

Aberdeenshire
COUNCIL



MARR AREA COMMITTEE

TUESDAY, 16 APRIL 2024 at 10.00 am

Your attendance is requested at a meeting of the **MARR AREA COMMITTEE** to be held **ONLINE** on **TUESDAY, 16 APRIL 2024, at 10.00 am**

This meeting will be live streamed and a recording of the public part of the meeting will be made publicly available at a later date.

Monday, 8 April 2024

Marr Area Manager

To: Councillors G Blackett (Vice-Chair), S Brown, Y Chou Turvey, E Durno, J Goodhall, A Kloppert, L Knight, G Petrie, A Ross and R Withey

Contact Person:- Kirsty Macleod
Tel: 01467536418
Email: kirsty.macleod@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

B U S I N E S S

1	Sederunt and Declaration of Members' Interests	
2A	Public Sector Equality Duty Consider, and if so decided, adopt the following resolution:-	4
	(1) to have due regard to the need to:-	
	(a) eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation;	
	(b) advance equality of opportunity between those who share a protected characteristic and persons who do not share it; and	
	(c) foster good relations between those who share a protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.	
	(2) where an Integrated Impact Assessment is provided, to consider its contents and take those into account when reaching a decision.	
2B	Exempt Information Consider, and if so decided, adopt the following resolution: "That under Section 50A (4) and (5) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, as amended, the public and media representatives be excluded from the meeting for certain items of business below, on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information of the class described in the relevant paragraphs of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act."	
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5	Statement of Outstanding Business	10
Scottish Fire and Rescue Service		
6	Scottish Fire and Rescue Service - Marr Area Committee Performance Report for 1st October to 31st December 2023	11 - 21
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8	Planning Permission in Principle for Erection of Dwellinghouse for Holiday Let at Site at Collietown Farm, Torphins	36 - 45

(APP/2023/2333)

Business Services

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| 9 | Tackling Poverty and Inequalities - Annual Progress Report | 46 - 157 |
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| 11 | Draft Aberdeenshire Community Resilience Framework | 169 - 189 |

Environment and Infrastructure Services

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Items Which the Committee May Wish to Consider with the Press and Public Excluded

Aberdeenshire Charities Trust (ACT2)

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| 13 | Aberdeenshire Charities Trust (ACT2) Application
[<i>Exempt under paragraph 4</i>] | 203 - 205 |
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Information relating to applicants for, or recipients of, financial assistance from the Council.

PUBLIC SECTOR EQUALITY DUTY – GUIDANCE FOR MEMBERS

What is the duty?

In making decisions on the attached reports, Members are reminded of their legal duty under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 to have due regard to the need to:-

- (i) eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation;
- (ii) advance equality of opportunity between those who share a protected characteristic and persons who do not share it; and
- (iii) foster good relations between those who share a protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

The “protected characteristics” under the legislation are: age; disability; gender reassignment; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; sexual orientation; and (in relation to point (i) above only) marriage and civil partnership.

How can Members discharge the duty?

To ‘have due regard’ means that in making decisions, Members must consciously consider the need to do the three things set out above. This requires a conscious approach and state of mind. The duty must influence the final decision.

However, it is not a duty to achieve a particular result (e.g. to eliminate unlawful racial discrimination or to promote good relations between persons of different racial groups). It is a duty to have due regard to the need to achieve these goals.

How much regard is ‘due’ will depend upon the circumstances and in particular on the relevance of the needs to the decision in question. The greater the relevance and potential impact that a decision may have on people with protected characteristics, the higher the regard required by the duty.

What does this mean for Committee/Full Council decisions?

Members are directed to the section in reports headed ‘Council Priorities, Implications and Risk’. This will indicate whether or not an Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) has been carried out as part of the development of the proposals and, if so, what the outcome of that assessment is.

An IIA will be appended to a report where it is likely, amongst other things, that the action recommended in the report could have a differential impact (either positive or negative) upon people from different protected groups. The report author will have assessed whether or not an IIA is required. If one is not required, the report author will explain why that is.

Where an IIA is provided, Members should consider its contents and take those into account when reaching their decision. Members should also be satisfied that the assessment is sufficiently robust and that they have enough of an understanding of the issues to be able to discharge their legal duty satisfactorily.

For more detailed guidance please refer to the following link:-

https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.equalityhumanrights.com%2Fsites%2Fdefault%2Ffiles%2Ftechnical_guidance_psed_scotland.docx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK

REPORT TO MARR AREA COMMITTEE – 16 APRIL 2024

APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR OF MARR AREA COMMITTEE

1 Executive Summary/Recommendations

1.1 The Committee is requested to consider the appointment of a Chair following the resignation of Councillor Withey from that position.

1.2 The Committee is recommended to:

1.2.1 Note the resignation of Councillor Withey as Chair of Marr Area Committee;

1.2.2 Appoint a new Chair of Marr Area Committee; and

1.2.3 If required, appoint a new Vice Chair of Marr Area Committee.

2 Decision Making Route

2.1 The Committee, at its meeting on [31 May 2022 \(Item 2\)](#), agreed to appoint Councillor Robbie Withey as the Chair of Marr Area Committee.

2.2 Councillor Withey has intimated his resignation from that position with immediate effect from 20 March 2024.

3 Discussion

3.1 The appointment of the Chair and Vice Chair of Marr Area Committee is a matter delegated to this Committee. The Committee is therefore invited to take the necessary steps to fill the vacancy of the Chair of Marr Area Committee.

4 Council Priorities, Implications and Risk

4.1 This report supports all six of the Council's Priorities by ensuring the Council has a council and governance structure that can deliver on the Council's aims.

Pillar	Priority
Our People	Learning for Life Health & Wellbeing
Our Environment	Climate Change Resilient Communities
Our Economy	Economic Growth Infrastructure and public assets

4.2 The table below shows whether risks and implications apply if the recommendations are agreed.

Subject	Yes	No	N/A
Financial		X	
Staffing		X	
Equalities and Fairer Duty Scotland			X
Children and Young People's Rights and Wellbeing			X
Climate Change and Sustainability			X
Health and Wellbeing			X
Town Centre First			X

- 4.3 There are no staffing or financial implications arising from this report.
- 4.4 The screening section as part of Stage One of the Integrated Impact Assessment process has not identified the requirement for any further detailed assessments to be undertaken as the changes proposed are procedural matters and do not have a differential impact on any of the protected characteristics.
- 4.5 No Risks have been identified as relevant to this matter on a Corporate or Strategic Level.

5 Scheme of Governance

- 5.1 The Head of Finance and Monitoring Officer within Business Services have been consulted in the preparation of this report and are satisfied that the report complies with the Scheme of Governance and relevant legislation.
- 5.2 The Committee is able to consider and take a decision on this item in terms of Section B.1.4 of the List of Committee Powers in Part 2A of the Scheme of Governance as it relates to the appointment of the Chair and Vice Chair of Marr Area Committee.

Alan Wood
Director of Environment and Infrastructure Services

Report prepared by Janelle Clark, Area Manager (Marr), and Kirsty Macleod, Area Committee Officer (Marr)
Date: 20 March 2024

MARR AREA COMMITTEE

12 MARCH 2024

Present: Councillors R Withey (Chair), G Blackett (Vice-Chair), S Brown, Y Chou Turvey, E Durno, A Kloppert, L Knight, G Petrie and A Ross

Apologies: Councillors J Goodhall

Officers: Janelle Clark (Area Manager (Marr)), Barbara Alexander (Solicitor), Rachael Goldring (Learning Estates Team Leader), Kelly Tennant (Learning Estates Officer), Fiona McCallum (Business Strategy Manager) and Kirsty Macleod (Area Committee Officer (Marr)).

1 DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

The Chair asked Members if they had any interests to declare in terms of the Councillors' Code of Conduct.

During consideration of Item 7, the following Members stated that they had connections to the item:

Councillor Ross by virtue of (1) receiving an invitation to the opening of the Glen O'Dee Path, (2) a connection to the River Dee Trust through membership of the Cairngorms National Park Authority (CNPA) board, and (3) a close relationship with The Seed Box; however, having applied the objective test, she concluded she had no interest to declare.

Councillor Blackett by virtue of (1) a connection to the River Dee Trust through membership of the CNPA board and (2) her husband being Chair of Marr Area Partnership; however, having applied the objective test, she concluded she had no interest to declare.

Councillor Chou Turvey by virtue of (1) receiving an invitation to the opening of the Glen O'Dee Path and (2) being the Council's nominee to Marr Area Partnership; however, having applied the objective test, she concluded she had no interest to declare.

Councillor Durno by virtue of receiving an invitation to the opening of the Glen O'Dee Path; however, having applied the objective test, she concluded she had no interest to declare.

2A PUBLIC SECTOR EQUALITY DUTY

In making decisions on the following items of business, the Committee **agreed**, in terms of Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010:-

- (1) to have due regard to the need to:-
 - (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation;
 - (b) advance equality of opportunity between those who share a protected characteristic and persons who do not share it; and

- (c) foster good relations between those who share a protected characteristic and persons who do not share it; and
- (2) where an Integrated Impact Assessment was provided, to consider its contents and take those into account when reaching a decision.

2B EXEMPT INFORMATION

The Committee **agreed**, in terms of Section 50A (4) and (5) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, to exclude the public from the meeting during consideration of Item 8 so as to avoid disclosure of exempt information of the class described in Paragraph 4 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

3 MINUTE OF MEETING OF MARR AREA COMMITTEE OF 20 FEBRUARY 2024

The Committee had before them, and **approved** as a correct record, the Minute of Meeting of the Committee of 20 February 2024.

4 STATEMENT OF OUTSTANDING BUSINESS

The Committee had before them, and **agreed** to note, the statement of outstanding business from previous meetings of the Committee as at 12 March 2024.

5 DRAFT ABERDEENSHIRE BRITISH SIGN LANGUAGE (BSL) PLAN 2024-30

There had been circulated a report, dated 21 February 2024, by the Director of Business Services, which sought comments on the draft Aberdeenshire British Sign Language Plan 2024-30.

The Committee **agreed**:

- (1) to note the draft Aberdeenshire British Sign Language Plan; and
- (2) to note that comments would be collated following consultation with all Area Committees, Education and Children's Services Committee, and Aberdeenshire Integration Joint Board before the final plan was presented to Business Services Committee on 18 April 2024 for approval.

6 SECONDARY CATCHMENT ANOMALY REZONING AT LUMPHANAN FINAL CONSULTATION REPORT

There had been circulated a report, dated 1 February 2024, by the Director of Education and Children's Services, which provided the final consultation report for the statutory consultation on the rezoning of Aboyne Academy catchment to include an anomaly area of the Lumphanan school catchment currently zoned to Alford Academy.

The Committee **agreed**:

- (1) to welcome the consultation report on the rezoning of Aboyne Academy catchment to include the anomaly area of the Lumphanan School catchment currently zoned to Alford Academy; and

- (2) to recommend to the Education and Children's Services Committee to adopt the proposed rezoning of Aboyne Academy catchment to include the anomaly area of the Lumphanan School catchment currently zoned to Alford Academy.

7 MARR AREA COMMITTEE BUDGET 2023/24 AND 2024/25

There had been circulated a report, dated 26 February 2024, by the Director of Environment and Infrastructure Services, which outlined the use of the Marr Area Committee Budget 2023/24 and sought agreement for the allocation of funding from the Marr Area Committee Budget 2024/25.

The Committee **agreed**:

- (1) that £40,000 be identified from the Area Committee Budget to deliver the Large Grant Scheme whereby community groups or Council services could apply for a grant up to £5,000 per project;
- (2) that £28,200 from the Area Committee Budget provide the Small Grant Scheme for community and service projects up to £2,000 per project;
- (3) that £3,000 be allocated to provide grants of up to £500 to assist community groups with the preparation of Local Place Plans and Community Action Plans as outlined at paragraph 3.2.7 of the report; and
- (4) to delegate authority to the Area Manager to approve time-sensitive Small Grant Scheme applications received during the summer recess, following consultation with the Chair and Ward Members.

8 ABERDEENSHIRE CHARITIES TRUST (ACT2) APPLICATIONS

There had been circulated an exempt report, dated 23 February 2024, by the Director of Environment and Infrastructure Services, which sought consideration of three applications for funding from the Aberdeenshire Charities Trust (ACT2).

The Committee **agreed**:

- (1) to refuse the application from the individual identified at 1.2.1 of the report on the grounds of previous funding awarded to the applicant for a similar purpose;
- (2) to approve an award of £1,000 from ACT2 (Ward 14: any of the purposes of ACT2) to Rannes Hall Management Committee; and
- (3) to approve an award of £2,000 from ACT2 (Ward 14: any of the purposes of ACT2) to Donside Community Council.

Marr Area Committee – Statement of Outstanding Business (16 April 2024)

	Date and Item No.	Subject Matter	Action Agreed	Update	Responsible Service	Date Expected/ Completed
1	20/02/24 Item 11	Environment and Infrastructure Services 2024/2025 Procurement Plan	That a briefing note be provided after agreement of the budget to confirm which procurements would go ahead.	While the Council budget has been set, confirmation is still awaited of external grant funding so it is still to be confirmed which procurements will go ahead.	Environment and Infrastructure Services	
2.	20/02/24 Item 12	Business Services' Directorate Annual Procurement Plan 2024/25 - Procurement Approval	That a briefing note be provided after agreement of the budget to confirm which procurements would go ahead.		Business Services	



REPORT TO MARR AREA COMMITTEE – 16TH APRIL 2023

SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE – MARR AREA COMMITTEE PERFORMANCE REPORT FOR 1ST OCTOBER TO 31ST DECEMBER 2023

1 Executive Summary/Recommendations

1.1 The reason for this report is to inform members how Scottish Fire and Rescue Service is performing locally in Marr against key performance measures and associated targets, as set out in the Aberdeenshire Local Fire and Rescue Plan and Marr Multi-Member Ward Plan.

1.2 The Committee is recommended to:

1.2.1 acknowledge and discuss the attached performance report at Appendix 1 to this Report relating to the period 1st October to 31st December 2023.

1.2.2 acknowledge and discuss any local operational matters arising, together with key resource issues, as detailed within Appendix 1 to this Report.

2 Decision Making Route

2.1 Since it became a single service for Scotland, the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service has provided quarterly information on its performance and activities to Marr Area Committee both formally and informally.

3 Discussion

3.1 Appendix 1 to this Report provides performance information for this Area. It gives the opportunity for Elected Members to discuss fire and rescue performance and activities in the local area in order to ensure that good outcomes are achieved for the residents of Marr.

4 Council Priorities, Implications and Risk

4.1 This Report helps deliver the following Council Priorities:

- Our Economy
- Our Environment

4.2 The Table below shows whether risks and implications apply -

Subject	Yes	No	N/A
Financial			X
Staffing			X
Equalities and Fairer Duty Scotland			X
Children and Young People's Rights and Wellbeing			X
Climate Change and Sustainability			X
Health and Wellbeing			X
Town Centre First			X

4.3 There are no direct staffing/ financial implications as this report is in relation to the performance reporting of an external organization.

4.4 An integrated impact assessment is not required because the reason for the report is for the committee to take note and it does not have a differential impact on any of the protected characteristics.

4.5 There are no direct risk implications for the Council as this report is in relation to the performance reporting of an external organisation.

5. Scheme of Governance

5.1 The Head of Finance and Monitoring Officer within Business Services have been consulted in the preparation of this report. Their comments are incorporated within the report and they are satisfied that the report complies with the Scheme of Governance and relevant legislation.

5.2 The Committee is able to consider this item in terms of Section B.1.7 of the List of Committee Powers in Part 2A of the Scheme of Governance as the Area Committee is authorised to consider the performance of Scottish Fire and Rescue Service and to make any necessary recommendations to the appropriate Policy Committee or governing body.

Andrew Wright
Local Senior Officer
ACAM (Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire & Moray)

Rob Simpson
Director of Business Services

APPENDIX 1

Marr Area Committee 1st October to 31st December 2023

Introduction

From 1st October 2023 to 31st December 2023 there have been 89 incidents within the Marr Area;

83 Incidents

- 1 Deliberate Fire
- 18 Accidental Fires
(including 10 dwelling & 2 non-domestic)
- 34 Special Service Incidents
- 30 False Alarms (11 UFAS)

Injuries/Fatalities from Incidents

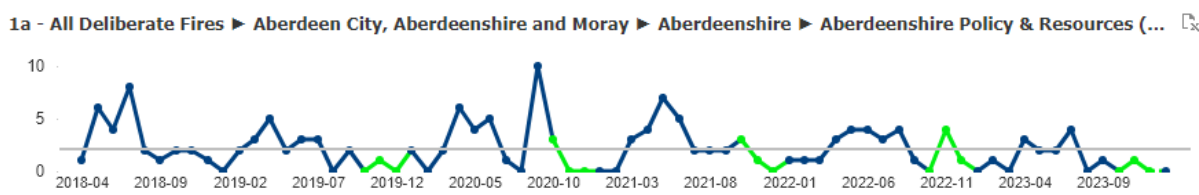
- 0 Fire Fatalities
- 2 Non-fatal Fire Casualties
- 13 RTC Casualties

The Aberdeenshire Management Team and staff within the area are committed to working with Communities and Partners to reduce all types of incidents and continue working to make Marr Area a safe place to work, live and visit.

This report provides the Marr Area Committee with an overview of performance within the area and what the service are doing in partnership with both communities and partners to continuously improve performance within the area.

Deliberate Fires

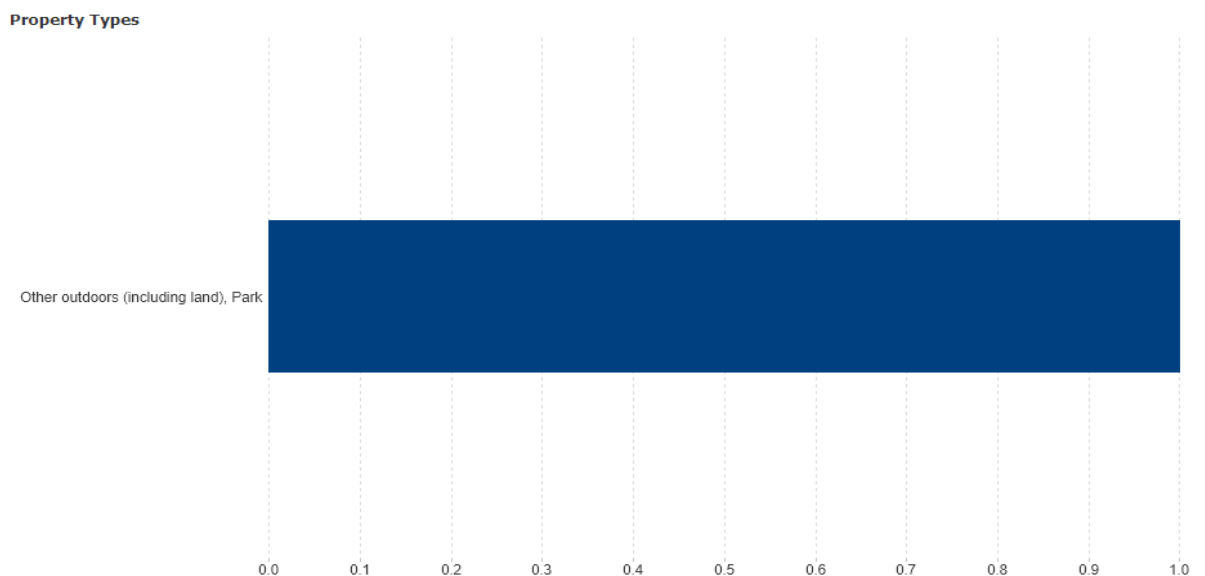
Reducing Deliberate Fires is a priority for the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service within the Marr area. The chart below shows a decrease in the number of Deliberate Fires recorded during this reporting period (the sections of the chart coloured green represent October to December from 2019/20 – 2023/24) in comparison with the previous year.



The table below shows the breakdown of Deliberate Fires throughout the Marr area down to ward level. There has been an overall decrease in Deliberate Fires being recorded, Figures for this quarter represents the equal lowest quarterly total since 2019-20.

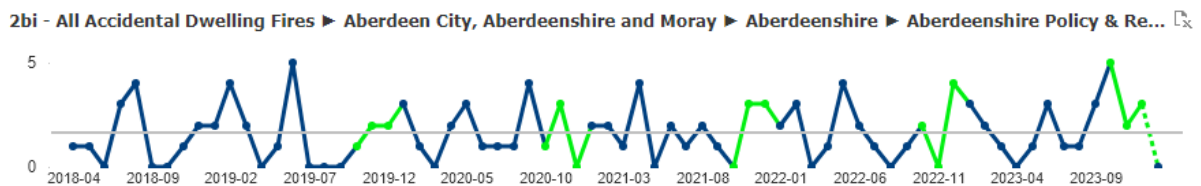
GEOGRAPHY / REPORTING YEAR					
WARD	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Aboyne, Upper Deeside & Donside	0	0	2	0	0
Banchory & Mid Deeside	0	1	0	0	1
Huntly, Strathbogie & Howe of Alford	1	2	2	5	0
Total	1	3	4	5	1

The types of property involved in the incident are shown below:



Unintentional Harm and Home Safety

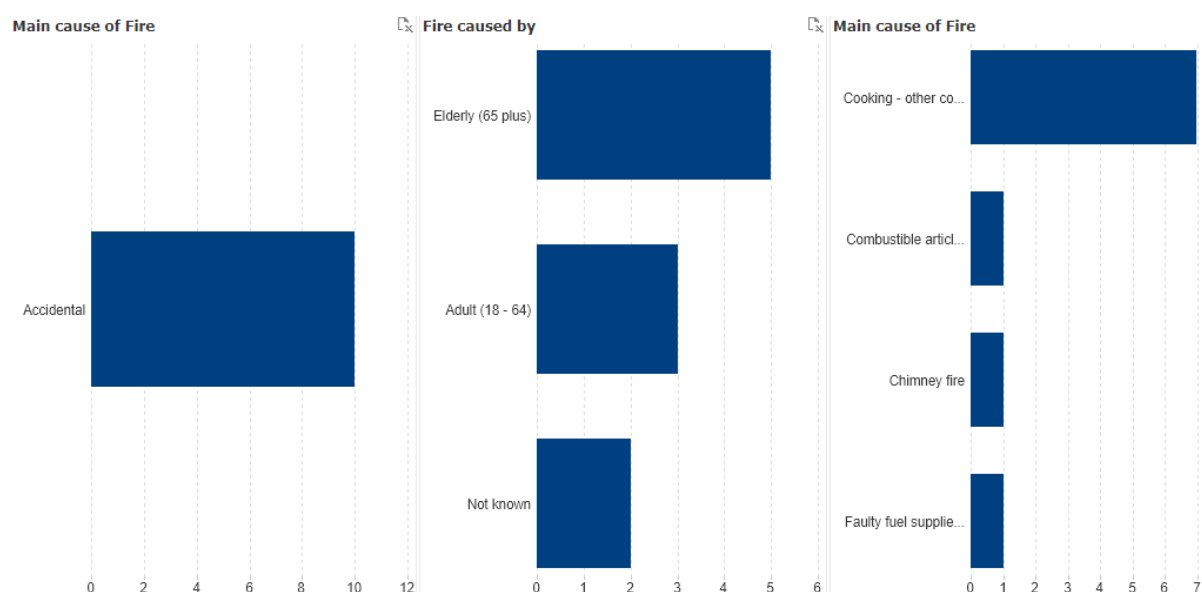
Reducing unintentional harm and improving home safety remain a priority for the SFRS.



The table below shows the breakdown of Accidental Dwelling Fires down to ward level showing an increase in the total figures recorded over the same period in the previous 4 years.

GEOGRAPHY/REPORTING YEAR					
WARD	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Aboyne, Upper Deeside & Donside	1	1	4	2	1
Banchory & Mid Deeside	0	0	0	1	2
Huntly, Strathbogie & Howe of Alford	4	3	2	3	7
Total	5	4	6	6	10

The chart below highlights how the accidental dwelling fires occurred:



Home Fire Safety Visits continue to be our primary method for reducing accidental dwelling fires. During this period, we have delivered the following HSFV's:

Area	Total Visits	High Risk	Medium Risk	Low Risk
Aboyne, Upper Deeside & Donside	7	1	4	2
Banchory and Mid Deeside	7	1	6	0
Huntly, Strathbogie & Howe of Alford	24	10	10	4
Totals	38	12	20	6

We are continuing to work with our Partners through Local Community Planning arrangements and the Health and Social Care Partnership to increase the number of High Risk Referrals made for Home Fire Safety Visits. Delivering these visits to the people most in need is a critical piece of work.

Accidental Dwelling Fire Casualties

During this reporting period there has been two casualties as a result of Accidental Dwelling Fires. The table below shows how this compares to the previous five years.

GEOGRAPHY / REPORTING YEAR					
WARD	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Aboyne, Upper Deeside & Donside	0	0	0	1	0
Banchory & Mid Deeside	0	0	0	0	0
Huntly, Strathbogie & Howe of Alford	0	0	0	0	2
Total	0	0	0	1	2

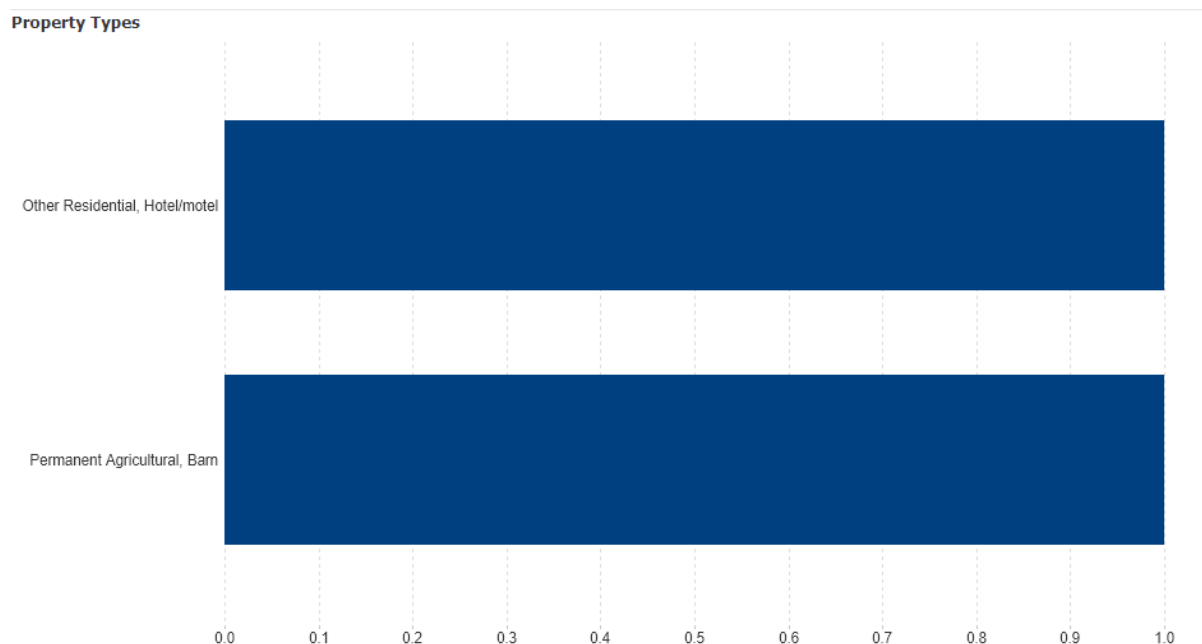
We will continue to refine our HFSV process to ensure casualty numbers continue to be low or at zero.

Non-Domestic Fires

During this reporting period there has been two non-domestic fires in the area; a slight increase over the previous year and second lowest total over the 5 years. The table and chart below allows for comparison with this and the same reporting period for the previous five years.

GEOGRAPHY / REPORTING YEAR					
WARD	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Aboyne, Upper Deeside & Donside	3	1	2	0	0
Banchory & Mid Deeside	0	1	2	0	2
Huntly, Strathbogie & Howe of Alford	1	3	0	1	0
Total	4	5	4	1	2

The graph below shows the type of property where the incidents occurred.



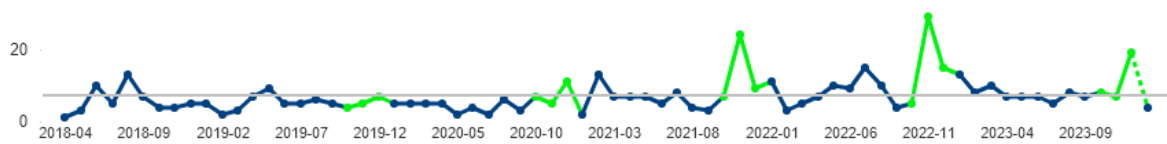
Non-Fire Emergencies

The modern Fire and Rescue Service attends many incidents that are not fires. This section provides information in relation to Non-Fire Emergencies to allow members to see both how we are progressing in this area and the variety of Non-Fire Emergencies that crews within the area deal with.

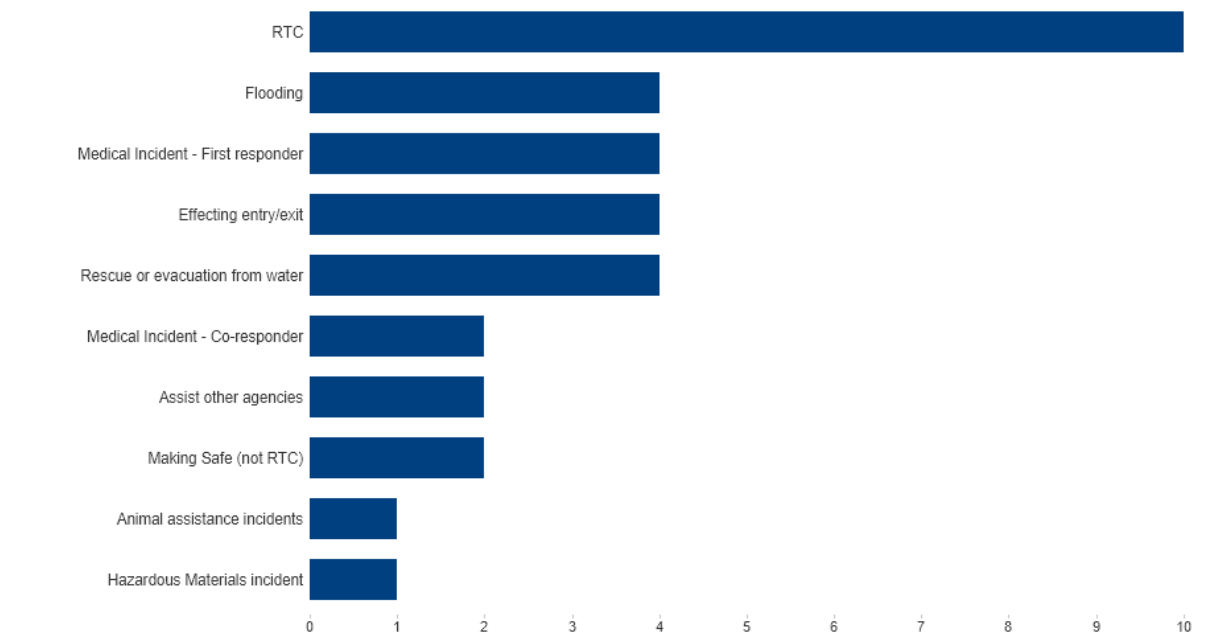
The table chart below shows information and comparison with the previous five years. The figures show a decrease over the previous year but still the third highest total in the past 5 years.

GEOGRAPHY / REPORTING YEAR					
WARD	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Aboyne, Upper Deeside & Donside	5	4	14	18	15
Banchory & Mid Deeside	4	9	13	11	4
Huntly, Strathbogie & Howe of Alford	7	10	13	20	15
Total	16	23	40	49	34

5 - All Special Service Incidents ▶ Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire and Moray ▶ Aberdeenshire ▶ Aberdeenshire Policy & Reso... [↗](#)



The chart below shows the number and different categories of Non-Fire Emergencies that the Service have responded to in the Marr area during the reporting period:



10 of the 34 incidents relate to RTC's. We continue working with both Partners and Local Communities to reduce the number of Non-Fire Emergencies in the area and to ensure that there is an effective response when an incident does occur.

Casualties resulting from Road Traffic Collisions

Unfortunately, there has been one Fatal Casualty as a result of Road Traffic Collisions during this reporting period and there have been twelve Non-Fatal Casualties. The table below provides information for comparison for Non-Fatal Casualties from RTC's during this 5-year period and shows an increase compared to the previous year and the highest total recorded in the previous 5 years. The largest increase being in the Aboyne, Upper Deeside & Donside area.

GEOGRAPHY / REPORTING YEAR					
WARD	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Aboyne, Upper Deeside & Donside	1	0	1	1	8
Banchory & Mid Deeside	1	2	1	0	1
Huntly, Strathbogie & Howe of Alford	6	5	7	4	3
Total	8	7	9	5	12

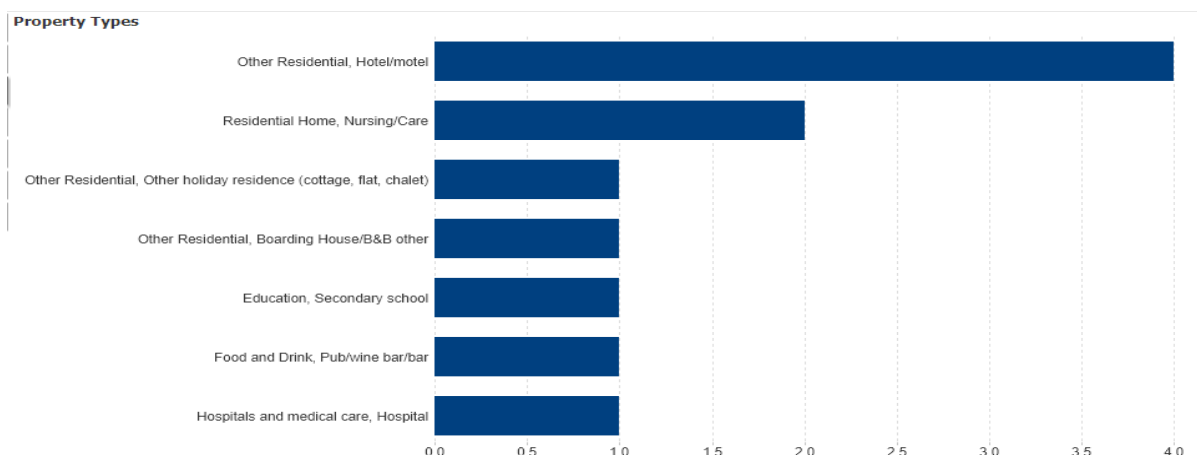
Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS)

Reducing the number of unwanted fire alarm signals is a priority for the area. Reducing this type of incident has a positive impact on local employers by decreasing the interruption to businesses and the wider community. This also reduces road risk in relation to blue light journeys made while responding to incidents that turn out to be a false alarm.

The figure has decreased dramatically as would have been expected in line with the Introduction of the UFAS Policy.

GEOGRAPHY / REPORTING YEAR					
WARD	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Aboyne, Upper Deeside & Donside	5	8	19	26	6
Banchory & Mid Deeside	9	10	6	4	1
Huntly, Strathbogie & Howe of Alford	8	6	2	15	4
Total	22	24	27	45	11

The chart below shows the property types where UFAS Incidents have occurred during this reporting period.



In line with our policy for Reducing Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals, all operational crews provide advice and guidance to occupiers/owners every time that they attend an Unwanted Fire Alarm. In cases where there is no improvement, we provide occupiers/owners with additional advice from our specialist Fire Safety Enforcement Officers to assist them in resolving the issue.

From 1 July 2023, we stopped attending automatic fire alarm (AFA) call outs to commercial business and workplace premises, such as factories, offices, shops and leisure facilities - unless a fire has been confirmed.

Duty holders with responsibility for workplace premises should now safely investigate a fire alarm before calling 999, as our control room operators will now be asking for confirmation of an actual fire, or signs of fire, before sending the nearest resource.

Signs of fire include visual flame, smell of smoke, smell of burning, or any other fire alarm signal - other than a single smoke detector.

This change does not apply to sleeping premises, such as hospitals, care homes, hotels or domestic dwellings who will continue to get an emergency response.

This follows the SFRS public consultation in 2021 and is estimated to greatly reduce unnecessary call outs in order to free up our firefighters to attend real emergencies and to allow them to do more community safety prevention work.

Further information can be found on the SFRS website following the link below:

[Reducing unwanted fire alarm signals \(UFAS\) | Scottish Fire and Rescue Service \(firescotland.gov.uk\)](https://firescotland.gov.uk/reducing-unwanted-fire-alarm-signals-ufas)

Establishment – Marr Area

Station	Establishment Figures
Aboyne (10)	10
Balmoral (10)	8 + 1 x Dual Station for Day Cover
Ballater (20)	17 + 1 potential recruit
Braemar (10)	6 + 1 potential recruit
Strathdon (10)	5 + 1 potential recruit
Alford (10)	9 + 2 potential recruits
Huntly (20)	12 + 1 potential recruit
Banchory (20)	14 + 3 potential recruits

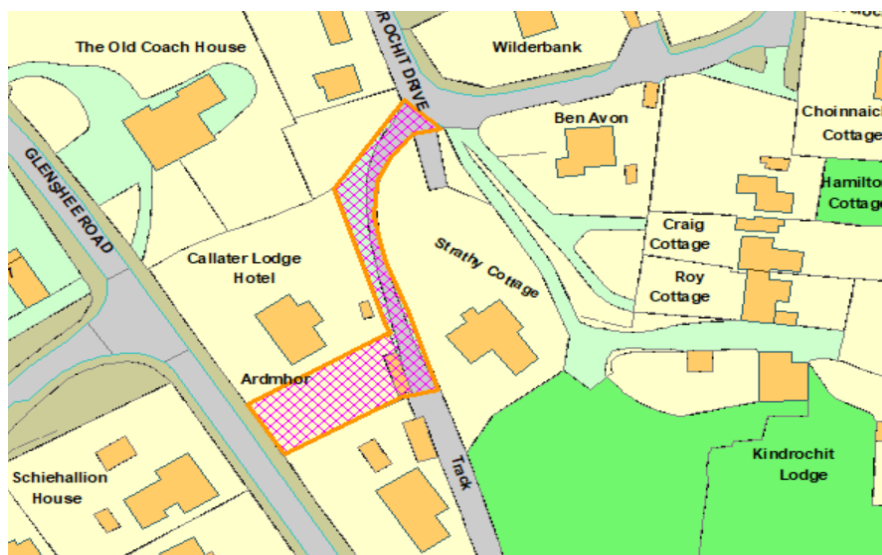
Marr Area Committee Report 16 April 2024

Reference No: [APP/2023/1978](#)

Full Planning Permission for Erection of Dwellinghouse and Installation of Air Source Heat Pump (Amended Design to APP/2022/2681) at Land at Ardmohr, Glenshee Road, Braemar, AB35 5YQ

Applicant: Mr Ernie Smith
Agent: Ian Rodger Architects

Grid Ref: E:315370 N:791208
Ward No. and Name: W15 - Aboyne, Upper Deeside and Donside
Application Type: Full Planning Permission
Representations: 1
Consultations: 8
Relevant Proposals Map: Cairngorms National Park Authority Local Development Plan 2021
Designations: Braemar Settlement
Complies with:
Development Plans: Yes
Main Recommendation: Grant



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1. Reason for Report

- 1.1 The Committee is able to consider and take a decision on this item in terms of Section B.8.1 of Part 2A List of Committee Powers and Section C.3.1e of Part 2C Planning Delegations of the Scheme of Governance as the application is recommended for approval and there have been valid objections from third parties and 50% or a majority of responding Local Ward Members in the Ward in which the development is proposed have requested that the application be referred to the Area Committee.

Councillor Anouk Kloppert – “I would like to discuss if Policy 23 of NPF4 is fully applied in order to protect health and wellbeing of the neighbouring properties. I am not sure that the full impact of noise pollution is taken into account despite the tests done according to standards required. From a study, used in the final report of the Review of Air Source Heat Pump Noise Emissions, Permitted Development Guidance and Regulations’ (DESNZ Research Paper Number 2023/046), I understand that the noise from ASHPs can cause adverse impacts depending on the background sound levels. Quieter areas can potentially experience more adverse effects from ASHP installations according to this study.”

Councillor Geva Blackett – “I am concerned about the noise impact of the air source heat pump on the neighbouring property as the tests show it is just one decibel below acceptable levels and would like Environmental Health to come to committee to help us consider Policy 23 of NPF4 and the potential impact as I have seen a recent case where an air source heat pump has caused considerable issues for a neighbouring property.”

- 1.2 The Head of Finance and Monitoring Officer within Business Services have been consulted in the preparation of this report and had no comments to make and are satisfied that the report complies with the Scheme of Governance and relevant legislation.

2. Background and Proposal

- 2.1 This application seeks full planning permission for the erection of a dwellinghouse and installation of an Air Source Heat Pump on land adjacent to Ardmohr, Glenshee Road, Braemar.
- 2.2 The site is situated to the south of Ardmohr on Glenshee Road, which is one of the primary routes through Braemar, but it is accessed via a private track to the east of the plot. This is located within the Braemar Conservation Area and there is a wee timber house in the southeast corner of the site. The area of the site is approximately 563m².
- 2.3 Planning permission was sought to subdivide the feu at Ardmohr and erect a dwellinghouse in 2022 (APP/2022/2681), which was approved in March of

2023. This application is an amendment to the original proposal which included the demolition of the wee timber house.

2.4 The proposal differs from the 2022 application as it is proposed to increase the overall ridge height by 870mm, position the house 500mm closer to Glenshee Road, install dormer windows and an entrance canopy on the east elevation, finish the whole building with timber cladding, remove two trees, install beech hedging on the Glenshee Road boundary, install four rustic columns to the main façade and form a gate and stairs to create pedestrian access from Glenshee Road. The latest proposal also includes the retention of the wee timber house.

