

Fife Partnership Board

www.fife.gov.uk/committee/fifepartnership

Tuesday, 6 August, 2024 - 10.00 am – Remote Meeting

AGENDA

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8. RECOVERY & RENEWAL LEADERSHIP GROUP REPORT: PLAN FOR FIFE 2024-2027 – Report by the Executive Director - Communities	188 – 199
9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING - Tuesday 6 November 2024	

Partners are reminded that should they have queries on the detail of a report they should, where possible, contact the report authors in advance of the meeting to seek clarification.

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

Fife House
North Street
Glenrothes
Fife, KY7 5LT

30 July, 2024



If telephoning, please ask for:

Michelle Hyslop, Committee Officer, Fife House 06 (Main Building)

Telephone: 03451 555555, ext. 445279; email: Michelle.Hyslop@fife.gov.uk

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THE FIFE COUNCIL - FIFE PARTNERSHIP BOARD - REMOTE MEETING

21 May 2024

10.00 am - 11.05 am

PRESENT: Councillors David Ross (Convener), David Alexander and Linda Erskine; Ken Gourlay, Chief Executive, Fife Council; Joy Tomlinson, Director of Public Health and Alastair Morris, Vice-Chair, NHS Fife; Chief Superintendent Derek McEwan; Sarah Robertson, Station Commander, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service; David Watt, Chair and Jim Metcalfe, Chief Executive / Principal, Fife College; Kenny Murphy, Chief Executive, Fife Voluntary Action; Brian Butler, Partnership Director and Beth Harley-Jepson, SEStran; Lesley Caldwell, Senior Community Engagement and Social Responsibility Manager, St. Andrews University; and Deborah West, DWP Customer Service Leader, Department of Work and Pensions.

ATTENDING: Carol Connolly, Executive Director (Place); Pam Ewen, Head of Planning and Ross Spalding, Service Manager, Planning Service; John Mills, Head of Housing and Gavin Smith, Service Manager, Housing Services; Sinead O'Donnell, Policy and Delivery Manager, Communities and Neighbourhoods Service; and Michelle McDermott, Committee Officer, Legal and Democratic Services, Fife Council.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Alison Taylor, Place Director, Scottish Government; Carol Potter, Chief Executive and Patricia Kilpatrick, Chair, NHS Fife; Kenneth Barbour, Local Senior Officer, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service; Professor Brad MacKay, St. Andrews University; and Dean Anderson, Department of Work and Pensions.

50. MINUTE

The Board considered the minute of the Fife Partnership Board Meeting of 13 February 2024.

Decision

The Board agreed to approve the minute.

51. PLAN FOR FIFE - THREE YEAR REVIEW

The Board considered a report by the Executive Director (Communities) proposing that the Fife Partnership continued to progress the recovery and renewal priorities for the period 2024-2027, focussing on a collaborative programme for that period and setting out an approach for the development of the next Plan for Fife.

Decision

The Board:-

- (1) noted the summary assessment from the recent annual report, the review work undertaken by the Recovery and Renewal Leadership Group and the emerging findings from the strategic assessment set out in section 2 of the report;

- (2) agreed to maintain focus and action against the existing recovery and renewal priorities for 2024-2027 and to refocus delivery arrangements;
- (3) approved a review exercise of the current partnership system and delivery arrangements; and
- (4) agreed to explore ways in which to embed an approach to health equity through the Marmot approach as set out in section 3 of the report.

52. ACE DELIVERY PLAN

The Board considered a report by the Head of Planning Services updating partners on the Addressing the Climate Emergency (ACE) Partnership Delivery Plan.

Decision

The Board:-

- (1) agreed the action areas as detailed in Appendix 1 of the Plan;
- (2) noted that the Addressing the Climate Emergency Board would assess and approve business cases for each of the specific projects; and
- (3) considered further opportunities to deliver action on climate, including collaboration across the four Plan4Fife objectives.

53. DISCUSSION

The Board asked partners to consider the following discussion points: -

- How can we have wider partner involvement in the joint Delivery Plan for Climate?
- What are the opportunities for working across the four Plan4Fife objectives to address the climate emergency?
- What if we developed a partnership wide Climate Literacy programme to support climate action?

Decision

The Board:-

- (1) welcomed the discussion topics and noted the continued collaboration work throughout the partnership board;
- (2) supported the ACE Board in (i) considering how to deliver cross-organisational climate literacy training across the partnership and how this could be promoted and (ii) exploring how to pull resources together to identify cross-organisational projects, reporting back to the Partnership Board in six to nine months with an update.

54. DEVELOPING THE HOUSING EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN 2024-27

The Board considered a report by the Head of Housing Services summarising the background to declaring a Housing Emergency in Fife. The report proposed three main themes and outlined the proposed Governance Framework which would provide focus and direction and requested that the Board support the Housing Emergency Action Plan (HEAP).

Decision

The Board: -

- (1) noted the corporate development of a Housing Emergency Action Plan (HEAP) which would be reported to the Cabinet Committee on 6 June 2024; and
- (2) agreed to assist in the development of the Housing Emergency Action Plan (HEAP) going forward.

55. FIFE PARTNERSHIP BOARD FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

Decision

The Board agreed that **Tackling Poverty and Health** would be the next priority focus for the August meeting and **Economy** would be the priority focus for the November meeting.

56. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Decision

The next Board meeting would take place on Tuesday, 6 August 2024.

Fife Partnership Board Update

www.fife.gov.uk/committee/fifepartnership

Agenda Item No. 3

6 August 2024

Poverty & Health Theme – Talking Points

Michael Enston, Executive Director – Communities

Over the last 4 years considerable resource and focus has been placed on crisis support both through pandemic and cost of living challenges. This seems a good moment to reflect on some of the lessons and shape how we move toward a sustainable provision which emphasises prevention. The 2024 Strategic Assessment is not a surprise in highlighting continuing and significant challenges and does reinforce the importance of such a review at this time. The assessment highlights persistent and widening inequalities and that poorer outcomes are firmly grounded in place. That said the Assessment does raise health and well-being concerns particularly children, young people and older people.

These talking points have been drawn from reviews of the two recent cost of living programmes, different funding streams and the programme of reform focussed on the development of a no wrong door approach to community support.

Suggested Discussion Areas/Lessons Learned

1. Investment in working together, training and communicating has been fundamental to pandemic and cost-of-living responses. Front-line staff do however report constant challenges around duplication, systems and processes, referral and follow up.
2. Evidence and data are improving and is being used more effectively to shape policy. That said we continue to lack Realtime understanding of need and impact. This is a challenge moving beyond a crisis or emergency response.
3. Local determination of need and response has been important over the pandemic and cost of living programmes. That preparedness to go beyond the rules and to have variation in approach needs to be part of effective community-based action on poverty.
4. Culture and mindset - much of our support system relies on eligibility and assessment. This work, and in particular prevention, implies an ethos of principles not rules and appreciation of wider social value in decisions. How we develop and embed this is a challenge.



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5. Since the Covid pandemic much of this work has been temporary and project focussed. This now needs to shift toward a redesigned service offer e.g. household goods or community food support.
6. No wrong door service redesign will help reset this agenda though more needs to be made of place working, how we coordinate and allocate funding streams and how communities feel more ownership.
7. Finally, how well does the system overall support this work? Evidence suggests that our efforts can be diluted and fragmented across different mechanisms. Partnership structures can reinforce this when they should be challenging it and providing a focus to social policy innovation and reform.

Fife Partnership Board

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Agenda Item No. 4

6 August 2024

Fife Strategic Assessment 2024

Report By: Michael Enston, Executive Director – Communities

Purpose

To bring forward the findings from the Fife Strategic Assessment 2024.

Recommendations

Fife Partnership Board is asked to:

- note the findings from the Fife Strategic Assessment 2024
- consider this report as a 'can-opener' to prompt and inform discussion and encourage new thinking about current service delivery, partnership approaches, community engagement and priorities for change.
- use this evidence to plan collaboratively with partners for 2024-2027.

Resource Implications

This document is intended to inform discussions in the next phase of strategic planning and prioritisation of resources across Fife Partnership.

Consultation

This is an independent report that has been informed by a range of information and evidence, including reports, publicly available data, delivery plans and strategies

1.0 Background

- 1.1 The Research and Insight Team has committed to producing a Fife Strategic Assessment, every three years, to support the Plan for Fife (local outcome improvement plan).
- 1.2 Through the lenses of People, Place and Performance, this report brings, into a single document, a definitive synthesis of the latest research, evidence and assessment about Fife, to highlight the shared challenges facing local communities and partner agencies.
- 1.3 It is not an assessment of service delivery or functional performance. There are complex and persistent issues affecting Fife's communities. This assessment of their current impact on local people and places does not attempt to convey, or quantify, the value of the public services and interventions that have been provided over the past three years. That assessment is covered by each partner through their own service performance management and public reporting.
- 1.4 This 2024 assessment is an evidence-based snapshot of the state of Fife, in the context of many contributing factors. It is intended to provide insight and constructive challenge to encourage us to think about problems and opportunities in new ways.

