

This meeting will be held remotely.

Thursday, 17 August, 2023 - 2.00 p.m.

AGENDA

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10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Tuesday 21 November 2023 at 10.00am	



Lindsay Thomson
Head of Legal and Democratic Services
Finance and Corporate Services

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10 August, 2023

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THE FIFE COUNCIL - FIFE PARTNERSHIP BOARD – REMOTE MEETING

02 May, 2023

10.00 a.m. – 10.50 a.m.

PRESENT: Councillors David Ross (Convener), David Alexander; Steve Grimmond, Chief Executive, Fife Council; Dr Lorna Watson, Deputy Public Health Director (substitute for Joy Tomlinson), NHS Fife; Nicky Connor, Director of Health and Social Care Partnership; Kenny Murphy, Chief Executive, Fife Voluntary Action; Lynne Cooper, Regional Engagement Partner, Scottish Enterprise; David Watt, Chair, Fife College; Adam Smith, Chief Inspector – Partnerships, Police Scotland; Phil Martin, Employer and Partnership Manager, Department of Work & Pensions; Evonne Boyd, Regional Partner, Skills Development Scotland and Alison Taylor, Place Director, Scottish Government.

ATTENDING: Michael Enston, Executive Director – Communities; Coryn Barclay, Research Consultant, Communities; Sinead O'Donnell, Improvement Consultant, Community Investment; Gordon Mole, Head of Business & Employability, Economy Planning and Employability Services; Ken Gourlay, Executive Director, Enterprise and Environment and Michelle Hyslop, Committee Officer, Committee Services.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Councillor Linda Erskine, Prof Brad MacKay, St Andrews University and Alistair Morris, NHS Fife.

22. MINUTE

The Board considered the minute of the Fife Partnership Board Meeting of 28th February, 2023.

Decision

The Board agreed to approve the minute.

23. COMMUNITY WEALTH BUILDING – SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT BILL CONSULTATION RESPONSE

The Board considered a report by the Head of Business & Employability, providing an update on Fife Partnership's response to the Scottish Government consultation on the introduction of the Community Wealth Building legislation, as set out in the Programme for Government 2021.

Decision

The Board: -

(1) endorsed the partnership response to the Scottish Government, as set out in Appendix 1 of the report;

(2)/

- (2) noted the asks of the Scottish Government arising from the Community Wealth Building Bill Consultation; and
- (3) noted the progress in Fife against the delivery aims for Community Wealth Building.

24. OUR FIFE LEADERSHIP SUMMITS AND NEXT STEPS

The Board considered a report by the Executive Director - Communities, providing an update on the responses from partners in relation to the Leadership Summit exercise. The report also asked partners to agree the next steps to support partnership change and reform.

Decision

The Board: -

- (1) endorsed partner responses, as detailed in Section 1 of the report;
- (2) agreed the next steps as set out in Section 2 and 3 of the report; and
- (3) agreed that any additional responses to the report would be circulated to all partners.

25. PLAN FOR FIFE: ANNUAL REVIEW OF PRIORITIES AND AMBITIONS

The Board considered a report by the Executive Director - Communities, providing partners with a high-level review of progress against the Plan for Fife priorities and ambitions.

Decision

The Board: -

- (1) endorsed the content of the first annual review; and
- (2) agreed to consider the role of partnership groups in progressing the review of the Plan for Fife, priorities, and ambitions.

26. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Board meeting would take place on Thursday 17th April, 2023.

17 August 2023

Agenda Item No. 3

Update on Community Planning

Report by: Andrew Connal, Team Leader, Public Service Reform and Community Planning, Scottish Government

Wards Affected: N/A

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide the Fife Partnership Board with an update from the Scottish Government on latest developments regarding community planning following the Scottish Parliament's Local Government, Housing and Planning committee's inquiry into community planning and the publication of the Verity House Agreement.

Recommendation(s)

The Fife Partnership Board is invited to note this update on community planning.

Resource Implications

N/A

Legal & Risk Implications

N/A

Impact Assessment

N/A

Consultation

N/A

1.0 Background

- 1.1 In spring 2023, the Scottish Parliament's Local Government, Housing and Planning (LGHP) committee continued its scrutiny of the impact of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 (the Act) by conducting an inquiry into Part 2 of the Act which covers community planning. The inquiry explored whether the legislation is meeting its ambitions for Community Planning Partnerships (CPPs) to effectively collaborate to reduce inequalities.
- 1.2 The committee took evidence from a wide range of stakeholders through a call for views and oral evidence. Joe FitzPatrick, Minister for Local Government Empowerment and Planning gave evidence alongside Cllr Stephen Heddle, COSLA Vice President, on 25 April 2023.
- 1.3 The LGHP committee published its inquiry report on 22 June 2023. This report summarises the findings of the committee's inquiry into community planning and sets out a number of recommendations for the Scottish Government to consider further. The Scottish Government responded to the committee in early August and the Minister for Local Government Empowerment and Planning is due to attend the committee again in September.
- 1.4 The report included recommendations to: consider how to address variation in the standard and effectiveness of CPPs and share best practice more effectively; consider refreshing guidance to reflect the role of other partners (e.g. the third sector) and policy priorities (e.g. Community Wealth Building); explore how to streamline complex lines of accountability; and consider how to support continued involvement from all community planning partners.
- 1.5 The Scottish Government has worked closely with COSLA, the Community Planning Improvement Board (CPIB) and the Community Planning Network to inform its response to the committee. The Minister for Local Government Empowerment and Planning had constructive and positive meetings with Cllr Heddle and Greg Colgan, CPIB Chair, in June 2023 to discuss shared ambitions for community planning.
- 1.6 The Verity House Agreement, finalised in June 2023, states that CPPs will be recognised as a critical mechanism for the alignment of resource locally, focused on prevention and early intervention, and delivering shared priorities. The Verity House Agreement also highlights that Scottish Government Place Directors will continue to act as ambassadors for Local Government and CPPs across portfolios and will build a strong understanding about place-based leadership and local plans that focus on shared priorities.

2.0 Conclusions

- 2.1 The Scottish Government is committed to continued collaboration with all partners to improve community planning further and will engage further with COSLA, the CPIB, the Community Planning Network and other partners through the autumn to consider and agree collective next steps.
- 2.2 The Scottish Government will share its response to the committee in September and welcomes feedback from the Fife Partnership board (and other CPPs) on how to support community planning to continue improving outcomes and reduce inequalities for people and communities across Scotland.

Background Papers

[Community Planning: Post-legislative scrutiny of Part 2 of the Community Empowerment \(Scotland\) Act 2015 | Scottish Parliament](#)

[Community Planning Inquiry | Scottish Parliament Website](#)

[New Deal with Local Government – Verity House Agreement - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)

[Community Empowerment \(Scotland\) Act 2015, part 2 Community Planning: guidance - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)

Report Contact

Andrew Connal

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17th August 2023

Agenda Item No. 4

Communities & Wellbeing Partnership Report

Report by: Lucy Denvir, Public Health Consultant, NHS Fife and Chair, Communities & Wellbeing Partnership

Wards Affected: All

Purpose

To update the Fife Partnership Board on the work of the Communities & Wellbeing Partnership and progress against actions in the Health & Wellbeing Delivery Plan.

Recommendations

Board members are asked to:

- i) Consider the achievements, challenges and areas for development set out in the Partnership Update provided in section 2
- ii) Consider the Health and Wellbeing Progress Report at Appendix 1
- iii) Identify any other opportunities for collaborative working to strengthen our progress towards ambitions 3 and 7.

Resource Implications

Partner resources are required to progress health and wellbeing ambitions across Fife Partnership.

Legal & Risk Implications

There is a risk that by not coordinating our efforts across the system health inequalities continue to worsen and we fail to achieve Plan for Fife ambitions.

Impact Assessment

An EqlA is not required as the report does not propose any changes to existing policies and practices.

Consultation

The Communities & Wellbeing Partnership has informed the content and recommendations in this report.

1.0 Background

- 1.1 Following a review of partnership groups in 2021, responsibility for reporting on progress towards ambitions 3 and 7 of the Plan for Fife was remitted to the Communities & Wellbeing Partnership (CWP). The Terms of Reference and membership of the group were revised accordingly.
- 1.2 The Health and Wellbeing Delivery Plan 2022-2024 was developed by CWP and approved by the Recovery & Renewal Leadership Board in April 2022.
- 1.3 The Delivery Plan sets out key actions which contribute to achievement of outcomes under ambitions 3 and 7 of the updated Plan for Fife:
 - **Ambition 3** – Reduced levels of preventable ill health and premature mortality across all communities
 - **Ambition 7** – Every community has access to high quality outdoor, cultural and leisure opportunities
- 1.4 The Recovery & Renewal Leadership Board considered a first progress report at its meeting in August 2022. The report at Appendix 1 is the second annual report on progress against actions.
- 1.5 In addition to reporting on the ambitions above, CWP is the parent governance body for the Community Learning and Development Plan, the Volunteering Strategy and Action Plan, and the Food for Fife Strategy.
- 1.6 CWP's work is supported by a health and wellbeing working group, formed of staff from Fife Council (Communities), NHS Fife (Public Health), H&SCP (Health Promotion, Fife Alcohol & Drug Partnership) and OnFife.
- 1.7 A number of CWP members and its coordinator formed the support team for the Health and Wellbeing Leadership Summits workshops in late 2022 / early 2023.

2.0 Partnership Update

- 2.1 Communities & Wellbeing Partnership held a development session in June 2023, to take stock of progress to date and to agree some focus areas for future collaboration.
- 2.2 The session included consideration of the Leadership Summits process and outputs, and a thematic focus on alcohol and drugs (identified as a key area of concern in the Plan for Fife annual ambitions report).
- 2.3 Discussions can be summarised as follows:

Where have we got to so far as a partnership – what have we achieved?

- The process of getting people together to develop and work on the delivery plan and create a narrative has been valuable.

- The partnership has helped build relationships and formed a foundation to explore and address challenges together.
- It has informed some shifts in thinking and delivery.
- It has given visibility on wider community planning platforms to some key areas of health and wellbeing work.

What are our main challenges?

- We face some significant challenges both now and in future, against a backdrop of already worsening health inequalities. These include challenges around funding, rising costs and nationalisation/centralisation.
- Inadequate time and resource invested in developing collaborative planning, design and programme / project management
- We need to identify what work we can do as a partnership to move things in the right direction and ensure better join-up, less duplication and easier access to services and opportunities.
- The health and wellbeing delivery plan is large and wide-ranging. While it includes strong examples of collaborative working, it also encompasses actions which are being taken forward in individual teams or services
- The delivery plan provides visibility and allows connections to be made across work areas. However, there is a risk of duplicate reporting and loss of focus on where collaborative working can add most value.

What needs to be done to strengthen delivery of the ambitions?

- Clarity over our goal and a whole system approach – all concerned being prepared to see the big picture, give up some control and take risks.
- Streamline the delivery plan, to focus on those outcomes where there is most need and scope to add value through collaborative working.
- Strengthen the visibility of the partnership and of good, innovative work.
- Reporting and governance arrangements that help to move work forward.

Areas identified for further development

- Further joint working to reduce and prevent harms caused by substance use
- Build on the health and wellbeing Leadership Summits by taking forward and extending partnership work on physical activity
- Support more joined-up approaches to community engagement and participation, to improve health and wellbeing

Report Contact

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Appendices:

Appendix 1 – Health and Wellbeing Report

Health and Wellbeing Report July 2023

What's going well?

- Integration of direct experience into how services are shaped and delivered – e.g. ADP's Lived and Living Experience Panel (2.1), training in and distribution of THN (Take Home Naloxone) and Overdose Education (3.1, 3.3)
- Strong examples of teams / services working together to provide support to those who would not otherwise access services – e.g. Hospital Liaison Service (2.2)
- Collaborative models which are successfully bringing a range of services and supports to where people are – e.g. the Methil one stop shop and those about to open in Kirkcaldy and Cowdenbeath, localities where risk of drug related death and overdose are high (3.3); Stop Smoking Outreach Service (4.1)
- Expansion of "Link Life Fife", a Fife wide service to support people to manage stress, anxiety, or feelings of being overwhelmed that are affecting their mental health or general wellbeing (5.3)
- Increase in people engaging with "The Wells" - a place where people can drop-in, both in the community and online to find out information and receive general advice to support people to stay well and independent within their local community (5.3)
- Strong progress towards development of trauma-informed workforces and practice across Fife (6.1)
- Partnership work to target inactive and vulnerable groups, to support and encourage participation in physical activity (11.1-11.4)
- Use of creative and cultural spaces and activities to improve health and wellbeing and reduce social isolation (12.1)

What are we keeping an eye on?

- Physical Activity and Sport Strategy under review, to ensure that key priorities better reflect where we want to be and feedback from Leadership Summits
- Work to build on the Leadership Summits and join up activities around Public Health Priority 6 (diet, healthy weight and physical activity) – event planned 19th Sept
- Prevention of drug related deaths – declared a national public health crisis - needs to include a whole system approach. For Fife this involves the roll out of drug overdose awareness and take home naloxone training programme; progress made and further discussions under way on extending this to other staff teams
- New Fife Alcohol and Drug Strategy being developed, with a focus on wider stakeholders and building strategic alliances; stakeholder event to take place 23rd Aug
- Work under way to refresh the Fife Mental Health Strategy, following publication of the national strategy
- New Fife Prevention and Early Intervention Strategy in development
- Participation and engagement on the Fife Suicide Prevention 3-year action plan currently under way

What's not going well?

- Funding uncertainties, impacting recruitment, retention and sustainability of services and ability to deliver transformational change programmes
- Impact of the cost of living on health inequalities
- Making the case for investment in prevention when budgets are increasingly constrained remains an ongoing challenge

Health and Wellbeing Delivery Plan: Progress Updates July 2023

RAG status code:

Green = progressing / delivered

Amber = work initiated

Red = work not started

Outcome: More integrated and community-based programmes of interventions (particularly for obesity , substance use and smoking)							
Ref	Action	Lead	Milestones			RAG	Update July 2023
			Where we want to be by August 2022	Where we want to be by August 2023	Where we want to be by August 2024		
1.1	Roll out Type 2 Diabetes Prevention programme	Jo-Anne Valentine	Phase 2 of Fife pilot of Whole Systems Approach to Obesity Prevention in Cowdenbeath and Dunfermline implemented Recommendations from evaluations of East of Scotland Type 2 Diabetes Programme across Fife implemented	Learning from Fife pilot of Whole Systems Approach to Obesity prevention disseminated across Fife Upstream partnership approaches to obesity prevention further developed	Evidence of adoption of whole systems approaches to obesity prevention across Fife	A	Funding for Phase 2 of implementation has now been secured and WSA working group re-established to determine interventions within Cowdenbeath and Dunfermline. Learning from Phase 1 and our case study report have been disseminated Fife wide and via local groups including H&SCP Locality Groups and Local Community Planning Groups. Obesity prevention is included in much partnership work, including as part of the health and wellbeing leadership discussions. A Fife-wide community planning partnership event on Public Health Priority 6 (diet, healthy weight, and physical activity) is planned for September 2023.

1.2	Create a sustainable food culture for a healthy Fife	Jo-Anne Valentine	Guidance for community food providers developed and available Fife-wide	Understanding of the role of food in health has increased. Community food providers are routinely following nutritional guidance and Dignity principles	Knowledge and skills around healthy, dignified food provision for those who are food insecure are well developed	A	<p>Specialist food and health teams and local workers continue to support community food providers to develop knowledge and skills. Nutritional guidance and the Dignity Principles were included as part of small grant funding support.</p> <p>This work relates to both the Tackling Poverty & Preventing Crisis Board action plan and the Food 4 Fife Partnership strategy action plan. The cost of living crisis will continue to pose challenges for this work.</p>
1.3	Implementing the early intervention and prevention of type II diabetes programmes	Elsbeth Ryan	<p>All four component programmes up and running:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tier 2 • Let's prevent • Counterweight + • Gestational Diabetes 	All programmes and groups established to implement the four programmes. Including additional input from Fife Sport and Leisure and psychology. Waiting lists reducing	Continued implementation of programmes and work towards achieving the standards	A	<p>There are ongoing concern about the future security and sustainability of all programmes.</p> <p>The current funding process (annual receipt of East Region funding via Scottish Government) has impacted significantly on the recruitment and retention of staff.</p> <p>This has reduced capacity to run programmes which, coupled with increasing demand for weight management services, has led to increasing waiting times.</p> <p>The WM service is working with Lisa Cooper, Head of Primary and Preventative Care services to explore sustainable funding options and plan future service delivery.</p> <p><i>Overview of programmes:</i></p> <p>Tier 2 Partnership working with Fife Sports and Leisure Trust. Combined exercise and lifestyle program over 12 months.</p>

							<p>Let's prevent Group Programme empowering individuals to make positive lifestyle changes to prevent or delay the onset of type 2 diabetes.</p> <p>Counterweight + T2 DM Remission Programme. Two-year intensive weight loss programmes to help those living with T2DM achieve and maintain remission.</p> <p>Gestational Diabetes Programme supporting diet and lifestyle management of gestational diabetes to reduce complications for mother and baby.</p>
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Outcomes: More integrated and community-based programmes of interventions (particularly for obesity, substance use and smoking) Fewer alcohol related hospital admissions Reduced alcohol specific deaths							
Ref	Action	Lead	Milestones			RAG	Update July 2023
			Where we want to be by August 2022	Where we want to be by August 2023	Where we want to be by August 2024		
2.1	Establish an Addressing Alcohol Specific Deaths group as a subgroup of the ADP	Elizabeth Butters Nicky Connor	Public Health (PH) led research on 2020 Alcohol Specific Deaths commenced and update shared widely with Fife partners if available	PH led research and other LEP (Lived and Living Experience Panel) study/ evaluation completed and improvement-based recommendations made to the ADP Committee	Recommendations progressed by ADP Committee, Services and Partners	G	The lived experience report has been finalised with 51 people experiencing problematic alcohol use interviewed, 60 online responses from staff and stakeholders and two staff focus groups and interviews. The Public Health analysis on alcohol specific deaths is on track to be completed in August. From this the AASDG will proceed to derive deliverables from its findings and report its recommendations at the next ADP Committee.

2.2	Enhance community-based, integrated support for those most at risk of alcohol related harm and alcohol specific death	Elizabeth Butters Nicky Connor	Continuation of Hospital Liaison Service (partnership between NHS Addiction Service, WAVY and ADAPT) at Queen Victoria Hospital supporting people as inpatients and of community-based support on discharge Establishment of community-based addiction specialist social work team (COMPASS)	Longer term and frequent case management support offered from Hospital Liaison Service and NHS Addictions, for those (up to 50 individuals) at risk of DRD and ASD to access and be retained in existing system of care	Evidence of service fully embedded in system of care Co-working (joint case management approach) between Tier 3 ADP services and COMPASS Evidence of “most at risk” care group engaged with system of care for therapeutic timeframe (12 months+)	G	The Hospital Liaison Service has continued and now has input from NHS Pharmacy. In 2022/23, there were 549 referrals meeting needs for medical treatment, include psychological therapies, holistic therapies and counselling, one to one support, inpatient rehabilitation and/or opioid replacement therapy. 65% of those referred were not known to the NHS Addictions Service. The Compass Social Work service is due to launch with full staff in August, having resolved earlier recruitment difficulties. During the first quarter of the year, the service has established referral pathways, developed partnerships with referrers, stakeholders and co-located with the hospital liaison team.
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Outcomes: More integrated and community-based programmes of interventions (particularly for obesity, substance use and smoking) Fewer drug related hospital admissions Reduced drug related deaths							
Ref	Action	Lead	Milestones			RAG	Update July 2023
			Where we want to be by August 2022	Where we want to be by August 2023	Where we want to be by August 2024		
3.1	Theme – Harm Reduction Increase training of community-	Elizabeth Butters Nicky Connor	Increase in non-drug treatment services and/or living experience volunteers trained	Incremental increase in non-drug treatment services and/or living experience volunteers trained	Sustained increase in non-drug treatment services and/or living experiences volunteers trained	G	In 2022/23 the ADP support team, its services, people with lived and living experience and wider partners have increased take home naloxone distribution by 46% from the previous year to 1098 kits.

	based teams/ members/ family/ those with living and lived experience in THN (Take Home Naloxone) & Overdose Education			Increase in THN coverage for Fife	Increase in THN distributed by these partners and increase in coverage for Fife		In the last two quarters peers with lived and living experience have distributed 116 take home naloxone kits making a substantial contribution to the distribution target.
3.2	Theme – Access & Retention in treatment and support MAT (Medication Assisted Treatment) Standards Implementation	Elizabeth Butters Nicky Connor	Funding application approved by Scottish Government and recruitment commenced Multi agency programme team established as a subgroup of the ADP New Scottish Government Target “Numbers in Treatment” planning in place	Significant progress made in MAT Standards 1 – 5 and evidenced by numerical, process and experiential measures “Numbers in Treatment” target on track for end of March 2024 Intelligence gained from “Numbers in Treatment” target	First phase of implementation programme (MAT 1 to 5) completed Planning for second phase of MAT Standards 6 -10 commenced “Numbers in Treatment” target met Planning with third sector for phase 2 of “Numbers in Treatment” target	G	For MAT 1 to 5, same day prescribing, and choice of medication have progressed from amber to provisional green. Harm reduction, assertive outreach and retention in services has progressed and improvements recognised but the Public Health Scotland assessment indicates the RAGB has remained the same. Partial implementation - as agreed for the year - has been achieved on MAT 6 to 10 in particular psychological interventions and independent advocacy. The number in treatment (ORT with NHS Addiction Services) target has increased by 2.36% over the last year. The final target of 1865 people in treatment by end of financial year 2023/24 has nearly been achieved by the service with 1853 people in treatment at the end of Q1 2023/24. This must be maintained over the remainder of the year.
3.3	Develop and test a new locality-based approach in Levenmouth	Elizabeth Butters Nicky Connor	Implementation of initial improvements based on themes:	THN & Overdose Education delivered and embedded in key institutions	Sustained, coordinated and strengthened approach to care and support of	G	The Take Home Naloxone Training programme has been in operation for 4 months and has trained 40 people from non-drug treatment services. The team has a targeted plan to work with services where there are high levels of people and families at risk

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Engagement • Improvement in Harm Reduction reach • Increase access to support/ treatment 	Co-location and co-design of key ADP services in Methill Community Centre included rapid access clinic	those with alcohol and drug problems in Levenmouth	<p>from overdose and drug related death. In addition, the team uses information from non-fatal overdoses to target the training in communities and specific teams interacting with those where risk of overdose is most prevalent. The team will attend all HSCP locality boards in September to increase coverage on a locality basis.</p> <p>The ADAPT (an ADP commissioned third sector service) Methil one stop shop has over 35 people attending each week and for over a year has offered same day Opiate Replacement prescribing in partnership with NHS Fife Addiction Services. People are offered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Naloxone training and supply of kits • Blood borne virus (BBV) testing and access to treatment • Individual and family support • Access to mental health support onsite • Housing support, welfare checks and support to attend other services. • Access to all other ADP services <p>The one stop shop reduces isolation by providing a safe, warm and welcoming space for this care group and works to alleviate the cost of living crisis with food prepared on site and access to the Big Hoose project.</p> <p>The success of this approach in reaching people not previously able to benefit from specialised and universal services has led to development of similar one stop shops. Particularly in other localities where risk of drug related death and overdose are high. Over the last five months two short life working</p>
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							groups have completed planning and one stop shops will open in Kirkcaldy and Cowdenbeath on 16 th August and 31 st August respectively.
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Outcome: More integrated and community-based programmes of interventions (particularly for obesity, substance use and smoking)							
Ref	Action	Lead	Milestones			RAG	Update July 2023
			Where we want to be by August 2022	Where we want to be by August 2023	Where we want to be by August 2024		
4.1	Reduce active smoking (Smoking Cessation)	Patricia Allan Stop Smoking Management Group	Remobilise face to face delivery and community outreach provision	Return to pre-Covid levels of 12 week successful quits across all service provision	Stop smoking pathways embedded within acute and community services (routine referrals and routine management of Temporary Abstinence model)	A	<p>The Stop Smoking Service has developed face to face clinics to the current capacity of our trained staff levels. Weekly clinics are carried out from 19 community venues and 11 GP clinics across Fife. This is 80% of pre-Covid clinic provision.</p> <p>Successful 12 week quits have increased from 123 in August 2022 to 264 in March 2023, next national data release is August 2023.</p> <p>We have recruited to our vacant posts and the specialist training is underway. This increase in staff capacity places us in a stronger position to develop further clinics which will in turn increase total number of successful quits.</p> <p>Work has begun to provide weekly onsite clinic provision and support in the Victoria, Queen Margaret, and Strathaven Hospital sites.</p> <p>The stop smoking service outreach support is taking place from our mobile unit. We are raising visibility and awareness of the service whilst connecting to our most vulnerable communities. Positive use of the unit has been to work in partnership with voluntary and third sector organisations, offering on</p>

							site support at food bank/food larder provision sites. This has given accessible support to people impacted by the cost-of-living increases.
4.2	Reduce uptake of smoking (Prevention)	Patricia Allan Young Persons Tobacco Issues Group	Continue to deliver adapted educational initiatives in school (Primary and Secondary) Raise awareness of the harms caused by tobacco with a focus on the 16-24-year-old age group	Completed a review of the impact of Covid on our educational programmes to shape future delivery Increase awareness of the importance of smokefree outside areas in relation to children's activities	Increase engagement and participation on the use of tobacco with children and young people in a variety of settings	G	Delivery of the Smoke Factor Programme in primary schools and Smoke Free Class in secondary schools have taken place for the 22/23 school year. 2956 pupils were registered with the Smoke Factor Programme, this was from 49 primary schools, each utilising the programme to 2 or more classes. Smoke Free Class had 1706 pupils registered from 12 schools. This programme does experience some decline in reach throughout the school year. Work is agreed and planned for the 23/24 school year to undertake Smoke Free (school) gates awareness sessions in selected SIMD 1 & 2 area schools. This work will provide opportunities to refer directly to stop smoking support clinics in the area to provide support to stop smoking alongside the messaging for Smoke Free outside space awareness.
4.3	Reduce harms caused by others smoking (Protection)	Patricia Allan HPHS Hospital Environment Group Young Persons Tobacco Issues Group Smokefree Environment Group	Repeat pre-Covid audit of active smoking on NHS sites Review initiatives that will impact on pregnant women presenting as smokers at first booking appointment	Re-establish workstream that looks to reduce exposure to second hand smoke in the home Monitor impact of Smokefree NHS sites legislation	Increase the number of initiatives across a variety of settings that address the impact of second hand smoke.	A	Work has taken place to build awareness and encourage compliance of the Smoke Free NHS sites, specifically to support the Smoke Free legislation changes that came into effect on 5 th September 2022. Enforcement of the legislation and the issuing of fixed penalties remains with the Fife Safer Communities team. Staffing capacity to allow sufficient presence and enforcement is unavailable daily. Warnings have been issued by the team to smokers within the 15-metre boundary, no fines have been issued to date. Collaborative work is ongoing with Fife Safer Communities Team and the Stop Smoking Team to

		(Mental Health)					<p>address and increase awareness of Smoke Free NHS sites legislation. Consistent presence is required to raise awareness for staff, patients and visitors of the changes in legislation.</p> <p>An evaluation was undertaken on the Smoke Free Homes programme. The rebranded programme will be launched in September 2023.</p> <p>A core group of staff from within the Specialist Stop Smoking service have begun work with the NHS midwifery service to engage with women presenting as smokers as early as possible into their pregnancy. Use of the maternity opt out process is positive, retaining women to support a successful 12 week quit requires further joined up work with maternity support services to dispel myths and provide reassurance of the support options available.</p>
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Outcome: Improved mental health							
Ref	Action	Lead	Milestones			RAG	Update July 2023
			Where we want to be by August 2022	Where we want to be by August 2023	Where we want to be by August 2024		
5.1	Review Fife's Mental Health Strategy in light of the impact of Covid and revise implementation structures to ensure representation	Rona Laskowski	<p>Launch of the refreshed Fife Mental Health Strategy 2022-25</p> <p>Ensure that programmes to support good mental health and wellbeing are aligned, to</p>	<p>Sep 2022 - March 2023 Development of measurable outcomes framework.</p> <p>Delivery of the commitments in the MH strategy and measuring</p>	<p>Delivery of commitments within the Fife Mental Health Strategy 2022 – 25 and annual reporting</p>	A	<p>The Mental Health Strategy Implementation Group (MHSIG) enables key partners, including people with lived experience of accessing services, to work together to create, implement, and provide oversight of, a shared strategic vision for the design and delivery of mental health support and services across Fife. The MHSIG reconvened in April 2023 and has refreshed the membership and Terms of Reference for the Group. In June, members discussed and shaped a draft strategic vision, principles, and priorities for the local strategy and</p>

	from partner agencies		<p>maximise effectiveness and impact, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fife Mental Health Strategy • Community Mental Health and Wellbeing Supports & Services Framework (children and young people) • Community Mental Health and Wellbeing (Adults) Fund • Mental Health Transition and Recovery Plan 	impact and outcomes.			<p>delivery plan. The group will meet in August to consider the implications of the newly published national Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy, and are planning to begin wider consultation on the draft strategic vision, priorities and local delivery plan in Autumn 2023.</p> <p>The national Suicide Prevention strategy 2022 - 2032 was published November 2022 and local board areas are required to develop a local Suicide Prevention 3-year action plan. Fife HSCP in multi-agency partnership have developed a draft SP action plan which is currently out for public consultation with the ambition of the final version of the action plan being published in November/December 2023.</p>
5.2	Improve information and communication around mental health interventions	Ruth Bennett	<p>Establishment of Fife mental health and wellbeing Information and communication multiagency group and mapping of current communication platforms/options to frontline staff, stakeholders and public</p>	<p>Delivery of a mental health and wellbeing information and communication action plan</p> <p>The business of this group will be informed by and report to Fife Mental Health Strategy and Fife Mental Health Strategic</p>	<p>Frontline staff across partner agencies are confident and able to access information on mental health and wellbeing support and services in Fife</p> <p>Fife citizens have raised awareness of the support and resources available to support good</p>	G	<p>Funding for Action 15 secondment for 12 months was received and the Mental Health Information Communications Multiagency Group continues to meet quarterly.</p> <p>A Fife Mental Health Directory has been produced and is maintained by the group. It is being distributed across statutory and third sector agencies to support frontline staff with key information for service users on accessing sources of support.</p> <p>A new Keeping Connected leaflet has been produced: ClickCounter (durham.gov.uk)</p>

				Implementation Group.	mental health and wellbeing		
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Outcome: Improved mental health							
Ref	Action	Lead	Milestones			RAG	Update July 2023
			Where we want to be by August 2022	Where we want to be by August 2023	Where we want to be by August 2024		
5.3	Support people with social problems, complex needs, loneliness or rurality, enabling people to address socio-economic issues impacting on their health and wellbeing	Jacque Stringer	Recruitment and establishment of a team of Local Area Coordinators and Community Connectors to support Primary Care Settings across Fife's seven localities	People are supported to access local community groups, supports and activities, to improve their mental health and wellbeing	Increased engagement and participation of people requesting support for their mental health from general practice (where appropriate) Reduced pressure on general practice	G	<p>The Health & Social Care Partnership have established the following community led support services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Link Life Fife", a Fife wide service to support people to manage stress, anxiety, or feelings of being overwhelmed that are affecting their mental health or general wellbeing. 1400 referrals received since the service started in Sept 21, 72% of people have engaged. • "Macmillan Improving the Cancer Journey" a service to support people affected by cancer. 530 referrals received between Jan – June 23. • "The Wells" - a place where people can drop-in, both in the community and online to find out information and receive general advice to support people to stay well and independent within their local community. The Well operates 26hrs per week. In Q1 23/24, 531 people engaged with The Well (24% increase compared to Q4 22/23).

Outcome: Improved trauma awareness across services							
Ref	Action	Lead	Milestones			RAG	Update July 2023
			Where we want to be by August 2022	Where we want to be by August 2023	Where we want to be by August 2024		
6.1	Develop trauma-informed workforces and practice across Fife	Andy Summers / Diarmuid Cotter Trauma Champion	Project Manager appointed, to drive trauma-informed change across Fife (funded by SG trauma monies awarded to local authorities) Pilot of Fife trauma-informed quality standards audit tool	Training programme developed, to support implementation of quality standards audit	Implementation of evaluation and reporting systems to track progress towards trauma-informed practice across Fife (based on the quality standards audit tool)	G	<p>Excellent progress being made since the Project Manager has been put in place.</p> <p>The Steering Group has been reinstated and continues to oversee progress.</p> <p>More critically the Trauma Collective ensures training and wide-ranging discussion continues across multiple services.</p> <p>Training modules updated and work progressing on the best level 3 approach.</p>

Outcome: More targeted support for carers							
Ref	Action	Lead	Milestones			RAG	Update July 2023
			Where we want to be by August 2022	Where we want to be by August 2023	Where we want to be by August 2024		
7.1	Refresh the Fife carers strategy	Scott Fissenden	Carers strategy refresh project underway (due to commence after HSCP Strategic Plan is in place). Draft project plan already agreed including carer and public participation, engagement and	Strategy in place. Increase in investment to support carers based on carers' needs as expressed through consultation, but subject to available funds from Scottish Government	<p>Delivery continuing to support more carers</p> <p>Significantly better informed and capable workforce</p>	G	The strategy has been developed with the supporting documentation (EqIA, delivery plan, risk register etc). The proposals have been approved by the Joint Carers Strategy Group following extensive carer and partner engagement and consultation. The strategy aligns to the partnership's other strategies and the new national carers strategy. An investment and improvement proposal sees the range of support for carers increase further as a result of approximately £1.5millions of new funding from Scottish Government for this 2023/24.

			consultation for a 12-week period				The strategy is progressing through the governance process. We aim to gain agreement at the IJB meeting at the end of July 2023. Once approved and published the strategy will move quickly into a delivery phase which for which early preparatory work has already commenced, e.g. commissioning service briefs for new supports for carers, conversations with existing partners regarding increasing the scale and scope of their existing support offering etc.
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Outcome: Improved air quality to meet prescribed standards to reduce preventable ill health							
Ref	Action	Lead	Milestones			RAG	Update July 2023
			Where we want to be by August 2022	Where we want to be by August 2023	Where we want to be by August 2024		
8.1	Monitoring and assessment of air quality	Kenny Bisset	Meeting the prescribed air quality objectives in the Fife Area	Meeting the prescribed air quality objectives in the Fife Area	Meeting the prescribed air quality objectives in the Fife Area	G	Road traffic pollutants (i.e. nitrogen dioxide and particulate matter) are the key pollutants of concern for Fife's Air Quality Strategy and monitors are located at the busiest roads and junctions. For the calendar year 2022 there were no exceedances of the prescribed air quality objectives protective of public health. We have identified the need for additional monitors and the data from these will be reported in future annual reports. The next annual progress report will be published in December 2023. Future funding for our monitoring programme (and Air Quality Strategy) is entirely dependent on Scottish Government Air Quality Grant funding which is the subject of a competitive bidding process with other local authorities on an annual basis.

8.2	Implementation of Appin Crescent Dunfermline and Bonnygate Cupar Air Quality Action Plan measures	Kenny Bisset	Progressing action plan measures in the Appin Crescent and Bonnygate Air Quality Action Plans	Progressing action plan measures in the Appin Crescent and Bonnygate Air Quality Action Plans	Progressing action plan measures in the Appin Crescent and Bonnygate Air Quality Action Plans	G	Air Quality Action Plan measures at the two Air Quality Management Area locations have either been implemented or are being progressed. These include the introduction of traffic management and behavioural measures. Other action plan measures include ensuring adequate integration of air quality issues in Local Plans and the Local Transport Strategy, improving the Council Fleet (reduction in fleet size, electric vehicles etc), implementing active travel initiatives (walking, cycling, anti-idling etc). To date Scottish Government and SEPA have been satisfied with progress made and our Strategy is considered an example of best practice.
8.3	Meet the aims and objectives of Fife Council's Air Quality Strategy 2021-2025	Kenny Bisset	Progressing aims and objectives in Fife's Air Quality Strategy 2021-2025	Progressing aims and objectives in Fife's Air Quality Strategy 2021-2025	Progressing aims and objectives in Fife's Air Quality Strategy 2021-2025	G	The aims and objectives of Fife's Air Quality Strategy 2021-25 closely align themselves with those of the Scottish Government's Cleaner Air for Scotland 2 (CAFS 2) strategy. To date the actions in these have either been progressed or are being implemented. Fife Council has embedded air quality in its Fife Plan, Fife Local Plan, Fife Local Transport Strategy and Joint Health Protection Plan. This has been facilitated through the setting up of a Fife Core Air Quality Steering Group which consists of the relevant teams/organisations/agencies and meets quarterly to assess progress. The Air Quality Strategy is subject to regular reviews and updated as necessary with new aims and objectives.

Outcome: Improved achievement of personal outcomes in health and social care services							
Ref	Action	Lead	Milestones			RAG	Update July 2023
			Where we want to be by August 2022	Where we want to be by August 2023	Where we want to be by August 2024		
9.1	Continue to implement the Personal Outcomes Programme of work across Fife	Fiona Mckay	Staff across public and third sector agencies continue to access training and development offered through the programme	<p>Fife Health and Social Care Partnership will develop a process, using information gathered through the Personal Outcomes Support Assessment, Support Plan and Review, to evidence in a meaningful way that outcomes are being met and the difference services and support are making.</p> <p>We will gather information at the point of review to evidence individuals feel listened to during their assessment and support planning, feel involved in decisions affecting their lives and are</p>		G	<p>Good Conversations courses continue to be offered to staff from across the Partnership, 3rd and private sectors to further embed a personal outcomes approach to assessment and support planning.</p> <p>Between April 22 and Mar 23, 54 people attended the half day introductory course and 78 people attended the full 3-day course. In addition, a further 15 people attended training as part of the Foundation Management Programme. Feedback continues to be positive. Dates for further sessions are included in the Health Promotion Training Programme.</p> <p>In line with the publication of the Scottish Government's Self-Directed Support (SDS) Improvement Plan, the Partnership has developed an SDS Improvement Plan for Fife (2023-26). Our Plan sets out how the Partnership will implement and align its practices with the values and principles of the Social Care (Self Directed Support) (Scotland) Act 2013, ensuring that supported individuals and unpaid carers are enabled by assessors and 3rd sector organisations and care providers to exercise choice, independence, and control over how their care and support is arranged for them.</p>

				<p>provided with choice and control over their support.</p> <p>We will work with colleagues in Localities to evidence any emerging themes or areas where improvements can be met to support eligible individuals and their unpaid carers meet their outcomes.</p>			
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Outcome: More people can look after themselves to live in good health longer							
Ref	Action	Lead	Milestones			RAG	Update July 2023
			Where we want to be by August 2022	Where we want to be by August 2023	Where we want to be by August 2024		
10.1	Deliver the Home First Programme as part of H&SCP Transformation	Lynne Garvey Garry Robertson	Draft Home First Strategy that outlines where we are and the intended future destination, this is developing a single point of access model	Home First Strategy launched Improvements made to patient pathways and bed models to support the creation of a responsive, integrated and sustainable system	Delivered Home First Programme that enables a single point of access, which places people at the centre of transfers of care	G	Complete - Vision and Strategy engagement work complete and feedback used to inform the Strategy - Anticipatory Care Planning test of change complete with roll out to 8 HSCP and 8 Private Care Homes - Intermediate Housing solutions pilot complete - Refresh of STAR beds complete - Development of a Hospital at Home and Learning disabilities case study complete - Intermediate Care guiding principles developed - Front Door model now fully implemented - Planned Discharge Date (PDD) roll out complete to all Community Hospitals

				<p>Progressed work related to collaborative working with the independent care sector to improve efficiency. Work progressed on developing anticipatory care plans and with Fife Council colleagues on housing solutions; to support early intervention and prevention objectives</p>		<p><u>In Progress</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Community Hospital Bed Based model development is ongoing, aiming to achieve the right balance between community bed-based provision and community-based provision. - Care at Home Commissioning which will develop an understanding of the current and forecasted future needs of Fife’s population in terms of care at home and look at the viability of provision – internal and external delivery - Centralised Scheduling will develop and implement an integrated and collaborative approach to centralising scheduling <p><u>Challenges</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Resources requirements necessary to undertake these transformational changes are being ascertained to ensure sufficient capacity is created to implement the programme
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Outcomes: Greater participation in physical activity by all age groups
 Increased footfall across all facilities
 Increased concessionary attendances
 Increased membership take-up for leisure schemes
 Increased participation in outdoor recreation
 Increased satisfaction with outdoor, cultural and leisure opportunities

Ref	Action	Lead	Milestones			RAG	Update July 2023
			Where we want to be by August 2022	Where we want to be by August 2023	Where we want to be by August 2024		
11.1	Reduce inequalities in physical activity and sport across Fife	Emma Walker Paul Vaughan Physical Activity & Sport Strategy Group	Agree new Concessions Framework Provide inclusive physical activity and sport opportunities during holidays	Fife achieves Daily Mile Kingdom status	Improving participation across 'concessionary' and under 18 people in Fife	A	<p><i>NB The Physical Activity and Sport Strategy 2021-24 is currently being reviewed, to ensure that key priorities better reflect where we want to be and consider the feedback from the leadership conversations. By Nov 2023 a more high-level framework document will be in place. A full review will take place by end 2024 so an updated strategy can be put forward for 2025.</i></p> <p>Fife Sports & Leisure Trust (FSLT) is currently reviewing its membership product, to increase participation across Fife and targeting concessionary use. Planned implementation and roll-out by Jan 24.</p> <p>Dunfermline Community Recovery Fund has provided funding for a health and wellbeing instructor to take programmes into community venues that are closer to local people, to increase participation in physical activity within the Dunfermline locality.</p> <p>A fall prevention pilot has begun in Dunfermline as part of the newly developed Active Stability programme. This will be evaluated and rolled out to other areas where need is identified.</p>

							<p>84 winter wellness cafes were facilitated across 7 FSLT venues.</p> <p>Fife H&SCP provided funding to support young carers (up to the age of 25). FSLT staff have developed a person-centred approach to encourage access and uptake of activities of their choice.</p> <p>Partnership work to reduce inequalities includes a scheme in Kirkcaldy to target inactive young people (a collaboration of Active Schools and FSLT) and work with the Wave project, a charity which offers surfing and water sports to children to improve their emotion and physical wellbeing.</p>
11.2	Increase and sustain physical activity, physical confidence and sport participation	Pam Colburn Physical Activity & Sport Strategy Group	New QIO role within Education and Children Services	Updated mapping of Physical Activity and Health for young people across Fife	Increasing attainment, achievement and wellbeing from physical activity and sport for young people	G	<p>Fife Young People Health & Wellbeing Survey implemented March 2023. The survey included pupils from Primary 5 – S6. The response rate was 63%. It included questions relating to 23 different aspects of Health. Results are expected by Aug 23.</p> <p>New Health & Wellbeing Strategy 2023-26 written focusing on 5 Key Priorities for Children, Young People & Staff. Mental Wellbeing, Physical Wellbeing, Health Inequalities, Communication & Relationships & Behaviour. Strategy Outcomes identified for each priority based on data and communication to date.</p> <p>Health & Wellbeing identified as an Education & Children’s Services Improvement Priority over next 3 years.</p> <p>New H&WB Indicators set to monitor progress. 3901 young people who were identified as inactive (in schools & in the community) have been involved</p>

							in curricular / extra curricular interventions delivered by Be Active instructors this academic year. Pathway programmes established to act as an enabler to continued participation (Hub/Club Connect, Together We Can & ActivEat).
11.3	Build resilient communities that are physically active and participate in sport	Emma Walker Paul Vaughan Physical Activity & Sport Strategy Group	Support return of sport through clubs	Promoting Food Strategy and health and wellbeing outcomes	Improved connections across all partners in delivering physical activity and sport	G	<p>As part of the health and wellbeing plan to align provisions to support the priorities identified with each of the seven localities, all 7 H&SCP locality meetings have representation from FSLT. These provide an opportunity to develop partnerships and identify projects to increase participation in physical activity to improve health and wellbeing.</p> <p>Fife H&SCP have approved a test of change to subsidise health class attendance in the Cowdenbeath locality. The reduced price of £1 per session will be implemented to test if reducing the barrier of price enables more people to participate in physical activity.</p> <p>The Leven team is working with Levenmouth Academy Active Schools on the Active Eat programme. This provides funded sessions for inactive children from SIMD areas, enabling them to participate in a sporting activity they usually wouldn't have access to; they are also given a meal to take away with them.</p> <p>FSLT has surveyed and meets regularly with sporting clubs to identify how the Trust can best support local clubs through their facilities and services.</p>

11.4	Invest in facilities and infrastructure for physical activity and sport	Emma Walker Paul Vaughan Physical Activity & Sport Strategy Group	Roll-out of new online leisure management system	Delivering a new Active Fife product to increase participation in Physical Activity and Sport	Investment in first three years of capital projects completed	G	<p>FSLT moved to the new Leisure Management system on the 18th of March 2022; we are currently on the next stage of the road map of this project with the introduction of a leisure hub product. The leisure hub gives customers to book and manage their own leisure experiences.</p> <p>FSLT have developed functional strategies based on aquatics and junior programme to ensure these practical strategies do not work in isolation; they have been designed, so they relate to the themes of the Fife's Physical Activity & Sport Strategy.</p>
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Outcomes: Increased participation in cultural life Increased satisfaction with outdoor, cultural and leisure opportunities Improved mental health							
Ref	Action	Lead	Milestones			RAG	Update July 2023
			Where we want to be by August 2022	Where we want to be by August 2023	Where we want to be by August 2024		
12.1	Develop and implement a recovery plan for cultural engagement and participation in Fife	Heather Stuart	<p>Completed Life Changes Trust funded Cultural Connections for those with dementia</p> <p>Implemented findings from Data Led Library strategy to encourage lapsed users back to our libraries</p>	<p>Complete year 2 of Dunfermline Wellbeing Through Heritage project aimed at young adults, adults, those living with dementia to tackle social isolation, mental health and wellbeing</p> <p>Progressing recovery and</p>	<p>Complete year 3 of Dunfermline Wellbeing Through Heritage project aimed at young adults, adults, those living with dementia to tackle social isolation, mental health and wellbeing</p> <p>Reviewing and progressing recovery and</p>	G	<p>Great progress has been made on all our commitments to the end of August 2023.</p> <p>We are now focusing on our Bring People Back strategy and this has included our commitment to supporting health and wellbeing across Fife. From December 2022 we have been offering Warm Spaces at 17 of our Libraries with free hot drinks, board games, jigsaw puzzles and with Fife Contemporary, free art workshops and some of these sites. Our Burntisland Library worked with Café Inc in December 2022 to enable distribution of free food packs pre- and between the Christmas period. We recruited 3 volunteers to support our Warm Spaces offer at St Andrews Library.</p>

			Completed Connecting Communities MGS-funded project upskilling staff in capturing visitor data, evaluation	renewal strategic actions	renewal strategic actions		<p>We are on track and progressing with delivery of our Dunfermline Wellbeing Through Heritage project. At Dunfermline Carnegie Library & Galleries (DCLG) 95% of staff have been trained in Dementia awareness; from May 2023 we have been running Moments in Time dementia sessions at DCLG and Duloch Library. At Duloch Library we have a new Tovertafel 'magic table' projector for use with those living with dementia. Staff have been trained in its use and we have piloted sessions with Care Homes prior to offering regular public sessions targeted at those at risk of dementia or seeking a sensory experience. We also now have 3 Remembrance (Rem) Pods which will complement our dementia work with memory groups</p> <p>We have also purchased an Integrex projector that is semi-mobile and will enable us to deliver sensory experiences across venues and locations using software and our own archive resources.</p> <p>We delivered our annual Ways to Wellbeing programme of events in May with 120 people attend activities and Social Media posts reaching 20,000. We have been hosting at DCLG a Self-Esteem group referred through NHS Fife to encourage them to meet in a non-clinical environment and be confident</p>
			Delivered phase 1 'Walking in the Customer's Shoes' for Libraries to understand and develop our user experiences by looking at our services and venues through the eyes of our customers			G	
			Delivered 'Walking the Customer's Shoes' at Kirkcaldy Galleries ahead of Jack Vettriano summer exhibition				

			Selling out ticket slots for Jack Vettriano: The Early Years exhibition at Kirkcaldy Galleries (17 June-23 Oct 22)				of entering our space which should lead to stronger connections.
			Installed new 'Magic Table' interactive and delivered sessions at Duloch Library for those living with dementia			G	We are working with Dr Rowena McIlhenny Consultant Clinical Psychologist, NHS Fife, to develop a referral system for our art activities and workshops tailored to those with specific wellbeing needs.
			Complete year 1 of Dunfermline Wellbeing Through Heritage project aimed at young adults, adults, those living with dementia to tackle social isolation, mental health and wellbeing				We continue to run our successful Time Out Thursdays (focusing on Mindfulness) with 10-15 participants attending monthly since February; we are running monthly Art Workshops attracting c10 participants for the whole of 2023. Physical activities started in June with our WalkON sessions – a guided walk then time to chat and discuss books – further WalkON developments from early 2024.
							We are at the start of work with Youth Space (Fife Council CLD) and Police Scotland Young Volunteers for a project provisionally titled 'Sugarcoat' which will focus on gallery 3 at DCLG over summer 2024.

			Delivered 'Work in Progress' project at Templehall, Cowdenbeath, Cupar Libraries, codesigned work with lapsed users, teen parents and older men to create spaces, facilities and activities to tackle social isolation, mental health and wellbeing			A	There have been some delays in making contact with an older men's group for this project but we are hopefully on track working with Raith Rovers FC. Our work with young parents has shaped our Libraries: Good for Life marketing campaign and has enabled us to specifically highlight the family-friendly benefits and resources available across our libraries.
			Hosted Art Therapy AHRC-funded project with Art at the Start/Dundee University with parents and 0-3 years at Dunfermline Carnegie Library & Galleries			G	This project has concluded and we are awaiting the full research report from the University of Dundee. However extracts from the research were shared by OnFife at a Flourish Dunfermline event in June 2023, highlighting that there was a noticeable improvement in levels of bonding between parents/carers and toddlers both from direct observations and using the Warwick Edinburgh Mental Wellbeing Scale and Measure of Relationship Scale (MORS).

Meeting:	Fife Partnership Board Meeting
Meeting date:	17 August 2023
Title:	Director of Public Health Annual Report 2023
Responsible Executive:	Dr Joy Tomlinson, Director of Public Health, NHS Fife
Report Author:	Dr Lorna Watson, Deputy Director of Public Health, Child Health Commissioner, NHS Fife

1 Purpose

- Discussion

This report relates to:

- Local policy
- National Health & Wellbeing Outcomes / Care & Wellbeing Portfolio
- NHS Board / IJB Strategy or Direction / Plan for Fife

This report aligns to the following NHSScotland quality ambition(s):

- Safe
- Effective
- Person Centred

2 Report summary

2.1 Situation

The Director of Public Health annual report provides a mechanism to present the key issues relating to health and wellbeing for local areas, and enable more targeted local responses to be developed. This year's report is focussed on 'Children and Young People in Fife- the Building Blocks for Health.'

2.2 Background

The Report has two sections- a text section, with chapters and topic specific summaries, and an information supplement. It is planned these will be made available on a webpage on the existing public health website, and a formal launch event in September is planned in conjunction with Fife Council Education and Children's Services.

The Fife Children and Young People's Health and Wellbeing Survey took place in Fife schools in March 2023, and results are also expected in September at this event.

The Report highlights the importance of the UNCRC and children's rights across all services, not just children's services; The Promise to care experienced children and young people; inequalities in health outcomes and in health behaviours; the social determinants of health, including poverty, housing, diet, exercise and mental health; and the early impact of the pandemic.

2.3 Assessment

UNCRC and The Promise

The expected incorporation of the UNCRC this year is a landmark in children's rights and in recognising the impact of decisions for ALL services, which may impact on children directly or indirectly. Similarly, implementing the recommendations in The Promise to care experienced children and young people requires a fundamental rethink in how public services are delivered to this group to improve outcomes.

Population

The Report shows that the number of under 18s in Fife is currently declining, with 71,746 estimated in 2021, 19% of the population in 2021. Children aged 0-4 contributes most to this reduction. The proportion of children recorded as having additional support needs in Fife has increased, and meeting the needs of those with disability and Neurodiversity is central to realising children's rights.

Maternal health and births

The birth rate in Fife declining, in a similar pattern to Scotland, with 3157 births in 2021. Aspects of maternal and reproductive health impact on the mother, but also on child health outcomes in the longer term. This applies for example to smoking, obesity and alcohol use in pregnancy. There are marked inequalities in health behaviours such as smoking and breastfeeding between areas of most and least deprivation. Smoking in pregnancy at maternity booking in Scotland is among the highest in Europe, and Fife has one of the highest rates in Scotland, although these are declining over the whole of the country.

Child poverty

Child poverty rates in Scotland and Fife have risen recently from 17% in 2020 to 23% in 21/22 before housing costs. This rate varies across Fife from 11% to 35.9%, and many of the health indicators in the report show variation with deprivation and poverty.

Fife action on child poverty is reported annually, focussing on six priority group which comprise 90% of families with child poverty: *lone parents, families affected by disability, mothers under 25, children under one, more than 3 children and ethnicity*. Actions for the NHS include income maximisation and Anchor institution ambitions around employment, for example.

Other aspects relevant to health include housing and food insecurity. 390 were children living in households in temporary accommodation in Fife at 31st March 2022, and according to the Trussell Trust, in Fife 5,506 foodbank parcels were given out to children in 2021/22, a reduction on the previous year.

Child development and wellbeing

Preventive and mitigating action around adversity childhood experiences (ACEs), and trauma informed approaches are important protective interventions that can strengthen

the impact of services in meeting needs of the population. Prevention of factors associated with abuse and neglect, including domestic abuse, and appropriate responses when this is identified is crucial for child wellbeing.

The Heckman curve demonstrates the cost effectiveness of interventions in early life is highlighted to demonstrate the known importance of investment early in the life course, tying in with the science of child development. Bonding, social connection and environment shape long term future physical and mental health and wellbeing.

Mental health and wellbeing in children and young people has been a concern before the pandemic, but this has been exacerbated by withdrawal of usual activities and support at that time. In Fife the Our Minds Matter Framework aims to implement the vision of supports available from universal to specialist level.

Alcohol and drug related admissions or young people in Fife are higher than the rate in Scotland, an indicator of serious harm. Children and young people also experience significant harms through child protection, loss of a parent to drug deaths, as well as risk to their own health in the short and long term, including fetal exposure. Tackling these requires specific preventive measures, but also universal measures tackling poverty, housing, education and employment, as well as specialist services to support those with greater or more complex needs.

Service aspects

Across health and partnership agencies, universal and targeted approaches are in place and are being developed further, for example in immunisation and dental health. Examples of good practice include perinatal mental health, the Family Nurse partnership, and the new Whole Family Wellbeing Fund. Positive areas for promoting wellbeing include access to green space, the contribution of the third sector and Youth Work.

The Fife Children and Young Peoples' Health Survey took place in Fife schools in March 2023, and results will be available later in the year. This will help describe the views of children and young people themselves about their health and inform service planning across agencies.

2.3.1 Quality / Patient Care

The Report highlights many areas of good practice in NHS Fife, Fife Health and Social Care Partnership, and partnership working more broadly. It also highlights areas for concern which may impact on future care needs as a result of the impact of poverty and adversity on the development of children and young people.

2.3.2 Workforce

The Report notes the importance of staff and staffing, and attracting, valuing and retaining staff working with children at all levels and in all levels, in line with the Population Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2023-2028.

2.3.3 Financial

There are no direct financial impacts as a result of this report however; the report highlights the very real benefits of early intervention and longer-term cost effectiveness and savings from preventive work in early years.

2.3.4 Risk Assessment / Management

There are no direct risks associated with the report, however there are emerging concerns about some of the building blocks for health in the early years due to the pandemic and which pose a risk to current and future wellbeing of children and young people. Risks are managed within specific managed services.

2.3.5 Equality and Diversity, including health inequalities and Anchor Institution ambitions

The Report seeks to promote the UNCRC and children's rights, and highlights inequalities in health relating to poverty and deprivation. It also highlights disability and neurodiversity, aspects of sexual and reproductive health affecting girls and women, refugee and asylum-seeking children and young people, and LGBT aspects relating to health. Work to address child poverty links to Anchor Institution ambitions, including employment, procurement and income maximisation. A Stage 1 Equality Assessment demonstrated positive impacts and no further action required.

2.3.6 Climate Emergency & Sustainability Impact

The report highlights the impact of Climate on children and young people, and is being produced electronically, rather than on paper.

2.3.7 Communication, involvement, engagement and consultation

A working group has met to produce the report over the last six months, including members from public health, Children's Services within Fife HSCP, and Health Promotion. Relevant staff members were identified to draft sections within their areas of expertise. There were regular meetings with Fife Council Education staff, and the Child Health Management Team in HSCP has been kept updated of progress. Engagement with young people in Fife College was included.

2.3.8 Route to the Meeting

This paper has been previously considered by the following groups as part of its development. The groups have either supported the content, or their feedback has informed the development of the content presented in this report.

- Public Health Senior Leadership Team 13 June 2023.
- Executive Directors Group 22 June 2023.
- Public Health & Wellbeing Committee 03 July 2023.
- Clinical Governance Committee 07 July 2023.

- Fife NHS Board 25 July 2023.

2.4 Recommendation

- **Discussion** – For examining and considering the implications of a matter.

3 List of appendices

The following appendices are included with this report:

- Appendix No. 1, DPH Report 2023 v7
- Appendix No. 2, DPH Annual Report Information Supplement Final (PDF)

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Children and young people in Fife

The building blocks for health 2023



Acknowledgements

I am grateful to my colleagues within our Public Health Department and from our colleagues and partners within Health Promotion Service, Fife Health and Social Care Partnership, Fife Council and the third sector for their significant contributions to this report. We are all part of the Fife public health team, and it is good to see examples of this work throughout the report.

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www.nhsfife.org

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Introduction



Public health can be defined as *‘what we as a society do collectively to assure the conditions in which people can be healthy’*. It therefore must be concerned with broad aspects of our lives and environment, and the obligation to address inequality for those who face most challenges in realising their potential to participate in society.

This year I have chosen to focus the Annual Report and Information Supplement on children and young people. Clearly there are major health issues and pressures for all age groups, and these were covered more fully in last year’s report. These broader issues will be reviewed again in two years time. Childhood has a large influence on our health as adults. There are messages within this report relevant for everyone, as actions impacting on children and families benefit the wider adult population, and vice versa.

It is timely to consider children and young people for four reasons:

- the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) which is expected to become incorporated into law in Scotland this year
- Scotland’s Promise to care experienced young people ‘You will grow up loved, safe and respected. And by 2030, that promise must be kept.’
- the strong and developing evidence base about the importance of attachment and social connectedness for babies, children and young people, the effect of adversity on early brain development, and the economic case for investing early in the life course
- the impact of COVID-19 and associated measures on children and young people, and the impacts, some ongoing, of the associated withdrawal of usual activities, services and supports, followed by the cost-of-living crisis.

It is impossible to cover every aspect of child health and care services in this report, and the Information Supplement provides further detail where this is available. The voice of children and young people is particularly important going forward to implement the UNCRC.

I would like to thank all the dedicated health and social care staff and carers, as well as those in Education, partner agencies and the third sector for their work with children and families in Fife. There are key messages and recommendations to consider, to give the next generation the most positive start possible.

Feedback on the report is welcome and will be used to help plan for future years. [see link in website]

Dr Joy Tomlinson,
Director of Public Health

[Preface - The Future of the Public's Health in the 21st Century - NCBI Bookshelf \(nih.gov\)](#)

https://www.scotphn.net/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/2022_02_28-Ensuring-our-future-addressing-the-impact-of-COVID-19-on-children-young-people-and-their-families-Feb22-English.pdf

[Tackling Inequalities Trauma and Adversity across the Lifespan \(improvementservice.org.uk\)](#)

[Home - The Promise](#)

Key recommendations

The science of connection shows that nurture in early life is crucial for brain development and for lifelong health and wellbeing, and investment in early years has the greatest economic impact on human development.

The UNCRC should help ensure the issues and concerns affecting children and young people are considered in decision making at all levels, and that different groups of children and young people are given a chance for their voices to be heard to improve their health and life chances.

Tackling child poverty through increasing incomes, reducing costs and maximising benefits can make a huge difference to children and families, and the focus should be on the six priority groups as described in Best Start Bright Futures.

Strong connections are needed throughout pregnancy and childhood, and support for families in the community, access to good quality childcare, neighbourhood and community events, and support in education can support positive mental wellbeing. Access to more specialist services is important where needed.

Implementing The Promise is a major challenge and may require a culture change in how families, care experienced children and young people are regarded and supported.

Family support, youth work and third sector work plays a central role in supporting children and families and providing positive activities for young people, recognising the impact of disability and the role of unpaid carers.

Policy and action relating to health behaviours such as smoking, obesity, diet, alcohol and drugs need to take more account of the damaging reproductive effects and impact on children.

Addressing structural issues such as housing and environment will help create positive places for families now and for the next generation, taking into account inclusion and diversity.

Across a range of services, staff and the relationships they build are crucial to give the best support to families. Valuing, attracting and retaining staff working with pregnant women, children and families is important at all levels, from social carers and support staff through to expert professionals.

General



Population

Why is this important?

Understanding changes in the number of children and young people under the age of 18 and their characteristics is essential to help in planning services for children and families.

Background

At June 2021 an estimated 71,746 children aged under 18 lived in Fife. Within the age group 0-17 there were more males than females, 51% versus 49%. Of these children 17,300 or 24% were pre-school aged, 29,350 or 41% were aged 5-11 years and 25,096 or 35% were aged 12-17 years.¹

Children aged 0-17 years account for 19.1% of the total population of Fife, a little above the national average of 18.7%. Within Fife, Dunfermline HSCP locality has the largest proportion of the total population aged under 18 at 20.9% and North East Fife the lowest at 15.6%. In the last 10 years the number of children aged 0-17 years estimated to be living in Fife fell by 1.8%, compared to the population aged 18 and over which grew by 3.2%. The largest fall has been seen in children aged 0-4 (24%) and then in children aged 5-11 (7%) which will in part be due to declining birth rates.

The most recent 2018 based population projections available for Fife estimate that by mid-2028 the total population of Fife, compared to 2018, will be a similar size with a 0.1% decrease in the total population and by 2043 will be 2.1% smaller. In comparison the population aged under 18 is estimated to be 6% smaller in 2028 compared to 2018 and 16% smaller by 2043.²

At the 2011 Census the under 16 population of Fife was predominantly of white ethnicity 96.9%, with 1.7% Asian ethnicity and 1.4% of children being from other minority ethnic groups.³ The 2022 Fife Council pupil census reported that 5.7% of Fife school pupils were from a minority ethnic group.⁴ The findings from the 2022 Census will provide us with a greater insight into the diversity of our child population in Fife.

Summary

The proportion of children and young people as part of the overall population in Fife is currently reducing in line with the patterns seen across Scotland.