2.5 It is proposed to reposition the air source heat pump which was approved in APP/2022/2681 from the northwest side of the vestibule to the southeast of the vestibule. It is also proposed to create a bin store in this location with a solid timber fence.

2.6 Relevant Planning History

APP/2022/2681 Erection of Dwellinghouse and installation of Air Source Heat Pump. Approved 30.03.2023. This permission is extant and could be implemented.

APP/2022/1331 Erection of Dwellinghouse. Refused 01.09.2022. This application was for Planning Permission in Principle and was refused as Policy 9.3. of the Cairngorms National Park Authority Local Development Plan sets out that, given the importance of design matters, planning permission in principle is not considered appropriate within conservation areas.

ENQ/2021/1875 Erection of Dwellinghouse and Subdivision of Feu. Advice Provided 06.12.2021.

2.7 Supporting Information Provided

Photographic Record of Wee House internal and external photographs of the timber outbuilding provided by Ian Rodgers Architects submitted 28.02.2024.

Air Source Heat Pump Calculations submitted 27.02.2024.

Drainage Statement produced by Ramsay and Chalmers Consulting Structural and Civil Engineers dated 15.08.2022. Provides details of proposed surface water collection and soakaway details. Foul Wastewater to be connected to the public sewer.

Tree Survey produced by Astell Associates dated 09.08.2022.

Design Statement produced by Ian Rodgers Architects dated October 2023 outlines the proposed amendments from the approved planning application APP/2022/2681 with a brief justification for each amendment. It concludes that although there are numerous amendments the proposal is still in compliance with CNPA's LDP 2021.

- 2.8 The proposal has been amended from the original submission firstly the original proposal included the demolition of the wee house, following discussions with Built Heritage the applicant has now agreed to retain the outbuilding. As a result, amendments were made to the vehicular access and parking arrangements. There was also feedback regarding the large catslide dormer to the rear of the property, which was deemed to be inappropriate in the conservation area. The revised drawings show two pitched dormer windows with infill between which has a more traditional appearance.
- 2.9 Further amendments then followed, following the revised drawing submitted on 11th January 2024 Built Heritage requested clarification and amendments to some materials proposed, this included specifying SIGA 120 indigenous roof slates, recessed black solar panels and aluminium rainwater goods.

3. Representations

- 3.1 A total of 1 valid representation (objection) has been received as defined in the Scheme of Governance. All issues raised have been considered. The letters raise the following material issues:

Noise impact from air source heat pump

4. Consultations

Internal

- 4.1 **Business Services (Developers Obligations)** commented that contributions have previously been secured for this application via S69 Legal Agreement (upfront payment) under APP/2022/2681 which will be offset against the current application. Therefore, in this instance, no additional contribution is required.
- 4.2 **Environment and Infrastructure Services (Archaeology)** initially advised that they were disappointed that the wee house would be lost and request that prior to any demolition a Photographic survey be undertaken. Following the applicant's decision to retain the wee house it was confirmed that photographic survey was no longer required as a condition. However, as noted above the agent has provided a photographic survey.
- 4.3 **Environment and Infrastructure Services (Built Heritage)** commented that there would be a strong presumption for the retention of the timber wee house as these are characteristic of upper Deeside. The revised design to retain the

wee house was appreciated. Conversations around the proposed dormer windows to the rear elevation resulted in the large catslide dormer being replaced with two dormers with a small catslide infill between. There was a request to specify flush black solar panels, Siga 120 slates and Aluminium rainwater goods. Built Heritage have agreed that the proposal is acceptable.

- 4.4 **Environment and Infrastructure Services (Contaminated Land)** commented that there do not appear to be any issues of concern under Environmental Protection Act 1990: Part IIA Contaminated Land and no further information is required.
- 4.5 **Environment and Infrastructure Services (Environmental Health)** has commented that an MCS-020 assessment has been provided which indicates that the Air Source Heat Pump would meet the criteria regarding noise emissions that would typically allow it to be "Permitted Development" under planning regulations.
- 4.6 **Environment and Infrastructure Services (Roads Development)** has commented that they do not object to the proposal subject to conditions and advisories being applied should planning permission be granted. The conditions are to ensure adequate parking, refuse storage and visibility splays.
- 4.7 **Environment and Sustainability Services (Natural Heritage)** has commented that the tree protection details provided are acceptable and that compensatory planting for the trees being removed can be secured via a condition attached to any approval.

External

- 4.8 **Cairngorms National Park Authority** has decided not to call in this application.

5. Relevant Planning Policies

5.1 National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4)

Scotland's fourth National Planning Framework (NPF4) is a long-term plan looking to 2045 that guides spatial development, sets out national planning policies, designates national developments and highlights regional spatial priorities. It is part of the development plan, and so influences planning decisions across Scotland.

On 13 February 2023 (0900am) Scottish Ministers adopted and published National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4), meaning that it is in force and National Planning Framework 3 and Scottish Planning Policy are superseded from that date and time. This will also have the effect that all strategic development plans and any supplementary guidance issued in connection

with them cease to have effect on that date. As such the Aberdeen City and Shire Strategic Development Plan 2020 has now ceased to have effect. The NPF4 now forms part of the development plan along with the Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan 2023.

Policy 2 Climate mitigation and adaptation

Policy 6 Forestry, woodland, and trees

Policy 7 Historic assets and places

Policy 14 Design, quality, and place

Policy 15 Local living and 20-minute neighbourhoods

Policy 16 Quality homes

Policy 18 Infrastructure First

Policy 23 Health and safety

5.2 Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan 2021

Policy 1: New Housing Development

Part 1.1: Housing delivery in settlements

Policy 3: Design and Placemaking

Part 3.1: Placemaking

Part 3.3: Sustainable Design

Policy 4: Natural Heritage

Part 4.3: Woodlands

Part 4.6: All development

Policy 9: Cultural Heritage

Part 9.3: Conservation Areas

Policy 10: Resources

Part 10.1: Water resources

Part 10.3 Connection to sewerage

Policy 11: Developer Obligations

5.3 Other Material Considerations

An integrated impact assessment is not required because the granting or refusing of the application will not have a differential impact on the protected characteristics of the applicant or any third parties.

6. Discussion

- 6.1 The main issues to consider in determination of this application are the principle of development, the layout, siting, and design of the development, and whether the proposal would have an impact on neighbouring amenity or the wider conservation area.

Principle of Development

- 6.2 The principle of development was established under APP/2022/2681, and that permission is extant and could be implemented. The proposal remains acceptable under Policy 1, specifically part 1.1 of the LDP and Policy 15 of NPF4.

Design and Layout

- 6.3 The layout, siting and design of the proposal must be assessed against Policy 3: Design and Placemaking, which in part 3.3b seeks to ensure that all development proposals are sympathetic to the traditional pattern and character of the surrounding area, local vernacular, and local distinctiveness. In addition, Policy 14 'Design, quality and place' of NPF4 supports development proposals where they are consistent with the six qualities of successful places. Policy 16 'Quality Homes' also seeks to encourage, promote, and facilitate the delivery of more high quality, affordable and sustainable homes.
- 6.4 As the development is located within the conservation area, Policy 9, Part 9.3 of the LDP and Policy 7 of NPF4 also apply. These policies seek to ensure that development in or affecting a conservation area should preserve or enhance its character and appearance.
- 6.5 There are several changes proposed to the previously approved design, these include increasing the overall ridge height by 870mm, positioning the house 500mm closer to Glenshee Road, installing dormer windows and an entrance canopy on the east elevation, finishing the whole building with timber cladding, repositioning the air source heat pump, removing two trees, installing beech hedging on the west boundary, installing four rustic columns to the main façade and forming a gate and stairs to create pedestrian access from Glenshee Road.
- 6.6 Consultation was undertaken with Built Heritage regarding the proposed changes and alterations were sought to the proposed catslide dormer window as modern flat roof dormers are not acceptable within the conservation area. The revised proposal for two traditional style dormers with a smaller catslide dormer infilling the space between is considered to be acceptable by Built Heritage as are other amendments to the proposal. In particular the applicant's decision to retain the wee house rather than demolish it is appreciated. Archaeology was also consulted and advised that with the retention of the wee house no archaeological mitigations are required. The proposal therefore complies with Policy 9 of the LDP and Policy 7 of NPF4.
- 6.7 In respect of scale and design, the ridge height will remain lower than Ardmohr and the building line will remain set back slightly from Ardmhor. Thereby allowing Ardmhor to remain as the more prominent traditional villa when viewed from Glenshee Road. The proposed finishing materials are also

considered to be of a high standard and reflective of the finishes on other buildings within the conservation area.

- 6.8 It is considered that the proposed amendments to the proposal align with the pattern of development in the immediate area and the scale, design and layout of proposed house is acceptable and will not unduly impact the character and setting of the wider conservation area. It is therefore assessed that the proposals are in accordance with Policies 3 and 9 of the CNPA LDP 2021 and Policies 7, 14 and 16 of NPF4.

Residential Amenity

- 6.9 In respect to neighbouring amenity, the proposed development will not introduce any significant levels of overlooking or overshadowing of the neighbouring plots.
- 6.10 However, there has been representation received which raised concerns regarding the noise impact with respect to the new location of the air source heat pump, specifically how that will impact the neighbours at Cranford Cottage. Air Source Heat Pump Calculations (MCS-020) have been provided and Environmental Health were consulted. The calculations demonstrate that the air source heat pump would meet the criteria regarding noise emissions that it would be "Permitted Development" under planning regulations, however the site lies within the Braemar Conservation Area therefore in this instance despite meeting the acceptable noise requirements, the physical siting of the heat pump requires consent. Part of the calculation to ascertain the acceptable noise level is the solid timber fence around the bin store which helps reduce the noise, which is shown on the most recent site plan. A condition regarding the provision and maintenance of a solid timber fence will be attached to any approval. Environmental Health have confirmed this is acceptable, therefore the proposal is considered to comply with Policy 23 of NPF4.
- 6.11 Following Councillors' request to discuss the application at committee, the agent has requested that attention is drawn to the MCS-020 calculations which had a result of 40.4dB. This was rounded up to 41dB by Sugplumb who prepared the calculations when the guidance for the calculations state anything below 0.8 should be rounded down, thereby the result should be 40dB which is 2 decibels below the accepted permitted noise level. Regardless, the heat pump would operate within acceptable levels that would render it permitted development were the site not located within a conservation area. The need for consent relates to the siting of modern apparatus in a historical setting, not to do with noise or amenity. The noise levels from the proposed heat pump are below limits where consent would typically be required, and as such is not considered to pose any amenity impact.

- 6.12 Overall, it is considered that the development will not have a significant impact on the residential amenity of the area and as such complies with Policy 3 of the CNPA LDP 2021

Trees

- 6.13 The proposal is to remove tree no.5 and tree no. 10, as identified in the tree survey provided. Natural Environment have commented that this is acceptable and the updated tree protection details provided have been accepted. Compensatory tree planting details are to be provided and a condition to this effect will be attached to any permission granted.
- 6.14 The Planning Service is therefore satisfied that the proposed development complies with Policy 4 Natural Heritage of the CNPA LDP and Policy 6 of NPF4.

Technical Considerations

- 6.15 Consultation was sought with Developer Obligations to ascertain whether any contributions would be required, they advised that contributions have previously been secured for this application via S69 Legal Agreement (upfront payment) under APP/2022/2681 which will be offset against the current application. Therefore, in this instance, no additional contributions are required.
- 6.16 The proposed plot will be accessed off Kindrochit Drive via a private access track to the east of the site which is presently used by Ardmhor and the neighbouring plot at Cranford to the south. It is proposed that the new plot will have an access formed onto this private lane. In order to retain the wee house, the access and parking arrangements were altered. This proposed configuration is considered acceptable, and the Council's Road Development Team have also reviewed the proposals and advised that they have no objection to the development subject to conditions on off-street parking, refuse bin uplift and vehicle turning area.
- 6.17 It is proposed that the development will form a new connection to the public foul water drainage network and surface water soakaway will be installed within the site which attenuate any surface from the site. The proposed dwelling also proposes to connect to the public water supply network.
- 6.18 In light of points 6.13 – 6.15, the proposal is considered to comply with Policy 3, 10 and 11 of the LDP and Policy 2 and 18 of the NPF4.

Conclusion

- 6.19 To conclude, it is considered that the amended proposal is in keeping with the character of the area, does not unduly impact on neighbour amenity and will not have a significant detrimental impact on the character or setting of the

conservation area. As such, the proposal complies with Policy 1, 3, 4, 9, 10 and 11 of the Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan 2021. The proposal also complies with policies 2, 6, 7, 14, 15, 16, 18 and 23. of National Planning Framework 4. This application is therefore recommended for approval.

7. Area Implications

- 7.1 In the specific circumstances of this application there is no direct connection with the currently specified objectives and identified actions of the Local Community Plan.

8. Implications and Risk

- 8.1 An integrated impact assessment is not required because the granting or refusing of the application will not have a differential impact on the protected characteristics of the applicant or any third parties.
- 8.2 There are no staffing and financial implications.
- 8.3 There are no risks identified in respect of this matter in terms of the Corporate and Directorate Risk Registers as the Committee is considering the application as the planning authority in a quasi-judicial role and must determine the application on its own merits in accordance with the Development Plan unless material considerations justify a departure.
- 8.4 No separate consideration of the current proposal's degree of sustainability is required as the concept is implicit to and wholly integral with the planning process against the policies of which it has been measured.

9. Departures, Notifications and Referrals

- 9.1 Development Plan Departures - none
- 9.2 The application is not a Departure from the valid Development Plan and no departure procedures apply.
- 9.3 The application does not fall within any of the categories contained in the Schedule of the Town and Country Planning (Notification of Applications) (Scotland) Direction 2009 and the application is not required to be notified to the Scottish Ministers prior to determination.
- 9.4 The application would not have to be referred to Infrastructure Services Committee in the event of the Area Committee wishing to grant permission for the application.

10. Recommendation

- 10.1 **GRANT subject to the following conditions: -**

01. In accordance with Section 58 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (as amended) this planning permission will lapse on the expiration of a period of three years from the date of this decision notice, unless the development is begun within that period.

Reason: Pursuant to Section 58 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (as amended).

02. The dwellinghouse hereby approved shall not be brought into use unless its turning and parking areas have been provided and surfaced in accordance with the details shown on the approved plans. Prior to occupancy of development, 2 off street parking spaces, surfaced in hard standing materials shall be provided within the site in accordance with the Council's Car Parking Standards. A suitable vehicle turning area, measuring not less than 7.6m x 7.6m, must be formed within the site to enable all vehicle movements onto or from the public road to be carried out in a forward gear.

Once provided, the loading, offloading, turning and parking areas shall thereafter be permanently retained as such.

Reason: To ensure the timely completion and retention of the on-site facilities to an adequate standard in the interests of road safety.

03. The dwellinghouse hereby approved shall not be occupied unless a refuse bin uplift store area has been provided and surfaced in accordance with the details to be submitted and approved in writing by the Planning Authority. Once provided, the refuse bin uplift store area shall thereafter be permanently retained as such.

Reason: To ensure the provision of an appropriate means of servicing in the interests of road safety.

04. The dwellinghouse hereby approved shall not be erected unless an Energy Statement applicable to that dwellinghouse has been submitted to and approved in writing by the planning authority. The Energy Statement shall include the following items:

- a) Full details of the proposed energy efficiency measures and/or renewable technologies to be incorporated into the development;
- b) Calculations using the SAP or SBEM methods, which demonstrate that the reduction in carbon dioxide emissions rates for the development, arising from the measures proposed, will enable the development to comply with Policy 3 of the Cairngorm National Park Local Development Plan 2021.

The development shall not be occupied unless it has been constructed in full accordance with the approved details in the Energy Statement. The carbon reduction measures shall be retained in place and fully operational thereafter.

Reason: To ensure this development complies with the on-site carbon reductions required in National Planning Framework 4 Policy 2 and Policy 3 of the Cairngorm National Park Local Development Plan 2021.

05. Prior to the commencement of any works on site, all trees and hedges on site (other than those marked for felling on the approved plans) and those which have Root Protection Areas which fall within the site shall be retained and protected as per the approved Tree Protection Plan (Drawing Ref: AGB-2208-TP (A) dated 27/02/24). Protection methods shall be strictly in accordance with BS 5837 2012: Trees in Relation to Design, Demolition and Construction. Protection measures, once in place, shall remain in place for the duration of construction.

Reason: In order to ensure adequate protection for the trees and hedges on the site during the construction of development, and in the interests of the visual amenity of the area.

06. Prior to the commencement of development a landscaping plan that identifies compensatory planting of two replacement trees of an appropriate species shall be submitted for the approval of the Planning Authority. Thereafter the trees shall be planted within the first available planting season following the completion of the development.

Reason: In the interests of amenity and to secure appropriate compensatory planting

07. The noise emission resulting from the operation of the air source heat pump shall not exceed a limit of 42 dB LAeq, 5 mins at a position assessed one metre perpendicular from the external centre point of any door or window, serving a habitable room of a neighbouring property, ignoring the effect of that facade.

Reason: To ensure that noise from the development does not result in undue loss of amenity for surrounding properties.

08. The dwellinghouse hereby approved shall not be brought into use unless the 1.5m high vertically close boarded timber screen fence has been erected to form bin store and reduce noise impact in accordance with the details shown on the approved plan. Once erected, the fence shall thereafter be permanently retained in accordance with the approved details.

Reason: In the interests of the residential amenities of the neighbouring property.

09. The dwellinghouse hereby approved shall not be occupied unless the proposed surface water drainage system has been provided in accordance with the approved plans and Drainage Statement prepared by Ramsay and

Chalmers dated 15.08.2022 . The surface water drainage system shall be permanently retained thereafter in accordance with the approved maintenance scheme.

Reason: In order to ensure that adequate drainage facilities are provided, and retained, in the interests of the amenity of the area.

10.2 Reason for Decision

The application is considered by the Planning Authority to comply with the Cairngorms National Park Authority Local Development Plan 2021 and National Planning Framework 4. The proposal is in keeping with the surrounding area and would not have a detrimental impact on the conservation area and therefore complies with Policy 1 New Housing Development, Policy 3 Design and Placemaking, Policy 4 Natural Heritage, Policy 9 Cultural Heritage, Policy 10 Resources and Policy 11 Developer Obligations of Cairngorms National Park Authority Local Development Plan 2021 and Policy 2 Climate mitigation and adaptation, Policy 6 Forestry, woodland, and trees, Policy 7 Historic assets and places, Policy 14 Design, quality, and place, Policy 15 Local living and 20-minute neighbourhoods, Policy 16 Quality homes, Policy 18 Infrastructure First and Policy 23 Health and Safety of National Planning Framework 4.

Alan Wood
Director of Environment and Infrastructure Services
Author of Report: Amy McFadzean
Report Date: 27 March 2024

Comments for Planning Application APP/2023/1978

Application Summary

Application Number: APP/2023/1978

Address: Land At Ardmohr Glenshee Road Braemar AB35 5YQ

Proposal: Erection of Dwellinghouse and Installation of Air Source Heat Pump (Amended Design to APP/2022/2681)

Case Officer: Caitlin Stephen

Customer Details

Name: Mr Alastair Hubbard

Address: Cranford Cottage Glenshee Road Braemar

Comment Details

Commenter Type: Neighbour

Stance: Customer objects to the Planning Application

Comment Reasons:

Comment: This objection relates specifically to the amended application which is seeking to re-site the external air source heat pump to the SE boundary side of the proposed development.

The applicant has stated there will be noise impact from this pump. This noise pollution will now potentially impact Cranford Cottage which lies immediately adjacent to this SE boundary.

Specifically, at Cranford Cottage, there is a ground floor rear bedroom sited 1.5 metres from this boundary with a serviceable window, with trickle vents, situated a further 1.2 metres away.

Although no specific information is provided, it can be assumed that there will be potential noise impact to occupants in the rear bedroom of Cranford Cottage.

Marr Area Committee Report 16 April 2024

Reference No: [APP/2023/2333](#)

Planning Permission in Principle for Erection of Dwellinghouse for Holiday Let at Site at Colliestown Farm, Torphins, Banchory, AB31 4JN

Applicant:	Mrs Janet Campbell
Agent:	Kevin Campbell
Grid Ref:	E:360165 N:802875
Ward No. and Name:	W15 - Aboyne, Upper Deeside and Donside
Application Type:	Planning Permission in Principle
Representations	0
Consultations	5
Relevant Proposals Map	Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan 2023
Designations:	Remote Rural Area
Complies with	
Development Plans:	No
Main Recommendation	Refuse



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1. Reason for Report

- 1.1 The Committee is able to consider and take a decision on this item in terms of Section B.8.1 of Part 2A List of Committee Powers and Section C.3.1h of Part 2C Planning Delegations of the Scheme of Governance as the application is recommended for refusal but 50% or a majority of responding Local Ward Members in the Ward in which the development is proposed have requested that the application be referred to the Area Committee.

Cllr Geva Blackett – I would like Marr Area Committee to discuss and consider how Policy B3 of the ALDP (Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan) relates to this application.

Cllr Sarah Brown – Please refer to committee for further discussion around Policy B3 Tourist Facilities.

- 1.2 The Head of Finance and Monitoring Officer within Business Services have been consulted in the preparation of this report and had no comments to make and are satisfied that the report complies with the Scheme of Governance and relevant legislation.

2. Background and Proposal

- 2.1 Planning Permission in Principle is sought for the erection of a dwellinghouse for short term holiday letting at Colliestown Farm, Torphins which lies within the Remote Rural Area.
- 2.2 The site is to the west of Colliestown Farmhouse and its associated farm hub, within land owned by the applicant. The site is within an agricultural field known as the 'Thistle field' which is used for hill grazing and is said to be unsuitable for growing crops.
- 2.3 The farm site (circa 28 hectares) is located approximately 1.7km to the southeast of the settlement boundary of Lumphanan and approximately 1.6km to the northwest of the settlement boundary of Torphins (as the crow flies). With the settlement boundary of Kincardine O Neil approximately 3km to the south.
- 2.4 The site is accessed by an existing single-track forestry track which is approximately 74 metres and connects to the classified 'Pitmurchie Road', which is a single-track road of approximately 540 metres that leads to the A980 to the northeast. Pitmurchie Road also connects to the A93 at Kincardine O Neil to the southwest.
- 2.5 The proposed dwellinghouse is shown indicatively on a site plan, as a rectangular building to compose of 4 bedrooms and large open space kitchen/living and dining area. The drawings show the unit intends to be clad with larch cladding. The applicant promotes that the accommodation would cater for those with additional needs.

- 2.6 The applicant proposes to enhance the site with additional landscaping and according to the supporting documents, over 200 native species of trees and hedgerows have already been planted by the applicant for biodiversity within the field.
- 2.7 Pre application advice was given on several proposals although no planning applications were forthcoming apart from this application.
- Two Pre application enquiries (ENQ/2023/0064 & ENQ/2021/2052) for the Erection of Short-term letting accommodation – Concern was raised due to non-compliance with Policy B3 and Policy R2 of the ALDP; the remoteness of the site, distance to settlements and reliance on private car.
 - ENQ/2021/0658 for the Erection of Dwellinghouse - Advice was given for provision of on-site accommodation for the kennels and for a retiring farmer at Collieston Farm. A kennel business is not a primary industry and would not be supported. Accommodation for a farm worker could be pursued with adequate justification. However, there was limited information provided for a retiring farmer and their successor, advice was given on the information required to meet policy and siting closer to the farm hub.
 - ENQ/2021/2051 for the Erection of Stables and Storage - Advice was given to reduce the scale of development which was considered commercial (for breeding horses).
- 2.8 This application is supported by the following documents;

Planning Justification and Statement Case (by Harry McNab, Planning Consultant). - The report provides background on the farm business at Colliestown Farm, which has just over 28ha, comprising of arable, rough pasture and hill grazing. The farm is sited between two villages and south of A980 and the report attempts to justify the proposal to supplement and diversify the farm business.

Addendum to Planning and Business Case, (by Applicant) - The Case outlines the reasons for the proposal, the applicant wishes to diversify the farm, by providing an accessible holiday let for disabled visitors to the countryside. They have carried out research with Visit Aberdeenshire, that confirms there is a limited number of wheelchair accessible accommodation in the vicinity and lists the available accommodation in the wider area. The site has been chosen as it provides views across the countryside, has an existing access track available which is separate from the farm access and links to bus routes. The Deeside Way (Banchory to Aboyne) is to the south at Kincardine O Neil and there is a path at Torphins Woods providing walking cycling routes. It is between villages, which have several services and near bus routes.

Drainage Report, Recommendations and Associated Test Certificates, (by Ferguson Geo Technical, dated 30-10-2023). Percolation and infiltration testing was carried out for the site. The ground has poor drainage, and a

private treatment plant would be required for foul water with a partial soakaway discharging to the ditch to north. A partial surface water soakaway will be required prior to discharge to the ditch. Drainage is proposed to be located to northeast of proposed dwellinghouse.

Financial Business Case for proposed holiday accommodation, (by Applicant). - The statement provides an estimate of the ground works and build budget required for the proposal along with annual costs and rental income expected.

3. Representations

3.1 No valid letters of representation have been received.

4. Consultations

Internal

4.1 **Business Services (Developer Obligations)** have commented that the proposal for a short-term holiday let does not engage Developer Obligations and no contributions are required.

4.2 **Environment and Infrastructure Services (Contaminated Land)** have no objection.

4.3 **Environment and Sustainability Services (Natural Environment)** note no significant natural environment or public access issues are predicted.

4.4 **Environment and Infrastructure Services (Roads Development)** has commented that parking should be provided as per Council standards and visibility splays can be achieved if vegetation is maintained. They have no objection subject to conditions on access layby, parking and turning area, visibility splays and bin storage provision.

4.5 **Scottish Water** have no objection however, this does not confirm that the proposal can currently be serviced. The applicant should complete a Pre-Development Enquiry to Scottish Water.

5. Relevant Planning Policies

5.1 National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4)

Scotland's fourth National Planning Framework (NPF4) is a long-term plan looking to 2045 that guides spatial development, sets out national planning policies, designates national developments and highlights regional spatial priorities. It is part of the development plan, and so influences planning decisions across Scotland.

On 13 February 2023 (0900am) Scottish Ministers adopted and published National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4), meaning that it is in force and

National Planning Framework 3 and Scottish Planning Policy are superseded from that date and time. This will also have the effect that all strategic development plans and any supplementary guidance issued in connection with them cease to have effect on that date. As such the Aberdeen City and Shire Strategic Development Plan 2020 has now ceased to have effect. The NPF4 now forms part of the development plan along with the Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan 2023.

Policy 9 Brownfield, vacant and derelict land, and empty buildings
Policy 13 Sustainable Transport
Policy 14 Design, quality, and place
Policy 15 Local living and 20 minute neighbourhoods
Policy 17 Rural homes
Policy 22 Flood risk and water management
Policy 29 Rural development
Policy 30 Tourism

5.2 Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan 2023

On 13 January 2023, the Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan 2023 was adopted.

Policy B3 Tourist facilities
Policy R1 Special rural areas
Policy R2 Development Proposals Elsewhere in the Countryside
Policy P1 Layout, siting, and design
Policy E1 Natural Heritage
Policy E2 Landscape
Policy RD1 Providing suitable services

5.3 Other Material Considerations

Planning advice PA2023-18 Tourist facilities

6. Discussion

- 6.1 The key issues to be assessed in the determination of this application include the acceptability in principle of the erection of a dwellinghouse for short-term letting at this location, tourism considerations, accessibility and sustainability of the site, visual appearance of the proposal, and any impacts on the amenity and character of the local area.

Principle of Development

- 6.2 This proposal is for a Class 9 residential dwellinghouse, whilst intended for holiday let accommodation the scale and design is very much a dwelling when viewed in terms of land use. Tourism policies such as Policy B3 of the ALDP and Policy 30 of NPF4 are applicable, but due to the scale and design there is still an expectation for wider compliance with development in the countryside policies such as Policy R2 of the ALDP and Policies 9 and 17 of NPF4. To

emphasise this, there is a stated requirement within the Planning Advice PA2023-18 Planning Advice - Tourist facilities for tourist accommodation to also comply with Policy R2 Development Proposals Elsewhere in the Countryside.

Housing in the countryside

- 6.3 In terms of Policy R2 of the ALDP, and its acceptance of proposals that comply with Policy R1, the siting and design of any new development will be a primary consideration as well as compliance with other relevant policies and the reuse of brownfield land will always be preferred over greenfield land. This site is undeveloped, greenfield land and the proposed development would not comply with any of the criteria that offers support for a new house in the countryside listed for the following reasons:
There is no brownfield redevelopment opportunity,
The dwelling is not for an essential worker nor retirement/succession associated with a primary industry, and
There is no cohesive group or identified organic growth opportunity to support a dwelling.
- 6.4 Furthermore, Policy 9 of the NPF4 states that proposals on greenfield sites would not be supported unless the site is allocated for development, or the proposal is explicitly supported by policies in the ALDP, which as outlined above there is no compliance with ALDP policies. Policy 17 of NPF4 has similar aspirations for new homes in rural areas and this proposal is not considered suitable in terms of location or access considerations, as the site is in a remote location accessed by a single-track forestry access and single track road with no footpath.
- 6.5 Policy 29 of NPF4 supports diversification of an existing business, however that part of the policy is not applied in isolation to overcome the lack of sustainable transport or inappropriateness of a dwelling in terms of siting and access in this location, which forms other criteria within Policy 29. Any farm diversification, which is welcomed when appropriate, must also comply with other applicable policies of the Development Plan, and as outlined above there are significant failings in relation to there being no scope to support the principle of a dwelling on this site.
- 6.6 The proposed development fails to meet any of the criteria of Policy R1 and R2 of the ALDP 2023 and Policy 9, 17 and 29 of the NPF4. Therefore, there is no provision which would allow for a dwellinghouse on the site and this proposal cannot be supported.

Tourist facilities

- 6.7 In terms of Policy B3, the proposed site is not considered to be '*well related to settlements*' and is in a remote location. As described in section 2 there is a separation distance between the site and Torphins settlement boundary of approximately 1.6km. The entire length of the access route (forestry track and Pitmurchie Road) is single-track road with no footpath, rendering it unsuitable

for pedestrians and unsafe for cyclists. Policy advocates that these sites should be accessible by public transport with safe and convenient access for non-motorised means of travel, but this proposal is considered to fall short in that regard. There is a bus route on the A980, but no stops near the access track leading towards the site, and there would still be the narrow road to travel along from the junction to the site even if a bus stop was nearby. The nature of the track is not suitable for wheelchair users, which counters part of the applicant's case that this proposal is unique and caters for accessibility needs - there is no good access other than private car, which renders the proposal unsustainable in nature.

- 6.8 Policy B3 also seeks tourist accommodation to deliver net economic and social benefits. The supporting documents suggest the proposal would increase spending in the nearby settlements of Torphins and Lumphanan. There would be a small benefit to the local economy from visitors staying but that does not outweigh the negatives in terms of its unsustainable location and non-compliance with rural housing policies, as outlined above. The supporting information also suggests that there would be no cumulative impacts on other tourist accommodation in the locale.
- 6.9 The proposal is therefore not considered to comply with Policy B3 of the LDP due to the remote nature of the site and the proposed holiday accommodation not being well related to a settlement or sustainably accessible.
- 6.10 The above matters, both relating to a house in the countryside and tourist accommodation, are concerns that were previously raised through pre-application advice in relation to this site, a dwelling at this site does not comply with a number of key policies within the Development Plan. The Planning Service do not consider there to be any compelling case or justification to support the application for a dwellinghouse at this location as a departure from Policy R2 and Policy B3 of the ALDP 2023 and Policy 9, 17 and 30 of NPF4.

Access

- 6.11 Roads Development do not object to the proposal, therefore the technical functionality of the vehicular access, and parking/turning within the site are acceptable. However as outlined above the site is not well connected or sustainably accessible, therefore fails to comply with Policy RD1 of the ALDP.

Layout, siting, and design

- 6.12 No details of the design of the proposed house have been provided at this planning permission in principle stage, apart from an indicative layout plan. Given the size of the application site and distance from any existing residential properties in the vicinity, it is unlikely that the new development would have any adverse impact on the amenity of the neighbouring dwellings. It is highly likely that a suitable design solution can be found. However, due to the proposal's remote location it is not considered '*well connected*' and would not reduce car dependency or cater for different needs through cycling routes,

footpaths, and pavements to encourage onwards sustainable travel. The policy advice is clear that any proposal that is inconsistent with the six qualities of successful places will not be supported. It is therefore concluded that the proposal is not '*well connected*,' and therefore fails to comply with Policy P1 of the ALDP.

- 6.13 Additionally, NPF4 adds additional weight through Policy 15 which promotes connected development that make moving around easy and reduce car dependency, and for development to be sustainable. As outlined several times already, this site is remote, with no walking routes or safe access to public transport links, therefore any persons using the facility would be solely reliant upon the private car. This is contrary to Policy 15 of NPF4, and does not adhere to the 20-minute neighbourhood values set out in Policy 15 of NPF4, and does not contribute towards tackling the climate crises as required by Policy 1 of NPF4.

Drainage

- 6.14 With regards to drainage, a private treatment plant would be required for foul water, and soakaways for both foul and surface water would discharge to the ditch to north. The proposal can therefore be fully serviced, in compliance with this criteria of Policy RD1 of the ALDP, and Policy 22 of NPF4.
- 6.15 Developer Obligations confirmed that no developer contributions are needed in this instance. The proposal complies with Policy RD2 of the ALDP and Policy 18 of NPF4 in this regard.

Conclusion

- 6.16 To summarise, the Planning Service cannot support this application. The proposal does not meet any criteria within the Development Plan that would support a dwelling on this site, and in terms of tourist accommodation the site is not well-related to a settlement or sustainably accessible. The proposal is therefore recommended for refusal as the proposed class 9 dwelling does not comply with any criteria set out within Policy R2 of the ALDP, nor any criteria identified within Policy 9 or 17 within NPF4. The site is not well related to an existing settlement, not accessible via sustainable modes of transport and there are no safe walking/cycling routes to/from the site to nearby amenities which renders the proposal contrary to the requirements of Policies B3, P1 and RD1 of the ALDP, and Policies 13, 14, 15 and 30 of NPF4.

7. Area Implications

- 7.1 In the specific circumstances of this application there is no direct connection with the currently specified objectives and identified actions of the Local Community Plan.

8. Implications and Risk

- 8.1 An integrated impact assessment is not required because the granting or refusing of the application will not have a differential impact on the protected characteristics of the applicant or any third parties.

- 8.2 There are no staffing and financial implications.
- 8.3 There are no risks identified in respect of this matter in terms of the Corporate and Directorate Risk Registers as the Committee is considering the application as the planning authority in a quasi-judicial role and must determine the application on its own merits in accordance with the Development Plan unless material considerations justify a departure.
- 8.4 No separate consideration of the current proposal's degree of sustainability is required as the concept is implicit to and wholly integral with the planning process against the policies of which it has been measured.

9. Departures, Notifications and Referrals

9.1 Development Plan Departures

ALDP - Policy R2: Development Proposals Elsewhere in the Countryside
ALDP - Policy B3 Tourist facilities
ALDP - Policy P1 Layout, siting and design
ALDP - Policy RD1 Providing suitable services

NPF4 - Policy 9 Brownfield, vacant and derelict land, and empty buildings
NPF4 - Policy 13 Sustainable Transport
NPF4 - Policy 14 Design, quality, and place
NPF4 - Policy 15 Local living and 20 minute neighbourhoods
NPF4 - Policy 17 Rural homes
NPF4 - Policy 30 Tourism

- 9.2 The application is a Departure from the valid Development Plan and has been advertised as such. Any representations received have been circulated as part of the agenda and taken into account in recommending a decision. The period for receiving representations has expired.
- 9.3 The application does not fall within any of the categories contained in the Schedule of the Town and Country Planning (Notification of Applications) (Scotland) Direction 2009 and the application is not required to be notified to the Scottish Ministers prior to determination.
- 9.4 The application would not have to be referred to Infrastructure Services Committee in the event of the Area Committee wishing to grant permission for the application.

10. Recommendation

10.1 **REFUSE for the following reasons: -**

01. The planning authority considers that the application is for a development that is not in accordance with the Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan 2023 and National Planning Framework 4. The proposed class 9 residential unit is not considered a brownfield redevelopment, nor as organic growth associated

with an identified settlement, it is not associated with retirement succession of an agricultural holding nor an essential worker in a primary industry, and is not an addition to an existing cluster of houses, and therefore fails to meet the fundamental principle of residential development in the countryside and does not comply with Policy R2 Development Proposals Elsewhere in the Countryside of the Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan 2023 and Policy 9 Brownfield, vacant and derelict land and empty buildings and Policy 17 Rural homes of the National Planning Framework 4.

02. The proposal is not 'well related to existing settlements', through sustainable modes of transport and there are no footpaths or other accessible routes available to the nearest settlements of Torphins and Lumphanan and is inconsistent with the six qualities of successful places, it is neither 'well connected' nor 'welcoming' creating a walkable neighbourhood. The application does not comply with Policy B3 Tourist facilities, P1 Layout, siting and design and Policy RD1 Providing suitable services of the Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan 2023 and is contrary to Policy 13 Sustainable transport, Policy 14 Design, quality, and place, Policy 15 Local living and 20-minute neighbourhoods and Policy 30 Tourism of the National Planning Framework 4.

Alan Wood
Director of Environment and Infrastructure Services
Author of Report: Ann Grant
Report Date: 27 March 2024



REPORT TO MARR AREA COMMITTEE – 16 APRIL 2024

TACKLING POVERTY AND INEQUALITIES – ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

1 Executive Summary/Recommendations

1.1 This report updates Committee on progress made delivering the priorities and outcomes of the Tackling Poverty and Inequalities Strategic Partnership Group, including the Local Child Poverty Action Report which supports the Aberdeenshire Local Outcomes Improvement Plan priority 'Reducing Poverty'.

1.2 Recommendations

The Committee is recommended to:

1.2.1 Acknowledge and support the progress made in tackling this agenda and provide comments on the Tackling Poverty and Inequalities Annual Reports. The final draft reports along with comments from Area Committees will be reported to the Communities Committee on the 6th June 2024.

1.2.2 Identify any specific local concerns which the Tackling Poverty and Inequalities Strategic Partnership could be asked to consider, as part of the development of further plans;

1.2.3 Provide comments on the future of the Aberdeenshire Information and Advice Framework. Comments from Area Committees will inform the future model which will be agreed at Communities Committee on the 6th June 2024.

2 Decision-Making Route

2.1 The Scottish Government has an explicit commitment to ending child poverty through the Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017 ('the Act') which outlines a statutory requirement to reduce the number of children who live in poverty. The Act also places a statutory duty on Local Authorities and Health Boards to jointly prepare and submit, to the Scottish Government, an annual "Local Child Poverty Action Report" ('the Action Report') that identifies what action has been taken in the previous 12 months and those actions that will be taken in the future to reduce child poverty.

2.2 The most recent Local Child Poverty Action Report has been developed alongside Community Planning partners, most notably with NHS Grampian, which has the joint statutory duty with Aberdeenshire Council to produce the Action Report. This report can be found in Appendix 2.

2.3 Reducing poverty is one of the Community Planning Partnership (CPP) Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) priorities which is led by the Tackling Poverty and Inequalities Group, chaired by Amanda Roe, Buchan Area Manager. The Action Report contributes to the LOIP priority.

2.4 On 5th September 2019, the Communities Committee approved the Aberdeenshire Information and Advice Delivery Framework, which is funded and supported by the Tackling Poverty and Inequalities Strategic Partnership. When approving the Framework, the Communities Committee agreed that Area Committees would be informed of progress in relation to delivery of the Framework as part of the Tackling Poverty and Inequalities Annual Report - "Towards a Fairer Aberdeenshire 2023" which can be found in Appendix 3.

2.5 In 2021, as part of the commitment from Aberdeenshire Council to reduce poverty and inequalities, a reserve of £3.5 million was secured to support this agenda. This funding is non-recurring, as a reserve, it is not time limited. On the 14th October 2021 Communities Committee, the policy committee which has responsibility for Tackling Poverty and Inequalities, approved a strategic framework for investment. On the 28th March 2024 the updated framework was presented and approved by the Communities Committee. The framework can be found in Appendix 4.

- Food Insecurity
- Fuel Poverty and Housing
- Rural Poverty including, transport.
- Financial Inclusion
- Mental Health and Wellbeing
- Employability
- Children and Young People

2.6 This report has not been considered by the Area Committees previously.

3 Discussion

3.1 On the 24th March 2022, the Scottish Government published the second version of the Tackling Poverty Child Poverty Delivery Plan 2022 - 2026, Best Start Bright Futures. The plan builds on the foundations of Every Child, Every Chance and continues to focus on the three drivers of child poverty. The plan also continues to highlight the six priority family groups.

[Supporting documents - Best Start, Bright Futures: tackling child poverty delivery plan 2022 to 2026 - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/resources/consultations-petitions/embedded/Supporting_documents_-_Best_Start,_Bright_Futures:_tackling_child_poverty_delivery_plan_2022_to_2026_-_gov.scot)

3.2 The Tackling Poverty and Inequalities Strategic Partnership was set up by the Community Planning Partnership to coordinate strategic development across partners. Poverty is technically defined as when a person's household income (adjusted for the size and composition of the household) is less than 60% of the UK average income. However, poverty is much more than just low income. The factors that generate poverty are wide-ranging and encompass many aspects of day-to-day life such as health, housing, educational attainment, employability, and access to services.

3.3 The Tackling Poverty and Inequalities Strategic Partnership have adopted the Joseph Rowntree Foundation definition of Poverty which is –

Poverty is when your resources are well below your minimum needs. Poverty means not being able to heat your home, pay your rent, or buy the essentials for your children. It means waking up every day facing insecurity, uncertainty, and impossible decisions about money. It means facing marginalisation – and even discrimination – because of your financial circumstances. The constant stress it causes can lead to problems that deprive people of the chance to play a full part in society.