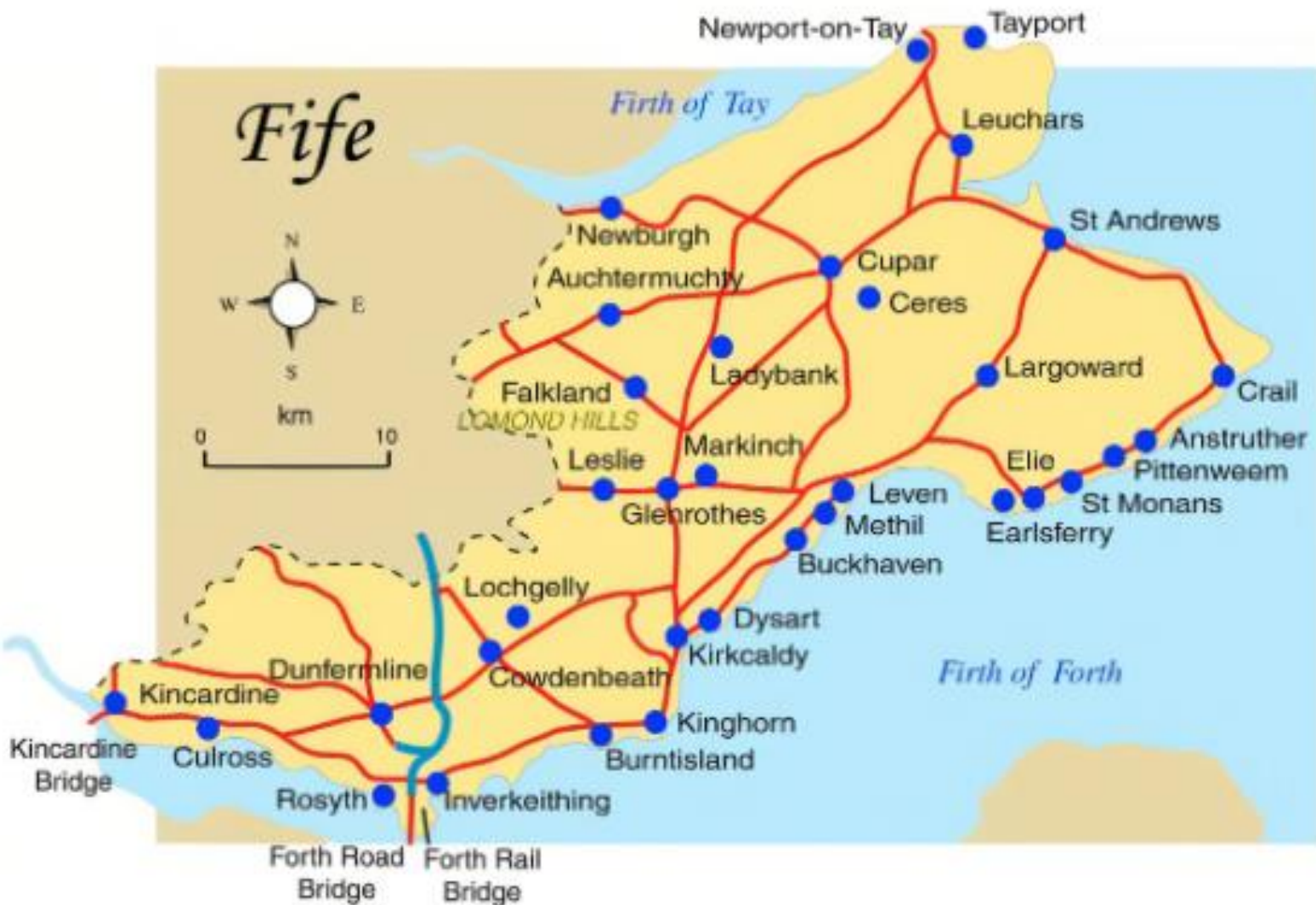
2.0 Next Steps

- 2.1 This assessment explores recent evidence and emerging issues impacting on people and the communities they live in across Fife.
- 2.2 It is designed principally for leaders, decision-makers and those involved in service design and development but can be helpful context for all those working in public service to build understanding of our communities and the collective challenges being faced.
- 2.3 It is designed to inform the next phase of strategic planning and prioritisation of resources across Fife Partnership, including the development of the collaborative programme for Fife Partnership Board for 2024-2027.
- 2.4 Partners are encouraged to use this report to:
 - Compare and consider findings with related research
 - Explore and question organisational priorities
 - Consider shared objectives, the use of collective resources with other partners
 - Explore the levers within Fife and the Fife Partnership's control that could help address the challenges in new ways such as - land, assets and public spending.

Report contact

Coryn Barclay
Research and Insight Manager
coryn.barclay@fife.gov.uk
6 August 2024

Appendix 1 – Fife Strategic Assessment 2024 - Final



Fife Strategic Assessment 2024

Final Report

July 2024

Topics: Community Safety, Economy, Education and Skills, Environment, Equality, Health and Wellbeing, Housing and Community, Population, Poverty and Deprivation

1. Introduction

We have committed to producing a Fife Strategic Assessment every three years, to support the ongoing development of the Plan for Fife (local outcome improvement plan).

Purpose

This report brings, into a single document, a definitive synthesis of the latest research, evidence and assessment about Fife, to highlight the shared challenges facing local communities and partner agencies.

Using the lenses of People, Place and Performance, this assessment is designed to inform the next phase of strategic planning and prioritisation of resources across Fife Partnership.

It is not an assessment of service delivery or functional performance. There are complex and persistent issues affecting Fife's communities. This assessment of their current impact on local people and places does not attempt to convey, or quantify, the value of the public services and interventions that have been provided over the past three years. That assessment is covered by each partner through their own service performance management and public reporting.

This 2024 assessment is an evidence-based snapshot of the state of Fife, in the context of many contributing factors. It is intended to provide insight and constructive challenge to encourage us to think about problems and opportunities in new ways.

The discussions it prompts will inform the direction and focus of our Plan for Fife in its remaining term to 2027.

Context and impact

Uncertainty highlighted in previous strategic assessments, and more recently in national assessments, continues to be a feature of the operating environment. National and international factors are impacting people at a very local level.

The 2021 Fife Strategic Assessment focused on the roadmap for recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. It predicted a long period of recovery and likely downturn in community outcomes during that period.

Whilst that has proven to be true, progress has been made – such as the Fife employment rate returning to pre-pandemic levels – but efforts to recover have been further hampered by a succession of additional and significant economic shocks, a consequential cost of living crisis and rising international instability including the war in Ukraine and the humanitarian and energy crisis that caused.