Find out more

<https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/statistics-and-data/statistics/statistics-by-theme/population/population-estimates/mid-year-population-estimates/mid-2021>

<https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/statistics-and-data/statistics/statistics-by-theme/population/population-projections/sub-national-population-projections>

<https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/statistics-and-data/statistics/statistics-by-theme/population/population-projections/population-projections-scotland/2020-based>

<https://www.scotlandscensus.gov.uk/search-the-census#/search-by>

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/pupil-census-supplementary-statistics/>

UNCRC – United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

Why is this important?

The UNCRC (Incorporation) (Scotland) Bill was introduced to the Scottish Parliament on 1 September 2020. While aspects of the Bill were challenged by the UK government, work is progressing and it is expected that new legislation will be passed in 2023.

Background

The UK signed up to the United UNCRC which came into force in January 1992 and is the global gold standard for children's rights. The 54 UNCRC articles set out the multi-factorial rights that all children are entitled to. The articles are wide-ranging and cover a number of areas including health, education, leisure and play, social security, child labour, children in care and juvenile justice. The new law may make it unlawful for public authorities to act incompatibly with the incorporated UNCRC requirements, giving children, young people and their representatives the power to go to court to enforce their rights. An example is article 27: Every child has the right to a good enough standard of living to meet their physical and social needs including a proper house, food and clothing.

Modifiable factors/local actions

Realising rights is a theme in the Fife Children's Services Plan, which covers partnership organisations in Fife. Organisations including NHS Fife are preparing to ensure processes and actions are compatible with the UNCRC. This affects services delivered to the wider population, and not just those aimed directly at children and young people.

Senior leaders are engaged in understanding the implications of the UNCRC and working on undertaking Children's Rights Impact assessments by public bodies where appropriate.

Work is ongoing to better listen to the voice of infants, children and young people as well as families to improve services and better meet their needs.

Summary

Rights based approaches should change existing services to better realise all rights, including the right to health of the most disadvantaged children and young people.

Find out more

[United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child implementation: introductory guidance - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/resources/documents/2021/06/United_Nations_Convention_on_the_Rights_of_the_Child_implementation_introductions_guidance.pdf)

[socrr23_final.pdf \(togetherscotland.org.uk\)](https://togetherscotland.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/socrr23_final.pdf)

[UNCRC Articles Archive - The Children and Young People's Commissioner Scotland \(cypcs.org.uk\)](https://www.cypcs.org.uk/uncrc-articles)

Factors affecting child development

Why is this important?

Understanding the importance of early child development and the impact of life circumstance is constantly evolving. Attachment theory highlights the importance of a child's emotional bond with their primary caregiver. Disruption to or loss of this bond and accumulation of early adversity can affect a child emotionally and psychologically into adulthood, and can have an impact on their future relationships, social and health outcomes.

Background

In international comparisons, the UK does not do particularly well on measures of child health, and inequalities in health in later life. The Heckman curve, Figure 1 shows the economic benefits of investing early in the life course. This is drawn from evidence of economics across numerous countries and is compatible with scientific evidence of the critical windows for development in early childhood, starting with pregnancy.

Quality of relationships with family, peers and community are important at any point in childhood and can be strained in times of family or community stress or disruption. Supporting child development can have a lifelong impact.

Modifiable factors/local actions

Investment in family support and anti-child poverty measures can help support positive development in the critical early years. Prevention of adversity impacts on longer term outcomes for the next generation, for example measures to reduce domestic abuse, parental addiction and mental health issues in the adult population directly benefits children.

Maternal, perinatal and infant mental health is particularly important to promote positive bonding at the start of life. In Fife in addition to universal services there is tiered specialist support where needed from the Community Perinatal Mental Health team, Infant Mental Health team, and the Maternity and Neonatal Psychological Intervention team.

Child development and attachment informed policy and practice is particularly important in family, childcare and education arenas.

Summary

The rapidity of early brain development and sensitivity to quality of nurture means that early life has a profound effect on the future life course.

Find out more

<https://developingchild.harvard.edu/re-envisioning-ecd/>

<https://heckmanequation.org/resource/the-heckman-curve/>

<https://www.nuffieldtrust.org.uk/research/international-comparisons-of-health-and-wellbeing-in-early-childhood>

<https://stateofchildhealth.rcpch.ac.uk/evidence/nations/scotland/>

<https://developingchild.harvard.edu/re-envisioning-ecd/>

<https://www.nuffieldtrust.org.uk/research/international-comparisons-of-health-and-wellbeing-in-early-childhood>

<https://stateofchildhealth.rcpch.ac.uk/evidence/nations/scotland/>

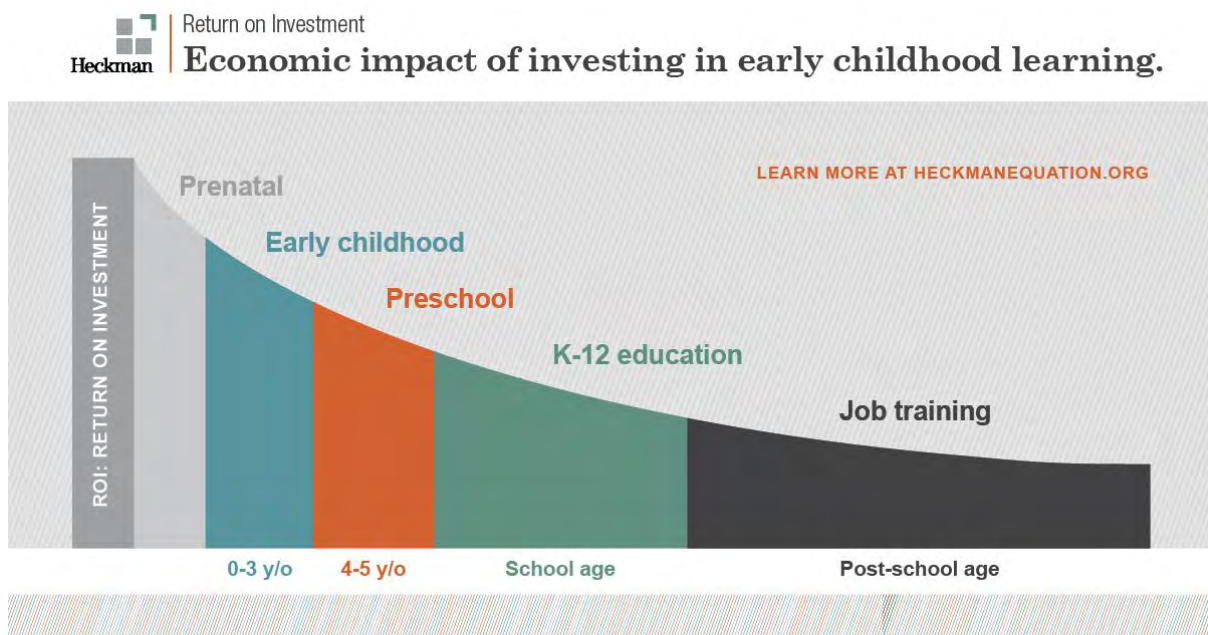


Figure 1 source: <https://heckmanequation.org/resource/the-heckman-curve/>

ACE exposure and trauma

Why is this important?

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) are “highly stressful, and potentially traumatic, events or situations that occur during childhood and/or adolescence. They can be a single event, or prolonged threats to, and breaches of, the young person’s safety, security, trust or bodily integrity.” In 1998 a landmark study by Felitti and colleagues was published demonstrating a link between cumulative exposure to ACEs with long term outcomes for adults including mental and physical health and leading causes of death.

Background

In a 2014 UK study on ACEs, 47% of people experienced at least one ACE with 9% of the population having four or more ACEs. Childhood trauma can affect individuals’ wellbeing across the lifespan, impacting on physical health, mental health and relationships. Being ‘Trauma Informed’ means being able to recognise when someone may be affected by trauma, collaboratively adjusting how we work to take this into account and responding in a way that supports recovery, does no harm, and recognises and supports people's resilience.

Modifiable factors/Local actions

Since 2016, NHS Education for Scotland (NES) has developed training to promote trauma informed practice, to support children and young people who have experienced trauma or ACEs. NHS Fife has developed four half day trauma informed modules on: Why trauma matters; Psychological Impact of trauma; Relationships and Recovery; Compassion Fatigue and Self-care.

These have been adopted and promoted via NES and are being delivered locally to a wide range of multiagency staff, including Family Support Service, social work staff, education staff and school nursing. There is also an enhanced module for staff working directly with children and young people who have experienced trauma. These modules have been delivered to staff working in CAMHS, child psychology and the DAPL school counselling service.

Trauma informed practice is also relevant for many adult services, and more broadly, consideration of prevention of ACEs is relevant in wider policy on inequalities including for example, criminal justice.

Summary

To improve outcomes for those who have experienced trauma, we need a trauma informed workforce who can understand their needs and respond appropriately.

Find out more

[Understanding trauma and adversity | Resources | YoungMinds](#)

[https://doi.org/10.1016/S0749-3797\(98\)00017-8](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0749-3797(98)00017-8)

https://know.fife.scot/_data/assets/pdf_file/0027/177507/ACEs-in-Fife-Exposure-and-Outcomes-Profile-Oct-2018.pdf

[National Trauma Training Programme - Home \(transformingpsychologicaltrauma.scot\)](#)

[Home \(beaconhouse.org.uk\)](#)

[UKTC \(uktraumacouncil.org\)](#)

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/understanding-childhood-adversity-resilience-crime/pages/2/>

COVID-19: Impact on children and young people

Why is this important?

While direct health effects of COVID-19 had less impact on children than adults, the associated lockdown measures had a profound effect on usual socialisation, support, learning and activities, and services, adversely affecting aspects of child development.

Background

School closures, lockdown measures and withdrawal of services to essential levels impacted the whole population, with particular effect on children and young people as usual activities, milestones and events had to be cancelled or curtailed. With adults under stress, this impacts on quality and quantity of interactions with children vital for language and development. The level of screen use in children increased significantly due to loss of usual activities.

While some families reported positives of having parents at home and less travel, many found the experience difficult, and women were disproportionately affected due to caring roles. At pre-school reviews, higher proportions of children have had developmental concerns post pandemic, 18.7% at 27-30 month review in 2021, compared to 14.6% prior to the pandemic for Scotland. Literacy and numeracy data were lower for Scotland in 2020/1 indicated an impact on learning. Parent-reported lower mental health and wellbeing scores in younger children were lower in 2020, and survey data indicated that families affected by disability had particular loss of services during the pandemic, with reduction in respite and social support. The proportion of Scottish children at risk of overweight or obesity increased in 2020/1. Demand and waiting times for many types of care were affected by the pandemic.

Modifiable factors/local actions

Focus on connectedness and wellbeing of families, neighbourhoods and communities, as there may be a longer term cohort effect where supportive networks take time to re-establish.

Ensure services for families affected by disability, mental health issues and poverty are strengthened going forward to mitigate the impacts on disadvantaged groups.

Summary

The pandemic and associated measures have had a major impact on children and young people, particularly those already in situations of disadvantage.

Find out more

https://www.scotphn.net/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/2022_02_28-Ensuring-our-future-addressing-the-impact-of-COVID-19-on-children-young-people-and-their-families-Feb22-English.pdf

Family life

Why is this important?

The family is the basic building block of society, and the expectations and structures around it change over time. This has implications for connectedness, and support in times of adversity, whether social, financial, physical or mental health related.

Background

In the Growing Up in Scotland study, 27.3% of 14 year olds had at least one parent who lived elsewhere. Over half 57.5% saw this parent once a week or more, whilst 15.1% said they never saw this parent. Disabled young people were more likely to say they have at least one parent who lived elsewhere 35.2%, compared with 25.9% of non-disabled young people. There was an increase in single adult households in Scotland, with figures from the Labour Force Survey estimating that these accounted for 36% of all households in 2022. 23% of households in Scotland comprised adults and dependent children, less than one in four of all households. 5% of all households comprised a single parent and dependent children: 13% a small family, 5% a large family, an increase in the proportion with single parents over time.

There have also been significant changes to working patterns of parents in the UK, for example with more non standard working hours, particularly for lower paid workers. Some aspects such as unpredictable work schedules have been linked to lower parental wellbeing, however there is evidence to suggest access to flexible working patterns and the four day working week may reduce stress within families. The use of formal childcare has increased over time, however, availability and cost can limit options for families.

Modifiable factors/local actions

Promote policies which support families with children, in particular families with disabled children, and encourage community support for families through intergenerational support, third sector, and volunteering, which also supports connectedness and positive wellbeing.

Promote a child and family focus in design of homes, work, communities and services, with accessible provision of high quality childcare.

The Workplace Team, Health Promotion Service in Fife actively promote a range of initiatives to Fife workplaces to encourage good and fair work, including family friendly policies, flexible working and intergenerational working, and promotion of the Healthy Working Lives programme in Fife.

Summary

Promoting connected communities with the needs of children and families in mind will help the next generation flourish.

Find out more

[https://www.gov.scot/publications/life-age-14-initial-findings-growing-up-scotland-study/Chapter 2 - The Composition and Characteristics of Households in Scotland \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/publications/life-age-14-initial-findings-growing-up-scotland-study/Chapter%20-%20The%20Composition%20and%20Characteristics%20of%20Households%20in%20Scotland%20(www.gov.scot))

<https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/files/statistics/old/he-05-table5.pdf>

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peopleinwork/employmentandemployeetypes/articles/familiesandthelabourmarketengland/2021>

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8651235/>

<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2023/03/surprising-benefits-four-day-week/>

[10.1080/13668803.2022.2077173](https://doi.org/10.1080/13668803.2022.2077173)

<https://workingfamilies.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Working-Families-Benchmark-Report>

<https://www.nhsfife.org/workplace>

Disability and neurodiversity

Why is this important?

Difference is part of what makes us human, and also how we care for less able members of our society defines how we view ourselves as a civilised society. People with disability can face a number of barriers to inclusion and preventable adverse health outcomes.

Background

The current rate of pupils in Fife assessed or declared as having a disability is 26.2 per 1000 pupils. Disability may relate to physical or learning ability or both, and may overlap with some chronic physical or mental health conditions, and sensory impairments. Disabilities may be classed as mild, moderate, severe, and in some cases, complex or exceptional where there are a number of conditions, or a mix of physical and learning disability leading to a need for complex care. The social model of disability recognises that people can be disabled by barriers in society such as absence of a wheelchair ramp, and is focussed on assets rather than impairments or deficits. The bio-psychosocial model incorporates the biomedical model with other perspectives and underpins person-centred care.

A learning disability is generally defined by lower intellectual ability, significant impairment of social or adaptive functioning, and onset in childhood. Some neurodevelopmental disorders may be associated with learning disability, including autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD).

Neurodiversity is a broader term relating to differences in brain processing, which is more variably defined and often includes ASD, ADHD, dyscalculia, dyslexia and dyspraxia. It is estimated around one in seven people in the UK is neurodivergent. Additional support needs is the term used in schools for children who require any additions to the educational provision that is usually provided, which can be due to the conditions above.

Recognising these conditions has important implications across the life course, in how to realise rights and advance equality of opportunity, provide reasonable adjustments and inclusion in society such as access to work, leisure and culture. As with adults, a higher proportion of disabled children live in areas of deprivation, and they are less likely to go to a positive destination after leaving school. Disabled people and their carers had a particularly difficult time during the COVID-19 pandemic for a variety of reasons including isolation and reduction in services. Unpaid carers have a vital role and there is a need to recognise, value and raise awareness of carers and their rights and whole family wellbeing.

The UN report on the implementation of the UNCRC in the UK highlights disability as a particular area for action. Stigma, fear of harassment and hate crime are prevalent and there are basic accessibility challenges for homes, public buildings and spaces. Rates of mental health issues are higher in disabled children and adults, and there can be barriers to accessing high quality health care.

Modifiable factors/local actions

There should be increased recognition of the role of disability and caring roles in understanding and addressing health inequalities, and preventable premature mortality in Scotland.

There is work ongoing in health and education in Fife to improve access to support, advice and assessment to meet individual needs in relation to and reduce impact of neurodevelopmental disorders. Allied health professionals have an important role in advising and supporting families.

There is unmet need to support families caring for children with learning disabilities and the most complex mental health needs, with access to respite and multi-agency intensive support to prevent family breakdown or the need for alternative placements.

Transition from child to adult services for those with disability can be difficult to navigate, and is crucial to achieve the best long term outcomes. Key principles include person-centred planning, with planning starting early and continuing up to the age of 25.

Summary

A core value of the UNCRC is non discrimination, and responding to the experience of families and children is central to addressing barriers for those with disability or neurodiversity to realise their potential into adult life.

Find out more

[Scotland's Wellbeing: national outcomes for disabled people - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)

[Definition | Background information | Learning disabilities | CKS | NICE](#)

[The Impact of Disability on the Lives of Young Children: Analysis of Growing Up in Scotland Data - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)

[Celebrating neurodiversity in Higher Education | BPS](#)

[What are learning disabilities - report \(sldo.ac.uk\)](#)

[The biopsychosocial model of illness: a model whose time has come - Derick T Wade, Peter W Halligan, 2017 \(sagepub.com\)](#)

[UK Disability Survey research report, June 2021 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

[National carers strategy - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)

[Findings from LeDeR reviews 2015-2020 | School for Policy Studies | University of Bristol](#)

[Principles-of-Good-Transitions-3.pdf \(arcscotland.org.uk\)](#)

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-allied-health-professions-public-health-strategic-framework-implementation-plan-2022-2027/pages/4/>

Voice of children and young people

Why is this important?

Linking to the UNCRC Article 12, participation and engagement with children and young people is being recognised as being integral in planning services to meet their needs, just as coproduction and working with communities is integral to wider service planning.

Background

The Fife Children & Young People's Health & Wellbeing Survey was completed in schools in March and April 2023. The survey has been designed so that children and young people can tell us about their experiences and contains questions on a wide range of topics including: Physical Activity, Health, Emotional Wellbeing, Eating Habits and Social Media Use.

Gathering this information, at this time, was especially important to help to form an accurate picture of children and young people's wellbeing after the pandemic and to help to plan to support their recovery.

The results from the survey, available in summer 2023, will help us to understand the wellbeing and needs of children and young people in Fife. This will inform the work that partnership organisations are doing to improve services for children and families.

In preparing this report, feedback was obtained from Fife College students on topics most important to them. The Voice of children and young people, and working on young people's health priorities came top, followed by The Promise and Adversity priorities.

Local actions/modifiable factors

There are many examples in Fife of good practice for engagement with children and young people, these include:

- The 'Voice of the infant' tool used within the Health Visiting and Family Nurse Partnership services.
- Following engagement with young people about their needs, NHS Fife School Nursing Service launched a text messaging service, launched in November 2022.
- In Education, local engagement work, as well as larger scale surveys such as SHINE and the Health and Wellbeing Survey are used to help plan services.
- Research undertaken with young people will inform Youth Work service priorities going forward.

Summary

Information from larger scale surveys but also targeted work with specific groups of young people in Fife will help with designing appropriate services to meet their needs.

Early years and building blocks for health



“Much is made of the need for more police on the streets. But while this would undoubtedly reduce violent crime in the short term, in the long term 1000 health visitors would be more effective than 1000 police officers.

Early years education and support is key to reducing violence in the long term.”

Detective Chief Superintendent John Carnochan,
Head, Violence Reduction Unit of Scotland 2008



Child poverty and cost of living

Why is this important?

Child poverty affects opportunities for health, learning and development from pregnancy onwards, which can have lifelong consequences. The Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017 places duties on public authorities to take action to reduce and mitigate child poverty. The current cost of living crisis has made it more difficult for many families.

Background

Almost one in four children in Fife live in poverty before housing costs. There are six child poverty priority groups which cover 90% of families with children in poverty: *lone parents, families affected by disability, children under 1 year, mothers under 25 years, ethnicity, families with >3 children*. The Policy document Best Start Bright Futures describes three drivers of child poverty: income from employment, cost of living, income from benefits.

Poverty rates are also higher in some parts of Fife than others, generally following patterns of deprivation. Poverty can be linked to increased family stress, and reduced opportunities for building relationships and skills to support successful learning, leading to a gap in educational attainment between children in most and least deprived areas.

Modifiable factors/local actions

Fife has published several Local Child Poverty Action Reports as required by the Act. The report for 2023 will be part of the overall Tackling Poverty and Preventing Crisis report. Key areas for action focus on the three drivers and targeting the six priority groups:

- Income maximisation, with the successful MoneyTalks offer of referral for welfare checks in maternity and health visiting, and the Boosting Budgets programme in Education, and possible expansion of these.
- Reducing additional costs of the school day, and working to improve access to childcare.
- Anchor Institution actions, to ensure employment is accessible to priority groups where possible, and procurement can benefit local communities.
- Ensuring voice of those with lived experience is part of planning and feedback.
- Support action to explore better access to child maintenance payments and tackle young parent poverty.

Summary

Poverty is a stressor which can be highly detrimental to all aspects of child and family wellbeing. Public services can take both preventive and mitigating action, in line with UNCRC articles 26 and 27.

Find out more

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/best-start-bright-futures-tackling-child-poverty-delivery-plan-2022-26/pages/3/>

<https://our.fife.scot/plan4fife/tackling-poverty-and-preventing-crisis/tackling-poverty-listing/tackling-child-poverty>

https://our.fife.scot/data/assets/pdf_file/0021/250248/Plan-for-Fife-2021-24-23-Aug.pdf

<https://www.health.org.uk/news-and-comment/charts-and-infographics/the-nhs-as-an-anchor-institution>

<https://cpag.org.uk/scotland/child-poverty>

<https://www.improvementservice.org.uk/products-and-services/consultancy-and-support/local-child-poverty-action-reports>

Births and maternal health

Why is this important?

Potentially modifiable factors affecting a mother's health before and during pregnancy can have a major impact on the mother and baby's wellbeing and some complications associated with pregnancy and childbirth. Some factors can influence the child's health in the longer term.

Background

The birth rate is declining in Fife, in a similar pattern to Scotland, with 3157 births in 2021. Age at first birth is increasing, which has positive aspects, however fertility reduces with age and after age 35, the rate of pregnancy complications, and chance of some genetic conditions in the baby increase.

In Fife around 5% of singleton births have low birth weight, similar to the rate in Scotland. Low birth weight is caused by intrauterine growth restriction, prematurity or both. As well as immediate health care needs, it contributes to a range of longer term health outcomes. There are evidence based actions which can reduce the chance of low birth weight, these include: reducing smoking and reducing exposure to environmental tobacco smoke, alcohol, and illicit drug use. Low body mass index and anaemia are also risk factors so a healthy diet before and during pregnancy is important. Other factors include younger and older ages during pregnancy, time between births, infections including those which are sexually transmitted and exposure to domestic violence.

There were 11 stillbirths in Fife in 2021, and as a rate this was similar to Scotland. Stillbirths may have an identified cause but many are unexplained. There are also risk factors for stillbirth include smoking, obesity, poor nutrition, drug and alcohol use. One area of concern is that the percentage of women classified as overweight or obese at maternity booking in Scotland has been gradually rising. In Fife this was 60.4%, above the Scottish average.

Fife has one of the highest rates of current smokers at maternity booking in Scotland. In 2021/22, 16.7% of women self-reported as current smokers, compared to 11.8% for Scotland. Women who live in areas most affected by deprivation have the highest proportion of current smokers. Smoking is also associated with a wide range of harms including: increased risk of miscarriage, some congenital defects and learning difficulties, including attention deficit hyperactivity disorder. It may also cause genetic damage to be passed to the next generation. Smoking in the home is a significant risk factor for sudden infant death, as well as respiratory problems in children.

There are well understood risks during pregnancy from alcohol. Drinking alcohol during pregnancy increases the chance of fetal alcohol spectrum disorder (FASD) which is the commonest cause of non-genetic learning disability in the Western world. Importantly, damage may occur before a woman is aware of the pregnancy. It can be difficult to diagnose and symptoms include: difficulty processing information, memory and attention deficits, cognitive and behavioural problems. Early identification and support can improve outcomes.

Maternal deaths are fortunately now rare, however the Confidential Enquiries into Maternal Deaths 2022 showed stark inequalities with women from some ethnic backgrounds and women experiencing greater levels of deprivation more likely to be affected.

Modifiable factors/local actions

Some actions that improve the health of the whole population such as increasing smoke-free environments will also directly benefit mothers and children. However, delivery of high quality reproductive health care throughout a woman's life is also important for positive health outcomes for mothers and babies. While much is delivered in primary care, the ACORN project in Sexual Health Fife is an example of good practice which is designed to enhance access for women facing particular challenges who may not otherwise access services.

Maternity services in Fife provide person-centred care, with specific projects for some women, including the VIP project for those with alcohol and substance misuse problems, Family Nurse Partnership for younger first-time mothers, Family Health Midwives for those with complex challenges, and support for women with obesity in pregnancy. Translation services in maternity care are particularly important due to higher risks associated with some ethnicities. Areas for development include:

- Preconception health advice for all women, but especially for women with pre-existing conditions such as heart disease.
- Increasing access to reproductive health options such as long acting reversible contraception to women, including following birth.
- Reducing rates of smoking and obesity in the population, and exploring ways of increasing smoking quit rates in pregnancy including incentives.
- Supporting population health measures to reduce exposure to alcohol, including in pregnancy.
- A stronger focus on preconception and child health in general health policy.

Summary

Improving preconception and maternal health will help reduce inequalities and improve outcomes for mothers and babies in Fife.

Find out more

[Maternal and fetal risk factors for stillbirth: population based study | The BMJ](#)

[Fetal alcohol spectrum disorders: a guide for healthcare professionals \(exlibrisgroup.com\)](#)[Low birth weight \(who.int\)](#)

[Reducing low birth weight: prioritizing action to address modifiable risk factors | Journal of Public Health | Oxford Academic \(oup.com\)](#)

[Tobacco use in pregnancy | ASH Scotland](#)

[Smoking, Pregnancy and Fertility - ASH](#)

[Financial incentives for smoking cessation in pregnancy: randomised controlled trial | The BMJ](#)

[MBRRACE-UK Maternal Report 2022 - Lay Summary v10.pdf \(ox.ac.uk\)](#)

[Women's health plan - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)

Infant feeding

Why is this important?

Breastfeeding provides the best start to life as breastmilk contains hundreds of components that cannot be artificially replicated including viral fragments, antibodies and immunoglobulins, hormones, stem cells, complex sugars and essential fats.¹ In addition to nutrition and immunity, the closeness of breastfeeding helps develop the infant microbiome and builds a strong bond between the mother and infant. This relationship can aid brain development and potentially influence life-long learning, development and social interactions.

Background

Scotland has invested money to support breastfeeding initiatives over the last few years. As a result, the rate of any breastfeeding at 6-8 weeks in NHS Fife has increased from 33.7 % in 2012 to 41.9 % in 2022.² There continues to be a sharp drop in the number of women who start breastfeeding to those who continue to do so at 6-8 weeks, and having timely, skilled support is key to ensuring women get advice and support where needed.

Additionally, all maternity, neonatal and health visiting services across Scotland are accredited as “Baby Friendly” – a global initiative jointly developed between WHO and UNICEF to provide standards of care to improve breastfeeding support.³

Modifiable factors/local actions

NHS Fife community successfully became “Baby Friendly” in 2014 and successfully reaccredited in January 2023 with outstanding results. The next steps to embed standards in practice include ensuring strong leadership, fostering a culture for staff learning and feedback, ensure a robust monitoring system to ensure standards remain consistently met to a high standard and developing innovations to improve services.⁴ This includes access to breastfeeding support and advice from midwives, health visitors (or family nurses), the breastfeeding support team or one of the infant feeding advisors.⁵

Families can also get help with costs through Best Start grants and Best Start foods to help make sure infants and young children have access to food.⁶

Summary

Actions to promote and support breastfeeding where possible remains an important health outcome, while sensitively supporting all families regardless of feeding methods.

Find out more

[DPH Report 2023 - Draft Master V2 24.05.2023.docx \(sharepoint.com\)](#)

[Infant feeding statistics - Financial year 2021 to 2022 - Infant feeding statistics - Publications - Public Health Scotland](#)

[Learn more about the UNICEF UK Baby Friendly Initiative](#)

<https://www.unicef.org.uk/babyfriendly/baby-friendly-resources/implementing-standards-resources/guide-to-the-standards/>

[Breastfeeding support | NHS Fife](#)

[Best Start Grant and Best Start Foods - mygov.scot](#)

Health visiting pathway and Family Nurse Partnership

Why is this important?

Universal services in pregnancy and from birth into the early years are essential to ensure early intervention and prevention and identify those requiring additional or intensive support. Midwives, health visitors and family nurses are the core staff groups involved in pregnancy and following birth health visitors and family nurses are the key staff.

Background

The Universal Health Visiting Pathway provides a core programme of 11 home visits to all new families, covering the first year to preschool, building relationships, providing support and including the Named Person function.

Development checks are captured in the Child Health Surveillance Programme national information system. In 2021/22 in Fife there was a fall in the proportion of eligible children reviewed at both 13-15 month review and 27-30 month review, to 83% and 90%. The percentage of children reviewed with developmental concerns at both reviews increased, to 18% and 19% respectively. This increase was noted across Scotland and further work is underway to investigate further.

The FNP programme is now available to all first time mothers aged 20 and under. This is a recent expansion from 19 years old and under and provides regular intensive home visits and support in pregnancy until the age of two according to an evidence based framework. This has been shown to improve a range of maternal and child outcomes.

Modifiable factors/local actions

Full implementation of the Health Visiting pathway has been challenging due to staffing pressures in the last four years. A workforce strategy is in place covering recruitment, training and supervision which will bring long term stability to teams and support full delivery of the pathway.

Further consideration will be needed to meet the stretch aim to have the FNP programme offered to those aged 21 and under, and 25 and under for care experienced young people.

Summary

Universal and additional support is essential to support families in the early years adapt to the changes and potential challenges in the early years.

Find out more

[Early child development statistics - Scotland 2020 to 2021 - Early child development - Publications - Public Health Scotland](#)

<https://www.gov.scot/policies/maternal-and-child-health/family-nurse-partnership/>

[Perinatal and early years - Mental health - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)

[Perinatal mental health - ScotPHO](#)

Play and physical activity

Why is this important?

Movement is essential for life. It provides the building blocks for development, physical and mental health as well as social and academic progress. Play is well documented for its benefits at all life stages from infancy to older adults. Taking part in activity increases confidence, self-esteem, as well as reduces stress, the effects of depression and improves our physical health.

Background

Physical activity guidelines for children state that they should engage in moderate to vigorous activity for at least 60 minutes each day. In 2021 the Scottish Health Survey reported that 71% of children aged 2-15 years had achieved this recommendation which included activity at school. This is an increase from 69% in 2019. However more boys than girls meet the recommendation.

Participating in sport and physical activities such as walking, ball sports, dance or yoga creates an opportunity to develop skill mastery. This then can lead to lifelong participation in a range of activities. Tackling inequalities and barriers to activity from an early age will help to increase activity levels, create good habits and improve life chances into adulthood.

Modifiable factors/local actions

The ability to swim and ride a bike by the time a child leaves primary school are two 'life skills' measures Fife Council is working hard to impact, through provision of activity and interventions to tackle the barriers to participation.

Fife Sport and Physical Activity Strategy is a Fife wide commitment to improving opportunities for people of all ages, abilities, and localities in Fife to participate in sports and physical activities. Working in partnership with stakeholders Fife Council Active Communities is committed to increasing the variety and availability of activities, from walking in the community to supporting clubs and groups who are working to change people's lives through sport, including those with disabilities.

Additional funding will increase the ability to create and improve access to activity across Fife. Reducing barriers to activity' costs, facilities and perceptions continues to challenge all initiative and projects. Ongoing work to understand the needs of our communities, individuals and families assists with planning programmes, taking into account any impact from COVID-19 in changing how people play, participate and exercise.

Summary

Play and physical activity is essential for healthy development in children and contributes to lifelong physical and mental health and wellbeing.

Find out more

[Active Fife - leisure hub](#)

[Physical activity overview - Physical activity - Health topics - Public Health Scotland](#)

Housing

Why is this important?

Housing has a vital role to play in promoting child development by providing a safe and secure place for children to grow, play and learn in a homely and nurturing environment.

Background

In 2021 the Scottish Government set out its vision for the Housing Sector in its 'Housing to 2040' Strategy.¹ This was in the context of an emphasis on preventing homelessness. Homelessness prevention duties on all public bodies are widely expected to form part of a forthcoming Housing Bill.² Pressure on housing services continues to be affected by the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. In Fife the number of homeless applications and households in temporary accommodation remains higher than pre-pandemic.³

Scottish Government data 2020-2021 shows that within Scotland Fife has amongst the highest number of homeless households.³ Homeless households with children spend on average longer in temporary accommodation than those without. The Draft Fife Local Housing Strategy 2022-2027 states that 22% of homeless households in Fife are single parents and 24% of homeless assessments include dependent children.⁴

Modifiable factors/local actions

Housing and homelessness issues are entwined with other aspects of inequality such as employment and poverty. Fife's Local Housing Strategy includes actions to address the housing needs of populations where children and young people may be most at risk.⁴ This includes those experiencing domestic abuse or with no recourse to public funds, care experienced young people, children in temporary accommodation, and closer working with child health and maternity services.

In Fife the Rapid Rehousing Transition Programme (RRTP) Board will establish a multiagency Homelessness Prevention Task Force. It will also work with the Centre for Homeless Impact to develop a local framework in line with the SHARE tool that aims to achieve the following: 'Scotland will be a society in which homelessness is prevented whenever possible or otherwise will be rare, brief and non-recurring'.^{5,6,7}

Summary

Housing provision and the prevention of homelessness need to take account of children's rights based approaches in line with the UNCRC.

Find out more

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/housing-2040-2/documents/>

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/prevention-homelessness-duties-joint-scottish-government-cosla-consultation-analysis-consultation-responses-final-report/>

<https://www.gov.scot/binaries/content/documents/govscot/publications/statistics/2021/06/homelessness-scotland-2020-2021/documents/homelessness-scotland-2020-21/homelessness-scotland-2020-21/govscot%3Adocument/homelessness-scotland-2020-21.pdf>

<https://www.fife.gov.uk/kb/docs/articles/housing/local-housing-strategy>

<https://www.homelessnessimpact.org/share-tool>

<https://www.scotpho.org.uk/wider-determinants/homelessness/key-points/>

https://scotland.shelter.org.uk/housing_policy/homelessness_in_scotland

Greenspace and wellbeing economy

Why is this important?

Greenspace Scotland outlines research demonstrating how greenspace can give children the best start in life and act as an outdoor classroom.¹ Greenspace provides places for children to play and promotes their social, emotional, intellectual and physical development. Wellbeing and sustainability can be seen as a children's rights issue due to the impact on future generations.²

Background

The Place and Well-being Collaborative have recently developed a set of Place and Well-being outcomes for Scotland.³ This work reflects the well acknowledged important effect the kind of the place in which we live, work and play has on our health and well-being. Issues of place are entwined with sustainability and the nature of economic development. Scotland is part of the OECD Wellbeing Economy Governments Group exploring wellbeing and economics, and meeting UN Sustainable development goals.³

Modifiable factors/local actions

Targets and indicators for place and well-being are being developed at national level and will inform further development of actions covered in Fife strategies on Transport, the Climate Emergency, Sustainability and Greenspace.^{4,5} This links to the Play Strategy for Scotland which has the ambition for all children and young people to enjoy outdoor free play in stimulating spaces with access to nature on a regular basis, and in Fife the Play Spaces Strategy provides a plan for upgrading play facilities across Fife.^{6,7}

Fife has been part of a Scottish Government pilot programme supporting local areas to build capacity for community wealth building, now embedded as part of the Plan for Fife Recovery and Renewal review. Other collaborative projects in Fife are in progress which will contribute to the joint priorities of community wealth building and developing a green and sustainable environment to benefit future generations. These include: establishing a Green Health Partnership, the River Leven Programme and the work of partner organisations to develop their role as Anchor institutions.⁸

Summary

The priorities of place-making, community wealth building, and sustainability are shared by partners across Fife and is evident already in work to address these areas. The rights, voices and best interests of children and families should be taken into account in these initiatives.

Find out more

<https://www.greenspacescotland.org.uk/Pages/Category/greenspace-delivers>

<https://childreninScotland.org.uk/economy-must-be-redesigned-to-focus-on-wellbeing-and-environmental-sustainability/>

<https://www.gov.scot/groups/wellbeing-economy-governments-wego/>

<https://www.improvementservice.org.uk/products-and-services/consultancy-and-support/planning-for-place-programme/place-and-wellbeing-outcomes>

<https://www.fife.gov.uk/kb/docs/articles/roads,-travel-and-parking/local-transport-strategy>

<https://www.nhsfife.org/about-us/sustainability/sustainability-and-environmental-reporting/>

Climate

Why is this important?

The climate crisis is particularly relevant for children and young people, as they will be exposed to it for longer, and so will benefit most from harm reduction. This includes improving air quality and averting ecological changes such as extreme weather events.

Background

NHS Scotland published its Climate Emergency and Sustainability Strategy last year, which sets out plans for NHS Scotland to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions and impact on the environment, adapt to climate change and to better contribute to the United Nation sustainable development goals. This acknowledges how we need to change the ways we work to avert and deal with the consequences of climate change, and the need for a change in our culture to support this.

It is important that changes in response do not exacerbate inequality and follow the principles of a 'just transition', taking account of the effect on different groups and generations. The impact of climate change can be hardest on those who are already worse off. This affects children and young people in particular because altering where they live or their health can affect their opportunities for the rest of their life. Research shows they are also most affected by anxiety about ecological issues and so addressing the climate crisis may help improve mental wellbeing.

Modifiable factors/local actions

Organisations and communities in Fife can work to address climate change through:

- listening to and involving children and young people in solutions, to promote a sense of positive agency locally for sustainability while accepting some levers lie at global level
- changing the ways that large organisations work through Anchor Institution principles
- helping all staff and communities to understand and respond to sustainability
- sharing resources, for example looking into how green space in NHS sites can be used by other groups and organisations
- working with local partners such as the Green Health Partnership and Fife Conference of the Partners.

Summary

The climate crisis will affect the lives of today's children and young people as well as future generations, and their voices are integral to working towards solutions

Find out more

[NHS Scotland climate emergency and sustainability strategy: 2022-2026 - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot)

[Mission and Goals | International Institute for Sustainable Development \(iisd.org\)](https://www.iisd.org)

[The NHS as an anchor institution \(health.org.uk\)](https://www.health.org.uk)

[https://doi.org/10.1016/S2542-5196\(21\)00278-3](https://doi.org/10.1016/S2542-5196(21)00278-3)

<https://www.penumbra.org.uk/climateanxietyandyoungpeople/>

The promise and adversity



The promise and care experienced children and young people

Why is this important?

In 2020 Scotland made a promise to care experienced children and young people: You **will** grow up loved, safe and respected. And by 2030, that promise **must be kept**.

Background

The Independent Care Review (ICR) 2020 listened to 5,500 care experienced infants, children, young people and families who shared their experiences. The ICR identified that many did not feel loved, safe or respected. The conclusions and recommendations from the ICR shaped The Promise Action Plan (2021-2024). Longer term outcomes for those who are care experienced have been shown to be adverse compared to other groups, including health and educational outcomes. Those who have been in looked after can also experience stigma as a result.

Becoming looked after involves a formal supervision order following a Children's Panel Hearing and reasons include lack of parental supervision or exposure to harm. Children can be looked after at home, in kinship care, fostering, or in residential accommodation. Fife currently has 165 children looked after at home and 578 children looked after away from home from period 9th March 2023 until 5 April 2023.

Modifiable factors/local actions

The Promise is an identified priority area within Fife Children's Services Plan (2021-23) and there is a commitment from Fife's Children's Services Partnership to collectively deliver the Promise to improve the experiences and outcomes of: those who experience care, those who may be described as on the 'edge of care', and those who have a requirement for additional services to support them to live safely at home.

Currently, there is mapping activity being undertaken across all sectors in Fife for partner agencies to identify how they are meeting the priorities highlighted within the Promise. This will inform gaps that need addressed, including support into young adulthood. A recently established working group within Fife Children's Services will explore means to increase awareness of the Promise and build capability across the workforce in social work, health, education and other agencies to embed the Promise into everyday practice.

Summary

The promise is hugely important, in aspiring for more child-centred and systemic support for children, young people and families when they encounter services, leading to better experiences and long term outcomes.

Find out more

<https://thepromise.scot/what-is-the-promise/independent-care-review>

[Fife-CS-Plan-2021-23-v2.pdf](#)

[Fife-CS-Plan-2021-23-v2.pdf](#)

<https://doi.org/10.23889/ijpds.v7i3.2020>

Domestic abuse

Why is this important?

The Domestic Abuse Scotland Act (2018) outlines that domestic abuse has a significant impact on babies, children and young people. This may be through direct experience, witnessing abuse to a parent or family member, or being present in a family environment where domestic abuse is taking place.

Background

During 2021-22, 782 children in Fife were discussed at a multi-agency risk assessment conference, or MARAC - an indicator of the number of children living within high-risk domestic abuse settings. 461 children were supported by Fife Women's Aid. 57 children and 41 mothers were supported by CEDAR Plus, a programme which helps recovery.

Fife has a slightly higher rate of reported domestic abuse incidents than Scotland as a whole, with the gap increasing in the last few years. Data may be an underestimate due to the impact of COVID-19 restrictions during this reporting period and the hidden nature of domestic abuse.

Modifiable factors/local actions

Actions and supports are outlined in the Fife Violence Against Women Action Plan 2020-22:

- Free telephone support line for children; Children and Young People Counselling; Join the Dots programme providing one-to one support, family support and Primary and Teen groupwork support. (Fife Women's Aid)
- CEDAR Groupwork (Children Experiencing Domestic Abuse Recovery) for 4 to 16-year-olds and their mothers; EYDAR Groupwork (Early Years Domestic Abuse Recovery) for mothers with children 0-4 years (Family Support Service, Fife Council)
- Safe & Together training is mandatory for Children & Families staff, focussing on keeping children safe with the non-offending parent within a domestic abuse situation.

Summary

Domestic abuse can cause a variety of social, emotional and educational disadvantages, including attachment issues, therefore preventive work and adequate support services are necessary to support children and young peoples' development into adulthood.

Find out more

[CEDAR Plus \(domestic abuse\) | Fife Council](#)

[Services for Children & Young People - Fife Women's Aid \(fifewomensaid.org.uk\)](#)

[Fife Violence Against Women Partnership | Fife Council](#)

[Scotland's Programme for Government Commits to Safe & Together Model - Safe & Together Institute \(safeandtogetherinstitute.com\)](#)

Neglect and child protection

Why is this important?

Neglect is a failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs and is likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development. It can arise in the context of systemic stresses and has major long term health consequences. Other forms of maltreatment include physical, emotional and sexual abuse.

Background

Neglect can occur both pre- and post-natally. It may involve failing to: provide adequate food, clothing, or shelter; protect the child from physical/emotional harm or danger; respond to essential emotional needs; seek consistent access to appropriate medical care; and ensure the child receives an education. This can co-exist with other difficulties such as domestic abuse, parental substance use, parental mental health problems.

42% of children in Scotland who were on a Child Protection Plan or on the Child Protection Register had an indication that neglect was a concern. Neglect was identified as a common concern in most Initial Case Reviews in Scotland by the Care Inspectorate. In July 2022 the rate of Child Protection Registrations in Fife was 2.1 per 1000, relating to 136 children, a reduction since 2021, and similar to the rate in Scotland. There is increasing evidence of a causal link between child abuse and neglect, with later poor health and premature death.

Modifiable factors/local actions

Fife has strong multi-agency working led by the Child Protection Committee with a focus on continuous improvement and keeping children safe. A supportive and early intervention approach to families in distress is important. NHS Fife is also implementing the Graded Care Profile 2 (GCP2), a tool that improves the assessment of quality of care being given and identification of when a child is at risk of harm/neglect. This is for core staff teams such as health visitors.

While many factors play a part, poverty has an association with levels of child abuse and neglect in contributing to family stress, therefore anti-poverty measures may reduce levels of neglect.

Summary

Measures to support families to prevent neglect and abuse, early identification, support and intervention, will have lifelong consequences for health outcomes and future costs to society in terms of crisis or late intervention and care.

Find out more

[Getting it right for every child \(GIRFEC\) - Statutory Guidance - Assessment of Wellbeing 2022 – Part 18 \(section 96\) of the Children and Young People \(Scotland\) Act 2014 - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)

[Child Protection | Care Inspectorate Hub Children's Social Work Statistics Scotland: 2021 to 2022 - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)

https://www.fife.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0021/401565/CPC-Annual-Report-2020-21-FINAL-Academic-year.pdf

<https://www.jrf.org.uk/report/relationship-between-poverty-child-abuse-and-neglect-evidence-review>

[The serious health consequences of abuse and neglect in early life | The BMJ](#)

Young carers

Why is this important?

The Carers (Scotland) Act 2016 gives rights to carers including young carers, who can face hidden social, emotional and educational disadvantages as a result of caring for a family member with a long-term health issue or disability.

Background

There is no definitive number of young carers in Scotland and it is acknowledged that numbers reported in formal surveys may be an underestimate. In 2021 in Scotland 2% of children aged 4-15 years old reported providing any regular help or care for any sick, disabled, or frail person, this was a decrease from the 4% reported in 2019 when the full Scottish Health Survey was carried out. For young people aged 16-24 years old, 9% reported carrying out regular help, an increase from 7% in 2019. In Fife this equates to around 1000 children and 3,500 young people. However in a Fife Education survey in 2018 over 6000 children and young people in school identified themselves as a young carer.

Young carers are more likely to be female and more likely to live in areas of deprivation, and are twice as likely to report a mental health problem including stress, anxiety and depression. A higher level of physical health issues has also been described. Their caring role may limit social activities and contribute to social isolation; however, there can also be benefits in the caring role, such as responsibility and maturity.

Modifiable factors/local actions

The 'Getting it Right for Young Carers in Fife' strategy (currently being updated) reflects the partnership work of all Children's Services, working together to support young carers in Fife. Fife Young Carers enable young carers to meet regularly in supportive social groups across Fife. They also provide direct support to schools to help raise awareness of the issues Young Carers face, and to support the Young Carers Champions identified in each school.

From consultation with young carers the following areas have been identified as important:

- Further awareness raising in schools and support to access help
- Support to access activities and opportunities in the communities
- Support with transitions into adulthood
- Support with mental health, especially during school holidays

Summary

Providing support for young carers is important to realise their potential and reduce health inequalities.

Find out more

[Young-Carers-Guide-2018_V4.pdf \(fifehealthandsocialcare.org\)](#)

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

[Young carers: review of research and data - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)

[National Strategic Education Project | Carers Trust Scotland](#)

Refugee and asylum seeking children and young people

Why is this important?

It is a human right to be able to seek asylum in another country. Children and young people usually come as part of a family unit, but unaccompanied young people are a particularly vulnerable group.

Background

Fife's Resettlement Core Group oversees approaches to support urgent resettlement and displacement programmes. Close partnership working has been crucial and health responses vital in meeting urgent needs and pathways to early integration. The response has evolved significantly in the last three years, and countries of origin include Syria, Afghanistan and Ukraine, under a variety of different programmes. This is a dynamic community and young people have been supported in the Afghan bridging hotel, the Homes for Ukraine sponsorship scheme, the Super Sponsorship scheme and Welcome Accommodation (hotels) providing interim sanctuary.

There can be significant social, physical and mental health needs, and there may be barriers in terms of language, culture, finance, and stigma which can impact on access to health and other services. Many families may have experienced psychological trauma as part of their journey.

Key health aspects for children include age appropriate health care, which includes prevention, such as ensuring immunisations are up to date, and access to relevant health services such as primary care and maternity care. Integration into education and the wider community can positively support ongoing child development.

Modifiable factors/local actions

There are challenges in some services to meet the needs of this group for example, with finding suitable longer term housing options for some families, as young people and families in temporary accommodation may not be able to benefit from normal family life and opportunities a settled home provides, and uncertainty for the future can affect wider wellbeing.

Summary

Support for children, families and young people who are refugees or asylum seekers to access healthcare and other services is essential to meet their needs.

Find out more

[Refugees and asylum seekers - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot)

[Refugee and asylum seeking children and young people - guidance for paediatricians | RCPCH](#)

Living well



Food and diet

Why is this important?

A healthy diet brings a wide range of benefits for physical and mental health. Poor diet and nutrition is a major 'downstream' cause of ill-health, chronic disease, and premature death in Scotland. A healthier diet with a higher proportion of fruit and vegetables can substantially reduce the risk of many chronic diseases including the two leading causes of death in Scotland - coronary heart disease and cancer.

Background

In Fife, 77.3% of children measured in Primary 1 have a healthy weight. Children in Scotland report eating on average 3 portions of fruit and vegetables per day, compared to the recommended 5 or more portions. Children tend to consume foods and drinks that are high in fat and/or sugar more often than adults, and those in more deprived areas are more likely to eat no portions of fruit and vegetables than other areas. There is higher prevalence in obesity in the most deprived areas of Fife compared to least deprived. In Scotland 7% of families with children are classed as food insecure. Foodbank use is significant with over 5,506 parcels given out to children specifically in 2021/22 in Fife.

Modifiable factors/local actions

Multiple factors influence our diet including knowledge, skills, affordability, accessibility, marketing and energy density of food. To improve the diet of Fifers we need to build capacity and resilience within individuals, families and the communities in which they live, and tackle food insecurity. This includes:

- The Child Healthy Weight Programme in Fife, Fife Loves Life, supports positive family friendly lifestyle changes, including eating well and physical activity.
- Early years funding has been secured for training the trainer HENRY Core Training, in partnership with NHS Lothian and Fife Council Early Years Education. The HENRY approach is designed to build the skills of practitioners to provide effective support for families and children in achieving a long-term healthy lifestyle.
- Fife Food Champions are a network of trained individuals who have a remit for food in their job/volunteer profile. They are trained to enable them to deliver key messages around eating well and cooking workshops in communities.
- The Food4Fife Partnership is about people in Fife (individuals, communities and businesses) coming together to work across all aspects of the food system to help address health, environmental and economic challenges by creating a sustainable food culture for a healthy Fife via a strategy and action plan.

Summary

Children, young people and families need to be supported in the early years and beyond to establish lifelong healthy eating habits, and in the longer term reduce health inequalities in avoidable diseases and complications.

Find out more

[Fife's Food Strategy Consultation - Food from Fife](#)

[Obesity Action Scotland | Providing leadership and advocacy on preventing & reducing obesity & overweight in Scotland | Providing leadership and advocacy on preventing & reducing obesity & overweight in Scotland](#)

[Healthy weight - Diet and healthy weight - Health topics - Public Health Scotland](#)

Smoking and children and young people

Why is this important?

Health Inequalities are apparent from an early age, and are exacerbated by avoidable harms such as smoking. Smoking is more prevalent in the most deprived areas in Fife. The younger the age of uptake of smoking, the greater the harm is likely to be; early uptake is associated with subsequent heavier smoking, higher levels of dependency, a lower chance of quitting, and higher mortality.

Background

Cigarette smoking during childhood and adolescence causes significant health problems among young people including an increase in the number and severity of respiratory illnesses, decreased physical fitness and potential effects on lung function. Longer term smoking leads to many health risks including lung disease, oral and lung cancer and circulatory problems.

Smoking prevalence increases significantly between the ages of 13 and 15 years and continues to rise steadily into early adulthood. In 2018 rates were higher in Fife than the national average: 2% of 13 year olds and 8% of 15 year olds smoke in Fife, and 17% of 13 year olds and 41% of 15 year olds believe that it is 'ok' to experiment with tobacco, a key risk factor for future tobacco dependence. Babies, children and pregnant mothers are particularly vulnerable to the effects of second hand smoke within enclosed spaces such as the home environment, and in Scotland the rate of child exposure to smoking in the home has fallen significantly over the last 10 years.

E-cigarette use or vaping was also higher in Fife than Scotland, with 41% of 15 years olds reporting trying this. While less harmful than smoking, adverse effects may include addiction and exposure to chemicals in the e-liquids.

Modifiable factors/local actions

Local actions look to promote a culture where young people are not tempted to experiment with smoking, encourage each other to avoid smoking and have an active voice in health policy and practice by:

- raising awareness of the impact of smoking on children and young people, peer influences and tobacco industry tactics through school based and further education programmes
- developing smoke free environments for children and young people through our Smoke Free Homes programme and promote smoke free school gates and play parks
- working with partners to identify ways in which they can contribute to the tobacco prevention and early intervention agenda with the aim of supporting Fife to achieve the aspirational goal of a Smokefree generation by 2034.

Summary

Tobacco control measures are a key part of reducing health inequalities and cancer prevention. The aim is to cultivate an environment where all children and young people view non-smoking as the social norm.

Find out more

[Tobacco prevention and protection | NHS Fife](#)

[Raising Scotland's Tobacco-free Generation: Our Tobacco-Control Action Plan 2018 \(www.gov.scot\)](#)

[Scottish Schools Adolescent Lifestyle and Substance Use Survey \(SALSUS\) - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)

Mental health and wellbeing

Why is this important?

The Scottish Government's Community Mental Health & Wellbeing Supports & Services Framework (CMHWSS Framework) states that every child and young person in Scotland will be able to access local community services which support and improve their mental health and emotional wellbeing. Every child and young person and their families or carers will get the help they need, when they need it, from people with the right knowledge, skills and experience to support them. This support will be available in the form of easily accessible support close to their home, education or community

Background

Children's emotional and mental health and wellbeing is just as important as physical health. Risk factors for mental disorders are not fully understood, however genetic factors play a part, and childhood adversity or abuse is recognised as associated with increased likelihood of some conditions in later life. Family, peer and school relationships are crucial in emotional wellbeing, and disability, physical health conditions and the experience of discrimination are associated with an increased likelihood of mental health disorders. Some evidence suggests that prenatal and maternal health can also be relevant.

Evidence from a number of collated studies showed that the global onset of the first mental disorder occurs before age 14 in one-third of individuals, age 18 in almost half (48.4%), and before age 25 in over half (62.5%), with a median age at onset of 14.5/18 years across all mental disorders. While many childhood problems will resolve, prevention and early intervention in children and young people in the community is of major importance for the entire life course.

The prevalence of poor mental health and emotional wellbeing across Scotland's children and young people has incrementally increased over the past five years, with services supporting children and young people experiencing year on year increases in presentation and complexity.

Between April and June 2021, 7,522 Fife young people took part in the SHINE mental health survey, key themes from the data indicates that in Fife young people are struggling with self-confidence, loneliness, poor body image and maintaining positive peer relationships. Levels of wellbeing in girls in secondary school age are of particular concern, and this has been noted nationally for some time.

Specialist referral data indicates that many young people who are referred to CAMHS do not meet the criteria for their service, and therefore alternative support in the community may be more appropriate.

Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service

In addition to the objectives set out in the CMHWSS Framework, the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) NHS Scotland National Service Specification articulates the role and function of CAMHS services across the country and how it should link with wider service providers in order to achieve these objectives.

Key aims within this are the Scottish Government's CAMHS 18 week Referral to Treatment Target (RTT), reduction in waiting times, the recruitment, retention and development of a skilled workforce, and the provision of high quality, evidence-based care that is informed by the views, experiences and rights of children, young people and parents/carers.

Within Fife approximately 3,000 children per year are referred to Fife CAMHS with a spectrum of mental health issues ranging from short term emotional difficulties through to severe mental illness that requires intensive intervention and occasionally inpatient care.

Modifiable factors/local actions

The CMHWSS Framework was implemented across Fife in 2021 with the aim of enhancing and extending community supports and services that target mental wellbeing and emotional distress. It supports an approach based on prevention and early intervention, enhancing provisions of additional (targeted) supports for young people aged 5-24 (up to 26 if care experienced), and their families to support their mental health and wellbeing, reducing the need for intensive interventions from specialist services.

Fife CAMHS carried out a gap analysis of the current provision mapped against the National Specification and from this has been working to an agreed improvement plan. Improvements have focussed upon:

- Increasing the provision of early intervention and promoting meaningful signposting to the range of mental health supports available across the community.
- Reducing waiting times and ensuring timely access: Fife's waiting list has reduced from 482 in Dec 2021 to 203 in Dec 2022 with only 15 children waiting more than 18 weeks compared to 165 in Dec 2021.
- Enhancing services that provide intensive and unscheduled care: CAMHS Intensive Treatment Service (ITS) and Urgent Response Teams (CURT) have both increased in staffing capacity between 50-80%.
- Developing and enhancing services that support the most vulnerable children in our communities: development of a CAMHS Kinship Team, expanding CAMHS Looked after Children's services and introducing a Transitions specialist to support young people as they move between support providers.

Summary

Supporting positive relationships in families and the community is essential for emotional wellbeing. Every child and young person in Fife should be able to access help with their mental health and emotional wellbeing, when they need it and from people with the right knowledge and skills to support them.

Find out more

[Mental health - CAMHS services in NHS Fife | NHS Fife](#)

[Young People Looking for Support - Worried About Someone's Mental Health? | Fife Council](#)

https://www.fife.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0026/193382/Our-Minds-Matter-Framework.pdf

<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41380-021-01161-7>

<https://doi.org/10.1002/wps.20894>

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/factors-affecting-childrens-mental-health-wellbeing-findings-realigning-childrens-services-wellbeing-surveys-2015-2017/pages/6/>

<https://wakelet.com/wake/uahrJazimikLPbzVlpGeX>

<https://wakelet.com/wake/hsMfBQBdo5-VsAWzJ00jK>

Impact of alcohol and drugs

Why is this important?

In young people alcohol and drug use can cause serious harms such as poisoning and overdose, poor mental health and wellbeing, as well as contribute to accidents and other risk taking behaviours. In the longer term consumption increases the risk of cancers, and at higher levels, addiction, brain and liver damage. Substance misuse within the family can also seriously affect children and young people's wellbeing and health, and contribute to trauma which can have lifelong implications.

Background

Evidence shows that use of substances like alcohol and drugs in our youth can influence our life long habits, with early substance use associated with longer term misuse, which cuts short lives.

Total alcohol consumption amongst young people has been declining but hazardous and harmful drinking is highest in the 16-24 age group. Children and young people's drinking behaviours are influenced by the availability and marketing of alcohol in their communities and social networks, and unhealthy social norms around alcohol in society.

Drug use is generally more common among younger people than older age groups, decreasing with age. Estimates of problem drug use involving opioids and benzodiazepines from 2015/16 indicate that problem drug use is less common in young people compared to people 25 and over, but we know that problematic drug use is associated with early drug use initiation.

In Fife there is a high alcohol related admission rate for 11-25 year olds with an annual average of 252 admissions in the previous three years, an indicator of serious harm from alcohol affecting some of our young people.

In Fife admissions due to drug use in young people have been increasing, and are higher than Scotland overall, with 144 admissions on average in each of the last three years. An increasing number of people aged 18-25 are sadly dying of a drug related death in Fife.

Family drug and alcohol misuse can significantly affect children and young people before birth. Just over 1 in 30 people in Scotland are estimated to be affected by fetal alcohol spectrum disorder caused by alcohol exposure in pregnancy.

Growing up with a parent with substance misuse problems can contribute to distressing childhood trauma. For example 97 children in Fife were subject of child protection case conferences due to parental drug or alcohol misuse in 2020 and many more young lives have been affected by a drug-related death of a parent.

Modifiable factors/local actions

Factors which increase the risk of harms from drug and alcohol misuse for young people are complex and interrelated. Socioeconomic factors are thought to influence higher risk of alcohol and drug related harms in the longer term, through more exposure to risk factors for drug misuse and less to protective factors like education, secure housing, employment and recovery support. This contributes to inequalities in harms associated with drugs and alcohol. Experience of adversity in childhood and family and peer relationships (including parental substance misuse) are thought to be important. At an individual level early age at initiation, poor mental health and motivation for substance misuse are associated with higher rates of harm.

Positive interventions:

- **A range of interventions to support children and young people are available in Fife** – including services for children affected by parental substance use service; Youth friendly drug/alcohol support and information service for young people under 25 and kinship care investment.
- **Our minds matter mental health framework** – providing early intervention and prevention to support mental health resilience and support including peer to peer mentoring and crisis support for early signs.
- **Joint commissioning for whole families approach to substance misuse** – this work aims to increasing coverage for Fife families of proactive support and care.

Areas for action:

- **Structural determinants of substance misuse** – local policies should seek to undo, prevent and mitigate against the circumstances which increase the risk of alcohol and drug misuse including poverty, education, employment and housing.
- **Whole system prevention and early intervention** – need for system wide prevention and early intervention including universal and targeted education, early years support for women- and families with complex needs and substance use; and removing stigma and shame associated with drug use.
- **Trauma informed support** - for complex drug and alcohol misuse in children and young people (including appropriate and stable housing with support/residential support).

Summary

Alcohol and drug misuse causes much direct and indirect harm to children and young people and policies must take account of these effects on inequalities and the next generation.

Find out more

[Publications | FifeADP](#)

[Scottish Health Survey 2019 - volume 1: main report - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)

[A Review of the Existing Literature and Evidence on Young People Experiencing Harms from Alcohol and Drugs in Scotland \(www.gov.scot\)](#)

[Prevalence of Problem Drug Use in Scotland \(isdscotland.org\)](#)

[Developments in Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders – a UK perspective \(shaap.org.uk\)](#)

[ScotPHO profiles \(shinyapps.io\)](#)

[A Review of the Existing Literature and Evidence on Young People Experiencing Harms from Alcohol and Drugs in Scotland \(www.gov.scot\)](#)

Sexual health and child sexual exploitation

Why is this important?

Action to promote healthy relationships, prevention of unintended pregnancies, sexually transmitted infections and transmission of blood borne viruses is important to address health inequalities. There is a disproportionate impact of these public health challenges for children and young people especially girls. Healthy relationships also lay the foundations for the parents and families of the future.

Background

Whilst teenage pregnancy rates (births, stillbirths and abortions) among under 18s in Fife have been falling in line with national trends, Fife rates are higher than the Scottish average, and are significantly higher in the most deprived areas. Early sexual activity is often regretted, particularly by girls and pregnancies are more likely to end in termination. The rate of intimate partner violence is reported to be high in teenage relationships, and rates of diagnosed sexually transmitted infections are highest in people aged under 25.

Modifiable factors/local actions

There is a renewed focus following the pandemic to work across agencies to promote positive relationships and sexual health and wellbeing, recognising the additional challenges faced by underserved groups, such as care experienced young people, those with mental health or addiction issues, and diversity including LGBT young people.

The national educational resource on Relationships, Sexual Health and Parenting was launched in 2019. Work is underway to increase capacity and confidence of practitioners to develop and deliver age appropriate learning session using the tools included in the resource pack. This links to aspects of staying safe, including online, to prevent and address child sexual exploitation.

Access to high quality information for young people, their parents and carers, as well as appropriate support and health services is important, based on understanding of the experiences and pressures faced by young people today.

Summary

Supporting good outcomes for young people in relationships and sexual health and wellbeing will need a renewed focus on tackling inequity affecting young people in underserved localities and groups.