3.4 The approach to tackling poverty focuses on early intervention and prevention – tackling the root causes and building peoples’ capabilities through income maximisation, employability and promoting positive life chances. The priorities of the Tackling Poverty and Inequalities Strategic Partnership are:

- Reducing the number of children / people living in poverty;
- Preventing children / people falling into poverty;
- Enabling children to live poverty free in adult life; and
- Improve the wellbeing of people living in poverty.

3.5 The most recent Child Poverty figures from the UK government national statistics for 2022 estimates 8799 children under 16 living in poverty across Aberdeenshire. Data source - <https://stat-xplore.dwp.gov.uk>

In Marr 1,625 children were living in Poverty in 2021/22. The table below highlights those children 16 and under living in absolute and relative poverty. The number of children and young people living in poverty in working households is 1,193.

Area	Absolute	Relative	Total
Huntly, Strathbogie and Howe of Alford	407	490	897
Banchory and Mid Deeside	107	195	302
Aboyne, Upper Deeside and Donside	193	233	426

A breakdown of the data used can be found in Appendix 5

3.6 One positive project that has been developed with young people in Huntly is a life skills project that covers how to improve mental health, secure employment, money and budgeting and developing positive relationships. The project is targeted at those who have left school and supports 8 to 10 young people each week. This is a partnership project between Barnardos, Gordon Rural Action and TP&I young engagement worker.

3.7 Partners working is key to deliver positive outcomes for those living across Aberdeenshire. They work together to support individuals, families and low-income households. The report “Towards a Fairer Aberdeenshire 2023” has been

developed to outline the impact of this partnership work. One project that has had a positive impact on a targeted community is outlined below -

Reminiscence Project - Older people

The North East Local Association (WEA) delivered 5 face-to-face Reminiscence Courses for elderly and vulnerable people in 5 sheltered housing - Ballater, Banchory, Inch, Rhynie and Torphins.

The project aims are –

- Reduce social isolation and loneliness through increasing social interactions.
- Provide mental stimulation
- Improve health and wellbeing through increasing social connections and confidence.

Over 50 residents participated in this programme which reduced isolation, improved wellbeing and gave staff and carers a better understanding of those they care for. Those who took part had positive feedback –

‘Nice to have a laugh and fun as I don’t get out much.’ ‘Oh yes, it gets the brain going’.

“We meet and talk to people we may not normally be in conversation with.”

‘I get to see more of the other residents; great opportunity to come together’.

- 3.8 The Information and Advice Delivery Framework has been implemented over the last few years with Money Advice and Welfare Rights Workers linked into Foodbanks, Progress In Dialogue, Housing Service and GP Practices. A rural Outreach Worker covers the Aboyne, Ballater and Strathdon areas. Training has also been delivered to the Income Maximisation team within Gordon Rural Action.

The contract for the community-based services was awarded to Kincardine and Mearns Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) who lead the Aberdeenshire CAB Consortium. The contract started on the 6th January 2020 and after a review, was extended for a further 24 months. The consortium development provides online support and an Aberdeenshire free phone helpline. The existing contract ends on the 4th January 2025.

On the 28th March 2024 Communities Committee agreed that Area Committees should be consulted on the future of the Information and Advice Framework. This Committee is being asked for its views on the options outlined in Appendix 6. The views will then be presented to Communities Committee on the 6th June 2024.

- 3.9 Over the last 12 months 1,387 clients have accessed Information and Advice Services in the Marr Area. Income maximisation has been challenging throughout the last 12 months however for those clients in Marr the framework has secured approximately £663,802 client financial gain. The main issues that clients are receiving support for are benefits, debt, housing, energy debt and support with the rising cost of living.

4. Council Priorities, Implications and Risk

- 4.1 The work and outcomes delivered through the Tackling Poverty and Inequalities partnership helps delivery of all of the council priorities.

Pillar	Priority
Our People	Learning for Life Health and Wellbeing
Our Environment	Climate Change Resilient Communities
Our Economy	Economic Growth Infrastructure and public assets

Specifically, it supports the outcome to 'Improve the life chances of people at risk of falling into poverty, or already living in poverty.

- 4.2 The activities and outcomes delivered through the Tackling Poverty and Inequalities Strategic Partnership, helps deliver against the CPP Local Outcomes Improvement Plans, Aberdeenshire Children's Services Plan and links with a range of strategies including Criminal Justice, Housing, Transport and Economic Development.

This report helps deliver against Aberdeenshire Children's Services Plan Priority of Promoting Wellbeing / Resilience – Addressing Inequality / Child Poverty which over arches the strategic priorities. It also delivers on the LOIP Priorities, Reducing Poverty and contributes to the Healthy Eating and Active Lifestyles actions.

- 4.3 The table below shows whether risks and implications apply if the recommendations are agreed.

Subject	Yes	No	N/A
Financial		X	
Staffing		x	
Equalities and Fairer Duty Scotland	IIA attached as Appendix 1		
Children and Young People's Rights and Wellbeing	IIA attached as Appendix 1		
Climate Change and Sustainability		x	
Health and Wellbeing	IIA attached as Appendix 1		
Town Centre First		x	

- 4.4 No staffing implications have been identified and it is anticipated that the ambitions set out in the new Child Poverty Action Plan will be met from within existing resources, where necessary there will be changes to the way in which services are delivered at no additional cost to partner organisations.

Funding opportunities such as the UK Shared Prosperity Fund are being used to secure additional funding for the Information and Advice framework.

In addition, the Scottish Government's Delivery Plan, 'Best Start, Bright Futures', highlights a range of funding opportunities which will come onstream during the life of that plan. One of these areas is the Cash First Fund and the Tackling Poverty and Inequalities Strategic Partnership has secured £200,000 through to 2026 to continue to develop the cash first approach.

4.5 An integrated impact assessment was carried out in 2021 and is attached in Appendix 1. This assessment still reflects the current work being undertaken and there is still a positive impact as follows –

- The work which is delivered and monitored through the Tackling Poverty and Inequalities Strategic Partnership aims to maximise income and improve employability for people on a low income and can reduce inequalities of outcome caused by socioeconomic disadvantage, which helps meet our aims under the Fairer Scotland Duty.
- The children and young peoples' rights and wellbeing implications are likely to close the inequalities gap and support improved quality of life, which may contribute to children and young people living a poverty free life in adulthood.

4.6 The following risk has been identified, as relevant to this matter on a Corporate Level: ACORP007 – Social Risks, changes in population Poverty and Social Inequality [Corporate Risk Register](#)

The following risk have been identified through the Business Services Directorate risks: BSSR001 - Our young people have improved life chances

- Difficulty in sourcing data to report KPIs
- Challenges in sourcing sustainable funding streams

[Link to risk register page on website](#)

The integrated approach taken in developing the new Child Poverty Action Plan will ensure improved data collection and sustained outcomes through partnership resourcing.

5 Scheme of Governance

5.1 The Head of Finance and Monitoring Officer within Business Services have been consulted in the preparation of this report and their comments are incorporated within the report and are satisfied that the report complies with the Scheme of Governance and relevant legislation.

5.2 The Committee is able to consider this item in terms of Section B1.2 of the List of Committee Powers in the Scheme of Governance, as it relates to the Committees' powers to consider, comment on, make recommendations to Services and any other appropriate Committee on any matter or policy which impacts its Area.

Rob Simpson
Director of Business Services

Report prepared by Annette Johnston, Tackling Poverty and Inequalities Coordinator
Date 4th April 2024

List of Appendices –

- Appendix 1 – Integrated Impact Assessment.
- Appendix 2 – Draft Local Child Poverty Action Report
- Appendix 3 – Draft “Towards a Fairer Aberdeenshire 2023 / 24”
- Appendix 4 - Framework for investment 2024/25
- Appendix 5 – Local data
- Appendix 6 – Information and advice framework options.

Aberdeenshire Council

Integrated Impact Assessment

Tackling Poverty & Inequalities 2024

Assessment ID	IIA-002000
Lead Author	Caroline Hastings
Additional Authors	Annette Johnston
Service Reviewers	Amanda Roe
Subject Matter Experts	Susan Forbes, Kakuen Mo, Caroline Hastings, Annette Johnston, Christine McLennan
Approved By	Amanda Roe
Approved On	Friday March 01, 2024
Publication Date	Tuesday March 05, 2024

1. Overview

This document has been generated from information entered into the Integrated Impact Assessment system.

Integrated Impact Assessment for Tackling Poverty & Inequalities and supporting the Child Poverty Action Report.

Aims of Tackling Poverty & Inequality, Aberdeenshire Principles:

Reducing the number of children/people living in poverty.

Preventing children/people falling into poverty.

Enabling children to live poverty free in adult life.

Improve the well-being of people living in poverty.

During screening 6 of 10 questions indicated that detailed assessments were required, the screening questions and their answers are listed in the next section. This led to 3 out of 5 detailed impact assessments being completed. The assessments required are:

- Children's Rights and Wellbeing
- Equalities and Fairer Scotland Duty
- Health Inequalities

In total there are 29 positive impacts as part of this activity. There are 0 negative impacts, all impacts have been mitigated. The impact on 3 groups is not known, information is provided in the detailed sections of this document.

A detailed action plan with 1 points has been provided.

This assessment has been approved by amanda.roe@aberdeenshire.gov.uk.

The remainder of this document sets out the details of all completed impact assessments.

2. Screening

Could your activity / proposal / policy cause an impact in one (or more) of the identified town centres?	No
Would this activity / proposal / policy have consequences for the health and wellbeing of the population in the affected communities?	Yes
Does the activity / proposal / policy have the potential to affect greenhouse gas emissions (CO2e) in the Council or community and / or the procurement, use or disposal of physical resources?	No
Does the activity / proposal / policy have the potential to affect the resilience to extreme weather events and/or a changing climate of Aberdeenshire Council or community?	No
Does the activity / proposal / policy have the potential to affect the environment, wildlife or biodiversity?	No
Does the activity / proposal / policy have an impact on people and / or groups with protected characteristics?	Yes
Is this activity / proposal / policy of strategic importance for the council?	Yes
Does this activity / proposal / policy impact on inequality of outcome?	Yes
Does this activity / proposal / policy have an impact on children / young people's rights?	Yes
Does this activity / proposal / policy have an impact on children / young people's wellbeing?	Yes

3. Impact Assessments

Children's Rights and Wellbeing	No Negative Impacts Identified
Climate Change and Sustainability	Not Required
Equalities and Fairer Scotland Duty	No Negative Impacts Identified
Health Inequalities	No Negative Impacts Identified
Town Centre's First	Not Required

4. Childrens' Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment

4.1. Wellbeing Indicators

Indicator	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Unknown
Safe	Yes			
Healthy	Yes			
Achieving	Yes			
Nurtured	Yes			
Active	Yes			
Respected	Yes			
Responsible	Yes			
Included	Yes			

4.2. Rights Indicators

<p>UNCRC Indicators upheld by this activity / proposal / policy</p>	<p>Article 2 - Non-discrimination Article 3 - Best interests of the child Article 4 - Protection of rights Article 12 - Respect for the views of the child Article 18 - Parental responsibilities and state assistance Article 23 - Children with disabilities Article 27 - Adequate standard of living Article 28 - Right to education Article 30 - Children of minorities / indigenous groups Article 31 - Leisure, play and culture Article 42 - Knowledge of rights</p>
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4.3. Positive Impacts

Impact Area	Impact
Achieving	Working with Education and Children's Services to look at Cost of the School Day and the use of Pupil Equity funding to enable equity and inclusion. Ensuring young people are supported at transition areas of their life through a range of employability programmes increases skills and experience for their future.
Achieving	Working with Education and Children's Services to look at Cost of the School Day and the use of Pupil Equity funding to enable equity and inclusion. Ensuring young people are supported at transition areas of their life through a range of employability programmes increases skills and experience for their future.
Active	Through working with LLA a range of activities will be developed , informed by children and young people to improve their health & wellbeing ensuring they can participate in an active lifestyle.

Impact Area	Impact
Active	Through working with LLA a range of activities will be developed , informed by children and young people to improve their health & wellbeing ensuring they can participate in an active lifestyle.
Healthy	Access to food and skill development relating to shopping, preparation and cooking meals. Access to fresh food and vegetables through FareShare. Direct payments for free school meals allowing access to breakfast, break and lunchtime meals. Linking to Active Schools to enable positive mental health and physical wellbeing. Increased range of mental health supports available for Aberdeenshire children, young people and families.
Healthy	Access to food and skill development relating to shopping, preparation and cooking meals. Access to fresh food and vegetables through FareShare. Direct payments for free school meals allowing access to breakfast, break and lunchtime meals. Linking to Active Schools to enable positive mental health and physical wellbeing. Increased range of mental health supports available for Aberdeenshire children, young people and families.
Included	Ensuring we work with marginalised groups and community champions to include children and young people in priority groups affected by poverty and those with protected characteristics are not further marginalised. The development of a lived experience network will ensure those who feel marginalised are represented and are informing services, policies and practice.
Included	Ensuring we work with marginalised groups and community champions to include children and young people in priority groups affected by poverty and those with protected characteristics are not further marginalised. The development of a lived experience network will ensure those who feel marginalised are represented and are informing services, policies and practice.
Nurtured	Enabling children and young people to feel included as part of their community. Embedding trauma informed practice and developing services and policy through Rights Based Approach.
Nurtured	Enabling children and young people to feel included as part of their community. Embedding trauma informed practice and developing services and policy through Rights Based Approach.
Responsible	Ensure children, young people and families are equal partners through coproduction of services and programmes ensuring the ownership stays with those most effected by these developments.
Responsible	Ensure children, young people and families are equal partners through co production of services and programmes ensuring the ownership stays with those most effected by these developments.

Impact Area	Impact
Respected	Ensuring children and young people are enabled to participate and that their rights are upheld. Recognising the importance of the voice of children and young people in decisions being made that impact on them.
Respected	Ensuring children and young people are enabled to participate and that their rights are upheld. Recognising the importance of the voice of children and young people in decisions being made that impact on them.
Safe	We are looking to develop safe places for young people to go and participate in projects / activities. This has been identified as a gap so we now have 2 youth projects, 1 youth work training course and 4 TP&I youth workers.

4.4. Evidence

Type	Source	It says?	It Means?
Other Evidence	Lived Experience Forum and Network	The voice of lived experience continues to be embedded across the work of TP&I and it's partners.	Those with lived experience can highlight areas of improvement, inform and co-produce service redesign, policy and practice. The input of those with lived experience, including young people, has been used to develop the Aberdeenshire Child Poverty Action Report and identify priorities for Tackling Poverty & Inequalities.

4.5. Information Gaps

Those children and young people who are part of Local Voices participate in informing decisions and those we can reach through youth groups and our third sector and other Aberdeenshire Council services however we recognise this does not necessarily reach a wider range of voices of children and young people.

4.6. Measures to fill Information Gaps

Measure	Timescale
Continue to expand the Aberdeenshire Lived Experience Network (ALLEN) which is formed of third sector partners and Aberdeenshire council services who work with more marginalised or less easy to reach groups and individuals.	Ongoing Network information: https://engage.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/hub-page/aberdeenshire-lived-experience-network

4.7. Accounting for the Views of Children and Young People

Young people form part of our 'Local Voices' lived experience forum and contribute to discussion about service improvement.

In September 2022 TP&I funded an 'Over2Youth' event which was developed and delivered by youth groups from central Aberdeenshire, highlighting issues of inequalities important to them and that impact on their lives. They are now continuing this work to develop actions to make changes.

4.8. Promoting the Wellbeing of Children and Young People

Article 12 - Respect for children's views:

Children have the right to give their opinions freely on issues that affect them. Adults should listen and take children seriously.

We recognise that taking a right's-based approach is key to embedding our practice of working with those with lived experience as partners which will ensure services and activities support young peoples wellbeing.

Tackling Poverty & Inequalities allocate funding to a range of services and third sector partners to ensure children young people and their families have positive outcomes which improve and promote wellbeing. All funded projects take makes safeguarding a priority as part of their practice.

4.9. Upholding Children and Young People's Rights

By embedding Children's Rights into our practice we provide support and promotion of young people's wellbeing through inclusion, participation and the importance of children and young people co-developing services and opportunities which meets their needs.

4.10. Overall Outcome

No Negative Impacts Identified.

The children and young peoples' rights and well being implications are likely to help towards closing the inequalities gap and support improved quality of life, which may contribute to children and young people living a poverty free life in adulthood.

5. Equalities and Fairer Scotland Duty Impact Assessment

5.1. Protected Groups

Indicator	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Unknown
Age (Younger)	Yes			
Age (Older)	Yes			
Disability	Yes			
Race	Yes			
Religion or Belief				Yes
	Will find out by: This data will not be identified			
Sex	Yes			
Pregnancy and Maternity	Yes			
Sexual Orientation				Yes
	Will find out by: This data will not be identified			
Gender Reassignment				Yes
	Will find out by: This data will not be identified			
Marriage or Civil Partnership	Yes			

5.2. Socio-economic Groups

Indicator	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Unknown
Low income	Yes			
Low wealth	Yes			
Material deprivation	Yes			
Area deprivation	Yes			
Socioeconomic background	Yes			

5.3. Positive Impacts

Impact Area	Impact
Age (Older)	<p>Through increasing opportunities and access to services for parents or kinship carers who are living in low-income households ensuring improved outcomes.</p> <p>We have developed targeted support pathways for older people in relation to rural & remote communities.</p> <p>Working with some of this community to look at fuel poverty and it's impacts and develop recommendations and actions to improve service delivery.</p>

Impact Area	Impact
Age (Younger)	We have developed targeted support pathways for specific client groups. Priority families are now identified and are involved and undertaking projects using a rights based, person led approach.
Disability	Through increasing opportunities and access to services. We have developed targeted support pathways for disabled households. Working with some of this community to look at fuel poverty and it's impacts and develop recommendations and actions to improve service delivery.
Marriage or Civil Partnership	Through increasing opportunities and access to services for those families that have low income, high living costs and limited employment. Services and support will be more inclusive, reducing stigma and improving accessibility for priority families and those that have previously been marginalised.
Pregnancy and Maternity	The development of the targeted support pathways for specific client groups includes families with new babies. Services and support will be more inclusive, reducing stigma and improving accessibility for priority families and those that have previously been marginalised.
Race	Through increasing opportunities and access to services for those families that have low income, high living costs and limited employment. Services and support will be more inclusive, reducing stigma and improving accessibility for priority families and those that have previously been marginalised.
Sex	Through increasing opportunities and access to services for those families that have low income, high living costs and limited employment. Services and support will be more inclusive, reducing stigma and improving accessibility for priority families and those that have previously been marginalised.
Area deprivation	Through increasing opportunities and access to services for those families that have low income, high living costs and limited employment. People living in poverty or at risk of living in poverty will experience a reduction of stigma from accessing services and opportunities which will improve their outcomes.
Low income	Through increasing opportunities and access to services for those families that have low income, high living costs and limited employment. Increased household income for those living in poverty and at highest risk of poverty through benefit up take and income maximisation.
Low wealth	Through increasing opportunities and access to services for those families that have low income, high living costs and limited employment. Services and support will be more inclusive, reducing stigma and improving accessibility for priority families and those that have previously been marginalised.
Material deprivation	Through increasing opportunities and access to services for those families that have low income, high living costs and limited employment. Increased access to services will close the inequalities gap and support improved quality of life.

Impact Area	Impact
Socioeconomic background	Through increasing opportunities and access to services for those families that have low income, high living costs and limited employment. Continue to support the lived experience forum the challenges of living in poverty and experience inequalities will be raised and address to ensure services and opportunities are accessible, where and when require

5.4. Evidence

Type	Source	It says?	It Means?
Other Evidence	Lived experience, service and partner experiences: web page	Challenge Poverty Week 2022/23 - highlight challenges, barriers and ongoing work to change how we can improve delivery of and access to services https://www.ouraberdeenshire.org.uk/our-priorities/tackling-poverty-inequalities/	This means that we are listening to our services users and our partners to understand how we can do things differently to ensure we can deliver on the Aberdeenshire Principles to tackling poverty & inequalities
Other Evidence	Lived Experience Forum	How we work with lived experience voices in Aberdeenshire https://www.ouraberdeenshire.org.uk/lived-experiences-online-forum/	That we recognise the importance of hearing from those who have directly experienced poverty or live on low incomes to learn how we can do things better to improve their outcomes.
Other Evidence	Aberdeenshire Lived Experience Network	How important it is for TP&I to work in partnership with internal and external partners across Aberdeenshire. https://engage.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/hub-page/aberdeenshire-lived-experience-network	That we can make our resources work more effectively to deliver outcomes that improve the lives of families and individuals across Aberdeenshire through knowledge of shared practice and expertise. And that we can reach those more marginalised or less heard voices through existing and trusted relationships they have with third sector organisations.

5.5. Engagement with affected groups

Local voices is a lived experience forum which are asked their views on a range of topics/ issues/ services on a monthly bases.

Using Social media additional weekly engagement has been undertaken.

We have begun projects with youth groups and a fuel poverty project with housing tenants and property owners.

5.6. Ensuring engagement with protected groups

Local Voices membership reflects those families with protected characteristics. Through partnership work with those who support marginalised groups and through community champions supporting these communities.

5.7. Evidence of engagement

The Child Poverty Local Action Report (year 5) <https://www.ouraberdeenshire.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/finalaberdeenshire-local-child-poverty-action-report-22-23.pdf>

Fuel Poverty Project: <https://www.ouraberdeenshire.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Fuel-Poverty-Project-Report-November-2022.pdf>

5.8. Overall Outcome

No Negative Impacts Identified.

The approach to tackling poverty & inequalities focuses on tackling the root causes of poverty and building people's capabilities through income maximisation, employability and promoting positive life chances.

The Fairer Aberdeenshire Fund is used to support services and opportunities that improve the live chances of those most vulnerable in Aberdeenshire.

The Child Poverty Action Report reflects our continued commitment to reducing poverty across all our communities.

5.9. Improving Relations

Ensure that the Lived Experience continues to reflect those target groups outlined the Scottish Government's Child Poverty Delivery Plan 2022 – 26 Best Start Bright Futures

Continue to build on the partnership work which has been developed around this area.

Report progress to Area Committees, Policy Committees and Health & Social Care Partnership.

Highlight good practice at a local and national level

5.10. Opportunities of Equality

The approach to tackling poverty & inequalities focusses on early intervention and prevention – tackling the root causes of poverty and building people's capabilities through income maximisation, employability and promoting positive life chances.

Accessing appropriate services and opportunities will contribute to reducing child poverty, social justice, support housing first principles, reducing homelessness and reducing inequalities across Aberdeenshire.

Through identifying and addressing the barriers faced by those who are at risk of poverty or living in poverty should result in a reduction of inequalities

6. Health Inequalities Impact Assessment

6.1. Health Behaviours

Indicator	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Unknown
Healthy eating	Yes			
Exercise and physical activity		Yes		
Substance use – tobacco		Yes		
Substance use – alcohol		Yes		
Substance use – drugs		Yes		
Mental health	Yes			

6.2. Positive Impacts

Impact Area	Impact
Healthy eating	To deliver the Healthy Eating Active Living (HEAL) action plan which aims to make healthy eating and active living possible and achievable for everyone in Aberdeenshire.
Mental health	<p>Raise awareness and improve access to services aimed at pupils to improve physical and mental well-being of children and young people experiencing poverty.</p> <p>Raise awareness and improve access to wellbeing services for priority families through the development of hubs and interventions that prevent crisis within the family.</p> <p>Deliver and fund a range of community-based well being programmes.</p>

6.3. Evidence

Type	Source	It says?	It Means?
Other Evidence	Mind Yer Mind campaign	Through our Community Planning Partnership we have access to resources such as the Mind Yer Mind campaign: https://www.ouraberdeenshire.org.uk/news-and-events/mind-yer-mind-campaign/	This means we can access resources to share with our priority groups

Type	Source	It says?	It Means?
Other Evidence	Child Poverty Action Plan	<p>Outlines what we need to do to provide services and support to those who have had their mental health further impacted.</p> <p>We know there is increased stress and worry that living on a low income brings and deterioration of people's mental health.</p> <p>There had been significant increase in mental health and anxiety because of the pandemic which is being exacerbated by the cost-of-living crisis, particular for young people and their families.</p>	Through raising awareness and new opportunities people's wellbeing will improve.

6.4. Overall Outcome

No Negative Impacts Identified.

Through working with Live Life Aberdeenshire and the Health and Social Care Partnership and Public Health partners we are able to support delivery of activities for young people across Aberdeenshire, linking to holiday programmes and active schools activities. As well as working with partners to deliver on the Aberdeenshire Food Strategy through the Healthy Eating Active Living Health and Wellbeing Local Outcomes Improvement Plan priority, Health and Wellbeing. We are also working with colleagues in the Education and Children's Services to deliver on the actions to support the outcome 'Increase range of mental health supports available for Aberdeenshire children, young people and families'

7. Action Plan

Planned Action	Details	
To continue to develop and deliver the Child Poverty Action Plan	Lead Officer	Annette Johnston
	Repeating Activity	Yes
	Frequency	Ongoing
	Duration	2022-2026
	Expected Outcome	The intention of this Action Plan is to improve outcomes for all families living in poverty or at risk of living in poverty, but the key emphasis will be supporting families where the risk of children living in poverty is highest. To this end the Aberdeenshire Child Poverty Action Plan will focus on the needs of 'priority families' who are at high risk of poverty
	Resource Implications	Time of TP&I staff, those with lived experience and partner organisations. TP&I budget to cover costs of funded programmes within the plan.



ABERDEENSHIRE CHILD POVERTY ACTION REPORT

2023-2024



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Foreword

Tackling Child Poverty is a priority within NHS Grampian's strategic plan; Plan for the Future. What we want is for families living in poverty to be supported to thrive and that outcomes for those living in areas of deprivation to be similar to those living in areas of affluence. NHS Grampian is committed to working with our partners in Aberdeenshire to contribute to the excellent and extensive work that is already underway, to plan future initiatives and to continue to learn from the lived experience of those family's experiencing poverty in Aberdeenshire. *Tracy Davis Child Commissioner for NHS Grampian.*

Introduction

In Aberdeenshire a partnership approach is vital in ensuring opportunities and services are accessible and relevant resulting in positive outcomes for children, young people, and their families.

Aberdeenshire Community Planning Board set up the Tackling Poverty & Inequalities Strategic Partnership and have delegated the lead role for Child Poverty to them. Poverty is much more than just low income.

The factors that generate poverty are wide-ranging and encompass many aspects of day-to-day life such as health, housing, educational attainment, employability, and access to services. This is a multi-agency partnership consisting of key council colleagues and external partners: Aberdeenshire Voluntary Action, Education & Children Services, Economic Development, Skills Development Scotland, Health & Social Care Partnership, Housing, NHS Grampian, Aberdeenshire Alcohol and Drugs Partnership, Police Scotland and NESCOL who ensure a coordinated approach is developed.

The partnership recognises the value of local experts, ensuring a rights-based approach underpins this area of work. Partners also recognise the importance of Place and support the empowerment of children, young people, families, and their communities not only influence/inform decisions but co-produce services to meet their needs.

This report is set out in 3 areas -

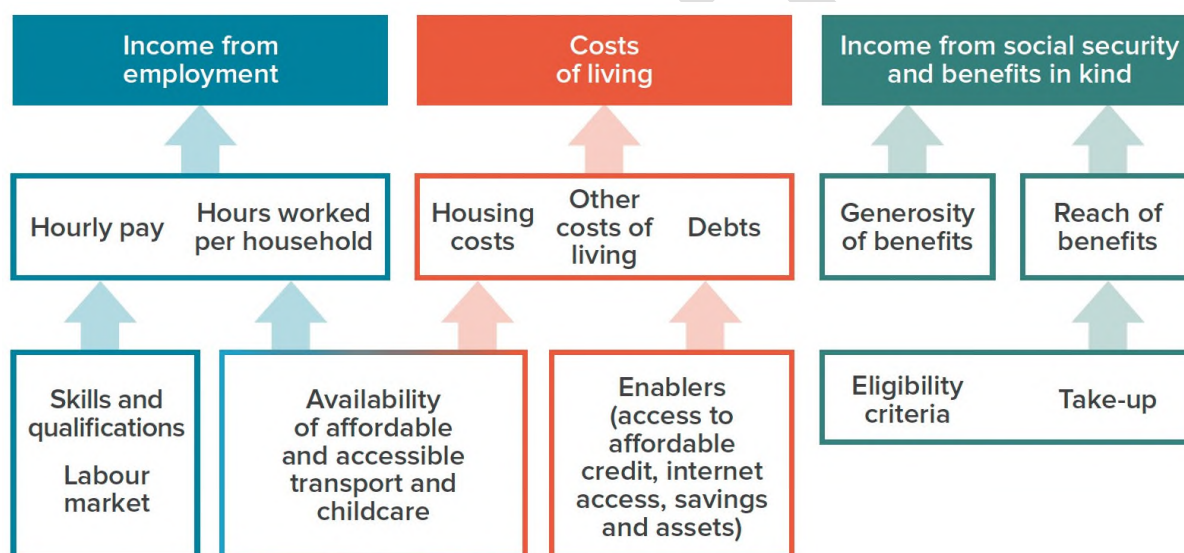
- Most recent data on child poverty and what we know in Aberdeenshire.
- Activities and Impacts from 2023/24 under three headings
 - Making Employment Work.
 - Making Every Opportunity Count.
 - Supporting the next Generation to Thrive.
- What is being planned 2024 and beyond.

Drivers of Child Poverty

Evidence tells us that the three drivers of poverty are income from employment, cost of living, and income from social security and benefits in kind. The Scottish Government state that impacting these drivers will impact levels of child poverty, and a focus on them is strongly encouraged.

In this report, we have highlighted which driver each activity aims to address. As stated in the Local Child Poverty Action Report guidance, supporting families means taking a holistic approach; often activities carried out by partners and communities will influence more than one driver.

Image of the Drivers of Child Poverty



[Best Start, Bright Futures: tackling child poverty delivery plan 2022 to 2026 - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](http://www.gov.scot)

Strategic Connections

The Child Poverty Act came into force in February 2017, [Child Poverty Bill](#) to the Scottish Parliament, which sets out targets to reduce the number of children experiencing the effects of poverty by 2030.

The core principles of the Act are further strengthened by the:

- [Children and Young People \(Scotland\) Act](#)
- [Getting it Right for Every Child \(GIRFEC\)](#) Approach
- [Early Years Framework](#)
- [Commitment to Keeping The Promise](#)

They are all designed to ensure that children's interests and rights are placed at the centre of our policy considerations. In Aberdeenshire the Aberdeenshire Community Planning Partnership (CPP)

focuses on reducing socio-economic inequality, with strategies interlinked with the Children and Young People's Services Plan, the Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) 2017-2027, and the Child Poverty Action Plan. Coordinated across various sectors, including through 6 Local Learning Community Partnerships, this alignment indicates that the council is working collaboratively towards a more equitable society, demonstrating a comprehensive commitment to community welfare and child well-being.

The Children and Young People's Services Plan 2023-2026 in Aberdeenshire, with its five strategic priorities, reflects the council's proactive approach to addressing key areas. By focusing on mental health, support for children with additional needs, care experienced young people, whole family wellbeing, and safety in communities, the plan supports the creation of a supportive environment that fosters the wellbeing of children and young people.

Aberdeenshire's approach to planning and developing children's services is fundamentally rooted in a commitment to children's rights. This dedication becomes especially pertinent as the region anticipates the enforcement of the UNCRC Incorporation (Scotland) Bill. The strategy centres on amplifying opportunities for children and young people to claim their rights, enhancing rights awareness, and ensuring every decision reflects children's rights.

This commitment was clearly demonstrated during the consultation phase of the Children and Young People's Services Plan 2023-2026 with nearly 2,000 children, young people, and families in Aberdeenshire contributing to its development.

What we know – Child Poverty in Aberdeenshire

Aberdeenshire is one of Scotland's 14 rural authorities and is defined as 'mainly rural'. We are the fourth largest geographical local authority in Scotland. The economy of rural Scotland is both similar to, and tightly integrated with the economy of urban Scotland. However distinct differences, often related to distance and scarcity, remain between urban and rural economies. These differences may contribute to an even greater level of inequality particularly for low-income families. In Aberdeenshire families are living in poverty due to low wages, high living costs, lack of accessible affordable flexible childcare, affordable transport and the premium felt by those living in a remote and rural area.

Those who are not working overwhelmingly want to work, but face barriers to employment. Principally these are ill-health, transport, and childcare, but also caring responsibilities for family members. Parents worry about the impact poverty has on their children, particularly that they maybe stigmatised because of the circumstances in which they live. Young people report that they feel excluded, anxious and negatively targeted due to their families income which they feel needs to change.

Feeling stigmatised and the fear of being judged has resulted in families and young people not accessing services until they are at crisis point. which can result in reluctance to access support in future. Not all families living in poverty live in deprived areas however those that do have poorer

outcomes than their peers in more affluent areas. A number of children and young people experiencing poverty, with a level of unmet need will be living in these perceived affluent communities or rural or remote locations.

What the Data Says

Aberdeenshire witnessed an increase in relative child poverty from 7.6% to 12.1% between 2015 and 2022. Despite an increase in relative child poverty in Aberdeenshire between 2015 and 2022, the region remains below the Scottish average. This trend, mirroring wider UK developments, requires both local and national interventions. The Scottish Child Payment is a positive step, though its effectiveness may be hindered by external pressures such as rising living costs.

Aberdeenshire recorded approximately 5,888 children living in relative poverty, representing 12.1% of its child population, up from 7.6% in 2015. This stands in contrast with the wider Scottish rate, where 20.8% of children live in relative poverty, and increase on the 14.1% rate.

Fraserburgh and District reported the highest number of children in relative poverty in 2022, with 540 children. Peterhead North and Rattray followed closely with 532, and Peterhead South and Cruden had 418. These areas have the highest numbers of child poverty numbers in the context of the authority area. Understanding the root causes and implementing targeted interventions in these areas is vital for sustaining community resilience.

Home-Start North East Aberdeenshire

Home-Start NEA supports families with children under 5 in the areas with the highest levels of child poverty – Fraserburgh, Peterhead, Banff, Rattray and Cruden. Home-Start NEA secured funding which supported 68 families with food, money to reduce their energy bills or at least not increase their fuel debt, warm clothes and items such as slow cookers.

Case Studies

We were able to support a family with a contribution towards rent arrears. This is a two-parent household where both parents are in employment. They have a child with significant additional support needs. Due to the difficulties within the family home and the lack of sleep both parents are getting, Dad has had to take unpaid leave to support his own physical and mental health. As he has used all his annual leave, he is not entitled to any more paid support or leave. The family, because of the decreased income, are now struggling to cover rent costs as well as the other day to day financial obligations. We have been able to support by contributing towards their rent arrears which will reduce the stress the family are currently facing.

The heated blankets provided much more than physical warmth. One mum described how she had seen them online but couldn't afford to buy one and said now she has one it has provided an opportunity for her to snuggle with her children and they can read together and keep warm.

Every ward in Aberdeenshire saw a concerning rise in the number of children living in relative poverty between 2015 and 2022. All but one ward reported year-over-year increases in 2022, with Banchory and Mid Deeside being the exception.

The rising child poverty in Aberdeenshire and across the UK is a deeply complex issue requiring multifaceted solutions. There's no single cause or simple fix. Tackling this challenge requires a holistic

understanding of the economic, social, political, and cultural factors involved, and coordinated efforts from various stakeholders, including government, local authorities, community groups, and policymakers.

The data is only one aspect that is used to identify gaps and trends. Additional information gathered from those with lived experience highlights the complex nature of poverty and its effects on children, young people, and families, therefore those voices continue to inform services, policies and practice.

What Have We Done?

In Aberdeenshire our approach to tackling child poverty focusses on early intervention and prevention. Tackling the root causes of poverty and building families capabilities through income maximisation, employability and promoting positive life changes. A partnership approach is vital in ensuring opportunities and services are accessible and relevant. Preventative approaches to address children poverty ensuring they have a rural bias is a priority for Aberdeenshire.

This agenda is complex therefore streams of work have been developed to reduce inequalities and tackle child poverty. These areas of work are led through a range of partnership groups that are linked through the Tackling Poverty & Inequalities strategic partnership. The actions and outcomes of these work streams are highlighted within the Aberdeenshire Child Poverty Action Plan (The Action Plan).

The Action Plan was developed and informed by those priority families that have lived experience and the wider partners. The actions do reflect the rural challenges and are driven by the need to improve outcomes for priority families. This plan is being delivered by a strong partnership who are committed to collectively achieve outcomes that will reduce Child Poverty across Aberdeenshire. The most up to date version can be found in Appendix 2 of this report.

Making Employability Work

Universal Credit		
Single Parent Households	Families with 3+ Children	Disability Entitlement
811	4456	1232

Feb 2024

No One Left Behind (NOLB) is the Scottish Employability offer and comes through the auspices of Scottish Government and is administered through the Local Authority via the Local Employability partnership. Its aim is to deliver an employability system that tackles inequality in Scotland's labour market, creating a responsive and aligned approach that helps people of all ages who face the greatest barriers to progress towards, into and to sustain work. Within Aberdeenshire NOLB helps local people gain employment, training or education and works with those furthest from the labour market.

The Parental Employment Support Fund (PESF) sits under the NOLB umbrella, and this money is targeted specifically at Parents to help them gain employment, upskill, retrain or move into education to better their employment opportunities.

Six Characteristics of Parental Employment Support Fund:

- Unemployed or under employed Lone Parents.
- Unemployed or under employed parents with disabilities or children with disabilities.
- Unemployed or under employed Ethnic Minority Parents.
- Unemployed or under employed parents with 3 or more children.
- Unemployed or under employed parents aged under 25.
- Unemployed or under employed parents with the youngest child aged under 1.

Over 70% of children and young people living in poverty are within working households, with at least one adult in employment, many are in low-paid and insecure employment. Using the PESF the Employability Support Team have recruited 3 Employability Child Poverty Workers who support those who are under-employed, low-paid, on zero hours, requiring wraparound childcare to secure and sustain their employment through reducing barriers such as Childcare and transport. They also have delivered a range of initiatives including a mentoring scheme to increase the number of Childminders across Aberdeenshire especially in rural and remote areas.

This scheme has attracted an additional 30 people, mostly parents who now wish to explore becoming a Childminder. A fund is being developed that will cover the set-up costs and the transition into self-employment for those interested in this career path. Experienced Childminders will be recruited to act as mentors to ensure the sector grows-to meet the needs of those in rural and remote areas.

Over the past 12 months the Employability partners have supported 318 parents to secure and sustain their employment. Outcomes achieved by the partnership include -184 clients entering employment, 7 entering self-employment, 1 entering a Modern Apprenticeship, 34 into Volunteering, 29 into accredited training and 36 into Further or Higher Education.

Case Study

M hadn't worked for over nine years as she had been raising her family. Her previous role was specific to the area she lived in at the time and there isn't demand for this role in Garioch. M had only worked in that one job and felt she didn't have experience to do any other job. We discussed her interests and what she would like to do for work and found that she had plenty of transferable skills.

M felt she would be well suited to a methodical, practical role and was looking for part-time work. She doesn't drive and wanted a job in her town, as it needed to fit in around her children and her partner's work hours. I found a vacancy as a Cleaner which offered flexible hours. The location was ideal as M could walk there from her house, meaning she wasn't reliant on public transport or lifts.

M didn't have much experience of applying for jobs, so I supported her with this. We had already created a CV and I suggested that we contact the employer to find out further information about the role and get a contact to send the application to. I contacted the employer and then discussed the role further with M. She felt that the role would be suitable, although she was apprehensive. I supported her to create a cover letter to send along with her CV. We discussed the role, researched the company, and practised some interview questions and answers in case she was invited for interview. Within days she had been invited for an interview and offered the role.

M is getting on well in the job and the part-time hours and flexibility suit her current circumstances.

Childcare

One of the biggest barriers facing low-income families, especially lone parents is the lack of affordable, accessible childcare that meets the needs of working parents. The Tackling Poverty & Inequalities strategic Partnership commissioned a piece of research - **Provision of Rural Childcare Research and Model Review for Aberdeenshire**. <https://www.ouraberdeenshire.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/TPI-ekosgen-Provision-of-Rural-Childcare-Research-and-Model-Review-Report-30-01-2024.pdf>

The research engaged with parents, schools and the sector to identify what already existed, the gaps, barriers for working parents and future needs. It also highlighted good practice from other areas of Scotland and beyond so lessons could be learned when developing a model that would be effective in a large rural area.

The recommendations of the research highlighted the need for the supporting and increasing the workforce, sector development to include flexible wrap around care suitable for children with additional support needs, integration of policy and strategies around this sector at a local and national level, integrate resources around this sector and increase awareness of what already exists including breakfast clubs and after school activities.

This report is being used to develop a Childcare framework which will outline options, resources and financial support for parents. The Childminders initiative has already attracted a number of lone parents who are interested in developing this as an employment option.

Making Every Opportunity Count

Rising Cost of Living

The rising cost of living continues to effect low income families as the price of food, fuel and housing costs continue to rise especially in those rural communities that do not have access to good quality affordable food or have housing off the grid.

The data states that 15.9% families reported there is a child or adult within the household that has a disability, long-term physical or mental health issue. These households face heightened living costs especially around energy bills as a number of families can not reduce their energy consumption as there is life giving equipment that requires to be on. A high level of lived experience panel members have caring responsibilities for children who have complex needs or a disability and raised this issue and suggested a winter challenge fund to be set up for those organisations that support these families and an energy challenge fund that supports those households off the grid.