The impact of the cost of living crisis and associated increases in food and fuel costs has been widespread, every household has felt new pressure, but the impact on low income households has been greater. It has tipped many working households into crisis for the first time and exposed existing vulnerabilities in others that has increased demand and the need for urgent support from public services exponentially. Local people generally say that cost of living, funding for public services, poverty and inequality are the major issues living in Fife today.

Fife has also proactively built upon the collaborative response during the pandemic and is making a significant shift to collaborative delivery under people and place workstreams and the redesign of public services in a person-centred way through initiatives such as No Wrong Door (NWD) and its wellbeing and prevention operating model. These are among the most significant reforms of public services in recent years and, as with many preventative models, will take time to design and implement.

Alongside this, Communities have increasing expectations of continuous service provision and improvement. It is no small task to balance strategic change ambitions and community expectations with increasing financial and budgetary pressures whilst still technically in 'recovery' given the ongoing nature of challenge.

However, the current environment is the new normal. It is a mix of continuous recovery and an urgent need to accelerate reform to meet ever compounding challenges. It calls for new thinking and an openness to change that will help develop Fife's public service workforce, apply technology, collaborate to deliver locally and secure the responsive, people-centred services Fife communities need to thrive going forward.

How to use this report

This assessment explores recent evidence and emerging issues impacting on people and the communities they live in across Fife. It should be seen as a 'can opener' to be used to prompt and inform discussion and encourage new thinking about current service delivery, partnership approaches, community engagement and priorities for change.

It is designed principally for leaders, decision-makers and those involved in service design and development but can be helpful context for all those working in public service to build understanding of our communities and the collective challenges being faced.

2. Key messages

Fife continues to face key challenges

These are historic, longstanding issues that take time to turn around. The Plan for Fife has a strong focus on reducing inequalities, and although some areas have shown improvements, inequalities in Fife persist and are widening.

State of Fife highlights issues around equity

High level monitoring of the State of Fife indicators shows Plan for Fife delivery is not having the intended impact. Latest data and trends reveal a worsening picture for almost all outcomes. There are significant inequalities in outcomes between most and least deprived communities. The gap is widening over time in relation to key life outcomes such as life expectancy and school attainment.

Inequalities in Fife persist and are widening

Over the last fifteen years, the health inequality gap in life expectancy has widened. Men in the most affluent areas of Fife will live, on average, 13.9 years longer (was 10.7 years) than men in the most deprived areas, while for women the difference is 10 years (was 6.3 years). The inequality gap in key life outcomes such as attainment, child poverty, crime rate, early mortality, emergency admissions, and participation of 16-19 year olds show that there is a greater gap in outcomes between most and least deprived areas of Fife, than for most and least deprived areas of Scotland.

Poverty persists and living standards continue to be squeezed

Everyone has been affected by the cost of living crisis. Fewer people feel they are managing well financially now compared to before the pandemic. Those in the most deprived areas are even more likely to be struggling financially. For the first time in a ten-year period Fife's crime rate has exceeded the Scottish figure. The increase was driven by crimes of dishonesty reflecting the economic pressures households are under. The cost of living crisis is not over, and Fife's recent declaration of a housing emergency reflects funding pressures, lack of affordable housing, rising housing costs and increased risk of homelessness.

Mid-Fife continues to be an area of strategic concern

Mid Fife continues to fall behind other areas of Fife, with poverty a contributing factor. Poorer outcomes for local communities are firmly grounded in place, particularly in parts of Levenmouth, Kirkcaldy and Cowdenbeath areas.

Population growth has stalled, the population is ageing

Fife, like Scotland, has experienced a number of decades of steady growth in its population. Unfortunately, Fife along with many other councils in Scotland, expects to see its population decrease in the next few years. Fewer children, fewer working-age adults and more older people (particularly the very old) will have implications for service demand and the cost of providing future public services.

Older people likely to live longer in poorer health and risk exclusion

Although people in Fife are living longer, more are now living with ill health for longer, particularly women where there is a marked decline in healthy life expectancy. This places a greater demand on health and social care services. There is also an increased risk of digital exclusion and poor digital literacy in older people as more services move online.

Mental wellbeing is declining

Mental wellbeing of Fife's population continues to decline with an increasing percentage of the population being prescribed drugs for anxiety, depression or psychosis. There is some sign of recovery from the pandemic in terms of people feeling life is worthwhile, but levels of happiness are continuing a downward trend.

Children and young people are a key concern

Child poverty continues to be a challenge, linked to lower achievement of development milestones, lower school attendance, poorer attainment and poor health and wellbeing outcomes. The attainment gap is still apparent at all levels of qualification - and it widens with increasing SCQF difficulty. Attainment is linked to school attendance which has been declining since 2014/15. The number of Fife pupils that require additional support in schools has increased significantly with the rate in secondary schools approaching 50%. Mental health is a significant issue for young people and referral rates for support remain above pre-pandemic levels. Pupils experiencing feelings of anxiety is an area of concern in the recent 2023 Fife Health and Well Being survey.

Place outcomes show growing need for improvement

The places in which we spend the most time shape our opportunities and interests. Community perceptions of place are going in the wrong direction over time, with more improvement needed now across all the different aspects of places, but particularly resources (services and support, work and local economy, housing and community) and stewardship (care and maintenance, influence and sense of control).