Find out more

[Reset and Rebuild - sexual health and blood borne virus services: recovery plan - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)

[Pregnancy and Parenthood in Young People Strategy - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)

[Pregnancy and parenthood in young people: second progress report - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)

[Relationships and sexual health - Health and Wellbeing Census Scotland 2021- 2022 - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)

[The FSRH Hatfield Vision - Faculty of Sexual and Reproductive Healthcare](#)

Digital environment

Why is this important?

Digital technology has transformed our society in the last twenty years, including work, leisure, culture, social interactions and networks. The long term effects on development of children and young people, both positive and negative, are not yet fully understood.

Background

Survey data from Ofcom indicates that in 2022 66% of children aged 3-17 in Scotland owned a mobile phone, 96% use video streaming platforms, 65% use social media and 32% had seen something worrying or nasty online.

There are many positive impacts from digital technology including communication, learning and accessibility. Lack of access to devices or reliable internet, or literacy to interact with the digital world can result in exclusion from the benefits including education and services. The more negative aspects, especially from overuse, can include isolation and displacement of more active, social activities which are known to be positive for health; not being able to switch off; sleep disturbance; bullying; exploitation; gambling; concerns around data security and privacy; exposure to violence in video games. There is particular evidence around concerning levels of children being exposed to pornography, often depicting violence against women and girls, which could influence actual sexual behaviour and practices.

Harms may be reduced by adults setting a good example, setting boundaries and keeping open communication with young people about screen use. Adults being excessively distracted by devices could result in impaired quality of interaction with infants, children and young people.

Modifiable factors/local actions

Positive actions include:

- Listening to the views and experiences of young people, ensuring accessibility of digital information and use of technology to support those with additional needs.
- Promoting intergenerational learning where young people can share skills with adults.
- Supporting parents and carers with information about managing screen use and avoiding harms across relevant settings.
- Positive use of digital platforms for health such as the Fife Health and Social Care Partnership Shout text service, for mental health and wellbeing.
- Support regulation at national level to reduce the likelihood of children and young people being exposed to harmful material.

Summary

The principles of protection of children from harm and promoting wellbeing should apply in the digital environment, just as in the physical environment.

Find out more

<https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/resource/pornography-and-harmful-sexual-behaviour/>

<https://www.childrensociety.org.uk/information/professionals/resources/young-peoples-digital-lives-and-well-being>

[https://www.thelancet.com/journals/landig/article/PIIS2589-7500\(20\)30029-7/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/landig/article/PIIS2589-7500(20)30029-7/fulltext)

Services and support



Immunisation

Why is this important?

Delivery of effective immunisation programmes is an NHS Scotland priority. They aim both to protect the individual and to prevent the spread of disease within the wider population. Immunisation is a global health success story, saving millions of lives every year. Vaccines are critical to the prevention and control of many communicable diseases and therefore underpin global health security.

Background

The World Health Organisation (WHO) target is for 95% coverage of the childhood vaccination programme. Uptake at 12 months of the 6-in-1 infant vaccine, 3 doses offered at age 8, 12 & 16 weeks, was 94.6% in Fife in 2022 and 95.7% in Scotland. Uptake has declined in Fife over the last 10 years and at 12 months there are differences in uptake of the 6-in-1 vaccine between those in the most deprived SIMD quintile: 91.3% compared with the least deprived 97.7%. By 5 years of age, uptake of the first dose MMR, offered just after 1 year, is above 95% in Fife. However, uptake of the second dose is 88% compared to 90.5% for Scotland, below the WHO target. Inequalities are even wider in the teenage programme. For example, in Fife in the 2021/22 school year uptake at S3 of the teenage booster protecting against tetanus, diphtheria, and polio was 55.1% for the most deprived quintile and 81.8% for the least deprived.

Modifiable factors/local actions

The Fife Immunisation Strategic Framework 2021-24 sets out a vision for “A Fife where everyone, everywhere, has confidence in and equitable access to high-quality, safe, sustainable immunisation services throughout their life course”. It identifies four strategic priorities and key actions for each of these. This includes the development of a comprehensive equality impact assessment and inclusion action plan. Quality Improvement project work focussed on specific parts of the programme is in progress, e.g. pre-school MMR uptake. A strategic review of the delivery and outreach model for the children’s programme is also being undertaken.

Summary

Ensuring high and equitable vaccine uptake rates throughout childhood and teenage years is essential for protecting the population of Fife against Vaccine Preventable Disease.

Find out more

<https://www.nhsfife.org/services/all-services/immunisation/>

<https://www.nhsinform.scot/healthy-living/immunisation>

<https://www.publichealthscotland.scot/our-areas-of-work/immunisations/>

<https://www.who.int/health-topics/vaccines-and-immunization>

Pregnancy and newborn screening programmes

Why is this important?

As well as clinical tests during pregnancy, there are a number of national screening programmes covering tests offered to women and their babies to potentially identify health conditions early.

Background

Pregnancy screening covers:

- Infectious diseases (Hepatitis B, syphilis and HIV);
- Haemoglobinopathies (sickle cell and thalassaemia);
- Down's syndrome, Edwards' syndrome and Patau's syndrome.

The Newborn Bloodspot test is carried out at about five days old which can identify babies who may have rare but serious conditions including Phenylketonuria; Congenital Hypothyroidism; Cystic Fibrosis; Sickle Cell Disorder and others. Newborn screening also covers Universal Newborn Hearing Screening which is carried out in hospital or at outpatients in the first month.

Modifiable factors/local actions

Each screening test has an associated pathway with further tests and access to clinical services where relevant, and each part needs to communicate smoothly across the whole.

Monitoring data is very complex for these programmes as a range of professionals are involved. Screening information is held on a number of different clinical systems. National and local work is aimed at improving this.

Summary

Pregnancy and newborn screening covers a diverse range of health conditions and gives the possibility of early identification and intervention as appropriate.

Find out more

<https://www.pnsd.scot.nhs.uk/>

<https://www.nss.nhs.scot/specialist-healthcare/screening-programmes/pregnancy-screening/>

<https://www.nss.nhs.scot/specialist-healthcare/screening-programmes/newborn-blood-spot-screening/>

<https://www.nss.nhs.scot/specialist-healthcare/screening-programmes/universal-newborn-hearing-screening/>

Dental health

Why is this important?

Good dental health in childhood is critical to a child's overall health and wellbeing, and to their school readiness. Children experiencing toothache may experience pain, infections, and sleepless nights and may find eating and socialising difficult. They risk missing school as a result of toothache or needing treatment. Poor dental health is linked through common risk factors including diet to a number of other health conditions, including obesity, diabetes and cardiovascular disease, and is almost entirely preventable.

Background

As of 30th September 2022, 86.6% of Fife's children were registered with an NHS dentist, compared with 92.6% in 2019. The proportion of children seeing an NHS dentist for examination or treatment within the two preceding years was 66% as of 30th September 2022, compared with 85.7% in 2019. There is a growing inequality gap in attendance between the most and least deprived children, from a gap of 6.7% in 2019 to 18.1% in 2022. Nationally, registration levels for 0 to 2-year-olds have dropped to 25% since the pandemic.

In Fife, the estimated rate of children with no obvious decay experience was 70.9% in 2022, down from 73.1% in 2020. The estimated rate of children experiencing severe decay or abscess was 11.7%, up from 3.4% in 2020; this compares to an increase for Scotland from 6.65% to 9.7% in 2022. The increase can be partly attributed to the impact of the pandemic.

Inequalities remain, with 58.1% of Primary 1 children estimated to have no obvious decay experience in the most deprived areas (SIMD 1), compared with 83.4% in the least deprived areas (SIMD 5). In 2022, 743 children in Fife received dental treatment under general anaesthetic, down from 920 in 2019.

Modifiable factor/local actions

Local priorities align with national policies aimed at increasing registration and participation, preventing disease and reducing inequalities.

Scotland's national oral health improvement programme for children, Childsmile, has now fully remobilised in NHS Fife. Application of fluoride varnish has resumed in Primary 1 to Primary 4 children, with the intention to extend this up to Primary 7 after the summer.

Summary

Given the preventable nature of most dental disease, we should emphasise prevention at every possible opportunity across health and social care to improve health and reduce persisting inequalities.

Find out more

[Dental statistics - NHS registration and participation 24 January 2023 - Dental statistics - registration and participation - Publications - Public Health Scotland](#)

[Recovery of NHS dental services inquiry | Scottish Parliament Website](#)

[National dental inspection programme - National dental inspection programme - Publications - Public Health Scotland](#)

[Childsmile – Improving the oral health of children in Scotland \(nhs.scot\)](#)

[Oral health improvement plan - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)

Child death reviews

Why is this important?

In 2014 the Scottish Government published the findings of the Child Death Review Working Group. It found that Scotland had a higher mortality rate for the under 18s than any other Western European country, and it was estimated that around a quarter of the deaths recorded could be prevented.

Background

A national system has been set up following this report to review and learn from all child deaths, similar to the system in place in England. The Fife Children & Young People Deaths Review Commissioning Group was set up in October 2021. The commissioning group's core membership is multi-disciplinary and multi-agency. This collaborative approach is central to achieving the requirements of the national guidance in delivering a high quality review which supports learning and improvement, both locally and nationally, from every child or young person's death in Scotland. Within scope are all deaths of children and young people up to their 18th birthday and also those up to their 26th birthday if they continue to receive aftercare or continuing care at the time of their death.

Substantive funding provided by NHS Fife led to the establishment of a dedicated Child Death Review Team, and this has allowed reviews of all board area child deaths in 2022. The main causes include prematurity and complications, genetic and lifelimiting conditions including cancer, along with unexpected deaths. Family support following bereavement and support for families is part of the process.

Modifiable factors/local actions

There has been a significant amount of work developing the team and processes in Fife. Further actions include:

- Engaging families to the full capacity outlined in the national requirements
- Ongoing work to share learning about the process across all partner agencies and linking with other processes for review of deaths from specific causes
- Contributing to the system of national data collection and opportunities for national learning.

Summary

Child death reviews can identify areas of good practice and learning for the future to identify opportunities for prevention.

Find out more

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/child-death-review-report-scottish-government-child-death-review-working-group/>

<https://www.healthcareimprovementscotland.org/our-work/governance-and-assurance/deaths-of-children-reviews.aspx>

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/child-death-reviews-scottish-government-steering-group-report/>

Family support

Why is this important?

A focus on whole family wellbeing is a key principle in 'The Promise' following the Independent Care Review, which confirms families need to have access to adaptable and flexible services to ensure children and young people can live safely at home and in their community. Funding from the Scottish Government for 2022-26 for Whole Family Wellbeing provides an opportunity to redesign and reshape services across the whole system in Fife on a partnership basis. A long term aim of the fund is realigning local investment towards prevention.

Background

The Fife Children's Services Partnership has developed a plan for change using this funding to help develop holistic family support in communities across Fife, which will focus on early support and prevention as well as targeted support to families. The first year will test out new approaches so families experience services which are accessible, flexible, and adaptable. A key focus is the involvement of families to understand barriers to access and help inform or 'co-design' services going forward. Plans are based on a self-assessment of family support in Fife at leadership level and views from staff and families are also being sought.

Modifiable factors/local actions

The plan for action includes developing a number of strands of work including:

- A focus on co-production with families led by Fife Voluntary Action
- Local practice development sessions across the children's services partnership workforce
- Enhancing crisis support and early support to pregnant women and mothers with children under 4 years
- Establishing group work opportunities across communities in Fife for parents/care givers

Details of all the work underway are outlined in the link below.

Summary

This funding is supporting early intervention and prevention to change how services work together and support families when they need it.

Find out more

[Whole Family Wellbeing Funding - Getting it right for every child \(GIRFEC\) - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/resources/consultations/webpublic/2022/01/whole-family-wellbeing-funding-getting-it-right-for-every-child-girfec/)

<https://sway.office.com/zGdmTAXRwEBiUzHa?ref=Link>

Youth work

Why is this important?

Youth work has a significant impact on improving the life chances of Scotland's young people. The National Youth Work Strategy (2014-2019) developed jointly by Youth Link Scotland, the Scottish Government and Education Scotland, set out to improve a range of outcomes for young people.

Background

Youth work is an informal education practice that supports young people's social, emotional, and educational development. Youth work can be adapted across a variety of settings, and typically engages with young people within their local community. Youth work opportunities and learning programmes for young people, and communities are developed based on the guiding principles of:

Personal and social development: Participation and active involvement; Equity, diversity, and inclusion; Partnership with others

The National Youth Work Strategy (2023-2028) currently sits with Scottish Government and is awaiting publication. This builds on the previous strategy, sets out the wider policy context for youth work and, once finalised, will set out key ambitions for the future. Youth Work is a key part of the Fife Community Learning and Development Plan, and there is close working with Local Area Partnerships, Education, Fife College, and other partners including the voluntary sector e.g. Youth 1st, YMCA.

Modifiable factors/local actions

Across Fife delivery of youth work is focused on 11–21 year olds and includes youth clubs and youth centres, youth cafes, community groups, focused projects, street work, youth action, youth voice and participation groups. Over the year 2021/22 approximately 4000 young people engaged in youth work activity and although this is a reduction since pre-covid, numbers are starting to increase again.

In Fife we have also undertaken a research project that has focused on the impact of COVID-19 on young people and youth work. The research was developed using a participative approach and key issues starting to emerge from the research include mental health and wellbeing, relationships, places, and spaces to go, youth voice, money, and security. The research findings when published, coupled with the new national strategy, will support in identifying key youth work priorities and future development of our youth work provision.

Summary

Youth work has a key role in addressing inequalities, developing positive skills and relationships, and improving long term outcomes for young people. It also seeks to promote the voice of young people.

Find out more

[CLD plan 2021 - Final sept 21.pdf \(fva.org\)](#)

[National Youth Work Strategy \(2023-2028\) | YouthLink Scotland](#)

Third sector role

Why is this important?

It is important to have independent autonomous organisations to support children and young people in Fife so they have opportunities to thrive no matter what their circumstances. A multi-agency mixed market of service providers gives families a choice of where to go. Third sector services specialise in early intervention and prevention services reducing the number of families that need to access statutory services, through to focussed intensive support services.

Background

Fife has many hundreds of voluntary sector organisations delivering services to children, young people and families across every community. The sector delivers a broad range of services from very targeted, complex, rights-based services through to universal support services.

Children and young people are supported through a wide range of needs such as reducing isolation, improving social skills, supporting mental health and wellbeing, supporting them through trauma, substance misuse and domestic abuse and being part of the team around the child once they become Looked After (LAC).

The availability of collated data in the voluntary sector is a challenge – with some public sector bodies collating output and outcome data for the services they fund, but many voluntary sector services are funded and sustained through other routes.

Modifiable factors/local actions

Local organisations work very well with their colleagues in the sector and within their localities to ensure children and young people are supported and receive the best possible outcomes. Funding pressures and increasing demand, as well as more complex issues, has created pressure across the system and across sectors, with the need to focus resources on key priorities whilst maintaining critical early intervention and prevention services.

Strategic commissioning work in recent years is helping to realign commissioned services to local priorities. Going forward, work is being done on embedding The Promise and GIRFEC, capturing and valuing the contribution the sector makes to the outcomes of children and families, and building sustainability and resilience in funding.

Summary

The third/voluntary sector plays a significant and growing role in supporting children and families, helping to build resilience and improving outcomes.

Find out more

https://www.fva.org/childrens_services_forum.asp

One hundred years ago

Annual reports on the health of the public were produced by County Medical Officers of Health, appointed under the provisions of the 1897 Public Health (Scotland). Boundaries in Fife have changed relatively little over time, and Fife Council Medical Officer of Health Reports are available online. This provides an opportunity to reflect on the many changes which have led to improvements in maternal and child health and services over this time.

In 1920 the total population was 113,177 and there were 3138 births, high following the end of the First World War. There were 253 deaths of children under age one, an infant mortality rate of 80.62/1000, noted to be the lowest recorded at the time. Causes of deaths were:

- Congenital debility, prematurity, malformation 42%,
- Diarrhoea, enteritis 12%,
- Bronchitis, pneumonia and whooping cough are among the next most common causes.

Unsafe storage of cow's milk before refrigeration was noted to be a factor in enteritis, and overcrowding a factor in spread of respiratory infections.

It was noted there were nine health visitors across the county, who could reach only 12-14% of women, and their duties included visiting tuberculosis cases. From 1915-20 there were 84 maternal deaths, including from puerperal sepsis and complications of pregnancy. There is comment on the difficulties of attracting suitably trained midwives.

In 1923, measles and whooping cough were responsible for 52 child deaths in total, nearly all under 5 years of age, including 15 deaths of infants.

In 1930, 699 families received grants for additional nourishment, via Welfare Nurses, for expectant and nursing mothers, and young families. Maternity and child welfare centres had been established, and dental clinics for expectant and nursing mothers and preschool children, as well as eye clinics for preschool children. Ultra violet ray treatment was used for a wide range of child health conditions including rickets.

Source: [Fife Medical Officer of Health Reports/Catalogue Search/Wellcome Collection](#)

NHS Fife provides accessible communication in a variety of formats including for people who are speakers of community languages, who require Easy Read versions, who speak BSL, read Braille or use Audio formats.

NHS Fife SMS text service number 07805800005 is available for people who have a hearing or speech impairment.

To find out more about accessible formats contact:

fife-UHB.EqualityandHumanRights@nhs.net or phone 01592 729130

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Children and young people in Fife

Information supplement
2023



Introduction

This document has been produced to accompany the Director of Public Health Annual Report 2023 and contains information relating to topics in the chapters of the report. Information has been presented for Fife where possible and in instances where Fife level data is not available Scotland figures have been used.

The data used in this supplement was the most up to date available at the time of writing (between February and May 2023). More recent data may have become available, and this can be found through the links to the sources of data referenced at the end of each section.

Technical information relating to the definitions, sources and presentation of the data used in this document is available at the end of each section.

Information relating to the content of the chapters was not sufficient in quantity or available for all the chapters in the report and as such this information supplement only covers certain topics. For ease of reference the sections in this document are titled and ordered to match the chapters in the main report.

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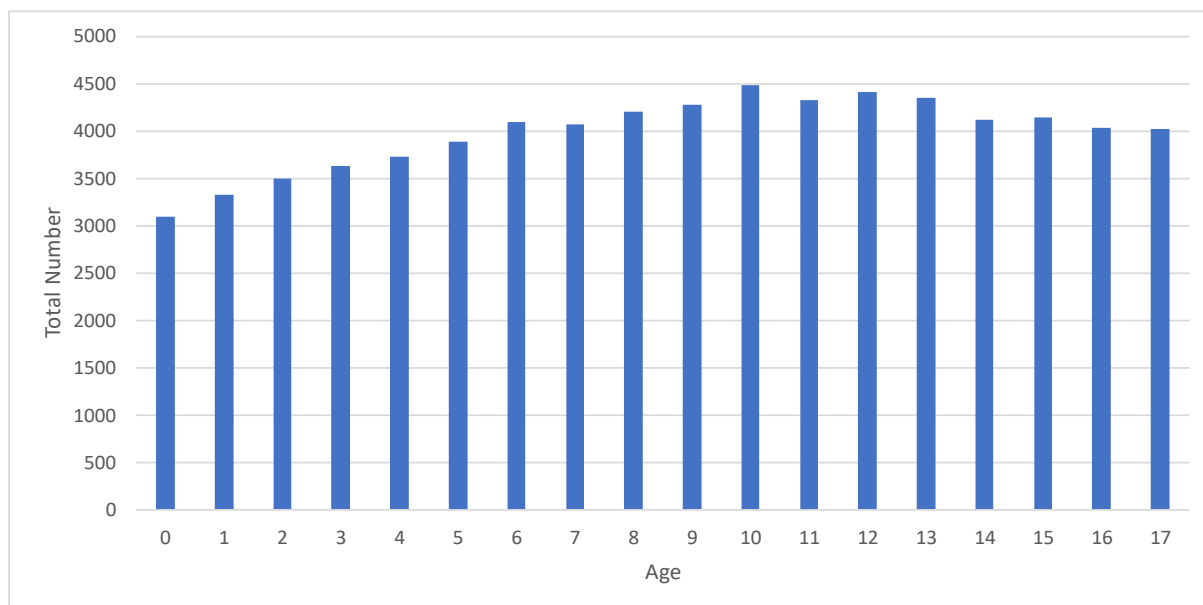
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Population

Fife under 18 total population

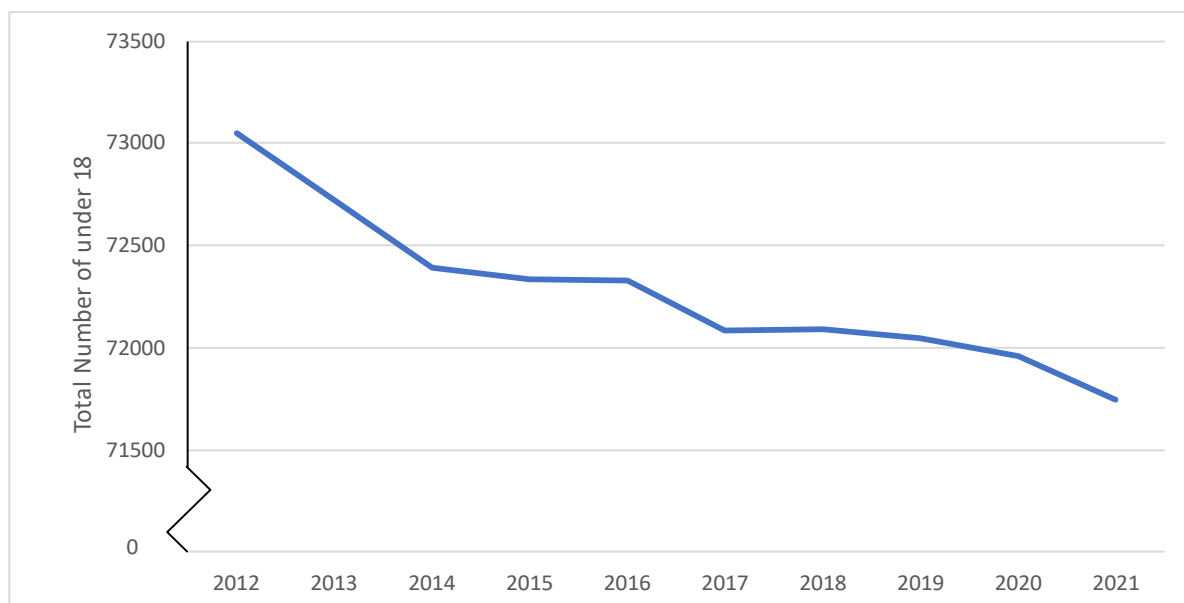
The total number of children aged under 18 in Fife was estimated to be 71,746 in 2021¹. Figure 1 shows that there are smaller numbers of children in the ages up to and including 5 years in Fife than in older age groups. The lowest number is in the under 1's at 3,102 and greatest in age 10 at 4,486.

Figure 1: Under 18 population by single year of age; Fife 2021 (Source: NRS)



The number of children living in Fife has steadily declined since 2012 when the total was 73,047 (Figure 2). This represents a 1.8% decrease in the child population in 10 years².

Figure 2: Under 18 population; Fife 2012 to 2021 (Source NRS)



Fife under 18 population by key age groups and sex

In 2021 there were estimated to be a total of 17,300 children aged 0 to 4 years (pre-school) in Fife, 29,350 children aged 5 to 11 years (primary-school aged) and 25,096 12- to 17-year-olds (secondary-school aged). Primary school aged children were the largest group of children in Fife, accounting for 41% of all children aged under 18 years (Table 1).

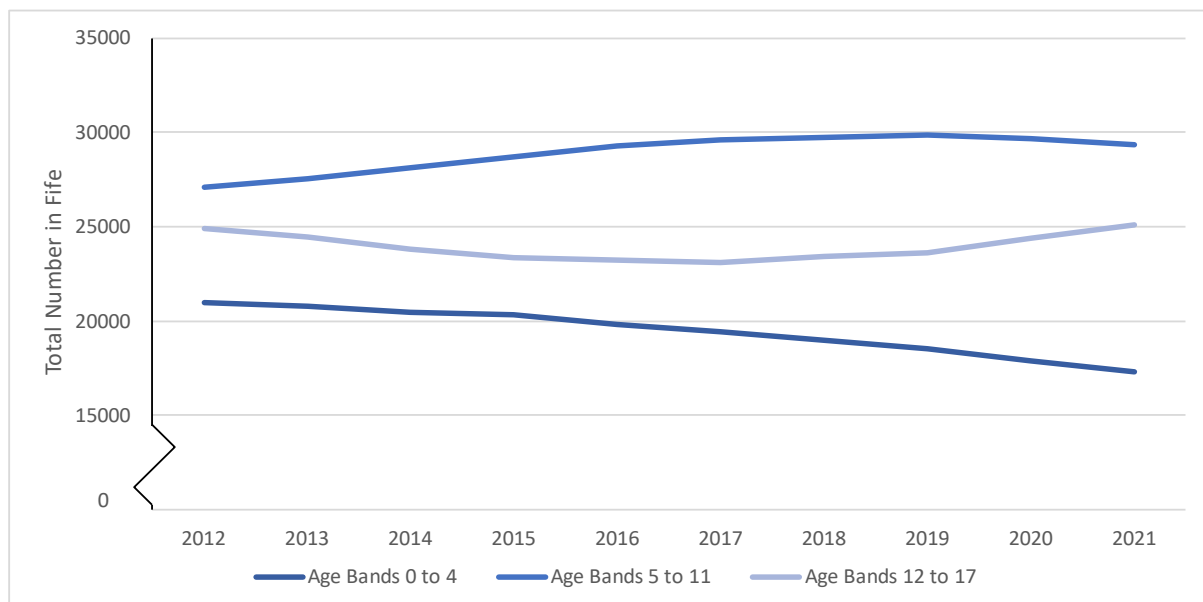
Across all the key age groups there were a slightly lower number and proportion of females compared to males in 2021 (Table1). This is consistent sex ratio at birth for the United Kingdom of 105.4 males to 100 females³.

Table 1: Under 18 population by key age group and sex; Fife 2021 (Source: NRS)

Age Groups	0 to 4		5 to 11		12 to 17		Under 18	
Male	8949	51.7%	15,108	51.5%	12,799	51.0%	36,856	51.4%
Female	8351	48.3%	14,242	48.5%	12,297	49.0%	34,890	48.6%
Total	17,300		29,350		25,096		71,746	
% Of under 18 Total	24%		41%		35%			

Since 2012 there has been a steady decline in the number of children in Fife who are pre-school aged, from 21,002 to 17,300 in 2021(Figure 3). The number of school-aged children has been more variable. Primary school aged children showing an increased in number from 2012 to 2019, before falling by 2021. The number of high school aged children fell from 2012 to 2017 but increased after this time.

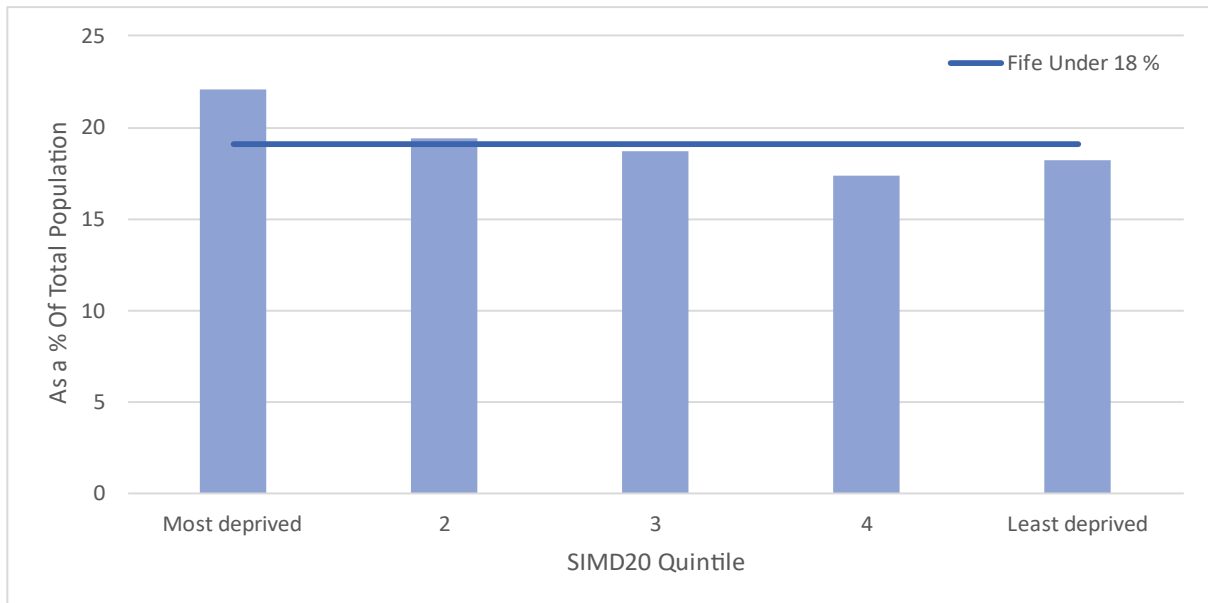
Figure 3: Key age groups in under 18 population; Fife 2012 to 2021 (Source NRS)



Fife under 18 population by SIMD quintile

The most deprived areas in Fife had the largest proportion of their total population aged under 18 (Figure 4). 22.1% of the population living in the most deprived quintile were aged under 18 compared to the Fife average of 19.1%. The least deprived areas of Fife have a lower under 18 population, 17.4% in quintile 4 and 18.3% in the least deprived.

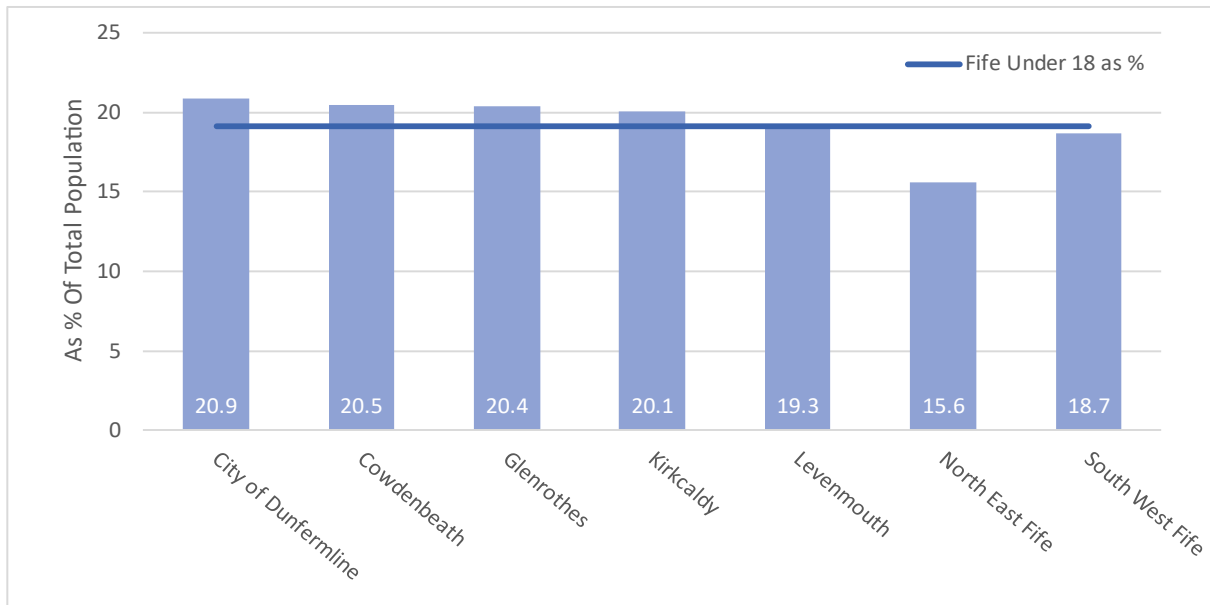
Figure 4: Under 18 population as a % of total population by SIMD20 Quintile; Fife 2021 (Source NRS/Public Health)



Fife under 18 population by localities

Five of the seven localities in Fife have a greater proportion of their population aged under 18 than the Fife average (Figure 5). City of Dunfermline locality has the largest proportion of children at 20.9% but North East Fife is significantly lower at 15.6%.

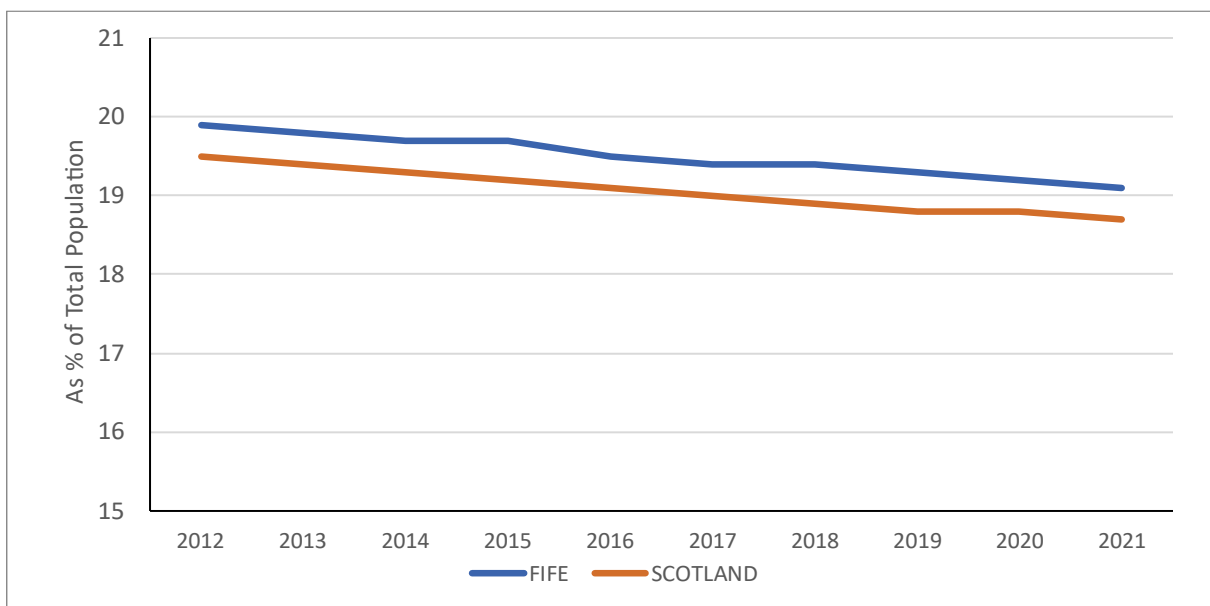
Figure 5: Under 18 population as a % of total population by locality (Source:NRS)



Fife under 18 population compared to Scotland

The under 18 population as percentage of total population for both Fife and Scotland has gradually fallen from 19.9% for Fife and 19.5% for Scotland in 2012 to 19.1% for Fife and 18.7% for Scotland in 2021, with Fife showing a consistent trend of having a slightly larger proportion of its population under 18 than the national average (Figure 6).

Figure 6: Under 18 population as % of total population Fife vs Scotland (Source: NRS)



Technical information

Data relating to the size and age structure of the population in Fife are produced annually by National Records of Scotland (NRS). The annual mid-year population estimates are based on the 2011 Census and are updated each year with elements of population change to produce an estimated figure of the population of Fife¹.

Breakdowns of the population projections have not been included as they have not been updated since 2018 and are not estimated to be updated until 2024 following publication of the 2022 Census. Similarly, detailed data on ethnic group has not been included as the new Census data is not yet available.

SIMD quintiles are Scotland level weighted quintiles, with the appropriate SIMD release used for each year. SIMD quintile is derived from the child's household code.

¹ <https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/statistics-and-data/statistics/statistics-by-theme/population/population-estimates/mid-year-population-estimates>

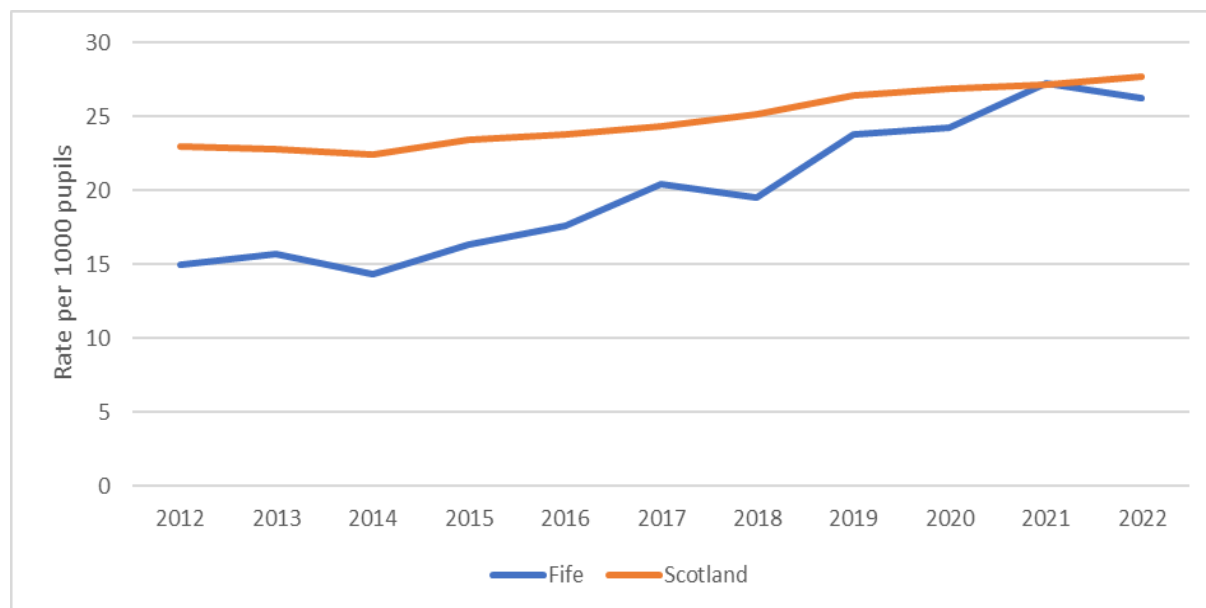
² [Fife Council Area Profile \(nrscotland.gov.uk\)](https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/statistics-and-data/statistics/statistics-by-theme/population/population-estimates/mid-year-population-estimates)

³ [Sex ratios at birth in the United Kingdom, 2016 to 2020 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/sex-ratios-at-birth-in-the-united-kingdom-2016-to-2020)

Disability and Neurodiversity

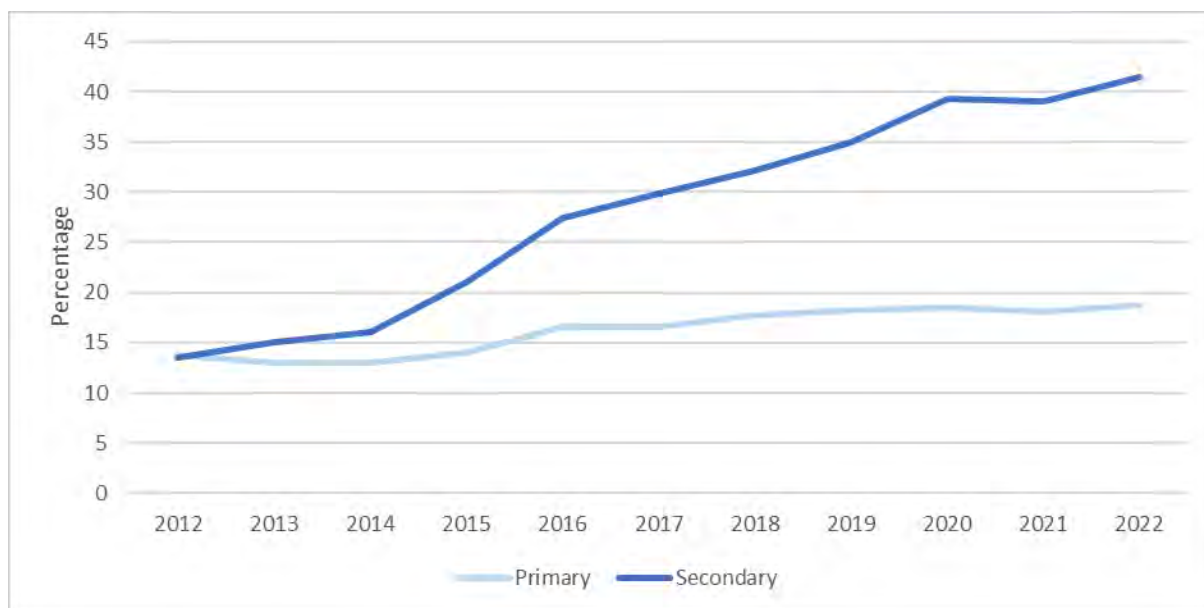
The number of pupils assessed or declared as having a disability in Fife is currently 26.2 per 1000 pupils, this is a slight drop compared to 2021 where it was 27.3 per 1000. The current rate in Fife is below that of Scotland, which is currently 27.7 per 1000 pupils¹. The rate in both Fife and Scotland has increased since 2012.

Figure 1; Rate of assessed and/or declared as having a disability per 1000 pupils in Fife and Scotland (Source: Pupil Census).



The percentage of children with an additional support need (ASN) in Fife has increased significantly and is currently 18.7% of primary school pupils and 41.5% of secondary school pupils. This increase is more prominent in secondary school pupils where the percentage of children with an ASN has more than doubled since 2015.

Figure 2: Percentage of pupils in primary and secondary school with an additional support need in Fife (Source: Pupil Census)



The Pupil Census asks pupils with an ASN for the reason for support, 1.7% of all pupils in Scotland reported that their ASN was due to a learning disability. In Fife 170 pupils in primary school (0.6%) and 364 pupils in secondary school (1.6%) reported that their ASN was due to a learning disability. In special schools 83% (132 pupils) had ASN due to a learning disability¹.

Technical Information

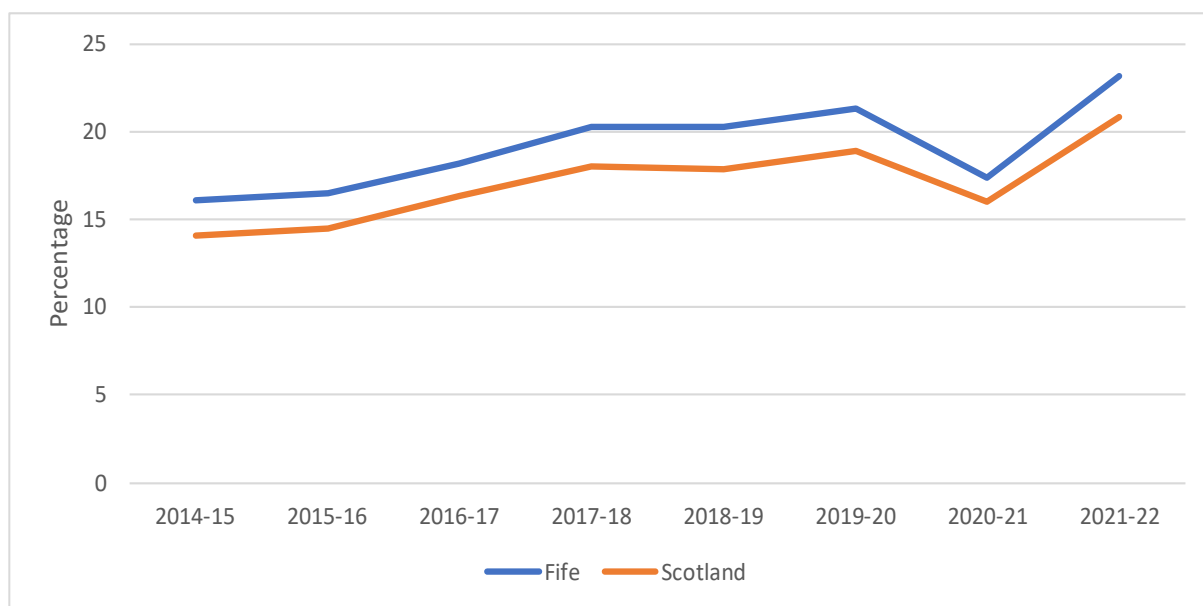
The Pupil Census gathers information on pupils who require additional support to access education, and the reason for that support. Additional support need was defined as per the Education (Additional Support for Learning) Scotland Act 2004 (as amended).

¹ [Pupil census supplementary statistics - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/pupil-census-supplementary-statistics)

Child poverty

At the end of the financial year 2021/22 the reported proportion of children aged under 16 who were living in relative poverty before housing costs in Fife was 23.2%, this was an increase from 17.4% in the financial year ending 2020¹. The proportion in Fife in 2021/22 was higher than the 20.8% across Scotland. Data after housing costs is not available at Fife level.

Figure 1: Percentage of children (aged under 16) in relative poverty before housing costs in Fife and Scotland financial years to 2021/22 (Source: DWP)



Child poverty across Fife

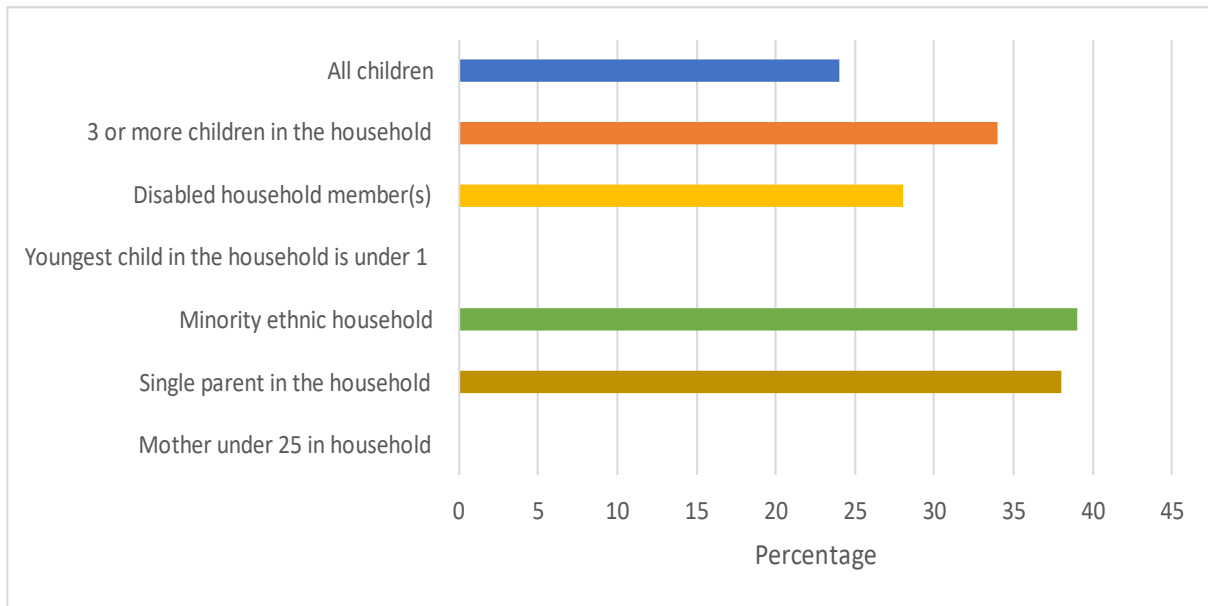
Different areas in Fife have varying levels of child poverty. In 2021/22 at electoral ward level relative child poverty, before housing costs, was highest in Kirkcaldy Central (35.9%) and lowest in St Andrews (11%), further details are available from the KnowFife website².

Priority groups

Almost 90% of all children in poverty in Scotland live within six family types, with many families falling into more than one group (Figure 2)³. In 2019 to 2022 each group was more likely to experience poverty than all children in Scotland (24%) and households which do not have any of the six family type characteristics (10%). Data at Fife level is not available. Two groups are not shown in Figure 2 as there was insufficient survey data for the period measured⁴.

Earlier survey data from 2017 to 2020 suggested that 34% Families with children under 1 were in relative poverty after housing costs and 55% of Families with younger mothers. The numbers are small, however, so the data needs to be treated with caution⁵.

Figure 2: Proportion of children in relative poverty after housing costs in Scotland 2019 to 2022 average (Source Family Resources Survey)



Technical information

Please see the guidance notes in the *Children in low income families* report for details as to how the statistics have been collated¹. Relative low income is defined as a family in low income Before Housing Costs (BHC) in the reference year. A family must have claimed Child Benefit and at least one other household benefit (Universal Credit, tax credits, or Housing Benefit) at any point in the year to be classed as low income in these statistics. Income is Before Housing Costs (BHC) and is equalised to adjust for family size and composition.

Comparison of relative poverty in children before and after housing costs at Scotland level can be found in the Scottish Government report⁴.

¹ [Children in low income families: local area statistics 2014 to 2022 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/children-in-low-income-families-local-area-statistics-2014-to-2022)

² [Fife-Findings-Children-in-low-income-families-2022.pdf](#)

³ [Best Start, Bright Futures: Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan 2022-2026 \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/publications/best-start-bright-futures-tackling-child-poverty-delivery-plan-2022-2026/pages/19/) (page 19)

⁴ [Poverty and Income Inequality in Scotland 2019-22 \(data.gov.scot\)](https://data.gov.scot/dataset/poverty-and-income-inequality-in-scotland-2019-22)

⁵ [Tackling child poverty priority families overview](#)

Births, maternal health

Births

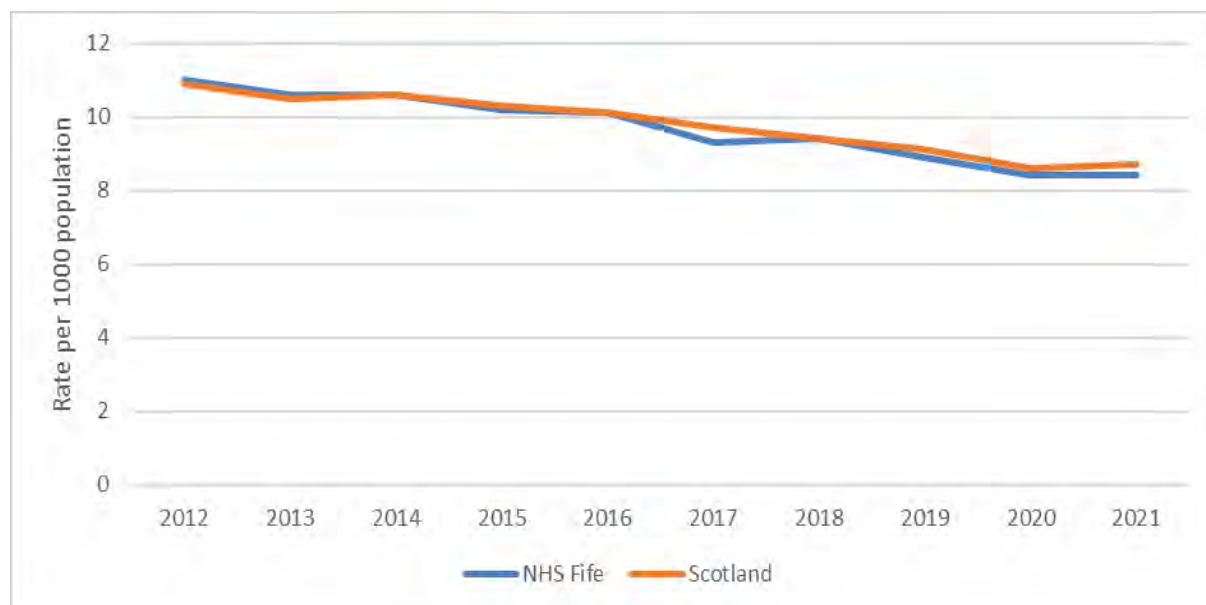
Births: Fife and Scotland

In 2021 there were 3,157 live births in Fife, a small increase on the number in 2020 but the second lowest number in the last 10 years (Table1). Overall birth rates are declining in Fife 8.4 births per 1000 population in 2021 compared to 11.0 in 2012¹. Scotland shows a similar pattern, 8.7 births per 1000 population in 2021 compared to 10.9 in 2012 (Figure 1)¹.

Table 1: Live births NHS Fife (Source: NRS)

Year	Live births
2012	4,019
2013	3,872
2014	3,889
2015	3,755
2016	3,739
2017	3,465
2018	3,479
2019	3,325
2020	3,144
2021	3,157

Figure 1: Fife and Scotland birth rates, overall rate per 1000 population (Source: NRS)



Maternal age at first birth

Age at first birth has been gradually increasing over time with the 2021/22 figures for Fife showing the lowest number of first births of women aged under 25 (27%) and the highest over 35 (14%)

(Table 2) in the 10 years reported. This is a similar pattern to Scotland where in 2021/22 22% of women giving birth for the first time were under 25 and 16% over 35.

Table 2: Fife Maternal age at first birth (Source: PHS opendata)

Financial Year	%Under 25	%25-34	%35 and over
2012/13	39.8%	49.8%	10.3%
2013/14	37.0%	52.5%	10.5%
2014/15	37.3%	52.2%	10.5%
2015/16	35.8%	51.9%	12.3%
2016/17	33.5%	52.8%	13.8%
2017/18	34.6%	53.6%	11.8%
2018/19	30.2%	56.5%	13.3%
2019/20	30.6%	57.1%	12.3%
2020/21	31.8%	56.3%	11.9%
2021/22	26.7%	59.3%	14.0%

Low birthweight (<2500g) babies

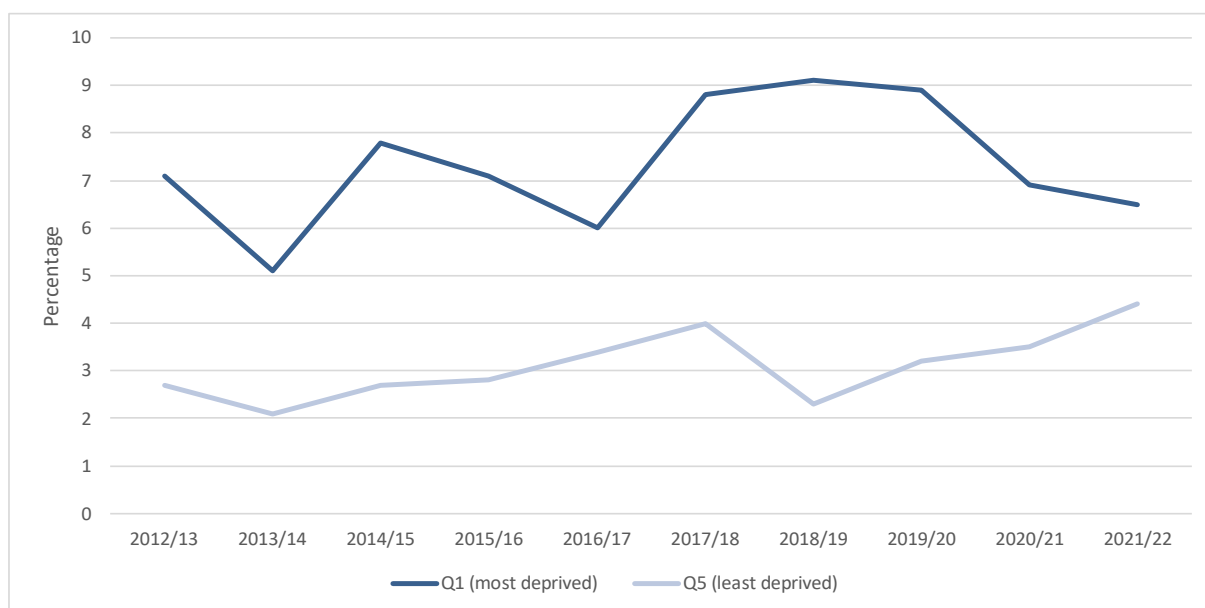
In 2021/22 4.9% of live singleton babies in Fife had a low birthweight (Table 3). This is comparable with Scotland at 5.2% for the same year. The approximately 5% proportion has persisted for many years in both Fife and Scotland.

Table 3: NHS Fife % Low birthweight singleton babies (Source PHS opendata)

Financial Year	LBW	NonLBW
2012/13	5.3%	94.6%
2013/14	4.4%	95.5%
2014/15	5.6%	94.4%
2015/16	5.5%	94.4%
2016/17	5.2%	94.8%
2017/18	6.2%	93.8%
2018/19	5.1%	94.9%
2019/20	5.8%	94.2%
2020/21	5.7%	94.3%
2021/22	4.9%	95.0%

Low birthweight in babies are associated with deprivation with a higher proportion of low birthweight babies in the most deprived areas (6.5% in 2021/22) compared to the least deprived areas (4.4% in 2021/22). This has not changed significantly over time (Figure 2).

Figure 2: Fife % low birthweight singleton babies by most and least deprived SIMD quintiles (Source: PHS opendata)



Stillbirths

There were 11 stillbirths registered in Fife 2021². This number can vary significantly between years, Table 4 shows five-year averages and rates compared to Scotland³ for the last 10 years. In general Fife has a very similar stillbirth rate to Scotland.

Table 4: Stillbirth five-year average rates NHS Fife and Scotland

Five-year average	Stillbirths Rate*		
	Fife	Scotland	Difference
2012-16	4.4	4.2	0.2
2013-17	3.9	4.1	-0.2
2014-18	4.0	4.0	0.0
2015-19	4.1	3.9	0.2
2016-20	4.5	4.0	0.5
2017-21	4.2	3.9	0.3

*Stillbirths, rate per 1,000 live and still births. Source: NRS

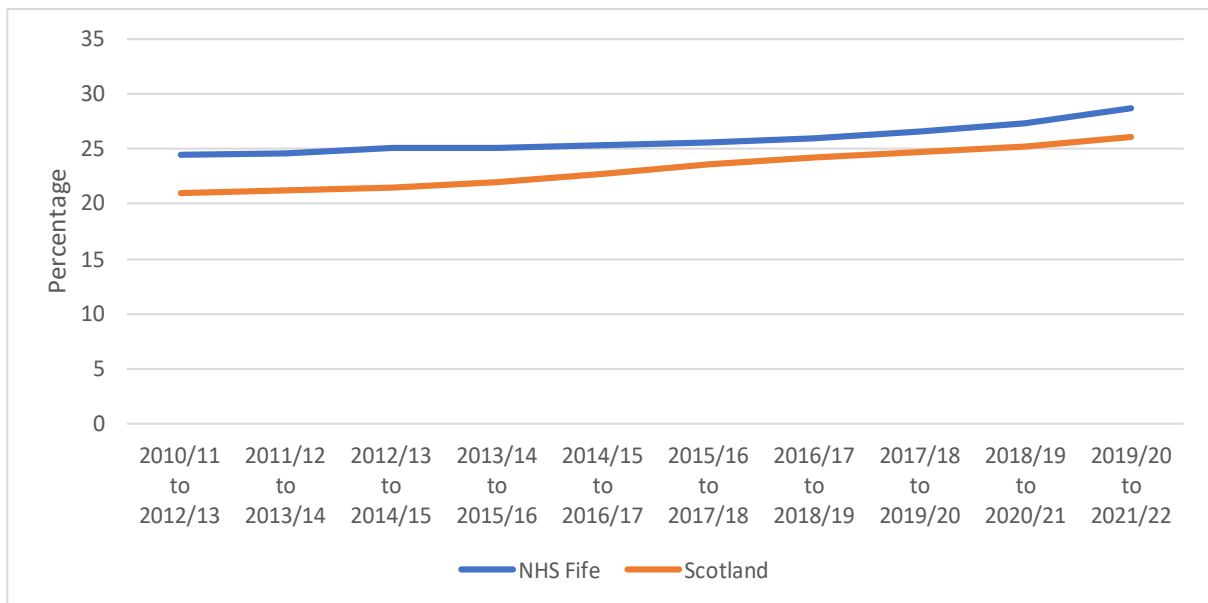
Maternal Health

Body Mass Index (BMI) at antenatal booking

Maternal BMIs have been rising in Fife and Scotland for some years (Figure 3). In Fife during 2021/22 2.2% of women were underweight, 37.5% a healthy weight, 29.8% overweight and 30.6% obese. Fife has a lower proportion of healthy weight bookings compared to Scotland (40.9%) and a higher proportion of obese mothers (Scotland 27.3%). These figures exclude bookings where the BMI was not recorded.

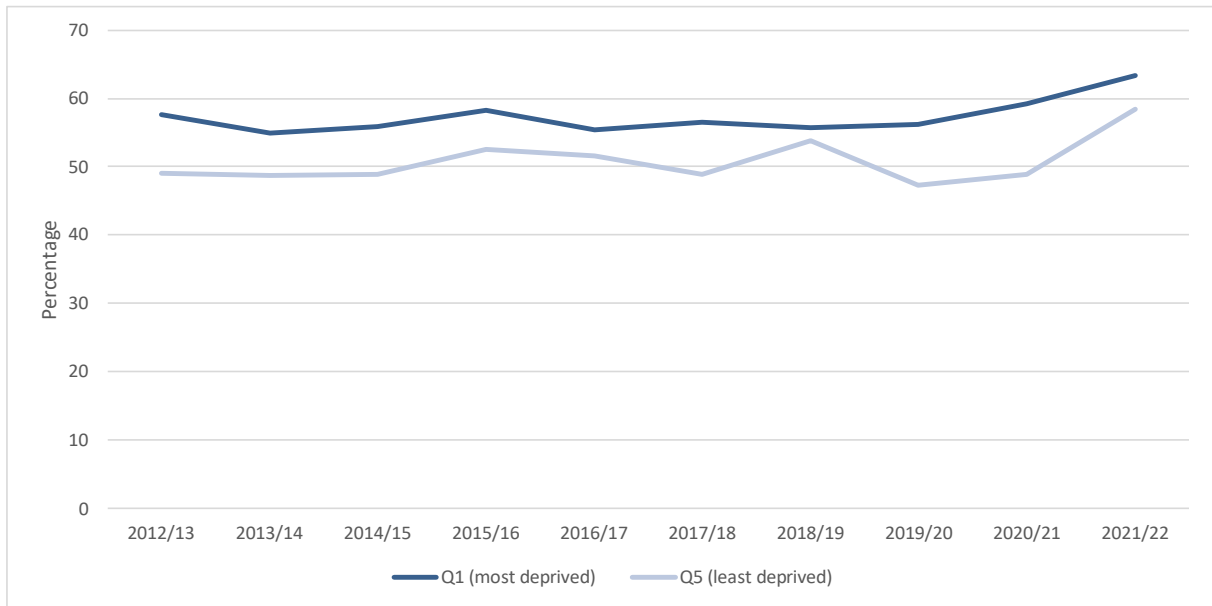
In 2021/22 Fife had the fourth highest level of overweight and obese BMI at booking compared to other Health Boards in Scotland at 60.4%. Fife does have a high proportion of unrecorded BMIs at booking in the SMR02 data (over 10% Not Known in 2018/19 to 2020/21 and 8.5% in 2021/22) this makes direct comparison to Scotland-level and other Health Board figures more difficult (Scotland, Not Known 1.7% for 2021/22).

Figure 3: Percentage maternities with BMI recorded as obese at booking, financial years, three-year rolling averages (Source: ScotPHO)



Deprivation increases the likelihood of obese and overweight BMI's at booking (Figure 4). In 2021/22 64.3% of bookings from the most deprived areas (SIMD quintile 1) in Fife were classed as overweight or obese compared to 61.1% in the least deprived areas. In both areas proportions of obese and overweight bookings appear to be increasing over time with the values in 2021/22 the highest in both areas in the last 10 years.