PAMIS – Promoting A More Inclusive Society

PAMIS ensures families and those who care for people with Profound and Multiple Learning Disabilities (PMLD) gain an understanding of the importance of good postural care and its impact on their health and mortality of their relative. Across Aberdeenshire PAMIS supports 75 families not

only with ongoing support but opportunities to develop skills and knowledge and facilitate safe social spaces to allow children and young people to thrive. They have also developed resources and delivered training events to increase capacity and understanding of the barriers faced by those children, young people and their families. One example is –

Access to Information to Reduce Health Inequalities: Through partnership working with NHS Grampian, PAMIS has facilitated access to tailored advice services for people with learning disabilities to ensure that people with PMLD and their family carers feel supported to access their appointments and they have a clear line of support in asking for the needed advice. A Question & Answer session around hospital appointments which took place on 12 March 2024. This session was fully booked which highlights the needs and concerns of these families. 17 families reported that this was a positive session with direct access to NHS staff who not only answered their questions but made them felt heard.

Some things PAMIS learned in 2023:

- Families really love getting outdoors together to explore their communities.
- It is important to families that their needs be considered before they go unmet.
- Families depend on third sector services to stay up to date with information.
- Rainy day pony rides are often a sensory joy!
- Family carers wish there was more understanding about their needs in service design and delivery.
- Health inequalities are an impactful of them on family dynamics, finances, employment and mental. health.
- Connecting with the community to learn and share knowledge is a key step to relationship building and signposting.
- “It’s hard to know where to look to find [the answer] but I know I can always reach out to PAMIS.”

Overall Outcomes from PAMIS can be found in Appendix 4

Specialist Pathways- Access to First Stage Formula Pathway

Over the last 2 years the number of parents presenting themselves at foodbanks asking for 1st stage baby milk has increased. Given this trend a targeted pathway was developed in partnership with NHS Grampian, foodbanks, and the Tackling Poverty & Inequalities Money Advice Welfare Rights Team. A number of welfare rights staff were already based within or linked to GP practices which gave them the opportunity to develop positive relationships with local Health Visitors and Community Midwives however those with lived experience highlighted that not all parents would engage with the council or health professionals for support as there was a fear of being judged as an unfit parent therefore any pathway had to include community partners and use inclusive language to reduce the stigma.

To increase confidence and knowledge a range of tools including crib sheets, process maps and training sessions were delivered to front line staff and volunteers. One of the tools used was the Worried About Money leaflet that staff and volunteers used to start that difficult conversation around finances. The pathway used a cash first approach and was implemented across Aberdeenshire then the other local authorities in Grampian.

In 2023 the process and tools used to develop the pathway was shared at a national level and used to develop national guidance for this area. In 2023, 8 families were referred into the pathway by health professionals all required additional financial support due to a delay in receiving child payments or benefits. All of the families were given funding to cover food, baby milk, electricity and essential items until their benefits were put in place. None have required any additional financial support.

Case Study

Referral was received from the Nursery School Health Visitor. Following a discussion with the parent it came to light that they did not have enough formula for their baby and had no funds to purchase more. Health Visitor contacted the Money Advice & Welfare Rights Officer attached to the Peterhead Medical Practice.

The client was a lone parent of 4 children. 10 year old, 7 year old, 3 year old & a baby boy.

As soon as the referral was received, the Money Advice & Welfare Rights Officer telephoned the parent, which was within a few hours.

It was confirmed during the phone call that the parent was in receipt of Child Benefit and Scottish Child Payment for all of their children. They also received Universal Credit however the parent was subjected to the benefit cap.

Benefit Check - Advice Given

Full benefit check was carried out to make sure that the parent was claiming everything they are entitled to. A Paypoint voucher be sent to the parent for £100.00, to allow them to get formula and to buy some food for the other children as well.

The £100.00 was successfully texted to the client. The client was contacted to make sure she had received the money.

Next Steps

Advised the client that as there is no ongoing work to be done, as they are in receipt of all benefits they are entitled to. The issue was the delay in receiving the benefit. The referral was closed, but they were told if they required any further assistance in the future to call to make an appointment.

Supporting the Next Generation to Thrive.

Aberdeenshire Youth Rights Committee (AYRC)

Aberdeenshire is committed to empowering local people including young people to have a voice which informs practice and encourages coproduction of services. Using a rights base approach AYRC has developed as a youth led group that represents young people across Aberdeenshire. The group explore issues that affect them and the co-produce tools and sessions that will benefit all young people. They have developed a Poverty & Inequalities workshop that has been delivered to 11 youth groups and events. They believe that through these awareness sessions generational change will happen and the stigma that they young people feel will be reduced.

Aberdeenshire Youth Rights Committee secured funding which they allocated to youth led groups that met at least one of the following priorities –

1. To empower young people of Aberdeenshire to have a voice in their community.
2. To improve mental and/or physical health in young people.
3. Put on free activities for the young people – Indoors or Outdoors. Day trips, life skill workshops, escape days, adventure activities etc.
4. To help young people express their creative side. E.g. arts & crafts, music, gardening, dancing.

The young people agreed to fund 16 projects, the total investment in 2023/24 was £12,768.20 to increase free activities. These projects benefited 478 young people across Aberdeenshire. The remainder of the funding is to be used to deliver a range of youth led events in 2024. These events will look at transport, cost of the school day, impact of stigma and the actions which can be taken at a local, shire and national level.

The Local Voices Forum agreed that they would fund projects that would deliver free activities and improve the health & wellbeing of children, young people, families, and the wider community. The wellbeing fund allocated £12,698 to 13 community-based groups which will support 444 children/young people, 135 families and 88 individuals.

The Youth Poverty Engagement Workers have supported 311 young people to have a voice and develop a range of opportunities. In 2024 they are focusing on increasing free activities for all young people, addressing stigma and reducing the cost of the school day.

Outcomes Achieved in 2023/24

The Aberdeenshire Employability Partnership have supported **318** parents to secure and sustain their employment.

There are a number of workstreams that support low-income households to reduce housing costs. These are support with food, fuel, wellbeing funds and Information & Advice services. The number of families supported to reduce their housing costs is **12,704** with a client financial gain of £.

Through specialist pathways **1193** clients and their families have been supported to secure additional financial support.

4737 children and young people being supported through the financial support available to families across Aberdeenshire.

401 local voices have been involved in over **15** developments including focusing on transport, reducing the need for foodbanks, reducing stigma and developing tools, training and policies for a range of partners including NHS Grampian who are developing their own engagement and participation strategy.

Priorities for 2024/25

Co-production of Policies with Lived Experience: There is a growing emphasis on the co-production of policies, services, and opportunities. Engaging with individuals who have firsthand experience of poverty ensures that policies are not just theoretically sound but practically effective and grounded in real-world challenges. A framework of participation is being developed with those local experts. A

number of new panels will be developed to support and develop the work around the Rural Poverty Premium and the Cash First Project.

Enhanced Access in Rural and Remote Areas: Aberdeenshire's diverse geography means that some residents live in rural and remote areas. Improving their access to services is critical to ensure that these services are not only reflective of local needs but are also inclusive, leaving no family unsupported. To reduce barriers for these communities and increase accessibility the recommendations from the Transport Report [Aberdeenshire-Transport-May-23-Jan-24-Final.pdf](#) ([ouraberdeenshire.org.uk](#)) and the Rural Childcare model will be actioned through the Tackling Poverty & Inequalities Strategic group and the wider partnership it represents.

Responsive Services: Improving the use of data will ensure that services and opportunities are targeting those families from communities least heard. Data driven services will also reduce the crisis interventions as families would be accessing information & support at an earlier stage.

Addressing Stigma: The feedback from the local experts has identified that the reason they do not seek advice and support at an early stage is they fear being judged for being a bad parent, not being able to feed and care for their children due to them having a low income. Stigma training and tools will be developed with partners, young people and families ensuring services become inclusive and non-stigmatising.

“Poverty is not a choice it is a change in circumstance which you can’t control or plan for”.
- Local Parent.

“The word poverty stinks we need to be there for everyone no judgment” – Young Person.

Appendix 2 – Child Poverty Action Plan

Action	Performance Measure	Key Driver	Progress	Lead
<p>Develop and deliver a range of employability programmes that supports those within priority families.</p>	<p>The number of priority families supported into employment.</p> <p>The number of priority families supported to enhance their employability.</p>	<p>Increase income from employment.</p>	<p>Parent CONNECT funded programmes commenced September 2023.</p> <p>Parent CONNECT consists of Employment Support Team Key Workers, Enable Works offering supported employment for Parents with disabilities or parents with disabled children. Aberdeen Foyer providing Wellbeing and Financial Inclusion support, Volunteering Matters offering Parent Mentoring, Robert Gordon’s University delivering the Women into Business programme to encourage parents to explore avenues for self-employment.</p>	<p>Aberdeenshire Employability Partnership.</p> <p>https://employmentconnect.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Aberdeenshire-LEP-3-Year-Plan-Overview-002.pdf</p>
<p>Recruit Child Poverty Employability workers who will use a place-based approach to identify and address barriers to securing or sustaining work. The workers will support families through developing positive relationships to address barriers such as transport, affordable childcare or digital access</p>	<p>The number of priority families supported through integrated flexible pathways.</p> <p>The number of working parents supported to reduce the cost of childcare and transport.</p> <p>The number of parents from the</p>	<p>Increase income from employment</p>	<p>3 members of staff recruited, 2 in August and 1 in November 2023.</p> <p>Established strong networking connections with both internal and external services.</p> <p>Conducted introductory meetings and community engagement with targeted marginalized communities to identify and address barriers families are currently facing, ensuring they are highlighted and offered solutions. Building strong connections with parent groups, childcare establishments, community councils and 3rd sector organisations.</p> <p>Researched the childcare sector and consolidated valuable data from existing</p>	<p>Aberdeenshire Employment Support Team</p>

Appendix 2 – Child Poverty Action Plan

Action	Performance Measure	Key Driver	Progress	Lead
	priority groups that secure or sustain		<p>resources and materials, centralizing them into accessible documents.</p> <p>Collaborating and communicating effectively with the wider Employment Support Team to provide a joined-up approach, maintain consistency and provide support for parents.</p> <p>Developed and piloted ideas and proposals with Employability partners, Early Years Establishments and Parent Groups.</p>	
Provide appropriate support to address in-work poverty by targeting support to help parents already in jobs to remain active in the workplace through accessing the Parental Support Fund, Tax Free Childcare and gain skills or additional qualifications which supports Career progression.	<p>The number of parents from priority families, who are in work, to enhance their skills or supported through career progression.</p> <p>The number of families accessing the Parental Support Fund to support them to stay in work.</p>	Increase income from employment	<p>Parent CONNECT programmes are also available to parents who are underemployed they can access the support through any of the programmes.</p> <p>Using the PESF funding underemployed parents can access funding for training, and upskilling. PESF has also been utilised to pay for emergency childcare costs to enable parents to remain in employment.</p> <p>Promoting the 'Worrying about Money leaflet' within local communities.</p> <p>Highlighting and promoting the 'Employment Connect Grant Programme' and 'Parent Connect'</p>	Aberdeenshire Employability Partnership.

Appendix 2 – Child Poverty Action Plan

Action	Performance Measure	Key Driver	Progress	Lead
			<p>to offering a package of tailored support to eligible parents within the six criteria groups.</p> <p>Promoting and organising 6 Area information sessions with parents to highlight the support available and how to access it.</p>	
<p>Develop a partnership with local employers to increase the number of local businesses who are Living Wage employers.</p>	<p>The number of employers that have been engaged with to support them to become a living wage employer.</p> <p>The number of Living Wage employers who operate within Aberdeenshire</p>	<p>Increase income from employment</p>	<p>There are 81 accredited Living Wage employers in the Aberdeenshire area as at 22nd March 2024</p>	<p>Aberdeenshire Employability Partnership. Procurement.</p>
<p>Encourage all businesses that are delivering services which have been procured by Aberdeenshire's Community Planning Partners to be living wage</p>	<p>The number of employability opportunities delivered through procured services</p>	<p>Increase income from employment</p>	<p>Through procurement 171 employers are paying their staff the living wage this is an increase of 23% from previous years. 01 July 2023: All employed staff, including apprentices and any other workers engaged in delivering the grant-funded activity must be paid at least the real</p>	<p>Aberdeenshire Community Planning Board. Procurement</p>

Appendix 2 – Child Poverty Action Plan

Action	Performance Measure	Key Driver	Progress	Lead
employers with a diverse workforce which has no gender pay gap			Living Wage. Aberdeenshire Council gained accredited status in October 2023 https://online.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/apps/news/release.aspx?newsid=9176#:~:text=Aberdeenshire%20Council%20has%20been%20accredited,at%20%C2%A310.42%20per%20hour.	

DRAFT

Appendix 3 – Child Poverty Action Plan

The below actions are aligned to Our Plan for the Future: People

Priority area: Children

What do we want to see ten years from now

- Young people enter adulthood with the capabilities and support to maximise mental health and wellbeing.
- All children facing adverse childhood events (ACEs) in their lives are supported by a joined up multi-agency approach from us and our partners.
- The inequalities gap between Care Experienced and non-Care Experienced young people is reduced.
- The outcomes for those children living in areas of deprivation are similar to those living in areas of affluence (beyond clinical outcomes).
- Families living in poverty are supported to thrive.
- Tackle intergenerational propagation of substance use and related illnesses (such as FASD – very underdiagnosed)

Action	What we need to do to deliver our action in Year 1?	Responsibility	Timescales	Measures and Evidence
Deliver on the child poverty plan	Deliver against year 1 actions within the Child Poverty Action Plan	Action Leads	March 2024 (See specific timescales to actions within linked report)	<i>Child Poverty Action Plan</i>
	Complete evaluation of income maximisation work in children services and use learning to upscale in other areas	Tracy Davis Child Health Commissioner	March 2023	Evaluation complete
	Develop clear actions for expansion of early years financial inclusion pathway based on recommendations from local research.	Tracy Davis Child Health Commissioner	March 2023	Action plan agreed

Objective:

The household income of 80% of families with children who access health services and are experiencing financial hardship is maximised by 2024.

Actions:

We will promote opportunities for financial support across all health settings.

- 1.1 Identify a mechanism to provide staff with up-to-date information and regular training updates on benefit entitlement changes
- 1.2 Ensure that all professionals have easy access to a benefits calculator
- 1.3 Facilitate at least one whole system learning event per year with a focus on poverty/ financial inclusion

Every opportunity is being taken to ensure that families are in receipt of their full social security entitlement.

- 2.1 Evidence of need from: 'Midwives, health visitors, family nurse practitioners and women's experience of NHS Grampian's Financial Inclusion Pathway in practice: A qualitative investigation of early implementation and impact.
- 2.2 Evaluated engagement activity with mothers and carers.

Progress:

- 1.1 The Financial Inclusion Teams (FIT) within each of our partnerships maintain financial inclusion and benefits information on their corporate websites. NHS Grampian staff are signposted to these website as relevant to their locality. Learning and training opportunities (local and national) for staff have been scoped and collated. The next phase of this work is to form a SLWG to develop a 'knowledge and skills' type framework to these learning opportunities.
- 1.2 The websites referred to above all have links to benefits calculators. FIT's are available to offer advice and support to professionals.
- 1.3 Not achieved (yet) although work to implement The Promise includes a particular focus on poverty. Children's Services Plans are framed around The Promise and as such present a useful vehicle for keeping poverty/financial inclusion current and relevant across multiple forums.
- 2.1 The Early Years Financial Inclusion (FIP) and Infant Feeding in a Crisis (IFIC) pathways are being delivered in full across Grampian. This includes agreement with partners to provide data which will enable us to understand how many families have been supported and how much household income has increased in monetary terms.

The research presented widely both locally and nationally. The experience and stories of families through participation in the research project has informed planning for further scale up. An application was made to the Child Poverty Accelerator Fund in 2023 to provide capacity to enable us to roll out the Financial Inclusion Pathway across Public Dental Services. Unfortunately the application was unsuccessful so we are

exploring how we can scale up this work within existing capacity.

The Social Determinants questionnaire is being routinely used within Tier 3 Child Healthy Weight services. (I've a meeting with Kerstin next week to understand findings etc)

- 2.2 While we have not evaluated our engagement activity there has been some engagement work undertaken over the last year that informs planning and support for families living in poverty. In addition to the research referred to above there has been:
 - I. Case studies of families referred for support through the Income Maximisation pathway
 - II. Lived experience of families who have a child who is neurodiverse or regularly dysregulating
 - III. Lived experience of birth parents who have had a child permanently removed from their care

Objective:

The opportunities for families to access advice and support in relation to financial support that they can have had confidence in by 60% by 2024.

Actions:

Our workforce will be well equipped to offer support and/or referral to families.

- 1.1 Staff will receive an ongoing programme of training and support.
- 1.2 Run a pilot training programme of poverty awareness/ poverty sensitive practice for staff to test its usefulness and impact on confidence and practice.
- 1.3 The appropriate strategic group/ governance structure will be identified to ensure this work is delivered to a high standard and supported by the organisation.
- 1.4 The network between healthcare professionals, relevant third sector stakeholders and welfare rights officers will be enabled and encouraged in order to enhance local knowledge and understanding about income maximisation and services and supports.
- 1.5 The language and definitions used to describe financial services and supports will be harmonised in order to facilitate appropriate referral
- 1.6 A centralised digital resource will be developed and maintained, that is accessible for all staff and personalised to the three local authorities

Progress:

- 1.1 Training and support offers are available through partnership networks. In addition to this, the SLWG referred to above will consider the promotion of learning and training to the workforce, alongside the development of a knowledge and skills framework. Links have been made with the We Care team to explore further opportunities to support our workforce, both in being well prepared to

- support families but also in regard to their own financial health. Next meeting Wednesday 24th of January.
- 1.2 This is delayed to allow the completion of a knowledge and skills framework. The intention is to identify a test cohort within the workforce, to develop a simple survey which will capture pre-learning/training confidence and post learning/training confidence.
 - 1.3 The Child Poverty Action Plan sits within the wider NHS Grampian Health Inequalities Action Plan and is delivered through the Children's Board. Governance is through the Population Health Portfolio Board and Committee. The statutory requirements within the Child Poverty (Scotland) Act (2017) require us to prepare joint plans with our local authority partners. These sit within Children's Services Plans and governance is through the respective Children's Services Partnership Boards.
 - 1.4 The FIP and Infant Feeding in a Crisis pathways provide the basis for this work with networks and relationships having developed as the pathways have become more established. Learning from this will inform other opportunities for broadening networks and routes of communication.
 - 1.5 This is consistent across our plans and resources.
 - 1.6 Beyond the partnership websites this has not progressed. The usefulness given what already exists is no longer clear.

Objective:

90% of families asked, will report confidence in discussing financial issues with health professionals as a result of the normalisation of financial enquiry by 2024.

Actions:

Families will not feel stigmatised when raising financial concerns or seeking support.

- 1.1. Motivational interviewing and 'Having Effective Conversations' training will be offered to staff as part of a rolling programme of training
- 1.2. Review the type of training that may be included in such a programme to determine its suitability to deal with the complex issues and barriers that inhibit routine enquiry about financial challenges, e.g. perceived and actual risks of exacerbating partner violence, financial control and coercion, and parental concerns about triggering Child Protection concerns
- 1.3. Establish appropriate messaging to help de-stigmatise the notion of claiming benefits, or of seeking financial help, amongst young parents

Progress:

- 1.1 MEOC continues to be promoted widely. Recent conversation with Integrated Families Portfolio highlighted a need to understand what MEOC

looks like/or could look like within an acute setting. This will be taken forward.

The above training is included within the scoped learning/training offer to staff.

- 1.2 Partnership resources and pathways have been informed by lived experience and developed in collaboration with families, therefore we know that the language used and approach taken is acceptable to families experiencing poverty.

DRAFT

Local authority level data on child poverty and its drivers

Background

The Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017 sets out four high-level targets to tackle child poverty by 2030. In order to demonstrate how it is meeting these targets, the Scottish Government is required to produce a series of delivery plans and annual progress reports, describing the measures taken and how they contribute toward meeting the child poverty targets. Throughout the period to 2030, there will be three delivery plans. The first delivery plan *Every Child, Every Chance* covers the period 2018-2022.

The Act also introduces a requirement for local authorities and each relevant health board to jointly prepare a Local Child Poverty Action Report, as soon as practicable after the end of each reporting year.

Local data vs. national data

The *Every Child, Every Chance* delivery plan sets out the three key elements of the approach to monitoring and evaluating progress at the national level:

1. Monitoring child poverty - using data from the Family Resources Survey and Understanding Society, which provide statistics at national (Scotland) level only
2. Monitoring the drivers of child poverty - using data from the Child Poverty Measurement Framework
3. Assessing the impact of policies and external factors on poverty and its drivers

This dashboard provides data to help local partners monitor child poverty and its drivers at local authority level. It does not provide guidance on assessing the impact of policies and external factors on poverty and its drivers.

How to use the dashboard

This dashboard contains a selection of indicators available at local authority level. These indicators do not measure child poverty directly in the same way as the indicators used for the national targets, but they can be used to understand the local context and how that might be changing. The indicators chosen also provide some evidence on drivers of child poverty, along with information on the groups of people that are more at risk of experiencing child poverty.

These indicators are grouped into three sections:

Headlines - this sheet contains data that should assist with local monitoring of child poverty. Statistics from DWP/ HMRC 'children in low income families' have been identified as a headline indicator, because they are based on a robust source and available as time series. In addition, child poverty estimates published by the End Child Poverty Coalition are reported here. The DWP/ HMRC and End Child Poverty data are also available at sub-local authority level on their relevant websites. 'Proportions of households managing well financially' from the Scottish Household Survey are also reported in this section, as this measure can be seen as a proxy of financial resilience of households.

Select the local authorities from the drop-down menu on this sheet, and the selection will feed through to the other sheets.

Drivers – this sheet contains a selection of indicators of child poverty drivers (i.e. income from employment, income from social security and cost of living). The indicators selected do not provide a comprehensive and complete list of factors that drive child poverty, but may help with an overall understanding of the context.

People – this sheet contains indicators on groups of people who may be more at risk of experiencing child poverty. As above, the indicators selected do not cover all the priority groups as identified in *Every Child, Every Chance*, as there is limited routinely produced local statistics for all the groups. Regardless of data availability for each of these groups, it is important to have an understanding on who these groups are for services development, in terms of needs assessment and Equality Impact Assessment (Note: the priority groups are children living in lone parent households, households with 3 or more children, households with a disabled adult or child, minority ethnic households, households where the youngest child is aged under a year, households with a mother aged under 25).

Data sources – this sheet contains information on the data sources for the indicators used, along with information on the reasons for using such indicators, links to the relevant publications and guidance on how to access the specific data needed.

Underlying data for tables and charts are in hidden spreadsheets which can be unhidden if required.

However, users are advised to refer to the most recently published source data when reporting actual figures as data will be periodically updated and possibly revised.

The indicators are presented as a mix of charts and tables. Charts are useful to present time series in order to understand how the indicators vary over time and to provide a meaningful context for the latest data. Tables are used to provide a quick, visual illustration of the latest local authority figures against Scotland for indicators that tend to change only marginally over time. In the tables cells are colour-coded to show when the local figure is better than the national average (green) or worse (red).

This dashboard can be used to facilitate discussion among local partners around local needs and actions to address these and does not aim to provide a comprehensive picture of the issue of child poverty locally. Other relevant information will be available to local authorities and health boards through local sources, including research and operational information on service delivery.

Other useful resources

There are many sources that provide local-level statistics. These include:

Scottish Government Open Data platform: <https://statistics.gov.scot/home>

Scottish Government Scottish Household Survey local authority tables: <https://scotland.shinyapps.io/sg-scottish-household-survey-data-explorer/>

Scottish Government School Education Interactive Dashboards: <https://www.gov.scot/collections/school-education-statistics/>

ISD Scotland/NHS Health Scotland Scottish Public Health Observatory profiles: <https://www.scotpho.org.uk/comparative-health/profiles/online-profiles-tool>

Improvement Service Community Planning Outcomes profiles: <http://www.improvementservice.org.uk/community-planning-outcomes-profile.html>

ONS Nomis data platform: <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/>

DWP Stat-Xplore data platform: <https://stat-xplore.dwp.gov.uk/webapi/jsf/login.xhtml>

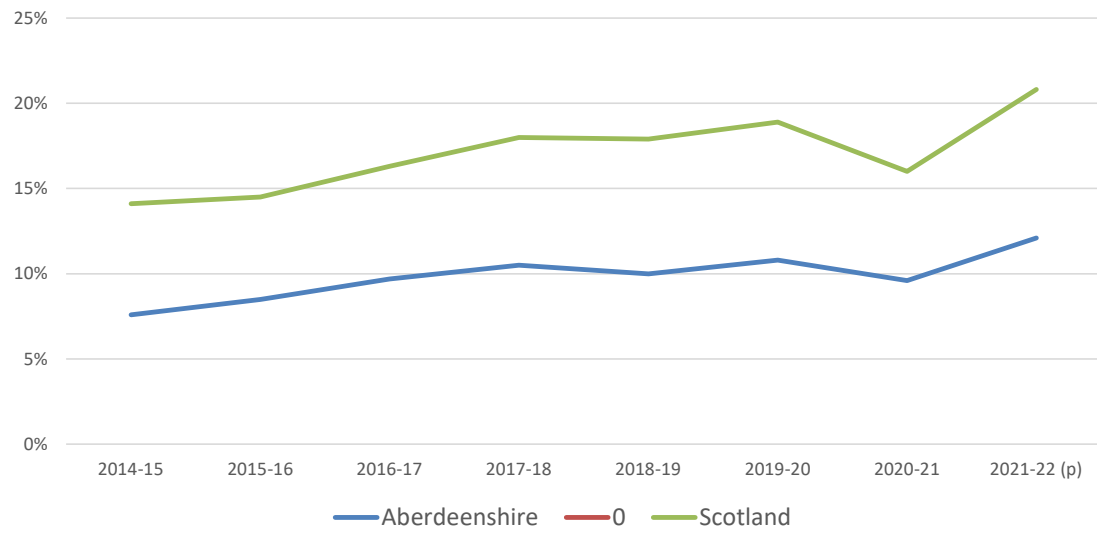
If you have any questions or comments about this resource, please contact Elizabeth Fraser (elizabeth.fraser@gov.scot)

Local authority level data on child poverty - Headlines

Local authority
 Use this drop-down menu to select your local authority of interest **Aberdeenshire**
 Use this drop-down menu to select a second local authority for comparison

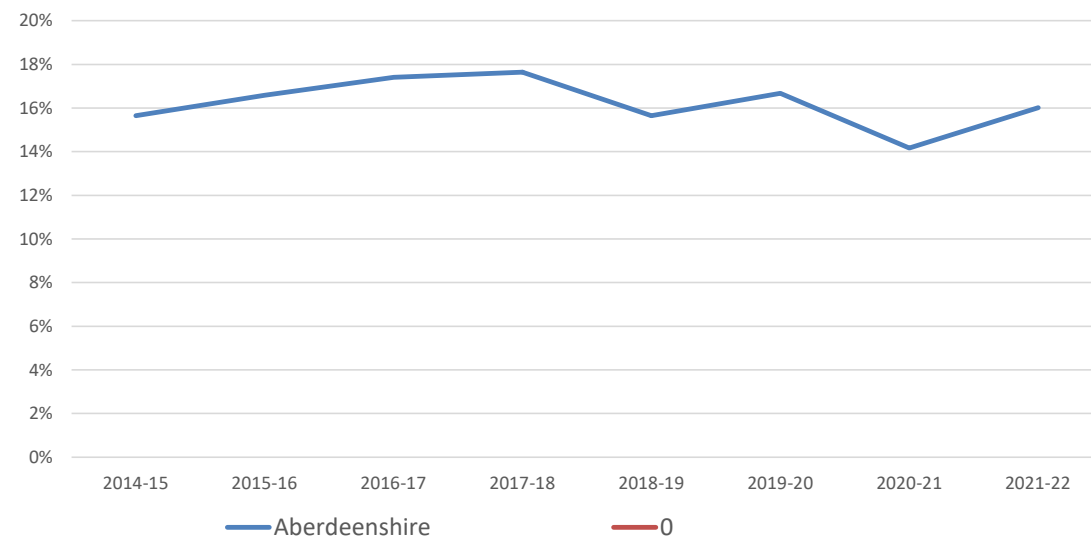
This sheet contains indicators that can be used as 'proxy' measures of child poverty locally

% Children in low-income families



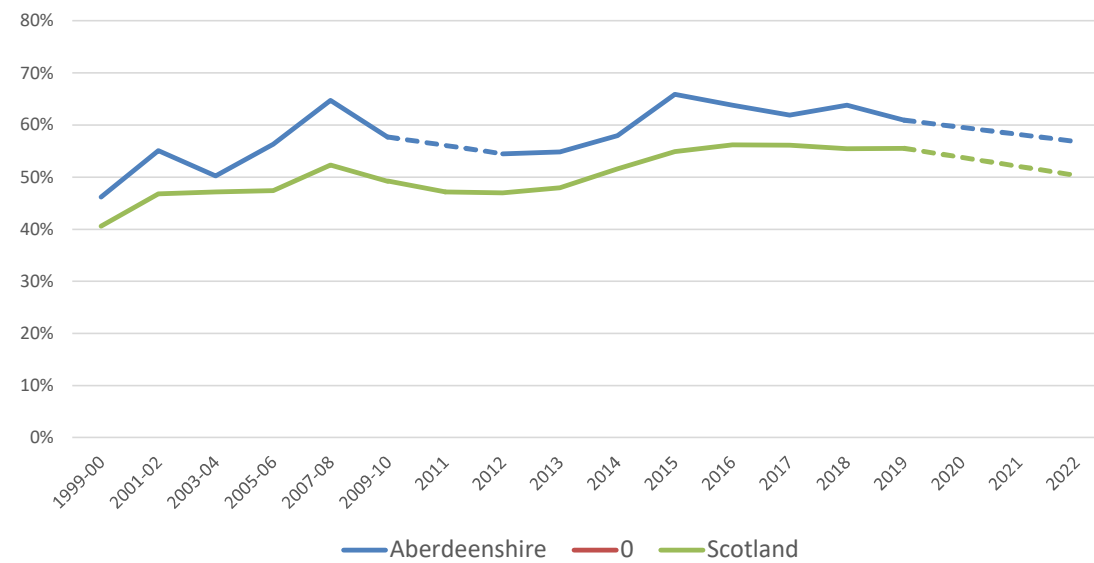
Source : DWP/HMRC children in low-income families local measure (Relative poverty before housing costs)
[Click here for more info](#)

Child poverty estimates (% after housing costs)



Source : End Child Poverty Coalition child poverty estimates (after housing costs)
[Click here for more info](#)

% Households managing well financially



Source : Scottish Government, Scottish Household Survey - Adults dataset
[Click here for more info](#)

Local authority level data on child poverty - Drivers

Local authority

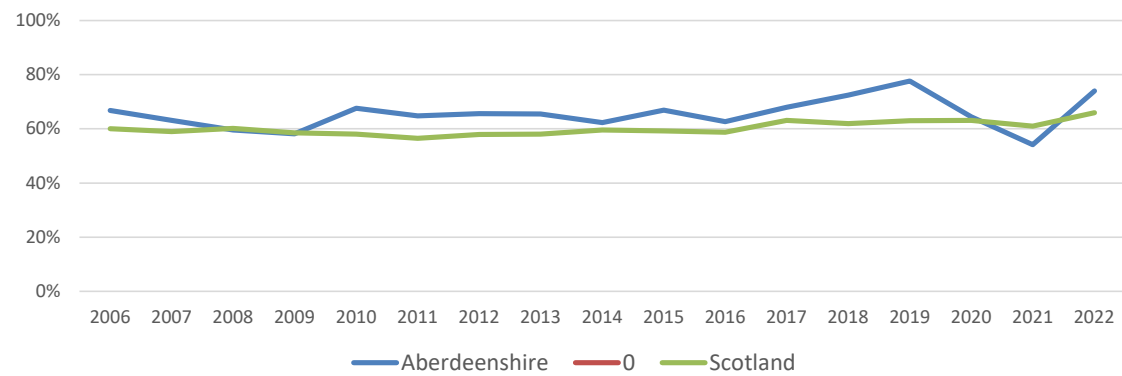
Aberdeenshire

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This sheet contains a selection of indicators of child poverty drivers. These do not provide a comprehensive list of factors that drive child poverty, but may help with an overall understanding of the context

Work & earnings

% Children in working households

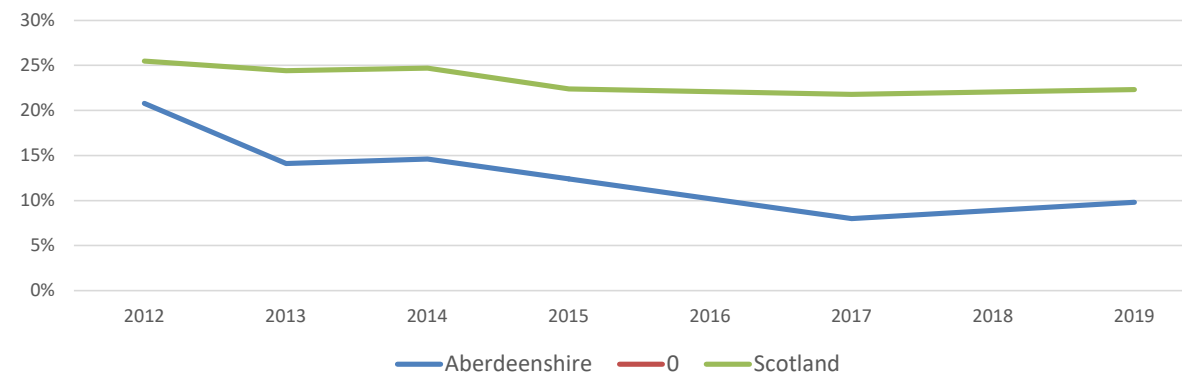


Source : ONS Annual Population Survey, household economic activity status

[Click here for more info](#)

Cost of living

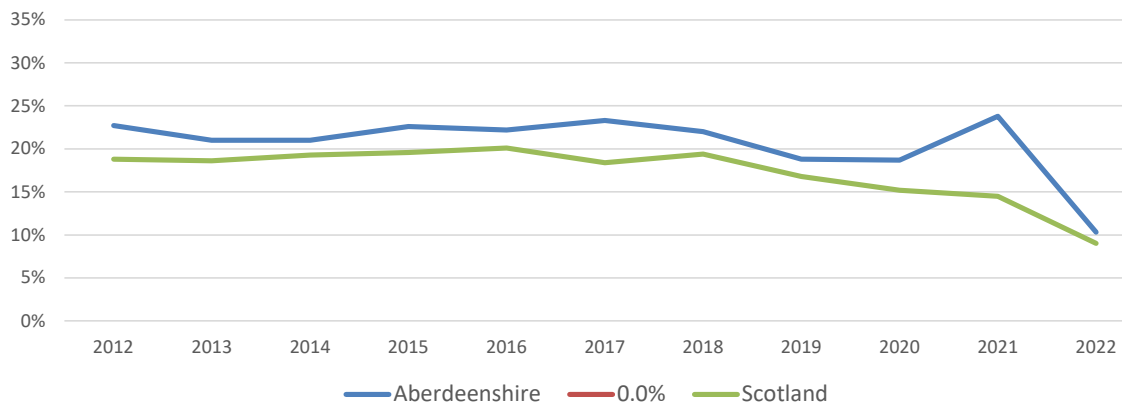
% Adults with no savings



Source : Scottish Government, Scottish Household Survey - Adults dataset

[Click here for more info](#)

% Employees (18+) earning less than the living wage



Source : ONS Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings

Data are not available for some areas and years due to small sample sizes.

[Click here for more info](#)

Additional context

Employment in 'lower paid' occupations

(% of all in employment)

Aberdeenshire	0	Scotland
19%	#N/A	27%

Source : ONS Annual Population Survey, year to Jun 2023

[Click here for more info](#)

Median full-time gross weekly earnings

Aberdeenshire	0	Scotland
£709	#N/A	£622
£640	#N/A	£622

Resident analysis

Workplace analysis

Source : ONS Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, 2022 data

Underemployment of 16+ population (%)



Local authority level data on child poverty - People

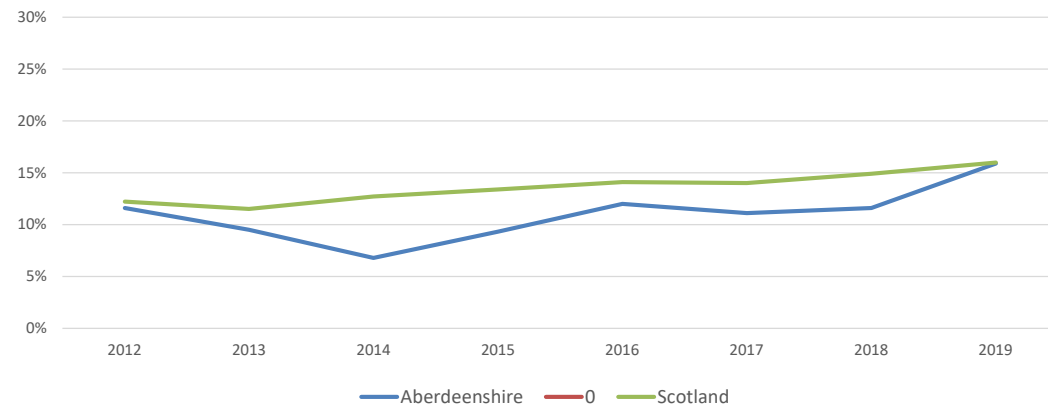
Local authority

Aberdeenshire

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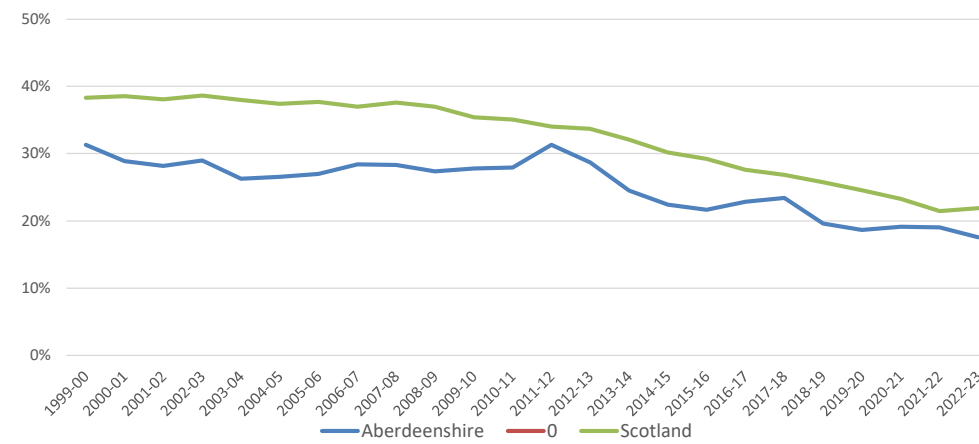
This sheet provides context on the priority groups identified in 'Every Child, Every Chance' and profile information on child population.