Fife's urban rural composition leads to variation in physical and digital connectivity. Although areas of increased deprivation have better access to services this is linked to them being urban and does not reflect the socio-economic barriers to access. As more services move online, the need for consistent, reliable digital connectivity increases, as does the risk of people becoming digitally excluded due to the cost of living crisis and ageing population.

Addressing the impacts of climate change is a strategic priority, cutting across services and outcomes

Addressing the impact of climate change is a major challenge, and a key strategic risk for Fife. Consequences of climate change are evident on multiple levels impacting flooding, food and water availability, air quality, biodiversity, with careful consideration required to implementing mitigation measures to ensure potential risks are minimised. Those at highest risk of climate change hazards are often those that are least able to adapt. Factors impacting vulnerability include age, poverty, pre-existing health conditions, limited mobility, as well as specific locations and industries being adversely affected. Moving towards a fair and sustainable Fife requires improved evaluation of climate change risks, to help prioritise resilience action.

People

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3. Population

Total population	Children (0-15 years)	Working age (16-64 years)	Older adults (65+ years)	Households
371,340	61,621 (16%)	229,225 (62%)	80,494 (22%)	169,573

(NRS Mid-year 2022 Population Estimates and Scotland’s Census 2022 (Households))

Unlike in the last several decades, where Fife and Scotland have seen their populations steadily increase, the next few decades will see these populations reduce in size. Fife is one of many Scottish council areas where population is starting to reduce.

The most pressing challenges facing Fife from population changes are:

- a continued decrease in the number of children,
- a diminishing supply of young people entering the workforce,
- a considerable reduction in the number of overall working age people, and
- a continuing increase in older people, particularly the over 85 age group, making up a larger proportion of the overall population.

Scotland’s population is estimated to peak and then reduce from the early 2030s, whereas Fife’s population is expected to reduce sooner, in the next couple of years, and at a faster rate than Scotland, with an estimate of around 8,000 (-2%) fewer people by 2044 (based on 2018 projection figures).

Fife’s population is now 371,340 (Mid-2022 Population Estimates based on 2022 Census). 18 council areas (including Fife) had over-estimates of their populations from 2021. Fife’s population has been overestimated by around 2,900 people. Most population reduction will apply to children and working age groups. In the next 20 years, the number of children will reduce by 11,000 (-17%), and adults of working age by 23,000 (-10%). Migration policies following on from Brexit, and tighter restrictions on non-EU workers due to come into force in Spring 2024, will further decrease mainly younger working age numbers.

Older age groups (65+) will increase in size across all areas with Fife expected to see an increase of around 26,000 (34%), and the 85+ group estimated to nearly double in size.

One of the main drivers of the overall reduction in population is record low levels of births. Total fertility rate has reached its lowest ever level of 1.28 (2.1 needed for population replacement). This not only reduces the number of children, but also has knock-on effects for the working age population, as lower fertility rates result in a reduced working-age population over time.

While the numbers and proportions of older people are expected to continue to rise, mainly driven by the post-war baby boom generation getting older, life expectancy has stalled, and in some areas is reducing in Fife and Scotland. As a consequence, it is expected that Fife’s older population will continue to increase until the late 2030s, where it will level out and start to decrease, but at a more modest rate.

A reducing population - with fewer children, less working-age people and more older people (particularly the very old) - will have implications for service demand and the cost of providing future public services.

4. Housing

In March 2024, Fife Council became the fourth Scottish local authority to declare a housing emergency. Fife, like many regions in Scotland, is grappling with a number of housing pressures: rising housing costs, increasing homelessness, lack of affordable housing, and cuts to funding.

There continues to be a shortage of affordable homes in Scotland compared to the amount of people that need one. This strain on supply comes at a time when the need for social homes is on the rise. Social rents are at least half the level seen in private rented sector.

In 2023, the average rent for a two bedroom property in Fife was £700 per month, compared to the Scotland average of £841¹. While average rents in Fife have been lower than the Scotland average in each year since 2010, over that period, Fife has seen increases in average rents above the rate of inflation for all property sizes (except one bedroom properties). While inflation has fallen substantially recently, the impact of interest rates on mortgage costs has yet to be felt, with private landlords likely to pass any increased costs on to private tenants. Support measures introduced to tackle the cost of living crisis, including rent freeze and eviction ban have come to an end, with private tenants likely to face big rent rises and potential evictions from April 2024. The removal of private accommodation from the rental sector has also increased pressure.

Many councils are regularly breaching their legal obligation on temporary accommodation as they increasingly struggle to find any accommodation for people they have statutory duties to house, with homeless households being placed in bed and breakfast accommodation for longer periods. Poverty continues to be a key driver of homelessness.

There has been a 1%² increase in homelessness applications in Fife since March 2020. This increases to 5%, if examining the change in applications in the last year alone. As of March 2024, there were 1,938 live homelessness cases where households were awaiting housing. Between 2023-24, a resolution for 81% of unintentional homeless households, was found in the social housing sector, an increase from 76% recorded the previous year. This demonstrates the increased pressure placed on social housing providers to source permanent accommodation for homeless households.

