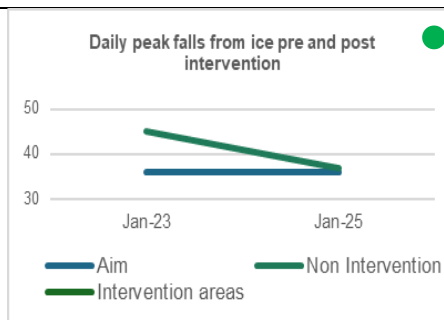
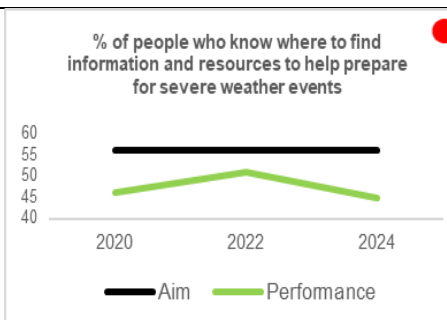
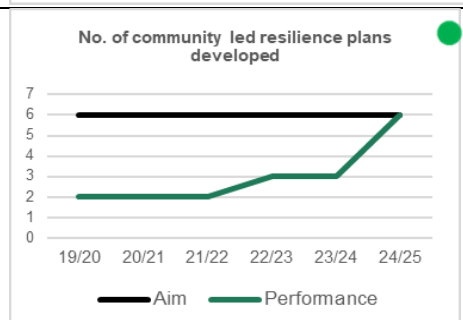
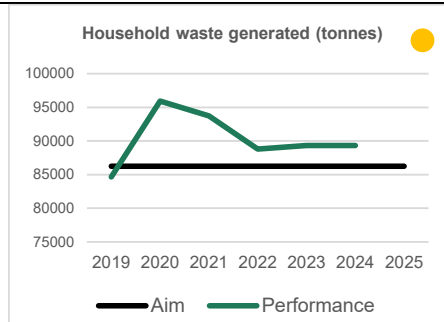
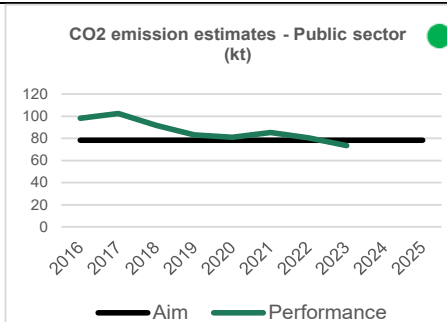
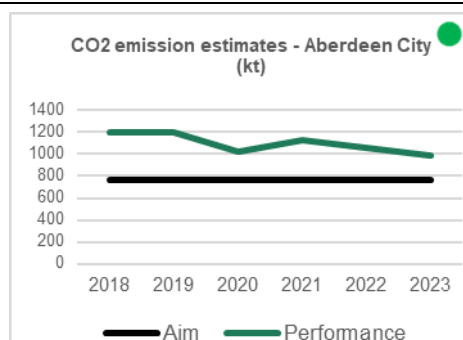