% Adults reporting a limiting long-term physical or mental health problem - households with children



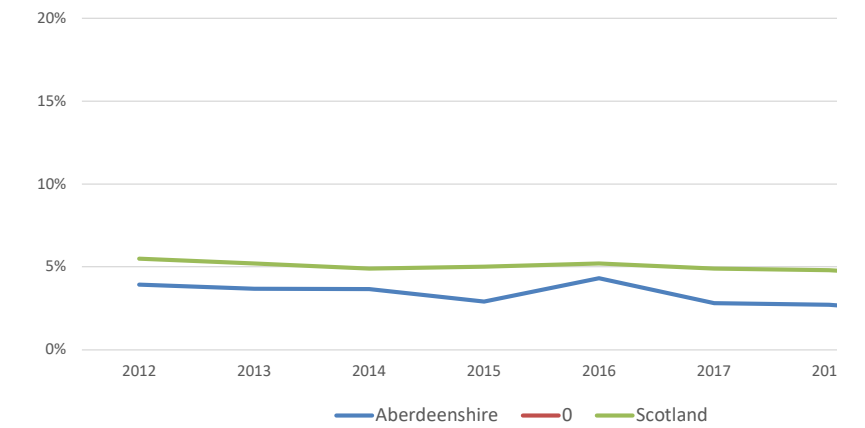
Source : Scottish Government, Scottish Surveys Core Questions
[Click here for more info](#)

% First time mothers under 25



Source : Public Health Scotland, Scottish Morbidity Record 02
[Click here for more info](#)

% Single parent households



Source : Scottish Government, Scottish Surveys Core Questions
[Click here for more info](#)

Non-white minority ethnic - % of total population

	Aberdeenshire	0	Scotland
Non-white minority ethnic group	1%	#N/A	5%

Source : Scottish Government, Scottish Survey Core Questions 2019

* Figure missing due to small sample size

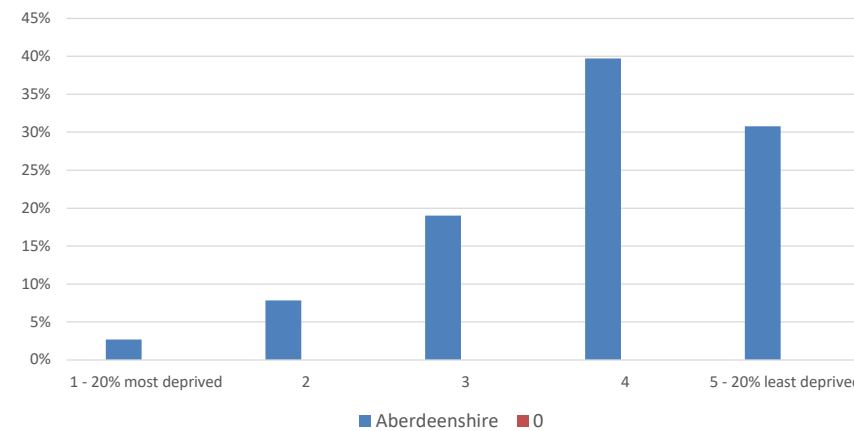
[Click here for more info](#)

Children under 16 - Population estimates

	Aberdeenshire	0	Scotland
Children under 16 - population estimates	48,578	#N/A	916,783
Children under 16 as % of total population	18.5%	#N/A	16.8%

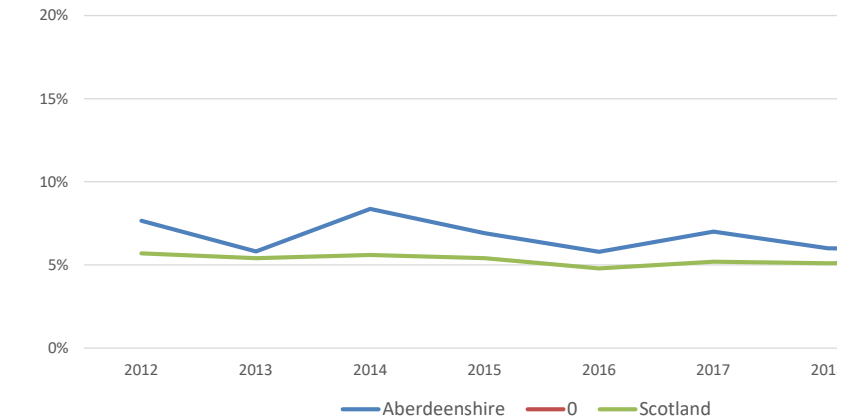
Source : National Records of Scotland, mid-2021 population estimates

% Children under 16 by SIMD 2020 quintile



Source : National Records of Scotland, 2021 small area population estimates and Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation

% Large family households



Source : Scottish Government, Scottish Surveys Core Questions

Local authority level data on child poverty - Notes & data sources

	Indicator	Notes	How this indicator relates to child poverty and its drivers	Link to source	How to access the specific data needed	Updating frequency	Indicative month of update
Headlines Proxy measures on local child poverty	DWP/HMRC - Children in low-income families	Proportions of children under 16 living in families either in receipt of out-of-work (means-tested) benefits or in receipt of tax credits where their reported income is less than 60 per cent of UK median income. Administrative data sources on benefits and tax credits from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) and Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) are used in the calculation of this children in low-income families local measure. These estimates are only available on a before housing costs basis.	These figures estimate the proportion of children in households under an income threshold that is similar to the 'relative low income' threshold in HBAI, the official source for poverty statistics in the UK. However, figures are not directly comparable as the data sources are different: the HBAI estimates are based on the Family Resources Survey, and the DWP/HMRC CiLIF estimates are based on administrative tax credit and benefit data.	DWP/HMRC Children in low-income families	The link provides the landing page for children in low-income families statistics publications.	Annual	March
	End Child Poverty Coalition - Estimates of children in poverty after housing costs	The Centre for Research in Social Policy at Loughborough University has developed estimates of local levels of child poverty for the End Child Poverty coalition since 2013. The most recent after housing costs estimates using a revised methodology were published in May 2021 at local authority and parliamentary constituency level across the UK for 2014-15 to 2019-20. Users should note that figures shown are synthetic modelled estimates based on the DWP/HMRC children in low income families local measure. The effect of housing costs on child poverty rates are modelled by looking at household survey data alongside local area statistics on private rent levels.	These figures estimate the proportion of children in households under an income threshold that is similar to the 'relative low income' threshold in HBAI, the official source for poverty statistics in the UK. However, figures are not directly comparable as the data sources are different. There is an inherent level of uncertainty associated with this methodological approach which is difficult to quantify, and figures for small areas may fluctuate markedly as a result of random variation. Therefore rates of change observed in specific locations need to be treated with some caution.	End Child Poverty child poverty estimates	Download data tables available for local authorities and parliamentary constituencies..	Annual	Not specified
	Households managing well financially		This measure can be used as a proxy of 'financial resilience' of households.	Scottish Household Survey - data explorer	At the link provided, select the data tab at the top, then topic 6 (finance) and table 6.1 (how households are managing financially by year). The table generated has a default of 50 entries, and using the drop-down menu at the bottom of the page will allow you to show all the data.	Annual however the covid pandemic has affected data continuity	Usually released in Q4 calendar year
Drivers Selection of indicators of child poverty drivers	Children in working households	Proportions of all children under 16 who live in households that contain at least one person aged 16 to 64, where all individuals aged 16 and over are in employment. These statistics are taken from the Annual Population Survey (APS) and cover calendar years.	The lack of employment and therefore of income from employment, increases the risk of poverty. This indicator looks at % of children in 'working' households as sample sizes for 'workless' households are too small in many local authorities.	ONS Annual Population Survey - households by working status	Download the Excel files from the links in this page (current data or previous years).	Annual	Usually released in the summer
	Employees (18+) earning less than the Living Wage	Employees age 18+ on the PAYE system on adult rates and whose pay was not affected by absence. The Living Wage rates used are the ones in place at the time of the survey, as defined by the Living Wage Foundation. The independently-calculated Living Wage rates are announced simultaneously in the first week of November of each year during Living Wage Week.	Earnings are a direct driver of income from employment.	ONS Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings - Scotland analysis	Open the file at the link provided and look at Table 5.7 - Employees (18+) earning the Living Wage by Local Authority, Scotland.	Annual	Usually released in November
	Underemployment of 16+ population	Underemployment estimates cover those looking for i) additional hours in their existing role (at the same rate of pay), ii) an additional job (to supplement their existing job), iii) a different job with more hours. These figures are from survey data and due to small sample sizes data are missing in a number of LAs making the time series for this indicator less meaningful.	This indicator looks at those that are in employment but would like to work more, given the opportunity. Employment is not all the same. It is about the right 'quantity' and 'quality' of jobs in order to guarantee the appropriate level of income.	ONS Annual Population Survey - employment patterns in Scotland (published by Scottish Government)	Download the data table.	Annual	Irregular depending on demand.
	Adults with no savings	These figures present the proportion of households reporting that they had no savings nor investments in the Scottish Household Survey. This question became biennial (asked every two years) after the survey in 2015, so it was not asked in 2016 and 2018.	Savings protect against problem debt and material deprivation. They act as a buffer against unexpected costs and fluctuations in income.	Scottish Household Survey - data explorer	At the link provided, select the data tab at the top, then topic 6 (finance) and table 6.9 (households savings by year). The table generated has a default of 50 entries, and using the drop-down menu at the bottom of the page will allow you to show all the data.	Biennial however the covid pandemic has affected data continuity.	Usually released in Q4 calendar year
	Employment in 'lower paid' occupations	Employment in 'lower paid' occupations is defined here as employment in the following occupational groups (SOC 2010): 6. Caring, Leisure and other service, 7. Sales and Customer Service, 9. Elementary occupations including cleaners, kitchen and catering assistants. These figures are presented as a percentage of all in employment. These figures are from the Annual Population Survey data.	This indicator is provided as additional local context for labour market and economic opportunities.	ONS Annual Population Survey	Under the 'Make selections' section on the left hand side of the page of the link provided, select 'Geography' 'local authorities: county / unitary (prior to April 2015)'. Then, at the drop down menu <i>List areas within</i> , choose 'Scotland' and tick the box for the local authority you are interested in. Now select 'Date' and tick the time period you are interested in. Finally, select 'Variable' and from the 'Category' drop-down menu select 'Occupations (SOC2010) major group of employment'. Now tick: '% all in employment who are - 6: caring, leisure and other service occupations (SOC2010)', '% all in employment who are - 7: sales and customer service occupations (SOC2010)', '% all in employment who are - 9: elementary occupations (SOC2010)'. To download the data for your selection, click on 'Download data' on the left hand side of the page and select 'Download data for Excel 2007 (.xlsx)'. Under the 'Make selections' section on the left hand side of the page of the link provided, select 'Geography' 'local authorities: county / unitary (prior to April 2015) (2008 onwards)'. Then, at the drop down menu <i>List areas within</i> , choose 'Scotland' and tick the box for the local authority you are interested in. Now select 'Date' and tick the time period you are interested in. Now select 'Pay And Hours' and tick 'Weekly pay-gross'. Then select 'Sex & Full/Part-Time' and tick 'full-time workers'. Finally, select 'Variable' and tick 'median'. To download the data for your selection, click on 'Download data' on the left hand side of the page and select 'Download data for Excel 2007 (.xlsx)'. The same procedure is to be followed to download 'resident analysis' data at this link: https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/query/construct/summary.asp?mode=construct&version=0&daset=30	Quarterly	Disseminated quarterly (in Mar, Jun, Sep, Dec) with each dataset covering 12 months' data. Final data are released 3 months after the close of the survey period to which they relate
	Median full-time gross weekly earnings	Median full-time gross weekly earnings estimates are from the ONS Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE). ASHE is based on a 1% sample of employee jobs taken from HMRC and Customs PAYE records. Both residential based and workplace based estimates are provided here.	Earnings are a direct driver of income from employment.	ONS Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings	Under the 'Make selections' section on the left hand side of the page of the link provided, select 'Geography' 'local authorities: county / unitary (prior to April 2015) (2008 onwards)'. Then, at the drop down menu <i>List areas within</i> , choose 'Scotland' and tick the box for the local authority you are interested in. Now select 'Date' and tick the time period you are interested in. Finally, select 'Variable' and tick 'jobs density'. To download the data for your selection, click on 'Download data' on the left hand side of the page and select 'Download data for Excel 2007 (.xlsx)'. Under the 'Make selections' menu on the left hand side of the page of the link provided, select 'Geography' 'local authorities: county / unitary (prior to April 2015) (2008 onwards)'. Then, at the drop down menu <i>List areas within</i> , choose 'Scotland' and tick the box for the local authority you are interested in. Now select 'Date' and tick the time period you are interested in. Finally, select 'Variable' and tick 'jobs density'. To download the data for your selection, click on 'Download data' on the left hand side of the page and select 'Download data for Excel 2007 (.xlsx)'. Under the 'Make selections' menu on the left hand side of the page of the link provided, select 'Geography' 'local authorities: county / unitary (prior to April 2015) (2008 onwards)'. Then, at the drop down menu <i>List areas within</i> , choose 'Scotland' and tick the box for the local authority you are interested in. Now select 'Date' and tick the time period you are interested in. Finally, select 'Variable' and tick 'jobs density'. To download the data for your selection, click on 'Download data' on the left hand side of the page and select 'Download data for Excel 2007 (.xlsx)'. Under the 'Make selections' menu on the left hand side of the page of the link provided, select 'Geography' 'local authorities: county / unitary (prior to April 2015) (2008 onwards)'. Then, at the drop down menu <i>List areas within</i> , choose 'Scotland' and tick the box for the local authority you are interested in. Now select 'Date' and tick the time period you are interested in. Finally, select 'Variable' and tick 'jobs density'. To download the data for your selection, click on 'Download data' on the left hand side of the page and select 'Download data for Excel 2007 (.xlsx)'. Under the 'Make selections' menu on the left hand side of the page of the link provided, select 'Geography' 'local authorities: county / unitary (prior to April 2015) (2008 onwards)'. Then, at the drop down menu <i>List areas within</i> , choose 'Scotland' and tick the box for the local authority you are interested in. Now select 'Date' and tick the time period you are interested in. Finally, select 'Variable' and tick 'jobs density'. To download the data for your selection, click on 'Download data' on the left hand side of the page and select 'Download data for Excel 2007 (.xlsx)'.	Annual	Usually released in November
	Jobs density	Jobs density represents the number of jobs in an area divided by the resident population aged 16-64 in that area. For example, a job density of 1.0 would mean that there is one job for every resident aged 16-64.	This indicator is provided as additional local context in terms of economic opportunities.	ONS Jobs density dataset	Under the 'Make selections' menu on the left hand side of the page of the link provided, select 'Geography' 'local authorities: county / unitary (prior to April 2015) (2008 onwards)'. Then, at the drop down menu <i>List areas within</i> , choose 'Scotland' and tick the box for the local authority you are interested in. Now select 'Date' and tick the time period you are interested in. Finally, select 'Variable' and tick 'jobs density'. To download the data for your selection, click on 'Download data' on the left hand side of the page and select 'Download data for Excel 2007 (.xlsx)'.	Annual	Irregular

People Selection of profile indicators on priority groups	Adults reporting a limiting long-term physical or mental health problem - households with children	Proportions of adults reporting a limiting long-term physical or mental health conditions is one of the indicators from the Scottish Surveys Core Questions (SSCQ), which is the result of a harmonised design across the three major Scottish Government household surveys.	Contextual information on priority group.	Scottish Government Scottish Surveys Core Questions	At the link provided, select measure type: Percent Age: All Gender: All Household Type: With Children Limiting Long-term Physical or Mental Health Condition: Limiting condition Type Of Tenure: All Download as CSV file.	Annual however the covid pandemic has affected data continuity.	A post COVID update will be provided in Spring 2024
	First time mothers under 25	Proportion of first time mothers who are aged 19 and under. The 3 year aggregate shown is for financial year ending 31 March and refers to the year of discharge from hospital.	Contextual information on priority group.	ISD Parity dataset	The link provided gives the full table for all age ranges. Local authority codes are provided instead of labels: these are included in the hidden data sheet in this workbook.	Annual	Not specified
	Single parent/large family households	A single parent household is defined as a household which contains one adult of any age and one or more children.	Contextual information on priority group.	Scottish Government Scottish Survey Core Questions	Download the supplementary tables Excel file and refer to Table 3.1.	Annual however the covid pandemic has affected data continuity	A post COVID update will be provided in Spring 2024
	Children (under 16) population estimates	Data from NRS mid-year population estimates for children under 16.	Contextual information on child population.	NRS mid-year population estimates	Table 2 gives the population estimates by sex, single year of age and administrative area. You can sum the number of people of age from 0 to 15 in order to obtain the number of children under 16. Then divide by the total local authority population to get proportions.	Annual	Usually released in August
	Children (under 16) by SIMD 2020 quintile	Data from NRS mid-year population estimates for children under 16 by Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD16) quintile.	Contextual information on child population.	NRS mid-year population estimates by SIMD	Table 2 shows the local authority population estimates by age and SIMD decile. The under 16 population was calculated and a pivot table used to convert the deciles to quintiles and calculate the percentages. This pivot table can be found in the hidden sheet in this workbook.	Annual	Usually released in September
	Non-white minority ethnic population	Non-white minority ethnic group is defined as 'Asian' and categories within the 'Mixed or Multiple Ethnic Group', 'African', 'Caribbean or Black', and 'Other Ethnic Group' sections.	Contextual information on priority group.	Scottish Government Scottish Survey Core Questions	Download the supplementary tables Excel file and refer to Table 4.2 for information on ethnicity. Non-white minority ethnic group is defined here as 'Asian' and 'All other ethnic groups' combined.	Annual however the covid pandemic has affected data continuity.	A post COVID update will be provided in Spring 2024



THE DIFFERENCE WE MAKE

March 2024 Year 2 Annual Impact Report Appendix

Fairer Aberdeenshire: Tackling Poverty and Inequalities Fund

pamis
promoting a more inclusive society

Aberdeenshire
COUNCIL



PAMIS (Promoting a More Inclusive Society)

PAMIS, promoting a more inclusive society, is the only charity that solely supports children, young people and adults with profound and multiple learning disabilities (PMLD) and their families to lead healthy, valued and included lives doing the things they want to do within their community.

PAMIS understand the complexity of care and support required for individuals with PMLD and offers a range of projects and programmes including: Family support services; education and development; research and practice development; inclusive culture and leisure; campaigns; information sharing and an extensive library including the PAMIS multisensory stories; and resources to support technology enabled care.

Profound means deep, wise and expert. PAMIS believe people with profound learning disabilities teach the rest of us how to care, how to act with compassion and how to work as a team.



Watch our Profound Film on YouTube!



5

New Family Referrals



12

Outdoor Leisure Events



3 + 1

3 new Digital Passports, 1 Updated



19

Home Visits



163

Enquiries Received



74

Families on Our Books



19

Online Events

ABERDEENSHIRE BY THE NUMBERS

pamis promoting a more inclusive society
Aberdeenshire COUNCIL

We invite you to
Pony Axe S in Aberdeenshire

Monday 9th October Fraserburgh Beach
Tuesday 10th October Duthie Park- Aberdeen
Thursday 12th October Dunnottar Woods- Stonehaven

Q & A SESSION
WITH NURSE JACKIE

12 MARCH 2024
10:30-12:00
ONLINE

WHAT IS A REASONABLE ADJUSTMENT WHEN I SEE A DOCTOR?

Exclusively for PAMIS family carers, this interactive session will be a chance to get advice and ask your questions about accessing reasonable adjustments, preparing for appointments and getting support when you need it.

pamis cuppa and a chat:
POSTURAL CARE
RELAXED EVENING INFO SESSION

POSTURAL CARE IS IMPORTANT FOR PEOPLE WITH MOVEMENT DIFFICULTIES.

LET'S CHAT ABOUT IT OVER A CUPPA WITH FRIENDLY FAMILY CARERS JENNY & CAROLYNNE WHO ARE PASSIONATE ABOUT DELIVERING POSTURAL CARE TRAINING TO THE PEOPLE WHO NEED IT MOST.

WITHOUT POSTURAL CARE, PEOPLE WITH MOVEMENT DIFFICULTIES ARE MORE LIKELY TO EXPERIENCE:

- CHANGES IN BODY SHAPE
- PAIN AND DISCOMFORT WHEN SITTING AND LYING DOWN
- CHEST AND BREATHING PROBLEMS
- NEED FOR SURGERY

DATE: []
WHERE: ONLINE VIA ZOOM
TIME: 07:30 PM- 09:00 PM
Free!

pamis Aberdeenshire COUNCIL Funded by: The **Stafford Trust**

PAMIS Aberdeenshire
Pony Axe S Events

Fraserburgh Beach – Monday 7th August
Duthie Park, Aberdeen – Tuesday 8th August
Dunnottar Woods, Stonehaven Thursday 10th August

We hosted a number of events for people with PMLD, their family carers and professionals

pamis presents
BENEFITS AWARENESS SESSION
Aberdeenshire Council's Advice and Welfare Rights Team
10:30-12:30

if you want to know more about:

- Paying warm and saving money
- Disability Benefits and Payments
- How to get support when you need it

pamis Aberdeenshire COUNCIL Funded by: The **Stafford Trust**

PAMIS Aberdeenshire
Pony Axe S Events

Fraserburgh Beach – Monday 15th May
Duthie Park, Aberdeen – Wednesday 17th May
Dunnottar Woods, Stonehaven Thursday 18th May

pamis Aberdeenshire COUNCIL

DISABILITY BENEFITS
PIP & DLA TRANSFERS TO ADP
EARNINGS REPLACEMENT BENEFITS

Aberdeenshire Council Money Advice & Welfare
Benefit Awareness Session for
Tuesday 18th April 2023 from 10:30am to 12:00pm

We know how puzzling the welfare system can be. Aberdeenshire Council Money Advice & Welfare are hosting an online Benefit Awareness session which aims to help family carers with the current disability benefits system, providing information on upcoming changes plus advice on where to go for more in-depth help and support.

I am in charge of my life

pamis presents
Story & Narrative:
A powerful tool to put people back into paperwork

pamis promoting a more inclusive society

Cuppa & Chat about Postural Care

It isn't part of a 24 hour day with movement changes in the body can lead to pain sitting and lying down breathing problems, need for surgery.

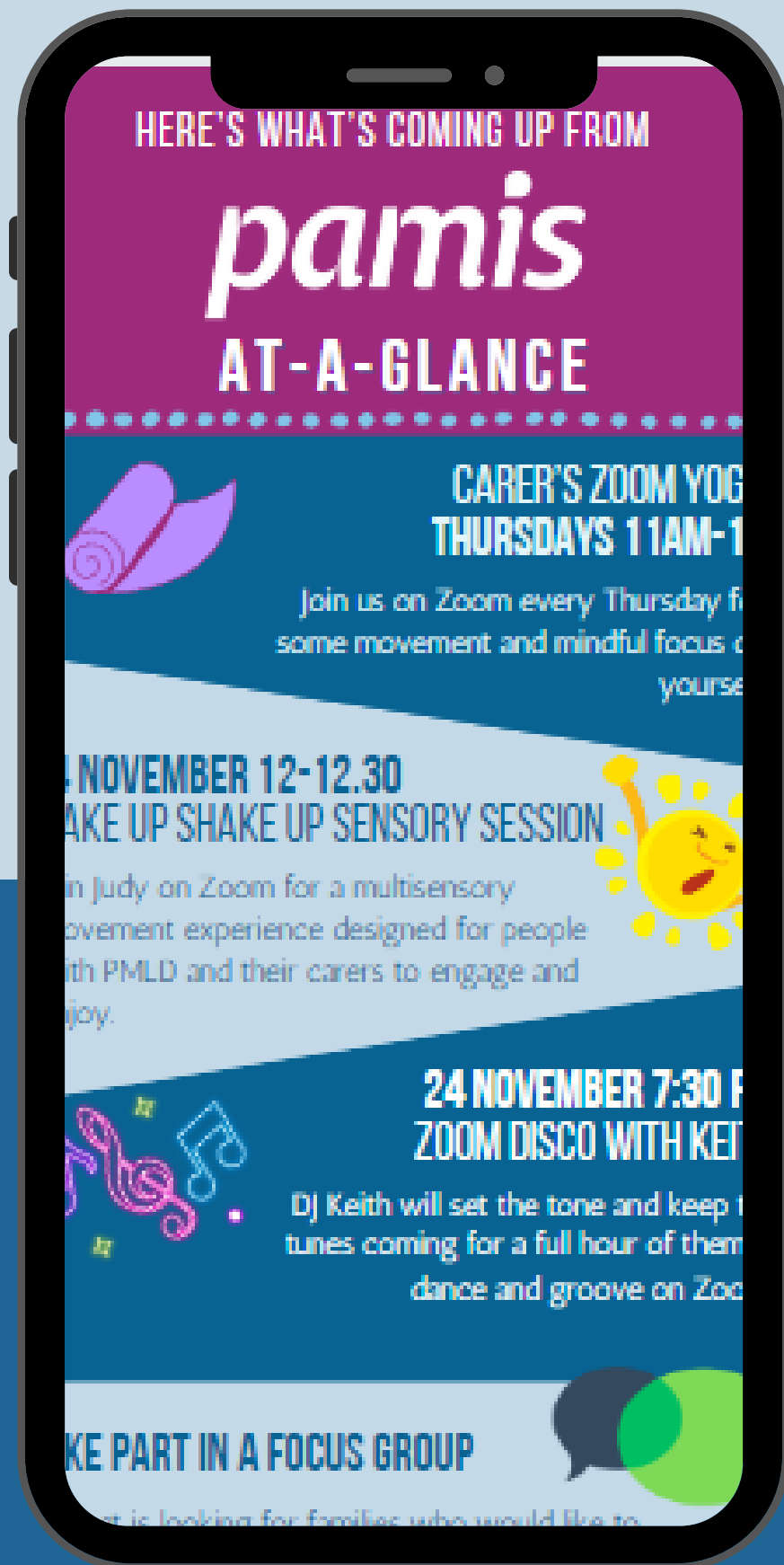
in place 24 hours to improve the quality of movement

for a coffee chat with friendly parent and carer Jenny and Carolynnne who shares the importance of finding out about postural care.

Date: Tuesday 19th September
Time: 7:30pm to 9pm
Location: Zoom

elle.shull@pamis.org.uk
fill in form or with questions

Item 9 Page 99



“I can save it to my phone and refer back!”

We trialled a visual newsletter, which received positive feedback initially for the easy-to-reference nature.



However, ultimately we have decided to return to list-based text format emails in order to ensure information can be shared more quickly. The shareable, easy to use visuals are still a part of our sharing, primarily for events and information sharing.



PONY AXE S



Themes and quotes from conversations with Aberdeenshire families this year



- Feeling Heard
- Excited to contribute
- Positive feelings about support
- Happy to have information about health and benefits
- More opportunities available lately



- Bills are high
- Too many processes changing without notice
- Weather is bad, don't want to get out
- Not enough support, no carers

“

“It's hard to know where to look to find [the answer] but I know I can always reach out to PAMIS.”

”



“

Getting out without much pressure to spend money is a lot less stressful.

”

“

*We love coming to Pony Axe S!
It's the only way that [our daughter] can get into the woods and she loves the bumps.*

”

Accessibility is important for social inclusion!

We share information we think could help families in reducing financial burden and isolation, as well as opportunities to share their lived experience in research spaces.

Danielle from PAMIS
27 November 2023 · 🌐

Are you a family caregiver?

What is the research?
I am passionate about what compassion means to family caregivers of individuals with a learning disability who have additional needs*, and display behaviours of concern**. There are no right or wrong answers!

***Additional needs may include individuals who receive intensive support, and support with health care, sensory processing, communication, mobility, and daily living tasks. Individuals may have previously received a diagnosis of 'Severe, Profound and Multiple Learning Disability'.**

**** Behaviours of concern, previously referred to as challenging behaviour or behaviours that challenge, refers to many different behaviours, some of which may be hair pulling, hitting, head banging, smearing, removing clothes, and a range of other behaviours that might negatively affect the health, safety or quality of life of the person or others around them.**

What would I have to do?
The research will consist of an online or a face-to-face interview (your preference!), to discuss what compassion means to you, and how you experience compassion. The interview may last approximately up to one hour. With your consent, the interviews will be audio recorded only.

What are the benefits of taking part?
We are hoping that the research will be helpful in improving the ways that professionals, friends and family members can support caregivers, and provide the best possible support in the future.

If you are interested in taking part or if you have any questions, please email me on: c.n.barber-2021@hull.ac.uk. Emailing me does not mean that you must take part – I can give you more information and it is your decision. All information will be kept completely anonymous, safe and confidential.

Pamis
24 November 2023 · 🌐

"Please read and share!"

Hi, my name is Charlotte and I am looking for participants to take part in my research as part of my Doctorate in Clinical Psychology. ... [See more](#)

Danielle from PAMIS
3 September 2023 · 🌐

FAMILY FUND & INDEPENDENT LIVING FUND

Information Event

The Family Fund Charity and ILF will be holding an information event on the grants and support they can offer to families with seriously-ill or disabled children

50 YEARS OF SUPPORT

Family Fund
Helping disabled children

Wednesday 13th September 2-4pm

COMMUNITY ROOM, ROWLANDS PHARMACY, MARKET STREET, ELLON

Organised by **Clr Louise McAllister**



Danielle from PAMIS
29 January · 🌐

Pamis
24 January · 🌐

Families could be entitled to a "child winter heating payment" of £235.70, if they have a child or young person under 19 and are in receipt of certain benefits.... [See more](#)

mygov.scot

MYGOV.SCOT

Child Winter Heating Payment

Find out about Child Winter Heating Payment, when it is paid and h...

Brenda Garrard
4 July 2023 · 🌐

PLACES WHERE KIDS EAT FREE (OR FOR £1) DURING THE 6 WEEKS SUMMER HOLIDAYS 2023

moneysavingcentral.co.uk/kids-eat-free

ASDA Kids eat for £1 All Day. Every Day at Asda cafes, with no adult spend required.	MORRISONS Spend £4.49 & get one free kids meal all day, every day. FREE Crumpets also available
TESCO Kids eat free with a purchase of 60p+ from Mon 24th July - Fri 1st September 2023	GORDON RAMSEY RESTAURANTS Kids under 8 eat FREE all day, every day at selected Gordon Ramsay restaurants
SAINSBURY'S CAFES Kids eat for £1 with the purchase of an adult hot main. From 11:30am every day.	PRETO Kids up to age 10 eat free all day, every day with paying adults at Preto in Half Terms
BEEFEATER & BREWERS FAYRE Two children under 16 can get a free breakfast every day with one paying adult!	BILLS 2 kids eat FREE Monday - Friday from Monday 24th July - Friday 1st Sept 2023
THE REAL GREEK Kids under 12 eat FREE every Sunday for every £10 spent by an adult	BELLA ITALIA Children eat for £1 with an adult main. The offer is valid 4-6pm Mon to Thurs.
M&S Free Kid's Munch Meal when you spend £5+ on non-kids food or drink at M&S Cafés	WHITBREAD INNS Two kids under 16 eat for FREE with every adult breakfast purchased
TRAVELODGE & PREMIER INN Buy 1 Adult Breakfast from just £8.99 & up to two kids eat breakfast for free	BREWDOG Kids under 13 eat free until August 25th 2023 with one adult's main meal when you pre-book with code: KIDS EAT FREE
SIZZLING PUBS Every Monday to Friday, 3 - 7pm, kids' mains are £1 with every adult meal.	TABLE TABLE Two children under 16 can get a free breakfast every day with one paying adult!
TGI FRIDAYS Kids Eat Free When 'Stripes Rewards Members' purchase a full priced adult's main meal (App needed)	PAUSA CAFE @ DUNELM Kids get 1 mini main, 2 snacks & a drink FREE with every £4 spend after 3pm
HUNGRY HORSE Kids eat for £1 on Mondays	YO! SUSHI From Mon 17th of July until Fri 11th of Aug kids eat free with every £10 adult spend
IKEA Kids get a meal from 95p daily from 11am	FUTURE INNS Under 5s eat for free with any adult meal.

Copyright of MONEY SAVING CENTRAL

Money Saving Central
3 July 2023 · 🌐

Places Where Kids Eat Free (or for £1) During The 6 Weeks Summer Holidays!
Full List & Updates <https://moneysavingcentral.co.uk/kids-eat-free>

Brenda Garrard
1 September 2023 · 🌐

SENSORY SCHOOLWEAR

specialy adapted for disabled children
- looks identical to traditional uniforms!



Contact - For families with disabled children
31 August 2023 · 🌐

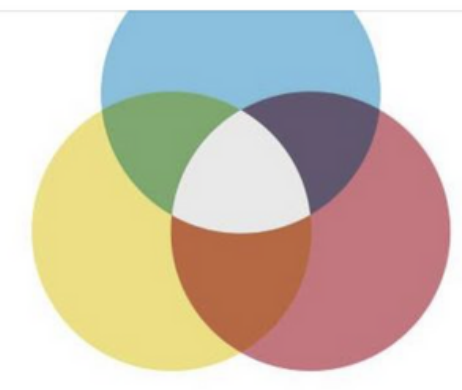
If your disabled child has sensory issues that make traditional school uniforms feel uncomfortable, give this these adaptive clothes and shoes a try bit.ly/Sen... [See more](#)

Pamis
6h · 🌐

Are you a parent, guardian or carer for a young disabled person between the ages of 16-29?

If so the [University of Glasgow](#) would like to invite you to participate in their research project exploring the experiences of young disabled people dealing with the transition into adulthood.

"This research is being done in partnership with Newcastle and York Universities. We are keen to interview you about your experience supporting a young disabled person. The interview would be about an hour long and can be done in person or online. You can find out more from our website Exploring the Inequalities and Diversities in Disabled Young Adult Transitions. Please feel free to contact me for more information at 07405 767 464 or at jane.cullingworth@glasgow.ac.uk"

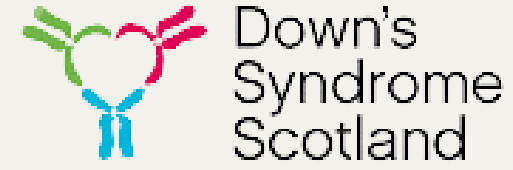


Disability and Youth Transitions

DISABILITYANDYOUTHTRANSITIONS.CO.UK

Disability and Youth Transitions

Exploring the Inequalities and Diversities in Disabled Young Adult Transitions Disabled young people ...



Partnership working



Information & Knowledge

Shared Events

Advice, support and research

Together, we can include and improve things for everyone.

Over the last year, we have invited curiosity into conversations about some of the challenges facing our families, the services they receive, and statutory services.

HERE ARE SOME OF THE THINGS WE LEARNED:

- Families really love getting outdoors together to explore their communities
- It is important to families that their needs be considered before they go unmet
- Families depend on third sector services to stay up to date with information
- Rainy day pony rides are often a sensory joy!
- Family carers wish there was more understanding about their needs in service design and delivery.
- Health inequalities are an impactful of them on family dynamics, finances, employment and mental health.
- Connecting with the community to learn and share knowledge is a key step to relationship building and signposting.

WE ALSO LEARNED THAT FAMILIES WOULD REALLY LIKE TO DO SOME SPORTING, SOME COOKING, AND SOME LEARNING TOGETHER.

We'll use this info to adapt and design our Year 3 service delivery to meet project need and expressed family interest.

HERE'S WHAT'S COMING IN YEAR 3

We recognise that building meaningful relationships cannot be rushed, so in Year 3 we will keep this focus at the core of everything we do so that we can meet outcomes with care and intention.



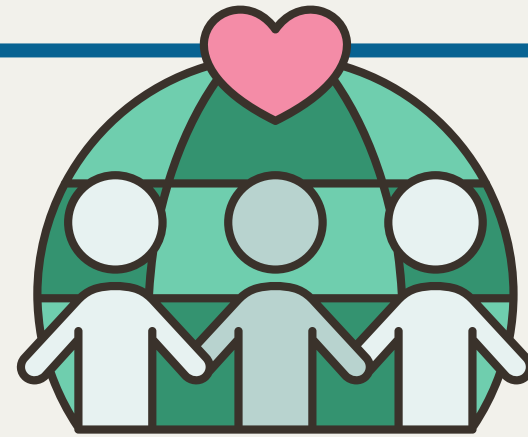
We will begin engaging with Aberdeenshire family experiences, adding them to a Scotland-wide picture of carer-positive employment opportunities, needs and challenges.

EMPATHETIC ROUTES TO EMPLOYMENT ROUTES INTRODUCED

A FOCUS ON MEANINGFUL RELATIONSHIP BUILDING

CONTINUED PARTNERSHIP WORKING

Together we flourish, so this year we will work with our partners to action the identified challenges in the ways we work and share



LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT

We are in talks with Rainbow Rogues to deliver postural care training to their organisation, and we are working to organise access to Sporting Opportunities for Multiple Abilities (SOMA) training in Stonehaven.

We hope to build new relationships and opportunities to share knowledge.



Thank You from **pamis**

Fairer Aberdeenshire Tackling Poverty and Inequalities is making the difference in the lives of people with PMLD and their family carers by funding PAMIS, and we hope you have enjoyed a glimpse into what we're doing along the way.

Annual Report assembled on 12 March 2024 for
Annette Johnstone and the TPI team.
Thank you for your support.

FAMILY SUPPORT DIRECTOR:
DANIELLE.SHULL@PAMIS.ORG.UK



**Towards A Fairer
Aberdeenshire**
ANNUAL REPORT 2023





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INTRODUCTION

The Tackling Poverty and Inequalities Annual Report offers a clear strategic direction for supporting its at-risk residents. Key initiatives such as the Cash First Project, signal a data-driven, broad-based approach. Emphasising coproduction of policies with those with lived experience and ensuring support even for off-grid households indicates an inclusive, grassroots strategy. With a focus on strengthening partnerships and enhancing access, especially in rural areas, Aberdeenshire is forging a path where every resident, regardless of socio-economic background, is poised to succeed.

The Tackling Poverty & Inequalities Strategic Partnership was set up by the Community Planning Partnership to coordinate strategic development across partners in order to:

- Improve the lives of disadvantaged people across Aberdeenshire.
- Utilise the funding to address poverty holistically.
- Reduce the number of households living in poverty.
- Prevent households falling into poverty.
- Enable children to live poverty free in adult life.
- Improve the wellbeing of people living in poverty.

Aberdeenshire is a large rural area therefore it is not only equality we are focused on but equity especially those that are living in rural and remote communities along with those that feel unable to access support and services.

This report will outline progress made throughout 2023, outcomes achieved, challenges faced, highlight good practice, how resources have been allocated and future areas of development.

The initiatives highlighted in this report provides a comprehensive roadmap for Aberdeenshire's future. By addressing these key developmental areas, Aberdeenshire is positioning itself to be a region where every resident, irrespective of their economic status, can thrive.

Definition of Poverty

Poverty is technically defined as when a person's household income (adjusted for the size and composition of the household) is less than 60% of the UK average income. However, poverty is much more than just low income.

The factors that generate poverty are wide-ranging and encompass many aspects of day-to-day life such as health, housing, educational attainment, employability and access to services.

The Tackling Poverty & Inequalities partners have agreed to use the definition from the Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF) when describing the work within Aberdeenshire.

Poverty is when your resources are well below your minimum needs.

Poverty means not being able to heat your home, pay your rent, or buy the essentials for your children. It means waking up every day facing insecurity, uncertainty, and impossible decisions about money. It means facing marginalisation – and even discrimination – because of your financial circumstances. The constant stress it causes can lead to problems that deprive people of the chance to play a full part in society.

Policy Context

The Scottish Government has made commitment to reducing poverty & inequalities across Scotland. The work around tackling poverty spans a number of policy areas. To ensure positive outcomes are achieved for those who are at risk of or are living in poverty or experiencing inequalities it is important that there is an integrated approach around the policy landscape. The main duty associated with this agenda is The **Fairer Scotland Duty** which came into force on 1 April 2018.

This duty places a legal responsibility on named public bodies in Scotland to actively consider ('pay due regard' to) how they can reduce inequalities of outcome caused by socio-economic disadvantage, when making strategic decisions.

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/fairer-scotland-duty-guidance-public-bodies-easy-read-version/>

Drivers of Poverty

The Scottish Government's Child Poverty Delivery Plan - Bright Start, Bright Futures highlights 3 main drivers of poverty:

- Employment: Income from parents' work and earnings is insufficient to lift them from poverty.
 - Household costs: The costs of living that households must cover are too high.
- Social Security: Income from Social Security has been cut back significantly, particularly for families with children.

<https://www.gov.scot/news/tackling-child-poverty-delivery-plan-2022-26/>

Aberdeenshire's Approach

Over the last 12 months the ongoing impact of the pandemic and the rising cost of living has had a further impact on those who are at risk of or are living in poverty. Those within the priority families and with protected characteristics are being adversely affected. As a partnership this has been recognised and further focus has been taken to target those most effected.

In Aberdeenshire our approach to tackling poverty focusses on early intervention and prevention. Tackling the root causes of poverty and building people's capabilities through income maximisation, employability and promoting positive life chances.

A partnership approach is vital in ensuring opportunities and services are accessible and relevant. This agenda is complex however there are streams which have been developed and are linked together to ensure better outcomes for all.



Aberdeenshire Voluntary Action (AVA)

Health & Wellbeing



AVA allocates and manages the Communities Mental Health & Wellbeing Fund with just over £640,000 to share with eligible community organisations and groups across Aberdeenshire. The overarching aim of the Fund is to support community-based initiatives that promote and develop good mental health and wellbeing and/or mitigate and protect against the impact of distress and mental ill health within the adult population, with a particular focus on:

- Tackling isolation and loneliness.
- Addressing mental health inequalities.
- Supporting local groups and organisations to deliver support activities.
- Providing opportunities for people to connect with each other.
- Supporting recovery.

After application were assessed, 58 projects were funded through the grant scheme. Successful applications were varied in their nature but they all clearly linked to the aims and priorities of the fund. Some examples are –

- A local Men's Shed started to offer access to a warm space and a free hot meal one day a week. The space offered opportunities for socialising and connections to be made. One grateful beneficiary told the organisers 'this is the only day in the week I don't have to go to bed by 4pm'.
- A Dementia support group received funding to expand a 'carers break' service to a new area. These sessions allowed cares to have a break from their responsibilities with one beneficiary saying, 'you wouldn't believe how much of a difference this makes to mum coming along each week, she is so happy when she comes home'.
- An Autism related peer support group received funding to run a short pilot programme of support technique learning sessions for parents or carers. The feedback from this pilot enabled the group to successfully apply for NHS funding to expand the availability of the sessions.
- A support group for older people with debilitating health conditions received funding to restart support meetings with accessible transport being provided. For some people attending this was their first trip out of their house since the lockdown. 20 people regularly attend the meetings with many in their 80s and 90s.

Partnership Approach to Priority Areas

Health & Social Care – Healthy Eating Active Life (HEAL)

The HEAL Strategic Partnership Group aims to support people living in Aberdeenshire to have a healthy weight. The group have adopted a ‘Whole System Approach’ (WSA) evidence-based method to identify and focus on action that will make healthy eating and active living possible and achievable for Aberdeenshire communities.

The partnership is led through public health and a small team have engaged with local communities and partners to develop 35 HEAL actions - <https://www.ouraberdeenshire.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/HEAL-ACTIONS-2023-2026.pdf>

Partners are supported to contribute to these actions through the monitoring framework -

<https://www.ouraberdeenshire.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/HEAL-Action-Monitoring-Framework-2023-2026-1.docx>

These actions link into the Fair Food Partnership agenda and supports low income households to improve their health and wellbeing outcomes.

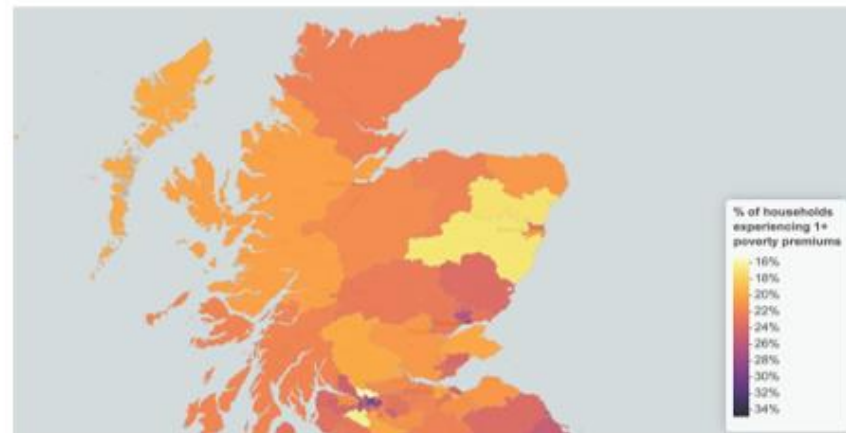
Poverty Alliance – Rural Premium



Aberdeenshire is one of Scotland’s 14 rural authorities and is defined as ‘mainly rural’. We are the fourth largest geographical local authority in Scotland. The economy of rural Scotland is both similar to, and tightly integrated with the economy of urban Scotland. However distinct differences, often related to distance and scarcity, remain between urban and rural economies. These differences may contribute to an even greater level of inequality particularly for low-income households.