Figure 4: NHS Fife Maternities BMI group at booking by most and least deprived SIMD quintiles
 (Source: PHS opendata)

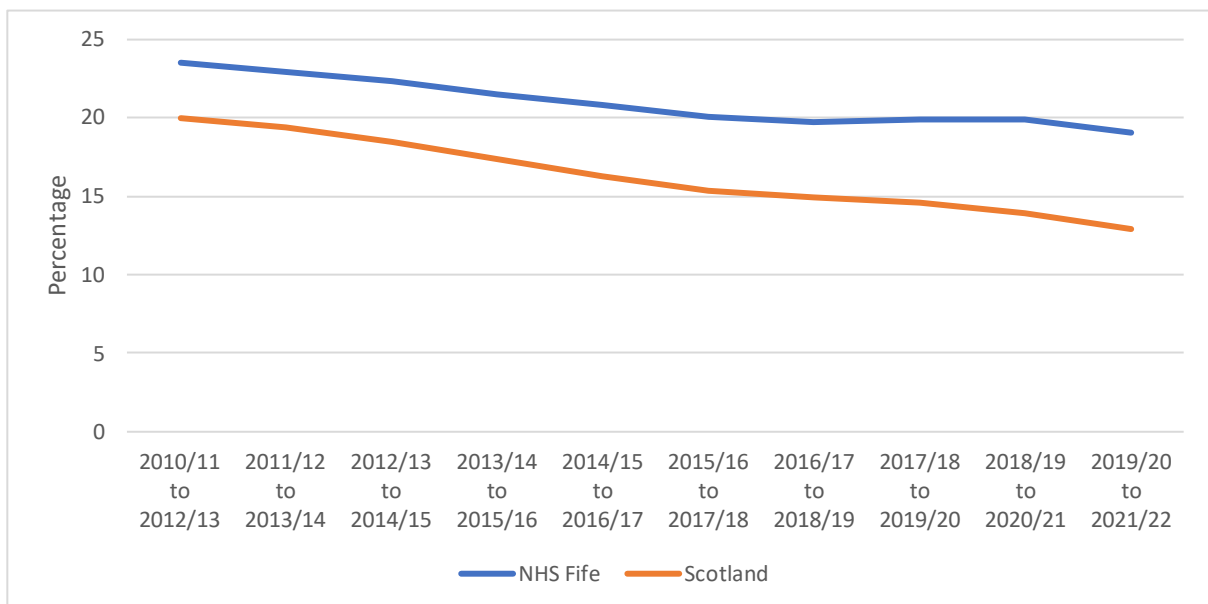


Maternal age also affects the likelihood of obese and overweight BMIs at booking. In 2021/22 around 64% of bookings with a maternal age of over 35 were overweight or obese in Fife, somewhat higher than Scotland (58.3%).

Smoking at booking

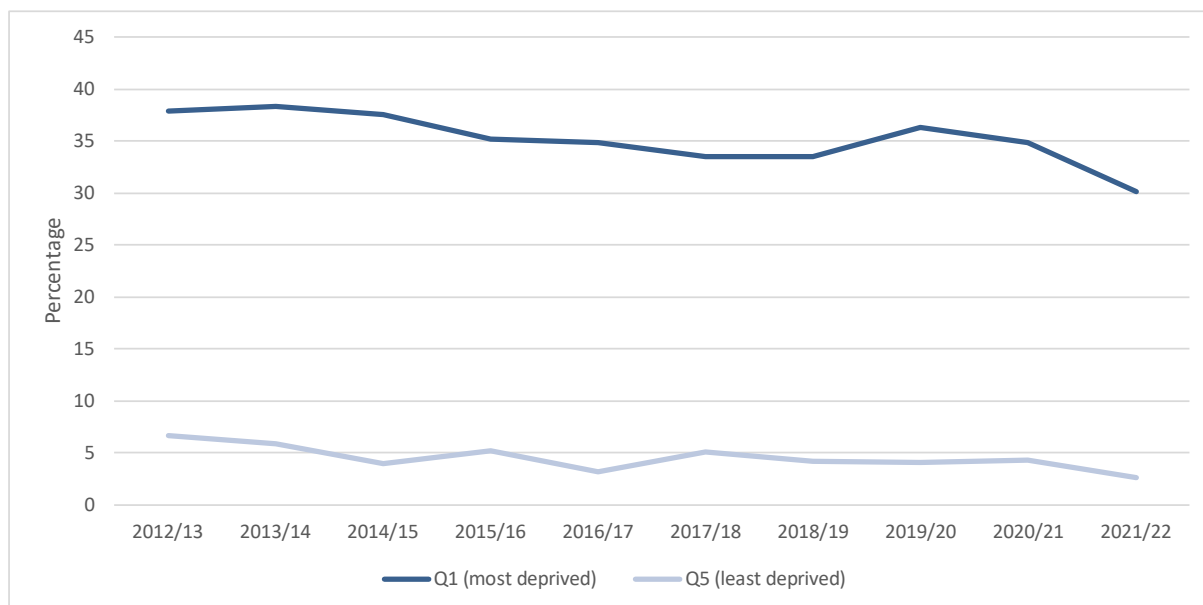
Fife has one of the highest rates of current smokers at booking in Scotland. In 2021/22 this was 16.7%. This is higher than Scotland (11.8% for 2021/22) and the second highest of health boards in Scotland. This pattern has not markedly changed over time (Figure 5). The proportion of women smoking at booking has decreased over time in all areas of Scotland, including Fife, and is currently at its lowest since data has been available (1997/98). Most years the proportion of unrecorded smoking statuses in Fife has been around 1% (0.7% in 2021/22), but were higher between 2017/18 and 2020/21 (3-6% unrecorded).

Figure 5: Percentage maternities recorded as current smoker at booking, financial years, three-year rolling averages (Source: ScotPHO)



Rates of smoking during pregnancy in the most deprived areas in Fife are also slowly decreasing over time but were still significantly higher than rates in the least deprived areas (Figure 6) at 31% in 2021/22 compared to 3%.

Figure 6: NHS Fife Current smokers at booking by most and least deprived SIMD quintiles (Source: PHS opendata)



Maternal deaths

Data at Scotland or Fife level is not available, but a recent study⁴ indicated that 229 women in the UK died during or up to six weeks after the end of pregnancy in the years 2018-20, or 10.9 per 100,000 women, 24% higher than 2017-19. The study removed deaths from Covid from the 2018-20 figure the rate was still 10.5 per 100k or 19% higher than 2017-19.

Technical information

The stillbirths data used is based on year of registration and is taken from the Vital Events Reference tables and time series data from NRS. The NRS data for 2022 death registrations is not finalised at the date of writing so complete data is only available up to 2021. Annual files were aggregated manually.

NRS defines⁵ a stillbirth as: *“Stillbirths - Section 56(1) of the Registration of Births, Deaths and Marriages (Scotland) Act 1965 defined a stillbirth as a child which had issued forth from its mother after the 28th week of pregnancy and which did not breathe or show any other sign of life. The Still-Birth (Definition) Act 1992, which came into effect on 1 October 1992, amended Section 56(1) of the 1965 Act (and other relevant UK legislation), replacing the reference to the 28th week with a reference to the 24th week”*

Most of the maternity data in this report comes from NHS's “Births in Scotland⁶” open datasets and covers the most recent 10 complete financial years. All percentages reported exclude unknown values unless explicitly stated. The measures of deprivation used are taken from the open datasets and are the appropriate SIMD quintiles for the years analysed. Trend comparisons with Scotland are taken from ScotPHO.

The open datasets are based on the SMR02 record of maternity contacts with acute services. NHS Fife presently has less completeness in the SMR02 record, compared to NRS birth registrations, in comparison to the rest of Scotland⁷. Smoking at booking data is currently transitioning from the SMR02 record to the ABC dataset. PHS publish the ABC data in their report on antenatal booking⁸ as well as the SMR02 data in the open data used in this report. We do not have access to the ABC dataset at present and the figures do appear slightly different (also different time period is being used).

¹ <https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/files//statistics/time-series/birth-21/births-time-series-21-bt.9.xlsx>

² <https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/files//statistics/vital-events-ref-tables/2021/vital-events-21-ref-tabs-3.14.xlsx>

³ <https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/files//statistics/vital-events-ref-tables/2021/vital-events-21-ref-tabs-4.xlsx>

⁴ [MBRRACE-UK Maternal Report 2022 - Lay Summary v10.pdf \(ox.ac.uk\)](#)

⁵ [Stillbirths and Infant Deaths | National Records of Scotland \(nrscotland.gov.uk\)](#)

⁶ [Births in Scotland - Datasets - Scottish Health and Social Care Open Data \(nhs.scot\)](#)

⁷ [Births in Scotland \(publichealthscotland.scot\)](#) page 11

⁸ [Antenatal booking in Scotland - Calendar year ending 31 December 2021 - Antenatal booking in Scotland - Publications - Public Health Scotland](#)

Infant feeding

Breastfeeding at First Review

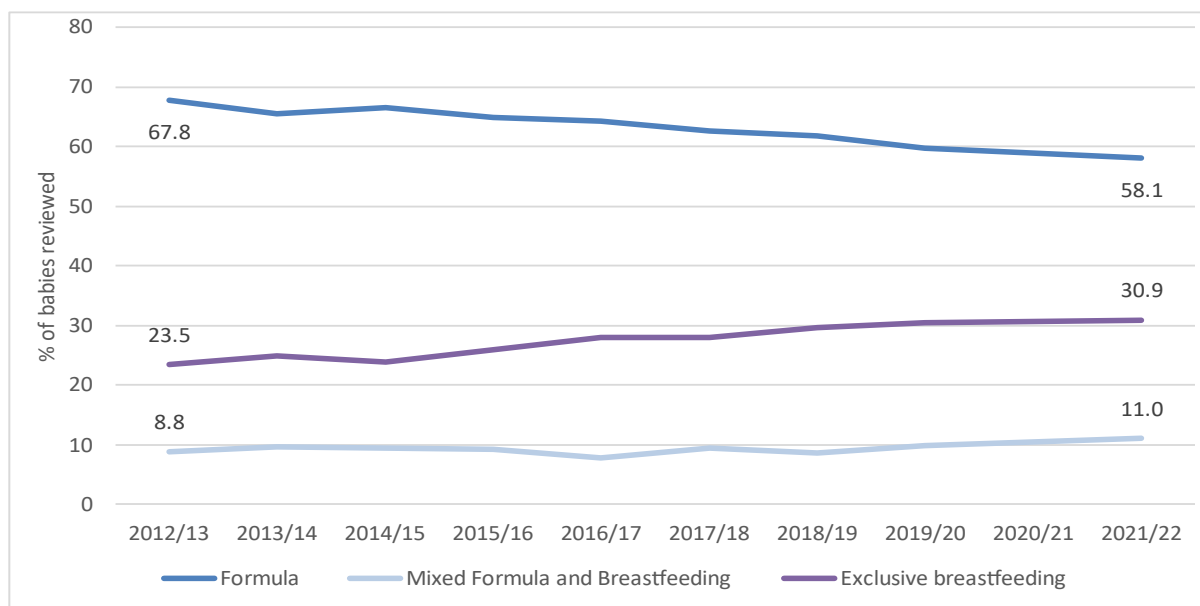
At 10-14 days of age the majority (53%) of babies reviewed in Fife in 2021/22 were being breastfed, with 38% were being exclusively breastfed and 15% were receiving mixed feeding (receiving both breast and formula milk). At a national level these figures were 38% and 17% respectively giving a slightly higher breastfed figure (55%) than that reported for Fife. The proportion of babies receiving any breastfeeding at 10-14 days has increased from 45% in Fife and from 47% in Scotland since 2012/13.

Breastfeeding at 6-8 weeks

In 2021/22, 41.9% of babies reviewed in Fife were currently being breastfed at the 6-8 week child health review. 30.9% were being exclusively breastfed and a further 11% were receiving mixed feeding. 58% of babies were being formula fed (Figure 1).

There has been an increase in both the proportion being exclusively breastfed and in babies receiving mixed feeding since 2012/13 and a corresponding fall in formula feeding (Figure 1). Exclusive breastfeeding showed that largest increase in the time period from 23.5% to 30.9%.

Figure 1: Infant feeding at 6-8 week review; Fife 2012/13 to 2021/22 (Source: PHS)



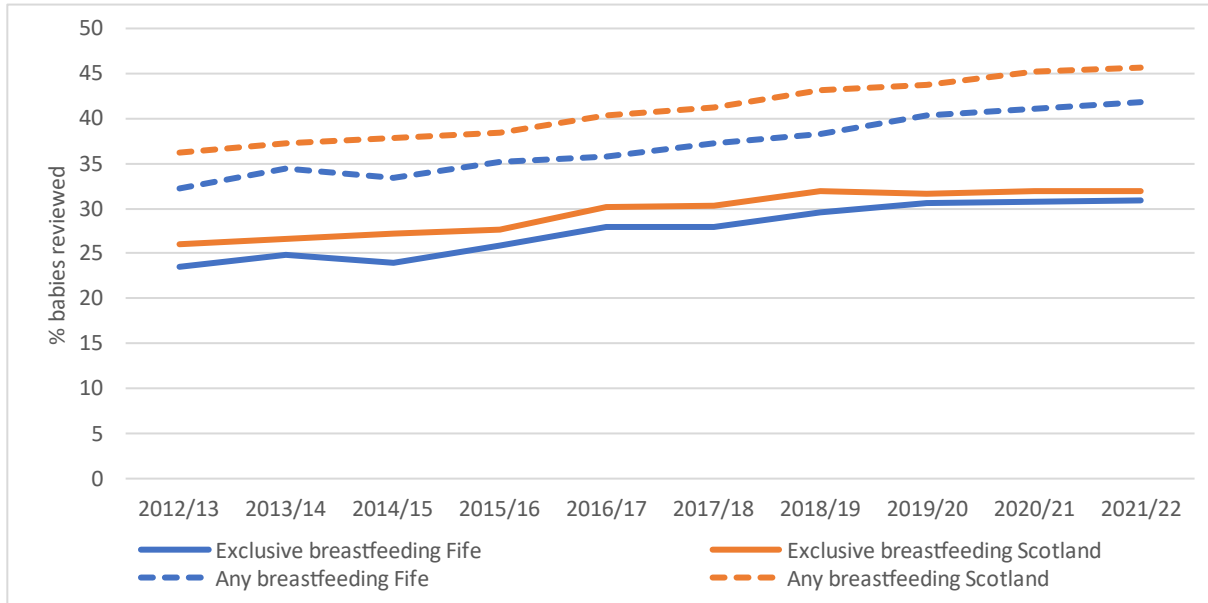
Breastfeeding at 6-8 weeks - Fife compared to Scotland and other Health Boards

In 2021/22, 41.9% of babies reviewed in Fife compared to 45.7% across Scotland were currently being breastfed at the 6-8 week child health review. The difference in rates of exclusive breastfeeding were smaller, 30.9% and 32% respectively.

The proportion of babies receiving any breastfeeding and being exclusively breastfed at 6-8 weeks in Fife has remained below the national average in the last 10 years (Figure 2). However, Fife has seen

a greater increase (23% to 31%) in exclusive breastfeeding than Scotland (26% to 32%) so the gap between Fife and Scotland has narrowed.

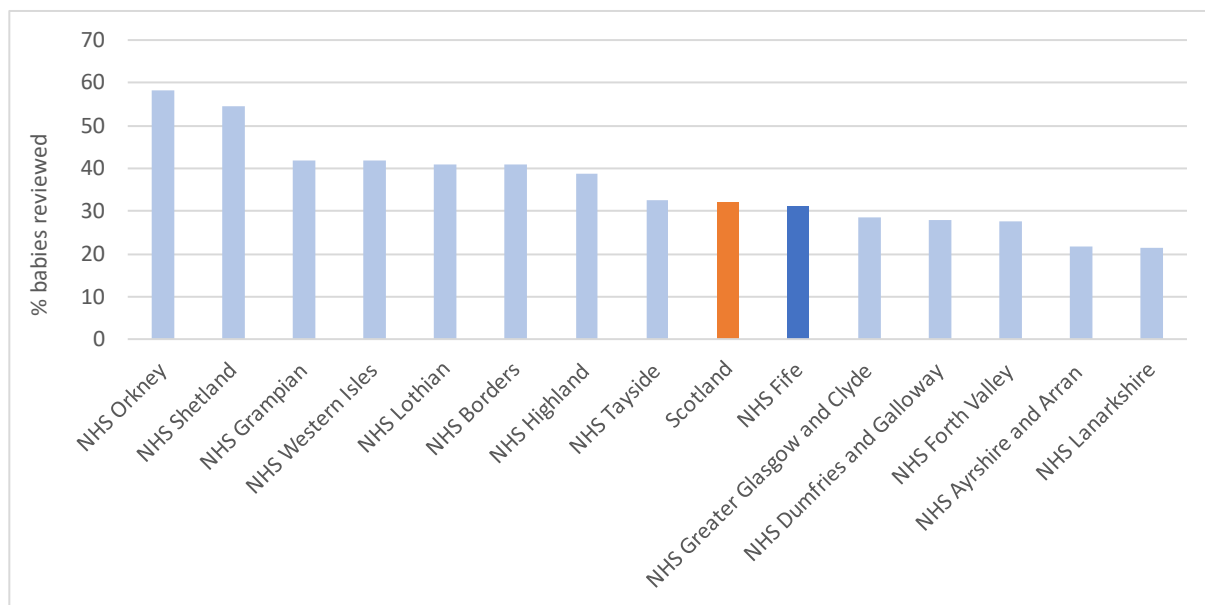
Figure 2: Percentage of babies breastfed at 6-8 weeks; Fife and Scotland 2012/13 – 2021/22 (Source: PHS)



In 2021/22 Fife was ranked 9th of 14 health boards (6th out of 11 mainland boards) in terms of the proportion of babies being exclusively breastfed at the 6-8 weeks review (Figure 3). Our position relative to other health boards has remained fairly consistent over time with Fife ranked 9th in seven of the last 10 years.

NHS Lothian, Borders and Grampian have higher percentages than the other mainland Board areas. All Health Boards have seen increases in proportions and the position of the Boards relative to each other has changed little in the last 10 years.

Figure 3: Percentage of babies exclusively breastfed at 6-8 weeks; Health Boards 2021/22 (Source: PHS)



Breastfeeding at 6-8 weeks – Inequalities

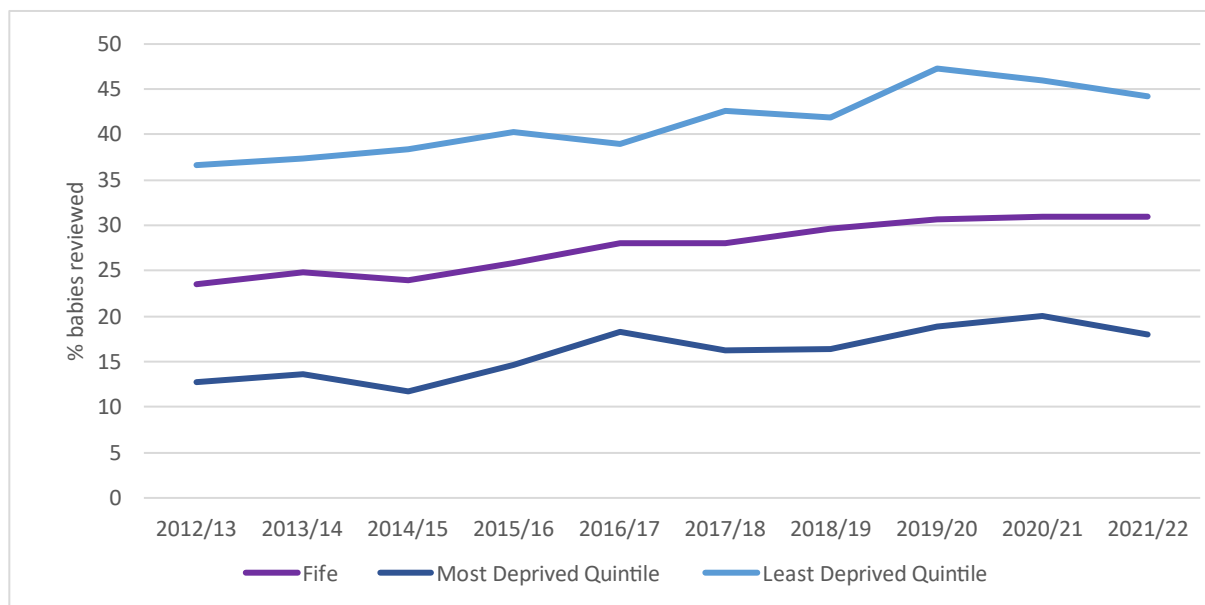
There continue to be marked inequalities in breastfeeding. Babies born to mothers in more deprived areas (SIMD20 quintile 1) in Fife are least likely to be currently exclusively breastfed at 6-8 weeks (19%) compared to those born in the least deprived areas (44%) and the Fife average (Figure 4).

Between 2012/13 and 2021/22 there was an overall increase in the proportion of babies being exclusively breastfed at 6-8 weeks among those living in the most deprived areas from 13% to 19%. Proportions also increased in the least deprived areas in the same time period, from 37% to 44%.

The gap between rates in the most and least deprived areas has fluctuated annually ranging from 3.1 times greater to 2.1 times greater in the least deprived areas across the 10 year period. The size of the gap in the average of the last three years (2.4) was lower than seen at the start of the 10-year period (2.7) and this is consistent with reports of a narrowing in the inequality in breastfeeding across Scotland².

The proportion of babies being exclusively breastfed at 6-8 weeks fell in the most deprived areas between 2020/21 and 2021/22 which was the first fall since 2017/18. Proportions have also fallen in the least deprived areas in the last two years (Figure 4)¹.

Figure 4: Percentage of babies exclusively breastfed at 6-8 weeks; Fife and Most and Least Deprived SIMD20 Quintiles 2012/13 to 2021/22 (Source: PHS)



Infant Feeding at 13-15 Month Review

At the time of the 13-15 month review, 7.5% of babies reviewed in Fife in 2021/22 were being exclusively breastfed for their milk feeds and a further 8.4% received mixed breast and formula feeding. This is lower than the national averages of 9.5% and 12.2% respectively.

Breastfeeding - changes in babies breastfed across reviews Fife and Scotland

63% of babies eligible for review in Fife in 2021/22 were “ever breastfed” defined as being breastfed for at least some period of time after their birth². However reductions in the proportion of babies being breastfed, both by mixed feeding and exclusively, are seen across review periods as babies age.

The change in the number of babies being currently breastfed (any) at each review compared to those who were ‘ever’ breastfed are shown in table 1. At first visit 15% fewer babies were being breastfed compared to those who had ‘ever’ been breastfed and by 6-8 weeks this was a third fewer. Fife had larger ‘drop off’ rates than Scotland at 6-8 weeks and 13-15 months in 2021/22.

Table 1: Drop off in breastfeeding by review; Fife and Scotland 2021/22 (Source: PHS)

Review	Fife	Scotland
At first visit	-16%	-15%
At 6-8 weeks	-33%	-29%
At 13-15 months	-75%	-67%

Technical information

WHO and UNICEF recommend that children initiate breastfeeding within the first hour of birth and be exclusively breastfed for the first 6 months of life². Data is collected on infant feeding by Health Visitors at reviews of children at 10-14 days (first review), 6-8 weeks and 13-15 months of age. Data on rates of exclusive breastfeeding at 6-8 weeks is used as a high-level indicator of infant feeding and child health in a range of plans, tools and reports including ScotPHO profiles and the State of Child Health report. As such for this key measure more detailed analyses have been shown including comparisons are shown with Scotland over time, how these rates differ by deprivation and across Health Board areas.

Public Health Scotland publish this data annually for all Health Boards and produce a dashboard which allows analysis of Health Board data by key variables including deprivation². Data on exclusive breastfeeding at 6-8 weeks by Health Board, HSCP locality and intermediate zone is available on ScotPHO³.

¹ [Infant Feeding - Datasets - Scottish Health and Social Care Open Data \(nhs.scot\)](https://nhs.uk/data-and-analytics/open-data/datasets/infant-feeding)

² https://www.who.int/health-topics/breastfeeding#tab=tab_2

³ https://scotland.shinyapps.io/ScotPHO_profiles_tool/ (indicator: babies exclusively breastfed at 6-8 weeks)

Health Visiting Pathway

13-15 month review

In Fife the proportion of eligible children reviewed by a health visitor at 13-15 months decreased from 93.8% in 2020/21 to 83.3% in 2021/22, which was lower than Scotland overall at 89.4%¹. Currently there are only five years worth of data so a trend has not been shown for this measure. In 2021/22 the proportion of children with incomplete reviews or those with missing data was significantly lower than the previous year 6.4% compared to 13.1%.

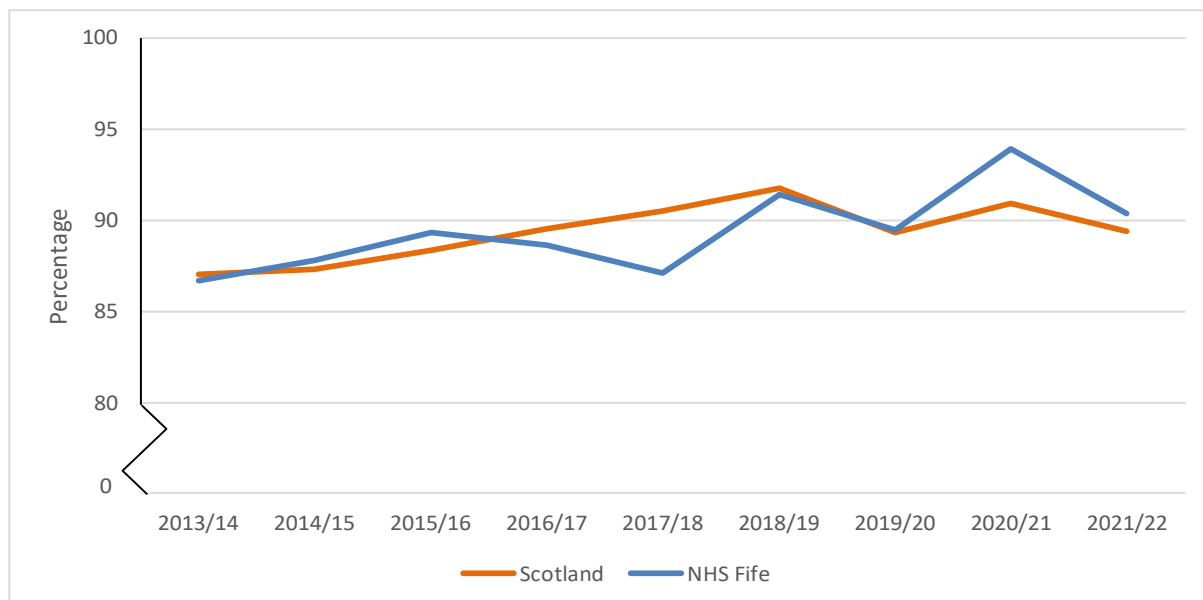
Some slight differences were noted due to inequalities (Scotland-level SIMD 2020) with the most deprived quintiles having a lower proportion of eligible children reviewed (92.6%) compared to the least deprived (95.1%)²; more years of data would be required to see if this trend continues, particularly as the review process was affected by COVID-19 in 2020/21.

The proportion of children recorded as having a developmental concern in any domain in Fife was 18.3% in 2021/22 an increase from 14.3% in the previous year.

27-30 month review

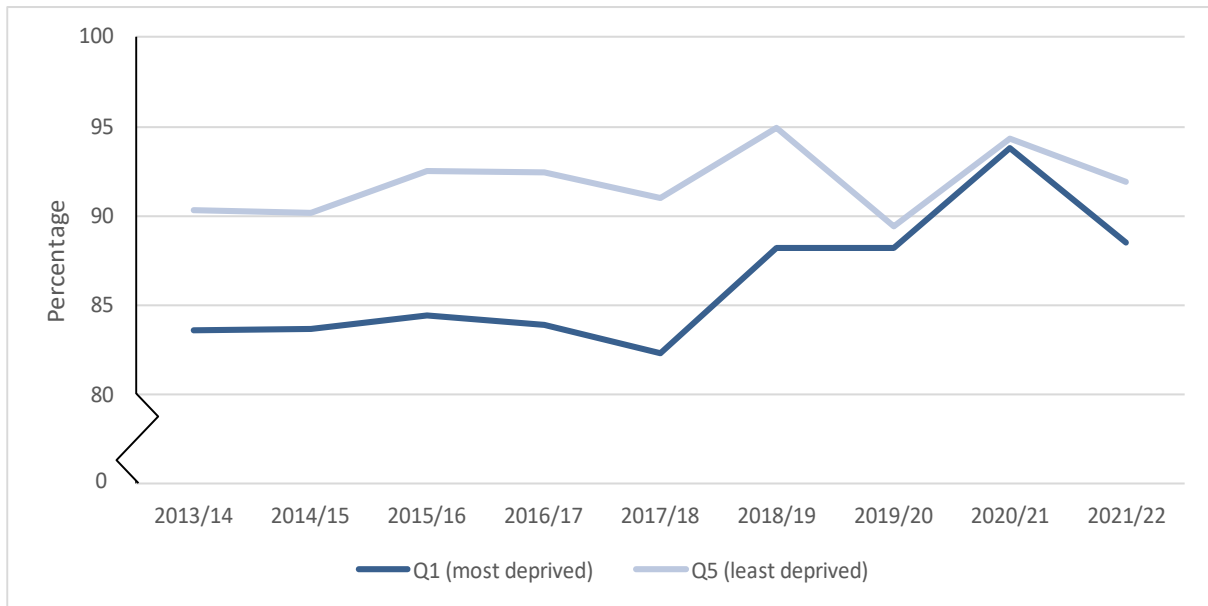
In 2021/22 the proportion of eligible children reviewed at 27-30 months decreased from 93.9% in the previous year to 90.4% (Figure 1) which was slightly higher than the Scottish average for 2021/22 of 89.4%. Differences have been seen between Fife and Scotland in several years in the available trend but the proportion of children reviewed has fluctuated over time.²

Figure 1: Percentage of eligible children reviewed at 27-30 months, NHS Fife and Scotland (Source: PHS)



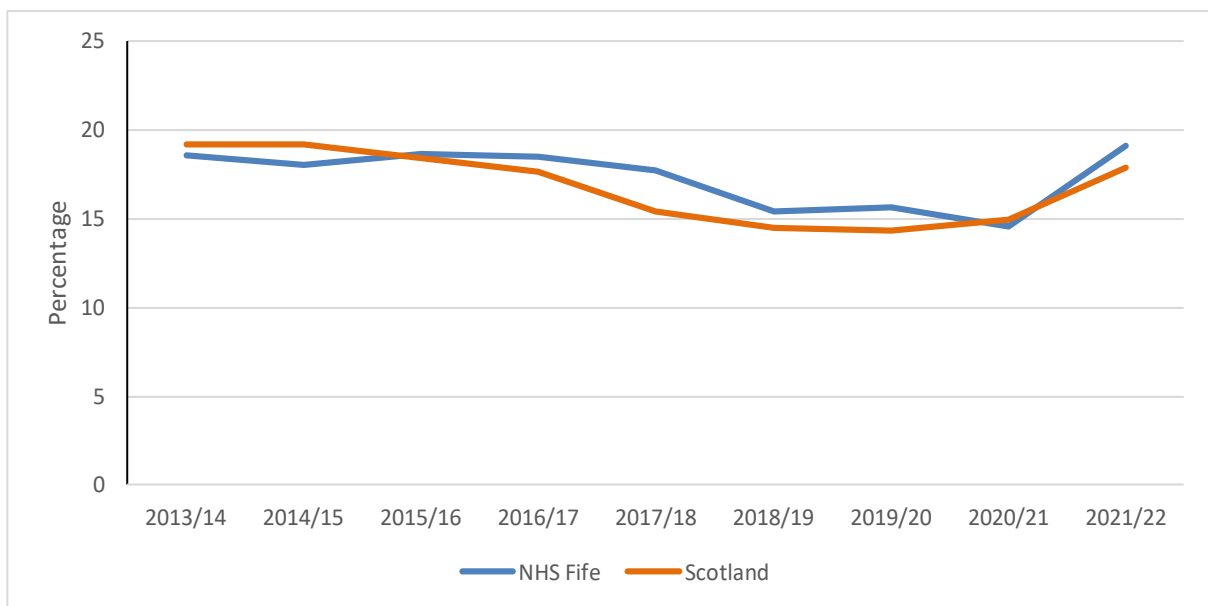
From 2018/19 to 2020/21 the gap between most and least deprived quintiles in Fife of the proportion of children reviewed at 27-30 months narrowed (Figure 2) however the gap has started to increase again in 2021/22. Further years of data will be required to see if this trend continues.

Figure 2: Percentage of eligible children reviewed at 27-30 months by most and least deprived Scotland-level SIMD quintiles, NHS Fife (Source: PHS)



The percentage of children reviewed where a developmental concern was noted increased in Fife in 2021/22 compared to the previous year, from 14.6% to 19.1%. This is higher than the Scottish average for 2021/22 (17.9%), Figure 3. This is consistent with national trends reported in the *Early Child Development* report from PHS¹ which reported increases of developmental concerns across all domains and at all review points in 2021/22 compared to the previous year.

Figure 3: Percentage of eligible children reviewed at 27-30 months with a developmental concern, NHS Fife and Scotland (Source: PHS)



4-5 year review

No data is presented for this measure as NHS Fife implement this review for children with an additional Health Plan Indicator (HPI) at present but full implementation is planned³. This means that the data cannot be compared with Scotland or other boards at present.

Technical Information

The data in this summary is taken from PHS publications listed in the sources below and is based on Health visitor assessments input into the Child Health Surveillance Programme-Pre-School national information system (CHSP-PS)⁴. Data on the 27-30 month review is available from 2013 and from 2017 for the 13-15 month reviews. All data is by financial year.

¹ <https://www.publichealthscotland.scot/media/19173/early-child-development-13-15m-tables-2023.xlsx>

² <https://www.publichealthscotland.scot/media/19174/early-child-development-27-30m-tables-2023.xlsx>

³ [Technical Report \(publichealthscotland.scot\)](#) page 6

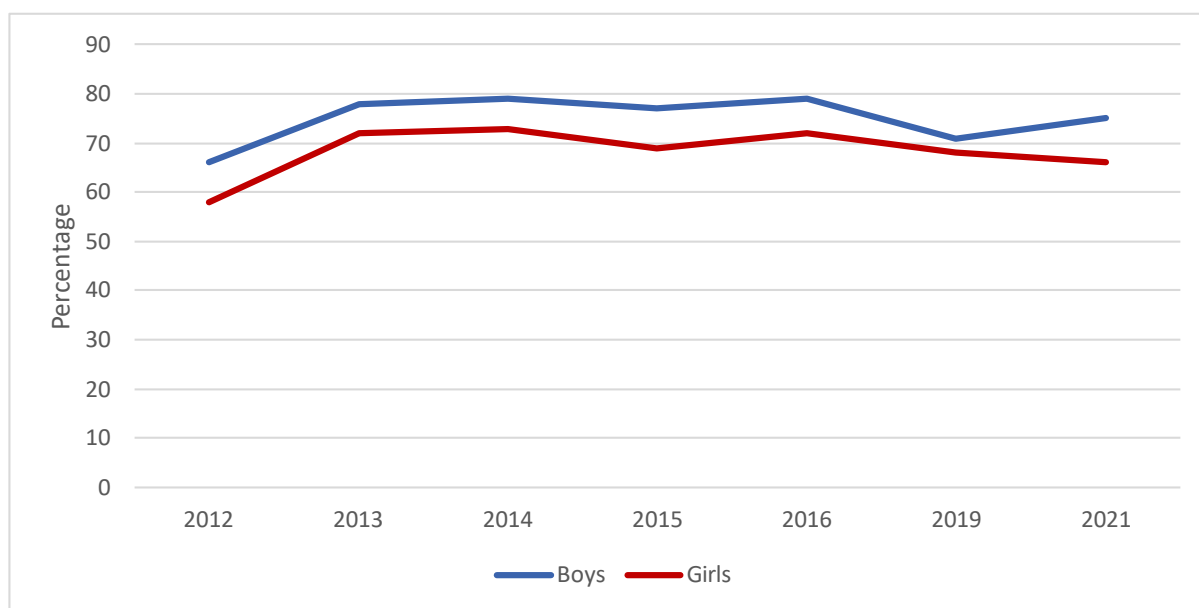
⁴ [Early Child Development Statistics 2021/22 - Technical Report \(publichealthscotland.scot\)](#)

Play, physical activity

At present we do not have data on physical activity in children at a Fife level but this will be available in late summer through the Fife Children & Young People's Health & Wellbeing Survey.

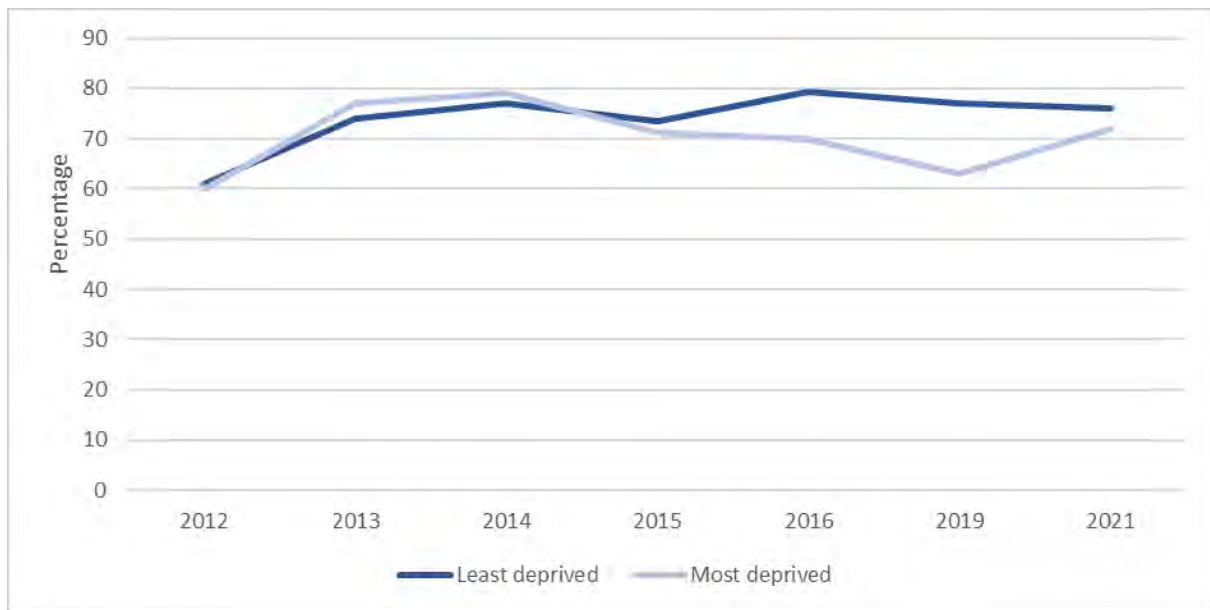
At a national level in 2021 the Scottish Health Survey reported an upwards trend in the percentage of children (aged 2-15 years) achieving the recommendation of at least 60 minutes of moderate to vigorous activity a day. A higher percentage of boys achieve the recommendation over girls, in 2021 75% of boys and 66% of girls met the recommendations¹.

Figure 1; Percentage of boys and girls meeting the recommendation of 60 minutes of activity a day (Source: Scottish Health Survey)



Since 2015 differences can be seen in activity levels of children living in areas of differing levels of deprivation. Those who live in the most deprived are less likely to achieve 60 minutes of physical activity a day compared to those living in the least deprived areas.

Figure 2; Percentage of children meeting the target by SIMD Quintile 1 (most deprived) and 5 (least deprived) (Source: Scottish Health Survey)



Technical Information

Children and young people are recommended to participate in moderate to vigorous physical activity for an average of at least 60 minutes a day². This can include school physical education activity, after school activities, active travel along with play and sporting activities. Guidelines on physical activity were revised by the four UK countries in 2011, therefore data is available from 2012 onwards. Physical activity questions were asked differently in 2017 and 2018. Questions used prior to 2017 were reinstated in 2019, data from 2017 and 2018 are therefore not included in trend analysis.

SIMD quintiles are Scotland level weighted quintiles, with the appropriate SIMD release used for each year. Health inequalities are derived from the child's household postcode.

¹ [Scottish Health Survey \(shinyapps.io\)](https://shinyapps.io) (Indicator: Physical activity)

² [Physical activity guidelines: children and young people \(5 to 18 years\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

Housing

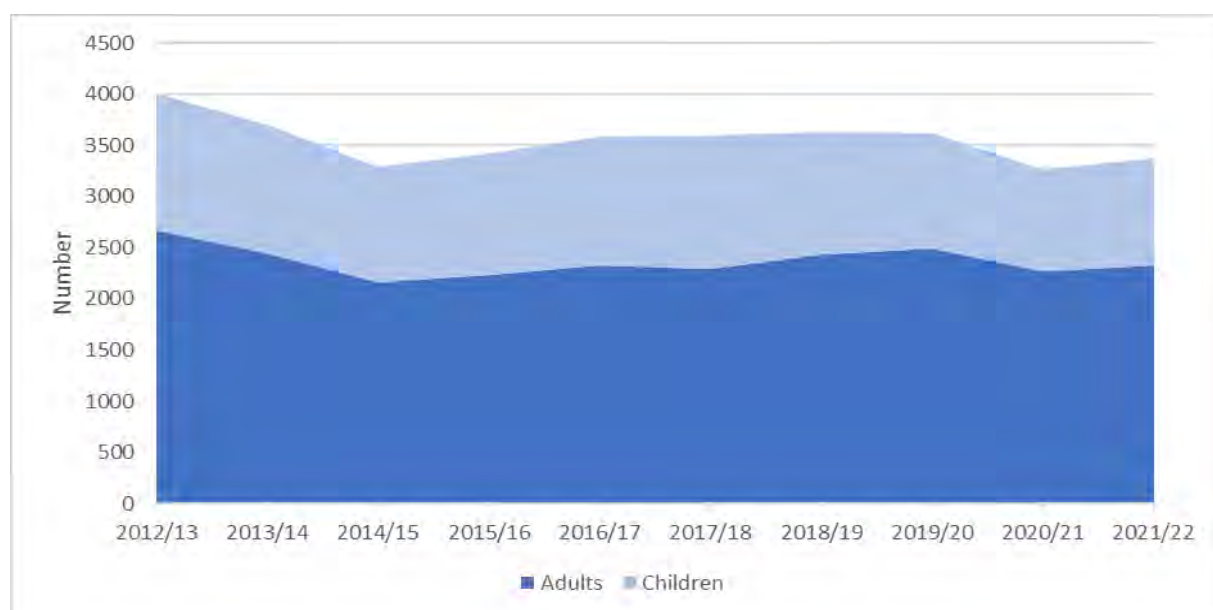
Households

The number of households in Fife in 2021 was 171,086. The number of households in Fife has grown each year since 2001 and is projected to continue to grow to reach an estimated 173,621 in 2028. Average household size in Fife has decreased from 2.28 people per household in 2001 to 2.14 in 2021, slightly above the national average of 2.12. Across Scotland in 2021 it was estimated that 23% of all households were one family with dependent children which would equate to about 39,350 households in Fife¹.

Homeless Households

There were 2,036 homeless households in Fife in 2021/22. These households contained a total of 3,373 people, of whom 2,323 were adults and 1,050 were children³. The number of adults and children in homeless households increased in 2021/22 from 2020/21 but the numbers are lower than reported between 2015/16 and 2019/20 (Figure 1).

Figure 1: Number of Adults and Children in Homeless Households; Fife 2012/13 to 2021/22 (Source: Scottish Government)



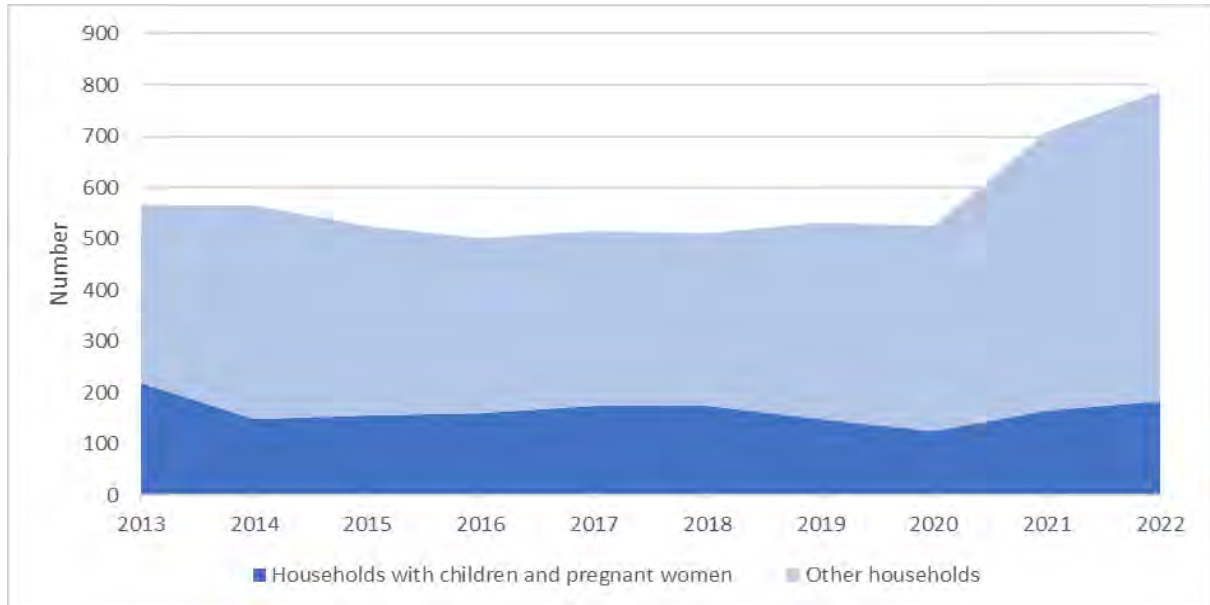
In 2021/22 Fife had the third highest number of homeless households of all local authorities in Scotland but as a rate per 100,000 population Fife was ranked 8th highest of the 32 areas. Fife had a higher rate of households assessed as homeless per 100,000 population than the Scottish average in 2021/22, 655 per 100,000 population compared to 634 in 2021/22.

Children in Temporary Accommodation

There were 787 households in temporary accommodation in Fife as at 31st March 2022. Of these households 185 were households with children or pregnant women. In 2022 the number of temporary households including those with children or pregnant women was the largest since 2013

(Figure 2). Fife reported the 5th largest number of households with children or pregnant women in temporary accommodation in comparison to other local authorities at 31st March 2022.

Figure 2: Households in temporary accommodation; Fife at 31st March 2013-2022 (Source: Scottish Government)



There were 390 children living in households in temporary accommodation in Fife at 31st March 2022. This was a 24% increase on the number reported at the same time in 2021 which was also an annual increase following three years when the numbers had decreased annually (Figure 3).

97% of children living in temporary accommodation as at 31st March 2022 in Fife were living in 'Local Authority Furnished' accommodation. In Fife 'other households with children' spent on average the longest time in temporary accommodation, 425 days. This was higher than the Scottish figure for the same type of household. Fife had lower lengths of stay than Scotland for 'single parent households' and 'couples with children' (Table 1).

Figure 3: Number of children in temporary accommodation; Fife at 31st March 2013-2022 (Source: Scottish Government)

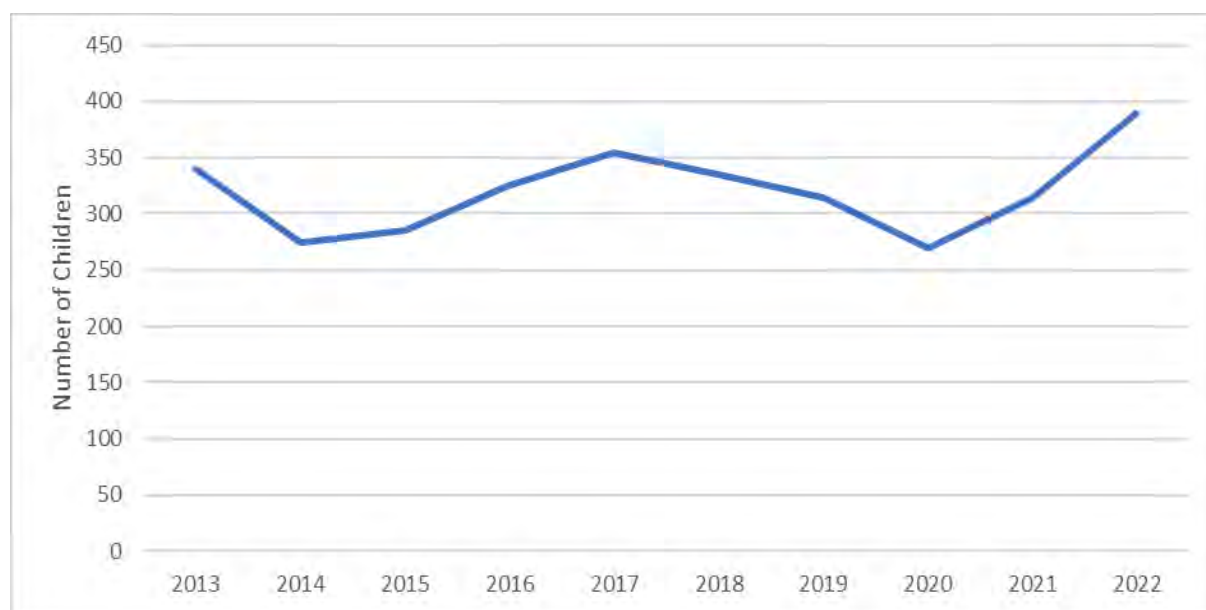


Table 1: Average total time (days) spent in temporary accommodation by household type; Fife and Scotland 2021-22 (Source: Scottish Government)

	Single Person	Single Parent	Couple	Couple with Children	Other	Other with Children
Fife	225	175	129	174	174	425
Scotland	193	234	204	343	212	291

Technical information

The number and size of households across Scotland is published annually by National Records of Scotland². A range of administrative data is collected by local authorities during the course of their housing and homelessness activities and submitted to Scottish Government including the number of homeless households and households in temporary accommodation³.

In the ONS household data the following definitions are used³:

A family is a married, civil partnered or cohabiting couple with or without children, or a lone parent with at least one child. Children may be dependent or non-dependent.

Dependent children are those living with their parent(s) and either (a) aged under 16, or (b) aged 16 to 18 in full-time education, excluding children aged 16 to 18 who have a spouse, partner or child living in the household.

In the homelessness data the following definitions and caveats need to be considered:

Children are under 16 years of age. Households with children are based on the presence of children on the homeless (HL1) application and they may or may not be present in the associated

accommodation placements. Data is presented on homelessness in 16-17 year olds at a national level only⁴.

These figures are based on administrative data collected by local authorities and will not include households that are homeless who have not presented to local authorities, so the numbers do not necessarily cover the entire homeless population in Scotland.

Temporary accommodation data are presented as snapshots on a specific date so will not represent the total number who may have lived in temporary accommodation in any given time period.

The number of recorded homeless households and temporary accommodation over time can be affected changes to legislation, policy and practice and in 2020/21 the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Further details can be found in the report below².

¹ [Households by type of household and family, regions of England GB constituent countries](#)

² [Estimates of Households in Scotland](#)

³ [Homelessness in Scotland: 2021/22 report](#)

⁴ <https://www.gov.scot/publications/homelessness-scotland-2021-22/documents/>

Domestic abuse

Domestic abuse incidents reported to Police Scotland

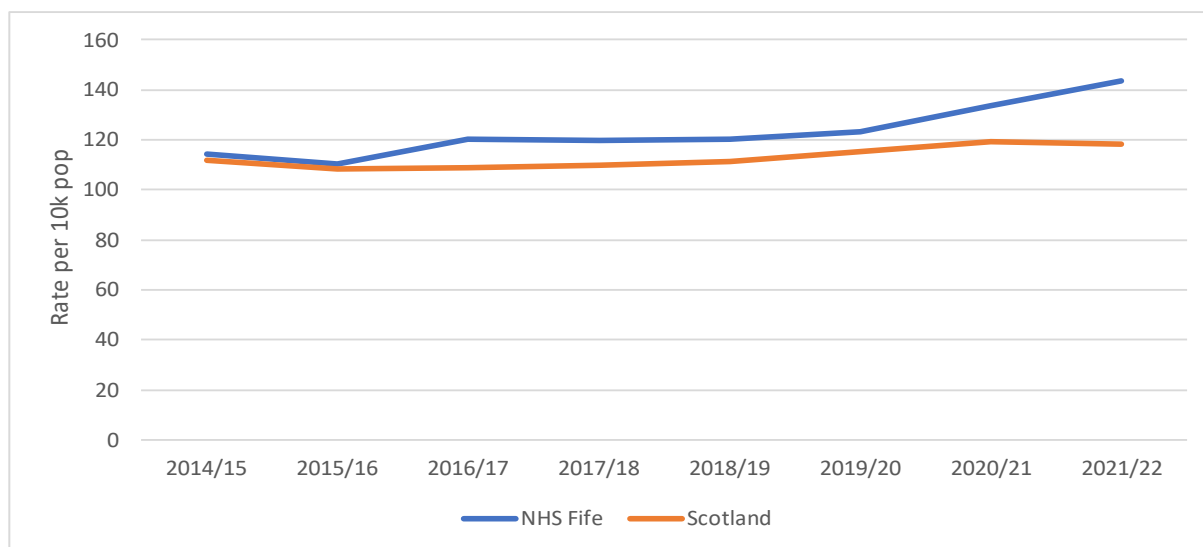
The data in this summary is taken from incidents recorded by Police Scotland. A new method of recording was introduced in 2014/15 so trend data will be shown for the 8 years of data available from this point.¹Data is not available for the number of children affected by domestic abuse incidents recorded by the Police.

Police Scotland reported that 64,807 incidents of domestic abuse were recorded in Scotland and 5,377 in Fife during 2021/22. 37% of domestic abuse incidents in Fife included the recording of at least one crime or offence, similar to the 39% reported nationally. . The most frequently recorded crimes were common assault and threatening and abusive behaviour ².

At Scotland level, Police Scotland report that 2,494 persons under 18 were victims of domestic abuse in 2021/22 (749 under 16). Of the under 18s reported as victims of domestic abuse 84% were female (74% of the under 16s), all ages 83% female³.

Fife has a slightly higher rate of (all ages) reported domestic abuse incidents per 10,000 population than Scotland, 143 per 10k population compared to 118 per 10,000 population in 2021/22; this gap has increased slightly in the most recent years (Figure 1)⁴.

Figure 1: Domestic abuse incidents reported to Police Scotland as crude rate per 10,000 population NHS Fife vs Scotland (Source: ScotPHO)



¹ [Domestic abuse: statistics recorded by the police in Scotland - 2021/22 - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/publications/domestic-abuse-recorded-police-scotland-2021-22/documents/) (Annex 2)

² [Domestic abuse: statistics recorded by the police in Scotland - 2021/22 - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/publications/domestic-abuse-recorded-police-scotland-2021-22/documents/)

³ <https://www.gov.scot/publications/domestic-abuse-recorded-police-scotland-2021-22/documents/> (Table 8)

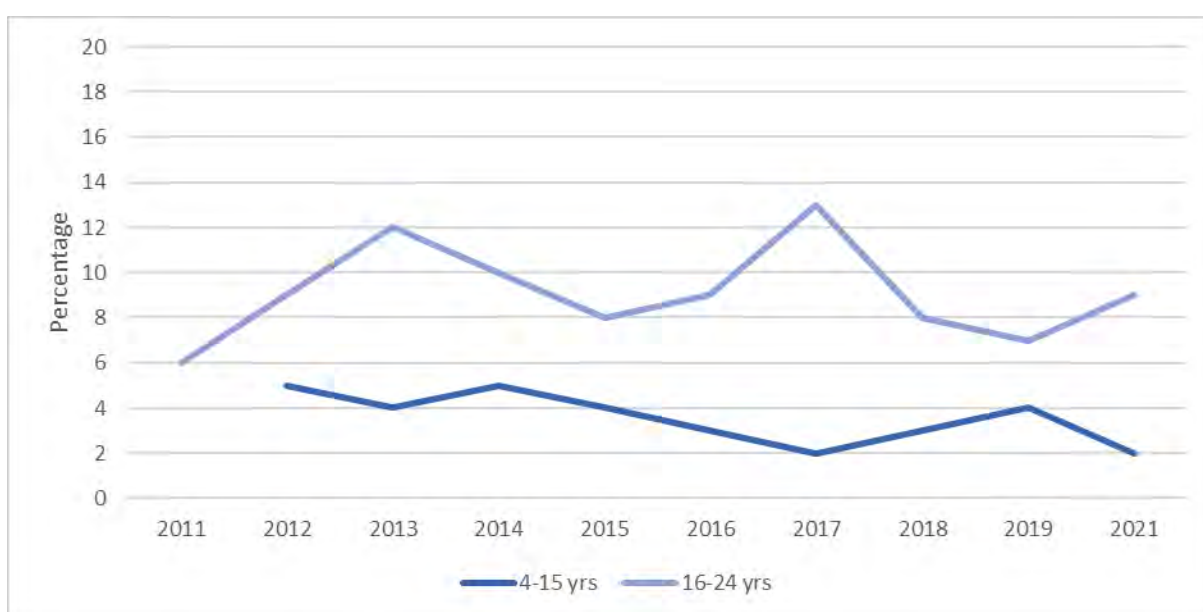
⁴ [ScotPHO profiles \(shinyapps.io\)](https://shinyapps.io/scotpho/) (indicator: domestic abuse)

Young carers

Across Scotland 28,000 children and young people aged 4-17 were estimated to be young carers at April 2022¹. The true number of young carers is not known and most data on or about young carers is currently available at a national level only.

Data from the Scottish Health Survey 2021, which asked children (4-15 years old) and young people (16-24 years old) if they provided any regular help or care for any sick, disabled, or frail person, showed a decrease in the percentage of children providing care at 2%, but an increase in young people (7%) providing care compared to 2019².

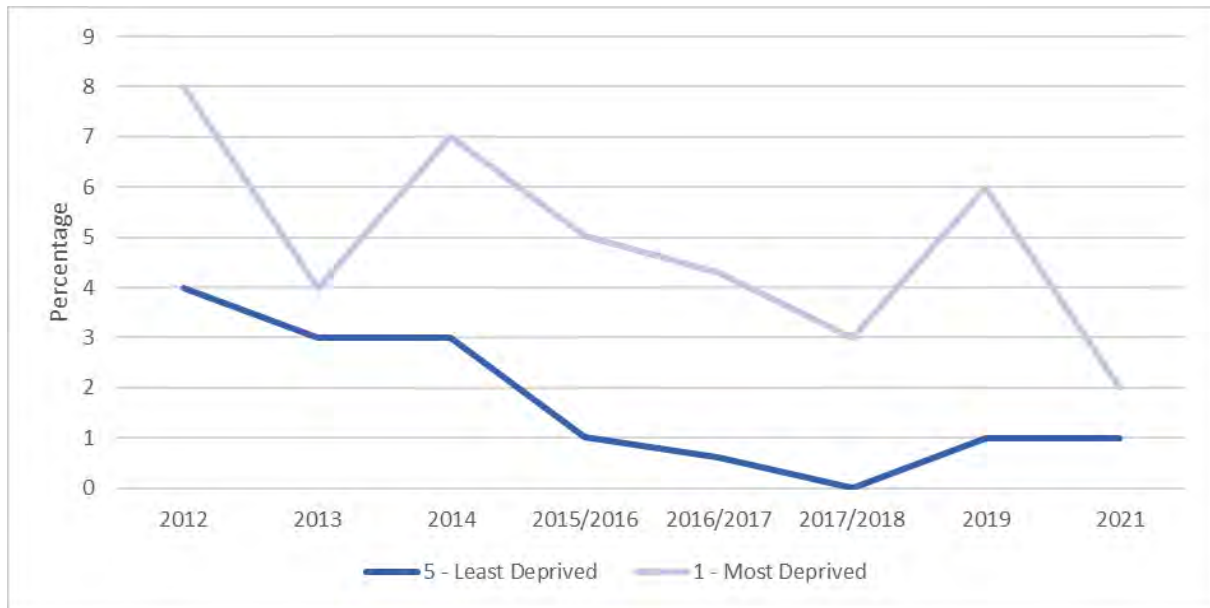
Figure 1: Percentage of children and young people providing any regular help or care for any sick, disabled, or frail person (Source: Scottish Health Survey)



(4-15yrs data for 2016 is combined 2015/2016, data for 2017 is combined 2016/2017 and data for 2018 is combined 2017/2018)

The percentage of children surveyed who were unpaid carers (aged 4 – 15 years) in the most and least deprived has fluctuated over time but has been consistently higher among those living in the most deprived areas (SIMD quintiles) than the least deprived areas¹.

Figure 2: Percentage of child unpaid carers (4-15yrs) by SIMD Quintile (Source: Scottish Health Survey)



The Carers Census, Scotland collects information from carers annually. In 2021-22 it collected data from 42,050 unpaid carers across Scotland, 13% (5,490) of whom were aged under 18³. The Carers Census reported that 16% of young carers lived in areas within the most deprived SIMD decile compared to 4% who lived in areas within the least deprived SIMD decile compared to 11% and 7% of adult carers. It also reported that young carers were more likely to be female (52%) which has been the case since the Carers Census started in 2018. 69% of young carers reported that they provided between 0-19 hours of unpaid care each week. The most reported impact of caring by young carer's was on their emotional well-being (85% reported this).

Technical Information

In the Scottish Health Survey participants are asked if they provide any help or care on a regular basis to family members, friends, neighbours or others because of a long-term physical condition, mental ill-health or disability, problems with ageing. Since 2014 this explicitly excludes any paid caring work. This question has been asked to children aged 4 to 15 years old since 2012.

In the Carers Census a young carer (under 18 years) was included if they met the following criteria:

- had a Young Carer Statement (YCS) or review of their needs as a carer during the reporting period; or
- were offered or requested a YCS during the reporting period; and/or
- received a specified support service (including short breaks or respite) during the reporting period².

During the collection period for the Carers Census systems to record the above information were being set up, and as such some providers were unable to provide the required information. Therefore, it is suggested that the figures presented in the Carers Census may be an underestimate of the number of carers being supported by local services.

SIMD quintiles are Scotland level weighted quintiles, with the appropriate SIMD release used for each year. SIMD quintile is derived from the child's household postcode.