24/25/26 improvement aim

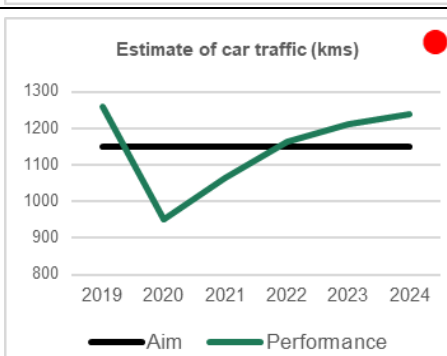
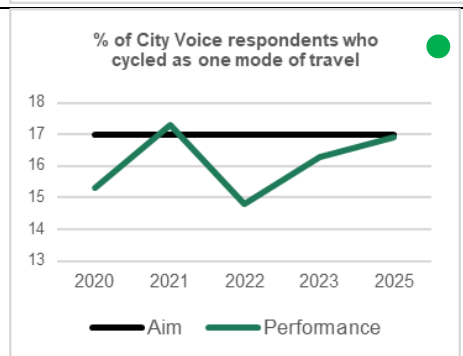
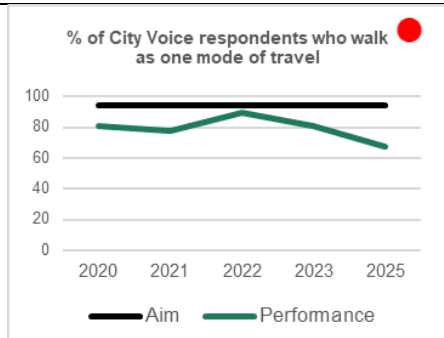
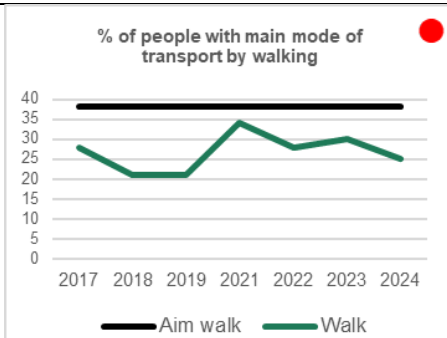
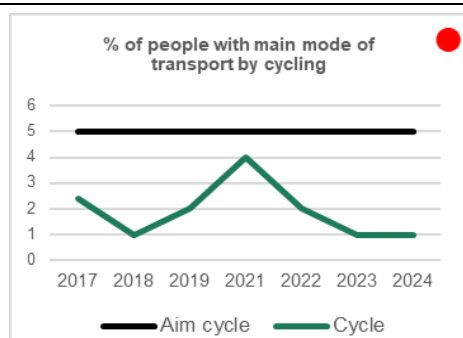
Performance

- Yes
- Getting there
- Not yet

Climate Change

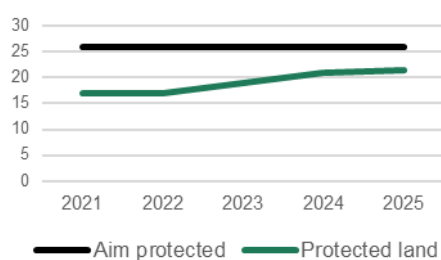


Walking, Cycling and Car Miles

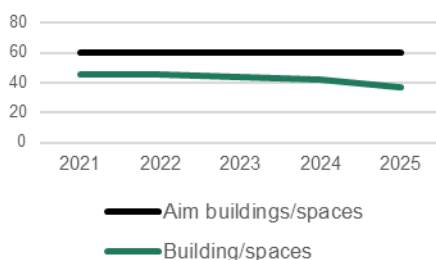


Natural and Built Environment

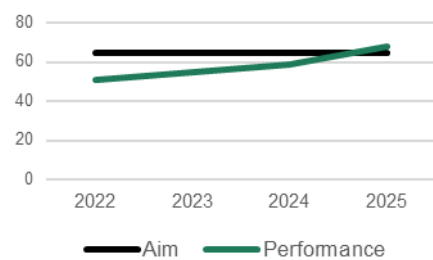
% of Aberdeen's area will be protected and/or managed for nature



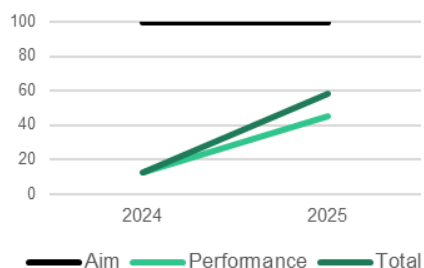
% of people report they feel that spaces and buildings are well cared for



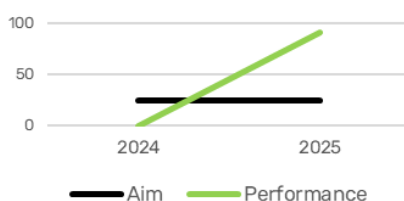
% of people who feel they can regularly experience good quality natural space



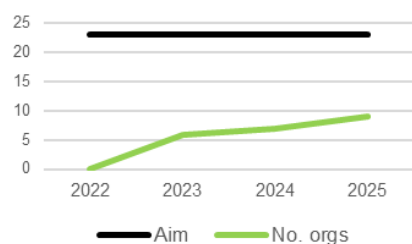
No. of people socially prescribed nature