The term Poverty Premium has been around for a number of years and it is used to highlight that those in poverty pay more for services and essentials such as food and housing. This is due to the limited options people face if they are living in poverty. There is a higher number of people on pre-paid meters for their electricity and gas, households pay more for credit, insurance, more likely to get charged for accessing their own money and are unable to take up savings from switching to cheaper options for household bills including insurance. The information below demonstrates the additional costs low-income households face in different areas of Aberdeenshire.

What does this all look like in Aberdeenshire?



Banff and Buchan
Total cost of poverty premium: £ 3,732,955
% of households experiencing any premium: 20.9%

Prepayment meter premium: £ 459,323
Non-standard billing premium: £ 729,067
Non-switching premium: £ 1,295,928
Area-based insurance premium: £ 368,903
Single item insurance premiums: £ 397,073
Access to money premium: £ 51,580
Higher-cost credit premium: £ 431,081

Average cost to households in poverty: £ 429

West Aberdeenshire and Kincardine
Total cost of poverty premium: £ 2,559,588
% of households experiencing any premium: 17.0%

Prepayment meter premium: £ 216,868
Non-standard billing premium: £ 650,605
Non-switching premium: £ 952,084
Area-based insurance premium: £ 38,888
Single item insurance premiums: £ 347,745
Access to money premium: £ 41,212
Higher-cost credit premium: £ 312,186

Average cost to households in poverty: £ 393

Gordon
Total cost of poverty premium: £ 2,910,810
% of households experiencing any premium: 17.2%

Prepayment meter premium: £ 228,770
Non-standard billing premium: £ 705,054
Non-switching premium: £ 1,108,216
Area-based insurance premium: £ 87,040
Single item insurance premiums: £ 402,196
Access to money premium: £ 44,903
Higher-cost credit premium: £ 334,630

Average cost to households in poverty: £ 397

SIMD data doesn’t give us an accurate understanding of where people are experiencing poverty in rural and island Scotland or of people’s experience of poverty.

Income based measures do not take account of the higher cost of living in rural and island Scotland (the ‘rural premium’): The minimum cost of living in rural Scotland is between 15% to 30% higher than urban areas of the UK.

A partnership has been developed with the Poverty Alliance to explore what the Rural Poverty Premium looks like in Aberdeenshire. The project will work with local people and partners to identify the challenges and support new projects that address rural poverty. This project will also link into the development at an area level and the outcomes and learning will inform national policy.

Partnership Approach to Priority Areas

Aberdeenshire's Employability Partnership

The partnership provides a joined-up approach to providing a range of employment services and opportunities for vulnerable and disadvantaged groups and individuals living in both urban and rural areas of Aberdeenshire to enable citizens to enter, sustain and progress in the labour market.

The partners have developed a strategic plan which has been informed by lived experience local network and use local data and metrics to inform decisions on locality need and interventions. No One Left Behind has given the local employability partners greater scope to tackle the needs that they are aware of in the local dimension: a Service Standards Framework is being devised alongside work on developing a Customer Charter, to ensure quality of delivery. The plan can be found using this link =

<https://employmentconnect.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Aberdeenshire-LEP-3-Year-Plan-Overview-002.pdf>

The partners including the Employment Support Team, within Aberdeenshire Council, have supported 1,671 clients resulted in **184** clients entering employment, **7** entering self-employment, **1** entering a Modern Apprenticeship, **34** into Volunteering, **29** into accredited training and **36** into Further or Higher Education.





Aberdeenshire's Employability Partnership

Case Study 1

JB is LTU, has lived life doing the bare minimum to get through the day. He's engaged consistently in counselling sessions where we've explored his past a lot and made sense of his childhood trauma. Since the sessions began, he's now been able to accept and engage in support from the housing department, has cleaned up his house and resolved long term problems such as living without heating for 8 years!

He's not at the end of the process yet, but definitely moving toward it, we're currently exploring future hopes and his purpose in life. He's considering doing some voluntary work soon to reduce isolation and 'step back into the real world'.

Case Study 2

D was made redundant, aged 60, from a knitwear factory in April 22. He had only had three previous jobs and his last role was for 34 years. As his job was unique to that workplace he was low in confidence and very negative about the future.

He had served an apprenticeship and worked as a Greenkeeper for 6 years in the 1980's so we looked at Seasonal Landscaping posts. D was hesitant and concerned that his fitness levels were not good enough for the role and felt that his experience was outdated. After some coaching and assisting with his application he was selected for an interview, however this didn't go well as his negative attitude came through and it was clear that we needed further work with interview skills.

D then picked up a temporary retail/warehousing post for 6 months with a local charity and this proved a turning point; he could see that he could actually fit in to another role. After he was paid off in December 22 the next round of Seasonal Landscaping posts were advertised for 2023 season. After helping D to apply again and discussing interview skills with him again he was successful in gaining a post in another town. Initially he was quite negative as it involved travelling by bus and he'd have preferred to work locally. D completed his contract, which was extended by 2 months, and on meeting with him again he was keen to apply for the same post again and preferred to travel to the post he had. He has found out that he has been successful again and hopes to start work again in two weeks' time. He has a much more positive approach and has gained so much from working within the landscaping team.

Financial Inclusion Partnership



Financial exclusion affects some of the most vulnerable individuals and families. Research has shown that those living on low incomes, and experiencing forms of disadvantage, are most likely to be affected by financial exclusion.

It is unacceptable that the most vulnerable in our communities should face additional costs to access basic services. The impact of Covid, annual storms and the current climate of the rising cost of living is likely to reduce income in already financially struggling households. Evidence shows that there is an increase in working poor and clients that have no longer the financial resilience to cover essentials such as food and energy bills.

This Partnership has been developed to ensure people can access the relevant advice, information and support enhancing their quality of life through a range of client focused services. Targeting the most vulnerable, disadvantaged groups and individuals, the partnership will develop joined up services which will be accessible across Aberdeenshire, increasing income, reduce stigma, improve health and wellbeing.

Aims

- Improve integration of services to reduce duplication, client trauma and maximise impact of services.
- Improve services which will increase income, reduce people living in poverty and improve their health and wellbeing and enhancing their quality of life.
- Empower individuals, families and the community to identify barriers to access services and develop them that meet their needs.
- Reduce the number of individuals and families living in poverty in Aberdeenshire.
- Raise awareness of forms and drivers of poverty such as Fuel Poverty.

This partnership supports a Cash First approach and was key in securing £200,000 from the Scottish Government to continue to develop that approach in Aberdeenshire. The Cash First Project will allow the partnership to review our referral processes, try new ways of working and ensure local voices are at the centre of any new developments. This project will be in place until March 2026.

This partnership also has developed a training group who have delivered and produced a number of training sessions covering a range of topics – Worried About Money, Gambling Awareness & Welfare Rights all of which can be accessed through the training calendar -

<https://sway.cloud.microsoft/v8PzBFn6nVZlm8Cb?ref=Link>

Partnership Approach to Priority Areas
Fair Food Aberdeenshire



Fair Food Aberdeenshire (FFA) believe everyone should have access to affordable and healthy food no matter where they live or how much they earn. The partners take a rights-based approach would like to see access to nutritious food as a basic right. Food is a vital resource to everyone and changing the way we think about food can play a key role in transforming communities. This partnership give the opportunity to look at the whole agenda such as diet related ill health , food waste, food systems and how we can reduce inequalities, increase employment and contribute to climate change.

The partnership has developed a sustainable food plan which is broken down to the following priorities –

Governance & Strategy

Food Security

Food Culture

Food For the Planet

Food Economy

Catering & Procurement.

The partnership has been awarded the Sustainable Food Places Bronze Award for all the work that’s been carried out in the last 2 years.

To access the food plan, food map and a keep up to date with projects and events please use this link –

<https://www.fairfoodaberdeenshire.co.uk/>

Local Projects

Banff & Buchan

Priority Area – Food Insecurity

Fraserburgh & District Men's Shed have supported 25 older men to develop confidence and skills through delivering cooking classes. Energy saving equipment, recipes and store cupboard ingredients have also been bought to ensure they can cook at home resulting in an improved diet. For those that are new to cooking and recently bereaved it has increased their health & wellbeing, cooking skills and reduce isolation.





Local Projects
Buchan

Priority Area – Financial Inclusion

Aberdeen Foyer Financial Inclusion Team works across Buchan to meet the needs of Foyer clients. The team supports individuals to break the cycle of poverty and crisis intervention by enabling them to recognise the root causes of crisis & develop the financial literacy skills and coping strategies required to maximise their income, self-manage their finances, and build resilience. This service provides intensive 1:1 sessions for individuals who are in crisis, including support with benefit applications and food/fuel poverty. The team have supported 61 people with income maximisation services with a client financial gain of £113,932.42.

Case Study

TS is single but shares caring responsibilities for their daughter with ex-partner. The ex-partner was claiming Child Benefit, Scottish Child Payment & child element via Universal Credit but her circumstances changed, and she was no longer eligible to claim those benefits.

After a benefit check it showed client may be eligible to make the claims, assistance was provided for this. At the time of client being referred by work coach he was only in receipt of standard Universal Credit and struggling financially as he had the child 4 days per week which was increasing when his ex-partners hours at work increased. The client was awarded the child element under Universal credit which helped with the relationship between the couple as there was often tension around finance. A referral was also made to the employability team as he is actively seeking work. Ongoing support is in place to establish what hours would work best between the parents to make it work for their child.

Local Projects
Formartine



Priority Area – Children & Young People

Rainbow Rogues is based in Ellon and provide support for families of pre school children who have an additional support need and /or a disability. This organisation secured financial support from Tackling Poverty & Inequalities through the Cash First Project. The funding was to support families to address the pressing issues arising from the rising cost of living, especially in the context of those facing economic challenges during the winter months. These families cannot reduce their energy bills due to the essential life sustaining equipment their children may require. The funding supported 30 families with additional finance, advice and ongoing support to ensure the health and wellbeing of their families were not diversly effected by the financial challenges they faced at that time. 100% of those who were supported reported that the financial support stopped them from getting into additional debt to meet their basic needs.

" the heated blanket stopped us being cold at night & increased our health & wellbeing. "

<https://rainbowrogues.org.uk/>

Priority Area – Health & Wellbeing

Aberdeenshire Council’s Housing Service identified that an increasing number of their clients required support to improve their Health & Wellbeing. The service employs 2 Health & Wellbeing officers who improve outcomes for those who are not in receipt of support services and may be suffering from mental ill health. This service is client focused ensuring those involved can access the support they need, when they need it which can be housing, employability, health, welfare rights/ financial and wellbeing support. The post has supported 59 clients with 27 no longer requiring support as they have now secured opportunities and services resulting in sustained positive outcomes.

Local Projects

Garioch

Case Study: Ms A

Background

Ms A was staying in a private rental property and had been referred to the Options team because her property was in very poor condition and substandard. The property had no running hot water, no waste pipes for doing washing, mould and dampness throughout the property and infested with rats.

The Link worker received the referral from the Options Officer who was concerned about her mental health and the property condition. A home visit was organised, and Ms A explained that the passing of her late husband had led to her feeling very isolated in the property. The property had also been broken into, so she was struggling to sleep due to not feeling safe in her property. A discussion took place about where Ms A could get additional support. Ms A agreed to be referred to the mental health improvement and wellbeing service and they offered support with coping strategies to improve her mental health. The Worker also assisted Ms A to attend her GP surgery and speak to the mental health nurse. At the appointment Ms A was prescribed Anti-depressants and gets a follow up call fortnightly from her surgery to see how she is doing.

Outcome

Ms A was assisted by the worker to access her GP and get prescribed medication to assist with her mental health. Ms A was allocated a sheltered housing property. A follow up referral was done to refer her for general housing support to help her settle into her new tenancy and she was assisted to access foodbanks and local services. Ms A said to the mental health link worker she cannot believe she now has heating and hot water and can have as many showers a day as she wants. She has also been linked in with other services in her community and attends the regular events in the sheltered housing complex.

Local Projects

Kincardine & Mearns

Priority Area – Fuel Poverty & Housing

SCARF deliver a range of support packages to people living in Aberdeenshire which reduce their fuel debt and their ongoing energy costs. Scarf's Income Maximisation Officer will carry out a structured assessment of each individual household's circumstances and establish the level and type of support required to provide an immediate positive intervention if necessary and long-term positive outcomes to reduce fuel poverty.

Low-income households will be given support to top up their pre-paid meter and shopping vouchers as part of the Heat and Eat project. The project has supported 284 clients with advice and finance support.



scarf
ENERGISING COMMUNITIES

Local Projects

Marr

Priority Area – Employability

Barnardo's Works deliver the Rural Steps project which undertakes a range of employability work with young people in West Aberdeenshire, specifically targeting Huntly, Alford and Strathdon. This course is tailored to the clients needs and includes work experience, delivery of skills course and 1-1 support. This project targets young people furthest from the work market who are living in a rural area. Over the last year 24 young people have been supported to enhance their employability resulting in 7 securing employment or work placements, with local employers.

Case study

'A' secured a new work placement in a childcare setting for care experienced young person. Supported the young person to gain child protection qualifications and working with children qualifications via ALDO. As the employer is funded via Aberdeenshire Council, they are happy to accept these qualifications and offered them a post within their setting. The young person can now develop a career in childcare/early years.

Barnardo's Works
engage ■ train ■ qualify ■ employ

Transport

We know that issues around transport contribute to the rural poverty premium in Aberdeenshire. A number of consultations and engagement has been undertaken over the last few years and when local people and communities are asked about barriers they face, transport is highlighted as one of the top 3 reasons why people can't access services, access childcare, take up employment or training and access affordable food. There is recognition that over the past 12 months there has been a number of reports and consultations taken place around the affordability and accessibility of public transport however the lived experience forums and network identified it as the area which requires closer inspection.

“The situation is more complex for people on low incomes living in rural areas. People in rural areas drive more frequently than those in urban areas. The issue of ‘forced’ car ownership has been identified in both rural and urban but is particularly pronounced in rural areas where lack of public transport means that people can be forced into running a car even if it puts real pressures on their budget”

Caroline Hastings, TP&I project officer was tasked to lead on a project to gain an understanding of all the work going on across Aberdeenshire and beyond. The findings would be pulled together in a report which can be use as a point of reference and evidence of the impact and action around rural transport. A desktop review was carried out along with gathering information from local and national events. The most important evidence came from conversations with families and individuals directly impacted by the inequalities of rural transport.

“Rights-based - evidence shows that people on low incomes are significantly more dependent on public transport to enable them to exercise their rights. For people in rural areas – in particular disabled people – these transport barriers to accessing human rights are even more pronounced. As well as determining access to employment and education opportunities the lack of suitable transport has a detrimental effect on people's ability to achieve the highest standard of physical and mental health. Difficulties in accessing health services was one of the issues that came up most frequently. A survey of disabled people looking at transport in rural areas found that hospitals were the most difficult services to access from a rural area”.

Transport continued

This report highlights ongoing issues experienced by many and very little inclusion or the recognition for ongoing participation for those impacted by the decision-making process. The landscape of national and local strategy, policy and action plans is cluttered and complex with lots of evidence of need and highlighted priorities but very little evidence of delivering what is being asked for and making a difference to people's lives through affordable, accessible, and reliable transport. Poor passenger transport links and service provision do not encourage people to move away from car use if they have access to one. Services are not provided locally in many areas and there is the need to travel for work, education, community connection, affordable food, and childcare. There are a number of recommendations within the report which the Tackling Poverty & Inequalities strategic group will consider and discuss with the wider partnership. The full report can be found using this link -

<https://www.ouraberdeenshire.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Aberdeenshire-Transport-May-23-Jan-24-Final.pdf>



Allocating Funding

Tackling Poverty & Inequalities Strategic Group allocated £50,000 to empower local parents and young people to invest in community groups and organisations across Aberdeenshire that will benefit young people, families and the wider communities.

Aberdeenshire Youth Rights Committee agreed that they would fund projects that met the at least one of the following priorities –

- 1.To empower young people of Aberdeenshire to have a voice in their community.
- 2.To improve mental and/or physical health in young people.
- 3.Put on free activities for the young people – indoors or outdoors. Day trips, life skill workshops, escape days, adventure activities etc.
- 4.To help young people express their creative side. E.g. arts & crafts, music, gardening, dancing.

The young people agreed to fund 16 projects, the total investment in 2023/24 was £12,768.20 to increase free activities. These projects benefited 478 young people across Aberdeenshire. The remainder of the funding is to be used to deliver a range of youth led events in 2024. These events will look at transport, cost of the school day, impact of stigma and the actions which can be taken at a local, shire and national level.

The Local Voices Forum agreed that they would fund projects that would deliver free activities and improve the health & wellbeing of children, young people, families and the wider community. The wellbeing fund allocated £12,698 to 13 community-based groups which will support 444 children/young people, 135 families and 88 individuals.



Outcomes & Impact



- **1243** people have enhanced their employability skills through targeted training programs, work experience and delivery of supported employment schemes.
- **12,704** households have been supported to reduce household costs.
- **23,482** individuals and their households have been supported through the range of services, opportunities and projects funded through Tackling Poverty & Inequalities.
- Through specialist pathways **1193** clients and their families have been supported to secure additional financial support.
- **401** local voices have been involved in over **15** developments including focusing on transport, reducing the need for foodbanks, reducing stigma and developing tools, training and policies for a range of partners including NHS Grampian.
- **9917** clients accessed information and advice services with a client financial gain of **£6,598,608**



Next Steps

Cash First Approach: This remains an area of ongoing development and Aberdeenshire has secured funding to support this area of work. The Cash First Project aims to provide support for individuals at risk of or experiencing financial. The importance of robust partnerships in this domain cannot be understated. By fortifying these relationships and enhancing referral pathways, the need for crisis intervention can be substantially reduced, creating a more preventative approach.

Co-production of Policies with Lived Experience: There's a growing emphasis on the co-production of policies, services, and opportunities. Engaging with individuals who have firsthand experience of poverty ensures that policies are not just theoretically sound but practically effective and grounded in real-world challenges. A framework of participation is being developed with those local experts. A number of new panels will be developed to support and develop the work around the Rural Poverty Premium and the Cash First Project.

Enhanced Access in Rural and Remote Areas: Aberdeenshire's diverse geography means that some residents live in rural and remote areas. Improving their access to services is critical to ensure that these services are not only reflective of local needs but are also inclusive, leaving no resident unsupported. To reduce barriers for these communities and increase accessibility the recommendations from the Transport Report and the Rural Childcare model will be actioned through the Tackling Poverty & Inequalities Strategic group and the wider partnership it represents.

<https://www.ouraberdeenshire.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/TPI-ekosgen-Provision-of-Rural-Childcare-Research-and-Model-Review-Report-30-01-2024.pdf>

Budget Allocation Priority Area , Organisation & geographical spread	Progress Update & Outcomes
Children & Young People	
Homestart Consortium The 3 Homestart cover all of Aberdeenshire	An allocation of 15K for each of the 3 Homestarts was agreed to cover the impact of the rising cost of living and build capacity. The funding supported 108 families and the recruitment of 21 volunteers. Reduced waiting lists – 100% to be seen within one week of referral. Increased volunteers/employability skills – 50% increase in volunteer recruitment and therefore volunteers going through ongoing training and initial volunteering preparation course. Increased positive well-being for families – 90% families will report improved mental health and self-esteem, or that they are feeling less isolated. Reduce the development deficit which children have experienced post pandemic. – 81% families will feel better able to support their child(ren)’s development. Increased household income – 61% families will report being better able to manage their budgets
Homestart NE Service is delivered across Buchan and Banff & Buchan	To support parents with children under 5 to buy food, essential goods and reduce fuel costs. Over the winter period 45 families were supported to access energy advice and financial support. The funding was used for those households that had children under 2 and those that had medical conditions that required a higher usage of energy.
Homestart Garioch Service is delivered across Garioch and Formartine area.	To support parents with children under 5 to buy food, essential goods and reduce fuel costs. Over the winter 62 families were supported to access energy advice and financial support to meet the increase in energy costs.

	<p>One family had her tank of oil stolen. She had no money to replace it. She couldn't afford home insurance. She has a child with bad asthma and needs a warm dry house. The funding allowed a quick response for those family not only in crisis but to reduce that risk.</p>
<p>Sailing Trust Summer Programme 2023 Service is delivered in Peterhead</p>	<p>The funding delivered 4 weeks of summer holiday sailing for 48 children living in poverty or at risk of falling into poverty. This project supported working families and encouraged children and young people to develop new skills and confidence A Monday night session has been developed to operate over the winter to keep contact with the young people who they have worked with. Food is given to those that attend and a chance to build positive relations with peer leaders and tutors</p>
<p>Youth Poverty Engagement Projects: The Space – Peterhead Wellbeing Project –“ Mind Yur Heed” - Huntly, Kenmay, Kintore, Peterhead Aberdeenshire Youth Rights Committee (AYRC) – Across Aberdeenshire.</p>	<p>2 Youth Poverty Engagement Workers are now employed through TP&I to engage with young people using a rights based approach resulting in coproduction of services & opportunities.</p> <p>The Space is a project led by young people in Peterhead which is now open and being used by a range of young people including unaccompanied young adults, those out with education and those in work.</p> <p>This project has been developed by young people who are struggling with transition into adult hood. The session covers Money, Budgeting, Employability, Health and wellbeing. Its being piloted in 4 communities after which it will be reviewed by the young people and rolled out to other areas.</p> <p>AYRC is a youth led group that represents young people across Aberdeenshire. The groups explore issues that affect them and the co-produce tools and sessions that will benefit all young people. They have developed a Poverty & Inequalities workshop that has been delivered to 11 youth groups and events.</p> <p>In 2024 they are focusing on increasing free activities for all young people , addressing stigma and reducing the cost of the school day. The young people were allocated funding through the Tackling Poverty & Inequalities Reserves which they used to set up a funding stream for young people. In the first round they funded 16 projects and awarded £12,768.20 to increase free activities for young people across Aberdeenshire. These projects will benefit an additional 478 young people across Aberdeenshire. The second round will be opened in 2024.</p>

	The Youth Engagement Workers have supported 311 young people to have a voice and develop a range of opportunities.
<p>K&M Youth Clubs</p> <p>Service covers Stonehaven , Portlethen and Laurencekirk</p>	<p>The funding was to support 3 youth clubs covering Stonehaven, Portlethen and Laurencekirk. The Outcomes are -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 3 Youth Clubs ➤ 310 Youth Members ➤ 22 Adult Volunteer Members ➤ 7 Youth Volunteer Members ➤ 101 Sessions delivered (202 hours) ➤ 6,372 Attendances ➤ 12,744 Youth Social Engagement hours
<p>PAMIS</p> <p>Making a more inclusive society.</p> <p>Service Covers the whole of Aberdeenshire</p>	<p>PAMIS project supports families who have children or young people with a range of needs to –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access and secure employment through developing skills & experience. • Ensure families and partners can access Information ,Advice and Advocacy Services. • Improve Health and wellbeing of people with Profound and Multiple Learning Disabilities (PMLD). • Ensure Emotional Support for family carers is available. <p>16 young people with PMLD participated in opportunities and 30 family members and carers supported.</p>
<p>Aberdeenshire Council Children Services Child Protection Advocacy Worker</p> <p>Service Covers the whole of Aberdeenshire.</p>	<p>The funding will improve outcomes for those who children and young people who are involved within the Child Protection system through establishing independent advocacy service. This service has been co-produced with children and young people with lived experience. Recruitment of staff has started and the project will be further developed through 2024.</p>
<p>Rainbow Rogus</p>	<p>To support families with children who have a disability to address the pressing issues arising from the rising cost of living, especially in the context of those facing economic challenges during the winter months. These families can not reduce their energy bills due to the essential life sustaining equipment their children may require.</p> <p>30 families have been supported with additional financial support, advice and ongoing support.</p>

<p>Services delivered in Ellon and surrounding communities.</p>	
<p>Health & Wellbeing</p>	
<p>Quarriers Epilepsy Community Outreach Project. Service Covers the whole of Aberdeenshire.</p>	<p>This outreach service supports partners, GP, employers and services to increase their knowledge around epilepsy resulting in improved support for their clients. Through the last 12 months they have directly supported – 142 people with epilepsy have received either one-to-one or family support, empowering them to maximise their health and life chances through needs led support based on their individual goals and ambitions. 7 carers have also been supported to increase their confidence to cope with their caring role 14 people with epilepsy to secure and sustain employment.</p>
<p>Aberdeenshire Council Housing Service Health & Wellbeing Officer Service Covers the whole of Aberdeenshire</p>	<p>The funding is used to support a post within housing which will improve outcomes for those who are not in receipt of support services and may be suffering from mental ill health. This service is client focused ensuring those involved can access the support they need ,when they need it which can be housing, employability, health, welfare rights/ financial and wellbeing support. The post has supported 59 clients with 27 no longer requiring support as they have now secured opportunities and services resulting in sustained positive outcomes.</p>
<p>WEA Reminiscence project Services covers Ballater, Banchory, Inch, Rhynie and Torphins.</p>	<p>The North East Local Association (WEA) delivered 5 face-to-face Reminiscence courses for elderly and vulnerable people in 5 sheltered housing - Ballater, Banchory, Inch, Rhynie and Torphins. Over 50 residence participated in this programme which reduced isolation, improved wellbeing and gave staff and carers a better understanding of those they care for.</p>
<p>Lived Experience Service Covers the whole of Aberdeenshire Local Voices Well-Being Fund</p>	<p>Using funding from TP&I the Lived Experience Local Voices group developed a Wellbeing funding. They allocated funding to 13 community groups / organisations with a total of £12,698. This funding is to be used to support community groups to improve the health and well-being of children, young people, and their families through delivering a range of activities and support at a local level. It is anticipated that 484 children , 75 families and 108 adults will benefit from these projects. The funding prioritised afterschool activities for children over the age of 7, focusing on children learning various life skills.</p>

	The other area they focused on was mental health support groups to help tackle loneliness and isolation. Activities for older teenagers and young adults being priority.
Community Collective Community Living Room Service is delivered in Stonehaven.	The project was developed in October 2023 the concept is it's a Community Living Room which is a home from home. A warm, comfortable space to make social connection and develop community spirit. Food is a key element of social connections and every week over 132 people enjoy a hot meal, breakfast or lunch. The project has 30 volunteers and have had a range of partners popping in for a chat around issues that local people have raised. Young people from Carron hill School and Mackie Acd have supported through using it as a learning environment and designing promotional leaflets and materials that are accessible to all.
Apex Church Service is delivered in Peterhead.	To deliver a warm space for local people in Peterhead where they can get support with food, advice and reduce social isolation. This project delivered 200 winter gift box with warm clothing to keep clients warm and reduce energy costs. Along with the winter gift boxes 200 meals were distributed to those using the warm space.
AOG Fraserburgh Service delivered in Fraserburgh.	To develop a community cafe for local people in Fraserburgh where they can get support with food, advice and reduce social isolation. The café distributed 200 food parcels and gave families the opportunity to eat out at the café at no cost to them. The project supported 180 households to address Food Poverty.
Heath & Social Care Service delivered in Peterhead and surrounding areas.	The Winter Wardrobe Appeal is a donation-based project which relies on the community giving their preloved clothes a new lease of life. The project is coordinated by a local Area Coordinator who works with families and individuals who have problems associated with drugs and alcohol, including lone-parent families and families with young children or where the parents are themselves young. The team covers the whole of north Aberdeenshire; however, this project is mainly focused on Peterhead and surrounding areas. The project provided winter clothes and accessories to 40 people, cost effective appliances to 15 families and supplied around 50 people with miscellaneous items like LED lightbulbs, blankets and draught excluders to help keep their homes warmer and reduce energy bills.
Digital Inclusion	
Digital Inclusion	The Digital Assistant post supports the Tackling Poverty & Inequalities partnership to promote activities and the work through social media platforms including pod casting.

<p>Service Covers the whole of Aberdeenshire.</p>	<p>Across the platforms Tackling Poverty & Inequalities have 1,492 followers.</p> <p>The worker has producing a range of interviews with key partners and services to answer questions that local people have requested answers to. These are interviews on topics which those experts with experience has identified as priorities for them such as Housing, Transport, Rural Poverty and Food Security upload to Our Aberdeenshire.</p>
<p>Fuel Poverty & Housing</p>	
<p>SCARF</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heat & Eat Project • Energy Advisors • Energy Fund <p>Service Covers the whole of Aberdeenshire.</p>	<p>Scarf's Income Maximisation Officer will carry out a structured assessment of each individual household's circumstances and establish the level and type of support required to provide an immediate positive intervention if necessary and long-term positive outcomes to reduce fuel poverty.</p> <p>Low income households will be given support to top up their pre paid meter and shopping vouchers as part of the Heat and Eat project.</p> <p>The project has supported 284 clients with advice and finance support.</p>
<p>Aberdeenshire Welfare Rights & Money Advice Team</p> <p>Energy Challenge Fund (£100,000)</p> <p>Flexible fund (£100,000)</p> <p>Service Covers the whole of Aberdeenshire</p>	<p>Money Advice & Welfare Rights workers will have direct access to a flexible fund which is accessed to those who do don't meet the threshold for financial support elsewhere.</p> <p>This will reduce homelessness and debt, and increase household income.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce personal debt and increase access to financial support. • Reduce fuel poverty • Income maximisation for households. • Increase Health & Wellbeing for those involved in the programmes. <p>The fund has supported 670 households with January & February 2024 having the highest demand especially for those households that require oil to heat their homes.</p> <p>Some households have requested Love Local Cards which they find less stigmatising and also supports the local economy.</p>
<p>Financial Inclusion</p>	
<p>Aberdeen Foyer</p> <p>Financial Inclusion Team</p>	<p>The Financial Inclusion Team works across Garioch, Buchan, Banff and Buchan and Formartine to meet the needs of Foyer clients. The team supports individuals to break the cycle of poverty and crisis intervention by enabling them to recognise the root causes of crisis & develop the financial literacy skills and coping strategies required to maximise their income, self-manage their finances, and build resilience. This service provides intensive 1:1</p>

<p>Service is delivered in Inverurie, Ellon, Peterhead, Fraserburgh, Banff & surrounding communities.</p> <p>Vinery Project</p> <p>Service is delivered in Banff</p>	<p>sessions for individuals who are in crisis, including support with benefit applications and food/fuel poverty. The team have supported 61 people with income maximisation services with a client financial gain of £113,932.42.</p> <p>The Vinery Project based in Banff is a Community Inclusion project around food, financial inclusion, and skills, delivering personal development and employability programmes for young people/adults in the local area who are experiencing multiple and complex barriers to move into good quality, sustainable employment. The project also supports those with long term mental health conditions, substance dependency, social isolation and are disengaged from education. The project has supported 278 individuals to participate in opportunities which reduces isolation, improves wellbeing and their employability. The range of volunteer opportunities supports the continued development of 23 local people.</p> <p>Using a Cash first approach support clients directly ensuring they can secure the essentials over the winter months. The Financial Inclusion Team were able to provide additional support before Christmas to parents who were really struggling, some of whom were in tears when they were awarded the funding. It was tears of relief, as they didn't know how they were going to manage to do anything for Christmas. The team were also able to help the most vulnerable clients with energy top ups and food.</p>
<p>Aberdeenshire Council Criminal Justice</p> <p>Winter Challenge Fund</p> <p>This service is delivered in Buchan and Banff & Buchan.</p>	<p>The service provided 40 winter essential packs for those being released from custody into their own tenancy. These packs contained cost saving cooking appliances (air fryer or slow cooker), food, blankets, gloves, hoodies and a hot water bottles.</p> <p>Everyone accessing this provision had access to a support worker who reviewed their financial situation. They also gave assistance with learning how to cook, using recipes and guidance for use of the appliances. This additional support resulted in positive health and wellbeing outcomes.</p>
<p>Gordon Rural Action</p> <p>This service is delivered in Huntly and surrounding communities.</p>	<p>The Huntly Community Support Hub encompasses 5 main projects: the Advice Service, Baby Bank, Uniform Exchange, Charity shop and The Bikery. These projects offer support, advice, employability, volunteering opportunities and a way to minimise environmental impact on the local area through the encouraging of recycling and reuse. The aim of the Hub is to provide a holistic one stop shop approach to tackling poverty and inequality. The baby bank has supported 97 families, the uniform exchange has supported 25 families with secondary aged and 50 families with primary school age.</p> <p>The hub has supports 188 clients per month and the Client Financial Gain is £209,861.88</p> <p>The funding supplied essential items to support those experiencing financial challenges over the winter, including 50 winter ready boxes which not only supported households in the colder months but prepared them for storms.</p>

<p>No Recourse To Public Funds</p> <p>Service Covers the whole of Aberdeenshire.</p>	<p>A member of staff has been appointed to develop a framework to ensure all partners are aware of the process and support available.</p> <p>Support training/raise awareness for welfare rights officers and other staff/partners in relation to immigration to ensure appropriate support for them.</p>
<p>Rural Poverty</p> <p>Service Covers the whole of Aberdeenshire.</p>	<p>Area Committees, partners, and communities have identify priorities for their communities and are develop a range of opportunities to meet the identified needs.</p> <p>The areas of investment are –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Food Poverty ○ Access to services for those settlements out with the main towns. ○ Transport ○ Children & young people ○ Link in with existing priorities within local action / community plans. <p>The Garicoh area have already funded A place in Childhood project to develop a 20 minute neighbourhood plan with Inverurie Academy, Port Elphinstone Primary and Kellands Primary schools. This project engaged with 45 children and young people . The 25 young people from Inverurie academy went on to consult with all pupils within their school and also included St Andrews in that engagement. Initial feedback has been positive and the full report and outcomes will be shared once discussed at a local level.</p>
<p>Progress In Dialogue</p> <p>Wellbeing Fund & Lived Experience project.</p> <p>Service Covers the whole of Aberdeenshire.</p>	<p>To develop an integrated approach to accessing services to ensure sustained outcomes for those communities least heard.</p> <p>Using a Cash First approach Progress In Dialogue will developing a Wellbeing Fund to support those within the targeted communities. This approach has supported 25 families mainly over the winter period. The feedback from the communities is that everyone is financially struggling therefore they don't want to be singled out for special treatment.</p> <p>12 Community Champions have been recruited from the targeted communities so they can not only give support to their own peers but sharing their lived experience plays a crucial role in the development/influencing of local policies, delivery of local services and co develop / deliver interventions that will empower their communities to achieve sustainable outcomes.</p> <p>8 Gypsy/Traveller Community Champions in Aberdeenshire to meet with the Minister for Equalities ensuring they are also influencing national policy.</p>

<p>Maud Village Trust Just Ask Project</p> <p>Winter Challenge Fund</p> <p>This service is delivered in Central Buchan – Maud and surrounding villages.</p>	<p>The Just Ask project is managed through the Maud Village trust as a community hub where local people can access a range of advice and support. Using a cash first approach the project supported 150 clients to purchase food, blankets , fuel top and ensure they could buy energy saving products.</p>
<p>Employability</p>	
<p>Barnardo Works</p> <p>The service delivers to young people from Huntly, Insch, Aberchirder, Alford and Strathdon.</p>	<p>The Rural Steps project undertakes a range of employability capacity, building work with young people in West Aberdeenshire (Huntly, Insch, Aberchirder, Cornhill, Alford, Strathdon) and includes work experience, delivery of skills course and 1-1 support. This project targets young people furthest from the work market who are living in a rural area. Over the last year 24 young people have been supported to enhance their employability resulting in 7 securing employment or work placements , with local employers.</p>
<p>Rural Childcare Model Review</p> <p>Service Covers the whole of Aberdeenshire.</p>	<p>This research was commissioned, and a report presented to the Tackling Poverty and Inequalities Strategic Group on the 8th December 2023. This report highlights what childcare is currently in place, what the need and demand is, the challenges , gaps in the current provision and the recommendations .</p> <p>The researchers engaged directly with parents/carers, care providers, partners and stakeholders and the recommendations reflect their experience.</p> <p>The report will be used to develop a framework which can support the development of this sector and its workforce to meet future needs across Aberdeenshire.</p> <p>https://www.ouraberdeenshire.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/TPI-ekosgen-Provision-of-Rural-Childcare-Research-and-Model-Review-Report-30-01-2024.pdf</p>
<p>Food Security</p>	
<p>Aberdeenshire North Foodbank</p> <p>The funding will be used to -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of the Fraserburgh Foodbank. 	<p>The number of people fed from the Fraserburgh Foodbank is 2507 out of which 482 are children. This is an increase of almost 500 people from the 2022 figures.</p> <p>The highest level of need was in September and December 2023.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Huntly Food Pod. • Strategic Development Worker. <p>Service Covers the whole of Aberdeenshire</p>	<p>In Huntly the Food Pod supported 1260 people which was an increase of 278 from the 2022 figures. Both projects saw an increase in working families due to the rising cost of living.</p> <p>The strategic development worker has supported the development of the Fair Food Aberdeenshire partnership which consists of a range of local partners that are working together to reduce food security, food waste and increase access to local produce.</p>
<p>Cfine Connecting with Communities (mobile pantry)</p> <p>Winter Challenge Fund</p> <p>The service delivers to Edzell Woods ,St Combs, Auchenblae, Fettercairn, St Cyrus, Drumlithie, Turriff, Banff, Macduff, Aberchirder, Crimond, Inverallochy/Cairnbulg, and Rosehearty.</p>	<p><i>Connecting with Communities</i> is currently servicing 13 locations across Aberdeenshire - Edzell Woods and St Combs on a weekly basis, and Auchenblae, Fettercairn, St Cyrus, Drumlithie, Turriff, Banff, Macduff, Aberchirder, Crimond, Inverallochy/Cairnbulg, and Rosehearty on a fortnightly basis. This project supports on average 268 households per week.</p> <p>The van supplies affordable fruit , veg, eggs along side free tinned, dried and when available fresh and frozen goods. In addition to food access the project also supplies free period products and a money advice welfare rights service through the Aberdeenshire Money advice welfare rights team and Social Security Scotland. The challenge fund also enabled energy saving products such as slow cookers to be given out to those who are struggling with the rising cost of living.</p>
<p>Garioch Community Kitchen</p> <p>Development of Food Skills</p> <p>Service is delivered in Inverurie and is accessible from the surrounding communities.</p>	<p>The project delivers a range of courses which provide a positive direct impact on both attendees, including children and their families by increasing knowledge, confidence and empowering them to plan and cook healthy affordable meals which will in turn save them money and increase their wellbeing.</p> <p>A range of Lifeskills will also be delivered to young people who are leaving school to ensure they have the skilled required for the next phase of their lives.</p> <p>Over 100 people have attended the range of sessions.</p> <p><i>“ Its helped me get more relaxed in the kitchen when the girls can now help”</i></p>
<p>Area Food Fund</p> <p>Service Covers the whole of Aberdeenshire.</p>	<p>This funding is managed by the Area Teams to deliver local projects which supports the wider strategy and respond to local needs. At a local level 67 community projects have been supported through this funding. These include growing projects, increase access to affordable food, cooking projects and reducing food waste. Over 2,360 people have benefited from these projects.</p>

<p>Fraserburgh Men Shed</p> <p>Fraserburgh and district</p>	<p>The project have supported 25 older men to develop confidence and skills through delivering cooking classes . Energy saving equipment , recipes and store cupboard ingredients have also been bought to ensure they can cook at home resulting in an improved diet. For those that are lone households to increase health & wellbeing , cooking skills and reduce isolation.</p>
<p>Information & Advice Framework</p>	
<p>Community Based Commissioned Services (K&M CAB)</p> <p>Service Covers the whole of Aberdeenshire.</p>	<p>The Consortium is made up of the 4 Citizens Advice Bureau's that operate across Aberdeenshire. They have supported 8581 clients with a range of advice and have highlighted the increase in complex cases has resulted in the need for more time per client. The client financial gain over the last 12 months is £5,450,502</p> <p>Review of framework is required as the contract is to be retendered in 2024.</p> <p>Existing contract ends 5th January 2025</p>
<p>Specialist workers within Trusted venues – including a quality assurance post.</p> <p>Service Covers the whole of Aberdeenshire.</p>	<p>The Money Advice & welfare Rights team moved to Tackling Poverty & Inequalities Team on the 1st April 2023. The team have developed specialist pathways to ensure those who face multiple barriers can access the advice and support required. The team have supported 1,336 with advice support and advice. The client financial gain is £1,148,106.</p> <p>The training & quality assurance post has delivered 118 courses which supported 407 to develop skills and increase their knowledge of the sector. Additional ESF funding has been allocated until June 2023. UK prosperity fund will be July 2023 – March 2024</p>



From mountain to sea

Appendix 4

TACKLING POVERTY & INEQUALITIES BUDGET UPDATE FOR 2024- 25 AND 2025/26 (INDICATIVE)

Introduction

This strategic framework outlines the areas of investment and the governance structure which has been used to allocate and monitor the range of funding.

Governance

An annual budget is allocated through Tackling Poverty & Inequalities Strategic partnership to be used to address this complex agenda. In 2021, as part of the commitment from Aberdeenshire Council to reduce poverty and inequalities, a reserve of £3.5 million was secured to support this agenda. This funding is non-recurring, and as a reserve it is not time limited.