¹ <https://www.gov.scot/publications/scotlands-carers-update-release-december-2022/>

² [Scottish Health Survey \(shinyapps.io\)](#) (Indicator: Provide any regular help or care for any sick, disabled or frail person)

³ [Supporting documents - Carers Census, Scotland, 2019-20 and 2020-21 - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)

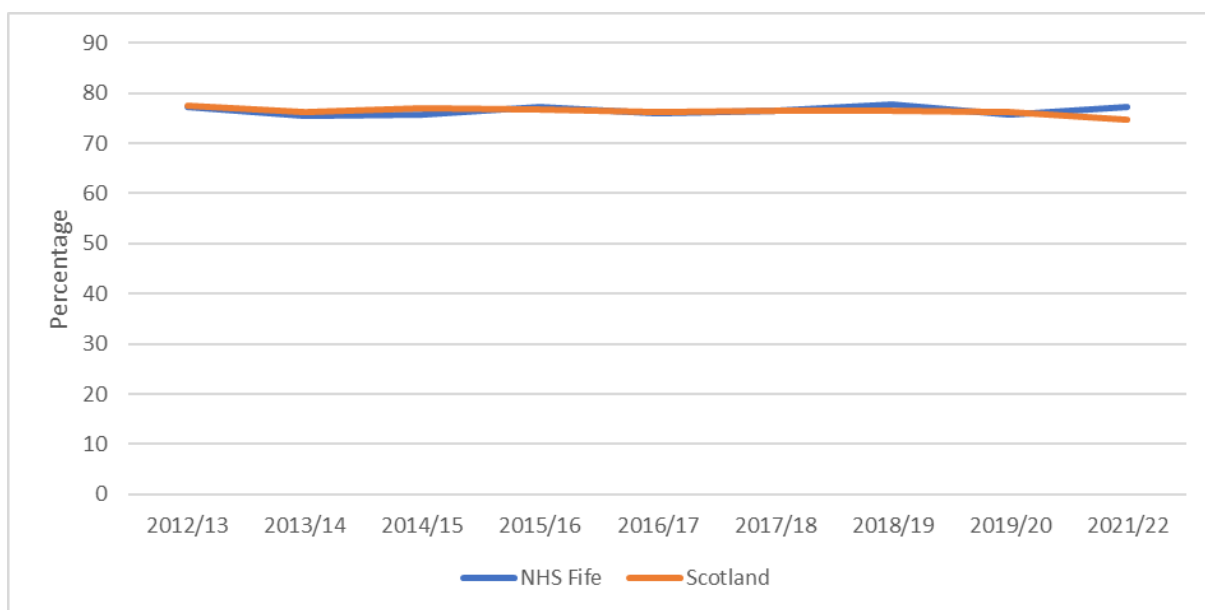
Food/Diet

Healthy weight

In Scotland a school-based review programme monitors the weight and height of children in primary 1(P1). This programme was impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic with fewer children being reviewed and as such 2020/21 figures are not available at a Fife level.

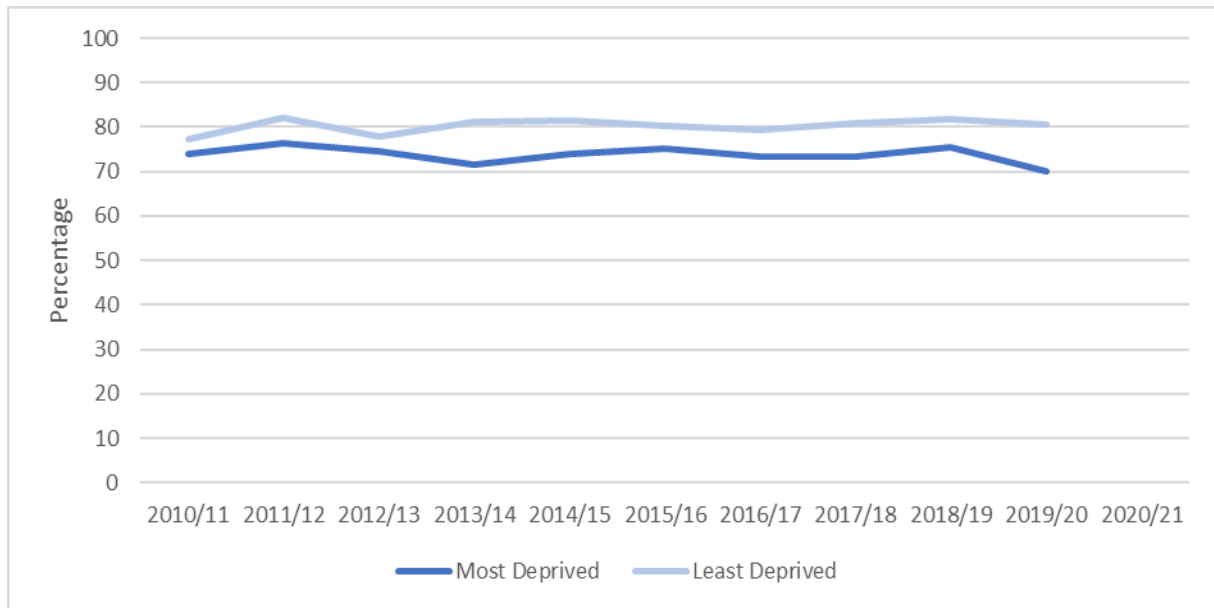
In 2021/22 77.3% of P1 children reviewed in Fife were a healthy weight (see technical information), this was slightly higher than Scotland (74.7%) and higher than the percentage from the last recorded year (2019/20 75.67%)¹.

Figure 1: Percentage of healthy weight children in P1 in Fife and Scotland (School year) (Source: ScotPHO)



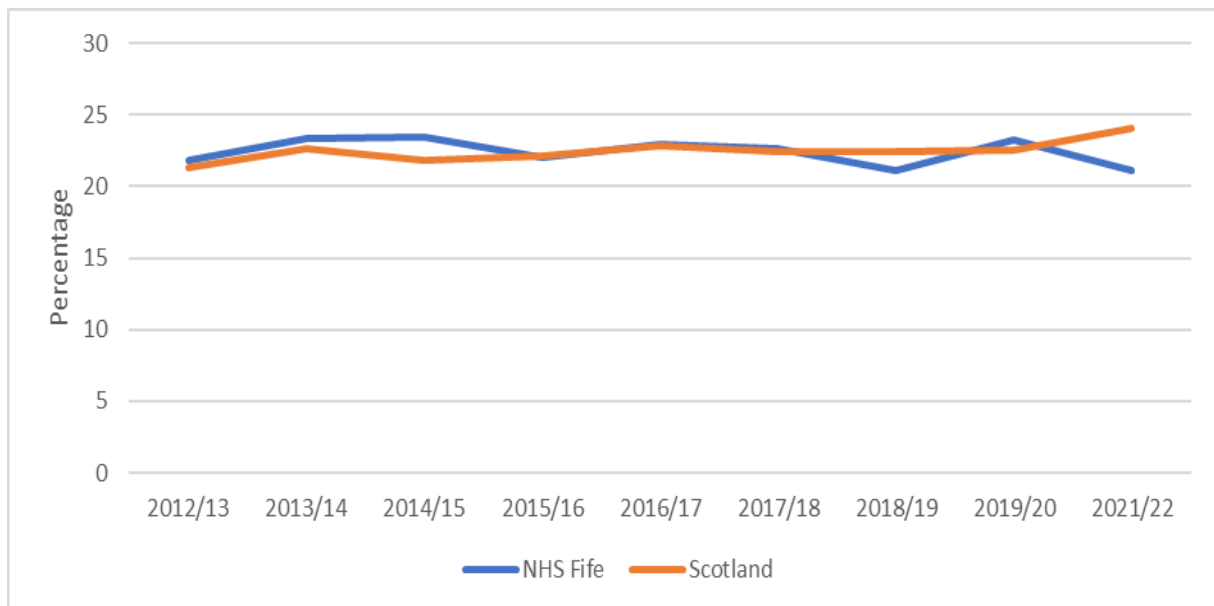
Healthy weight children are more likely to live in the least deprived areas (81.4%) of Fife than in the more deprived areas (74.7%), a consistent trend in the last 10 years².

Figure 2: Percentage of healthy weight children in Fife by SIMD quintile (Source: PHS Primary 1 BMI Statistics)



The percentage of children considered to be obese in Fife in 2021/22 is currently 21.1%, this is lower than the figure for Scotland (24.1%) and is also lower than the last recorded figure of 23.3% in 2020/21³.

Figure 3: Percentage of obese children in Fife and Scotland (Source: PHS Primary 1 BMI Statistics)

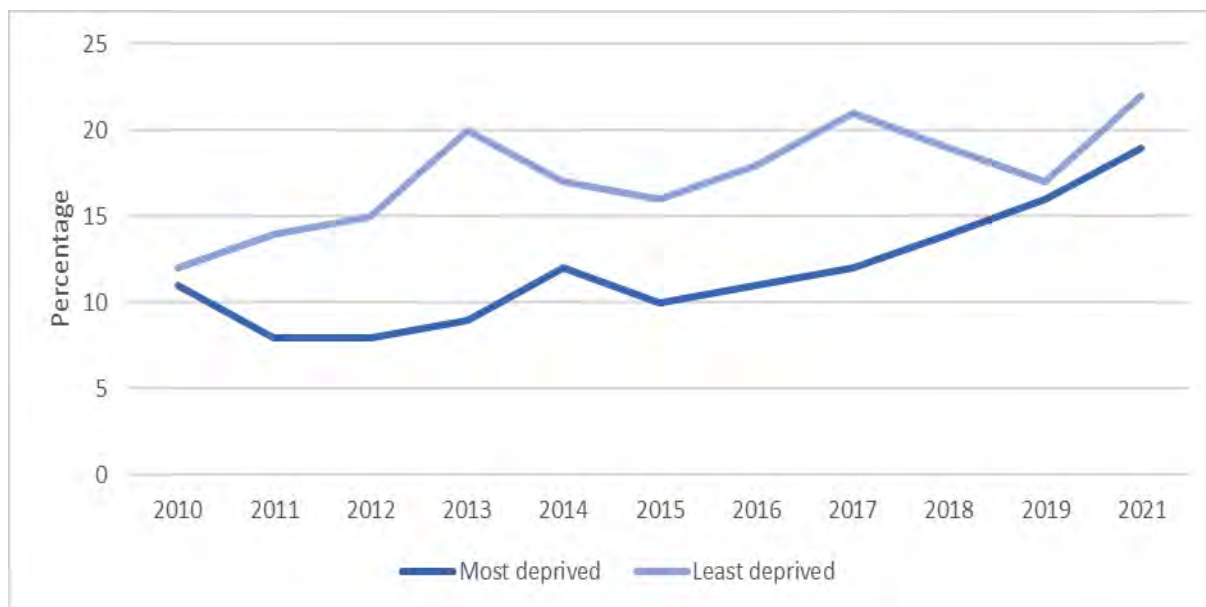


Diet

Scotland's children are recommended to eat portions of fruit & vegetables a day⁴. The average number of fruit and vegetable portions eaten by children in Scotland (Fife data not available) has increased to 3.4, from 2.8 in 2019 (no data is available for 2020 due to disruptions in data collection during the COVID-19 pandemic). Children living in more deprived areas are less likely to eat 5 or

more portions of fruit or vegetables a day⁵. In the most deprived areas 19% of children meet the 5 a day recommendation compared to 22% in least deprived areas, however since 2015 there has been a consistent increase in the percentage of children meeting the recommendation in the least deprived areas and compared to 2015 (10%) the number has now nearly doubled.

Figure 4: Percentage of children consuming 5 or more portions of fruit and vegetables eaten a day by SIMD quintile for Scotland (Scottish Health Survey)

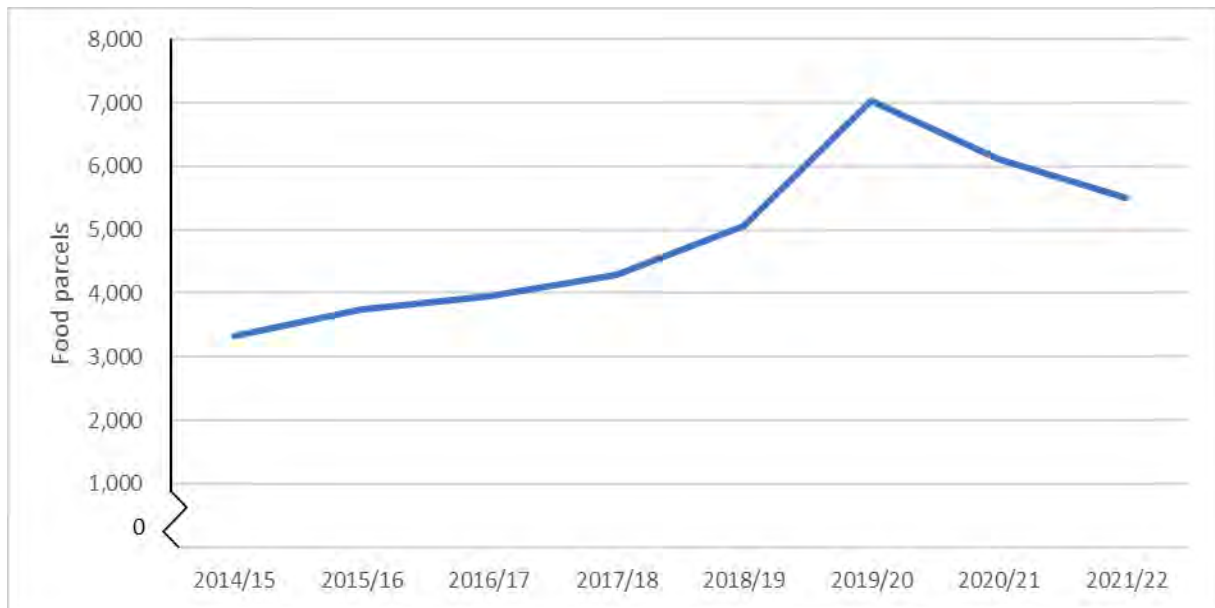


Food insecurity

In Scotland 7% of households have low food security, with 4% having very low security (2020/21). Across the UK 9% of households with children are food insecure compared to 6% of households without children⁶.

The Trussell trust published end of year statistics for foodbank use throughout the UK. The number of food parcels given out to children had been increasing year on year up to the financial year 2019/20 with 7,028 parcels given out to children in Fife (see technical information below). After this time the numbers have decreased, and in Fife for the financial year 2021/22 5,506 parcels were given out⁷. This trend is also seen across Scotland.

Figure 5: Number of food parcels given to children in Fife by financial year (Source: The Trussell Trust)



Technical Information

Data relating to healthy weight and obesity are reported using epidemiological thresholds which are used to monitor changes in the whole child population of the proportion of children who are at risk of an unhealthy weight. Figures for primary 1 are based on children with a valid height and weight record, and h 's is et een and f the 1 0 UK reference range r their se and age.

SIMD quintiles are Scotland level weighted quintiles, with the appropriate SIMD release used for each year. SIMD is derived ro the child's ho e st c de.

Food security is a measure of whether households can have an active and healthy lifestyle based on the food they have. Questions are asked based on the 30 days prior to the interview.

The Trussell Trust records the number of food parcels given out. If a family of 2 adults and 2 children attend a food bank this would be recorded as 4 parcels; 2 for adults and 2 for children.

¹ [ScotPHO profiles \(shinyapps.io\)](#) (Indicator: Child healthy weight in primary 1)

² [Primary 1 Body Mass Index \(BMI\) Statistics - Datasets - Scottish Health and Social Care Open Data \(nhs.scot\)](#) (Table: Epidemiological BMI at deprivation at health board level)

³ [Primary 1 Body Mass Index \(BMI\) Statistics - Datasets - Scottish Health and Social Care Open Data \(nhs.scot\)](#) (Table: Epidemiological BMI at health board level)

⁴ [Situation Report - The Scottish Diet It Needs to Change \(2020 update\).pdf \(foodstandards.gov.scot\)](#)

⁵ [Scottish Health Survey \(shinyapps.io\)](#) (Indicator: Fruit and vegetable consumption (mean daily portions) children)

⁶ [Family Resources Survey - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

⁷ [End of Year Stats - The Trussell Trust](#)

Smoking and Children and Young People

This local summary presents key findings from the 2018 Scottish Schools Adolescent Lifestyle and Substance Use Survey (SALSUS) survey for S2 & S4 pupils attending schools in Fife Council area¹. The next update will be from the 2023 Fife young people's Health & Wellbeing Survey.

Findings from the Health & Wellbeing (HWB) Census Scotland² (16 local authorities excluding Fife) on cigarette and e-cigarette use in S2 and S4 school pupils are included to give an indication of a more recent national picture.

Smoking prevalence in Fife

From the 2018 Scottish Schools Adolescent and Lifestyle Survey; 12 % of S2 pupils had tried smoking, 1% were occasional smokers (sometimes smoke cigarettes but less than one per week) and 2 % were regular smokers (usually smoking one or more cigarettes per week).

33% of S4 pupils had tried smoking which is 2% more than reported for Scotland, 6% were occasional smokers (sometimes smoke cigarettes but less than one per week) and 8 % were regular smokers (usually smoking one or more cigarettes per week) which is 1% more than reported for Scotland in 2018, Figure 1.

Findings from the Health & Wellbeing Census Scotland 2021/22 show smoking prevalence for both age groups dropped for occasional and regular smokers. 0.8% of S2 pupils and 2.4% of S4 pupils reported occasional use and 1.6% of S2 and 4.3% of S4 pupils reported regularly smoking, Table 1.

Figure 1: Smoking prevalence as % of pupils surveyed, Fife (Source: SALSUS 2018)

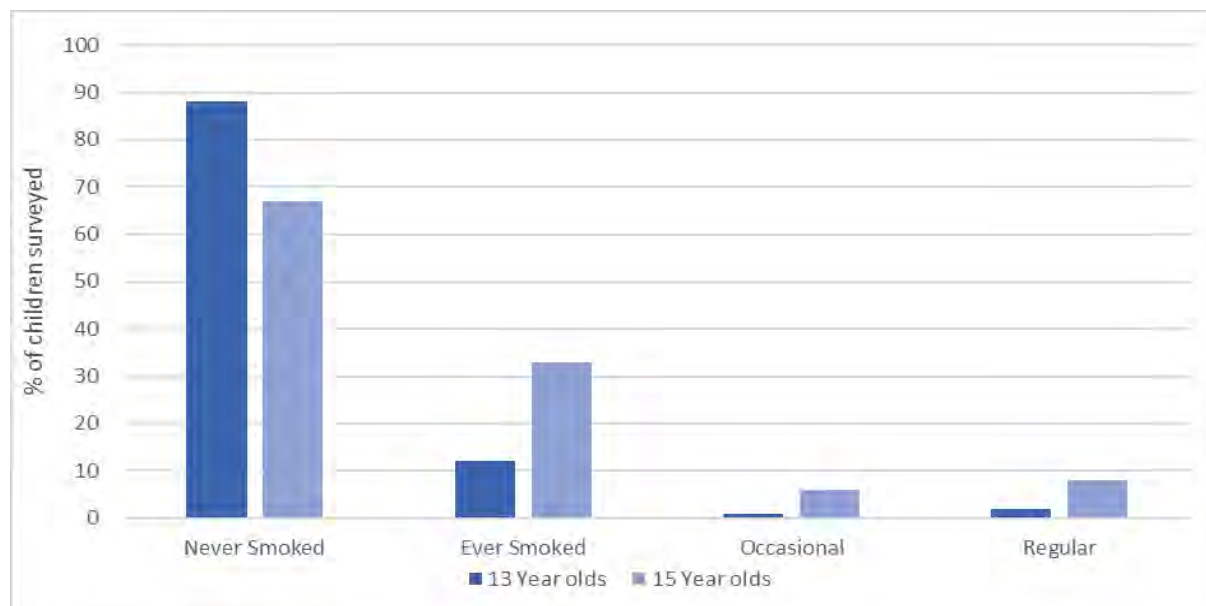


Table 1: Smoking prevalence, % in each pupil stage, Scotland (Source: HWB Census)

	S2	S4
Non-smokers	94.5%	89.4%
Occasional smokers	0.8%	2.4%
Regular smokers	1.6%	4.3%
Prefer not to say	3.1%	3.9%

Smoking prevalence by sex

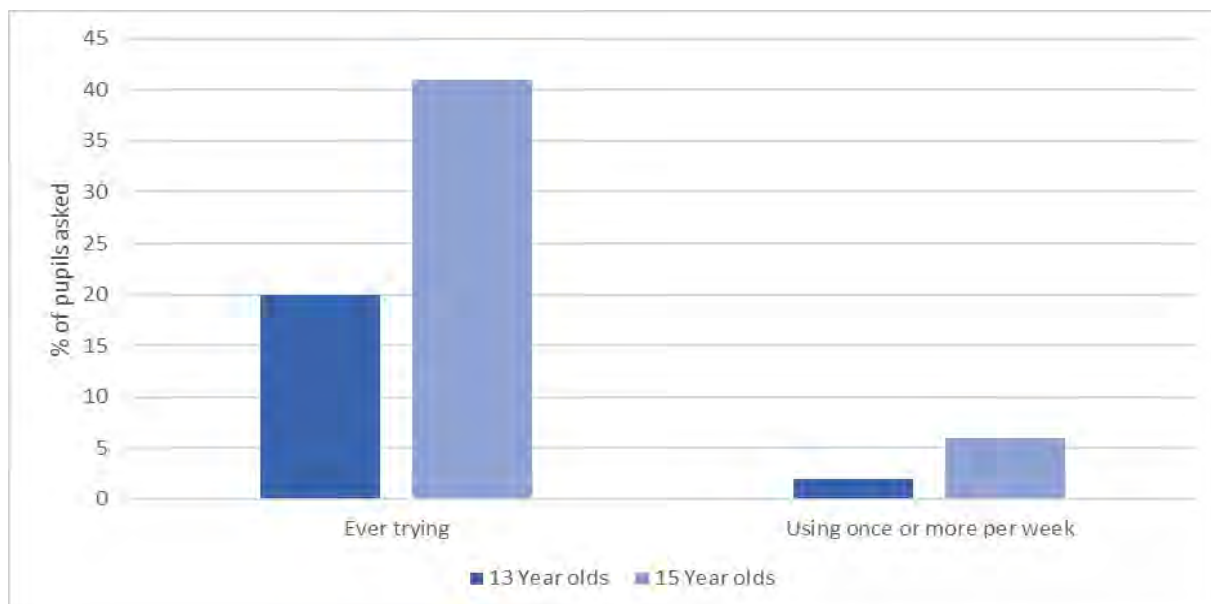
The HWB Census reported for Scotland the split by sex for S2 and S4 pupils who regularly smoked was 2.9% male, 2.5% female and 4.8% unknown. Occasional smokers across both age groups were 1.3% male and 1.7% female.

E-cigarette use

All pupils were asked about e-Cigarette use, in Fife 20% of S2 pupils (3% more than reported for Scotland) and 41% of S4 pupils(6% more than reported for Scotland) had reported trying e-cigarettes. 2% of S2 and 6 % of S4 pupils(2% more than Scotland) reported using e-cigarettes once or more per week¹.

The HWB Census reported for Scotland 6.8% of S2 pupils using e-cigarettes at present and 4.3% were regular vapers. This increased for S4 age group with 14.8% of pupils using e-cigarettes at present and 10.1% were regular vapers.

Figure 2: E-cigarette use in S2 and S4 pupils in Fife (Source: SALSUS 2018)



Cigarette and e-cigarette use by SIMD20, Scotland

Findings from the HWB Census for Scotland indicate a higher prevalence of use for both smoking and vaping in the most deprived areas, Table 2.

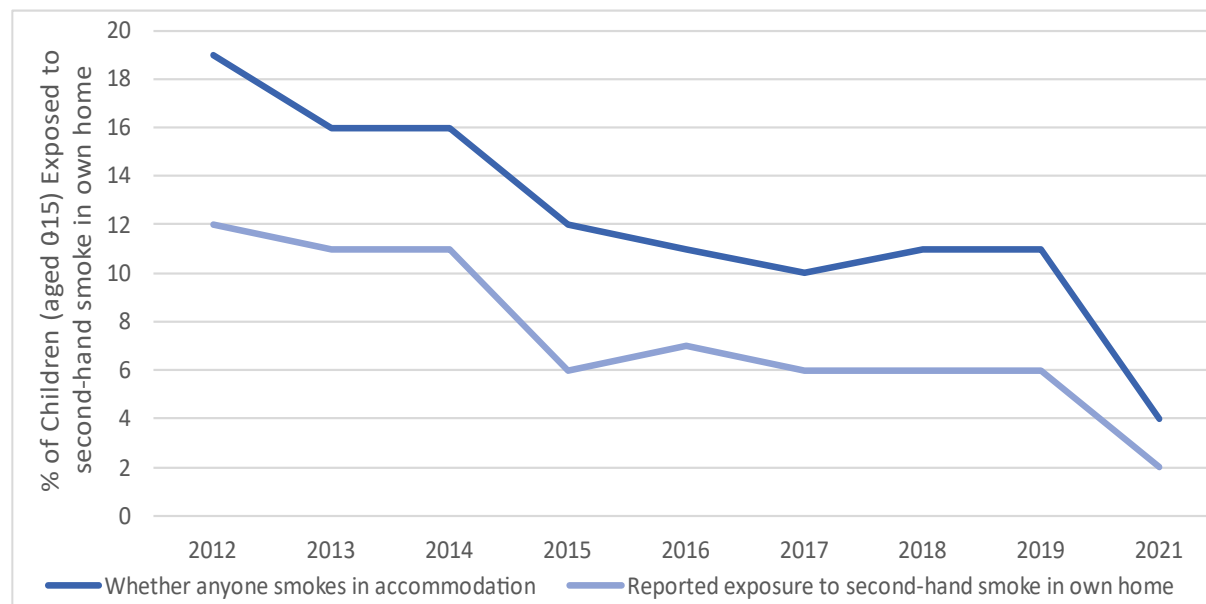
Table 2: % Cigarette and e-cigarette use in S2 and S4 pupils Scotland (Source: HWB Census)

Response	SIMD 1 (most deprived)	SIMD 2	SIMD 3	SIMD 4	SIMD 5 (least deprived)	Unknown
Regular smokers	3.2%	3.4%	3.1%	2.5%	1.5%	4.2%
Occasional smokers	1.3%	1.7%	1.6%	1.6%	1.3%	[c]
Use of e cigarettes at present	11.3%	11.0%	11.1%	10.2%	7.7%	8.4%
Regular vaper	7.8%	7.8%	7.3%	6.6%	4.6%	4.7%

Exposure to second-hand smoke in own home, Scotland 2021

The number of children aged 0-15 years who are exposed to second-hand smoke at home in Scotland has reduced significantly since 2012 (Figure 3). For those reporting anyone smokes at home figures decreased from 19% in 2012 to 4% in 2021 and for those reporting children had exposure to second-hand smoke at home this reduced from 12% in 2012 to 2% in 2021.

Figure 3: Exposure to second-hand smoke in own home, Scotland 2012-2021 (Source: The Scottish Health Survey 2021)



¹ SALSUS 2018 [Summary findings for Fife Council \(www.gov.scot\)](http://www.gov.scot)

² [Health & Wellbeing \(HWB\) Census Scotland](#)

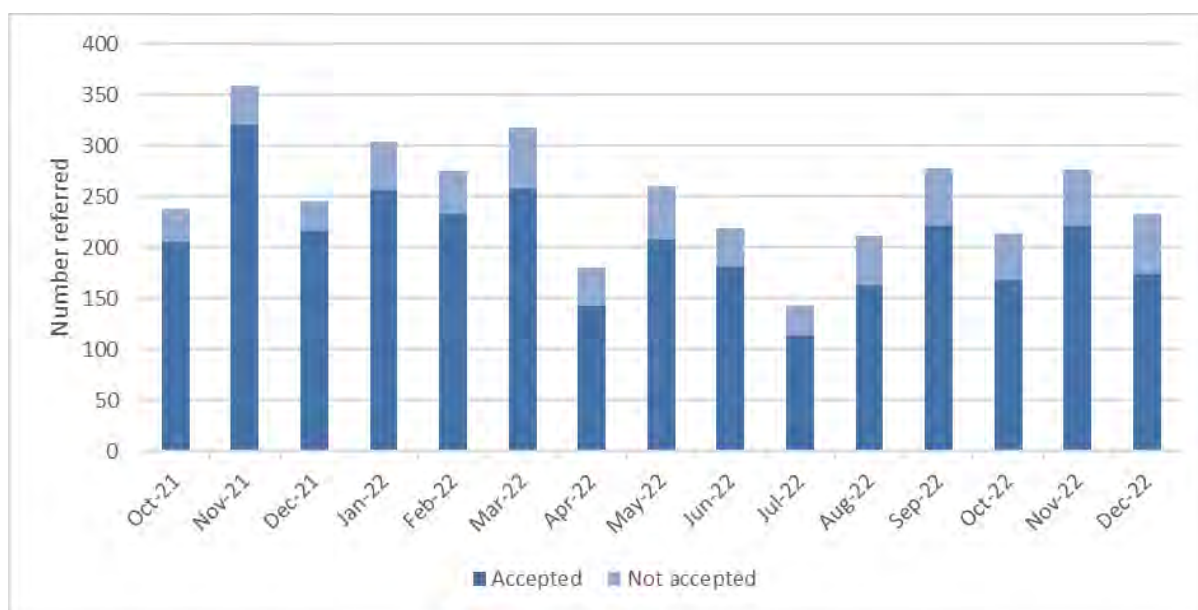
Mental Health and Wellbeing

Up to date data is limited on the wellbeing of children and young people in Fife until the results are available from the 2023 Fife Children & Young People's Health & Wellbeing Survey. It is anticipated that these results will be available from late summer.

Referrals

During 2022 2,910 children were referred to Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) in NHS Fife, with 80.3% of these accepted for treatment¹.

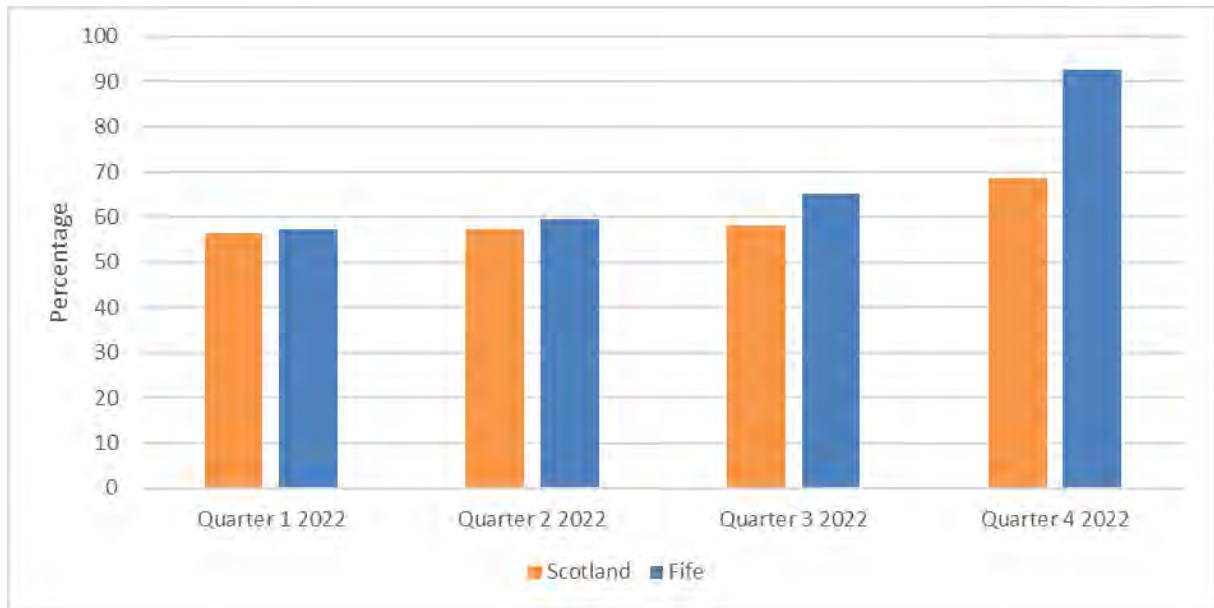
Figure 1: Number of children referred to NHS Fife CAMHS split by those accepted and not accepted for treatment (Source: PHS Child and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS) waiting times)



Waiting times

Throughout 2022 there has been an increase in the percentage of children meeting the Scottish Government's CAMHS 18-week referral to Treatment Target (RTT), in the last quarter of 2022 there was an increase from 68.6% in the previous quarter to 92.6%¹.

Figure 2: Percentage of children in 2022 meeting the 18-week Referral to Treatment Target in NHS Fife and Scotland (Source: PHS)



¹ [Dashboard - Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services \(CAMHS\) waiting times](#)

Impact of Alcohol and Drugs

Up to date data is limited on the use of alcohol and drugs in children aged under 18 in Fife until results are available from the 2023 Fife Children & Young People's Health & Wellbeing Survey (please see technical information section below). As such this section uses Fife data from the 2018 Scottish Schools Adolescent Lifestyle and Substance Use Survey (SALSUS) and headline findings from the Health & Wellbeing Census Scotland (16 local authorities excluding Fife) to give an indication of a more recent national picture

Alcohol

Alcohol Use

Findings from the SALSUS 2018 survey reported 6% of S2 and 24% of S4 pupils in Fife had drunk alcohol in the last week compared to 6% and 20% across Scotland.

More than two thirds of pupils in S2 and 41% of pupils in S4 in the national Health & Wellbeing Census from other areas in Scotland reported that they did not currently drink alcohol (Table 1). In both age groups the most common reported frequency of drinking alcohol was 'a few times a year'. 10% of S4 pupils reported that they drank alcohol about once a week and also once a fortnight.

Table 1: Frequency of drinking alcohol; % in each pupil stage (Source: HWB Census)

	S2	S4
More than once a week	1.2	3.2
About once a week	2.3	9.6
About once a fortnight	2.6	9.7
About once a month	4.3	10.8
Only a few times a year	22.3	25.9
I never drink alcohol now	67.2	40.7

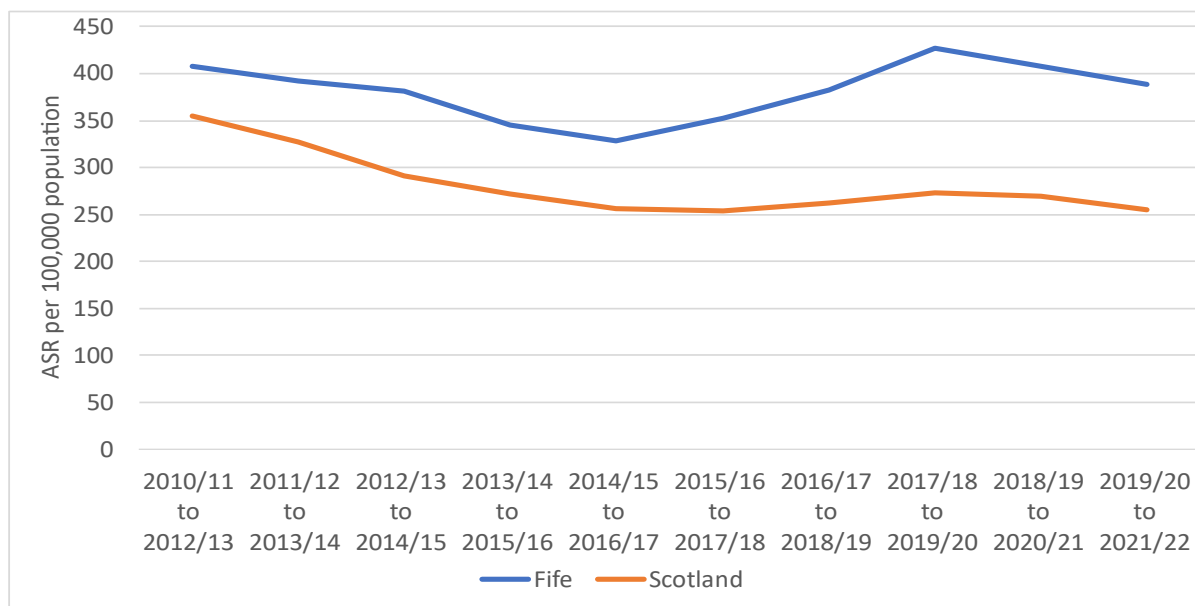
Alcohol-related hospital admissions

In the last three years there have been an annual average of 252 alcohol-related hospital admissions involving 11-25 years olds in Fife. This corresponds to a rate (age-sex standardised) of 389 per 100,000 population.

Figure 1 shows an increasing trend in rates of alcohol-related hospital admissions from 2014/15-2016/17 to 2017/18-2019/20 following a period of declining rates. Rates have fallen in the two most recent time periods but it is unclear what impact COVID-19 will have had on these figures but they are likely to be lower than would have been observed.

Fife has had consistently higher admission rates than Scotland in all time periods shown. The pattern of admissions has been similar, but Scotland did not see the large increase in admission rates so the gap between Fife and Scotland has widened.

Figure 3: Alcohol-related hospital admissions, aged 11-25 years Fife and Scotland; three-year average age-sex standardised rate per 100,000 population 2010/11 to 2012/13 to 2019/20-2021/22 (Source PHS)



Drugs

Drug Use

In the 2017 survey 1 21% of pupils in Fife reported they had 'ever' used drugs compared to 21% across Scotland.

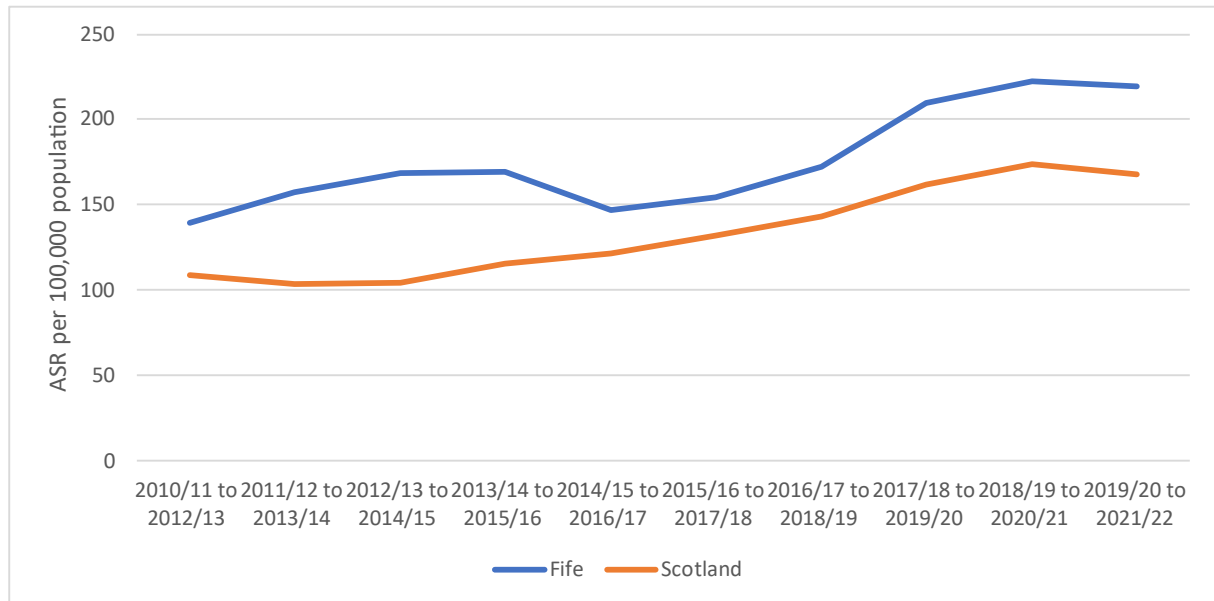
10% of pupils in S4 reported in the Health & Wellbeing Census that they had 'ever' taken illegal drugs, drugs formerly known as legal highs, solvents or prescription drugs that were not prescribed to you'. Of these pupils 10% reported 'ever' drug use, 10% reported that they took drugs 'once or twice a month' and 10% reported taking drugs 'at least once a week or more'. The most reported type of drug used was cannabis which had been taken by 10% of the pupils who reported 'ever' drug use.

Drug-Related Hospital Admissions

In the last three years there have been an annual average of 144 alcohol-related hospital admissions involving 11-25 years olds in Fife. This corresponds to a rate (standardised) of 219 per 100,000 population which was higher than the Scottish rate of 168. Fife has had consistently higher admission rates than Scotland in all time periods shown.

Both Fife and Scotland show a trend of year on year increasing average rates of drug-related hospital admissions, from 2012/13-2015/16 in Scotland and two years later in Fife (Figure 2). Rates fell between 2018/19-2020/21 and 2019/20-2021/22 but it is unclear what impact COVID-19 will have had on these figures but they are likely to be lower than would have been observed.

Figure 2: Drug-related hospital admissions, aged 11-25 years Fife and Scotland; Three-year average age-sex standardised rate per 100,000 population 2010/11 to 2012/13 to 2019/20-2021/22 (Source: PHS)



Technical information

Between 2002 and 2018 the SALSUS survey was the main source of substance use data in young people in S2 and S4 in Scotland¹. Questions on alcohol and drug use are now included in the new Health and Wellbeing Census which was given to S2 and S4 pupils in 16 local authorities (not Fife) across Scotland in 2020-2021². Data on these topics for Fife will be available from the Fife Children & Young People's Health and Wellbeing Survey in late summer 2023.

Hospital admissions that are alcohol- or drug-related, defined as admissions with an alcohol- or drug-related code in any diagnostic position, are published annually on ScotPHO at health board level for 11-25 year olds but not for other age groups³. Public Health Scotland publish Scotland level admission rates for under 15s and 15-24 age group⁴.

¹ <https://www.gov.scot/collections/scottish-schools-adolescent-lifestyle-and-substance-use-survey-salsus/>

² <https://www.gov.scot/publications/health-and-wellbeing-census-scotland-2021-22/>

³ <https://www.scotpho.org.uk/comparative-health/profiles/online-profiles-tool/>

⁴ <https://publichealthscotland.scot/publications/alcohol-related-hospital-statistics/alcohol-related-hospital-statistics-scotland-financial-year-2021-to-2022/>

<https://www.publichealthscotland.scot/publications/drug-related-hospital-statistics/drug-related-hospital-statistics-scotland-2021-to-2022/summary/>

Sexual Health

Data is limited on the of sexual health and wellbeing in children aged under 18 in Fife and across Scotland (see technical information below). This section will provide an overview of teenage pregnancy in under 18s and under 16s in Fife and a national overview of rates of sexually transmitted infections.

Teenage Pregnancies - Fife

In 2020 there were 95 teenage pregnancies in under 18s and 12 in under 16s in Fife. There has been a significant fall in the number of teenage pregnancies in both age groups in the last 10 years (Table 1).

Table 1: Teenage pregnancies by age group; Fife 2011 to 2020 (Source: PHS)

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Under 16s	41	41	26	26	24	27	22	19	23	12
Under 18s	236	216	201	147	149	127	145	129	118	95

Teenage Pregnancies - Fife compared to Scotland and other Health Boards

Teenage pregnancy rates in both age groups in Fife and Scotland are currently at their lowest levels since reporting began in 1994. In the last 10 years rates in Fife have fallen by 55% in the under 18s and by 70% in under 16s. Reductions of 58% and 65% were seen nationally.

Among under 18s rates in Fife remain significantly higher than Scottish average, 16.6 per 1000 population compared to 12.8. Among under 16s rates in Fife were the same as those in Scotland in 2020 at 2 per 1000 population (Figure 1).

Figure 2 shows that in 2020 under 18 teenage pregnancy rates in Fife were the second highest of mainland health boards. Data is not available for all Health Boards for rates of pregnancy in the under 16s so figures are not presented.

Figure 1: Teenage pregnancy rates by age group; Fife and Scotland 2011-2020 (Source PHS)

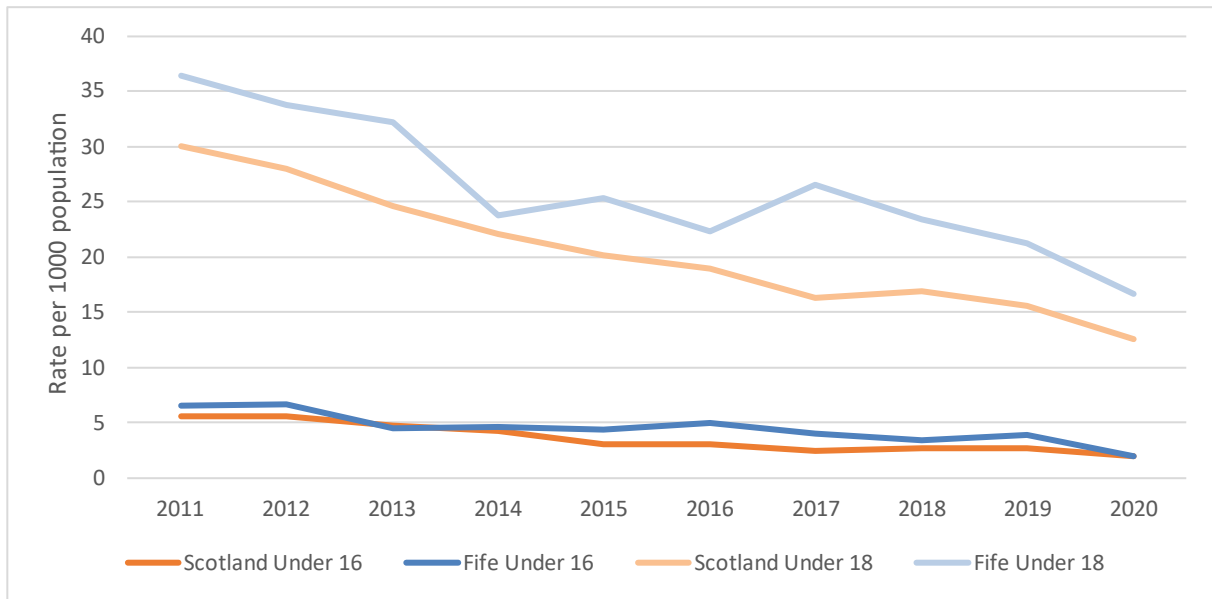
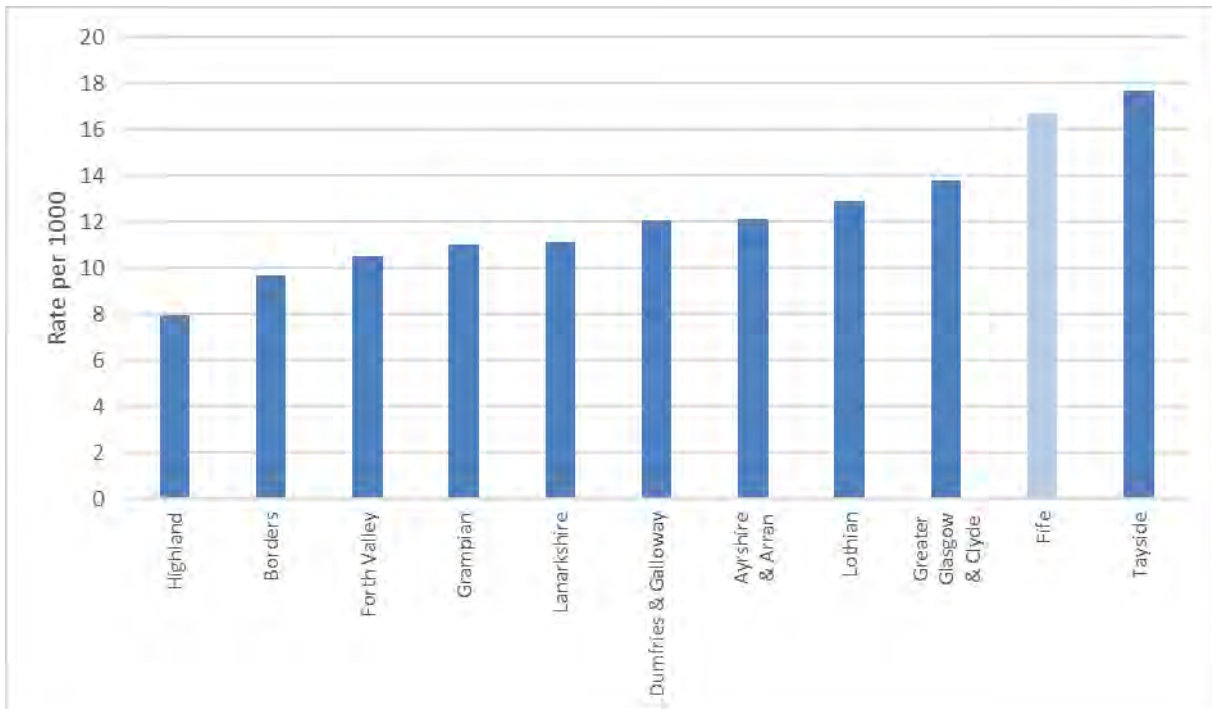


Figure 2: Teenage pregnancy rates in under 18s by Health Board (Source:PHS)

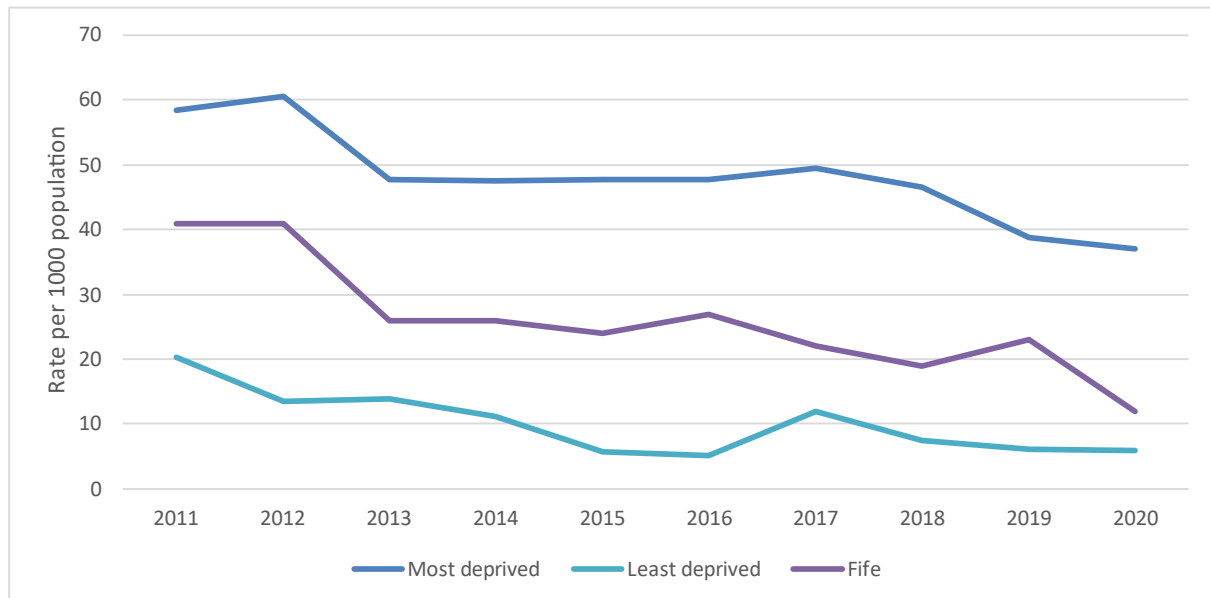


Teenage Pregnancies – Inequalities

Areas of highest deprivation (most deprived SIMD20 quintile) had under 18 pregnancy rates more than six times higher than those in the least deprived areas in 2020, 37 per 1000 population compared to 6 per 1000 (Figure 3). Across Scotland rates in the most deprived areas were five times greater than in the least deprived areas. Fife had higher rates than Scotland in both most and least deprived areas but the largest difference was in the most deprived areas 37 per 1000 population in Fife compared to 24 per 1000 population.

In Fife rates have reduced across all areas with differing levels of deprivation in the last 10 years (Figure 3). Rates have not reduced as much in the most deprived areas (-58%) compared to all other areas especially the least deprived areas where rates reduced by more than 200%. As such the gap between rates in the most and least deprived areas has widened (Figure 3).

Figure 3: Teenage pregnancy rates in under 18s by SIMD20 Quintiles; 2011 to 2020 (Source: PHS)



Sexually Transmitted Infections in Under 20s in Scotland

Data has recently been published on the number of laboratory confirmed diagnoses of gonorrhoea by age group and gender across Scotland and by Health Board for all ages. This data showed that there has been an annual increase in gonorrhoea diagnoses since 2013 (with exception of 2019 and 2020 where case detection fell due to COVID-19) with the numbers recorded in 2022 the highest ever recorded, 5,641 cases across Scotland and 334 cases in Fife³.

This increase has been observed across all age groups including among the under 20s (Table 2). In 2022, 37% and 12% of diagnoses in women and men in Scotland were in individuals aged less than 20 years respectively. Among women diagnosed with gonorrhoea since 2013, on average 72% of cases each year were in women aged less than 25 years. This is substantially higher than the annual average among men of 39%.

Table 2: Laboratory confirmed diagnoses of gonorrhoea in persons aged under 20: Scotland 2013-2022

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Men	141	134	174	163	190	279	264	166	112	468
Women	202	173	140	184	244	355	488	278	169	671

Technical information

Public Health Scotland publish data annually on teenage pregnancies in the under 18s and under 16s and provide additional data tables which allow analysis of Health Board data by age and deprivation¹. Teenage pregnancy data counts the number of conceptions in individuals aged under 20 years of age and includes live births, still births and notifications legal abortions.¹

The new Health and Wellbeing Census Scotland collected information on sexual health perceptions and behaviours from pupils in S4 to S6 in 16 local authorities². Data on similar topics will be available from the Fife Children & Young People's Health and Wellbeing Survey late summer 2023. Data on selected sexually transmitted infections is published for the under 20s in Scotland and is not currently available for the under 18s³.

¹ <https://publichealthscotland.scot/publications/teenage-pregnancies/teenage-pregnancies-year-of-conception-ending-31-december-2020/>

² <https://www.gov.scot/publications/health-and-wellbeing-census-scotland-2021-22/pages/relationships-and-sexual-health/>

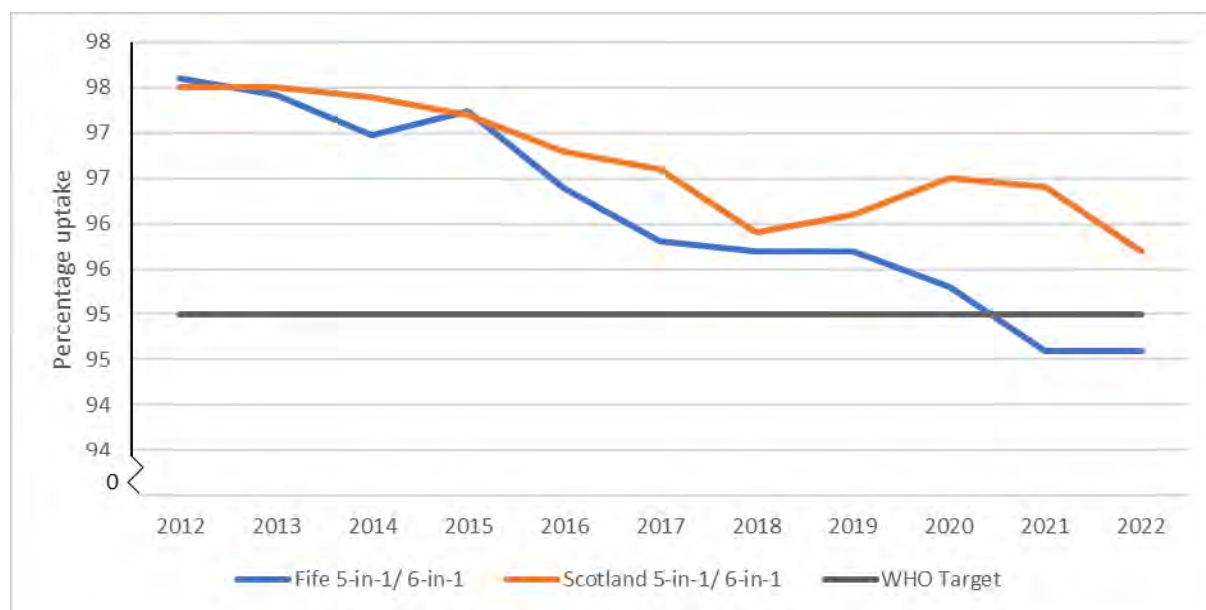
³ <https://publichealthscotland.scot/news/2023/march/gonorrhoea-infection-in-scotland-2013-2022-report/>

Immunisation

Childhood Immunisation

Uptake of the 5-in-1/6-in-1 (which protects against diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, polio, Haemophilus influenzae type b/hepatitis B) vaccine has been in decline and in 2022 was at the lowest uptake for 10 years at 94.2%. This is lower than the uptake seen across Scotland of 95.7%¹.

Figure 1: Uptake of the 5-in-1/6-in-1 vaccine at 12 months in Fife and Scotland (Source: PHS Childhood Immunisation Statistics Scotland)



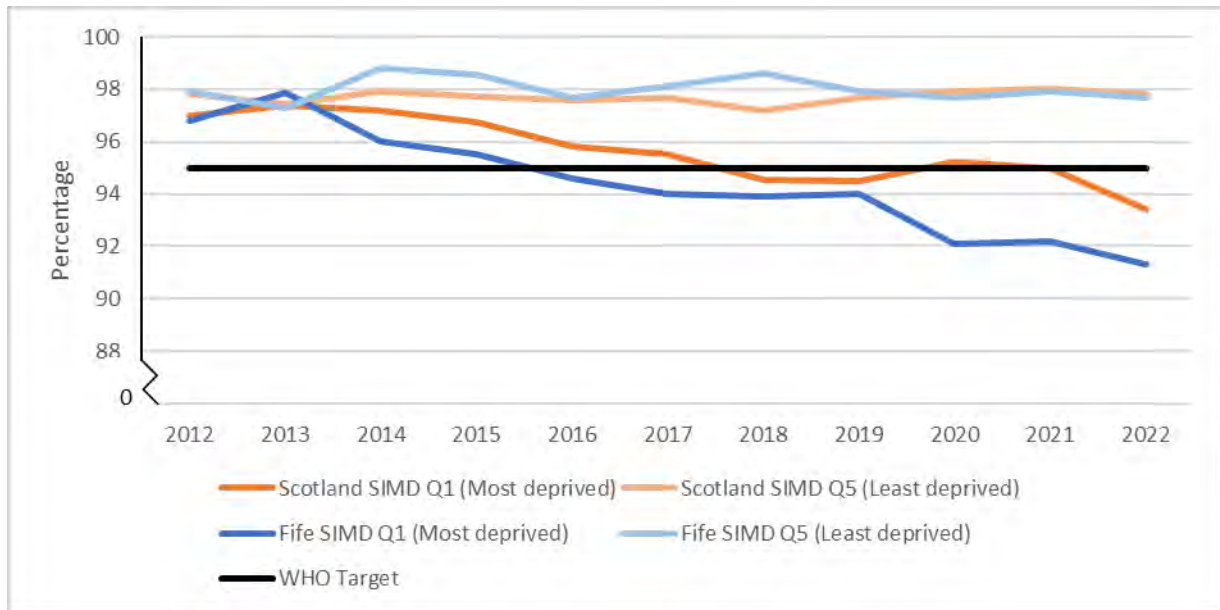
In 2022 uptake of both doses of MMR at 5 years old in Fife was 88%, this does not meet the 95% target and is lower than uptake for Scotland (90.5%). By 6 years old uptake of both doses is higher and is similar to uptake for Scotland (Table 1)¹.

Table 1: Summary of MMR uptake in Fife and Scotland 2022 (Source: PHS Childhood Immunisation Statistics Scotland)

Evaluation period 01/01/2022 – 31/12/2022	Fife	Scotland
Dose 1 MMR uptake at 24 months of age	92.9%	93.9%
Dose 1 MMR uptake at 5 years of age	95.4%	95.2%
Dose 1 MMR uptake at 6 years of age	95.6%	94.8%
Dose 2 MMR uptake at 5 years of age	88.0%	90.5%
Dose 2 MMR uptake at 6 years of age	91.3%	91.9%

Inequalities are evident in vaccine uptake at 12 months, with the lowest uptake in the most deprived population (SIMD quintile 1). In 2022 the WHO target was met for SIMD quintiles 3 to 5 but not quintile 1 or 2 for the 5-in-1/6-in-1 vaccine¹.

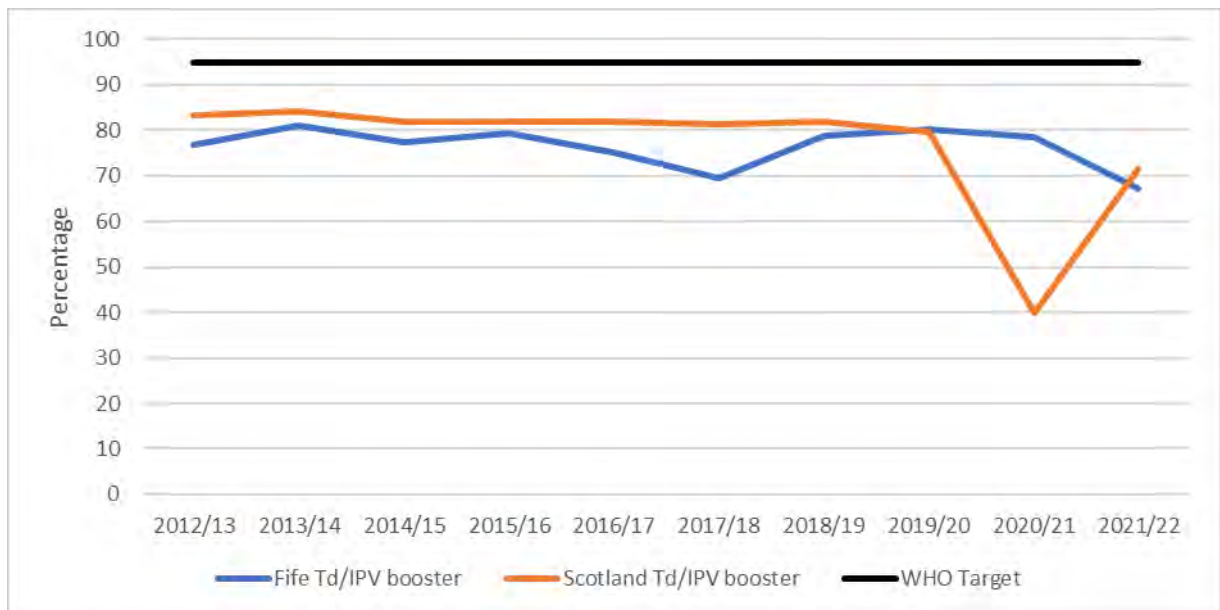
Figure 2: Percentage uptake of the 6-in-1 vaccine at 12 months by SIMD in Fife and Scotland (Source: PHS Childhood Immunisation Statistics Scotland)



Teenage Immunisations

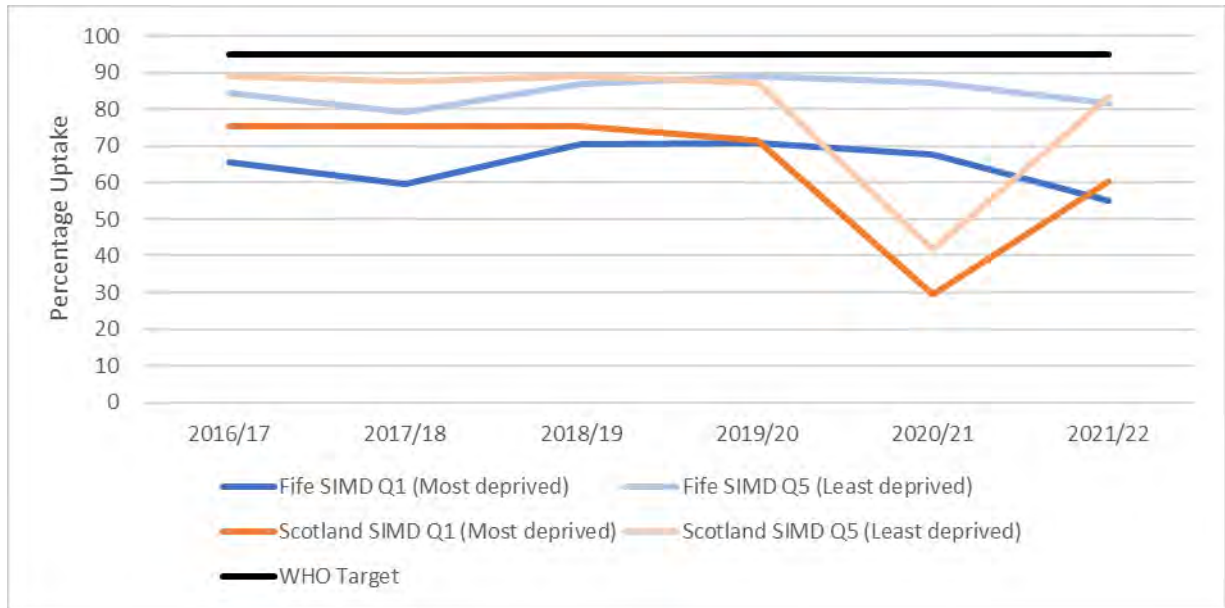
The Td/IPV (tetanus, diphtheria and polio) booster are first offered to all children in school at S3 (around 14 years old). Uptake in 2021/22 in Fife decreased to 67.3% from 78.6% in 2020/21 and was also lower than uptake for Scotland (71.6%)².