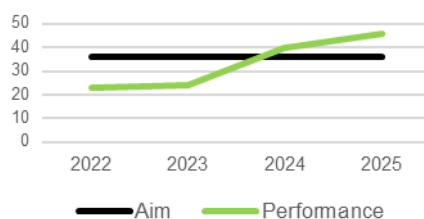
% of people report that they understand the importance of nature on both their neighbourhood and individual wellbeing



No. of organisations pledging 10% of their land for nature



No. of community groups delivering local environmental improvements



Improvement priorities 2026/27



- **A Community-led System for Sustainable Neighbourhoods.**
Co-creating a community collaborative approach to deliver neighbourhood action on local living, improving the natural environment, climate resilience, community energy and sustainable travel, underpinned by communities and services sharing power, responsibility and decision-making



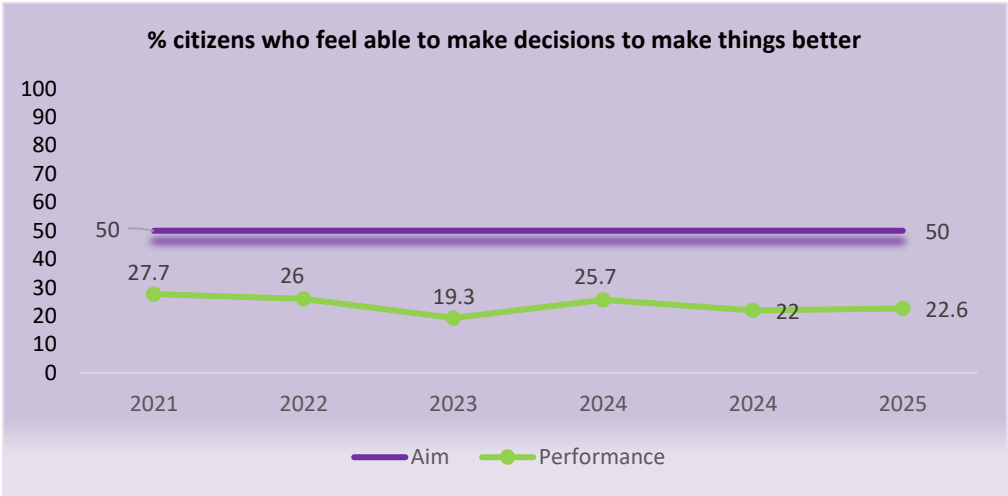
Community Empowerment

What we are working towards	How we are doing
<u>SO16</u> 100% increase in the proportion of citizens who feel able to participate in decisions that help change things for the better by 2026	0.6% increase in % of City Voice respondents in 2025 scoring 5 and above (out of 1-7) feel able to participate in decisions that help change things for the better, 22.6% up from 22% in 2025, however lower than the baseline of 27.7% in 2021.



STRETCH OUTCOME 16
22.6% of people feel able to participate in decisions that help change things for the better

Stretch Outcome 16 focuses on empowering people in Aberdeen to feel confident and able to participate in decisions that shape their communities for the better. Partners across the city are strengthening opportunities for involvement by embedding children and young people’s voices in decision-making, supporting residents to generate and test their own ideas, and increasing meaningful participation through local groups and partnerships. New community-led funding approaches are giving people greater influence over how resources are used, while storytelling, celebration, and capacity-building initiatives are helping to recognise local strengths and build skills. However, we still have some way to ensure people feel they have influence and greater sense of control..



Ensuring Children’s Rights/UN Convention on Rights

Improvement Project Aim Achieved

100% of Community Planning Aberdeen Board decision which impact on children and young people have been informed by them

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 upheld and protected throughout Scotland. In response, our Children and Young People’s Rights project has been collaborating with children and young people to expand and improve how we communicate with them and involve them in planning and developing our work across Aberdeen.



100% of Community Planning Aberdeen Board decisions which impact on children and young people have been informed by them. There are 97 Local Outcome Improvement Plan projects in the 2016-26 LOIP. Of these 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.