On the 14th October 2021 Communities Committee, the policy committee which has responsibility for Tackling Poverty & Inequalities, approved a strategic framework for investment. The framework highlights the following key areas for investment, which have been reviewed to reflect current developments :

- Food Insecurity
- Fuel Poverty & Housing
- Rural Poverty including Transport.
- Financial Inclusion
- Mental Health & Wellbeing
- Employability
- Children & Young People

Tackling Poverty & Inequalities produce an annual report outlining the outcomes and added value the existing resources, including the reserves has had over the last 12 months and outlines the programme for the future 12 months. This report will be presented in a draft form to all Area Committees prior to its approval at Communities Committee. This ensures Area and Policy Committee scrutiny.

Tackling Poverty & Inequalities Strategic Partnership uses a partnership approach when allocating funding through its Project Assessment Group. This is a partnership working group which meets when required to assess Fairer Aberdeenshire Fund applications, Cash First Funding, including those that will be supported from the reserves to ensure that there is no duplicate funding of commissioned services to address Poverty & Inequalities.

Wherever possible projects are co-designed/co-delivered with communities and a rights-based approach underpins their development.

Structure:



In line with Aberdeenshire Council's Scheme of Governance Financial Regulations will be adhered to for the allocation of budget approval of specific projects.

Principles of Investment

All Tackling Poverty & Inequalities applications or proposals should:

- Recognise Place and empower communities and individuals to not only influence/inform decisions but co-produce services to meet their needs.
- Ensure a holistic approach is developed through partnership working at a local and strategic level.
- Improve health inequalities.
- Address the causes of poverty and not just symptoms.
- Make early interventions for vulnerable individuals, families, and disadvantaged communities.
- Improve employability as a key mean of tackling poverty.
- Take a strategic, and where appropriate, cross service/partner approach.
- Enable sustainability of projects/activities funded through short term/non-recurring arrangements.
- Facilitate co-production or a participatory budgeting approach.
- Build capacity – to leverage extra funding, support additional families/households.
- Add additionality or sustainability to other funding streams, and in particular, those that are time limited.
- Demonstrate response to issues/opportunities within the community impact assessment.
- Recognise community wealth building pillars.

Sustaining Investment

Investment will support sustainability of projects that have demonstrated positive outcomes whilst also allowing for a level of creativity and innovation to develop new projects and activities which will help mitigate poorer socio-economic outcomes as a result of the rising cost of living. To further support sustainability, the Tackling Poverty & Inequalities Strategic Partnership will collaborate with the council's Investments & Projects Team (Economic Development) to identify funding streams that can extend the reserves or sustain innovation enabled by the reserves.

Proposal for 2024/25 Tackling Poverty & Inequalities (TP&I) budget and indicative of 2025/26

Area	Budget (2024/25)	Allocation to date	Budget Available	Comments
Fairer Aberdeenshire Fund <i>(£1,068,400)</i>	£541,200	£316,606	£224,594	Staffing within the TP&I Team is as follows – TP&I Coordinator, Project Officer, Child Poverty Engagement Worker, Admin Officer, Welfare Team Leader – £247,069 Grants to third sector - £69,537
Information and Advice Services	£527,200	£ 996,648 Additional income has been secured from a range of sources. Please see comments.	none	£410,291 – CAB contract Money Advice Welfare Rights Team (MAWR) – £586,357 Income from UK prosperity fund, Resettlement Team, Housing (21 Hours) and HSCP will cover additional MAWR staff costs.
TP&I Reserves	£1,478,337 (<i>£2,021,663 has already been allocated as below</i>) <i>£460,399 (22/23)</i> <i>£1,454,144 (23/24)</i> <i>£107,120 (25/26)</i>	£ 727,013	£ 751,324	Staff – £91,531, Service Level Agreements – £44,544 Grants – £590,938
Cash First	£100,804	£59,625	£41,179	Staff – £52,425, Grants - £41,179, Lived Experience - £7,200
Total	£2,647,541	£2,099,892	£1,017,097	

Area of investment and Delivery service / organisation	Summary of the service or project.	2024/25 Proposed allocation and source	2025/26 Proposed indicative budget
<p>Food security</p> <p><u>Cfine</u></p> <p>Increase access to good quality food for those in rural communities.</p>	<p>The funding will continue to support the Connecting with Communities project. This project is currently servicing 13 locations across Aberdeenshire - Edzell Woods and St Combs on a weekly basis, and Auchenblae, Fettercairn, St Cyrus, Drumlithie, Turriff, Banff, Macduff, Aberchirder, Crimond, Inverallochy/Cairnbulg, and Rosehearty on a fortnightly basis.</p> <p>There is a review being carried out to ensure the project is accessing those communities that have limited transport or access to low-cost food.</p> <p>Communities within the Marr area are also being considered.</p>	<p>£51,194</p> <p>TP&I Reserves</p>	
<p><u>Garioch Community Kitchen</u></p> <p>Developing food skills</p>	<p>The funding will deliver a range of courses which provide a positive direct impact on both attendees and their families by increasing knowledge, confidence and empowering them to plan and cook healthy affordable meals which will in turn save them money and increase their wellbeing.</p>	<p>£12,537</p> <p>Fairer Aberdeenshire Fund</p>	
<p>Fuel Poverty & Housing</p> <p><u>SCARF</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heat & Eat Project • Energy Advisors • Energy Fund 	<p>Scarf's Income Maximisation Officer will carry out a structured assessment of each individual household's circumstances and establish the level and type of support required to provide an immediate positive intervention if necessary and long-term positive outcomes.</p>	<p>£85,000</p> <p>TP&I Reserves</p>	<p>£85,000</p> <p>TP&I Reserves <i>indicative</i></p>

<p><u>TP&I Welfare Rights & Money Advice Team</u></p> <p>Energy Challenge Fund & Flexible fund</p>	<p>Money Advice & Welfare Rights workers will have direct access to a flexible fund which is accessed for those who do not meet the threshold for financial support elsewhere. This will reduce homelessness and debt and increase household income.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce personal debt and increase access to financial support. • Increase health & wellbeing. 	<p>£100,000 TP&I Reserves</p>	<p><i>£100,000 TP&I Reserves indicative</i></p>
<p>Rural Poverty including Transport.</p> <p>Rural Poverty Area budgets</p>	<p>Area plans are being developed to address local priorities – Food security, access to services and transport.</p>	<p>Budget already allocated.</p>	
<p>Cash First Project</p>	<p>The aim of this project is to reduce the need for emergency food provision through reviewing and improving referral pathways for those rural communities that have additional challenges in accessing financial advice & support. A local voice panel will be developed to monitor the outcomes of this project which will be supported by a Cash First Project Officer. There is funding available to develop new ways of working resulting in increased access to services and to reduce the risk of a financial crisis.</p>	<p>£100,804 Scottish Government £100,000 TP&I Reserves</p>	<p>£63,768 Scottish Government £50,000 TP&I Reserves</p>
<p>Financial Inclusion Aberdeen Foyer</p> <p>Financial Inclusion Team</p> <p>The Vinery Project (Banff)</p>	<p>This funding will enable Foyer to increase specialist Financial Inclusion Advice across Garioch, Buchan, Banff and Buchan and Formartine to meet the demand from the existing service. This service provides intensive 1:1 sessions for individuals who are in crisis, including support with benefit applications, debt management, food/fuel poverty.</p> <p>The Vinery Project will be a Community Inclusion project around food, financial inclusion, and skills, delivering personal development and employability programmes for young people/adults in the local area</p>	<p>£92,402 TP&I Reserves</p>	

	who are experiencing multiple and complex barriers to move into good quality, sustainable employment.		
<u>Gordon Rural Action</u> Community Hub - Huntly	To continue to support the delivery of a community-based advice & support hub. This hub ensures an integrated approach is taken in addressing poverty & inequalities within the Huntly and surrounding areas.	£47,000 Fairer Aberdeenshire Fund	
No Recourse to Public Funds	A member of staff has been appointed to develop a framework to ensure all partners are aware of the process and support available. Support training/raise awareness for welfare rights officers and other staff/partners in relation to immigration to ensure appropriate support for them.	£15,000 Reserves	
<u>Progress In Dialogue</u> Wellbeing Fund & Lived Experience project.	This funding is part of our Cash First approach where we not only support those in crisis, but we ensure there is an integrated approach to accessing services to ensure sustained outcomes. Increase access to support for marginalised communities through developing a Wellbeing Fund within Progress in Dialogue.	£62,342 TP&I Reserves	
Mental Health & Wellbeing <u>Aberdeenshire Council Housing Service</u> Health & Wellbeing Officer	The funding will be used to cover a post within housing which will improve outcomes for those who are not in receipt of support services and may be suffering from mental ill health. There is a gap in service provision where those who were showing signs of not being well were frequently contacting housing services and were unable to access mental health statutory services. This service will reduce the risk of clients take their own lives and support staff who worry that their client's mental health needs are not being met.	£18,000 TP&I Reserves	
<u>Community Collective</u> Community Living Room in Stonehaven	The Living Room is a home from home. A warm, comfortable space to make social connection and develop community spirit . The funding will support the project by covering accommodation and food costs.	£10,000 Fairer Aberdeenshire Fund	

<p>Employability</p>	<p>The employability partnership has been allocated funding through No One Left Behind to cover a range of employability programmes to support people from 1-1 confidence building to ensuring people can not only secure but sustain employment. The parental support fund is also allocated through the partnership which is to support parents to secure, sustain and progress through employment. There is an assumption that these streams of funding will continue into 2024/25 however Tackling Poverty & Inequalities funding may be required.</p>		
<p>Children & Young People</p> <p>Tackling Poverty & Inequalities Youth Poverty Engagement Project:</p> <p>The Space - Peterhead</p> <p>Aberdeenshire Youth Rights Committee (AYRC)</p>	<p>2 Youth Poverty Engagement Workers are now employed through TP&I to engage with young people using a rights-based approach resulting in coproduction of services & opportunities.</p> <p>The Space is a youth led project which is used by a range of young people including unaccompanied young adults.</p> <p>AYRC has young people from across Aberdeenshire that meets on a regular basis to discuss issues and priorities. In 2024 they will be working on the Cost of the school day, young people's health & wellbeing and addressing stigma as priority areas.</p>	<p>£91,531</p> <p>TP&I Reserves</p>	
<p><u>Aberdeenshire Council Children Services</u></p> <p>Child Protection Advocacy Worker</p>	<p>To improve outcomes for those who children and young people who are involved within the Child Protection system through establishing independent advocacy service. This service will be co-produced with children and young people with lived experience.</p>	<p>£26,544</p> <p>TP&I Reserves</p>	<p>£26,544</p> <p>TP&I Reserves <i>indicative</i></p>
<p>Child Care Development Fund</p>	<p>A cross service group have been established to develop a Childcare framework which will reflect the recommendations of the research carried out in 2023 "Provision of Rural Childcare Research and Model Review for Aberdeenshire".</p> <p>It has been agreed that financial support to develop the sector in Aberdeenshire maybe required therefore a further paper will be</p>	<p>£100,000</p> <p>TP&I Reserves</p>	<p>£100,000</p> <p>TP&I Reserves <i>indicative</i></p>

	presented to Communities, Education & Children Services and Infrastructure Service Committee to agree a collective budget to support this development.		
Information & Advice <u>Kincardine & Mearns CAB</u> Commissioned Community Based Provision	Deliver a range of community-based information & advice services through the 4 CABs at a local level. Review of framework has taken place and appendix 4 outlines options for the Committee to consider. Existing contract ends December 2024.	£ 410,291 Fairer Aberdeenshire Fund	
<u>TP&I Money Advice Welfare Rights Team</u> Specialist pathways and sector development	To develop specialist pathways to ensure people can access the services they need through GP practices, Foodbanks, Community projects and Health Visiting teams. To ensure the sector is supported through a range of training opportunities which will result in a constant service across the shire.	£ 586,357 Fairer Aberdeenshire Fund , Health & Social Care Funding UK Prosperity fund has been secured till 2025	£386,132 Fairer Aberdeenshire Fund ,Health & Social Care Funding <i>Indicative</i>
Total allocation		£1,909,002	£811,444 <i>Indicative</i>

Appendix 5

Aberdeenshire Child Poverty Statistics – Marr Area by Ward

Latest Data Year: 2021/22 (p)

Aberdeenshire wide child poverty estimates (% after housing costs)	16%	
Relative Low Income: (Relative low-income is defined as a family whose equivalised income is below 60 per cent of contemporary median income. Gross income measure is Before Housing Costs (BHC) and includes contributions from earnings, state support and pensions)	Number	%
Aboyne, Upper Deeside and Donside	233	21.33
Banchory and Mid Deeside	195	25.49
Huntly, Strathbogie and Howe of Alford	490	53.61
Total*	918	
Relative Low Income - Number of working households with children: (Proportion of children under 16 who live in households that contain at least one person aged 16-64, where all individuals aged 16 and over are in employment.)		
Aboyne, Upper Deeside and Donside	161	24.39
Banchory and Mid Deeside	135	20.45
Huntly, Strathbogie and Howe of Alford	361	54.70
Total*	657	
Absolute Low Income: (Absolute low-income is defined as a family whose equivalised income is below 60 per cent of the 2010/11 median income adjusted for inflation. Gross income measure is Before Housing Costs (BHC) and includes contributions from earnings, state support and pensions.)	Number	%
Aboyne, Upper Deeside and Donside	193	25.84
Banchory and Mid Deeside	145	19.41
Huntly, Strathbogie and Howe of Alford	407	54.48
Total*	745	
Absolute Low Income - Number of working households with children: (Proportion of children under 16 who live in households that contain at least one person aged 16-64, where all individuals aged 16 and over are in employment.)		
Aboyne, Upper Deeside and Donside	134	25.14
Banchory and Mid Deeside	107	20.08
Huntly, Strathbogie and Howe of Alford	295	55.35
Total*	536	

*Statistical disclosure control has been applied to this table to avoid the release of confidential data.

Totals may not sum due to the disclosure control applied.

<https://stat-xplore.dwp.gov.uk/>

Background

This framework was developed prior to the pandemic to ensure existing resources were used effectively to deliver good quality services across Aberdeenshire. Traditionally there had not been a consistent approach to the delivery of Information and Advice services therefore a co-ordinated approach was required to ensure equity of service across Aberdeenshire.

The framework was a result of the learnings from the pilot project led through Aberdeenshire Alcohol & Drug Partnership “ Health 4 Work Project ” and the outcomes from the European Social Funded (ESF) projects.

The Health 4 Work Project was funded through the Scottish Government and gave the partners an opportunity to deliver new ways of working to support those with long term health conditions. A welfare rights worker integrated in Peterhead Health Centre increased accessibility not only to advice and information services but the client focused approach ensured clients accessed all the services they required to ensure sustained outcomes.

The additional funding through ESF which the local Citizens Advice Bureau’s (CAB) has secured gave the opportunity to develop outreach services. One of the ESF projects developed a partnership through the Here 4 You Centre in Fraserburgh which CAB welfare rights workers were part of. The outcomes of these project highlighted that a partnership approach to delivering information & advice services was more effective than the traditional methods of appointment at an officer-based service.

Learning from these projects formed the basis for the Information & Advice Framework which has 2 elements to it. The first is a community-based services which compliments a specialist pathway service which relies on partnership working. It was also agreed that a quality assurance/training post would be created to ensure a consistent level of service would be developed across Aberdeenshire.

After consulting with Aberdeenshire Council 6 Area Committee’s the existing framework was agreed by Communities Committee on the 6th of June 2019.

Implementation of the Framework - 2020

Partnership approach to deliver Information & Advice Services

An existing structure within Aberdeenshire Support & Advice Team (ASAT) was identified to have capacity to manage an additional 7 staff that would be recruited within Primary Care settings. The existing 2 Money Advice Welfare Rights posts through the ASAT team became community focused with a wider remit of not only supporting Aberdeenshire Council Tenants but those who were at risk or present themselves as homeless. Through this development clients were able to access a range of Information & Advice Services from one point of contact. The Quality Assurance post was developed as part of this team to ensure the services being delivered meet the National Standards which includes community-based income maximisation and advice services.

Due to the pandemic the model changed where specialist pathways were developed with NHS, Foodbanks, Community Based groups, Schools and services over the past 5 years. The cost of the team has increased to meet demands with over 50% of the total costs being covered from external funding. The team was moved under Tackling Poverty & Inequalities on the 1st of April 2023

Commissioned Community Based Services

Independent Information & Advice Services across Aberdeenshire gives people community access to the range of support and services which the third sector have traditionally delivered. The service that was commissioned covers - General Advice, Money, Debt, Housing and Welfare Rights.

The tender was split into 3 lots to cover North, Central and South Aberdeenshire. The contract outlined the expected service and levels, geographical area to be covered, accepted accreditation of staff, expected outcomes to be achieved, monitoring and reporting framework.

The contract for the community-based services was awarded to Kincardine & Mearns Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) who leads the Aberdeenshire CAB Consortium. The contract started on the 6th of January 2020 and after a review, was extended for a further 24 months with a further review after 12 months to ensure the improvement areas identified were addressed. The existing contract ends on the 5th of January 2025.

This contract has given security of funding for the 4 CABs operating in Aberdeenshire over a 5-year period at a cost of **£2,029,096**

The framework was agreed by Communities Committee on the 5th of September 2019.

Challenges

Pandemic

The Framework started as we entered into a pandemic which changed the way services were to be delivered. Over the first 18 months all staff and volunteers within the framework mainly worked remotely from home delivering services to clients online and phone support. During this time those that were vulnerable were still seen face to face however the meetings were on people's door steps rather than in an office or home setting. Developing an integrated approach through the framework was delayed due to the remote working environment.

Primary Health settings were not able to accommodate staff therefore developing a positive relationship within those teams was a challenge and the framework required to be changed to meet the demand through a different delivery model. The long-term impact on GP Practices was under estimated and a blended approach is still used to deliver these services.

Staff recruitment

Recruitment of staff and volunteers to the sector was a challenge throughout the first 2 years of the framework. The impact of the pandemic resulted in financial challenges for households that were furloughed or made redundant therefore volunteers and staff had to secured employment to increase their household income. It takes 6 months to training an advisor therefore the high turn over of staff and volunteers resulting in a reduced capacity to deliver.

As a result of the rising cost of living, the cost of home working or travel has been more of a consideration to those applying for posts.

There has been 6 Consortium leads over the time of the framework which has had an impact on trying to develop an integrated approach.

The rising cost of living

Over the last 2 years the rising cost of living has increased the need for the services delivered through the framework and the cost of delivery has also increased.

The sector has seen an increase in demand especially from those that are above the threshold for financial support. Income Maximisation has been increasingly difficult to

achieve for clients and it has resulted in an increase in clients displaying mental health issues.

The cases that are being presented are increasingly complicated resulting in waiting lists for both the Community based services and those within the Tackling Poverty & Inequalities team.

Outcomes

Throughout the duration of the framework outcomes have been reported annually to a 6 Area Committees and the Communities Committee.

Through the framework 44,944 clients have been supported with a collective Client financial gain of £34,358,778 has been secured.

The framework has developed a range of tools, training and specialist pathways to ensure people get the right advice at the right time, reducing the risk of families and individuals into poverty.

Review Summary

An Information & Advice Monitoring Board was established by Amanda Roe to ensure the framework was delivering the expected outcomes. This is a partnership Board who have engaged with the service users, providers and the wider partners to carry out a review of the framework. [Information Advice-Review-Final-Report-Jan-2024.pdf](https://ouraberdeenshire.org.uk/information-advice-review-final-report-jan-2024.pdf) (ouraberdeenshire.org.uk)

The main recommendations of the review were as follows –

1. The framework did give clients options which was positive. An increase in staff/resources to support advice services would improve access and help reduce waiting times.
2. An integrated triage system for more straight-forward cases or an opportunity to have paperwork prepared in advance of, for example, a CAB meeting could be developed, which would reduce waiting times for all.
3. Investment in a website that could be a resource for partners/services and service users over 24/7 period. With the use of technology to set up a chatbot function to allow for more self-support and increased access, again to help reduce waiting times.
4. An inconsistency in the level of satisfaction service users and services/partners have received from different CABs therefore, it would be essential that any contract awarded to an organisation for future service provision had to commit to consistently monitor and evaluate service levels and report not only on the number of service users supported and financial gain for them but also consider quarterly satisfaction surveys with their users to deliver continuous improvement.

Future Options

Option for service delivery	Positives	Challenges
<p>A) Commission all aspects of Information and Advice service through a tender process.</p>	<p>The existing budget has been allocated to an existing contract.</p> <p>Local delivery agents are already in place with service delivery within targeted communities.</p> <p>Service delivery could be continuous if local delivery agents were awarded the contract. Progression routes for volunteers which will support the sector.</p> <p>Online and telephone services are already in place and could be developed to fit the needs of the sector.</p> <p>The contract could attract other delivery agents .</p>	<p>Capacity of the Third sector to deliver across a large rural area. Some areas have limited services such as rural communities in Marr and Fraserburgh.</p> <p>Feedback from services users and partner is there is not a consistent approach.</p> <p>The Third Sector have previously struggled to meet targets and outcomes in some areas within Aberdeenshire.</p> <p>A new provider within Aberdeenshire will require lead in time that may resulting in a loss of service.</p>
<p>B) Deliver Information & Advice services through developing and building capacity within the Tackling Poverty & Inequalities Money Advice Welfare Rights Team.</p>	<p>Already a team in place. Aberdeenshire Council has experience in delivering services across a large rural area. Apprenticeships could be developed to support progression routes into the sector.</p> <p>Services are delivered in a range of locations in partnership with NHS, GPs, Schools and community based groups. Services are delivered locally to increase accessibility to those who have a range of barriers. Online and telephone services are already in place and could be</p>	<p>Recruitment of experienced and skilled staff can be a challenge.</p> <p>Local people do not always want to engage with Council staff therefore an increase in partnership pathways will be required to widen the reach and increase engagement.</p> <p>A flexible service to meet the needs of all will be required to be developed resulting in an on line 24/7 service to reduce crisis.</p> <p>The existing team do not have a fully trained Debt worker in place therefore there may be a delay in service until that gap is addressed.</p>

	developed to fit the needs of the sector.	
c) Continue to deliver services using the framework approach which would result in a tender process for Community Based provision highlighting Welfare Rights, Debt and housing as the main areas and the continued development of the TP&I Welfare Team.	<p>The framework is in place and can deliver a confidential, accessible services delivered at a local level through a range of partnership settings.</p> <p>It supports the continued development of the sector through increasing professional development opportunities, including using a Cash First Approach.</p>	<p>The existing budget would not cover all aspects of the existing services and external funding will have to be secured.</p> <p>The framework would require to be developed ensuring an integrated services that meets the needs of clients across Aberdeenshire.</p> <p>Any contract should ensure a consistency across the shire with a focus on specialist services such as Debt.</p> <p>Increase in specialist pathways to ensure referrals are streamlined and more effective.</p>

Budget

The existing budget for Information & Advice services is £549,000 per year.

The Health & Social Care Partnership has agreed to contribute annually an additional £100,000 towards the framework and the Housing Service contributes 21 hours of a member of staff (£22,247). These contributions beyond 2024/25 are to be confirmed.

Total annual budget available is - **£671,247**.

Total costs original framework (excluding the training post) is - £410,291 Commissioned, 7 Welfare Rights workers £266,966 = **£677,257**

External funding has been secured to build capacity within the Tackling Poverty & Inequalities Money Advice & Welfare Rights Team, which ends in 2025.

March 2024

REPORT TO MARR AREA COMMITTEE – 16 APRIL 2024

DRAFT HEATING POLICY

1 Executive Summary/Recommendations

1.1 This report provides an update to the Area Committee on progress with the development and implementation of Aberdeenshire Council's new Heating Policy. It contains the latest version of the policy document, with comments incorporated from the recently completed consultation exercise, as well as an implementation programme.

1.2 The Committee is recommended to:

1.2.1 Consider and comment on the progress with development and implementation of the proposed Aberdeenshire Council Heating Policy; and

1.1.2 Provide comments on the draft Heating Policy document for Business Services Committee.

2 Decision Making Route

2.1 On 29 September 2022 the Aberdeenshire Council Route Map to 2030 and Beyond was approved by Full Council ([Item 14](#)). In order to meet a 75% reduction in emissions by 2030, this Route Map committed Officers to reporting against an annual Carbon Budget, with a Carbon Reduction Target for each Service. For the 2024/25 Carbon Budget, which was approved on 22 February 2024 ([Item 6](#)), Business Services were informed their Carbon Reduction Target would be 1,600 tCO₂e (tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent).

2.2 In December 2023, when debating what to include for their Service in the 2024/25 Carbon Budget, Officers in Property and Facilities Management (P&FM) decided to explore the concept of a Council-wide Heating Policy.

2.3 The draft Policy was developed initially by the Engineering team in P&FM and issued for comments to the Sustainability and Climate Change team and P&FM Service Managers in late January 2024. Comments were incorporated, and the final Heating Policy document was issued for consultation to the Trade Union Joint Secretaries on 19 February 2024. The results of this consultation were received on 22 March 2024 and incorporated into the latest version of the proposed Heating Policy document which is attached as **Appendix 1**.

2.4 The development, governance, and implementation of this Heating Policy follows the 'Scheme of Governance Part 4B - Policy Development and Review Framework' document. This means the proposed Policy will need to go to the six Area Committees and then Business Services Committee for final approval. In February 2024, a programme was prepared to reflect this route – see **Appendix 2**.

2.5 The programme in **Appendix 2** states an intention to go to the Sustainability Committee in May 2024 but this meeting has now been cancelled. Bringing this Policy before Sustainability Committee was always an optional measure, but not required as part of the Policy Development and Review Framework process noted in paragraph 3.4 above. Therefore, no additional changes or delays are needed to the programme – the overall timeline will not be affected.

3 Discussion

3.1 In line with other Local Authorities, the creation and implementation of a formal Heating Policy by Aberdeenshire Council should unlock significant savings through the prevention of energy waste. Services will be supported on this focus with tools and advice, but ultimately empowered at a site level to take direct action and apply best practice.

3.2 Ensuring heating is being operated within the most appropriate schedules and setpoints to meet operational needs, and identifying and tackling persistent overheating, should mean the release of cost and carbon savings with minimal investment.

3.3 The Policy is intended to be ready for communication in June 2024 after passing appropriate approvals. The Policy will however need support from all leadership levels to deliver the forecast benefits.

3.4 The Energy team in P&FM have calculated the Heating Policy will provide estimated Carbon Savings of 923 tCO₂e (tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent) in both 2024/25 and 2025/26, making it a key component of the Carbon Budget for Business Services in these years. This ties in with the estimated timescales for development and implementation of the Heating Policy. It is likely to take until June 2024 for full approval and launch. There will then be an 18-month period for the behaviour change it formalises to take effect, which would fall equally between the two financial years.

4 Council Priorities, Implications and Risk

4.1

Pillar	Priority
Our People	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning for Life • Health & Wellbeing
Our Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate Change • Resilient Communities
Our Economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic Growth • Infrastructure and public assets

4.2 The table below shows whether risks and implications apply if the recommendations are agreed.

Subject	Yes	No	N/A
Financial	X		
Staffing			X
Equalities and Fairer Duty Scotland			X
Children and Young People's Rights and Wellbeing			X
Climate Change and Sustainability	X		
Health and Wellbeing			X
Town Centre First			X

- 4.3 As reported in the Carbon Budget paper to Full Council ([22 February 2024](#)), the estimated Annual Cost Saving for this Heating Policy is £700,000.
- 4.4 There are no direct staffing implications arising from this Heating Policy,
- 4.5 The screening section as part of Stage One of the Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) process has not identified the requirement for any further detailed assessments to be undertaken.
- 4.6 The following Risks in the [Corporate Risk Register](#) have been identified as relevant to this matter on a Corporate Level. However, it is acknowledged that working towards a 75% reduction in Council owned emissions has the potential to impact upon any number of areas across the Council risk portfolio.
- Risk ID ACORP010 as it relates to environmental challenges;
 - Risk ID ACORP006 as it relates to reputation management; and
 - Risk ID ACORP001 as it relates to budget pressure.

The following Risk in the [Directorate Risk Registers](#) has been identified as relevant to this matter on a Strategic Level:

- Risk ID ISSR010 as it relates to Climate Change.

The above risks could be mitigated against with sufficient communication and engagement on the progress Aberdeenshire Council is making with regards to this Heating Policy and how it relates to wider objectives on climate change mitigation and the Carbon Budget.

5 Scheme of Governance

- 5.1 The Head of Finance and Monitoring Officer within Business Services have been consulted in the preparation of this report and their comments are incorporated within the report and are satisfied that the report complies with the [Scheme of Governance](#) and relevant legislation.
- 5.2 The Committee is able to consider this item in terms of Section B 11.1 of the List of Committee Powers in Part 2A of the Scheme of Governance as it relates to considering and commenting on proposals to amend Council policy and/or

develop Council policy in line with the Policy Development and Review Framework and make recommendations to the relevant Policy Committee.

Rob Simpson
Director of Business Services

Report prepared by Iain Wylie, Engineering Services Manager
27 March 2024

List of Appendices –

Appendix 1 - Draft Heating Policy
Appendix 2 - Programme for implementation of Heating Policy

Appendix 1 – Draft Heating Policy

HEATING POLICY: GUIDANCE FOR THE APPROPRIATE USE OF HEATING AND VENTILATION IN ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCIL PROPERTIES

1 Introduction

- 1.1 Although guidance around energy use in Aberdeenshire Council properties has existed for a number of years, this Heating Policy document formalises this earlier work by providing a set of clear limits for the use of heating, to ensure overheating and energy waste is minimised, while at the same time maintaining appropriate comfort levels.
- 1.2 By 2045 Aberdeenshire Council aims to be Net Zero, and by 2030 is targeting a 75% reduction in emissions (from the baseline in 2010). A successful implementation of this Heating Policy is an important part of the Council's strategy towards meeting these targets.

2 Heating – Regulatory Framework

- 2.1 The Health and Safety Executive recommends a minimum indoor working temperature of 16°C if office based, or 13°C if work involves rigorous physical effort.
- 2.2 For most aspects of the working environment, the Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations 1992 lay down certain requirements. Regulation 7 deals specifically with the temperature in indoor workplaces and states that: *During working hours, the temperature in all workplaces inside buildings shall be reasonable.* The application of the regulation is dependent on the nature of the workplace, e.g. school, office, or warehouse.
- 2.3 Minimum temperatures in Education buildings are outlined in School Premises (General Requirements and Standards) (Scotland) Regulations 1967. It states teaching spaces should have a minimum temperature of 17°C.
- 2.4 While excess temperature can be as uncomfortable as low temperature there is no legal upper limit, however, for schools there is some guidance on overheating in Building Bulletin 101 (BB101): Guidelines on ventilation, thermal comfort and indoor air quality in schools, 2018.

3 Temperature Levels

- 3.1 Table 1 defines the proposed heating levels for various building types found throughout the Council's non-domestic estate. These temperatures are in accordance with legislation and are based on guidance from the Carbon Trust, the Chartered Institute of Building Service Engineers (CIBSE), and the Health and Safety Executive (HSE).

Table 1: Heat levels by building type.

Building Type	Temperature
Office Space	18°C - 21°C
School Classroom / Office / Dining	18°C - 21°C
School Corridor / Gymnasium*	16°C - 18°C
Nursery School	20°C - 23°C
Additional Support for Learning School	20°C - 23°C
Toilets/Cloakrooms	18 - 20°C
Enclosed Industrial Depot/Workshop	16°C
Store	16°C
Library	20°C - 22°C
Sports Centre – Changing Room	21°C - 25°C
Sports Centre – Sports Hall	16°C - 18°C
Sports Centre – Pool Area	28°C - 30°C
Museum	20°C - 22°C
Care Home / Sheltered Housing	21°C - 23°C
Halls	18°C - 21°C
Community Centre	18°C - 22°C

* When being used for physical activity. Space may be temporarily redefined as a classroom, e.g. during exams.

- 3.2 Heating shall not normally be provided to the temperature levels stated in Table 1 where the building is solely in use by cleaners, tradespeople, and caretaking staff working outside of core hours (HSE guidance states that if work involves rigorous physical effort, the temperature should be at least 13°C).
- 3.3 It is recognised that there may at times be a requirement for some buildings, or particular zones within buildings, where specific heating or cooling requirements means temperatures are set outwith agreed ranges. When such a requirement is identified, prior engagement and approval is required with the Head of Property Services and Engineering Services Manager, in advance of altering setpoints or time schedules. Any applied variation requires definition of new settings, areas in scope, and justification, and for this detail to be recorded for future reference.
- 3.4 Table 1 indicates the range of operational temperatures during the heating season for specific categories of building. These will be applied unless subject to contractual or operational necessity. The lower temperatures defined are likely to be experienced only occasionally, particularly around opening and closing hours of buildings. Normal temperatures should be maintained around the average of the upper and lower figures.
- 3.5 If the lower limit of these temperatures is not being achieved during non-heating season, the heating may be turned on until the lower limit is achieved.

- 3.6 If a building has exceeded the upper limit of any parameter listed above and heating is still on, steps should be taken to adjust setpoint and schedules. It is not appropriate to leave heating on and solely manage high temperature through increased ventilation, such as opening windows / doors.
- 3.7 Where individual air conditioning units are installed as an addition to a building's heating and ventilation system, the lower end set point, controlling the air conditioning, should be no less than 5°C above the heating parameters in Table 1 - to ensure that both heating and cooling systems do not run in conflict.

4 Implementation

- 4.1 A building with an operational heating system should be able to achieve the parameters outlined in Table 1. Ultimate responsibility for ensuring adherence to these limits is with the Head of Service controlling the financial code which pays for the heating for the site. This is delegated to the Responsible Premises Officer (RPO) for each property, with the individual nominated by the relevant Service.
- 4.2 Although the RPO is expected to ensure the heating operates within the limits in Table 1, it does not mean that person is responsible for "pushing the buttons", rather ensuring that buttons are pushed.
- 4.3 RPOs must develop a record of standard settings and schedules – i.e. a list of instructions to enable others to make changes in their absence (format to be agreed).
- 4.4 Where Building Management Systems (BMS) / Heating systems are operated remotely by the Energy Management Team, responsibility for identifying and reporting over- or under-heating primarily sits with the RPO at each site.
- 4.5 The Property & Facility Management (P&FM) team will provide support where required to help identify issues that can be addressed by building occupants, as well as those requiring specialist input.
- 4.6 Where operational considerations conflict with this policy, such as allowing children access to outside space in nurseries, sites should take steps to minimise energy wastage as much as possible.

5 Heating Times and Season

- 5.1 Core heating hours are typically Monday to Friday 08:00 to 16:00 for educational buildings and Monday to Friday 08:00 to 17:00 hours for offices. Heating systems shall operate to attain temperature values as stated in Table 1 during these core heating hours.
- 5.2 Additional schedules before occupation are not required in BMS controlled sites as they automatically compensate and should come on earlier if required. No schedule should continue once building occupancy ends. N.B. When

unoccupied, systems should be left in “Auto” to ensure frost protection remains active.

- 5.3 For other facilities with non-standard operating patterns, e.g. Depots, Halls, and Community Centres, or parts of schools with community access, the RPO for that premises shall advise the Head of Service for P&FM and Engineering Services Manager of exceptions to core hours by emailing a completed Change Request form (format to be agreed). Where required, heating times shall reflect operational requirements. To help minimise energy wastage wherever possible a new Change Request form is required for every time an exception is requested, although a single notification can cover multiple incidences for one building or cluster.
- 5.4 Heating Season currently runs from the second Monday in September to the second Monday in May. If there is a subsequent announcement of different dates for Heating Season, this policy will apply to the new dates.
- 5.5 If the internal temperature is too high at any time during Heating Season, the site’s heating may be turned off or reduced. This is particularly relevant up until the October break. And in the weeks at the end of Heating Season, the site’s heating may be turned off early, or reduced if internal temperatures are above the range in Table 1.
- 5.6 Out with Heating Season, where the minimum temperature is below those in Table 1, heating may be turned on, but the Energy Management Team must be informed.
- 5.7 While operation of Hot Water systems is not covered by this Heating Policy, they should follow the same principles of minimising waste contained herein. If water is needed outside or normal occupancy (e.g. for cleaning) tanks should only be heated when water is required, or for Legionella control.

6 Portable Heaters

- 6.1 Portable heaters confuse building heating control systems and usually result in colder overall temperatures as the main systems will be held-off. The use of portable heating is not permitted, unless maintenance teams have identified a system failure that prevents target temperatures being reached – see Item 6.2. Use of unauthorised localised space heating shall be reported to the Energy Team (method of reporting to be agreed).
- 6.2 Aberdeenshire Council’s maintenance partners have business continuity provisions to make appropriate full or temporary repairs. Where there is a partial or total system failure during Heating Season, this should be reported as a matter of urgency via the standard reporting channels. Where heating cannot be restored, portable heating shall be provided, based on advice from technical teams.
- 6.3 In cases where additional ventilation is required to maintain CO₂ limits, but this prevents target temperatures being reached, sites must actively manage the

balance between ventilation and temperature. Guidance and procedures are available here: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-ventilation-guidance/>

7 Exclusions

- 7.1 While recommended swimming pool temperatures are identified in Table 1, these are site-specific buildings. As such, it is not appropriate to tie them to overly restrictive parameters beyond stating that attempts should be made to operate them as efficiently as possible, in line with current industry guidelines. In order to reduce the amount of energy being consumed by swimming pools, pool covers must be used at the end of each day and at weekends or holiday periods where the pool is not in use.
- 7.2 Council properties being used as emergency refuge centres should operate systems as efficiently as circumstances allow.
- 7.3 Some Council buildings, such as libraries, may get utilised as “Warm Spaces”. In these the guidance to prevent overheating and waste should still be followed for whatever target temperature range is agreed. Heating schedules should be checked and updated regularly to ensure that they remain appropriate to Service needs. If no specific target has been agreed, the values in Table 1 – libraries are 20°C - 22°C – shall apply.
- 7.4 Maintenance activities (e.g. new flooring, post-leak drying) require abnormal setpoints and schedules. These should be applied for the shortest possible period before reverting to standard settings.
- 7.5 ICT shall manage heating and cooling in areas containing their equipment in line with their technical requirements. Where possible any heating or cooling they require shall not impact beyond their spaces.

8 Severe Weather

- 8.1 Severely cold weather presents a significant risk to buildings’ operational abilities and frozen water pipes can lead to bursts, forcing sites to be closed. Therefore, it is important to maintain an appropriate level of frost protection in all buildings.
- 8.2 Where a site does not have frost protection, this needs to be identified and it may be deemed necessary to turn the heating on to manual control to override the timeclock and ensure the heating is running.

9 Logging and Reporting

- 9.1 Heating setpoints and times as detailed in Table 1 will be agreed and recorded for each property (refer Item 4.3). An estate-wide database of settings will be created and maintained as a reference point in future reviews and assessments. Any authorised deviations will be updated to ensure an auditable

record of heating times and settings exists demonstrating the appropriate level of authorisation.

- 9.2 When deviations from the levels in Table 1 are identified, and no authorisation is in place, resetting will be undertaken automatically by P&FM and/or Contractors.

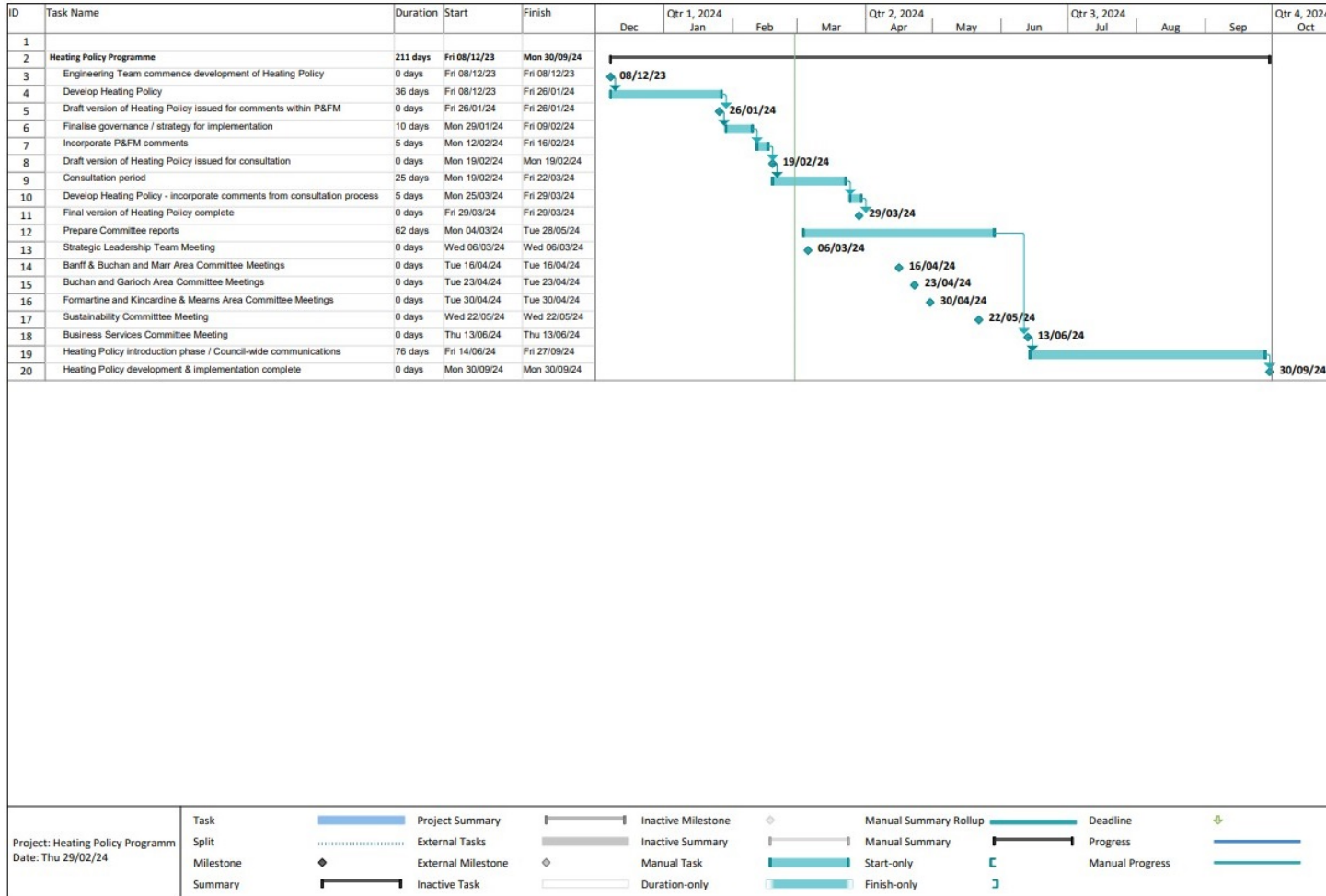
10 Roles & Responsibilities

- 10.1 In order to embed the proposed Heating Policy across the Council it is important that roles and responsibilities are clearly defined. Table 2 sets out the responsibilities identified to date, along with the suggested responsible parties for each action.