Between March 2020 and March 2024, the number of households in temporary accommodation in the area increased by 110%, rising from 525 to 1,100. As at March 2024, 387 children were living in temporary accommodation, up from 315 in 2020. Between 2023 and 2024 there was a 36% increase in households in temporary accommodation, however the number of children in temporary accommodation decreased by 5.6% over this period.

At March 2024 there were more than 14,000³ applicants on Fife's Housing Register. This is an 11% increase since March 2020, however, a 1.5% reduction has been recorded in applicants on the housing register between March 2023 and March 2024. Over 53% of applicants have an illness or disability, with several indicating the requirement for specialist or supported accommodation to meet the needs of the household. In terms of household composition, the largest proportion of applications are from Single households (39%). 21% of applications are from retired households.

¹ [Private Sector Rent Statistics, Scotland, 2010 to 2023 - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/publications/private-sector-rent-statistics-scotland-2010-to-2023/pages/1-introduction.aspx)

² [Main+tables_homelessness+in+Scotland+2022-2023.xlsx \(live.com\)](https://www.live.com/tables/homelessness-in-scotland-2022-2023)

³ [Housing+Lists++2023.xlsx \(live.com\)](https://www.live.com/Housing+Lists++2023.xlsx)

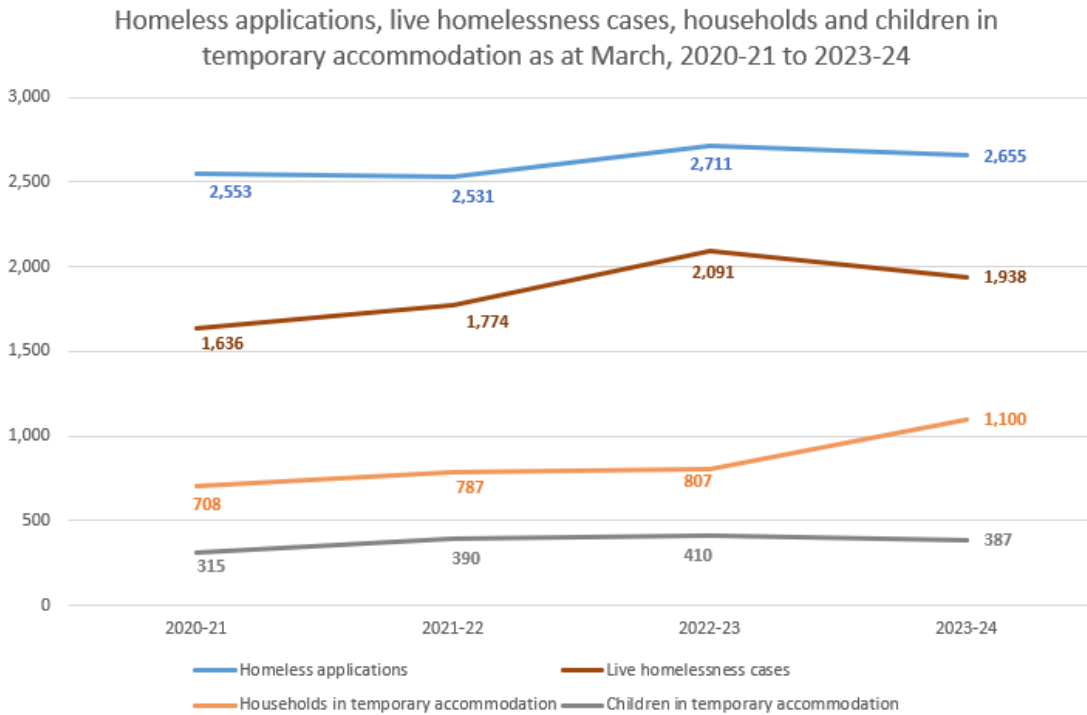


Figure 4.1 - Homelessness applications, live homelessness cases, households and children in temporary accommodation as at March, 2020/21 to 2023/24

As of 2022, there were an estimated 2,421⁴ long-term empty homes in Fife, a reduction of 18% since 2020. The long-term empty homes equate to 1.3% of total dwellings in 2022. Returning empty homes back into use plays a crucial role in responding to the housing emergency to ensure the best use of existing housing is being made, and to reduce the detrimental impact of empty homes on local communities.

The combined Housing Need and Demand Assessments (HNDAs) for Fife indicate that 2,392 households are in housing need and require social rented housing to meet that need. The existing need goes beyond the Scottish Government HNDA Tool default position by including households experiencing homelessness or housing insecurity, both overcrowded and concealed households and those requiring specialist housing. This existing need informed a range of housing scenarios to calculate housing estimates for both the affordable rent and market rent housing. The agreed scenario for Fife was steady growth which estimates 673 new homes (401 affordable, 272 market) are required each year from 2021-30. The requirements by tenure, over a 10-year period, are shown within the table below:

Table 4.2 Housing Need and Demand Assessments (HNDAs) Housing Estimates per annum by Steady Growth Scenario and Tenure (2021-30)

Affordable (per annum)			Market (per annum)			Fife Total (Market & Affordable)
Social Rent	Below Market Rent (MMR)	Total	Private Rented Sector	Buyers	Total	
321	80	401	104	168	272	673

⁴ [house-est-22-data.xlsx \(live.com\)](https://www.fife.gov.uk/house-est-22-data.xlsx)

Over recent years, new build social housing has been delivered at scale to ensure housing need is met. Between 2019-20 and 2021-22, 1,400 new builds have been completed in Fife through the Affordable Housing Supply Programme. Completions comprise of registered social landlord rent, council rent, mid-market rent and open market shared equity. Future delivery is threatened by sizable cuts to the levels of funding available for the affordable housing programme in Scotland. This, together with pressures in the local housing system, has led to a number of councils declaring a housing emergency.