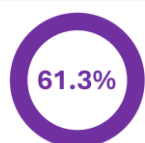
Across the Child Rights Improvement Project Aberdeen Youth Movement (AYM) (for 12-25yrs) and the Young Ambassadors (for 10-16yrs), have emerged as key players in engaging with children and young people. Through their involvement in various initiatives such as Your Place, Your Plans, Your Future, budget consultations, campaigns to enhance young people's connection with democratic processes, and projects like the Re-imagining of Central Library, they have been instrumental in advocating for a youth perspective and challenging adult-centric approaches. AYM's influence has been particularly significant, leading to a mutual understanding between young people and decision-makers regarding the need for often gradual yet impactful changes in the city.

The Child Rights project has highlighted the importance of authentic, empowering, and collaborative engagement efforts, aiming to ensure that young people's voices are heard and valued. Collaborative decision-making, as exemplified in the development and continued ambition of the child rights section of 2026-31 Children Services Plan with input from various young stakeholders and informed by meeting with Professor Lundy, this underscores a commitment to inclusive practices. By working towards creating a more youth-inclusive and participatory environment, these groups are paving the way for meaningful change in Aberdeen, where young people are actively involved in decision-making processes and their perspectives are given due consideration.



Creating the Conditions for Community Participation

Residents have a range of opportunities to participate in the work of Community Planning Aberdeen, contributing to improvements in their communities and helping to shape local public services. We remain committed to enabling all citizens to engage in this work should they wish to do so.



**Improvement
Project Aim
Exceeded**

61.3% increase in number of community members participating in LEG and PNP groups/networks between 2024/25-2025/26

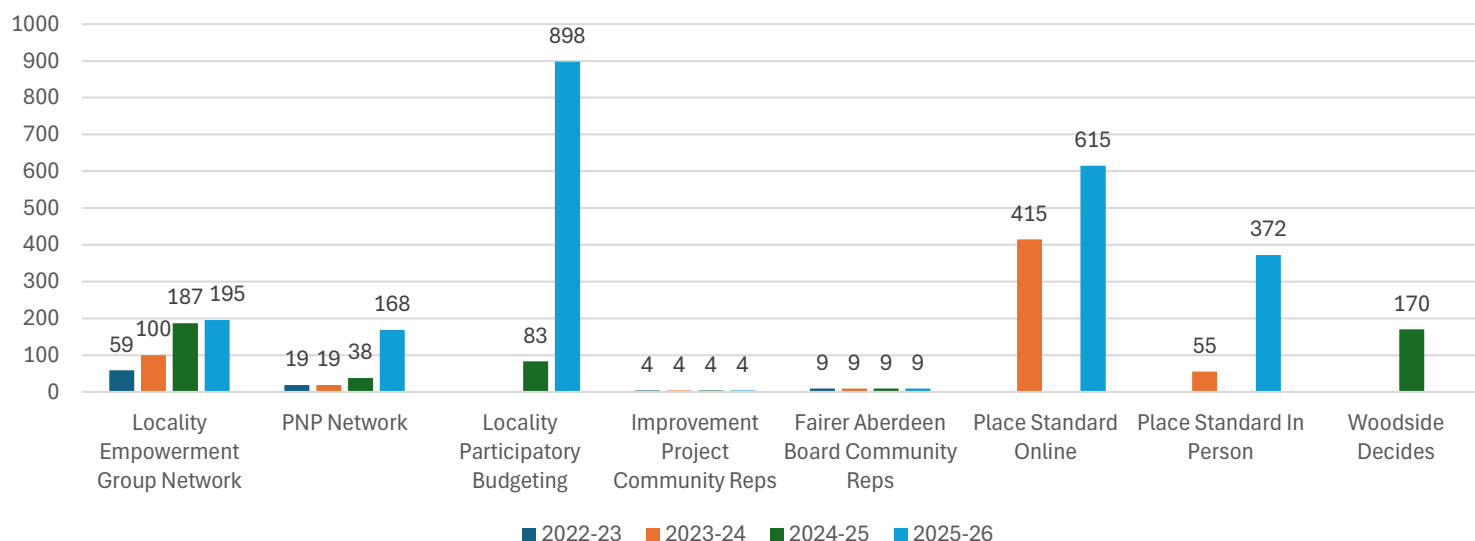
110% increase in number of community members taking part in Place Standard engagement between 2023/24-2025/26