Figure 3: Percentage uptake of the Td/IPV booster at S3 in Fife and Scotland (Source: PHS Teenage booster immunisation statistics Scotland)



Lower uptake is seen in the most deprived populations with a 55.1% uptake in the most deprived populations (SIMD quintile 1) compared to 81.8% uptake in the least deprived (SIMD quintile 5) in 2021/22. This is a trend seen across Scotland.

Figure 4: Td/IPV percentage uptake by SIMD in Fife and Scotland (Source: PHS Teenage booster immunisation statistics Scotland)



Technical Information

SIMD quintiles are Scotland level weighted quintiles, with the appropriate SIMD release used for each year. The data for Fife and Scotland are derived from the child's home postcode.

¹ [Childhood immunisation statistics - Public Health Scotland](#)

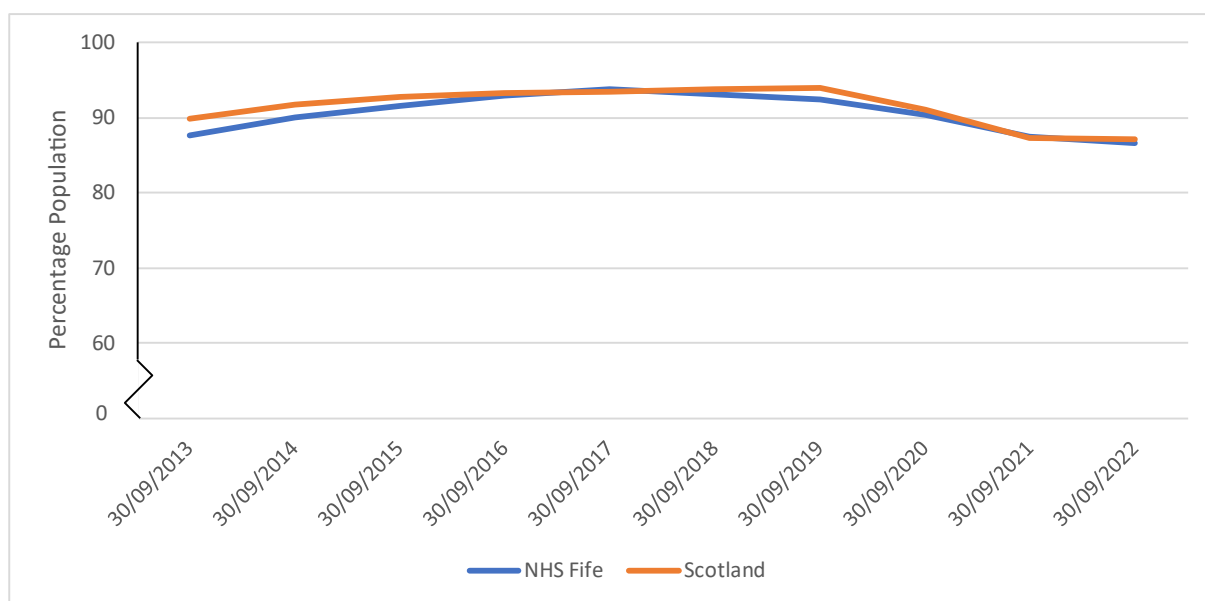
² [Teenage booster immunisation statistics - Public Health Scotland](#)

Dental

General Dental Services (GDS) registrations and participation

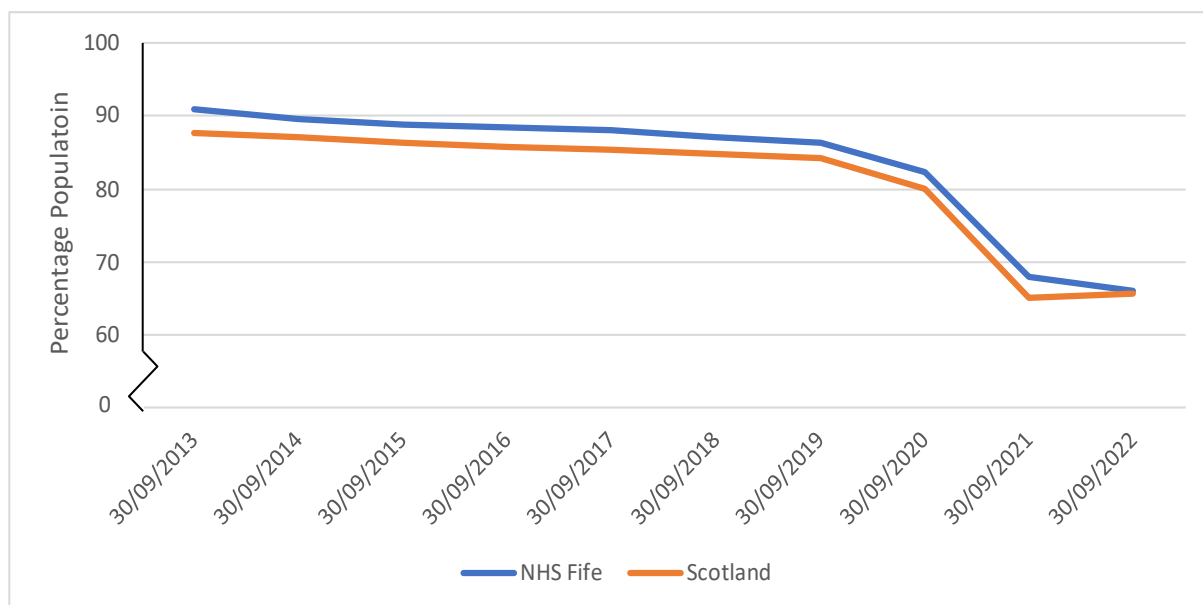
Registrations are the percentage of people registered with an NHS dentist at the date of snapshot. Participation is defined as contact with the General Dental Service (GDS) for examination or treatment in the previous two years. This is restricted to patients who are registered with an NHS dentist and therefore does not include patients who only attend for occasional or emergency treatment. NHS Fife tracks closely to Scotland in terms of registrations with both seeing a decrease over the last few years (Figure 1)¹.

Figure 1: GDS % Population Registrations Children NHS Fife vs Scotland Annual Snapshots



In terms of participation, NHS Fife has generally been slightly higher than Scotland but both have decreased since 2019 (Figure 2)².

Figure 2: GDS % Population Participation Children NHS Fife vs Scotland Annual Snapshots



Differences are seen within Fife with the most deprived areas (SIMD quintile 1) being lower for both registrations³ and participation⁴ over the past 10 years (Figures 3 and 4). The gap between most and least deprived has widened in both over the last few years.

Figure 3: GDS % Fife Population Registrations Children Annual Snapshots SIMD quintiles

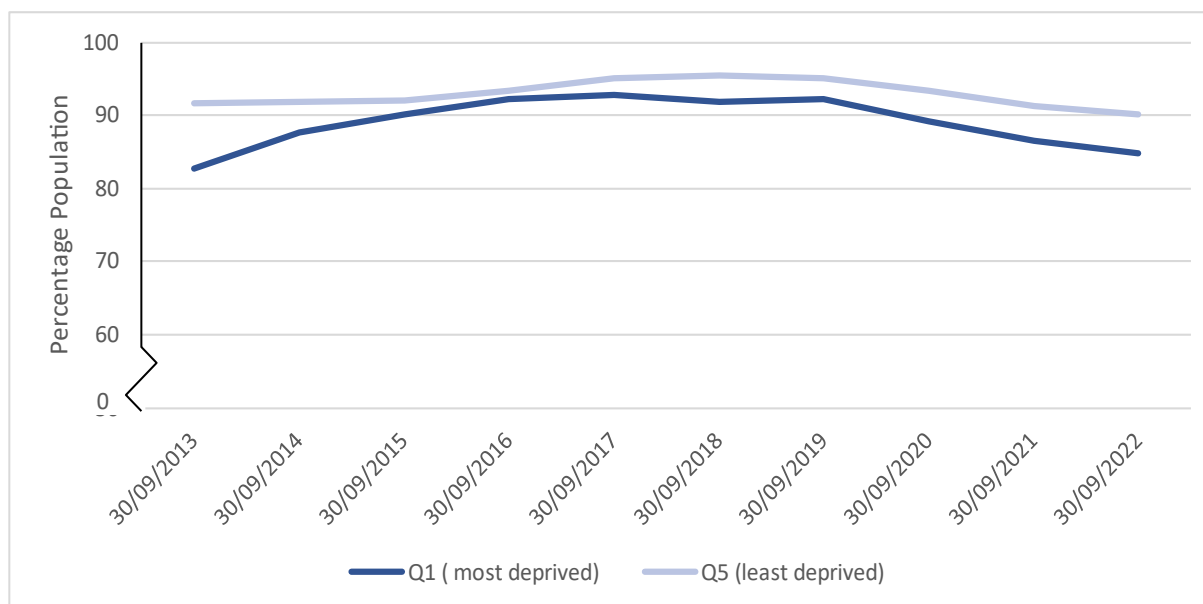
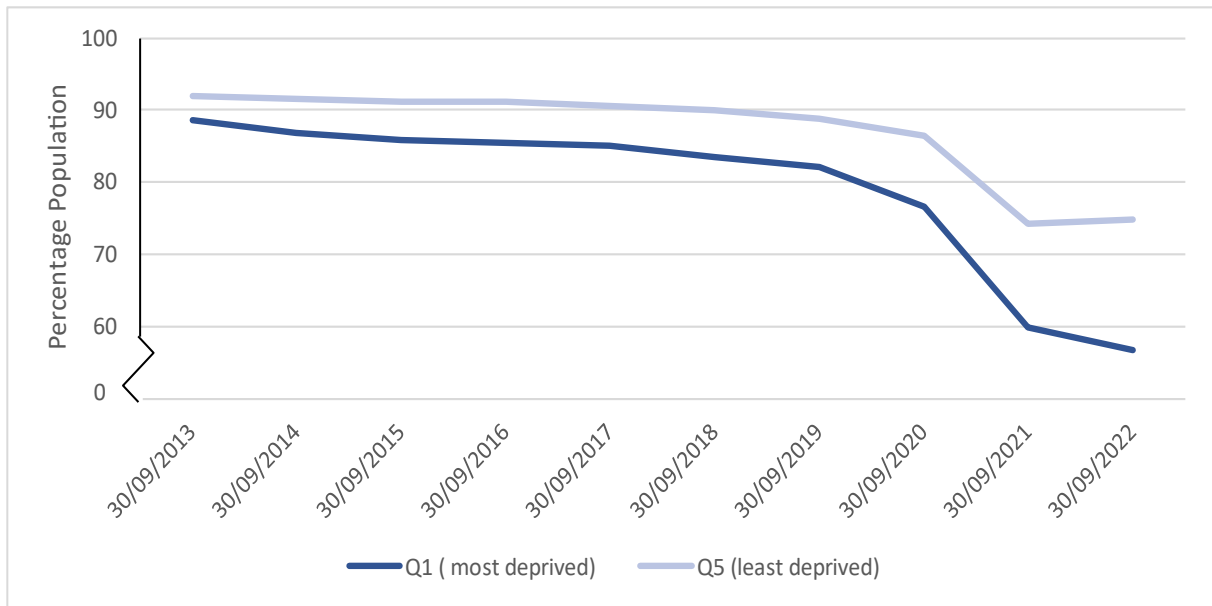


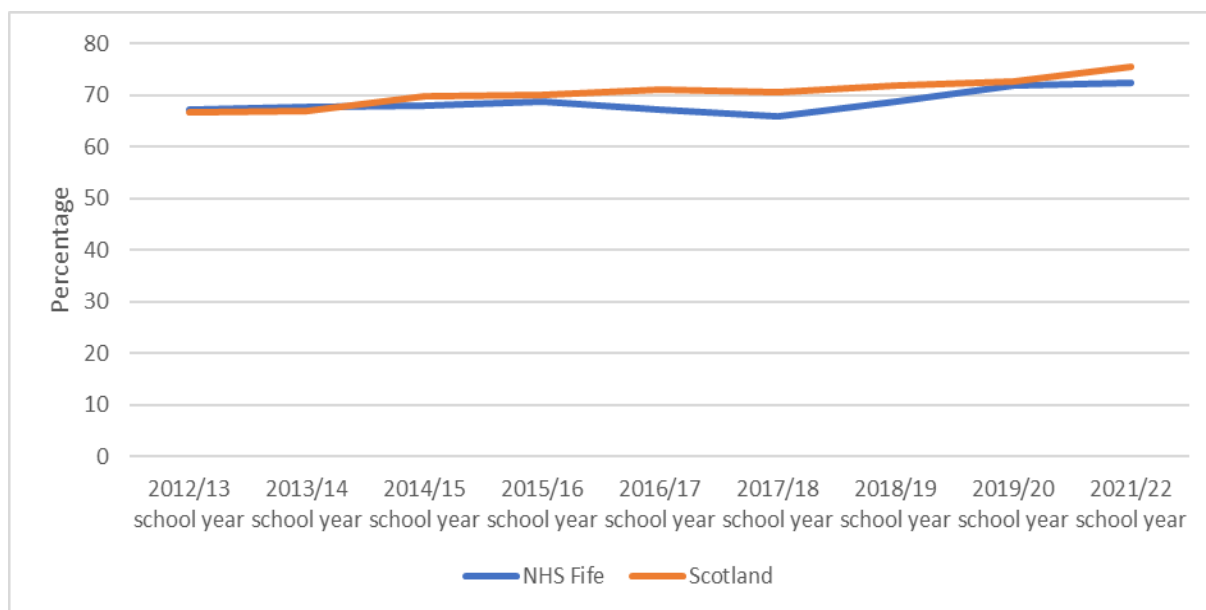
Figure 4: GDS % Fife Population Participation Children Annual Snapshots SIMD quintiles



National Dental Inspection Programme (NDIP⁵)

The percentage of P1 children with no obvious decay experience has increased over time (Figure 5) for both NHS Fife and Scotland ⁶. Note that there is a gap in the trend due to data collection of this indicator being affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Figure 5: Percentage of P1 children with no obvious decay experience at basic inspection (Source ScotPHO).



Technical information

The data on registration and participation is extracted annually by PHS from the Management Information and Dental Accounting System (MIDAS) with two snapshots per year – end March and end September. This summary uses the annual snapshot from the end of September each year shown. Data for September 2022 is provisional. The number of people registered with an NHS dentist will change daily. SIMD quintiles used are Scotland-level population weighted quintiles. Children are defined as individuals aged <18 at the date of snapshot. Boards are defined by postcode. Population figures use the NRS estimated populations based on the 2011 census. See the Definitions tabs of tables 1-4 in the references for more details.

In April 2010, non-time-limited registration for patients was introduced. This “life-long” registration is designed to allow children and adults to stay registered with a dentist for life. The continuous, practitioner-patient relationship this change introduces is consistent with arrangements elsewhere in primary care, such as general medical services; it aims to promote a more stable relationship between dentist and patient to improve attendance and enable long-term monitoring and management of oral health.

Please note that registration itself does not tell the whole story; it is one of a number of markers that indicate accessibility of general dental services to the population. Participation, as used by the NHS Information Services Division, is a measure of patient attendance at an NHS general dental practice for registration or treatment or other form of contact within the last 2 years. Participation rates are a further indicator of the care that patients are accessing.

Children categorised as having no obvious dental decay are those children receiving a letter ‘C’ (no obvious decay experience) but should continue to see the family dentist on a regular basis following a basic inspection carried out as part of the National Dental Inspection Programme⁷.

¹ https://publichealthscotland.scot/media/11624/table_1_registrations_trend.xlsx

² https://publichealthscotland.scot/media/11625/table_2_simd_reg_trend.xlsx

³ https://publichealthscotland.scot/media/11273/table_3_part_trend.xlsx

⁴ https://publichealthscotland.scot/media/11626/table_4_simd_part_trend.xlsx

⁵ <https://www.publichealthscotland.scot/media/15799/ndip-2022-tables-and-charts.xlsx>

⁶ [ScotPHO profiles \(shinyapps.io\)](#) Indicator: child dental health in primary 1 (extracted 10/05/2023)

⁷ <https://ndip.scottishdental.org/>

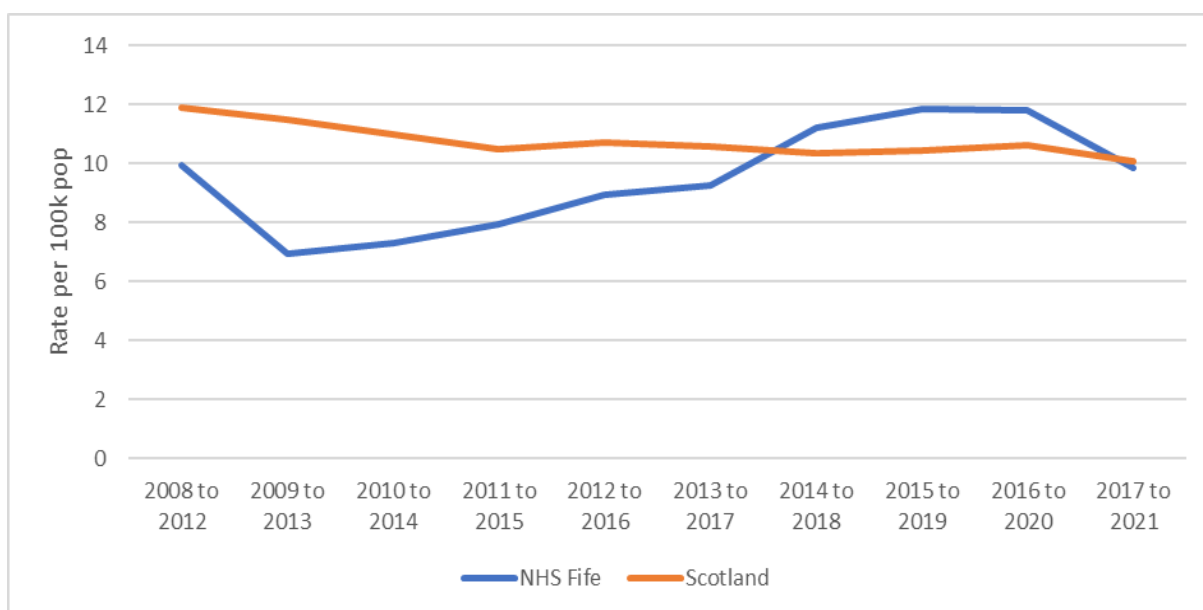
Child deaths reviews

At present data specifically on deaths of children aged 0-17 is not available at Fife or national level. National Records Scotland (NRS) deaths registration data indicates that between 2012 and 2021 an average of 29 persons aged 0-19 years died each year in Fife¹.

Deaths of children aged 1-15 years

Figure 1 shows the trend of deaths in children aged 1-15 years as rate per population with Fife compared to Scotland².

Figure 1: Deaths aged of children aged 1-15 years, crude rate per 100,000 population five year rolling average, NHS Fife and Scotland (Source; ScotPHO)



Leading causes of death in under 19s

National Records Scotland (NRS) publish leading causes of death in persons aged 0-4 years and 5-19 years for Scotland. Table 1 shows the top five of these for each age group in 2021³. NRS also publish information on how causes of death are coded on death certificates and the deaths data in general⁴.

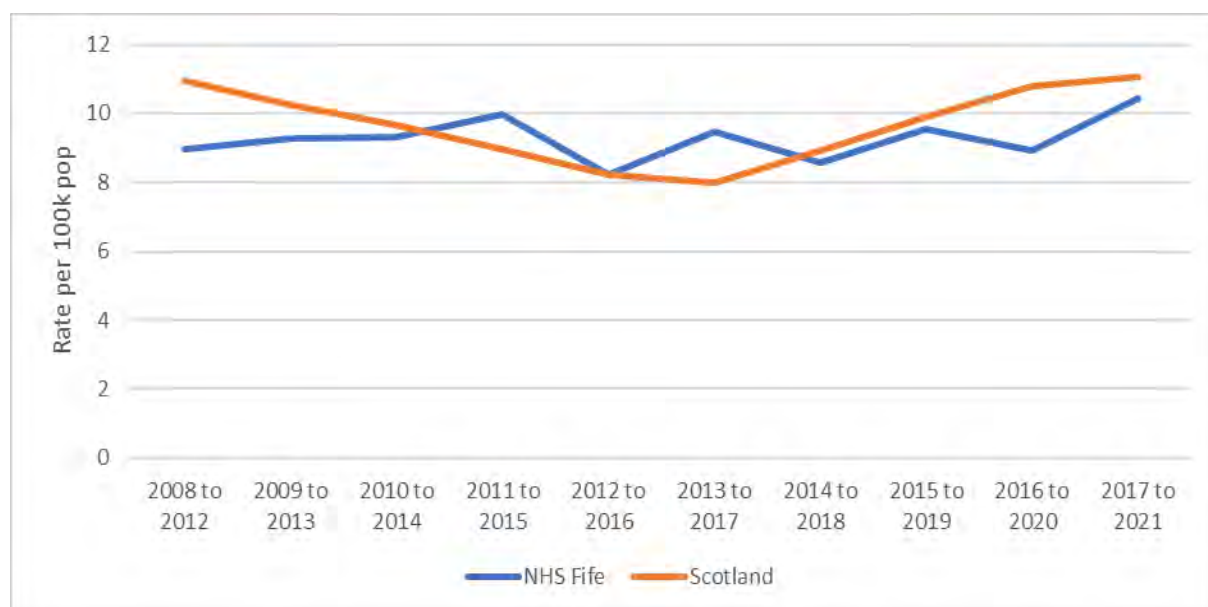
Table 1: Leading causes of death Scotland 2021 age groups 0-4 and 5-19 years

Age group	ICD-10 codes	Leading Causes	Percentage of deaths
0-4 years	P00-P96	Certain conditions originating in the perinatal period	53.7%
	Q00-Q99	Congenital malformations, deformations and chromosomal abnormalities	23.8%
	R00-R99	Symptoms, signs and ill-defined conditions	8.4%
	W75-W84	Accidental threats to breathing	2.3%
	A39, A87, G00-G03	Meningitis and meningococcal infection	1.4%
5-19 years	X60-X84, Y10-Y34	Suicide and injury/poisoning of undetermined intent	19.1%
	X40-X49	Accidental poisoning	11.0%
	V01-V89	Land transport accidents	9.6%
	W65-W74	Accidental drowning and submersion	5.9%
	C71	Malignant neoplasm of brain	5.1%

Deaths from suicide in young people, aged 11-25

Figure 2 shows the trend in deaths from suicide in people aged 11-25 with a slight increase seen in the most recent years for both Fife and Scotland⁵.

Figure 2: Deaths from suicide in young people, aged 11-25, crude rate per 100,000 population five-year rolling average, Fife and Scotland (Source: ScotPHO)



¹ <https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/files//statistics/time-series/death-21/deaths-time-series-21-dt.8.xlsx> (Table - Fife)

² https://scotland.shinyapps.io/ScotPHO_profiles_tool/ (indicator: deaths in children aged 1-15 years)

³ <https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/files//statistics/vital-events-ref-tables/2021/vital-events-21-ref-tabs-6.xlsx> (Table 6.15)

⁴ [Vital Events - General Background Information | National Records of Scotland \(nrscotland.gov.uk\)](#)

⁵ https://scotland.shinyapps.io/ScotPHO_profiles_tool/ (indicator: deaths from suicide in young people, aged 11-25 years)

17th August 2023

Agenda Item No. 6

Tackling Poverty & Preventing Crisis: Annual Report 2022/23

Report by: Mike Enston, Executive Director – Communities

Wards Affected: N/A

Purpose

To report against the Plan for Fife ambition and priority on Tackling Poverty and Preventing Crisis for the reporting period 2022/23.

Recommendation(s)

Board members are asked to:

- (1) Note the progress in Fife against the Plan for Fife ambition and priority on tackling poverty and preventing crisis.
- (2) Endorse the report set out in Appendix One in line with reporting for the Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017.

Resource Implications

There are no resource implications.

Legal & Risk Implications

Fife Council and NHS Fife have a duty under the Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017 to jointly produce an annual Local Child Poverty Action Report (LCPAR). This report to Fife Partnership Board sets out how the report at Appendix One meets the requirements for the LCPAR.

Impact Assessment

An EqIA is not required as this report does not propose any changes to existing policies and practices.

Consultation

Tackling Poverty & Preventing Crisis (TPPC) Board members and action leads for the TPPC Delivery Plan have been involved in the development of the report at Appendix One.

1.0 Background

- 1.1 Fife is committed to achieving the Plan for Fife ambition: “Fife has lower levels of poverty in line with national targets”, and the recovery and renewal priority of Tackling Poverty and Preventing Crisis. Given these commitments, the Tackling Poverty & Preventing Crisis (TPPC) Board agreed at its meeting in May 2022 that the annual report will report on wider poverty actions set out in the TPPC Delivery Plan, whilst meeting the requirements of the Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017 by reporting on actions that effect children and families.
- 1.2 Under the Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017, local authorities and NHS Health boards must jointly publish a Local Child Poverty Action Report (LCPAR) annually. The LCPAR must report on action taken within the reporting year to address child poverty. The LCPAR must also highlight proposed actions that will be taken; actions and impact on priority family groups and families with protected characteristics; and report on action to maximise incomes of families with pregnant women and families with children.
- 1.3 The report at Appendix One is Fife’s first annual report on Tackling Poverty & Preventing Crisis, giving an overview of progress made by partners, during 2022/23, against the TPPC Delivery Plan.

2.0 Progress Made To Achieve Ambition.

- 2.1 In Fife, we are making a shift towards better prevention and providing the right kind of support for people, to keep them out of crisis, and make sure no-one is left behind. Recent crises, such as the pandemic and the rising cost of living, have impacted many children, young people and adults across demographics and geographies in Fife. The action undertaken during 2022/23 (and in this financial year (2023/24) and beyond) has focused on empowering individuals and communities by working with a broad range of partners and data to target and work with people, children and families in different ways.
- 2.2 The report at Appendix One sets out key actions undertaken during 2022/23 in relation to the TPPC Delivery Plan outcomes:
 - More people’s incomes are maximised and there is increased access to benefits.
 - People are protected from cost of living increases with a focus on support for food, fuel and childcare costs.
 - Homelessness is reduced with people in temporary housing for shorter lengths of time.
 - More people have crisis prevented through a No Wrong Door approach ensuring early and joined up support.
 - Improved use of data relating to poverty and crisis to target spend on prevention of crisis.
- 2.3 The report highlights work done in partnership to support people through the Winter months by taking an improved and coordinated approach to contact, referral, information, promotion and joint working through the Winter Programme. The report highlights the success of the Fife Benefit Checker, which has increased the number of benefit checks being carried out across Fife and identified entitlements people and families may not be aware of. Significant workforce training was undertaken to upskill staff on the benefit checker, as well as staff training on wider poverty issues through Fife’s Poverty Awareness Training Programme. The Low-Income Family Tracker (LIFT) has been key to new income maximisation activity in Fife by delivering more targeted campaigns using data on low-income families in Fife that are eligible for certain benefits but not claiming them.

- 2.4 The report also sets out our journey to better prevention by highlighting work taken to progress No Wrong Door with Fife Partnership through the Leadership Summits and our test of change work, as well as establishing links across the partnership by working jointly with the Children's Services Partnership on Whole Family Wellbeing.

3.0 Conclusions

- 3.1 This report updates Fife Partnership Board on the progress made during 2022/23 in meeting the Plan for Fife ambition on poverty. The breadth of activity undertaken in the reporting year is substantial. Despite this, poverty remains persistent. The latest data release on children in low-income families show 23.2% of children in Fife (aged under 16) are living in relative poverty before housing costs and 18.5% live in absolute poverty. This is above the Scottish national average at 21% and 16.5%, respectively. More action is needed at an earlier stage and with a preventative approach.
- 3.2 A full progress report is available at Appendix 1 of the Tackling Poverty & Preventing Crisis annual report. This showcases the breadth of work undertaken and sets out priorities for 2023/24 and beyond.

List of Appendices

Appendix One. Tackling Poverty & Preventing Crisis: Annual Report 2022/23

Background Papers

The following papers were relied on in the preparation of this report in terms of the Local Government (Scotland) Act, 1973:-

- Plan for Fife 2021-2024

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Tackling poverty and preventing crisis Annual Report 2022/23

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Introduction

This is Fife's first annual report on Tackling Poverty & Preventing Crisis, giving an overview of progress made by partners, during 2022/23, against the Tackling Poverty & Preventing Crisis Delivery Plan.

We have a statutory requirement from the Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017 to produce an annual Local Child Poverty Action Report. To meet this requirement, we have included the relevant information, as per the Act, in this report. We have done this not just to fulfil our statutory duty but in order to make the major shift that is needed in how we tackle poverty. This is a shift towards better prevention and providing the right kind of support for people, to keep them out of crisis, and make sure no-one is left behind. Child poverty is a consequence of parents' poverty and recent crises have impacted many vulnerable children, young people and adults across demographics and geographies in Fife.

Too many children in Fife live in poverty and too many people are unable to manage financially and suffer from significant insecurity and lack of control as a result. In Fife, we've been focusing on ensuring opportunities for all through the [Plan for Fife](#). Post-pandemic, our [Recovery and Renewal Plan for Fife 2021-2024](#) has provided renewed focus to tackle deep-rooted issues by prioritising tackling poverty and preventing crisis. Fife's latest Children's Services Plan 2023-2026 prioritises equity and equality, recognising that poverty is a key factor in poorer outcomes for children in Fife. Work with children, young people and families in Fife is underpinned by a rights-based approach rooted in the UNCRC¹.

Doing things differently

In Fife, we are tackling poverty and preventing crisis in a different way. Our focus during 2022/23 has been empowerment, not just empowering the individual, but also communities, by working with a broad range of partners across Fife by using data and lived experience to target and involve people, children and families in new ways. The COVID pandemic pushed us into new ways of working together for the public and third sector and provided learning on how to tailor support to people most in need. We need to prevent crisis from occurring. Too often services are on the back foot. Personalised support that takes account of individual and family needs, circumstances and strengths is key to our approach of building resilience within individuals, families, and communities. The impact of having strong communities was clear during the pandemic, and we are fostering change based on this learning.

The aim of this report is to highlight activity that is contributing to the delivery of the Tackling Poverty & Preventing Crisis (TPPC) outcomes and child poverty targets, as well as communicating best practice, learning points and challenges for the year ahead. The outcomes we seek to achieve are:

1. More people's incomes are maximised and there is increased access to benefits.
2. People are protected from cost of living increases with a focus on support for food, fuel and childcare costs.
3. Preventing homelessness and making it short and non-recurring
4. More people have crisis prevented through a No Wrong Door approach ensuring early and joined up support.
5. Improved use of data relating to poverty and crisis to target spend on prevention of crisis.

¹ [United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child](#)

We want to tell a story about where we have been, where we are and where we are going. We want to reflect on this journey and increase the work we are doing on prevention. We recognise the lack of dignity many people face when they are left with no option but to use a foodbank. This annual report provides an opportunity to reflect on our progress to make a difference to people and families across Fife.

One of our outcomes focuses on the use of data to inform our decision making on where to target resource and support. This is integral to achieving all outcomes in the TPPC delivery plan. Fife Council procured a system called the Low-Income Family Tracker (LIFT) in 2022, which is allowing us to identify households with low incomes and monitor changing circumstances. We can now see who is going to be worse off when they move from legacy benefits to Universal Credit, and we can target specific support to vulnerable groups. We are moving towards knowing our communities better and working with them locally. Place-based solutions are key to our People approach. They work especially well for us when we start with an understanding of the assets, stakeholders and relationships in a locality and build from there, recognising that success looks different in different places.

We have a strong partnership approach, which underpins so much of the work that happens in Fife. We are broadening the range of partners we work with, especially the third sector, and we have some outstanding examples of this working well like the Big Hoose project². We are working together and increasing co-production with communities to help make a difference. Without partners from across the public sector, third sector and local businesses coming together to support local people, none of what we're doing would be the success it is.

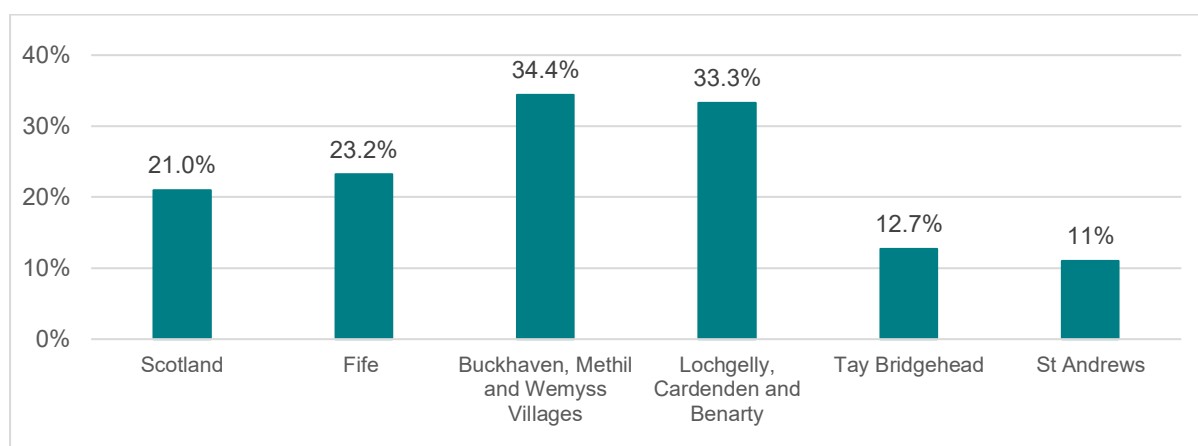
Unfortunately, there are many children, young people, families, and communities experiencing poverty and hardship in 2023 and there is a lot of work to be done to bring about a fairer Fife.

² See page 11

Poverty in Fife

The latest data release on children in low-income families show 23.2% of children in Fife (aged under 16) are living in relative poverty before housing costs and 18.5% live in absolute poverty. This is above the national average at 21% and 16.5%, respectively. The graph below shows the percentage of children living in low-income families at a national, Fife-wide level and locally for the highest and lowest levels in Fife.

Graph 1. Percentage of children (aged under 16) in low-income families living in relative poverty before housing costs – national, regional, local, 2021/22



The lowest rates shown above (Tay Bridgehead and St Andrews) are in North East Fife; one of Fife's more rural areas. Data from the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) has indicated that almost 1 in 3 (32%) people who live in North East Fife, live in an area that is classed as deprived in relation to physical access to services. Independent research conducted in North East Fife has highlighted the difficulties unemployed people face in affording essential travel, including poor mental health and wellbeing from social isolation, difficulties in accessing health services and a reliance on more expensive food retailers because of a lack of money to use public transport.

Decentralisation and increased resources for Area Teams

Fife Council has been undergoing decentralisation to ensure that local service providers work together with devolved resources to respond to the needs of local communities. This is being achieved through empowering local teams to be able to deliver local services tailored to local needs. To better enable local teams to fulfil this role and support local people and families who are living in poverty, seven new anti-poverty officers were recruited to Fife Council Local Area Teams. These officers have been vital in setting up and coordinating a range of support for their areas.

During 2022, Fife Council's Cabinet Committee agreed a £10m Community Recovery Fund to provide additional local support to aid the pandemic recovery. Applications for the fund have been reviewed and details of the projects and their outcomes will be reported in the next annual tackling poverty report. Many of the proposals are directly addressing poverty and inequality.

Work to tackle poverty is undertaken in partnership, particularly in responding to local crisis and need. Many areas have multi-agency poverty action groups and tackling poverty is a key priority in Local Community Planning across all areas of Fife. Areas have recently been refreshing their Local Community Plans and some have developed Anti-Poverty Action Plans

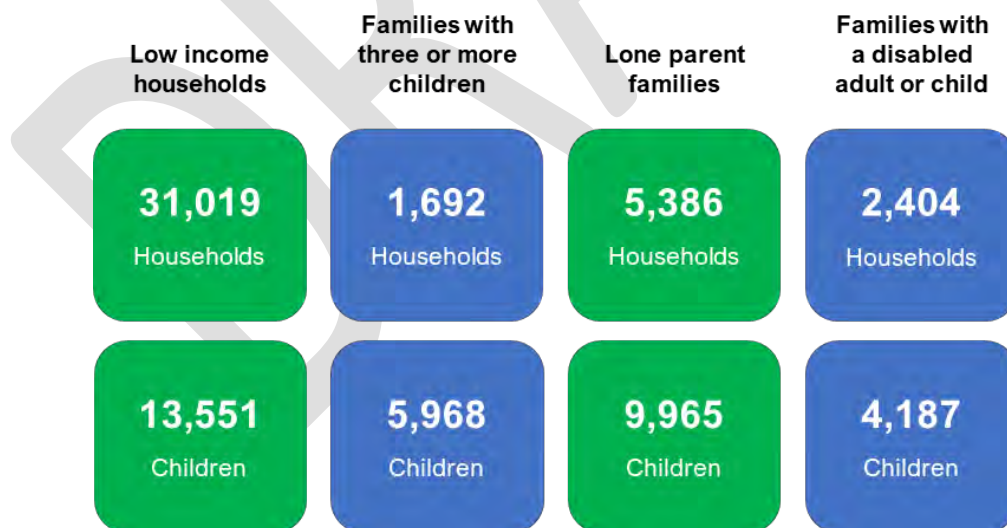
to focus on tackling poverty. The work on Warm Spaces took a local, decentralised approach with a central pot of seed funding facilitating community-led services to address local need. The awards recognised the value of small empowering interactions between people and service providers, at a local, neighbourhood level, to potentially increase a person’s ability to overcome disadvantage.

Improving our use of data

Research into Fife Council internal spend found that there is scope to develop a more systemic way to target anti-poverty spending, focused on tangible impact. The use of data is integral to how we target spend and allocate resources, especially given the significant financial pressures public services are currently facing.

Our new LIFT system can tell us the number of low-income households in Fife and the proportion of these that are likely to be ‘at risk’ of their take home income being less than their expected expenditure. Single households account for 67.4% of households classed as Low-Income and similarly account for two thirds (66.1%) of Low-Income households ‘at risk’. Lone Parents are the second most common Low-Income household type, accounting for 15.5% of Low-Income households and 25.9% of Low-Income households ‘at risk’. A snapshot of March 2023 shows the number of low-income households in Fife (see Illustration 1 below). Whilst we don’t have numbers for all the child poverty priority groups³, we can now see data for large families, lone parent families and families with a disabled adult or child. This will be important for how we design targeted activity around these priority groups.

Illustration 1. Number of low-income households and children in Fife identified by LIFT, March 2023

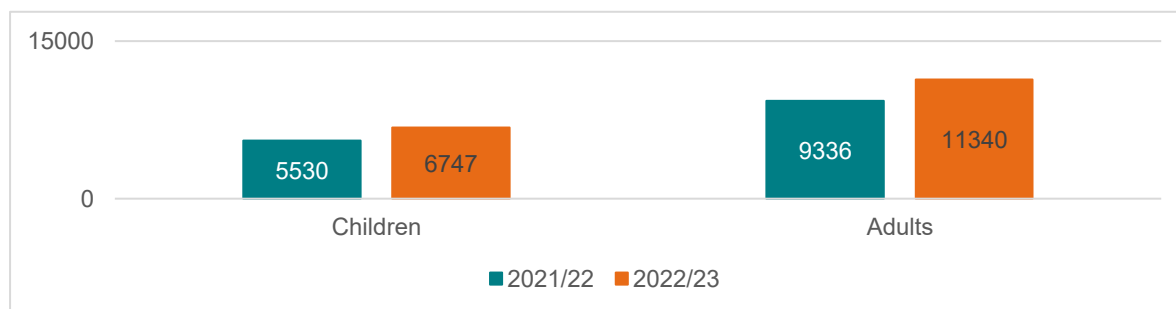


Trussell Trust food banks operate in some of Fife’s most deprived areas. Whilst the data from the Trussell Trust Fife Network doesn’t provide a whole picture for Fife, it does provide a snapshot of the people and families using some of Fife’s busiest food banks. In 2022/23, over 18,000 beneficiaries received food parcels from the Trussell Trust Fife Network, compared with approximately 15,000 in 2021/22.

³ Child poverty priority groups: lone parent families, ethnic minority families, families with a disabled adult or child, families with three or more children, families with a pregnant woman or child under 1, mothers aged under 25.

44% of the households accessing Trussell Trust food banks were single households (no children), compared to 19% for Single Parents, 18% for Families (with children), 13% for Couples (no children) and 7% Other. The main reason for accessing foodbanks was 'low-income', which accounted for 55% of the crisis types during the reporting year, followed by 'other' at 10% and 'benefit delays' at 9%. Despite high numbers of foodbank usage, there is an encouraging sign with decreased acceleration in the number of food parcels delivered to children in the latter half of 2022/23. This could be linked to changes to the Scottish Child Payment and we will continue to monitor these trends.

Graph 2. Number of beneficiaries of the Trussell Trust Fife Network, 2021/22 - 2022/23



Fuel and food poverty is often linked to wider issues of poverty and inequality, such as low incomes, insecure employment, and poor housing conditions. Addressing these root causes through measures such as living wage policies, affordable housing, and social security reforms can help to reduce the prevalence of poverty. Overall, tackling these issues requires a coordinated approach that addresses both the immediate needs of households and the underlying causes of the problem. We have many multi-agency groups in Fife that are focused on shaping delivery that works; Fife's Welfare Reform Delivery Group is now being briefed on the LIFT findings to influence operational decisions regarding welfare reform, benefits and income maximisation services.

Embedding lived experience in our decision making

We have been working with forums made up of those with lived experience of poverty in Fife. These are run by the third sector and provide valuable feedback on proposed actions and activity to address poverty. We are working to embed the understanding and experience of those with lived experience at the development stage of policy and decision making and to have scrutiny and challenge from service users on our activity, particularly in how services are accessed and any barriers.

Each of the seven Committee Areas have a Poverty Action Group made up of public services (Fife Council and Health) as well as local voluntary organisations who both plan and deliver anti-poverty action. These can be used to ensure people's voices are considered and that areas where action is needed are raised. One example of this has been the issue of school meal debt. This issue was raised at a local Poverty Action Group and the TPPC Board were able to allocate funding and a process for writing off this debt on a case-by-case basis.

Maximising Incomes

More people's incomes are maximised and there is increased access to benefits

Benefit maximisation is a key driver of poverty. By increasing the number of people in Fife who are receiving their full benefit entitlement, we can safeguard more people and families against cost-of-living increases and from reach cash crisis points.

In Fife, we provide a range of income maximisation services that work in partnership across the public and third sector. Some of these are longstanding projects that we know work, whilst other activity is new and in response to emerging need. It is important to us that we are hitting key service points that can introduce benefit maximisation to people and families at key stages of their lives.

Fife's new benefit checker from Entitled To – the Fife Benefit Checker – has been a game changer this year; increasing the number of benefit checks being carried out across Fife and identifying entitlements people and families may not be aware of. A new income maximisation project, Boosting Budgets, launched this year and is focused on supporting families with children who are at risk of non-positive destinations when leaving school.

This year, training the workforce was key in ensuring frontline staff were equipped to signpost people and families to wider support, provide help with benefit checks and to feel confident about having conversations about finances with their service users. The Poverty Awareness Training Programme covered the basics like challenging stigma and discrimination to technical sessions about key benefits and how to consider a child's voice when living in poverty, whilst ad-hoc Poverty Awareness Information Sessions targeted key staff groups. The TPPC Board approved the funding of a new full-time post to help increase the number of training sessions and lead on the delivery of all aspects of Poverty Awareness Training. The post holder sits within Fife Health Promotion Service Training Team.

More information on these projects and a full breakdown of activity for this outcome is provided in Appendix 1. Some of our income maximisation achievements are illustrated in the infographic on page 9, showing a huge number of beneficiaries and financial gains that can relieve crisis and help get people and families back on a more financially stable footing.

Supporting our approach to prevention

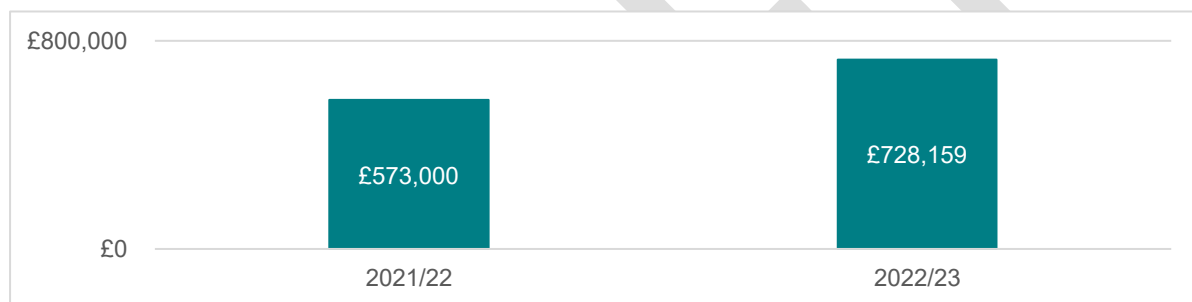
Income maximisation is key to our prevention approach (outlined in more detail on page 16). A great example of this has been the Fife-wide benefit maximisation campaigns, which demonstrates how data can be used in take-up campaigns for a variety of demographics and benefits across Fife. The procurement of the Low-Income Family Tracker (LIFT) has enabled Fife to deliver more targeted campaigns that seek to increase people's incomes through benefits and other social security payments. LIFT was used to for a specific take-up campaign on Pension Credit, which ran during November and December 2022. LIFT was used to identify those people who were eligible for but not claiming pension credit, and to track outcomes for these households over time. This has helped us to understand the effectiveness of a general awareness campaign, but also to identify if there is a need for more targeted follow-up. Our experience from this is informing future campaign approaches.

Furthermore, LIFT has supported us to mitigate the Benefit Cap. The Scottish Government provided additional funding to councils from January 2023 for Discretionary Housing Payment to mitigate the Benefit Cap. LIFT identified 96 households in Fife that were being

affected by the cap. These households were written to by Fife Council’s Benefit Assessment Team to invite them to make an application for their housing costs to be met. 83 of these households have since had their housing costs met – 97% are households with children and 69% are lone parents. 31 households had backdated amounts paid out totalling over £31,000. This has been instrumental in quickly identifying the households affected and getting money to them to meet their housing costs and has resulted in all 83 of these households being removed from LIFT’s “at risk” category following our intervention.

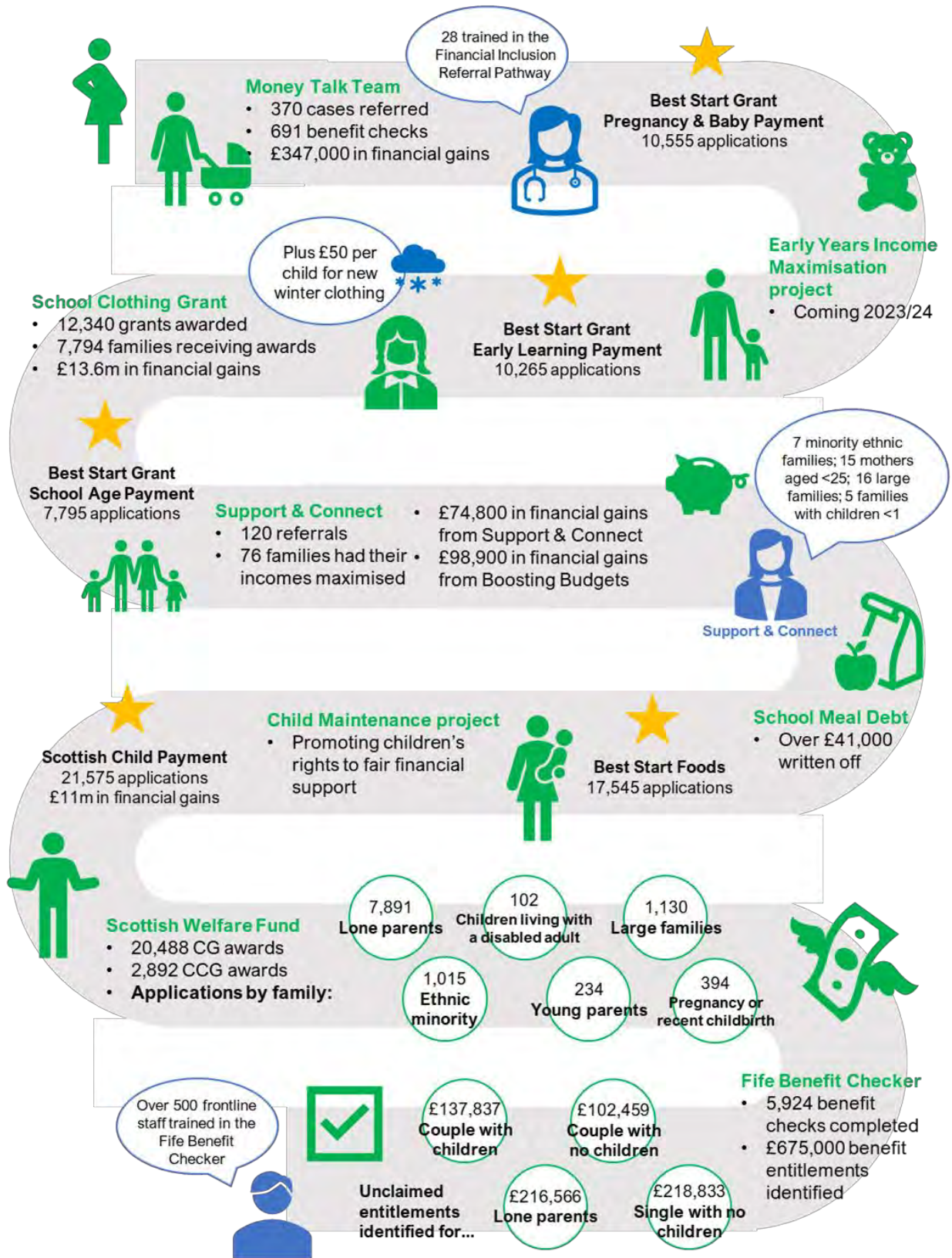
We often use the Scottish Welfare Fund as a proxy measure for local need and there has been a substantial increase in the volume of applications and spend in the past four years, which was a continuing trend in 2022/23. Over 32,000 applications for Crisis Grants were received - more than during the pandemic. Spiralling energy costs have been fuelling the current cost of living crisis, which is having an impact on Crisis Grant applications. Between 2021/22 and 2022/23 there has been a 21% increase in crisis grants allocated for fuel reasons. In 2022, 77% of applications were repeat applications, and 70% of awards were repeat awards, only one percentage point lower for both compared with 2021, showing no real progress in reducing the need for crisis support.

Graph 2. Total amount of Crisis Grants awarded for help with fuel costs (Scottish Welfare Fund)



Dips in the volume of Crisis Grant applications were seen in July and November 2022, which coincided with the UK Government’s Cost of Living payments for those on benefits and tax credits. Whilst there may be other reasons for this decline in applications, we can assume the payments relieved some pressure from low-income households.

Fife's Benefit Maximisation Journey 2022/23⁴



⁴ The infographic highlights key milestones in the benefit maximisation journey, however it doesn't provide a complete picture as many voluntary sector organisations will also be undertaking benefit maximisation activity.

The Cost of Living

People are protected from cost-of-living increases with a focus on support for food, fuel and childcare costs

In Fife, we have been working hard to combat the Cost of Living Crisis by putting in place, or expanding, measures to ease the pressure on people and families. Support has covered food and fuel, as well as household and sanitary items. We've focused efforts on ensuring cost isn't a barrier to participation in school and sports, and that working people are supported into training, education and employment. We have a long way to go, but the action taken in 2022/23 takes us in the right direction. The infographic on page 13 details our key activities and outputs relating to this outcome and the full progress update is available in Appendix 1.

Making an impact

Research from the pandemic showed that small empowering interactions between people and service providers, at key moments, can potentially boost a person's psychological resources, which can in turn increase their ability to overcome crisis or prevent crisis from occurring in the first place. Fife's Warm Spaces provided respite for people from the challenges of heating their homes. Reports from Area Teams show more people from harder to reach groups are coming forward for support, indicating that referral and signposting from community-led initiatives like Warm Spaces are working.

As part of our concerted effort on combatting the cost of living, we developed a wider Cost of Living campaign⁵. This was a small part of a greater £8.6m⁶ package of support agreed by Fife Council to help mitigate the increased and combined risks of winter weather, seasonal ill-health, rising costs and lower disposable income for people and families across Fife (see the infographic below). The Winter Programme was underpinned by an improved and coordinated approach to contact, referral, information, promotion and joint working across public services and the third sector. Other support was provided by the third sector during the winter months, with organisations like Fife Gingerbread purchasing winter items for families and providing festive packages. The breadth of support to individuals and families in Fife this winter was significant and one we are keen to replicate. However, this illustrates only part of the effort undertaken by organisations across Fife that want to make a difference to people's lives.

⁵ Campaign costs were approximately £6,000.

⁶ Includes administration funding on the uplift to School Clothing Grants.

Fife's Winter Programme 2022/23

£8.6m
Funding package



An evaluation of the programme is being undertaken and will influence the programme for winter 2023/24. This will help us better understand the drivers of fuel poverty, the patterns of demand, 'what works' responses, and to identify the demographic data to inform better targeting. Monitoring the impact of our interventions is integral to our approach of targeting prevention. Understanding how activity has impacted individuals and families, as well as to what extent, is fundamental to our future planning of tackling poverty and preventing crisis. Throughout 2023/24, we will be evaluating key interventions such as our food, fuel and cash support and the Community Recovery Fund.

Making the news

The Big Hoose has been providing much needed household items for families in Fife that are struggling with the cost of living. The Cottage Family Centre in partnership with Amazon UK and a range of other corporate sponsors work with third sector and public sector organisations to give frontline workers the ability to support families through access to a range of household goods like bedding, kitchen items, towels etc. To assist with distributing the goods across the area, Fife Council provided £200,000 of financial support in 2022/23. Over 29,000 products were distributed via the project during 2022/23 and the project was featured in local and national news.

Removing cost barriers

Key to reducing the cost of living and increasing incomes is removing cost barriers to services like childcare and enabling more children to feel included during the school day. No one should be prevented from participating in school, work or physical activity due to not being able to afford period products, and everyone should be able to access sport, no matter their income. Full details on our activity on this during 2022/23 can be found in Appendix 1.

To remove barriers to sport, Active Fife's Cost of Living Pledge has been supporting community sports clubs to help people get into sport in Fife. Officers have found that many clubs offer a range of support to members, such as kit recycling and flexible memberships, but don't advertise these. The Cost of Living Pledge sets out to showcase all the help that's on offer to communities by attending these clubs. Five clubs from across Fife adopted the pledge during 2022/23 and some are starting to think about how they can use their data to understand the impact of poverty on their communities. Clubs are using SIMD to assess the spread of membership and identify how many of their members live in deprived communities. This enables clubs to consider community needs and determine their capacity to address them. Kirkcaldy Rugby Football Club is leading the way, setting themselves a vision of being an inclusive rugby club that prioritises increasing participation in rugby, especially for low-income families.

Prevention by increasing income from employment

Income from employment is a key driver of child poverty and we know how important it is to support adults, whether they be parents or carers or just supporting themselves, to find and sustain work if they are able. During 2022/23, relationships were strengthened between the TPPC Board and the Opportunities Fife Partnership (OFP) – Fife's multi-agency employability partnership. OFP's Adult Delivery Group is looking at what improvements can be made to increase staffing for childcare services. Staffing resource is a big issue in Fife, with services struggling to recruit officers. This working group is piloting a project that takes on people without the necessary childcare qualifications to get them on the job training. Not only does this help the struggling childcare sector but gives people new opportunities to develop their careers.

We know there is more to be done to ensure employability and wider economic development activity has an impact on Fife's most deprived and disadvantaged communities. We are developing our approach in partnership with the Community Wealth Building Board, which seeks to take a community wealth building approach to local economic development in Fife. The Community Wealth Building workstream has been leading on action related to progressive recruitment with Fife anchor organisations including NHS Fife and Fife Council. This involves redesigning recruitment approaches, which help applicants overcome digital and process barriers, as well as targeting recruitment from priority groups who face inequalities and who are furthest from the labour market. Moving forward, employability programmes are to be designed into recruitment processes for identified posts with guaranteed job outcomes for participants. A key pillar of the Community Wealth Building approach is increasing Fair Work and developing local labour markets that support the prosperity and wellbeing of communities.

Further on employability, Fife Council's Employability Team developed several Pre-Employment Programmes building on their experience to date in delivering pre-recruitment and academy activities. The programmes have been designed to support clients to prepare for successful applications and interview for potential jobs, as well as gaining relevant

training and workplace experience. Many clients have progressed into a positive destination resulting from the support they received. The feedback from employers and the number of participants (101 during 2022/23) demonstrates the success of the delivery model and is one the team is continuing into 2023/24.

Fife Council's Employability Team has been exploring untapped potential through employability. There are many groups with certain characteristics who experience challenges in accessing employment and the team has started by focusing on families of people in prison, people experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness and the LGBTQ+ community. The aim is to better understand specific challenges relating to employability and to better target provision and/or adapt existing provision to enable better access to employment. The project intends to gain insight into the challenges faced by the target cohorts in entering an employability pathway, finding and securing paid work. It aims to increase employers' capacity to offer flexibilities, accommodation or adjustments to increase their workforce diversity and include more people from the target cohorts.

Making it Work for Families brings staff together from Fife Gingerbread, Clued Up, CARF and FIRST to support lone parent, low-income or unemployed families with current, historic or who are considered to be 'at risk of' substance use and who have children in P7, S1 or S2 who are struggling to engage with or attend school. The project is linked to four secondary schools as well as feeder primary schools within the Kirkcaldy and Levenmouth areas. The team takes a whole family support approach to working with families and works with each individual to meet their specific needs. The project is funded through the Edinburgh & South East Scotland City Region's Intensive Family Support Service, and received additional funding in 2022/23 from Fife's Whole Family Wellbeing Fund to expand the project to include families with P7 pupils, extend the delivery model, strengthen and improve relationships with the local Children and Families Social Work teams and deliver the Model for Improvement focused on 'a whole family approach to attendance'.

Cost of Living Support – key outputs 2022/23

FOOD



72

Small grants awarded to community food providers

£5,333

Average grant for community food providers



For more information on the campaign, see Appendix 1



162,409

Number of meals distributed through Café Inc

£478,200

Total spent on Café Inc

21,759

Meals distributed during the Easter school holidays

105,969

Meals distributed during the Summer school holidays

35,381

Meals distributed during the October school holidays

6,668

Meals distributed during the Christmas school holidays

FUEL



4,700

Fuel top-ups for Fife Council tenant households

£148

Average fuel top-up payment to Fife Council tenant households

74

Warm Spaces supported across Fife



63

Households assisted with community boiler repairs

£1,746

Average payment for community boiler repairs



3,610

Telephone energy advice sessions from Cosy Kingdom

1,068

Home visit energy advice sessions from Cosy Kingdom

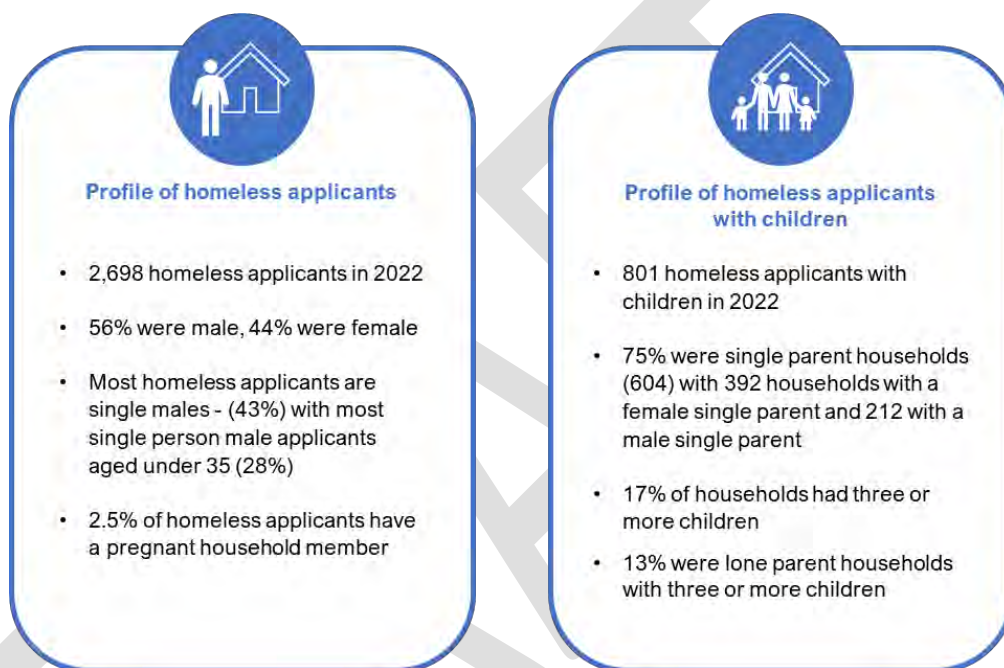
500

Households assisted with insulation from Cosy Kingdom

Homeless Prevention

Preventing homelessness and making it short and non-recurring

Too many people and families are homeless and living in temporary accommodation in Fife. The number of children in Fife Council temporary accommodation doubled during the pandemic period and there is a need for greater homelessness prevention and early intervention. There are many reasons why people become homeless. Reasons can be complex and interrelated such as poverty and inequality, relationship breakdown and job loss, as well as external factors, for example rising housing costs and access to mental health and social care services, etc. In 2022, 14% of homeless applicants stated that the reason for failing to maintain their current accommodation was due to financial difficulties.