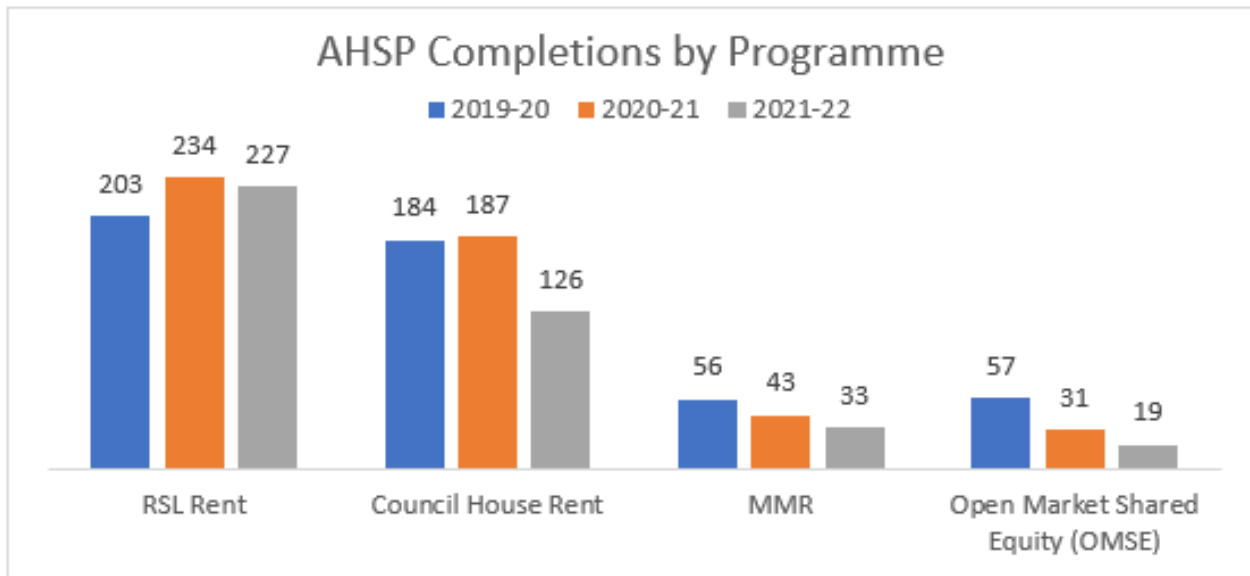


Figure 4.3 Affordable Housing Supply Completions by Programme (Source: AHSP Out-turn reports 2019-20, 2020-21 & 2021-22⁵)

With the mandate to improve the energy efficiency of social housing to achieve net zero, there is a risk that much of the existing housing budget could be diverted into the pressing need to improve the energy efficiency of existing homes. This will require significant funding, impacting on future HRA (Housing Revenue Account) spending without increasing the capacity of the housing stock. Another risk is that private landlords may withdraw their properties from the rental market to avoid making required improvements to meet legislation, which will put further pressure on the availability and affordability of housing in the area.

There are also broader concerns about both the speed at which new housing is being built, and the fragility of the construction sector. As well as skills shortages (partly caused by Brexit), construction costs and inflation have contributed to problems building and financing housebuilding. In 2022-23 there were 1,544 new homes completed in Fife⁶. While this was 431 more homes than the previous year, it was only 89 more (6.1%) than 2019-20. This compares with an increase of 7.9% across Scotland, which is likely to mean that supply of housing in Fife will continue to fall short of demand.

⁵ <https://www.gov.scot/policies/more-homes/affordable-housing-supply/>

⁶ [Scottish Government Housing statistics quarterly update \(March 2024\), All sectors starts and completions](#)

5. Poverty

The persistent and lifelong impact of poverty is a central and recurring theme of this assessment. Some households increasingly find themselves with insufficient income to meet their daily living costs.

There are many reasons why a household may find itself in poverty such as unemployment, low paid jobs, inadequate benefits as well as rising living costs. The effects of poverty, such as health problems (both physical and mental), housing issues or low educational achievement, can be detrimental over a person’s lifetime.

Cost of Living

The COVID-19 pandemic exposed the financial vulnerabilities of households to unexpected economic shocks. In 2021 and again in 2024, cost of living was identified by local people as the top issue affecting life in Fife, followed by funding for public services, poverty and inequality (Issues Barometer, Fife People’s Panel).