We are delighted that there are 791 people currently participating in community planning activities at a meaningful level – from engaging with our work to co-production of local services – through a range of methods, including:

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



**Number of Community Members Participating in Locality Planning
2022/23-2025/26**



Deep Engagement with Community Groups

Local involvement in community planning is supported through our Locality Empowerment Groups and Priority Neighbourhood Partnerships. The three Locality Empowerment Groups cover the North, South and Central localities, while the three Priority Neighbourhood Partnerships focus on parts of the city facing higher levels of deprivation. These groups consist of local residents committed to improving outcomes in their communities. Drawing on their lived experience, members help set priorities, identify solutions and contribute to the development and delivery of Locality Plans. The

Locality Empowerment Groups and Priority Neighbourhood Partnerships collaborate closely to address shared issues. Table 1 below outlines the structure of these groups.

Table 1. Localities, neighbourhoods and priority neighbourhoods

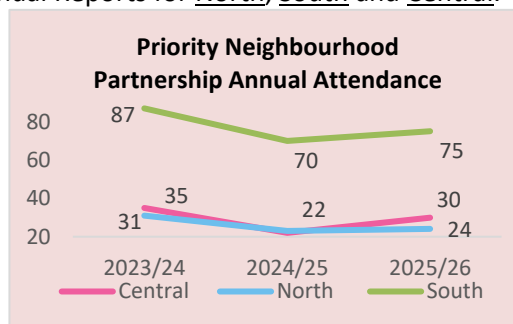
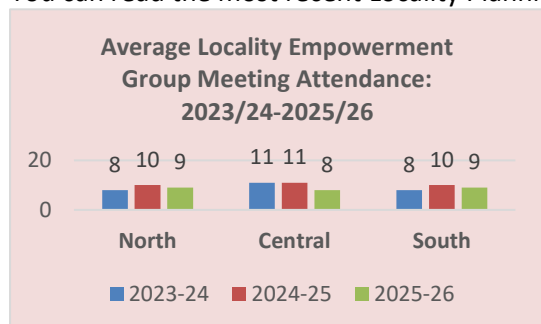
Localities	North	South	Central
Neighbourhoods	1.Dyce 2.Danestone 3.Oldmachar 4.Denmore 5.Balgownie & Donmouth 6.Bucksburn 7.Heathryfold 8.Middlefield 9.Kingswells 10.Northfield 11.Cummings Park 12.Sheddocksley 13.Mastrick 14.Summerhill	1.Culter 2.Cults, Bielside, Milltimber & Countesswells 3.Hazlehead 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

This year, the Integrated Locality Planning Team has focused on ensuring our Locality Plans better reflect the priorities of the communities they serve. A total of 379 people took part in Community Ideas Workshops, where we worked alongside community groups to identify local assets and develop ideas to build on these strengths and address identified priorities. In addition, we hosted facilitated outreach sessions in November, giving people the opportunity to view the ideas generated and share their views. 134 people participated in these locality events.

As of January 2026, there were 21 people participating in Local Empowerment Group meetings, which is the same number of people who participated during January 2025. During the 2026 meeting cycle, two young people under the age of thirty and two people from minority ethnic backgrounds attended an Local Empowerment Group meeting.

Participation in Priority Neighbourhood Partnerships has increased between 2024/25 and 2025/26. As at January 2026, 17 community members were participating at PNP meetings, an increase of 21% from 14 community members attending PNPs during January 2024.

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 most recent Locality Planning Annual Reports for [North](#), [South](#) and [Central](#).



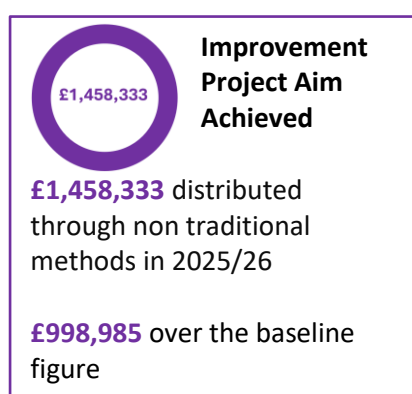
Engaging communities in shaping our plans and strategies



Community participation and respect for people's rights are at the core of community planning, and our communities play a vital role in shaping our plans and strategies. We continue to work with people across city to design and deliver services that reflect local priorities.