Priority groups for homeless prevention

The Ending Homelessness Together (EHT) Board's aim is simple – to end homelessness in Fife. The Board is a key stakeholder of the Tackling Poverty & Preventing Crisis Board, given its role in the reduction and prevention of homelessness. Five priority groups were identified by the Scottish Government, but data from Fife supports further consideration for each of these groups' customer journey. The priority groups are:

- Young Care Leavers - 5% of homeless customers in Fife have been looked after children.
- Hospital Discharge - there appears to be a lack of process for people leaving hospital with nowhere to stay and there is a lack of data to support if this is an issue or not.
- Prison Release - 6% of homeless customers said they were leaving prison.
- Domestic and Sexual abuse - 11% of homeless customers said they were fleeing a violent/ abusive relationship.
- Armed forces - 4% of homeless customers been in the armed forces.

The EHT Board is setting up short life task and finish groups to help prevent homelessness and to support customers not to be homeless in the future. The remit of these groups is to consider existing processes and make recommendations for improvements for these priority groups. The aim is that, wherever possible, customers from these groups should not be assessed as homeless.

An additional priority for the EHT Board is families with children with the aim to not have children in temporary accommodation. Research carried out by Fife Council on children in council temporary accommodation explored the reasons for family homelessness presentation, impacts, support and prevention measures. A review of case notes identified about 200 families and 450 dependent children and noted mental and/or physical health issues as a common theme and characteristic with mental health issues being most prevalent. Many of the families are lone parent households and there are numerous large families with three or more children (as noted within the profile of homeless applicants above). These are also child poverty priority groups, which signify that these families may also be living in poverty or at greater risk of poverty. A significant number of the adults have experienced domestic abuse and relationship breakdown, which is a strong theme for pre-homelessness presentation. The other priority groups mentioned could have children within their household and any improvements made to these groups should also have an impact on families with children. Fife Council's Housing Service will be working to improve housing access for families with children through its new Whole Family Wellbeing Team.

The EHT Board are working with other council services and partners to consider what they are doing/can do to prevent and reduce recurring homelessness. Data shows that 29% of homeless applicants in Fife have been homeless before. To prevent homelessness recurring, Fife Council's Housing Service has launched a project to provide tenancy related support. Short Term Housing Support (STHS) enables service users to maintain their tenancy and become independent in doing so. STHS is a 'doing with' not 'doing for' service and the purpose is to support customers to establish good routines and help with the life skills needed to maintain a tenancy. STHS is helping service users to maximise their incomes through benefit checks, guidance on budgeting, support with benefits and crisis grants, and fuel poverty support and energy efficiency advice. The service also helps service users with their living environment (such as healthy eating/cooking, food hygiene, cleaning, recycling et.), buying food (to support budgeting and healthy eating), and support with attending appointments (depending on individual needs).

Preventing Poverty and Crisis

More people have crisis prevented through a No Wrong Door approach ensuring early and joined up support

Crisis management is still very much at the heart of frontline services in Fife with over 50% of Fife Council anti-poverty spending on crisis management and over 30% on mitigation for unemployed people. Having services put people and families at the heart of support is where we want to get to. Asking people “what matters to you?” and embedding a person-centred, relationship-based approach that targets early intervention and prevention and stops the flow of poverty. We want to get people back on track to supporting themselves and leading fulfilling lives.

Whole system change

In our [Recovery and Renewal Plan for Fife 2021-2024 Update](#) we said we would make it easier for people and families to access services through a 'No Wrong Door' approach. In essence, this is about enabling services which are localised, agile and flexible, with the ability to respond to community demand, collaboratively and efficiently, as well as taking a people-centred, relationship-based approach. This links with wider work in Fife to #KeepthePromise by ensuring families can access the support they need, where and when they need it, and takes a 'whole family approach'.

During 2022, Fife Partnership ran a series of [Leadership Summits](#) to engage senior leaders across the Community Planning Partnership to look at how we currently deliver support services, our vision for 'No Wrong Door' and what needs to change to achieve our ambition. The outputs and learning from these summit conversations can be viewed [here](#). Our next step as a partnership is looking at how we can achieve our agreed vision by taking 'No Wrong Door' from concept to reality.

There are many strengths to build on in Fife, including service-level projects, strong partnerships and impactful “tests of change”. However, to achieve maximum impact we need to deliver at scale. We recognise the complexity of achieving a shift in the system of this scale and are seeking support to develop a detailed design of a model and an associated business case which provides greater confidence of the costs and benefits of the approach. This is a key priority for Fife Partnership, particularly for Fife Council, during 2023/24.

How services work together to better support people and families to take control of their own lives is integral to our No Wrong Door approach. By looking at the ways professionals work with service users and by empowering children, young people, and families to build their own capacity and resilience through relationship-based, person-centred support will be central to the future of our public services. Fife Children's Services Partnership is working on Whole Family Wellbeing to build local capacity for transformational whole system change and to scale up and drive the delivery of holistic whole family support services. The Whole Family Wellbeing Fund is enabling Fife to:

- Improve access to a range of evidence-based group work across the continuum
- Provide targeted, flexible support to children, young people and families in crisis
- Improve access to early support for pregnant women and children under 4 years of age where drug and alcohol is an area of vulnerability
- Provide early access support in communities which is non-stigmatised through the Community Social Work model

- Deliver practice development sessions to increase collaboration and a collective approach to whole family wellbeing
- Engage in meaningful conversations with families and stakeholders to support co-design activity across the system
- Improve the connectivity of the third sector and public sector interface
- Contribute to strategic commissioning of family support services based on gaps and evidence of service impact
- Increase opportunities for training and employment by expanding Making it Work for Families

Putting children and families at the centre of service design

Colleagues that are working on WFW are also heavily involved in the work to develop a No Wrong Door approach. These two programmes are strongly linked and complimentary with WFW contributing to our change approach of putting children and families at the centre of service design and delivery.

We are developing our approach to ensure people and families are at the centre of service design and delivery through co-production and co-design and taking account of the voice of lived experience in decision making. Fife's Whole Family Wellbeing Fund is enabling a co-production project to engage in meaningful conversations with families and stakeholders and support co-design activity across the whole family support system. The project is working with children, young people and families alongside professional and leadership colleagues to help shape a better understanding of current experiences of services, what needs to improve and how change can be facilitated by working together utilising a co-production and co-design approach. This is being led by FVA and the third sector who have a track record in this area to develop and spread this approach with and alongside families learning what works in co-production and co-design.

Tests of change

Putting People First has been a key 'No Wrong Door' test of change within Fife Council. It aims to test whether working together to share information, resources and knowledge can improve frontline responses to crisis, financial shocks and the impact of poverty. The test of change brings together three council services – Community Development, Housing and Community Social Work – to identify and test new ways of preventing crisis and mitigating the impact of hardship at an earlier stage by focusing on people's underlying issues. Through a shared case management system, early joined up support and offering a single point of contact the test of change seeks to identify learning for 'No Wrong Door'.

80% of Putting People First cases require support with multiple issues primarily accessing benefits, improving home conditions, crisis management, social and emotional support, and support to access other services. The first phase of the test of change showed achievements in information sharing, a shared staff ethos and new working culture, enhanced packages of support, enhanced organisational learning (particularly on prevention), evidence of preventing tenancy abandonments and supporting people with multiple issues. 90% of participants reported an improvement in their living conditions or reported feeling better about their home situation. 75% of those engaged in support reported that they had achieved their personal goals.

Choice First was a six-month pilot to test and share learning on cash first responses to address recurring food crisis. The pilot was a collaboration between Fife Council's Putting People First Team, Greener Kirkcaldy and Kirkcaldy Food Bank. It tested how access to financial support via vouchers and a range of other support could make a meaningful impact on financial situations, personal choice and dignity, and improve wellbeing. Findings suggest that offering a longer-term package of financial assistance coupled with access to holistic support contributed to mitigating some of the negative impacts of the Cost of Living Crisis. Findings show improved feelings of wellbeing and social connectedness, improved diet and nutritional choices, timelier access to support and opportunities through the partnership model and increased peer support.

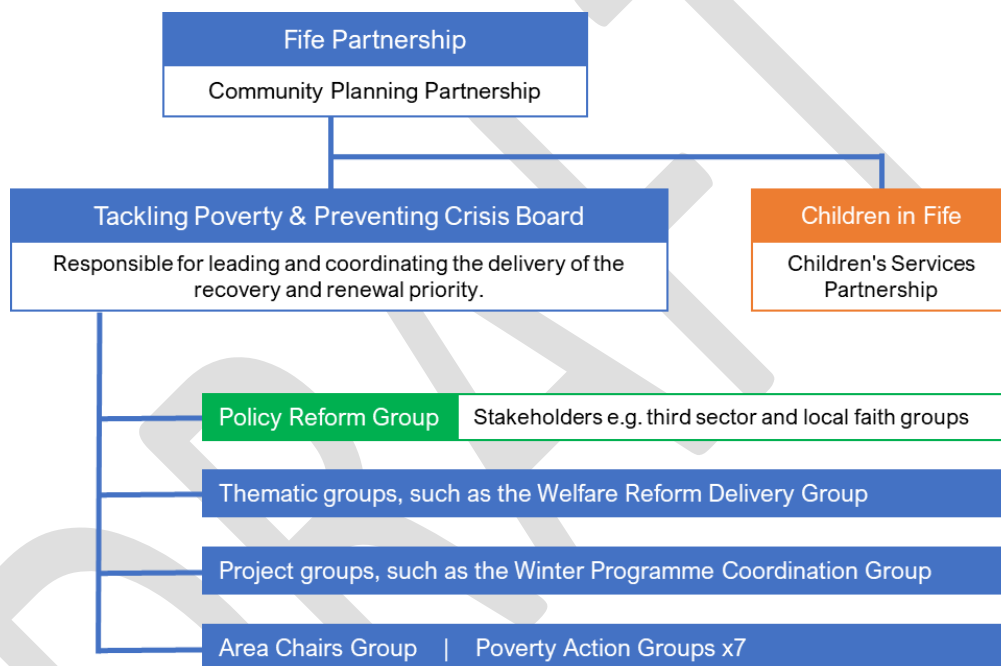
The pilot has helped shape local area approaches, with Greener Kirkcaldy developing a new model to provide vouchers and support to people on their Langtoun Larder pantry waiting list. The pilot identified a need to develop more access routes to assistance for local people in the Kirkcaldy area. The findings of this pilot add to the evidence base for cash first approaches and will hopefully influence other models across Fife and Scotland.

DRAFT

Working in Partnership

To achieve our ambition of tackling poverty and crisis through a prevention approach, our existing system must operate more effectively to ensure people and families get the right type of help, in the right way and at the right time. This requires greater collaboration between services locally. During 2022/23, we have accelerated and strengthened existing partnerships and established new ones to have more collaboration and joined up support for people and families through an approach which values and helps sustain local and informal networks.

The TPPC Board is responsible for leading and coordinating the delivery of activity to tackle poverty and prevent crisis. The Board reviews progress with its delivery plan (see Appendix 1) and considers information, data and emerging need to identify new actions. The Board is multi-agency with representation from key Fife Council Services, NHS Fife Public Health, Fife Voluntary Action, CARF and Fife Gingerbread.



The Child Poverty Sub-Group is a thematic group that considers progress on actions related to child poverty, including income maximisation services for families, childcare and the Cost of the School Day. The group is interested in lived experience and promotes the use of the voice of the child in decision making and the targeting of the priority family groups in Fife.


The Policy Reform Group was set up to create a way to engage and discuss developing issues around poverty and proposed actions with the third sector and local faith groups. The group involves a mix of large and small organisations, including Fife Gingerbread, Fife Centre for Equalities, the Big Hoose, Fife Presbytery (Poverty Task Group), Dunfermline Clothing Bank, Frontline Fife, Homestart, Greener Kirkcaldy and the Trussell Trust. Issues raised have included the rise in the number of single adult male users of the Trussell Trust food banks and a decrease in the number of families using food banks, as well as discussion on how to improve the help for people moving into tenancies.

Fife Council and NHS Fife would like to thank our partners. Without the continued support of services and organisations from across Fife's public and third sector and local businesses, we couldn't achieve the range and scale of activity to tackle poverty and prevent crisis.

Tackling Poverty & Preventing Crisis Delivery Plan 2021-2024: Progress Report

Outcome: More people's incomes are maximised and there is increased access to benefits

Action	2022/23 progress update and priorities for 2023/24	Status / notes
<p>Deliver integrated income maximisation from benefits across key service points</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support & Connect, Fife Council Education initiative, involving one-to-one support and group work provision. Families identified by specific schools in Fife based on levels of deprivation. 120 referrals received during 2022/23 with financial gains for 76 families totalling over £173,000 (for both Support & Connect referrals and Boosting Budget referrals – see below). Access to a discretionary fund enabled the service to support struggling families with over £12,000. See case study in Appendix 2. • Boosting Budgets is a new pilot project delivered by Support & Connect and works with families with children who are reported as being at risk of a non-positive destination on leaving school. A 7-week financial capability course run in partnership with CARF and Cosy Kingdom. 56 clients during 2022/23 with over £98,947 of financial gains. Participants receive breakfast or lunch at each session, a certificate on completion and a £30 shopping voucher of their choice. • Delivery of a Financial Inclusion Referral Pathway is a key area which all NHS Boards must deliver as part of the Scottish Government Child Poverty agenda. During 2022/23, training was delivered to 28 participants through two workshops. These sessions reiterated the importance of staff being empowered and confident in having conversations with clients around areas of finance and maximising income in the household. • CARF's Money Talk Team provide the income maximisation service as part of the Financial Inclusion Referral Pathway. In 2022/23, the number of referrals increased slightly over the course of the year, in line with previous year's trends of antenatal numbers and births being slightly higher during the spring/summer months. Naturally the Cost of Living Crisis has also impacted the number of referrals as clients reported struggling with their finances. • Building on the success of the Financial Inclusion Referral Pathway, Fife Council Education Service is introducing an income maximisation project within Early Years. This will involve training Early Years Officers and Pupil Support Staff to have conversations with parents and carers about money issues and how they can get better access to support. A data process has been set up to capture information from the pilot. The pilot will run in 5 schools across Fife. • Fife Council procured the benefit checker, Entitled To, and launched the Fife Benefit Checker in October 2022. To support its roll out, frontline staff across Fife Partnership 	<p>On track ✓</p> <p>Child poverty action</p> <p>Child poverty action</p> <p>Child poverty action</p> <p>Child poverty action</p> <p>Child poverty action</p>

	<p>received training in how to use the benefit checker. 43 workshops were delivered by CARF and the Health Promotion Service to over 500 participants. There have been 5,924 benefit checks completed, which has identified over £675,000⁷ that people are entitled to but have not been claiming.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fife Gingerbread are working in partnership with the Poverty Alliance to revisit research into Child Maintenance carried out in 2016, in the context of pandemic recovery and the Cost-of-Living crisis to understand how or if the challenges have changed. The project aims to help lone parent families make the most of the current system by navigating the parameters of existing mechanisms and identify how services can better support lone parents to successfully claim Child Maintenance. <p>2023/24 priorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to deliver key benefit maximisation activity in a range of service points, such as Council Tax Reduction and targeted at carers. Fife Gingerbread, working with One Parent Families Scotland and IPPR (Scotland), to deliver evidence-based recommendations to achieve transformational change to the UK child maintenance system and contribute to reducing child poverty. Identify gaps in service points that would benefit from having income maximisation for service users; explore funding and resource opportunities. 	<p>Child poverty Action</p> <p>Child poverty action</p>
<p>Develop a tiered training programme on welfare support to increase the range and number of staff participating in the Health Promotion poverty awareness training</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Poverty Awareness Training Programme ran from September to March and offered a range of in-person and virtual workshops, e-learning and webinars. Courses for 2022/23 covered the basics like challenging stigma and discrimination to technical sessions about key benefits and how to consider a child's voice in supporting families living in poverty. Courses were delivered to 113 participants virtually and 49 face-to-face. A series of ad hoc and targeted Poverty Awareness Information Sessions was set up in 2022/23 with 22 participants. Training for Trainers workshop was also organised and was open to group members and the Health Promotion Service to increase delivery of these sessions. There are now 9 additional trainers trained to deliver these sessions. <p>2023/24 priorities</p>	<p>Work started </p> <p>Child poverty action</p>


⁷ This figure reports the total identified entitlements for the moment in time of the benefit check. It does not account for whether the individual goes onto claim a benefit and how much they would get over the time they are claiming. This figure is identified entitlements, not unclaimed entitlements as some users may already be claiming an entitlement that is flagged up during a check.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secure funding through the Community Recovery Fund to develop a tiered training programme for welfare support across the partnership ensuring a range of staff are trained to various degrees depending on their role and remit. 	
<p>Deliver targeted campaigns to increase take up in benefit entitlement</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding from Fife Council has been used to support a series of evidence-based benefit maximisation campaigns. The project is being supported by a new Benefit Take-Up Campaign Lead who has been recruited to CARF. Benefits take-up campaigns on Pension Credit and Tax-Free Childcare ran for several weeks in January and March 2023, respectively. Fife Council automatically re-awarded School Clothing Grants to over 6,800 pupils in the summer of 2022, and wrote to around 4,300 more families who were identified as being eligible to let them know about their eligibility. Over 12,340 clothing grants were awarded for the year, equating to over £1.6 million for families. An increase to the School Clothing Grant was approved in Autumn 2022 of £50 per child for families to purchase winter clothing for children. <p>2023/24 priorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to provide targeted campaigns for families of school age children covering a range of potential entitlements, such as the Scottish Child Payment, and a series of "Get Ready for Winter" campaigns linked to this year's Cost of Living Payment entitlement qualifying dates. 	<p>On track ✓</p> <p>Child poverty action</p> <p>Child poverty action</p> <p>Child poverty action</p>
<p>Ensure there are additional ways people can access services, advice and information out with office hours to support those in in-work poverty</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To increase awareness of support available during the Cost of Living crisis, Fife Council launched a public information campaign – the Cost of Living campaign – designed to be used by partners across Fife's public and third sector. The campaign sought to ensure all Fifiers can access local support as early as possible to help relieve the pressure of rising costs and the associated impact on health and wellbeing. The campaign was developed in consultation with over 100 staff, volunteers, and members of the public aged 16 to over 65. The OurFife community website was created by the Council with partners and community organisations to provide practical information and contact details to help the public navigate their way around the maze of information and support. From its launch to the end of 2022/23, there were over 60,900 visits to the website. The Community Support Helpline is a continuation of Fife Council's COVID Community Helpline. This was available over winter to support people undertaking benefit checks and to signpost to support. Individuals could access extra support to complete the Fife Benefit Checker, if required. There were over 1,700 calls to the Community Support Helpline during 	<p>On track ✓</p>

	<p>winter 2022/23 helping with a range of supports from benefit checks, fuel top-ups, food vouchers etc.</p> <p>2023/24 priorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure an approach for Winter 2023/24. • Further explore options for increasing access to services outwith office hours. 	
Support people to get online and access benefits and provide job search support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Job Clubs continue to be run in Fife with job search and benefit support supplied by Fife Council Welfare Support Assistants. <p>2023/24 priorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore what more can be done to support people to get online and digitally enabled. 	Work started 🚩

Outcome: People are protected from cost-of-living increases with a focus on support for food, fuel and childcare costs

Action	2022/23 progress update and priorities for 2023/24	Status / notes
Establish and support a community food network to strengthen community-led, and community owned, responses to food insecurity including food banks, fridges and pantries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support was made available through the Winter Programme to community food providers across Fife through a Small Grants Scheme. Providers were able to apply for the fund to help with general running costs, purchasing food to meet demand, replacing equipment or purchase new equipment, and enhancing volunteer training and development opportunities. Over £380,000 was paid out to 72 organisations across Fife. • Café Inc was delivered through schools (provided by Fife Council's Catering Service) and community centres (delivered in partnership with Fife Council Local Area Teams and third sector partners) with other support available such as family activities, financial support and signposting to other services. Over 169,000 meals were distributed during 2022/23. <p>2023/24 priorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify ways of jointly procuring and delivering essential items to community food providers, as well as helping to give security of supply and reducing the costs of buying food items. • Develop a local area approach to food and fuel support to ensure help is targeted at local need. 	<p>Work started 🚩</p> <p>Child poverty action</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop, implement and monitor a Winter Programme for 2023/24 led by evidence from the findings of the 2022/23 Winter Programme evaluation, including support for fuel, food and cash. 	
<p>Provide support to individuals and families who are experiencing, or at risk of, fuel poverty</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional support was made available through the Winter Programme to enable Fife Council's Housing Service and the Cosy Kingdom Partnership to support households in need of fuel support. Support included fuel poverty advice, fuel top-ups, help with bills and home energy debt. The Cosy Kingdom Handy Service for cold mitigation (energy saving lightbulbs, carpets, thermal curtains, radiator panels delivered services). Approximately 1,000 Winter Warmer Packs consisting of a fleece, hot water bottles, insulated cups and hats and gloves in a kit bag were distributed across Fife's seven areas to vulnerable individuals in temporary crisis. Fife Council invested over £220,000 in a programme of Warm Spaces run jointly with community groups, Fife Sports & Leisure Trust and Fife Cultural Trust. To ensure a local approach, Fife Voluntary Action ran a grant scheme to provide grants of up to £5,000 for community groups to provide warm places in their communities. 72 Warm Spaces in Fife were supported through this funding. Warm Spaces were most successful where they provided food and addressed social isolation. <p>2023/24 priorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a local area approach to food and fuel support to ensure help is targeted at local need. Develop, implement and monitor a Winter Programme for 2023/24 led by evidence from the findings of the 2022/23 Winter Programme evaluation, including support for fuel, food and cash. 	
<p>Improve access to local, affordable and flexible childcare including exploring parent-led approaches to take advantage of learning, training and job opportunities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fife Council are working with Hemsall's who are undertaking a 'Take Five' review into low take-up of Tax-Free Childcare in Fife and to increase awareness of the scheme. <p>2023/24 priorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Childcare Working Group to consider the main issues for Fife and produce recommendations that support the development of Fife's childcare sector. 	<p>Work started </p> <p>Child poverty actions</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake a test of change to increase the workforce in Fife's childcare sector by focusing on giving people on-the-job qualifications in childcare whilst working for Fife Council. 	
<p>Promote banking and affordable credit options, and develop a joined-up approach to debt across partners</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> During 2022, Fife Council extended the criteria for debt support to include wider indicators of vulnerability. This provides targeted relief to people in specific situations by, for example, writing off debt and establishing a more holistic approach to debt management by considering all circumstances people and families are facing in the round. Fife Council agreed to provide funding to help households in Fife who have unpaid school meal debt. The debt ranges from small amount of a few pounds to hundreds of pounds. Over £41,000 was written off in 2022/23. <p>2023/24 priorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learn from South & West Fife pilot on financial education in partnership with Kingdom Community Bank. 	<p>Work started 🚩</p> <p>Child poverty action</p>
<p>Promote Fife as a Living Wage region and look at the role of procurement in this</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Community Wealth Building Anchor Charter was agreed at Fife Council Cabinet Committee at the start of April 2023. This provides a new focus for the Real Living Wage. Fife was the first place in the United Kingdom to secure a 'real Living Wage' town status, for Glenrothes. Through a dedicated action group, significant increases have been seen in businesses becoming accredited RLW employers. This continued to grow through the pandemic, but now requires additional focus to extend to other Fife places. <p>2023/24 priorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement a roll-out of the Real Living Wage Fife-wide – beginning with the next town focus on Kirkcaldy. Encourage that commissioned activity funded through government grants, requires suppliers and delivery organisations to be accredited Real Living Wage employers. 	<p>Work started 🚩</p>
<p>Utilise LACER funding to deliver multiple interventions that support local economic recovery and ease cost of living impacts on low-income households</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Local Authority COVID Economic Recovery (LACER) Fund enabled Fife to deliver several key actions during 2022/23, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional funding for Scottish Welfare Fund to cover increased demand for Crisis Grants, on top of Scottish Government funding and the top-up Fife Council allocates annually. Funding to Cosy Kingdom to support people who are in fuel poverty. 	<p>Completed ✅</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Continue the Fife Hardship fund for 12 months to provide for those who are not eligible for the Scottish Welfare Fund and need basic needs covered such as fuel top ups, weekly shopping, and other emergencies. ○ Support for projects which supply much needed charitable goods (including excess goods) and services to vulnerable families in Fife and to oversee the logistics and distribution of donated goods. ○ Facilitate pre-employment training to help address long term unemployment. 	Child poverty action
Develop and implement a new, locally informed framework for commissioning employability services in the area through the No One Left Behind programme and Parental Employment Support Fund	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Activity commenced for NOLB delivery in April 2022. An outline of the activity was provided in our previous Local Child Poverty Action Report. ● The Commissioning Framework was updated in 2022 to recognise the terms of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) and the National Strategy for Economic Transformation (NSET), ahead of a further round of commissioning for activity funded by UKSPF in 2023-25. 	On track <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Child poverty action
Make period products free and obtainable for anyone who needs them in Fife	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● During 2022/23, Fife Council started making products available to community groups for their service users to access. ● Fife Council published its Statement on Exercise of Functions in September 2022, outlining the delivery arrangements for implementing the provision of free period products. Products are provided to anyone in Fife who needs them at a range of locations and to children and young people in Fife's schools. <p>2023/24 priorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Continue to expand the range of places where products are available for people to pick up and raise awareness of the free provision. 	On track <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Develop and produce an action plan on the food insecurity pillar of the Food4Fife Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Food Insecurity Group developed a draft action plan for the Food4Fife Strategy and Action Plan 2023-2030, which was used in the formal strategy consultation. <p>2023/24 priorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Use feedback from the consultation to finalise the action plan for the food insecurity pillar. 	On track <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Outcome: Preventing homelessness and making it short and non-recurring

Action	2022/23 progress update and priorities for 2023/24	Status / notes
Replace 20% (100) scatter flats per year through conversion to mainstream tenancies and reprovion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the last year, due to the Kirkcaldy Court Judgement there were 650 households in temporary accommodation that should have been flipped to permanent Scottish Secure Tenancies (SST). Half of there were able to be flipped due to them being the correct size/location, the remainder were mis-matched and alternative accommodation was offered to provide them with SST. 	Work started 🚩
Implement the Housing First Model for 75 tenancies per year focussed on groups at risk of homelessness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Housing First Programme can now receive referrals for all customers with multiple and complex needs. Rock Trust continue to provide services to under 25s and Turning Point Scotland, Bethany Christian Trust and Fife Women’s Aid provide support to those over 25. Recently the new partners have been recruiting staff in Fife and combined training organised for new recruits and to some Housing Service Staff. A new monitoring framework has been introduced to track progress of Housing First. <p>2023/24 priorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To continue to increase the numbers of customers that are supported via Housing First and to raise awareness of Housing First as a housing option for some customers across the Housing Service. 	On track ✓
Increase the range of accommodation with support options available to vulnerable families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The roll out of the Rapid Access Concept is being undertaken, however recruitment delays and capacity issues have been a challenge during 2022/23. Three accommodation options have been reprovioned with support on offer. Focus is still on the unprecedented demand on statutory temporary accommodation. 	On track ✓
Recommission a range of housing support and homelessness services with an enhanced focus on prevention and early intervention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Progress has been made in the recommissioning of £8m of housing support and homeless funding to support the Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan (RRTP). A new monitoring and funding framework are in place to track the performance of all the Housing Service commissioned services. 	On track ✓
Implement the Transitional Affordable Housing programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Between 2018/19 and 2022/23, the Housing Service has built 532 properties and our Fife Housing Register Partners have built 1512. During the same period we have bought 283 	On track ✓

	properties from the private sector to boost social housing stock. In 2022/23, 62 empty homes were brought back into use in Fife.	
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Outcome: More people have crisis prevented through a No Wrong Door approach ensuring early and joined up support

Action	2022/23 progress update and priorities for 2023/24	Status / notes
<p>Move the 'No Wrong Door Approach' from pilot stage to organisational change with a focus on how frontline services are accessed and delivered</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> During 2022, preliminary research was undertaken to consider what was working well and not working well in Fife, and to look at successful models from across the UK that demonstrated the 'No Wrong Door' ethos working in practice. Fife Partnership ran a series of Leadership Summits to engage senior leaders across the Community Planning Partnership to look at how we currently deliver support services, our vision for 'No Wrong Door' and what needs to change to achieve our ambition. The outputs and learning from these summit conversations can be viewed here. The Whole Family Wellbeing Fund is enabling Fife to deliver a number of activities that seek to build local capacity for transformational whole system change and to scale up and drive the delivery of holistic whole family support services. This is key to our No Wrong Door approach and both workstream are working closely to ensure alignment on whole systems change, leadership, culture and workforce, availability and access to services, and putting children and families at the centre of service design. The Putting People First test of change brings together three council services – Community Development, Housing and Community Social Work – to identify and test new ways of preventing crisis and mitigating the impact of hardship at an earlier stage by focusing on people's underlying issues. There have been 111 referrals with 64 people engaging in support since December 2021. There have been 68 benefit checks resulting in average financial gain of £121. <p>2023/24 priorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Move No Wrong Door from concept to reality by working with external consultants to develop a high-level blueprint and outline business case for Fife Council in partnership with Health and the third sector. Progress the Whole Family Wellbeing approach in Fife. 	<p>On track ✓</p> <p>Child poverty action</p>

<p>Develop a tiered training programme to support and empower front line staff to develop positive relationships with clients and help them with benefit and welfare support</p>	<p>2023/24 priorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secure funding through the Community Recovery Fund to develop a tiered training programme for welfare support across the partnership ensuring a range of staff are trained to various degrees depending on their role and remit. 	<p>Not yet started</p> <p>●</p>
<p>Simplify access to crisis welfare funding and develop cash-first approach</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Choice First is a six-month pilot to test and share learning on cash first responses to address recurring food crisis in the Kirkcaldy area. The pilot was a collaboration between Fife Council's Putting People First Team, Greener Kirkcaldy and Kirkcaldy Food Bank. It tested how access to financial support via vouchers and a range of other support could make a meaningful impact on financial situations, personal choice and dignity, and improve wellbeing. There were 14 participants with 10 income maximisation checks resulting in average financial gains of £138. In terms of individuals participating in the pilot, 36% were aged over 65, 36% were aged under 25, 21% were families with children, and 7% were Care Experienced. <p>2023/24 priorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make the case for Fife taking a Cash First approach and gain commitment on the approach. 	<p>On track ✓</p>

Outcome: Improved use of data relating to poverty and crisis to target spend on prevention of crisis

Action	2022/23 progress update and priorities for 2023/24	Status / notes
<p>Use data and project intelligence to deliver better outcomes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fife Council procured the Low-Income Family Tracker (LIFT) during 2022/23. From 1 January 2023, Scottish Government have agreed to fully mitigate the benefit cap to those people affected, without a financial assessment. This will be done by application to the Council and will be paid via the Discretionary Housing Payment (DHP) Fund. Although an application is required, if a household applies and they are affected by the cap, the Council will pay the difference between what they are receiving and what they should be entitled to for either Housing Benefit and Universal Credit Housing Costs. LIFT was used to identify those households affected by the benefit cap so that their housing costs can be met. These households were then contacted by the Benefits Assessment Team to invite them to make an application for their housing costs to be met. This has been instrumental in quickly identifying the households affected and getting money to them to meet their housing costs. 	<p>On track ✓</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> During November and December 2022, Fife ran a Pension Credit Campaign, encouraging people to check their entitlement to benefits – using the new Fife Benefit Checker – and apply by 19 December to be eligible for Cost of Living payments. LIFT was used to identify those people who were eligible for but not claiming pension credit, and to track outcomes for these households over time. This has helped us to understand the effectiveness of a general awareness campaign, but also to identify if there is a need for more targeted follow-up. Our experience from this is informing future campaign approaches. <p>2023/24 priorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore full functionality of LIFT and develop actions to target low-income households across Fife. 	
Improve data sharing across the Partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fife Council have started sharing LIFT data with partners through the multi-agency Welfare Reform Delivery Group to monitor how welfare reforms will impact on Fife's low-income households and inform decision making. <p>2023/24 priorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify opportunities for benefit maximisation activity by sharing data across partners, targeting interventions such as Council Tax Reduction and benefit deductions. Use partner data, including information from Social Security Scotland to increase take up of the Scottish Child Payment 	Work started 
Develop a systematic approach for targeting anti-poverty spend focussed on tangible impact that increases prevention measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fife Council has approached this work through a series of Policy Review Groups, which are part of the Winter Programme evaluation for 2022/23. Groups have included local authority and third sector partners. <p>2023/24 priorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Target investment through local area teams to address local needs through actions like Warm Spaces and the community food providers Small Grants Scheme. Use learning from the 2022/23 Winter Programme to influence how we develop a systematic approach to prevention and targeting spend. 	Work started 
Improve community voice structures at local and regional level ensuring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The WFWF is enabling a newly recruited team based in Fife Voluntary Action to work with CYPF alongside officers and public and third sector leadership to help shape a better understanding of current experiences of services, what needs to improve and how change can be facilitated by working together utilising a co-production and co-design approach. Central 	Work started  Child poverty action

<p>direct connectivity to decision makers</p>	<p>to this will be embedding the active and meaningful involvement of families in Fife in the design, development and delivery of services.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Established a Tackling Poverty – Policy Reform Group to engage and discuss developing issues around poverty and proposed actions with the third sector and local faith groups. <p>2023/24 priorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to engage with families, staff and partners to produce a detailed co-produced report with recommendations to inform future children and families support service planning, commissioning, and design. 	<p>Child poverty action</p>
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Other activity delivered during 2022/23

Action	2022/23 progress update and priorities for 2023/24	Status / notes
<p>The Big Hoose</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Big Hoose was established during 2022 and has been providing much needed household items for families in Fife that are struggling with the cost of living. The project works in partnership with The Cottage Family Centre, Amazon UK and a range of other corporate sponsors with third sector and public sector organisations to give frontline workers the ability to support families through access to a range of household goods like bedding, kitchen items, towels etc. To assist with distributing the goods across the area, Fife Council provided £200,000 of financial support in 2022/23. Over 29,000 products were distributed via the project during 2022/23. The project was featured in a variety of local news sites and national news including BBC News and The Guardian. <p>2023/24 priorities</p> <p>Continue to support/enable delivery of the Big Hoose project when required, if necessary.</p>	<p>On track ✓</p> <p>Child poverty action</p>
<p>Cost of the School Day</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All Headteachers received support through regular Attainment Scotland Networks, to plan mitigations to the Cost of the School Day during 2022. Schools are directed to the cost of the school day toolkit and associated resources created by the Child Poverty Action Group. The Poverty Alliance provided a specific training for 39 Pupil Support Assistants from across Fife schools in May 2022. Schools were able to share good practice and learn from colleagues across Scotland. All schools in Fife receive Pupil Equity Funding as part of the Scottish Government’s Attainment Scotland Fund. Schools can use this funding to remove barriers to learning and reduce the cost of the school day. Many schools use this to provide additional food through breakfast clubs or food carts. A few schools have a resource box in each classroom with resource toiletries and snacks from which young people can help 	<p>Work started 🚩</p> <p>Child poverty action</p>

	<p>themselves. Fife Council Education Service are looking to scale and spread the effective practice in this area and have set up a working group of Headteachers to facilitate this.</p>	
<p>Funded programme for summer 2022 to reach target families in low-income households, extend activity times to build capacity within the system to provide childcare, and drive capacity for food provision as a central part of the offer</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The funded programme helped support care experienced children and young people. Looked after children and young people in the nine Fife Council residential houses were able to access a range of opportunities including accessing summer activities; day trips; local recreational resources; play and recreational equipment. • The funded programme helped support low-income families, children with a disability/ASN/in need of protection/supported by a Childs Plan. The Children & Families' Activity & Achievement Fund has offered a variety of opportunities and experiences for children and young people; promoting wellbeing, developing new skills, improving confidence, and building resilience. This has enabled a vast array of opportunities for vulnerable children and young people who due to circumstances are often disconnected from to mainstream activities. This fund has also supported target group work which has been activity based. • High school-based programmes for P7 pupils provided the opportunity for them to meet and work with pupils from their cluster primary schools in a range of activities in an informal setting. Pupils would become familiar with the layout and facilities of the school when it is quieter reducing some of the fears and anxiety experienced when transitioning from primary. • An inclusive multi-sport club was offered weekly for pupils with a disability and/or additional support need. This provided an opportunity for pupils to be active, learn new skills and connect with their peers in a safe environment with the support of coaches and volunteers to enable all pupils to take part. • Water Confidence - 6 weeks of instructor-led swimming teaching (4 days per week for 45 minutes) was made available by Fife Council with Community-Use Schools. Families who would not be able to access swimming lessons due to financial barriers were targeted with young people in P5,6,7. Many of these young people held a fear of water and without 1-1 support would not have been able to learn to swim. • The funding enabled Playschemes and Protected Places for children referred by Health, Education etc. The schemes are designed to support families in crisis, children in need of protection, Kinship Care, Young Carers, Additional Support Needs, food poverty, and lack of play opportunities. • The Free Range Outdoor Play Project was run by the Practice Development Team (Early Years) in partnership with Falkland Estate. This involved targeted referrals based on an identified health and wellbeing need via Social Work, Education, NHS, and voluntary sector 	<p>Completed ✓</p> <p>Child poverty action</p> <p>Child poverty action</p> <p>Child poverty action</p> <p>Child poverty action</p> <p>Child poverty action</p> <p>Child poverty action</p> <p>Child poverty action</p>

	<p>organisations for children aged 4-10 years (pre-school nursery year to P5). An additional 30 places were funded for this scheme.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The funding enabled some of Fife's Special Schools were opened over the summer to allow families to access specialist equipment and a familiar environment. • Fife Council Education Service supported third sector partners including Fife Gingerbread, Young Carers and DAPL to provide summer activities. 	<p>Child poverty action</p>
<p>Supporting sports clubs to understand the impact of poverty on their communities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active Fife - Fife Council's Sports Development team – have been supporting community sports clubs to help people get into sport by reducing cost barriers. There have been many examples of clubs trying to get new members by offering free sessions, but these often fail to get people committed to attending more than once. Active Fife officers have found that many clubs offer a range of support to members, such as kit recycling and flexible memberships, but don't advertise these to new members. The Cost of Living Pledge was established to showcase all the help that's on offer to communities by attending these clubs and the public can see local sports groups that are dedicated to making sport more accessible. So far, five clubs from across Fife have adopted this pledge. • Sports clubs in Fife are starting to think about how they can use their data to understand the impact of poverty on their communities. Clubs are using SIMD data to assess the spread of their membership and see how much of their membership lives in the most deprived communities. It allows clubs to consider the local community needs and assess the club's capacity to address those needs. This is being demonstrated by Kirkcaldy Rugby Football Club, which has set themselves a vision of being an inclusive rugby club that prioritises increasing participation in rugby, especially for low-income families. 	<p>On track <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>Pre-employment programmes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Fife Council Employability Team have developed several pre-employment programmes that build upon their experience to date in delivering pre-recruitment and academy activities. The programmes have been designed to support clients to prepare for successful applications and interview for potential jobs, as well as gaining relevant Health & Safety training, work placement training and industry experience. The Team prepares unemployed candidates to develop an understanding and increase motivation to meet the recruitment standard of employers who are planning to recruit. Programmes delivered during 2022/23 include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Babcock Pre-Employment Academy: Two-week programme completed with 15 participants securing a place at Babcock PSO assessment centre. ○ Mulholland Construction Pre-Employment Programme: First programme completed with 5 participants securing employment, second programme planned before year end for 6 positions. 	<p>On track <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Fife Youth Initiative: Training for young adults who have disengaged, or at risk or disengaging, from Education. The initiative ensures wraparound support and provides referral to pre-employment programmes as part of the Employability Pathway. Programme commenced with 14 secondary schools engaged. ○ Matrix Fife Pathways to Work: First programme completed with three candidates securing four-month paid placements. 	
Making it Work for Families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Making it Work for Families brings staff together from Fife Gingerbread, Clued Up, CARF and FIRST to support lone parent, low-income or unemployed families with current, historic or who are considered to be 'at risk of' substance use and who have children in P7, S1 or S2 who are struggling to engage with or attend school. The project is linked to four secondary schools as well as feeder primary schools within the Kirkcaldy and Levenmouth areas. The team takes a whole family support approach to working with families and works with each individual to meet their specific needs. The project is funded through the Edinburgh & South East Scotland City Region's Intensive Family Support Service, and received additional funding in 2022/23 from Fife's Whole Family Wellbeing Fund to expand the project to include families with P7 pupils, extend the delivery model, strengthen and improve relationships with the local Children and Families Social Work teams and deliver the Model for Improvement focused on 'a whole family approach to attendance'. 	<p>On track ✓</p> <p>Child poverty action</p>

Additional actions identified as priorities for 2023/24:

Actions and outcomes
<p>Outcome: People are protected from cost-of-living increases with a focus on support for food, fuel and childcare costs</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Transport and access to services 2. Community Wealth Building – recruitment and employability: Redesigned recruitment approaches which help applicants overcome digital and process barriers 3. Community Wealth Building – recruitment and employability: Targeted recruitment from priority groups who face inequalities and who are furthest from the labour market

Case Studies

Case Study – Support & Connect

A lone parent with four children, two of whom have autism, was referred by the Fife Council Social Work Disability Team. The parent had recently left a relationship due to emotional and financial abuse and was unaware of the support available to her.

With the help of the Support & Connect officer, an income and expenditure assessment was completed and was followed by a benefit check. The oldest child is entitled to Child Disability Payment and requires full time care from mum. The officer supported the parent to change her circumstances in her Universal Credit journal and apply for Carers Allowance. This took away the parent's stress from her UC work seeking commitments. The parent was also supported with budgeting skills. Financial gains were made by applying for the following benefits and grants:

- Child Benefit for 2 unclaimed children = £1502.80 per year
- Carers element of Universal Credit £168.81 = £2,025 per year
- From November 2022, Scottish Child Payment = £5,200 per year
- Hardship Fund to clear an overdraft = £1,000 (one-off)
- Child Disability Payment for youngest child with autism = pending

Total income maximised by over £9,700.

Case Study - Boosting Budgets

A parent with two children (one with a disability) self-referred to the Boosting Budgets advisor due to a change in circumstances – the client's partner had been offered a new job and they were unclear as to how that could affect their benefit payments.

A benefit check was carried out to show their current entitlements and what changes would occur if the client's partner accepted the job offer. This showed they would still be entitled to Universal Credit and could keep claiming the Scottish Child Payment for their two children.

One child was in receipt of Child Disability Payment; however, no one was being treated as the child's carer on the benefit claim. The client advised that they did not work due to their caring responsibilities for the child. The adviser recommended that they report to UC that they are caring for the child, as this would flag up other benefits they could be entitled to. Applications for additional benefits were made and the client's financial gains to date are:

- Ongoing Carers Allowance for 52 weeks - £3,624.40
- Carers Allowance Supplement paid twice in the year - £491.40
- Universal Credit Carer premium for 52 weeks - £2,025.72

Total income maximised by over £6,000.

The client also declared ongoing health conditions that she suffers from, so the advisor provided information on Adult Disability Payment, which the client is now in the process of applying for.

Without looking at the family's whole situation, the client may never have known that they were entitled to additional support, nor would they have had their income maximised by over £6,000.

17 August 2023

Agenda Item No. 7

Tackling Poverty and Crisis Prevention Board and Winter 2023/24 Programme Priorities

Report by: Mike Enston, Executive Director – Communities

Wards Affected: N/A

Purpose

To report the forward programme of priorities for the TPPC (Tackling Poverty & Preventing Crisis) Board and to report on the development of the proposed winter programme 2023/24

Recommendations

Board members are asked to note the forward programme of priorities for the Board including the proposed winter programme 2023/24

Resource Implications

The Fife Council Budget 2023/24 includes additional provision for Café Inc and Scottish Welfare Fund. Provision was also made for wider cost of living support and proposals will be brought forward to Cabinet as part of a report on a programme of support for next winter. The HRA budget for 2023/24 continues provision for fuel poverty £0.5m and £1.5 million rent support.

The carry forward from the previous COVID and Local Authority Economic Recovery funding of 3386 797 and 1 million Fife Wide Community Recovery Funding.

Legal & Risk Implications

The ending of Covid support funding for people on low incomes could increase pressure on people and on already stretched council resources. This report highlights continuing work to improve the co-ordination and delivery of support and help prevent crisis.

Impact Assessment

An EqIA is not required as this report does not propose any changes to existing policies and practices.

Consultation

There has been continuous dialogue with partners, area teams, community groups and elected members as part of the coordination of the winter programme of support and with the development of the Tackling Poverty and Preventing Crisis Board priorities.

1.0 Background

- 1.1 The Tackling Poverty and Preventing Crisis Board Delivery Plan was established in November 2021 with the following key themes:
- More people's incomes are maximised and there is increased access to benefits.**
- People are protected from cost-of-living increases with a focus on support for food, fuel and childcare costs.**
- Homelessness is reduced with people in temporary housing for shorter lengths of time.**
- More people have crisis prevented through a No Wrong Door approach ensuring early and joined up support.**
- Improved use of data relating to poverty and crisis to target spend on prevention of crisis.**
- 1.2 As the cost-of-living crisis hit the second theme of protecting people from the cost-of-living increases became a priority and developed into the Winter Programme of support Winter 2022/23.
- 1.3 Since May we have been reviewing that programme with partners and those who had experience of accessing the support, and the findings have influenced the development of a programme of support which will be needed again this winter. Recommendations include:
- Increasing benefit maximisation work and campaigns as preventative actions and link to Entitled To and LIFT data
 - Ensuring the work of the Welfare Support Assistants and other key staff is aligned to issues that the Low-Income Family Tracker (LIFT) data is showing us.
 - Further explore options for increasing access to services out with office hours -based on the feedback from the Poverty Action Groups when consulting on the Winter Programme.
 - Increasing the quality and extent of curtains and carpeting offered through the Scottish Welfare Fund community care grants to help people keep their homes warm.
 - Introduce a food support mechanism (issuing of Sodexo vouchers) to ensure those in need of emergency food via Helpline calls get the support needed on the day of calling.
 - To become a partner with the national charity Fuel Bank Fuel Bank [Home | Fuel Bank Foundation](#) will give us a single offer of crisis support for those on pre-payment meters unable to top them up .
 - Single Point of Contact (SPOC) for each Area – will help people access very local support.
- 1.4 The proposed elements and direction of the winter programme takes account of new social security benefits such as the Social Security Scottish Child Payment and changes to and uses the data and evidence we now have from the Low-Income Family Tracker (LIFT) and the Fife Benefit calculator, Entitled To.
- 1.5 The priorities for the Tackling Poverty and Preventing Crisis Board are based on the progress of the delivery plan actions and the work of the subgroups supporting the Board.

2.0 Issues and Options

- 2.1 The Board continues to focus on preventative work despite the immediate need to provide Cost of Living Crisis help.

The subgroups of the Board as well as the policy forum made up of key third sector organisations and the 7 Area Anti-Poverty Groups (previously the Welfare Reform and Anti-Poverty Groups) have fed back on the work of the Board and the Winter Programme.

- 2.2 Priorities for the Board currently are:

- To refresh the delivery plan and create a more focused plan with fewer but clearer deliverable actions.
- To work across the Recovery and Reform Boards to increase the pace and focus on areas such as childcare, fuel poverty and support into employment.
- Maximise the opportunities to develop Cash First approaches to ensure we are developing non stigmatising programmes of help.
- Use the LIFT data and the Fife Benefit Checker – Entitled To, to inform and direct the work of staff to ensure we increase people's income wherever possible.
- Expand the opportunities for those with a direct experience of poverty to influence strategies and approaches to addressing poverty and hardship.

- 2.3 The review of last year's Winter Programme has a balance of recommendations that will continue to support those in crisis, but also has longer-term preventative measures. Fife's new benefit checker from Entitled To – the Fife Benefit Checker – has been a game changer this year; increasing the number of benefit checks being carried out across Fife and identifying entitlements people and families may not be aware of. This coupled with the welfare benefits campaigning is helping to increase people's income. The Pension Credit campaign that ran November 2022 until the end of the financial year in March 2023 resulted in 110 claims being made which totalled financial gain of £338,988 in unclaimed benefit a year across the 110 claims .

- 2.4 The Scottish Welfare Fund remains the core offer of support for people in crisis. We are proposing to upgrade the quality of the offer of some household goods from the SWF such as curtains and carpets as the improved quality will help people keep their homes warm and make it more likely for items to be re used when people move home.

This is in addition to extra staff who will help reduce the waiting times for those making crisis applications.

- 2.5 The review of food support following consultation with food providers is to improve the food that is supplied via Fare share. The advantage of this is that Fare share already deliver across Fife, and they can support local food providers offer a more consistent range of food with some temporary subsidy. This is as well as the coordinated funding offer noted above, where funds will go to Area teams to award to ensure there is a good coverage of support and match in with local priorities and other third sector help.

2.6 Fife has applied to be a partner with the national charity, Fuel Bank which will give us a single approach to providing crisis fuel support payments. We are working with Cosy Kingdom to ensure those who need crisis fuel top ups, have an easy way to access energy advice to avoid them reaching a crisis in the future. The energy advice and help will include an increase in the number of people receiving energy saving items such as curtains and low energy light bulbs and build on existing provision around small works offered by their Handy Service.

CARF are facing unprecedented demand on its services. This is being exacerbated by the success of campaigns to encourage take up. A 3-tier advice framework in Fife with an associated training programme for staff and volunteers is being developed. More staff and volunteers will be trained and able to help with first level advice. There will be a clear next step referral pathway for more complex cases. It will maximise people's incomes at a time of increasing financial hardship for people with the cost-of-living rises. There will be more staff able to deal with appeals and more complex cases operating in the community at venues used by those needing support.

These two initiatives will work together to upskill volunteers and staff to provide money, benefits, and energy support. This will supplement current provision and increase the number of people able to give this type of help and make a practical difference to people coping with fuel price increases and cost of living rises. It will make it easier for people to get this help as there will be more people across services and in the community, offering support.

This is in line with our approach to empower individuals and communities and work with us in addressing poverty.

3.0 Conclusions

3.1 The Fife Benefit Checker has identified potential average financial monthly gains of between £154 and £177 per month for those using the checker, since it was procured in October last year. This information along with the data the Low-Income Family (LIFT) tracker, is giving us is shaping the benefit campaigning work and helping to increase people's incomes when on benefits.

The Tackling Poverty and Preventing Crisis Board is prioritising the maximising of people's incomes in this way alongside more preventative work which will reduce a person getting to the point of crisis in the future.

There is the need for a Fife Winter programme again in 2023/24 with support to help those in cash, fuel and food crisis. This programme has the offer of free benefit checks and energy advice help central to all the help being made available. Supporting people to take up further help and advice to prevent future crisis is a priority.

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17th August 2023

Agenda Item No. 8

Fife's Economic Strategy 2023-30

Report by: Gordon Mole, Head of Business and Employability

Wards Affected: All Wards

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek comment upon, and endorsement of, Fife's Economic Strategy 2023-2030.

Recommendation(s)

The Fife Partnership Board is asked to:

- (i) Comment upon and endorse the new Fife Economic Strategy 2023-30.
- (ii) Note that a delivery plan will be prepared by Fife Council's Head of Business & Employability in liaison with the Plan4Fife Leading Economic Recovery (LER) Board and other key stakeholders;
- (iii) Note that progress against the key priorities identified within the strategy will be monitored via regular reports to the LER Board; and,
- (iv) Note that approval for specific projects brought forward as part of the strategy and delivery plan will be sought using the approval process/es of the partner organisation/s taking the project forward.

Resource Implications

There are no immediate resource implications associated with this report. Funding solutions will need to be identified and developed in line with organisational resources, new or extended allocations of funding from the Scottish and UK governments, and other external sources of funding.

Legal & Risk Implications

There are no specific legal and risk implications associated with this report.

Impact Assessment

The General Duties section of an Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) was completed and the main impacts on EqIA criteria were assessed as being positive or having no impact.

A pre-screening statement in relation to the strategy was submitted to the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Gateway and no concerns were raised by the consultation authorities (Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA), Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) and Historic Environment Scotland (HES)).

A Fife Environmental Assessment Tool (FEAT) assessment was also completed; this concluded that the strategy would either have beneficial or mixed impacts on Fife's social, cultural and natural environments.

Consultation

The development of the strategy's priorities and key actions has been the subject of consultation with the Plan 4 Fife Leading Economic Recovery Board, Addressing Climate Emergency Board, and Tackling Poverty & Preventing Crisis Board; Community Wealth Building Support Group; the Reform & Recovery Leadership Group; Opportunities Fife Partnership; and Fife Environmental Partnership.

Fife Council's Cabinet Committee approved the Strategy at its meeting on 1 June 2023.

1.0 Background

- 1.1. Fife's Economic Strategy 2023-2030 (attached as Appendix 1) has been developed through the Plan4Fife Leading Economic Recovery (LER) Board that comprises representation from Fife Council, Fife College, Scottish Enterprise, Skills Development Scotland and NHS Fife.
- 1.2. The purpose of the strategy is to provide a framework for employability and economic development activity in Fife and it will shape how the various agencies will work together over the next seven years in order to grow a stronger, greener and fairer economy for Fife.
- 1.3. The Fife Economic Strategy 2023-2030 updates and replaces the previous economic strategy for Fife developed in 2017.
- 1.4. Due to the economic uncertainty created by the impact of the global Covid-19 pandemic and UK exit from the European Union, it was decided to delay the review of the Fife Economic Strategy that was scheduled to take place in 2021.
- 1.5. Instead, a short-term Leading Economic Recovery (LER) Action Plan was developed as part of the Council's wider Reform & Recovery Programme response to the Covid-19 pandemic.
- 1.6. Since mid-2021, when many advanced countries reopened their economies following the easing of Covid-19 restrictions, there have been further mounting economic pressures. These include global disruption to supply chains and increasing energy costs due to the Russian invasion of Ukraine, rapid increases in and persistently high rates of inflation and Bank of England interest rates, and a resulting cost-of-living / cost-of doing-business crisis.
- 1.7. Meanwhile, global transformations, including digitalisation and innovation driven by the use of data and Artificial Intelligence, are impacting every aspect of the economy. The future of work is changing as automation replaces basic tasks and helps tackle skills shortages. The economy is now a digital one and intelligent, carbon neutral buildings and the energy transition, security and decarbonisation require new skills and suppliers. People and businesses need resilience and the skills to adapt and compete in the fast-paced environment of new technologies and business models.

- 1.8. Despite the level of economic disruption over the past six years since the publication of the last Fife Economic Strategy, we have seen some major achievements in support of our local and regional economy.
- 1.9. Fife's transport infrastructure has been bolstered by the opening of the Queensferry Crossing in September 2017 and by the Scottish Government's £70m investment in the reinstatement of the Leven rail link which is due to be completed in 2024.
- 1.10. The Council's focus on key town centres saw Fife recognised with a number of major accolades. Fife was named 'Most Enterprising Place in Britain' in 2018; Glenrothes became the first Living Wage Town in the UK in August 2019; Cowdenbeath was shortlisted in the Rising Stars category of the 2019 Great British High Street Awards; and Dunfermline became Scotland's newest city as part of the celebrations marking the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in 2022.
- 1.11. The strength of our higher and further educational institutions in Fife was recognised as the University of St Andrews was ranked the top university in the UK in both The Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide 2022 and the Guardian University Guide 2023. Fife College received the Enterprising College of the Year Award in 2022, having also recorded the best positive destination figures in Scotland for college leavers in both 2018-19 and 2019-20.
- 1.12. Fife's active engagement in both the £1.2 billion Edinburgh & South East Scotland City Region Deal and £700 million Tay Cities Region Deal has helped to secure significant additional investment in Fife, underpinning the Fife i3 programme's investment in new and refurbished business premises and the development of the Eden Campus at Guardbridge and Arrol Gibb Innovation Campus at Rosyth.
- 1.13. During the peak of the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020 and 2021, Fife Council administered 10,241 grants totalling £106 million from the Scottish Government Coronavirus Business Support Schemes to assist Fife businesses.
- 1.14. Despite the significant impact on public services over this period, Fife still managed to deliver key support to new businesses and clients seeking employability support.
- 1.15. During 2021-22, Fife Business Gateway supported 603 new business start-ups, the highest number across Scotland. Fife Council-operated /-funded employability programmes supported a total of 1,455 clients into employment – the highest annual figure ever achieved in Fife. Active engagement with and support for tenants also helped maintain and improve the occupancy rate for Fife Council's portfolio of business premises at above the target level of 90%.
- 1.16. Tourism & Hospitality was one of the sectors most affected by the economic impact of the global Covid-19 pandemic and is yet to fully recover. Fife Council has continued to actively support our Local Tourism Associations in steadily rebuilding visitor numbers over the past two years. The new 64-mile Fife Pilgrim Way walking route was officially opened in 2019, complementing the ever-popular Fife Coastal Path and providing welcome outdoor access opportunities permitted during Covid-19 restrictions. A successful in-person Fife Tourism Conference was held at the Dean Park Hotel, Kirkcaldy in March 2022, with digital skills highlighted as a key theme. The 2022 visitor season marked the return of unrestricted tourism events and activity for the first time since 2019. The 150th Open Golf Championship at St Andrews in July 2022 saw a record 290,000 attendance for the event, showcased Fife to a global TV audience and brought

in an estimated £61m into Fife and delivered £300m economic benefit for Scotland – the highest economic benefit delivered in the history of the Championship.

- 1.17. Looking to the future, the draft strategy highlights significant economic risks and uncertainties that may impact at a local, regional and national level. These include:
- The continuing economic impact of the pandemic and the UK's exit from the EU;
 - Global political tensions and the war in Ukraine;
 - Disruption to global supply chains and increasing energy and food costs;
 - Continuing high levels of UK inflation, interest rates and government borrowing, leading to cutbacks in public spending, national pay disputes and investor uncertainty;
 - The resulting cost-of-living and cost-of-doing business crises;
 - The need for investment in key business, transportation and digital infrastructure;
 - The need for increasing pace in addressing the climate emergency;
 - UK political instabilities, including constitutional tensions with devolved nations;
 - An increase in economic inactivity in the working age population.
- 1.18. Although many of these issues are largely outwith our direct sphere of influence, we nevertheless continue to inform and influence the debate and seek both pragmatic and innovative responses to these challenges at a local level with the resources we have available.

2.0 Overview of New Fife Economic Strategy 2023-30

- 2.1. The new Fife Economic Strategy sets out where the Fife Partnership partners' actions will be targeted over the next seven years in order to achieve our aim of **Growing a Stronger, Greener and Fairer Economy for Fife** and ensuring that more wealth is generated, circulated and retained in Fife and its communities for the benefit of all.
- 2.2. The approach taken in developing the strategy was to make sure that its key objectives both support the ambitions and priorities set out in the Plan4Fife and are aligned with Scotland's National Strategy for Economic Transformation, the Edinburgh and South East of Scotland Regional Prosperity Framework and Delivery Plan and the Tay Cities Region Economic Strategy 2019-39.
- 2.3. The three ambitions of **Scotland's National Strategy for Economic Transformation** - A Fairer Scotland, A Wealthier Scotland, and a Greener Scotland – resonate strongly with the three priorities of the **2021-24 Plan4Fife Update**, namely:
- Addressing the Climate Emergency;
 - Tackling Poverty & Preventing Crisis; and
 - Leading Economic Recovery.
- 2.4. The Plan4Fife Update also highlights the development of a cross-cutting **Community Wealth Building (CWB)** approach as a key priority for Fife.

- 2.5. While all four of these priorities are clearly inter-linked, a conscious decision was made to establish separate workstreams for each as part of the refresh of Fife Partnership governance arrangements in 2021.
- 2.6. The development of Fife's Economic Strategy has therefore taken its principal lead from Scotland's National Strategy for Economic Transformation, incorporating the appropriate principles and components of CWB, Addressing the Climate Emergency and Tackling Poverty and Preventing Crisis within three policy priorities:
 - **Supporting Businesses**
 - **Investing in Business Premises and Infrastructure**
 - **Delivering Skills, Training and Fair Employment.**
- 2.7. A fourth priority – **Working in Collaboration & Partnership** – details how the strategy will be delivered.
- 2.8. To provide clarity with the strategy's focus and language, the intention is that the subsequent development of the FES Delivery Plan will agree and confirm the appropriate ownership and focus of projects that overlap in terms of their contribution to the four Plan4Fife priorities.
- 2.9. For example, optimising the community benefits achieved via public sector procurement expenditure is an area of CWB that is already largely captured within the scope of the FES, as this has been an established focus of Fife Council procurement and supplier development activity in recent times.
- 2.10. Activities associated with the award of Forth Green Freeport status will support projects in each of the three priorities.

3.0 Key Priorities

Priority 1: Supporting Business

- 3.1. The first priority focusses on helping businesses to start-up, grow and expand, adopt digital technologies and accelerate their transition to net-zero.
- 3.2. To improve Fife's low self-employment rate, interventions will focus on developing entrepreneurial skills in young people through project-based work in schools and college and on supporting business start-ups and their early resilience and survival.
- 3.3. New areas of focus within schools and colleges include digital skills and skills related to the just transition to net zero.
- 3.4. New areas of focus within the support given new business start-ups and early survival include high-value academic research spin-offs, digital delivery and innovation, and enhanced support for alternative business models (such as social enterprises and cooperatives), which are a key feature of CWB.
- 3.5. Interventions to support existing businesses will focus on helping small and medium-sized enterprises grow, adopt digital technologies and accelerate their transition to net zero through the provision of specialist/expert help services, promoting access to finance and funding, supply chain development within Fife and the wider economic

region, the provision of business premises and employment land sites, and prospecting and support for inward investment opportunities.

- 3.6. These activities will continue to prioritise opportunities to improve the economic performance of Mid-Fife and key strategic locations that include Energy Park Fife, Westfield, the Longannet development site, the upper Forth estuary including Burntisland and Rosyth.
- 3.7. New and enhanced components within this priority will deliver a stronger alignment with Fife's CWB and Addressing Climate Change agenda and include: support for re-skilling and up-skilling of the existing workforce; support for business innovation and digital adoption; a targeted focus on supporting Fife businesses on their just transition to net zero; a focus on potential opportunities associated with the green and blue economies; and further improvement in the capacity and capability of local businesses to win public sector procurement contracts.