10.2 Table 2: Roles and Responsibilities

Title	Roles & Responsibilities
Property & Facilities Management (P&FM)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overall responsibility for implementation and oversight of the Heating Policy • Approving changes to core hours or temperatures • Provision of support for RPO • Implementation of projects to improve energy efficiency
Energy Management Team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Record changes to core hours or temperatures • Monitoring compliance with Heating Policy with associated reporting • Conducting energy audits as required with identification and development of projects to improve energy efficiency
Heads of Service (All Directorates)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring that Heating Policy is being followed
Responsible Premises Officer (RPO)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local monitoring to ensure guidance being followed. • Verifying that pool covers are being used overnight and at weekends / holidays • Assisting in identifying energy efficiency opportunities • Ensuring record of heating set points and times is kept for that property
Facility Management / Janitorial Staff / Duty Officers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recording heating set points and times • Ensuring pool covers are in place • Assisting in identifying energy efficiency opportunities
All staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following the Heating Policy and only requesting changes where absolutely necessary • Closing doors and windows at the end of the day • Not adjusting locally set thermostats unnecessarily • Reporting over- or under-heating to RPOs

Appendix 2 - Programme for implementation of Heating Policy



REPORT TO MARR AREA COMMITTEE 16TH APRIL 2024

DRAFT ABERDEENSHIRE COMMUNITY RESILIENCE FRAMEWORK

1 Executive Summary/Recommendations

1.1 Following the Winter Storms of 2021/22 and other emergency responses which have followed, the resulting debriefing exercises recommended that Aberdeenshire Council develop a Community Resilience Strategy that sets out the need for individual, household, family, and community resilience, and what can be expected of the Council, Communities and other Emergency Responders. A draft Aberdeenshire Community Resilience Framework has been developed to provide this clarity. It is this draft Framework which is before Committee today for consideration and comment.

1.2 The Committee is recommended to:

1.2.1 Consider, discuss and provide comments on the draft Aberdeenshire Community Resilience Framework at Appendix 1 to the Communities Committee.

2 Decision Making Route

2.1 Following the winter storms of 21/22 a key recommendation which came out of the debrief and Community Engagement Report was as follows:
'It is recommended that Aberdeenshire Council develop a Community Resilience Strategy that sets out the need for individual, household, family, and community resilience, what can be expected of the Council and Communities'.

2.2 The proposal for the development of a Community Resilience Framework went to Full Council on 29th September 2022 and was accepted. The draft Aberdeenshire Community Resilience Framework is the resulting document.

2.3 The draft Aberdeenshire Council Resilience Framework is the product of extensive engagement with community resilience groups in Aberdeenshire, input from a cross-service working group that encompassed representatives from emergency responders, feedback from the Community Resilience Conference which took place on 2nd October 2022 and best practice identified elsewhere.

2.4 The draft Framework went to Communities Committee on [8th February 2024](#) where it was agreed that the document could go forward to Area Committees for consultation, along with consultation with Community Councils led by Area Teams.

3 Discussion

- 3.1 Committee is invited to consider and comment on the draft Aberdeenshire Community Resilience Framework which is attached as Appendix 1 to this Report.
- 3.2 Area Officers will consult with Community Councils for their views on the draft Framework, as per minute of Communities Committee [8th February 2024](#) . Their responses will also be fed back to the Communities Committee.
- 3.3 It is proposed that the draft Aberdeenshire Community Resilience Framework is then taken back to the Communities Committee, where consultation comments will be brought back to Committee for consideration and approval.
- 3.4 The purpose of the draft Aberdeenshire Council Community Resilience Framework is to collectively enhance resilience by:
- Defining the role of Aberdeenshire Council and Responders before, during and after an emergency.
 - Developing a strategic set of objectives to enhance community resilience.
 - Fostering stronger partnerships between community groups, practitioners and responders.
 - Developing the capability and capacity of individuals, households, families and communities to be more resilient.
 - Increase connectedness between individuals, households, neighbours and families.
 - Guiding future resilience-thinking and practice for Aberdeenshire.
- 3.5 When the draft Framework has been finalised and approved it will be supported with Advice and Guidance Notes which are accessible to Council staff, responders and communities including:
- Community Councils – Insurance FAQ's
 - Community Resilience Plan Advice Note and Template
 - Emergency Household Plan Advice Note and Template
 - Funding
 - Generators
 - Telecoms Resilience Document
 - Individual Preparedness
 - Setting up a resilience Group
 - Ideas for resilience activities
 - How to set up a community hub
 - Supporting vulnerable people
 - Flooding – roles and responsibilities.

4 Council Priorities, Implications and Risk

- 4.1 This report helps deliver the Strategic Priority 'Resilient Communities' within the Pillar 'Our Environment'

Pillar	Priority
Our People	Learning for Life Health & Wellbeing
Our Environment	Climate Change Resilient Communities
Our Economy	Economic Growth Infrastructure and public assets

4.2 The table below shows whether risks and implications apply if the recommendation(s) is (are) agreed.

Subject	Yes	No	N/A
Financial			x
Staffing			x
Equalities and Fairer Duty Scotland			x
Children and Young People's Rights and Wellbeing			x
Climate Change and Sustainability	IIA attached as Appendix 2		
Health and Wellbeing			x
Town Centre First			x

4.3 There are no staffing or financial implications.

4.4 An integrated impact assessment has been carried out as part of the development of the proposals set out above. It is included as **Appendix 2** and there are two positive impacts (Community and Council Resilience).

4.5 The following Risks have been identified as relevant to this matter on a Corporate Level:

- [ACORP010](#) Environmental challenges e.g. extreme weather events, climate change – The Aberdeenshire Community Resilience Framework helps to mitigate the impacts to this risk on communities by increasing individual and community resilience.

The following Risks have been identified as relevant to this matter on a Strategic Level:

- [BSSR002](#) Communities are confident, resilient and inclusive. Individuals feel secure and in control of their circumstances.

5 Scheme of Governance

5.1 The Head of Finance and Monitoring Officer within Business Services have been consulted in the preparation of this report and their comments are incorporated within the report and are satisfied that the report complies with the Scheme of Governance and relevant legislation.

- 5.2 The Committee is able to consider and take a decision on this item in terms of Section B.1.2 of the List of Committee Powers in Part 2A of the Scheme of Governance as it relates to considering and providing comments to Services and any other appropriate Committee on any matter or policy which impacts its Area.

Rob Simpson
Director of Business Services

Report prepared by Aimi Blueman, Community Resilience Project Officer and Neil Cameron, Emergency Planning Officer
Date: 20th March 2024

List of Appendices

Appendix 1 – Draft Aberdeenshire Community Resilience Framework
Appendix 2 – Integrated Impact Assessment

Aberdeenshire Community Resilience Framework



Aberdeenshire in common with many communities across the country has faced several significant crisis events over the last decade where our collective response has been challenged; Storms Desmond and Frank in late 2015 and early 2016, our response to significant global events such as COVID-19, the tragic train derailment in August 2020 and most recently the winter storms of 2022/2023.

While each event is different, they all share common factors, which can happen with or without warning, Emergency services, and the Council can be stretched with competing demands for resources and a willingness by many people, be they volunteers or responders to step forward to help is vital.

This Framework document is designed to set out how we can collectively enhance resilience in Aberdeenshire over the next five years.



WHAT IS RESILIENCE?

Following the winter storms of 2022/23 there were excellent examples of resilience across Aberdeenshire both at an individual level and at a community level. There were examples where individuals or communities may have wanted to do more but weren't sure how they could best contribute.

Traditionally resilience has been viewed through the lens of services that the council, other responders, or community groups can provide.

However, the winter storms of 2021/2022 taught us that responders can also be affected by an emergency and as individuals and households we may need to be resilient ourselves.

Reflecting on those emergency events we recognise that across Aberdeenshire we need to collectively enhance resilience at Individual, Household, Family and Community levels.

Resilience can be thought of as the rungs of a ladder. The bottom rung is having individuals who are resilient, who have the basics skills and knowledge to manage on their own until help arrives, or the emergency is resolved. Those who live together can use their shared skills to make their home more resilient and using networks of friends and families to help each other manage. Finally, resilient individuals, households and families can come together with others to be resilient communities.

The Scottish Government¹ define resilience as:

“ Communities and individuals harnessing resources and expertise to help themselves prepare for, respond to and recover from emergencies, in a way that complements the work of the emergency responders”.



PURPOSE

The purpose of the Aberdeenshire Council Community Resilience Framework is to collectively enhance resilience by:

- Defining the role of Aberdeenshire Council and Responders before, during and after an emergency
- developing a strategic set of objectives to enhance community resilience
- fostering stronger partnerships between community groups, practitioners and responders
- developing the capability and capacity of individuals, households, families and communities to be more resilient
- increasing connectedness between individuals, households, neighbours and families
- guiding future resilience thinking and practice for Aberdeenshire.

BENEFITS

By having a Community Resilience Framework for Aberdeenshire, we will be able to:

- clarify the role of responders and their scope in developing resilience activities
- having a clear set of engagement principles for the Council
- develop policies and programmes that specifically enhance resilience activities in Aberdeenshire, offering opportunities for communities to influence emergency related outcomes
- lay the groundwork for an effective response and a strong and rapid recovery after an emergency event.

LINKS TO EXISTING PLANS OR FRAMEWORKS

Improving resilience is already identified by partners across Aberdeenshire as a key area of concern.

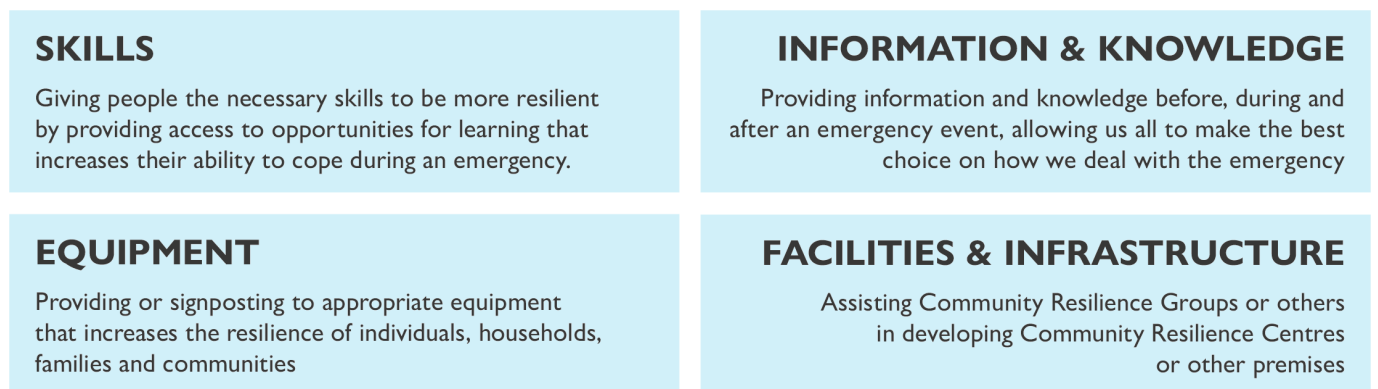
- Aberdeenshire Council Plan
 - Resilient Communities
 - Health & Wellbeing
 - Climate Change
- Aberdeenshire Local Policing Plan 2020/23
- Community Planning Partnership
 - Connected and cohesive communities
- SFRS Aberdeenshire Local Plan 2021
- NHS Grampian Strategic Plan 2022-2023
- Aberdeenshire H&SCP Strategic Plan 2020 to 2025
- Your area | Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (firescotland.gov.uk)

OUR PRINCIPLES

We recognise that in most emergencies Community Resilience is delivered by those closest to the event and our role as responders is to give individuals and groups the tools, they need to be most effective and operate as enablers. We will do this by:



We will deliver this across Aberdeenshire by focusing on Skills, Information & Knowledge, Equipment, Facilities & Infrastructure



ONE SIZE DOESN'T SUIT ALL

A CONTINUUM OF ENGAGEMENT

Individuals, Households, Families and Communities have competing priorities for their time, money, and energy and planning for something that may never happen isn't high on most people's list of personal priorities. Families also have differing levels of financial resources.

Consequently, one of the principles behind this Strategy is to enable individuals, households, families, and communities undertake as much preparation and preparedness as they are comfortable with. It will support everyone to take small steps towards preparedness. As people become increasingly engaged, they can access many other opportunities to connect with their community and enhance their resilience.

By facilitating a range of opportunities, some of which are entirely driven by the community, Aberdeenshire Council can connect with diverse interests and build resilience with different individuals and groups at different levels. By enabling individuals and organisations to decide what resilience solution is best for them, greater ownership of the outcome is produced. To achieve this, we will use existing networks as well as seeking out new partnerships.

Some people will have an affinity towards preparedness and will engage in activities that require significant time or money such as joining a Community Resilience Group or investing in strengthening their home. Others, perhaps the majority, will have minimal interest in preparedness and simply follow social media pages or sign up for warning alerts.

Volunteer time is precious, and this strategy is designed to support each person's preferred level of engagement as being right for them. The responsibility of Aberdeenshire Council and our partners is to provide a way for everyone to engage in a way that is appropriate for their interest and needs.

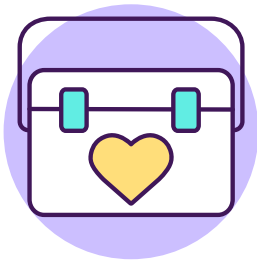


COMMUNITY RESILIENCE TOOLS

WHAT WE ARE ALREADY DOING

TOOLS FOR BUILDING CAPABILITY

When starting their resilience journey individuals, households, families and groups often feel overwhelmed. There can be many challenges and difficulties. In Aberdeenshire we have begun work to simplify the approach to resilience by producing a suite of documents that make it easy to develop resilience arrangements at any level. In addition to accessing information, we will instigate the following:



Household Emergency Packs for distribution in an emergency



Community Resilience Packs for use by Council and Community Responders



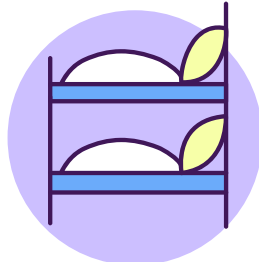
Develop Technical Communications Solutions



An example of already established resilience projects is the Publicly Accessible Defibrillator Scheme which is supported by Aberdeenshire Council. These devices are commonplace on Council buildings across Aberdeenshire and allow the public access to life saving equipment in an emergency.



Develop a series of guidance documents to help Community Groups set themselves up to be Resilient



Review our approach to the provision of council Rest Centres



Explore a Facilities Improvement Project to improve resilience infrastructure across Aberdeenshire

TOOLS FOR BUILDING CAPACITY

Building Capacity is about supporting anything that increases the knowledge, skills, resources and abilities of individuals and groups to develop resilience activities. In partnership with SSEN, Aberdeenshire Council has earmarked funding to allow Community Groups to bid for funds to establish resilience projects. Following Community Feedback, we are establishing a Skills Development Project as individuals may be more resilient during an emergency if they had basic skills in the following:



Digital skills for
Community Groups



Winter Driving



First Aid



Interpreting weather
warnings



Flood Prevention
Workshops



Basic Household
Maintenance



Sharing information
on other training
opportunities, which
would improve resilience

TOOLS FOR INCREASING CONNECTEDNESS & CO-OPERATION

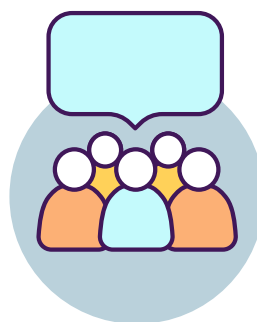
Through our post 2021 and 2022 Winter Storms engagement we established that while there was lots of good resilience practice many groups were unaware the experiences of their neighbours. We know that volunteer time is precious so we will:



Develop ways of sharing good resilience practice on a regular basis



Develop a dedicated resilience website for Aberdeenshire



Host an annual Resilience Conference to make it easier for individuals and groups to be active.

Increasing level of engagement

	Informed	Involved	Collaborative	Shared Leadership
Increasing Capability	Sign up to your local Community Resilience Social Media Page	Attend a skills development course e.g. winter driving	Set up a Community Resilience Group	
Increasing Capacity	Seek Emergency Preparedness Info Sign up for emergency text alerts	Purchase an Emergency Kit	Work with neighbouring community groups to increase the reach of projects	
Increasing Connectedness and Co-operation		Attend Resilience Briefing Conference	Groups have established Welfare Hubs	Present at a Resilience Conference

WHAT CAN YOU EXPECT FROM ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCIL?

When an emergency occurs help will first be provided to those who need it most. Most of us will be prepared and able to cope on our own for some time. The better prepared we are as individuals, households, and families the greater the opportunity we will have to help others that do not have the same ability to cope.

Before an emergency we will:

- Provide consistent, easily accessible guidance on how to prepare for and be more resilient during an emergency
- Suggest reasonable ways where you can take steps to protect your home
- Work with Community Groups to help them develop their Resilience Plans for local areas
- Where possible provide information in advance of an emergency occurring particularly in relation to weather events
- Publish our Plans

During an emergency we will:

- Warn and inform those affected by the emergency
- Focus our response on the most vulnerable
- With partners prioritise where resources will go
- Establish Rest Centres for individuals displaced by an emergency
- Support Community Resilience Groups who choose to assist in the response
- Support the Emergency Services

Following and emergency we will:

- Learn from the collective experiences of all those involved
- Share the learning
- Promote recovery



THE EMERGENCY SERVICES (Police Scotland, Scottish Fire & Rescue Service, Scottish Ambulance Service) WILL

Roles and Responsibilities – Police

- Protect life
- Co-ordinate the multi-agency response in the absence of alternative co-ordination arrangements being agreed
- Protect and preserve the scene and investigate the incident
- Prevent crime and disorder
- Collate and disseminate casualty information

Roles and Responsibilities – Fire

- Save Life
- Protect the Environment
- Provide assistance in support of local communities
- Render humanitarian aid

Roles and Responsibilities – Ambulance

- Save Life and prevent further suffering
- Facilitate Patient Triage
- Provide casualty treatment and transport to the most appropriate facility
- Co-ordinate all health resources supporting the incident



WHAT CAN I EXPECT FROM UTILITY COMPANIES

All utility companies have arrangements in place to support communities when disruption occurs. Like other responders it can take time for supplies to be restored or help to arrive. We strongly suggest that those who consider themselves vulnerable register as 'Priority Services Customers' with SSEN, Scottish Water and SGN.

You can register for all three PSR Schemes at one place 'Psrscotland.com'. Individuals can, households can, families can, communities can:

- Sign up for alerts from the Met Office, SEPA and Aberdeenshire Council
- Prepare a basic household resilience kit
- Improve your understanding of resilience
- Prepare a Home Emergency Plan
- Learn new skills to aid you in an emergency
- Prepare a Community Resilience Plan



WHERE CAN I FIND OUT MORE?

Fire Safety Advice – including how what to do in a power cut

Register as a Priority Services Customer with your utility companies

Developing an Emergency Plan

SEPA Flood Advice

Aberdeenshire Council

Integrated Impact Assessment

Community Resilience Framework

Assessment ID	IIA-001793
Lead Author	Aimi Blueman
Additional Authors	Neil Cameron, Vicky Morris
Service Reviewers	Susan Donald
Subject Matter Experts	Claudia Cowie
Approved By	Mary Beattie
Approved On	Wednesday April 03, 2024
Publication Date	Thursday April 04, 2024

1. Overview

This document has been generated from information entered into the Integrated Impact Assessment system.

Assess Aberdeenshire Council Community Resilience Framework which is designed to collectively enhance resilience by:

- Defining the role of Aberdeenshire Council and Responders before, during and after an emergency
- developing a strategic set of objectives to enhance community resilience
- fostering stronger partnerships between community groups practitioners and responders
- developing the capability and capacity of individuals, households, families and communities to be more resilient
- increasing connectedness between individuals, households, neighbours and families
- guiding future resilience thinking and practice for Aberdeenshire

During screening 1 of 10 questions indicated that detailed assessments were required, the screening questions and their answers are listed in the next section. This led to 1 out of 5 detailed impact assessments being completed. The assessments required are:

- Sustainability and Climate Change

In total there are 2 positive impacts as part of this activity. There are 0 negative impacts, all impacts have been mitigated.

A detailed action plan with 0 points has been provided.

This assessment has been approved by mary.beattie@aberdeenshire.gov.uk.

The remainder of this document sets out the details of all completed impact assessments.

2. Screening

Could your activity / proposal / policy cause an impact in one (or more) of the identified town centres?	No
Would this activity / proposal / policy have consequences for the health and wellbeing of the population in the affected communities?	No
Does the activity / proposal / policy have the potential to affect greenhouse gas emissions (CO2e) in the Council or community and / or the procurement, use or disposal of physical resources?	No
Does the activity / proposal / policy have the potential to affect the resilience to extreme weather events and/or a changing climate of Aberdeenshire Council or community?	Yes
Does the activity / proposal / policy have the potential to affect the environment, wildlife or biodiversity?	No
Does the activity / proposal / policy have an impact on people and / or groups with protected characteristics?	No
Is this activity / proposal / policy of strategic importance for the council?	No
Does this activity / proposal / policy impact on inequality of outcome?	No
Does this activity / proposal / policy have an impact on children / young people's rights?	No
Does this activity / proposal / policy have an impact on children / young people's wellbeing?	No

3. Impact Assessments

Children's Rights and Wellbeing	Not Required
Climate Change and Sustainability	No Negative Impacts Identified
Equalities and Fairer Scotland Duty	Not Required
Health Inequalities	Not Required
Town Centre's First	Not Required

4. Sustainability and Climate Change Impact Assessment

4.1. Emissions and Resources

Indicator	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Unknown
Consumption of energy		Yes		
Energy efficiency		Yes		
Energy source		Yes		
Low carbon transition		Yes		
Consumption of physical resources		Yes		
Waste and circularity		Yes		
Circular economy transition		Yes		
Economic and social transition		Yes		

4.2. Biodiversity and Resilience

Indicator	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Unknown
Quality of environment		Yes		
Quantity of environment		Yes		
Wildlife and biodiversity		Yes		
Infrastructure resilience		Yes		
Council resilience	Yes			
Community resilience	Yes			
Adaptation		Yes		

4.3. Positive Impacts

Impact Area	Impact
Council resilience	Council Resilience improves as Community Resilience increases, More resilient communities reduce the impact on Council Resources enabling more effective resilience where needed and enabling cost efficiencies
Community resilience	Aberdeenshire Community Resilience Framework is designed to improve personal and community resilience. It offers support and advice on resilience structures and how community resilience fits into this bigger picture. The Supporting documents offer Community Groups advice on how to improve community resilience

4.4. Evidence

Type	Source	It says?	It Means?
Internal Consultation	Working Group	How to improve clarity on roles and responsibilities	Role and responsibilities are clarified which improves resilience overall

Type	Source	It says?	It Means?
External Consultation	Consultation with Community Groups	Clarity needed on Roles and Responsibilities; support/training/advice needed on improving community resilience	Framework and supporting documents developed clarifies roles and responsibilities, supporting documents will help improve community (and individual) resilience.

4.5. Overall Outcome

No Negative Impacts Identified.

All outcomes are either neutral or positive

REPORT TO MARR AREA COMMITTEE - 16 APRIL 2024

A93 STATION ROAD, BANCHORY – REQUEST FOR REMOVAL OF PARKING BAYS AND EXTENSION OF PROHIBITION OF WAITING RESTRICTION - OUTCOME OF STATUTORY CONSULTATIONS

1 Executive Summary/Recommendations

1.1 The purpose of this report is to enable Committee to consider the objection received in respect of the proposals to remove 6 on street parking spaces and thereafter determine whether to proceed with the making of the order.

1.2 The Committee is recommended to:

1.2.1 Consider the objection received during the consultation period; and, if rejected

1.2.2 authorise the Head of Legal and People to make and implement The Aberdeenshire Council (Station Road, Banchory) (Traffic Management) Order 2024.

2 Decision Making Route

2.1 At its meeting on 23 May 2023 (Item 7), Marr Area Committee approved the removal of 6 on street parking spaces to be replaced with waiting restrictions and a new disabled parking bay on Station Road, Banchory as detailed in Appendix A.

2.2 The promotion of the proposed changes attracted 1 objection during the public consultation period.

3 Discussion

3.1 The objector has raised the following points:

- There are not enough free parking spaces in the area
- The marked bays should be extended eastwards instead of being removed.

3.2 Infrastructure Services have responded to the points raised by the objector in corresponding order as follows:

- Whilst there are limited parking spaces in close proximity to the town centre, there is free parking available to the east along Station Road as well as other nearby streets within walking distance of the town centre.
- The marked bays proposed to be removed are currently subject to a traffic order limiting parking to a maximum of 45 minutes with no returns on Monday to Saturday between 8am and 6pm. There are no such

restrictions on the available on street parking to the east along Station Road.

4 Council Priorities, Implications and Risk

4.1 This report helps deliver the Strategic Priority “Health & Wellbeing” within the pillar of Our People as concerns have been raised over road safety at this section of road.

4.2 The table below shows whether risks and implications apply if the recommendation(s) is (are) agreed.

Subject	Yes	No	N/A
Financial	X		
Staffing		X	
Equalities and Fairer Duty Scotland		X	
Children and Young People’s Rights and Wellbeing		X	
Climate Change and Sustainability		X	
Health and Wellbeing		X	
Town Centre First	[IIA included in previous report]		

4.3 There are no staffing implications arising from this report. A Traffic Regulation Order will be required to install and extend the Prohibition of Waiting restrictions followed by the on-site installation of the double yellow line road markings. The cost is estimated to be in the region of £2,500 and will be funded from the Road Maintenance Programme General Maintenance Budget for 2024/2025.

4.4 An integrated impact assessment was carried out as part of the proposals and was included with the initial report to Marr Area Committee on 23rd May 2023. The following impacts have been identified which cannot be fully mitigated as explained as there is no alternative free parking provision available in the same location.

- Footfall - There is a potential for reduced footfall to local businesses in the vicinity of Station Road
- Parking - Reduced free parking provision on Station Road
- Town centre business - Potential for reduced footfall to local businesses in the vicinity

There is a positive impact as follows:

- Potential for reduced congestion.

4.5 The following Risks have been identified as relevant to this matter on a [Corporate Level](#):

ACORP001, Budget Pressures – the costs of the measures have already been accommodated within the Road Maintenance Programme.

No Risks have been identified at a Strategic Level. [Directorate Risk Registers](#).

5 Scheme of Governance

- 5.1 The Head of Finance and Monitoring Officer within Business Services have been consulted in the preparation of this report and are satisfied that the report complies with the [Scheme of Governance](#) and relevant legislation.
- 5.2 The Committee is able to consider this item in terms of Section B10.1 of the list of Committee Powers in Part 2A of the Scheme of Governance as it relates to the determination of a traffic order proposal following the receipt of objections which have not been withdrawn.

Alan Wood
Director of Environment and Infrastructure Services

Report prepared by Ian Peacock, Senior Roads Engineer, Aberdeenshire South
Date 01.04.2024

List of Appendices –

Appendix A – Station Road Banchory – Report to Marr Area Committee 23/05/2023

**REPORT TO MARR AREA COMMITTEE – 23 MAY 2023****A93 STATION ROAD, BANCHORY – REQUEST FOR REMOVAL OF PARKING BAYS AND EXTENSION OF PROHIBITION OF WAITING RESTRICTION.****1 Executive Summary/Recommendations**

1.1 At Marr Area Committee on the 17th of August 2021 a [report](#) was submitted in response to a Member Promoted Issue raised by Councillor Ann Ross (Ward 16) relating to the removal of delineated parking bays in front of Nos 3-9 Station Road Banchory, followed by the extension of the existing Prohibition of Waiting restriction.

1.1.1 Concerns were raised by roads officers over the potential for increased traffic speeds along this stretch of road as a consequence of removing the parking bays. An alternative proposal was suggested by officers at the time which retained the parking bays and implemented parking restrictions to the east.

1.1.2 Following a full discussion, the Committee agreed :-

- (1) To note the Member Promoted Issue;
- (2) To note the investigation and recommendations of officers as detailed in the report; and
- (3) To instruct officers to re-engage with stakeholders and bring back proposals to a future meeting of the Committee taking into account Member's comments.

1.2 The Committee is recommended to:

1.2.1 Consider the comments below from roads officers following recent discussions with the Road Safety unit and determine whether to authorise the commencement of the statutory procedures for the making of "The Aberdeenshire Council (Station Road, Banchory) (Traffic Management) Order 2023 in accordance with appendix B in this report; and

1.2.2 In the event, Committee agree to recommendation 1.4.1, note that a further report shall be submitted to Committee in the event that any valid objections received are not resolved and not withdrawn, or the proposals are amended following consideration of valid objections.

2 Decision Making Route

2.1 In March 2022 a speed survey was carried out to determine the current traffic speed at this location. In discussions with colleagues in the road safety team it was agreed that in order to see the true impact on speed, works would need to be carried out to actually remove the bays and install double yellow lines, which would require the creation of a traffic order.

2.2 The original suggestion of removing the parking bays from Councillor Ross by way of a Member Promoted Issue has since been discussed again between officers from the local roads team, Road Safety Unit and Policy team.

3 Discussion

3.1 Prior to the MPI from Councillor Ross, the request to remove the parking bays was refused by the local roads team as the current layout was not deemed to be a safety risk and removal of the parking bays would result in the loss of 6 on street parking spaces.

3.2 Removing the parking bays would result in the loss of 6 free on street parking spaces, however, there is free parking available on the nearby streets. It has been noted that drivers generally do not park further to the east on Station Road beyond number 15 due to the bend in the road. If it is agreed to remove the parking bays, the effect on traffic will be monitored by roads officers and if deemed necessary, further restrictions could be considered.

3.3 As Road Safety colleagues have no concerns over the proposed removal of the bays, it has been agreed to request that the committee consider whether they wish to have the parking bays remain in place or be removed and replaced with double yellow lines.

3.4 If the Committee agree to authorise the commencement of the statutory procedures for the making of "The Aberdeenshire Council (Station Road, Banchory) (Traffic Management) Order 2023 it is proposed to undertake a four week statutory consultation with interested parties such as the Emergency Services, Police Scotland, Community Councils, the Road Haulage Association and others. This would be followed by a 21 day public consultation with site notices erected at the affected locations and giving anyone who wishes to object to the making of the order the opportunity to do so.

4 Council Priorities, Implications and Risk

4.1 The following Strategic Priority is relevant to the report:

- Our People: Health and Wellbeing

Concerns have been raised regarding safety on this section of road.

4.2 The table below shows whether risks and implications apply if the recommendation(s) is (are) agreed.

Subject	Yes	No	N/A
Financial	X		
Staffing	X		
Equalities and Fairer Duty Scotland		X	
Children and Young People's Rights and Wellbeing		X	

Subject	Yes	No	N/A
Climate Change and Sustainability		X	
Health and Wellbeing		X	
Town Centre First	[IIA attached as Appendix 1]		

4.3 There are no staffing implications arising from this report. A Traffic Regulation Order will be required to install and extend the Prohibition of Waiting restrictions followed by the on-site installation of the double yellow line road markings. The cost is estimated to be in the region of £2,500 and will be funded from the Road Maintenance Programme General Maintenance Budget for 2023/2024.

4.4 An integrated impact assessment has been carried out as part of the development of the proposals set out above. It is included as Appendix A

4.5 The following Risks have been identified as relevant to this matter on a Corporate Level:

ACORP001, Budget Pressures – the costs of the measures have already been accommodated within the Road Maintenance Programme.

No Risks have been identified at a Strategic Level. Directorate Risk Registers

5 Scheme of Governance

5.1 The Head of Finance and Monitoring Officer within Business Services have been consulted in the preparation of this report and are satisfied that the report complies with the Scheme of Governance and relevant legislation.

5.2 The Committee is able to consider this item in terms of Section B10.1 of the List of Committee Powers in Part 2A of the Scheme of Governance as it relates to the commencement of the required statutory consultation process for a traffic order.

Alan Wood
Director of Environment and Infrastructure Services

Report prepared by Ian Peacock
Date: 05/05/2023

List of Appendices:

Appendix A – Integrated Impact Assessment
Appendix B – Location Plan

APPENDIX A

Aberdeenshire Council

Integrated Impact Assessment

A93 Station Road MPI - Second Report

Assessment ID	IIA-001372
Lead Author	Ian Peacock
Additional Authors	Brian Strachan, Philip Leiper
Service Reviewers	Kakuen Mo, Susan Forbes
Approved By	DRAFT - NOT FOR CIRCULATION
Approved On	DRAFT - NOT FOR CIRCULATION
Publication Date	DRAFT - NOT FOR CIRCULATION

1. Overview

This document has been generated from information entered into the Integrated Impact Assessment system.

Follow up to committee report on 21st August 2021. Considering the proposal of removing parking bays at Station Road, Banchory. Councillors will be asked to decide whether the parking bays are to remain or be removed.

During screening 1 of 10 questions indicated that detailed assessments were required, the screening questions and their answers are listed in the next section. This led to 1 out of 5 detailed impact assessments being completed. The assessments required are:

- Town Centres First

In total there is 1 positive impact as part of this activity. There are 3 negative impacts, of these negative impacts, 0 have been mitigated and 3 cannot be mitigated satisfactorily.

A detailed action plan with 1 points has been provided.

This assessment has been approved by **NOT YET APPROVED**.

The remainder of this document sets out the details of all completed impact assessments.

2. Screening

Could your activity / proposal / policy cause an impact in one (or more) of the identified town centres?	Yes
Would this activity / proposal / policy have consequences for the health and wellbeing of the population in the affected communities?	No
Does the activity / proposal / policy have the potential to affect greenhouse gas emissions (CO2e) in the Council or community and / or the procurement, use or disposal of physical resources?	No
Does the activity / proposal / policy have the potential to affect the resilience to extreme weather events and/or a changing climate of Aberdeenshire Council or community?	No
Does the activity / proposal / policy have the potential to affect the environment, wildlife or biodiversity?	No
Does the activity / proposal / policy have an impact on people and / or groups with protected characteristics?	No
Is this activity / proposal / policy of strategic importance for the council?	No
Does this activity / proposal / policy impact on inequality of outcome?	No
Does this activity / proposal / policy have an impact on children / young people's rights?	No
Does this activity / proposal / policy have an impact on children / young people's wellbeing?	No

3. Impact Assessments

Children's Rights and Wellbeing	Not Required
Climate Change and Sustainability	Not Required
Equalities and Fairer Scotland Duty	Not Required
Health Inequalities	Not Required
Town Centre's First	No Negative Impacts Can Be Mitigated

4. Town Centre's First Impact Assessment

4.1. Local Factors

Indicator	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Unknown
Town centre assets		Yes		
Footfall			Yes	
Changes to road layouts	Yes			
Parking			Yes	
Infrastructure changes		Yes		
Aesthetics of the town centre		Yes		
Tourism		Yes		
Public safety		Yes		
Town centre business			Yes	
Cultural heritage and identity		Yes		
Social and cultural aspects		Yes		

4.2. Positive Impacts

Impact Area	Impact
Changes to road layouts	Potential for reduced congestion

4.3. Negative Impacts and Mitigations

Impact Area	Details and Mitigation
Footfall	<p>Potential for reduced footfall to local businesses in the vicinity of Station Road at this location.</p> <p>Can be mitigated No</p> <p>Justification There is no alternative replacement free parking provision available.</p>
Parking	<p>Reduced free parking provision on Station Road.</p> <p>Can be mitigated No</p> <p>Justification There is no alternative replacement free parking provision available.</p>
Town centre business	<p>Potential for reduced footfall to local businesses in the vicinity.</p> <p>Can be mitigated No</p> <p>Justification There is no alternative replacement free parking provision available.</p>

4.4. Evidence

Type	Source	It says?	It Means?
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Type	Source	It says?	It Means?
External Data	On-site survey	There is no alternative replacement free parking provision available.	Free parking provision on Station Road is reduced which may lead to lower footfall in this area to local businesses
External Consultation	Elected member, Police Scotland and road user reports.	Congestion caused by parking on Station Road, Banchory.	Congestion is expected to be reduced as a result of removing some of the free parking provision.

4.5. Overall Outcome

No Negative Impacts Can Be Mitigated.

There is no alternative location available for replacing the free parking provision that is to be removed.

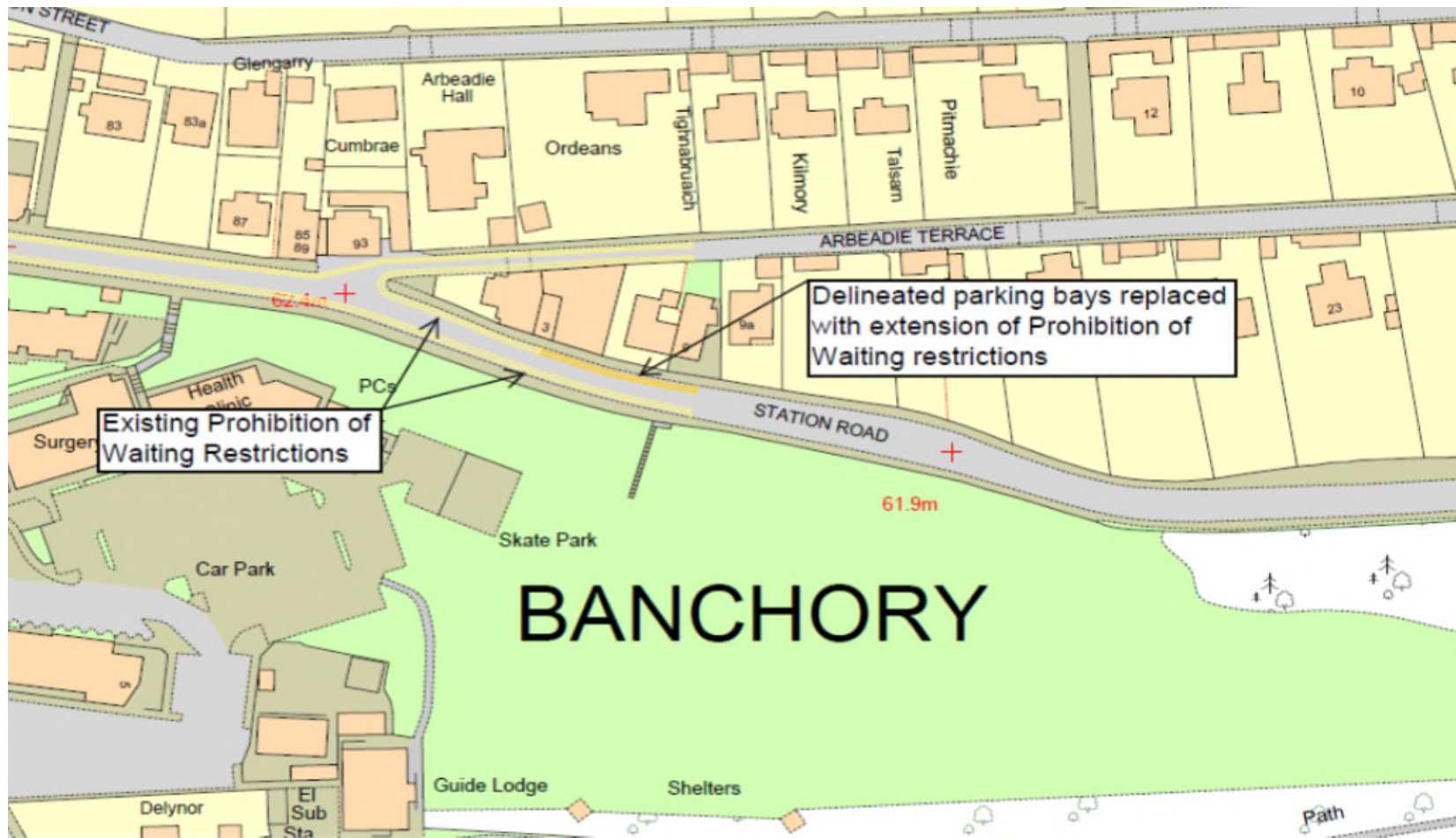
Reduction of the free parking provision will hopefully reduce congestion.

5. Action Plan

Planned Action	Details
Removal of a limited amount of free parking provision on Station Road, Banchory and install new and extend existing Prohibition of Waiting restrictions.	<p> Lead Officer Ian Peacock Repeating Activity No Planned Start Monday August 14, 2023 Planned Finish Monday August 14, 2023 Expected Outcome Potential reduction in congestion on Station Road, Banchory. Resource Implications Staff time: Senior Engineer, Roads Supervisor, frontline staff and Legal & People Services Budget: £2500 to be allocated from the road maintenance Revenue budget. </p>

APPENDIX B

A93 Station Road, Banchory – Plan Illustrating MPI-Requested Removal of Delineated Parking Bays and Installation of Prohibition of Waiting Restriction



Document is Restricted