Following on from the "Your Place, Yours, Your Future" initiative, which concluded in May 2025, we have continued to engage with communities to co-create solutions that respond to local circumstances. Between January 2025 and November 2025, there was a 22% increase in the number of community ideas from the Locality Plans being tested, rising from 41 to 50. Over the same period, there was a 24% increase in the number of ideas being tested with community involvement, increasing from 25 to 31. We have embedded these changes in the way we work and they are aligned with the delivery of our Locality Plans covering the period 2026-36.

Community Funding

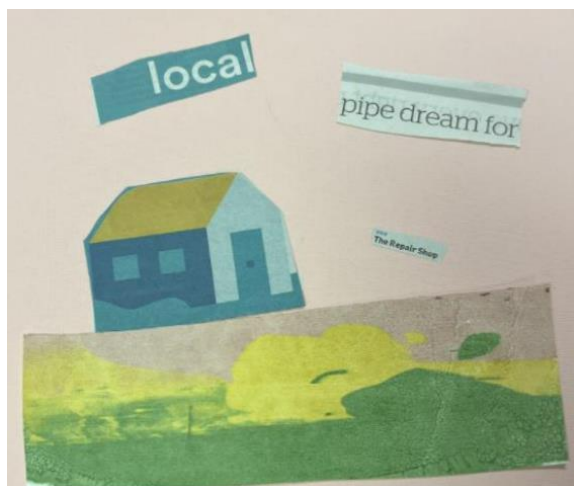


The amount of funding distributed through nontraditional methods has increased significantly over recent years, far exceeding our 10% improvement aim from the baseline year (2022/23). In both 2023/24 and 2024/25, totals were well above the baseline, and in 2025/26 the level of investment remains substantially higher. This increase demonstrates that, with the continued inclusion of the Cost of Living Fund, we have not only met but consistently sustained our aim to increase resources distributed through nontraditional approaches.

In 2025/26, £60,000 of funding was made available to community groups, alongside £45,000 allocated to support the UDECIDE Participatory Budgeting process and an additional £20,000 from the Fairer Aberdeen Fund for Participatory Budgeting. Between January and March 2026, a new approach was tested across the three Priority Neighbourhood Partnership areas using two local funds, combining £58,000 per area – £20,000 from the Fairer Aberdeen Fund and £38,000 from the Communities Mental Health and



Wellbeing Fund managed by ACVO for the Scottish Government – to be decided upon directly by local people. This approach centres on community commissioning, inviting community members to submit ideas and then meet in person with a wider group to discuss how these ideas could be implemented. The focus is on ensuring that funding criteria complement one another and on encouraging groups with similar proposals to collaborate.



In the Woodside Decides initiative, Station House Media Unit and the Woodside Network have been testing a different approach to community engagement and commissioning could. It involved listening to identify community priorities, bringing residents together to shape ideas and explore how funding could be used and supporting the development of community-led activity. Funding for this test of change was sourced from Community Planning Aberdeen, ACVO, North East Culture Collective and NESCAN Hub. However, the process was not based on different groups competing for funding through a voting process. Instead, Woodside Decides focuses on shared

priorities developed through dialogue. Funding follows after conversations rather than driving the process.

A range of community-led activity emerged from this process, including wellbeing initiatives, creative programmes and improvements to shared spaces. This approach led to increased community involvement, including wellbeing initiatives, creative programmes and improvements to shared spaces. Woodside Decides led to the development of a women's group and improvements to a shared space at Clifton Court, which led to the formation of a tenant committee. Woodside Decides has made a positive impact in the area by initiating community-led projects, increased confidence among participants and strengthening the Woodside Network.

Celebrating Communities



Aberdeen is fortunate to have a strong network of community groups led by local residents who contribute significantly to the wellbeing of their neighbourhoods and the wider city. Their work is highly valued and complements that of Community Planning partners. Enhancing visibility, recognition and promotion of community-led activity supports both partner organisations and communities themselves.