Priority 2: Investing in Business Premises and Infrastructure

- 3.8. Fife has a strong track record in delivering investment in business infrastructure. This priority maintains and further extends this success through an enhanced focus on place-based and sustainable investment.
- 3.9. This includes building on Dunfermline's newly-conferred city status and Fife Council's membership of the Scottish Cities Alliance, and addressing the changing needs and dynamics of our key town centres – both commitments which will contribute to our Community Wealth Building ambitions.
- 3.10. A further extension of our successful heritage regeneration programme, alongside a focus on investment in sustainable tourism infrastructure, will support our wider efforts to Address the Climate Emergency.
- 3.11. This priority also includes a commitment to expand our network of enterprise centres and hubs, improve digital infrastructure and to continue to make the business case for securing additional external funding and investment in Fife to support all aspects of economic development activity.

Priority 3: Delivering Skills, Training and Fair Employment

- 3.12. The Strategy's third priority focuses on developing the workforce skills pipeline required to support current and future business needs in Fife, thereby supporting Community Wealth Building through sustaining and enhancing local employment prospects.
- 3.13. This will include an enhanced focus on consulting and engaging with businesses to ensure we can: respond effectively to changing skills demands and new opportunities; provide well-informed careers information, advice and guidance; increase the number of work-based learning opportunities (including apprenticeships); and support in-work re-skilling and up-skilling.
- 3.14. Monitoring and responding to skills demands and opportunities, particularly those associated with the digital economy and within the emerging green and blue economies associated with the just transition to net zero. This will also help to improve the capacity and capability of Fife's workforce in relation to Addressing the Climate Emergency.

- 3.15. This priority also focusses on inclusion and equal opportunity within an economic context and includes targeted and enhanced employability support for those who are most disadvantaged and furthest from the labour market.
- 3.16. Actions will also focus on the role of anchor organisations as exemplars of Fair Work practices, and the use of public sector procurement to both optimise the retention of spend within our local and regional economies and increase the range and scale of associated benefits that can be achieved for our communities.

Priority 4: Ensuring Effective Leadership, Collaboration and Delivery

- 3.17. The final priority focuses on ongoing development of leadership, collaboration and delivery arrangements across the Council, Fife Partnership, and with other key external stakeholders. This includes promoting a shared understanding of issues and priorities, clear alignment of policy and strategy, effective use of our collective resources, and the ongoing development and refinement of a robust evidence base to inform decision-making and evaluate impact. This will include further development of regional economic partnership working and increasing our understanding of emerging opportunities and demands associated with the green and blue economies and the just transition to net zero.

4.0 Conclusions

- 4.1. The impact of the global Covid-19 pandemic and the United Kingdom's exit from the European Union continue to create longer-term economic uncertainties.
- 4.2. These uncertainties have been further exacerbated by global issues around rising energy and food costs and worker shortages, which have seen the UK, and other countries, facing continuing high levels of inflation and rising interest rates, resulting in a cost-of-living / cost-of-doing-business crisis.
- 4.3. According to the Fraser of Allander Institute's latest Quarterly Economic Commentary, the Scottish economy performed better than was expected in the first quarter of 2023, growing by 0.4%, thus avoiding the predicted recession. However, although modest growth is expected to continue in the second quarter, the outlook for 2024 and 2025 has worsened due to stubbornly high inflation and the continued response from the Bank of England to raise interest rates.
- 4.4. To address these challenges in Fife, the refreshed Fife Economic Strategy 2023-2030 sets out three key priorities aligned to both our Plan4Fife ambitions and to Scotland's National Strategy for Economic Transformation.
- 4.5. As well as directly addressing the Plan4Fife priority of Leading Economic Recovery, the refreshed Fife Economic Strategy is also committed to supporting the delivery of the other three Plan4Fife priorities, namely Addressing the Climate Emergency, Tackling Poverty & Preventing Crisis, and the promotion of a cross-cutting approach to Community Wealth Building.
- 4.6. The development of the Strategy's Delivery Plan will confirm the appropriate ownership and focus of projects that overlap in terms of their contribution to the four Plan4Fife priorities.

- 4.7. Officers will continue to closely monitor ongoing developments in relation to economic, political and fiscal uncertainties in order to assess any potential implications for delivery of the Fife Economic Strategy and to advise members and key stakeholders accordingly.

List of Appendices

Appendix One: Fife's Economic Strategy 2023-30

Background Papers

The following papers were relied on in the preparation of this report in terms of the Local Government (Scotland) Act, 1973:

- [Fife's Economic Strategy 2017-2027](#)
- [Tay Cities Region Economic Strategy 2019-2039](#)
- [Edinburgh & South East Scotland City Region Deal Regional Prosperity Framework](#)
- [Recovery & Renewal: Plan for Fife 2021-24 Update \(Aug 2021\)](#)
- [UK Government White Paper on Levelling Up the UK \(Feb 2022\)](#)
- [Scotland's National Strategy for Economic Transformation \(Mar 2022\)](#)
- [Fife's Economy Strategy 2023-2030 Evidence Report](#)
- [Fraser of Allander Institute Economic Commentary June 2023](#)

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Fife's Economic Strategy

2023 - 2030

Introduction

Fife's Economic Strategy 2023-30 sets out the approach we will take over the next seven years to grow a stronger, greener and fairer economy for Fife, ensuring that more wealth is generated, circulated and retained in Fife and its communities for the benefit of all.

To realise this ambition Fife Council and its community planning partners will focus on:

Supporting businesses

Investing in premises and infrastructure

Delivering skills, training and fair employment

underpinned by a ***Community Wealth Building approach*** in order to deliver the following outcomes:

- A recovery & increase in the number of businesses
- Increased levels of economic activity & employment
- Improvements in the economic performance of Mid-Fifeⁱ
- The recovery & growth of Fife's tourism & hospitality sector
- Vibrant, attractive & re-purposed key town centres
- A skilled workforce able to support business needs
- Fair & inclusive access to work
- Lower levels of carbon emissions, in line with national targets (75% of 1990 baseline by 2030).

The development of Fife's Economic Strategy has been undertaken in consultation with our community planning partners and other key stakeholders in Fife.

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1.0 Executive Summary

The ambition of Fife's Economic Strategy 2023-30 is to grow a stronger, greener and fairer economy for Fife.

We will seek to achieve this ambition by focusing on three policy priorities over the next seven years and by adopting a Community Wealth Building approach:

Priority 1: Supporting Businesses



The Challenge:

The number of businesses and jobs in Fife fell following the Covid-19 pandemic and start of the cost-of-living crisis. Fewer businesses have been starting-up and surviving, and for the past two years, the number of business deaths has exceeded the number of business births. Fife's jobs density is lower than that for Scotland as a whole; Mid-Fifeⁱ has a particularly low business density. Although many businesses in Fife have invested in digitisation, the use of digital technologies is still below the Scottish average; in addition many small and medium sized businesses are yet to achieve net-zero emissions.

To address this challenge we will...

- **Develop enterprise and entrepreneurial skills** in our young people and in under-represented groups in the labour market.
- **Support new business start-ups, and their early survival.**
- **Help small- and medium-sized enterprises grow.**
- **Help businesses accelerate their transition to net zero emissions and adopt digital technologies to compete in a digital economy.**
- **Develop and strengthen local supply chains and optimise the level of public sector expenditure retained within Fife's local economy.**
- **Attract inward investment**, focussing on our key strategic development locations.
- **Support and develop community-owned and co-operative models of business ownership.**

... and by 2030, achieve the following outcomes:

- An increase in businesses and jobs especially in Mid-Fife.
- Business start-up and survival rates have returned to pre-pandemic levels and/or are higher than national rates.
- A reduction in per capita greenhouse gas emissions.
- Over 50% of Fife Council's procurement expenditure is spent with suppliers based in Fife.
- An increase in the number of advanced manufacturing, low carbon, digital innovation and trade activities and jobs as a result of the successful operation of the Forth Green Freeport.
- An increase in the number of social enterprises, co-operatives and community-owned businesses.

Priority 2: Investing in Business Premises & Infrastructure



The Challenge:

Market conditions make it unlikely that the private sector will provide the modern, high quality business premises required to attract and retain new and growing businesses. Whilst City Region Deal funding has supported Council investment in new developments, much of Fife's existing business property requires significant investment to ensure it continues to be fit-for-purpose and meets the transition to net zero emissions. There are gaps in transport and digital connectivity, and rising vacancy rates in some of our town centres. Fife's tourism, hospitality and accommodation sectors were particularly badly impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic and are yet to fully recover.

To address this challenge we will...

- **Provide high-quality, modern business premises.**
- **Develop serviced employment land sites and bring vacant and derelict land and buildings back into productive use.**
- **Deliver place-based investment to revitalise and repurpose our key town centres.**
- **Expand our network of enterprise centres and hubs.**
- **Support & deliver investment in sustainable tourism infrastructure.**
- **Support the development of and investment in digital infrastructure.**
- **Continue to make business cases for more funding and investment in Fife.**

... and by 2030, achieve the following outcomes:

- An increase in businesses and jobs especially in Mid-Fife.
- The opening of the Levenmouth Rail Link has seen an increase in businesses and jobs in the area.
- Over 90% of Fife Council-owned business premises are occupied.
- A fall in town centre vacancy rates.
- Most communities have access to an enterprise centre aimed at stimulating small and growing businesses.
- Visitor numbers to Fife have returned to their pre-pandemic levels.

Priority 3: Delivering Skills, Training & Fair Employment  

The Challenge:

Although Fife’s labour market is more highly qualified than other parts of Scotland, businesses in many sectors are finding it hard to recruit and retain staff with the right skills. Despite record low levels of unemployment, Fife’s employment rates remain below the Scottish rate, and we have seen an increase in the number of people who are economically inactive. Around 10% of our school leavers are failing to achieve and sustain a positive destination. A significant number of people face multiple barriers to meaningful employment as a result of long-term physical and mental health conditions, and there are persistently high rates of people claiming out-of-work benefits in Cowdenbeath, Kirkcaldy and Levenmouth. The earnings of people who work and live in Fife are lower than the national averages.

To address this challenge we will...

- *Monitor and respond to current and future needs in relation to workforce skills, embedding skills to thrive in a digital economy in all that we do.*
- *Work with employers and training providers to up-skill and re-skill our existing workforce.*
- *Ensure school and college leavers have the skills, knowledge and opportunities to move on to positive destinations.*
- *Provide additional support to young people at risk of not achieving a positive destination.*
- *Target enhanced support to those most disadvantaged and furthest from the labour market.*

- *Work with employers and anchor institutions to encourage the adoption of inclusive employment and fair work practices.*
- *Increase the scale and range of community benefits achieved through public sector procurement expenditure.*

... and by 2030, achieve the following outcomes:

- Higher rates of employment and reduced levels of economic inactivity.
- Fewer people claiming out-of-work benefits and suffering the greatest levels of deprivation.
- At least 95% of our school leavers go to and are still in a positive destination after 6 months.
- An increase in average wages and the percentage of employee jobs which are paid above the real living wage.
- More employers are accredited as real Living Wage Employers.

Key to Plan4Fife Outcomes:

 Opportunities for All	 Inclusive Growth & Jobs	 Thriving Places	 Community-Led Services
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2.0 Background

Since the publication of our previous 2017-27 Fife Economic Strategy, we have witnessed a series of events that have had a significant economic impact at global, national, regional and local level.

In 2019, Fife Council declared a Climate Emergency in line with declarations made by the UK and Scottish governments. The 2021 COP26 UN Climate Change Conference subsequently secured the commitment of world leaders on the need for more urgent progress on the just transition to net zero.

The 2020 global Covid-19 pandemic had an extraordinary social and economic impact worldwide and lockdown restrictions resulted in Britain's economy suffering the worst recession in 100 years.

The UK officially left the European Union on 31 January 2020 and since January 2021 is longer part of the customs union and single market.

Disruptions in global supply chains caused by the Covid-19 pandemic and UK's EU exit were increased by Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022.

Energy, fuel and food prices have increased, and in the 12 months to June 2022 UK inflation hit its highest rate in 30 years.

The resultant UK cost-of-living and cost-of-doing-business crises are adversely impacting the lowest-paid and putting businesses at risk.

Meanwhile, global transformations, including digitalisation and innovation driven by the use of data and Artificial Intelligence, are impacting every aspect of the economy. The future of work is changing as automation replaces basic tasks and helps tackle skills

shortages. The economy is now a digital one and intelligent, carbon neutral buildings and the energy transition, energy security and decarbonisation require new skills and suppliers. People and businesses need the skills to adapt and compete in this fast-paced environment of new technologies and business models.

And yet, despite this period of disruption and uncertainty, we have seen many achievements.

Industry, the public and voluntary sectors, and local communities collaborated as never before to support the NHS in tackling the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Fife Council responded quickly to administer government financial support to businesses, who in turn worked hard to adapt and innovate.

Service providers rose to the challenge of remote digital delivery to maintain education, business support and employability services.

The early recovery of the construction sector helped us to push on with capital investment in our business premises, town centres, heritage assets and transportation infrastructure.

And in moving forward with this new strategy we will continue to endeavour to improve the economic prosperity for all in Fife.

3.0 Since the launch of the last strategy in 2017...

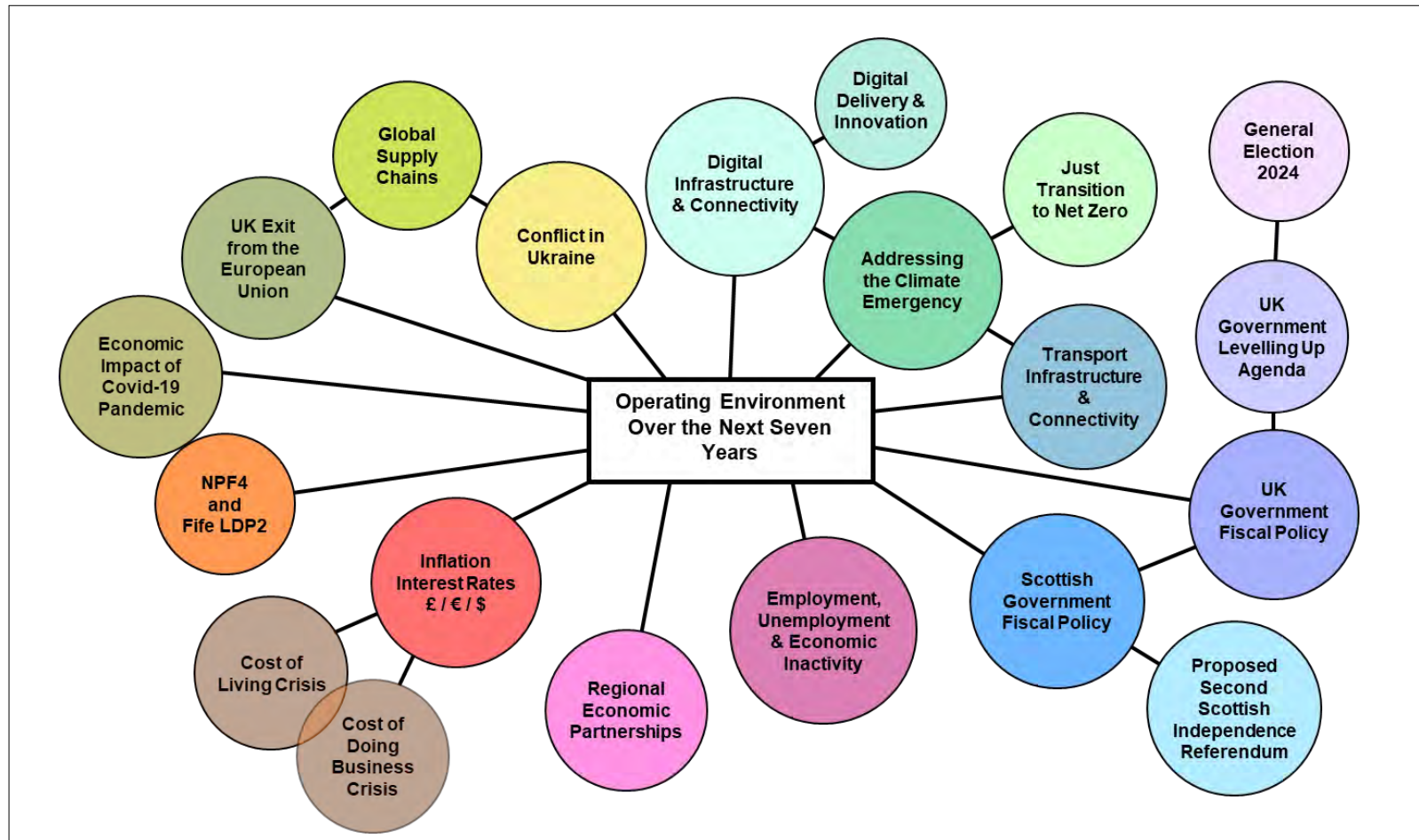
- ✓ Unemployment and the number of people claiming out-of-work benefits in Fife have fallen below pre-pandemic levels.
- ✓ Glenrothes became the first Living Wage Town in the UK, helping to reduce the proportion of jobs in Fife paid less than the real Living Wage from 18.9% in 2019 to 12.3% in 2022.
- ✓ A total of 32 hectares of vacant and derelict land in Fife has been brought back into productive use.
- ✓ 95.7% of residential and business properties in Fife now have access to superfast broadband compared to 92% in 2017.
- ✓ The amount of Fife Council procurement expenditure spent with Fife businesses has increased from 37.2% in 2017-18 to 41.7% in 2021-22.
- ✓ Fife was named the 'Most Enterprising Place in Britain' in the UK Government's 2018 Enterprising Britain Awards.
- ✓ Cowdenbeath was a shortlisted finalist in the Rising Star category of the 2019 Great British High Street Awards.
- ✓ Dunfermline was successful in its bid for city status as part of celebrations to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.
- ✓ The new Fife Pilgrim Way 64-mile walking route from Culross and North Queensferry to St Andrews opened.
- ✓ Fife Council administered 10,241 grants totalling over £166 million to Fife businesses from the Scottish Government's Coronavirus Business Support Schemes.
- ✓ In 2021-22, Business Gateway Fife supported 603 new business start-ups, the highest number across Scotland.
- ✓ Employability programmes funded or operated by Fife Council supported a total of 1,455 people into employment in 2021-22, the highest annual figure ever achieved.
- ✓ Significant investment for Fife has been secured through engagement in the £1.2 billion Edinburgh & South East Scotland City Deal and the £700 million Tay Cities Deal.
- ✓ The Scottish Government announced the £70m reinstatement of the Leven Rail Link, accompanied by £10m of joint funding with Fife Council to support further local investment.
- ✓ The Old Course, St Andrews hosted the 150th Open Golf Championship in July 2022, attracting a record 290,000 visitors to the event and showcasing Fife to a global TV audience.
- ✓ The University of St Andrews was named top university in the UK in The Guardian University Guide 2023 and The Times/Sunday Times Good University Guide 2022.
- ✓ Fife College recorded the best positive destination figures of any college in Scotland in 2018-19 and 2019-20 and received the Enterprising College of the Year Award 2022.

4.0 Our Operating Environment Over the Next Seven Years

The delivery of this strategy will be influenced by a number of significant challenges and uncertainties, as illustrated in Figure 1 below. Our priorities, actions and delivery plan are based on our assessment of the current situation, but this will be continually reviewed in relation to the environment in which we are operating, and further adjustments will be made as required.

Our new strategy also takes into account the objectives and priorities of the ***UK Government Levelling Up Paper***, ***Scotland's National Strategy for Economic Transformation***, the ***Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal Regional Prosperity Framework and Action Plan***, ***Tay Cities Region Economic Strategy*** and the ***Plan for Fife and Plan for Fife Reform & Recovery Update***. Details of this national, regional and local policy context are set out in Appendix 1.

Figure 1: Operating Environment Influences & Uncertainties



5.0 Strengths, Challenges & Opportunities

Our assessment of the key economic strengths, challenges and opportunities for Fife is contained in Figure 2 and summarised below. A more detailed evaluation of Fife's recent economic performance and trends is provided in an [Evidence Report](#).

Strengths:

We have **strengths in several business sectors** (as shown in Appendix 2) and **provide effective support to businesses and to people facing barriers to work**.

Major events, golf tourism and Fife's **outstanding natural and cultural assets** provide the platform for growing visitor numbers to Fife – but with an increased focus on promoting sustainable tourism.

Fife is home to a **top-class university and college** and its labour market is more qualified than Scotland's as a whole.

Challenges:

Employment has yet to return to pre-pandemic levels and there has been an **increase in economic inactivity**. Claimant rates in Levenmouth, Kirkcaldy and Cowdenbeath are consistently higher than the rest of Fife and the **under-performance of the Mid-Fife¹ economy** remains a concern.

There has been a **fall in the number of jobs and businesses** and Fife's jobs density is lower than that for Scotland as a whole. **Business investment in digitisation is below the Scottish average and many businesses are yet to achieve net zero emissions**. Many of our **industrial estates and properties need significant investment** and there are **gaps in digital and transport connectivity**. **The changing dynamics of high street retail in our key town centres** continues to pose a significant challenge.

Visitor numbers to Fife have yet to return to pre-pandemic levels. Whilst the number of tourism-related businesses has grown, the sector continues to face significant pressures from staff shortages and the cost-of-living / cost-of-doing-business crisis.

Securing positive destinations for 16-24 year olds remains a priority, as **does targeted support for the most disadvantaged** to access fair and meaningful employment.

Opportunities:

Delivery of the **Leven Rail Link**, work on the River Leven and Levenmouth Reconnected Programmes provide an opportunity to attract further investment into the area.

Fife's success in having **Dunfermline** recognised as Scotland's newest city provides a platform from which to attract new investment.

Promoting and encouraging entrepreneurship and innovation continues to be an important area of activity with culture of enterprise activities linking our schools, college and local businesses to raise ambition and promote opportunity.

This is backed by a **strong emphasis on business start-up, survival and growth assistance**.

The ongoing development of the **Eden Campus** at Guardbridge and **Arrol Gibb Innovation Campus** at Rosyth and the **award of Green Freeport status to the Forth** provide exciting opportunities to stimulate data driven innovation, utilising established expertise in engineering & manufacturing in partnership with academic research and skills development to realise emerging opportunities in the green and blue economies.

Figure 2: Analysis of Fife's Economic Strengths, Challenges & Opportunities

Strengths	Challenges	Opportunities
<p>Record low levels of unemployment In 2022 Fife's unemployment rate fell below the pre-pandemic rate and reached a record low for the region.</p>	<p>Addressing the Climate Emergency CO2 and greenhouse gas emissions per capita in Fife are above the Scottish average and increased by 1% between 2019 and 2020 due to increased industrial activity</p>	<p>Fife's reputation as an international tourism destination The successful delivery of the 150th Open Golf Championship at St Andrews provides an opportunity to further promote Fife as an international tourism destination.</p>
<p>Effective business support & employability services In 2021/22 Business Gateway Fife supported the highest number of new start-ups in Scotland.</p>	<p>Economic inactivity in the labour market has increased 25.3% of Fife's working age population was economically inactive during the 12 months to Sept 2022; with an estimated 17,700 people inactive due to long-term illness.</p>	<p>Vacant & Derelict Land Fund Fife continues to make effective use of Scottish Government VDLF funding to support investment in infrastructure and place.</p>
<p>Business Sectoral Strengths Centres of expertise in Manufacturing / Engineering, Tourism & Hospitality, Food & Drink, Transport & Storage Upcoming Financial and Tech sectors.</p>	<p>Low levels of R&D spend by businesses Although expenditure by Fife businesses on research and development has increased, spend per capita (£158) is still significantly below national spend (£263).</p>	<p>Investment in the Levenmouth Area Investment in the Leven Rail Link, Levenmouth Reconnected Blueprint and River Leven Regeneration Programme is supporting strategic investment in one of Fife's most deprived areas.</p>
<p>Top-class universities and colleges The University of St Andrews is ranked the UK's top university and Fife College has the highest rate of students going on to positive destinations of all colleges in Scotland.</p>	<p>Young people not in education, training or employment 10% of Fife's 2020/21 school leavers failed to achieve a positive destination - the 2nd highest rate of Scotland's 32 local authorities.</p>	<p>Investment in innovation The ongoing development of the Arrol Gibb Innovation Campus at Rosyth and Eden Campus in Guardbridge provide opportunities to drive innovation, clean growth and high-value start-ups.</p>
<p>Outstanding natural assets Fife benefits from significant coast, countryside, heritage, golf, leisure, culture, and food and drink assets, including 50 golf courses and 13 Beach Award Scotland beaches – more than any other Scottish local authority area.</p>	<p>Aspects of the Mid-Fife economy continue to underperform Mid-Fife has a lower business density than Fife and Scotland and Levenmouth, Kirkcaldy and Cowdenbeath have significantly higher rates of people claiming out-of-work benefits than the rest of Fife.</p>	<p>Dunfermline's new City Status The award of city status to Dunfermline in 2022, together with its membership of the Scottish Cities Alliance, provide a further opportunity to promote local economic growth.</p>
<p>Success in accessing and delivering investment Fife has continued to deliver significant capital investment in infrastructure and place, including the Fife i3 Programme, Eden Campus, town centres, heritage-led and vacant & derelict land fund investment, Fife Council's capital programme, and investment in new schools and the Halbeath Learning Campus.</p>	<p>Business start-up rates and scale of businesses In 2020, Fife's business birth rate fell back below the Scottish rate after exceeding it for the first time in 2019. As in Scotland as a whole, Fife's business base is dominated by SMEs with 96% of Fife businesses employing <250 staff, and 93% employing <50 people.</p>	<p>Green and Blue Economies Although still in the early stages of understanding and responding to future business needs, Fife is well-placed to benefit from Green and Blue economy opportunities.</p>
<p>Strong partnership working Fife Council is the third largest local authority in Scotland, benefits from sharing a co-terminus boundary with NHS Fife, and has well-established community planning arrangements in place to support collaborative working.</p>	<p>Helping tourism to recover following the Covid-19 pandemic Fife's tourism, hospitality & accommodation sectors were particularly badly impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic and are yet to fully recover. Visitor numbers to Fife in 2021 totalled 1.75 million, compared to a pre-Covid figure of 2.8 million visitors in 2019.</p>	<p>Forth Green Freeport The award of Green Freeport status offers the prospect of large-scale investment in Fife, centred around Rosyth and Burntisland.</p>
<p>Labour Market Qualifications Compared to Scotland as a whole, Fife has a higher proportion of its labour market qualified to NVQ4 level or above and a smaller proportion with no qualifications.</p>	<p>Addressing labour market shortages Businesses in many sectors are experiencing difficulties with skills shortages and staff recruitment and retention.</p>	<p>Digital Tech Sector Scottish Enterprise's 'Understanding Regional Digital Tech Ecosystems in Scotland' 2021 Report identifies Eastern Scotland as the largest digital tech sector in Scotland, employing 26,000 people (2020) and having a GVA output of £1.6 billion (2019).</p>
<p>A Thriving Third Sector There are over 4,000 voluntary sector organisations in Fife. The sector supports around 9,000 jobs and has a total annual turnover of around £620m</p>	<p>Earnings in Fife are lower than the national averages Median workplace weekly earnings in Fife are below those for Scotland as a whole, and are significantly lower in the NE Fife and Glenrothes UK parliamentary constituency areas. 17% of jobs in Fife are paid less than the real Living Wage.</p>	<p>Investment in Infrastructure Ensuring investment in infrastructure builds Fife's resilience and enables inclusive, net zero and sustainable growth</p>
	<p>Changing dynamics of town centres Retail vacancy rates remain high in key town centres, with particular issues around major large-scale vacant retail units.</p>	

6.0 Our Approach and Key Priorities

The ambition of this strategy is to **grow a stronger, greener and fairer economy for Fife**.

An analysis of Fife's strengths, challenges and opportunities, our national, regional and local strategic context and future operating environment, has led us to identify three priorities where our actions will be targeted over the next seven years.

Fife's Economic Strategy Priorities 2023-2030

- 1 Supporting Businesses
- 2 Investing in Business Premises and Infrastructure
- 3 Delivering Skills, Training and Fair Employment

A fourth priority, **Working in Collaboration and Partnership**, details how we will deliver the Strategy.

All activity will be underpinned by a **Community Wealth Building approach** and will aim to fulfil the following outcomes:

- A recovery and increase in the number of businesses
- Increased levels of economic activity and employment
- Improvements in the economic performance in Mid-Fife
- The recovery & growth of Fife's tourism & hospitality sector
- Vibrant, attractive and re-purposed key town centres
- A skilled workforce able to support business needs
- Fair and inclusive access to work
- Lower levels of carbon emissions.

The actions and interventions which will support delivery of these priorities are summarised in Figure 3 (below) and detailed in the tables in Section 7.

Appendix 3 illustrates the alignment between the strategy's three priorities and Scotland's National Strategy for Economic Transformation and the 2021-24 Plan4Fife update.

Fife Council's declaration of a Climate Emergency in 2019 was reflected in the 2021-24 Plan4Fife Update that identified **Addressing the Climate Emergency** as one of three priorities alongside **Tackling Poverty & Preventing Crisis** and **Leading Economic Recovery**.

The Fife Economic Strategy is committed to embedding actions to **tackle climate change** within all appropriate areas of economic development activity.

Supporting those who are most disadvantaged and furthest from the labour market to secure and sustain meaningful employment is a critical component in **Tackling Poverty & Preventing Crisis**.

The 2021-24 Plan4Fife Update also commits to adopting a cross-cutting, partnership-wide **Community Wealth Building (CWB)** approach. The Fife Economic Strategy incorporates the principles of CWB within all relevant economic development and employability activities. **Fife Council, NHS Fife, Fife Voluntary Action, Fife College and the University of St Andrews are anchor organisations that have each adopted the CWB Fife Anchor Charter**. As such they are each committed to: buying goods and service locally where appropriate; employing people from local communities and providing jobs that are secure, rewarding and are paid at least the real Living Wage; using their land and property to support communities and enterprises; harnessing and growing local

wealth; and encouraging the formation and growth of inclusive business models, including social enterprises, employee-owned firms and cooperatives.

This strategy intentionally focuses on a small number of priorities with the greatest potential to help us achieve our aim of ensuring that more wealth is generated, circulated and retained in Fife and its communities for the benefit of all.

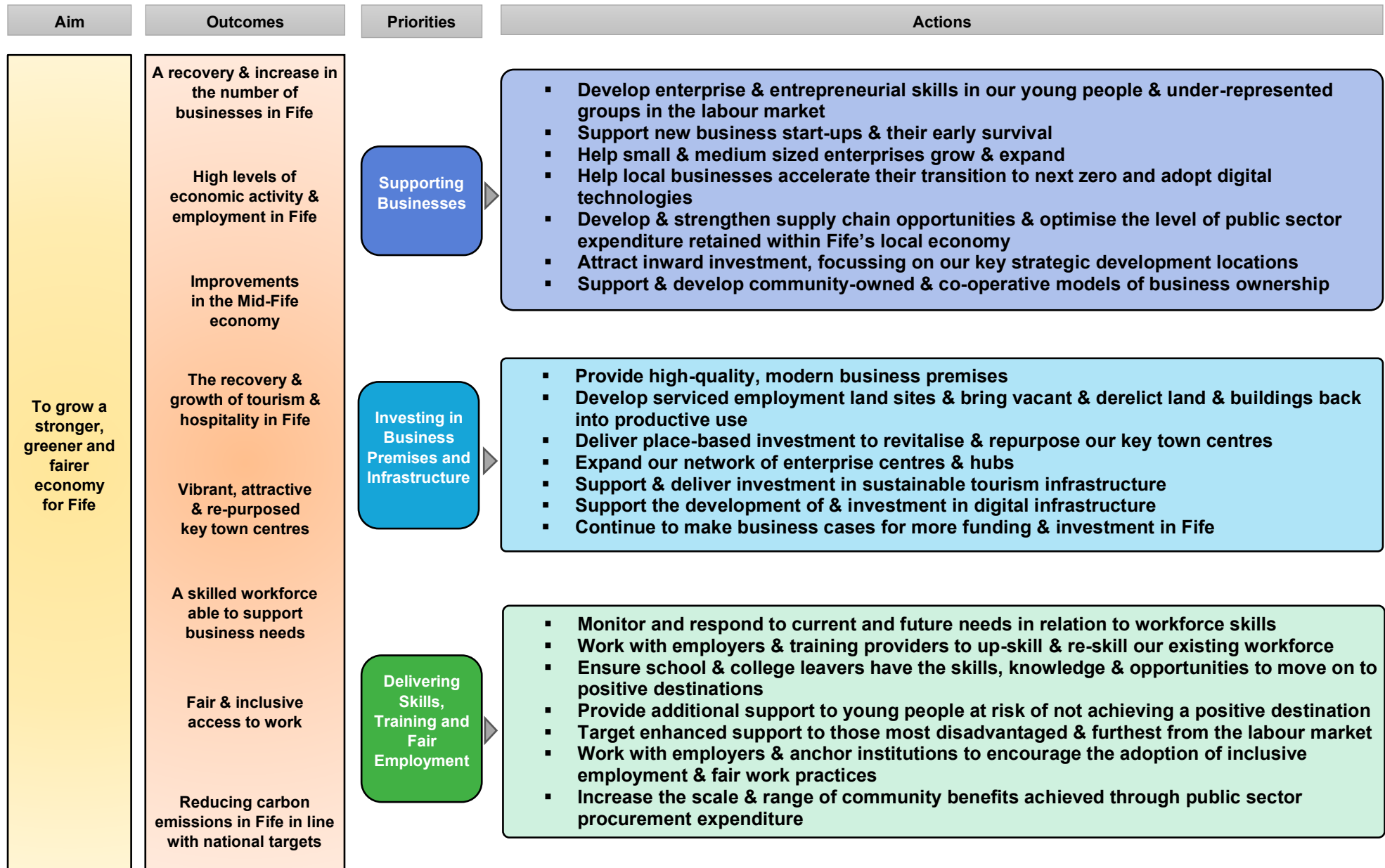
The detail of how we will take this strategy forward will be set out in a delivery plan and actions will be taken forward by the Fife Partnership's Leading Economic Recovery Board partners – Fife Council, Fife College, NHS Fife, Scottish Enterprise and Skills Development Scotland. Delivery will be monitored via Fife Council's and Fife Partnership's governance and reporting arrangements.

The delivery plan will also continue to inform, and be informed by, partnership working and collaboration at a local, regional and national level.

Progress will be measured by monitoring key activity, output and outcome performance indicators. A draft performance monitoring and reporting framework is set out in Appendix 4.

As we proceed over the next seven years, we will continually revisit our assumptions about Fife's operating environment, assess how any changes may affect our strategy, and adjust our priorities and actions as required.

Figure 3: Fife Economic Strategy: Aim, Outcomes, Policy Priorities & Actions



7.0 Key Priorities and Actions

Priority 1: Supporting Businesses		
Action 1.1	Develop enterprise & entrepreneurial skills in our young people, and within under-represented groups in the labour market	Key focus on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivering project-based programmes in schools & college including Culture of Enterprise initiatives • Increasing collaboration between education and business sectors • Providing online resources • Targeting young people and under-represented groups
Action 1.2	Support new business start-ups and their early survival	Key focus on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing advice, guidance and signposting to funding and finance • Providing appropriate business start-up premises • Supporting high-value academic research spin-offs • Supporting business resilience • Targeting support for business start-ups by women, young people and other under-represented groups
Action 1.3	Help small- and medium-sized enterprises grow and expand	Key focus on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing Specialist and Expert Help services • Promoting access to funding and finance • Providing business premises and employment land sites • Encouraging and supporting innovation and digital adoption • Supporting talent attraction • Providing support for workforce re-skilling & up-skilling
Action 1.4	Help local businesses accelerate their transition to net zero and adopt digital technologies.	Key focus on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing Expert Help services • Signposting to sources of funding and finance • Developing net zero standard business premises and sites • Promoting energy, waste & water efficiencies and climate adaptations • Encouraging and supporting innovation and digital adoption • Providing support for workforce re-skilling & up-skilling • Supporting the sustainable development of key sectors in Fife • Opportunities associated with the green and blue economies

Priority 1: Supporting Businesses

Action 1.5	Develop and strengthen supply chain opportunities and optimise the level of public expenditure retained within Fife	<p>Key focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supplier Development Programme and Meet-the-Buyer Events • Promoting access to finance and expert help • Trade shows & learning journeys • Local and regional supply chain and cluster development • Promoting the circular economy • Key sectors and key opportunities for Fife • Opportunities associated with the green & blue economies • Increasing local procurement spend by Fife public sector organisations and NHS Fife • Increasing Scottish & UK public sector procurement spend in Fife • Procurement strategies & arrangements • National procurement arrangements • Sustainable procurement
Action 1.6	Attract inward investment	<p>Key focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mid-Fife, including Levenmouth • Energy Park Fife • The Arrol Gibb Innovation Campus (AGIC) at Rosyth • Delivering the Forth Green Freeport proposals at Rosyth and Burntisland • The Longannet strategic development site at Kincardine • Eden Campus, Guardbridge • Westfield • Opportunities arising from Dunfermline city status • Using and further developing international/intra-regional partnerships to promote opportunities for investment, building on the agreed partnership with Kujawsko-Pomorskie
Action 1.7	Support and develop community-owned and co-operative models of business ownership	<p>Key focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing appropriate support for alternative business models, such as social enterprises and cooperatives

Priority 2: Investing in Business Premises and Infrastructure

Action 2.1	Provide high-quality, modern business premises	Key focus on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing delivery of the Fife i3 Programme • Leven Rail Link/Levenmouth Reconnected/River Leven Programme • Mid-Fife Economic Investment Prospectus • Ongoing development of the Eden Campus • Arrol Gibb Innovation Campus (AGIC), Rosyth • The Forth Green Free Port proposal
Action 2.2	Develop serviced employment land sites and bring vacant and derelict land and buildings back into productive use	Key focus on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivering the new Fife Employment Land Strategy • The productive redevelopment of vacant & derelict land
Action 2.3	Deliver place-based investment to help revitalise and re-purpose Fife's key town centres	Key focus on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunities arising from Dunfermline's new city status • Public realm improvements and built heritage regeneration • Public realm improvements and town centre housing developments in Kirkcaldy • Delivering Glenrothes town centre masterplan • Build heritage regeneration programmes in Inverkeithing and Buckhaven • Town centre housing • Built Heritage Regeneration Programme • The productive redevelopment of vacant & derelict land • Town centre business improvement grants • Shop local initiatives and town centre animation events • Business Improvement Districts / Digital Improvement Districts
Action 2.4	Expand our network of enterprise centres and hubs	Key focus on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extending the current network of operations (Glenrothes, Kincardine and within Fife College), assessing the feasibility of developing hubs on Kirkcaldy and Cowdenbeath High Streets • Eden Campus Enterprise Hub • Supporting enterprise hub or small flexible space accommodation in key community locations across Fife

Priority 2: Investing in Business Premises and Infrastructure

Action 2.5	Support and deliver investment in sustainable tourism infrastructure and events	<p>Key focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing and delivering a new Fife Tourism Strategy • Supporting strategic events • Supporting for Fife’s Local Tourism Associations • Tourism campaigns and promotional activities • Liaising with Visit Scotland and Regional Tourism Partnerships • Delivering the Forth Bridges Tourism Strategy • Investing in tourism infrastructure including public toilet and campervan facilities
Action 2.6	Support the development of and investment in digital infrastructure	<p>Key focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving coverage and reach of digital networks to homes and businesses, eliminating areas of low connectivity and tackling areas of exclusion, increasing take-up and giving individuals and businesses improved choices.
Action 2.7	Continue to make business cases for additional funding and investment in Fife	<p>Key focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City Region Deals (CRD) Funding • UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UK SPF) / UK Levelling Up Fund (LUF) • FC Capital Programme • Forth Green Freeport Business Case • Further development of the Arrol Gibb Innovation Campus at Rosyth and the Eden Campus at Guardbridge • Supporting SGN’s H100 project at Methil • Further development of Energy Park Fife • Support for the development of the Westfield site • Vacant & Derelict Land Funding (VDLF) • Town Centre and Built Heritage Funding • Employability funding • Local energy networks, digital and transport connectivity

Priority 3: Delivering Skills, Training and Fair Employment

Action 3.1	Monitor, and respond to, current and future needs in relation to workforce skills both within Fife and within the wider regional economies, embedding digital skills in all that we do	Key focus on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engaging with and delivering national initiatives • Active engagement with key business sectors around current and future skills needs and better use of Regional Skills Assessment and Job vacancy data • Agile ongoing review and development of our skills offering • Learner engagement and feedback • Engaging with SDS / Scottish Funding Council
Action 3.2	Work with employers and training providers to up-skill and re-skill our existing workforce to help those in low-paid / low hours / entry level jobs to secure higher value and/or more secure employment	Key focus on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up-skilling and re-skilling across priority sectors • Targeted support for young people (16-24yrs) • Targeted support for low income households • Targeted support for women and disadvantaged groups • Targeted interventions and joint planning supporting Mid-Fife localities
Action 3.3	Ensure school and college leavers have the skills, knowledge and opportunities to move on to positive destinations	Key focus on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schools careers information, advice & guidance • DYW and Culture of Enterprise Delivery • Fife College careers information, advice & guidance • Self-Employment and business start-up support • Promoting positive perceptions of vocational qualifications and apprenticeships • Securing more work experience and work placements opportunities in the private, public and voluntary sectors • Modern, Foundation & Graduate Apprenticeships
Action 3.4	Provide additional support for young people at risk of not achieving positive destinations	Key focus on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early interventions to support young people identified as being at risk • No One Left Behind Programmes • Targeted support for Mid-Fife localities
Action 3.5	Target enhanced support to those most disadvantaged and furthest from the labour market to secure & sustain employment	Key focus on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No One Left Behind Fife Programmes / Service Delivery Principles • Tailored programmes for 16-19yr olds and 19-24 yr olds • Programmes targeting Intensive Family Support

Priority 3: Delivering Skills, Training and Fair Employment

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disadvantaged groups • Addressing issues of workforce mobility • Tackling increased levels of economic inactivity • Supporting those with long-term physical and mental health conditions • Targeted support for Mid-Fife localities
Action 3.6	Work with employers and anchor institutions to encourage the adoption of inclusive employment and fair work practices	<p>Key focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing the number of employers with Real Living Wage Employer accreditation • Actively promoting Equal Opportunities / Equal Pay / Employment Rights • Fife Business Charter / Community Wealth Building Charter • Fair Work conditionality clauses for public sector procurement contract and grant awards
Action 3.7	Increase the scale and range of community wealth building benefits achieved through public sector procurement contracts	<p>Key focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local employment opportunities • Apprenticeship opportunities • Work experience / work placements • Support for community projects • Community assets / community asset transfer • Financial contributions

Priority 4: Working in Collaboration and Partnership

Action 4.1	Continue to work in partnership with key stakeholders in Fife and at regional and national level to promote a shared understanding of priorities, alignment of policy, effective use of resources, and a culture of delivery	<p>Key focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active engagement in the ongoing development of effective Fife Partnership leadership, collaboration & governance arrangements • Active engagement in the ongoing development of regional economic partnership working and collaboration arrangements for the Edinburgh & South East Scotland City Region and the Tay Cities Region • Representation on national professional bodies, including SLAED, EDAS and the Business Support Partnership • Effective engagement with the Scottish Government • Effective engagement with the UK Government • Effective engagement with Fife Chamber of Commerce and the Federation of Small Businesses (FSB) Fife • Effective engagement with Fife’s Local Tourism Associations (LTAs) • Effective engagement with local businesses in Fife
Action 4.2	Continue to develop a robust evidence base of the Fife economy that helps to inform strategy and evaluate impact	<p>Key focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fife Economic Strategy programme management & reporting • Economic performance monitoring and reporting framework • Local area economic profiles • Fife business base intelligence • Key sector intelligence and analysis • Fife workforce intelligence, including educational attainment, positive destinations, employability activity intelligence, Regional Skills Assessments (RSAs) and job vacancies intelligence • Local, regional and national economic & business intelligence

Appendix 1 – National, Regional and Local Policy Context

National Economic Policy Context

UK Government Levelling Up White Paper

Published in February 2022, the UK Government Levelling Up White Paper sets out 4 objectives and 12 associated missions aimed at sharing economic prosperity more equitably across England and the devolved nations of the UK, with the overarching ambition of increasing ‘Pride in Place’.

UK Government Levelling Up Objectives & Missions
Boost productivity, pay, jobs & living standards
1. Increase pay, employment & productivity in every area of UK
2. Increase public investment in R&D outside the South-East by 40%
3. Make local public transport connectivity closer to London standards
4. UK-wide gigabit-capable broadband & 4G coverage, 5G majority
Spread opportunities and improve public services
5. Increase pay, employment & productivity in every area of UK
6. Improve in primary reading, writing & maths (England 90%)
7. Narrow the gap / increase Healthy Life Expectancy +5yrs by 2035
8. Narrow the gap / improve well-being in every area of UK
Restore a sense of community, local pride and belonging
9. Narrow the gap / increase pride in place in every area of the UK
10. Decrease the number of non-decent rented homes by 50%
11. Reduce homicide, serious violent & neighbourhood crime
Empower local leaders and communities
12. Provide a devolution deal for all parts of England that want one

Scotland’s National Strategy for Economic Transformation

The vision of the Scottish Government’s National Strategy for Economic Transformation (NSET) (March 2022) is for a **Wellbeing Economy** that will create a **Wealthier, Fairer and Greener** Scotland. This will be achieved by five interconnected and mutually-reinforcing programmes of action, together with a sixth programme to promote an enhanced **Culture of Delivery** and accountability.

Scotland’s National Strategy for Economic Transformation Programmes of Action
1 Enterprising People & Culture
2 New Market Opportunities
3 Productive Businesses & Regions
4 A Skilled Workforce
5 A Fairer, More Equal Society
6 A Culture of Delivery

Delivery Plans setting out how the Scottish Government will work with its partners to implement each of the Strategy’s programmes were published in October 2022.

Edinburgh & South-East Scotland City Region Deal & Regional Prosperity Framework (2021-2041)

The Edinburgh & South-East Scotland City Region comprises the area covered by Fife, Edinburgh, East Lothian, Midlothian, West Lothian and the Scottish Borders local authorities. The Regional Prosperity Framework (RPF) agreed by the City Region Deal partners in September 2021 sets the direction for regional economic collaboration across the City Region for the next 20 years. It identifies how partners in the region can build on other significant investments to further improve the way the regional economy functions and deliver an economy that is more **resilient, flourishing** and **innovative**.

A Delivery Plan has been developed setting out both an action plan of immediate interventions for 2023-2025, and a prospectus detailing collective future ambitions and opportunities. The Delivery Plan, which targets three goals - reduced economic exclusion, increased regional competitiveness and an accelerated transition to Net Zero - is a live document that will be updated every 12 months to reflect changes to the local, regional and macro economy. Four key programme areas have been identified for Year 1 (2023/24):

- 1 **Green Regeneration**
- 2 **Infrastructure for Recovery**
- 3 **Visitor Economy and Culture**
- 4 **Data-Driven Innovation Economy.**

Tay Cities Region Deal & Regional Economic Strategy

The Tay Cities Region describes the area of East Central Scotland covered by the local authority areas of Angus, Dundee and Perth & Kinross and the north-east part of Fife. The ambition of the current Tay Cities Region Economic Strategy (which will be refreshed in 2023) is to increase the number of businesses and create more better-paid jobs across the region to improve access to opportunity and increase the distribution of wealth and wellbeing.

Key targets to 2029 include:

- Increasing regional employment to above the Scottish average;
- Increasing the 5-year business survival rate to above 50%; and
- Reducing the proportion of jobs paid less than the real Living Wage

The Strategy focuses on 3 key inter-related themes:

□ Key Business Sectors

Supporting key business sectors in which the region has a strength, or which offer potential for growth.

□ Place: Investment & Infrastructure

Supporting improvements in digital and transport connectivity, investing in key business infrastructure and improving business support arrangements.

□ People: Skills & Employability

Improving workforce skills, re-skilling and up-skilling workers, tackling barriers to employment for disadvantaged groups and streamlining the skills system.

The Plan 4 Fife 2017-27

The Plan 4 Fife is the Fife Community Planning Partnership’s 10-year vision for Fife and was first launched in 2017.

The Plan sets out 4 strategic ambitions and 12 objectives for Fife:

	Opportunities For All
1.	Lower levels of poverty in line with national targets
2.	Continued improvement in educational attainment for all groups
3.	Reduced levels of preventable ill health & premature mortality
	Thriving Places
4.	Everyone has access to affordable housing options.
5.	Fife’s main town centres are attractive places to live, work & visit
6.	Low levels of crime and anti-social behaviour in our communities
7.	Access to high quality outdoor, cultural and leisure opportunities
	Inclusive Growth & Jobs
8.	Improvements in economic activity & employment in Fife
9.	Improvements in economic activity & employment in Mid-Fife
10.	Year-on-year increases in visitor numbers and tourism spend
	Community-Led Services
11.	More joined-up public services acting ‘one step sooner’
12.	More involvement of communities and individuals in local decision-making and in helping to plan and deliver local services

The Plan 4 Fife: Reform & Recovery Update 2021-24

A refresh of the Plan 4 Fife was published in August 2021, with a focus on Reform and Recovery following the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Plan4Fife Update retains the original 12 ambitions and adds a 13th ambition to reduce carbon emissions in Fife in line with national targets (75% of the 1990 baseline by 2030). The refreshed Plan also sets 3 overarching priorities for the 3-year period 2021-2024:

- **Leading Economic Recovery**
- **Tackling Poverty and Preventing Crisis**
- **Addressing the Climate Emergency**

These three priorities are underpinned by the development of a partnership-wide, cross-cutting approach to **Community Wealth Building**.

Community Wealth Building (CWB) is a people-centred approach to local economic development, which aims to redirect wealth back into the local economy, and place the control and benefits of assets and resources into the hands of local people.

The CWB approach focuses on five pillars of activity:

- Using spend to support local businesses and communities
- Encouraging fair employment and supporting local labour markets
- Encouraging shared ownership of the local economy and inclusive business models
- Using land and property to support communities and enterprises
- Harnessing and growing local wealth.

Appendix 2 - Fife's Key Employment Sectors

Figure 3 provides an overview of the largest employment sectors in Fife.

As can be seen, the public sector makes a significant contribution to the Fife economy via the provision of local government, education and health & social care services. Key employment centres include Glenrothes, Kirkcaldy, Dunfermline and St Andrews.

Manufacturing remains a major sector for Fife, with key employment centres in Glenrothes, Rosyth, Dunfermline, Leven, and Methil.

Construction (including housebuilding) features prominently within Kirkcaldy, Glenrothes, South West Fife, Dunfermline, and North East Fife.

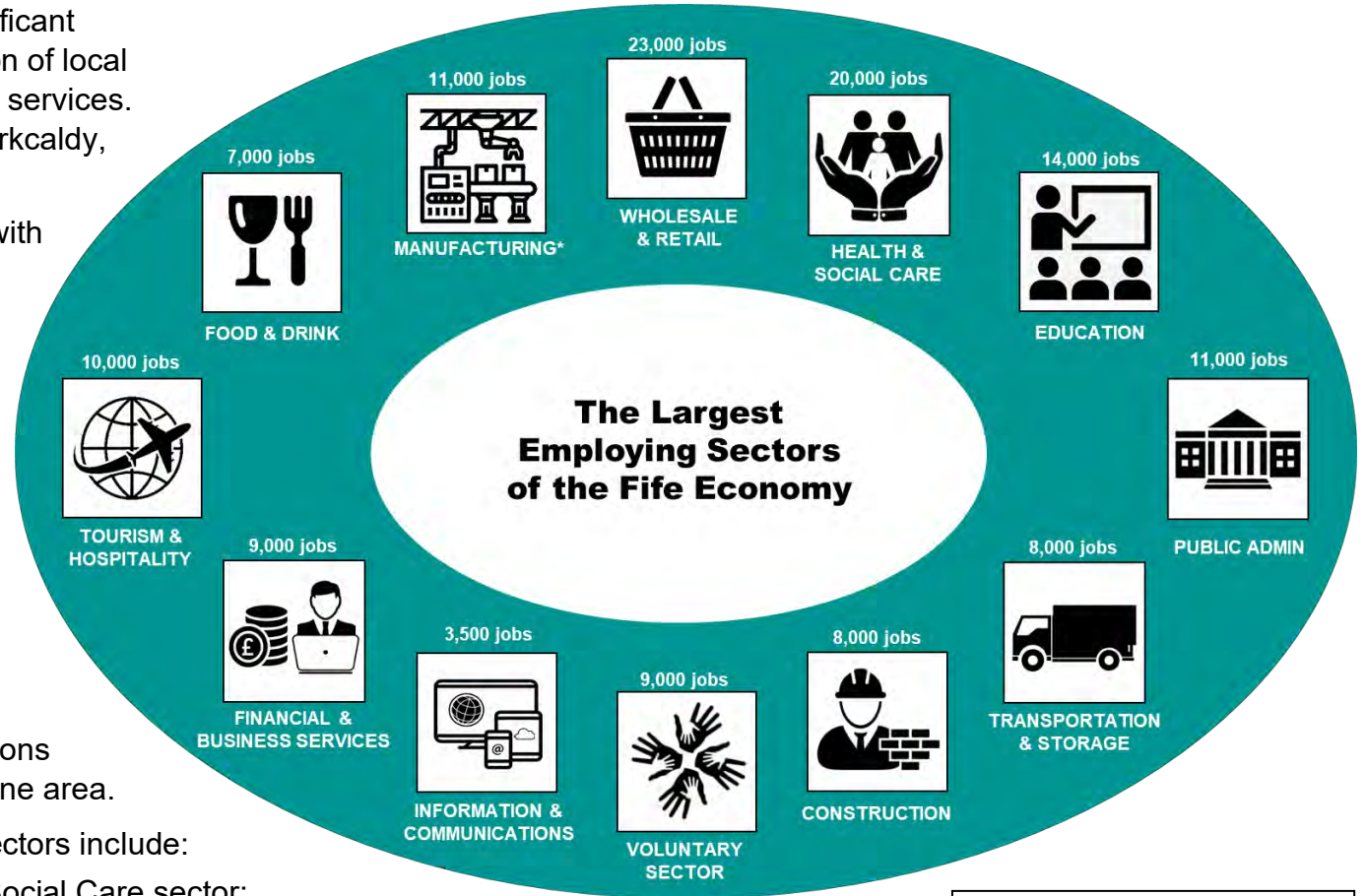
Tourism & Hospitality is focussed largely on St Andrews and the East Neuk, but also extends along the Fife's coastline, golf courses, and historical sites including Dunfermline, and the urban centres of Kirkcaldy and Glenrothes.

Employment within the Financial & Business Services sector and Information & Communications sector is primarily focussed within the Dunfermline area.

Priorities in relation to these key employment sectors include:

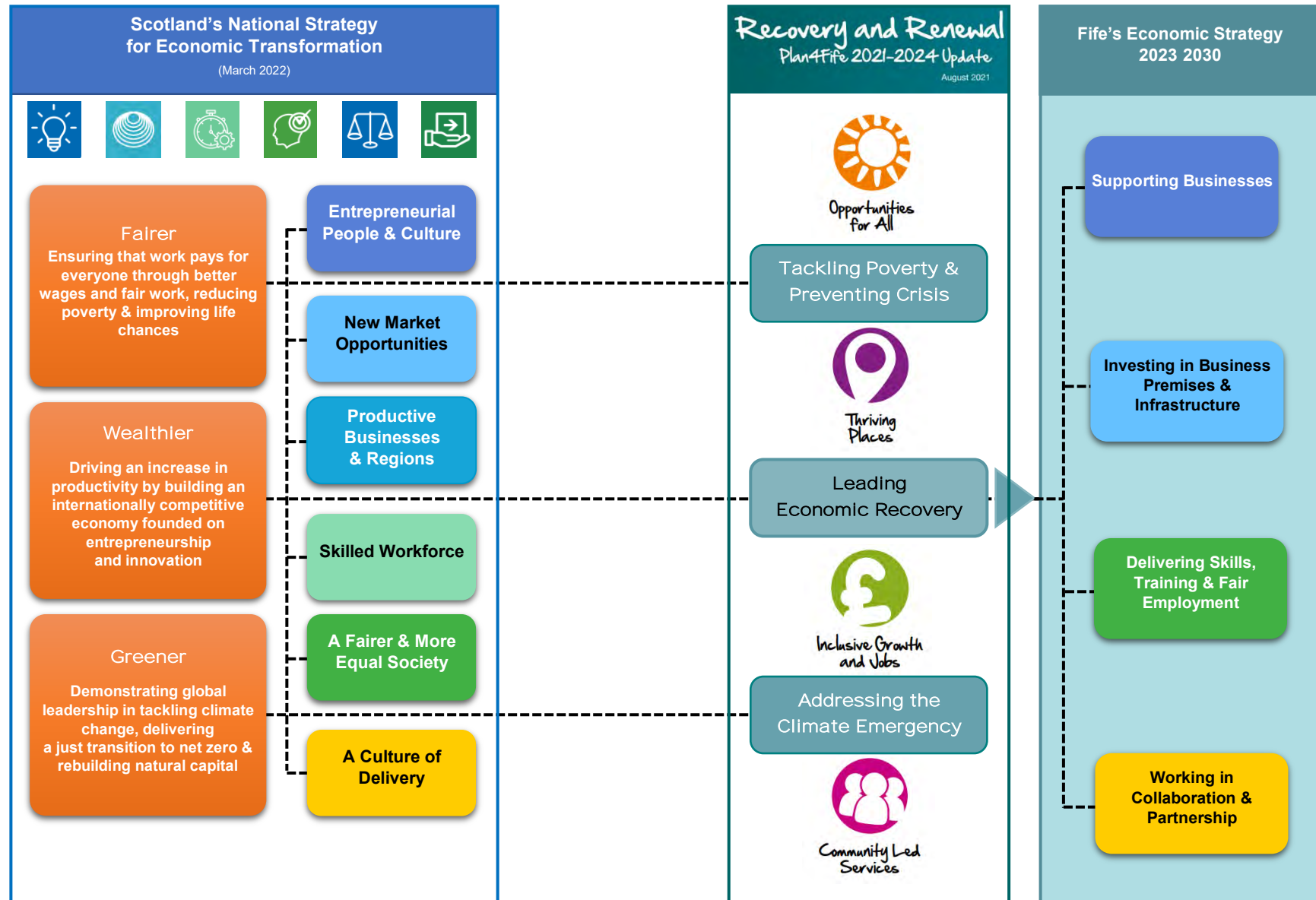
- Skills development supporting the Health & Social Care sector;
- Re-skilling and up-skilling the existing workforce, including in-work training
- Support for innovation in relation to advanced manufacturing and advanced construction;
- Emerging skills demands in relation to the Green and Blue economies and the just transition to net zero; and,
- Digital skills across all sectors, particularly the Finance & Business Services and Information & Communications sectors.

Figure 3: Key Employment Sectors of the Fife Economy



Note: *Manufacturing excludes food & drink manufacturing (1,250 jobs)
Source: ONS BRES 2021

Appendix 3 - Alignment of Scotland's National Strategy for Economic Transformation, Plan4Fife, and Fife's Economic Strategy



Appendix 4 - Performance Monitoring & Reporting Framework

Strategic Economic Outcome Measures

➤ Employment Rate ➤ Unemployment Rate ➤ Economic Inactivity Rate ➤ Median Weekly Resident Earnings ➤ Median Weekly Workplace Earnings

Supporting Businesses

- No. of business start-ups supported by Business Gateway Fife
- % of new business start-ups in Fife surviving for 3-years
- No. of VAT/PAYE-registered businesses in Fife
- % of people (aged 16+yrs) in employment who are self-employed
- No. of instances of Fife pupil engagement with Culture of Enterprise activities
- No. of registered businesses in Fife by employment size
- No. and value of Regional Selective Assistance (RSA) awards to Fife businesses
- No. of Fife companies assisted by Scottish Development International
- No. of existing businesses supported by Business Gateway Fife
- No. of Fife companies registered with the Supplier Development Programme
- No. of Fife businesses participating in the Supplier Development Programme
- % of Fife Council's annual procurement expenditure spent with Fife businesses
- % of Scottish annual local authority procurement expenditure spent in Fife

Investing in Business Premises and Infrastructure

- Occupancy (% rate) of Fife Council-owned business premises
- Town centre retail vacancy rates by units / floorspace: Dunfermline; Cowdenbeath; Kirkcaldy; Glenrothes; Leven; Cupar; St Andrews
- Total amount of external funding (£) awarded to Fife Council for economic development & employability activities (excluding City Deal monies)
- % of business & residential properties in Fife able to receive superfast broadband
- % of employment land that is marketable
- Total visitor numbers to Fife (all visitors)
- Economic impact of tourism in Fife (all visitors; £m)
- Number of jobs supported by tourism in Fife (FTE)

Note: This performance monitoring framework may be subject to further refinement in relation to the wider Plan4Fife performance framework.

Baseline figures for the suggested indicators can be found in the [Fife Local Economic Profiles 2021-22](#), [2022 Fife Business Base Report](#) and [Fife's Economic Strategy Evidence Report](#).

Delivering Skills, Training and Fair Employment

- % of school leavers in Fife achieving 5+ SCQF Level 6 (Higher) qualifications
- No. of Fife learners starting Modern Apprenticeships, Foundation Apprenticeships & Graduate Apprenticeships
- No. of Fife school leavers NOT achieving an initial positive destination
- No. of Fife school leavers NOT achieving a positive follow-up destination
- % of 16-19 year olds participating in education, training or employment
- % full-time Fife College leavers achieving an initial positive destination
- Claimant Count Rate (by Fife Council committee area)
- No. of participants on Fife Council funded or operated employability programmes
- No. of people supported into work via Fife Council funded or operated employability programmes
- % of employee jobs in Fife paid less than the real Living Wage

Appendix 5 - References

- [Fife's Economic Strategy 2017-2027](#) (Fife Council; Fife Economy Partnership; Opportunities Fife. 2017)
- [Plan for Fife 2017-2027](#) and [Recovery & Renewal: Plan for Fife Update 2021-2024](#)
- [Scotland's National Strategy for Economic Transformation](#); Scottish Government (March 2022)
- [Levelling Up the United Kingdom](#); UK Government (February 2022)
- [Infrastructure Investment Plan for Scotland 2021-22 to 2025-26](#); Scottish Government (February 2021)
- [Infrastructure Investment Plan for Scotland: A Guide to Property Asset Strategy in the Scottish Public Sector](#) Scottish Government & Scottish Futures Trust (August 2022)
- [Scotland's Inward Investment Plan: Shaping Scotland's Economy](#); Scottish Government (October 2020)
- [Scottish Technology Ecosystem Review](#); Mark Logan for the Scottish Government (August 2020)
- [Edinburgh & South East Scotland City Region: Regional Prosperity Framework and Action Plan](#) (September 2021 and March 2023)
- [Tay Cities Region Economic Strategy 2019-2029](#) (September 2019)
- [Skills Development Scotland - Digital Economy Skills Action Plan 2023-28](#) (March 2023)
- [Fife's Economic Strategy 2023-2030 Evidence Report](#) (January 2023)

ⁱ Mid-Fife includes the areas of Glenrothes, Kirkcaldy, Levenmouth, Cowdenbeath and Lochgelly