Through the Celebrating Communities project, we have worked to raise awareness of community-led initiatives across communities and among policy and decision makers. In 2024, 66% of decision

makers reported having good awareness of these initiatives. Although we do not have updated survey data from councillors and senior officers to confirm whether we have achieved our target of increasing awareness of community-led activity, the evidence available points to encouraging signs of improvement. Since then, the volume of community-led projects being promoted and showcased has continued to rise, culminating in a significant increase in 2025/26: a total of 106 projects were promoted during this period, which is 51 projects higher than our baseline data.

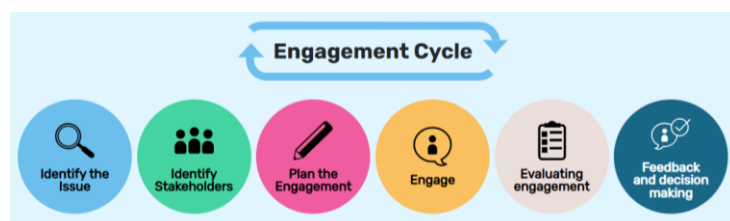
Our partners are essential to spreading the message about community-led projects in Aberdeen. Station House Media Unit (shmu) continues to work with communities to develop community websites and the Connected Tillydrone site was launched in 2026. Since summer 2025, shmu has hosted a regular monthly radio show highlighting community led projects, unsung community heroes, and exploration of community opportunities like community asset transfers.

Aberdeen Council of Voluntary Organisations has taken a lead on developing a micro-site to host stories of community-led change, and show-casing new and impactful initiatives, with a view to recognising this work and inspiring to take actions. There will also be links with existing mechanisms that are empowering people to make change, for example a way for people to discover the CPA community empowerment toolkit. The current aim is to launch this website in 2026.



Community Empowerment Toolkit

Effective collaboration between Community Planning partners and communities has the potential to generate innovative solutions. However, previous negative experiences, alongside limited confidence and experience in collaborative working, can present significant barriers for both staff and communities. In response, our capacity building project, developed in partnership with communities and with children and young people, has produced an online community empowerment toolkit. This resource provides a single point of access for staff and community members seeking guidance on selecting suitable collaboration approaches and accessing support to overcome challenges. It includes information for community members on engaging with their local Community Council, securing funding, finding relevant data, and connecting with local groups and organisations. For organisations undertaking engagement activity, the toolkit includes a detailed step-by-step guide supported by practical resources. While created by Community Planning Aberdeen, the engagement guidance is applicable to 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. Between February 2025 and March 2026, 162 people (51 from Aberdeen City, including Aberdeen City Council, Aberdeen Health and Social Care Partnership and the third sector) participated across 10 training sessions. The training is producing positive results. Before taking part in the course, 29% of participants felt either completely or fairly confident undertaking community engagement in their role. After completing the training, 91% of participants either completely or fairly confident undertaking community engagement in their role.

Community Learning & Development

During 2025 there has been a strong focus on Community Learning and Development (CLD) at a local level with the creation and publishing of the Aberdeen CLD Plan 2025-2030. This highlights 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. Across the city progress against the CLD plan, aligned LOIP outcomes has recorded positive impact on learners and the community, these include:

Embedding a kinship worker in collaborative practice: A Family Learning/Kinship worker established in 2023 has successfully bridged the gap between the kinship team and supports available across the city. Alongside partners this generated an increase in carers supported, from 83 carers to 162, an increase in learner hours from 462 to 1,505. Placement outcome data highlights the preventative impact of the project: foster placements reduced from 8 to 3, and residential placements from 2 to 0 for children leaving kinship care, making a saving of between £22,000-£50,000+ per child through the reduction in the requirement of foster/residential placements.

Family Learning Team: In 24/25 the team, working in partnership with numerous organisations across the city, offered 402 activities for parents/carers and their families resulting in a total of 742 participants accessing 22,499 hours of learning. 96% of learners reported increased skills and knowledge and 90% reported an increase in confidence following engagement with Family Learning.

Supporting parental mental health: In partnership with Grounded Learning Ltd, Family Learning created a placement opportunity for 16 student counsellors to offer free sessions to over 145 adults since its inception in 2022/23, equating to approximately 2,040 hrs of counselling.

Increasing the provision for ASN peer support for parents/carers: From Family Learning's first ASN Peer Support Parent group in Northfield in 2022 and supporting the closure of the St.Machar Parent Support Project in 2023, the team now facilitate 12 ASN Peer Support Parent/Carer groups across the city, offered a safe, non-judgmental space for all those facing challenges with their own and their children's ASN complexities.

Adult Learning Team: Has supported 774 learners to engage in literacy, digital and language support as well as working the Gypsy Traveller Community and people within the criminal justice system. Learners report a 95% increase in confidence and a 98% increase in skills and knowledge; 200 learners took part in a celebration of Learning event to recognise their achievements and look at next steps for their learning journey.

Healthy minds team: This team has successfully supported 91 learners with a diagnosed mental illness, across the city and in the forensic unit at Cornhill Hospital, to engage in learning activities with 93% reporting an increase in confidence.

Supporting young people's health and wellbeing: 1589 young people took part in a youth work activity that had a health and wellbeing outcome. 76% said taking part had made a positive improvement to their confidence and 80% said there had been a positive improvement in their knowledge and skills.

Young people's voices being heard: Members of Aberdeen Youth Movement, supported by CLD youth workers, engaged with 390 pupils across 5 secondary schools as part of their "lunch-time take overs". Informal and interactive sessions were designed to hear from young people what their thoughts and priorities were for making Aberdeen a fairer and safer place for them.

Expanding support for English Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL): Over 600 learners (24118 learner hours) an increase of over 200% are currently being supported, with learners being involved in Learner Voice events to plan and direct their own learning. Increase from 1 to 3 board game cafes one of which is women only to support integration and reduce isolation.

What impact have we had?



- Yes
- Getting there
- Not yet

24/25/26 improvement aim Performance





- **A Community-led System for Sustainable Neighbourhoods**
Co-creating a community collaborative approach to deliver neighbourhood action on local living, improving the natural environment, climate resilience, community energy and sustainable travel, underpinned by communities and services sharing power, responsibility and decision-making

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  Councillor Allard, Aberdeen City Council	Vice-Chair of CPA Board  Professor Shantini Paranjothy, Public Health, NHS Grampian	Partners involved • 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  Angela Scott, Aberdeen City Council	Vice-Chair of Management Group  Phil Mackie, Public Health, NHS Grampian	

Outcome Improvement Groups

Anti-Poverty Group Preventing suffering due to poverty.

Chair  Michelle Crombie, Aberdeen City Council	Vice Chair  Marj Johnston, NHS Grampian	Lead Contact  Matthew Lee, Aberdeen City Council	Partners involved • 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
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Aberdeen Prospers Responsible for improving our economy.

Chair	Vice Chair	Partners involved
 Duncan Abernethy, NESCOL	 Julie Wood, Aberdeen City Council	• 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 Hub

Children's Services Board Ensuring children are the future.

Chair	Lead Contact	Partners involved
 Graeme Simpson, Aberdeen City Council	 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
Iain Ramsay, Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership	Mark Lambley, Police Scotland	Fiona Wright, 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	Lead Contact	Partners involved
 Fiona Mitchelhill, Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership	 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.

 Allison Swanson, Community Planning and Improvement Manager, Aberdeen City Council	 James Simpson, Performance and Strategy Development Officer, Aberdeen City Council
 Nicole Davey, Improvement Programme Officer, Aberdeen City Council	 Christy Bridgeman, Research Assistant, Aberdeen City Council

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

City Wide  Iain Robertson, Transformation Programme Manager, Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership	South Emma Dobson Health Improvement Officer, Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership	Central  Chris Smillie, Public Health Coordinator, Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership	North Cath McLeish Health Improvement Officer, Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership
		Central Suzanne Thomson Health Improvement Officer, Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership	
City Wide  Jade Leyden, Community Development Manager, Aberdeen City Council	Torry  Teresa Dufficy, Community Development Officer, Aberdeen City Council	Tillydrone, Seaton, Woodside  Graham Donald, Locality Planning and Community Development Manager, Aberdeen City Council	Northfield, Mastrick, Middlefield Heathryfold, Cummings Park  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:
<https://communityplanningaberdeen.org.uk/>