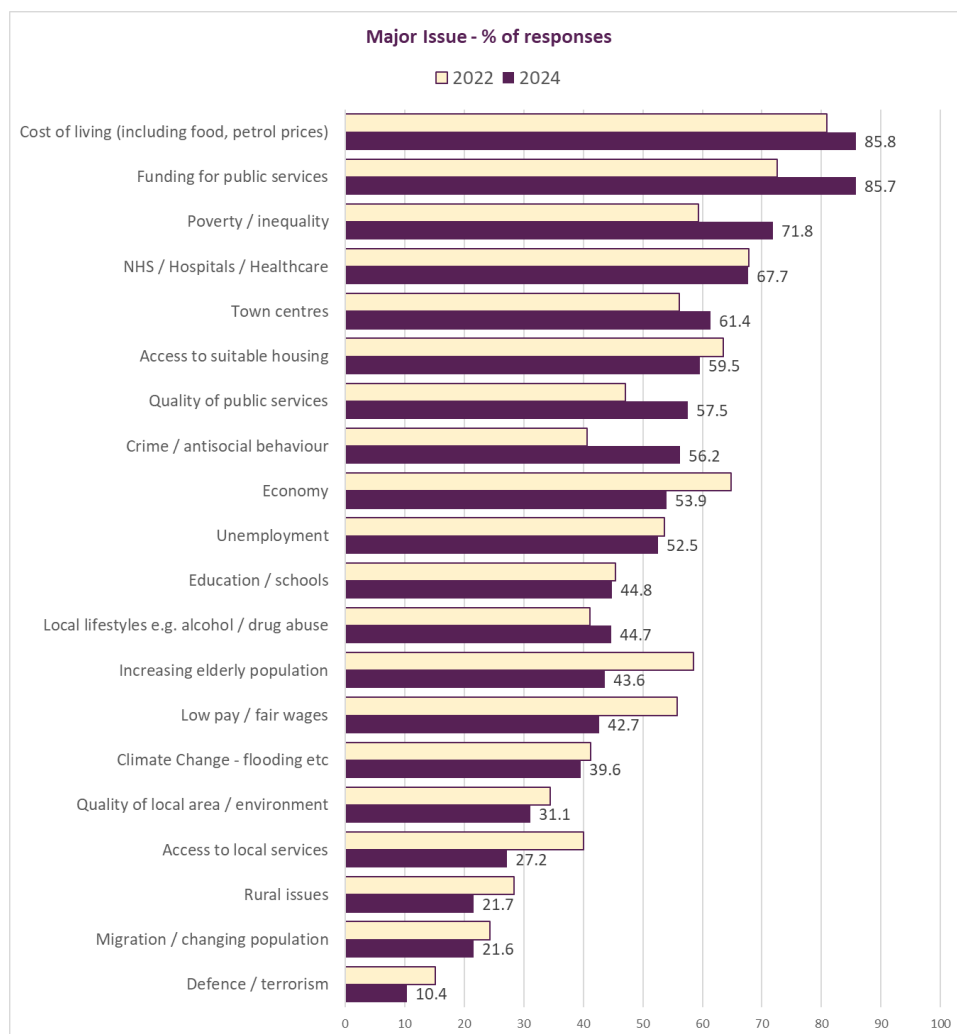


Figure 5.1 – Community perceptions of what is a major issue in the area (Fife People’s Panel, Local Issues Barometer, 2024 vs 2022)

Over the last two years, everyone has been affected by the cost of living crisis with rising energy and food bills driving inflation, and putting pressure on living standards across the UK. Those on the lowest incomes have been hardest hit.

Fewer Fifers now feel they are managing well financially (51% compared to 58% pre-pandemic). Those in the most deprived areas of Fife are six times more likely to not manage well than those in the least deprived areas of Fife.

Table 5.2 – How households are managing financially, most and least deprived for Fife, compared with Fife and Scotland (Scottish Household Survey, 2023) ⁷

	Most deprived	Least deprived	Fife	Scotland
Manages well	38%	66%	51%	50%
Gets by alright	51%	32%	43%	41%
Does not manage well	12%	2%	6%	9%

The cost of living crisis is not yet over. Across the UK, around half of adults reported that their cost of living had increased over the last month (ONS, March 2024), citing rises in the price of food shopping (93%), gas and electricity bills (66%) or fuel (59%) as the main reasons for this⁸. Households now have less financial resilience than they did pre-pandemic, with households likely to have dipped into savings to meet increased living costs. Since 2020 there has been an increased need for short-term credit to meet household costs⁹. Food and fuel bills remain higher than they were pre-pandemic.

Cost of living payments, which offered targeted support to the poorest households, ended in February 2024. From April 2024, although benefits have risen in line with inflation, it is expected that incomes for the poorest will fall further, with rising housing costs being a key factor in this¹⁰.

Child poverty

Fife continues to track just above Scotland for child poverty (a proxy for household poverty). 23.6% of children in Fife are now living in relative poverty (in households with an income of less than 60% of UK median income¹¹) compared to 21.3% for Scotland (DWP, FYE 2023).

While both Fife and Scotland have seen an increase in child poverty between 2019 and 2023, this had been projected before the cost of living crisis so was not unexpected.

Levenmouth, Kirkcaldy, Cowdenbeath and Glenrothes Areas all have higher child poverty rates than Fife as a whole. This is broadly consistent with income and employment deprivation (SIMD 2020).

⁷ [Supporting documents - Scottish Household Survey 2022: Key Findings - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/publications/supporting-documents-2022-23/key-findings/pages/11_to_14.aspx).

⁸ <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/wellbeing/datasets/publicopinionsandsocialtrendsgreatbritainhouseholdfinances>

⁹ [Demos](#)

¹⁰ [Resolution Foundation](#)

¹¹ https://data.gov.scot/poverty/index.html#Poverty_measures

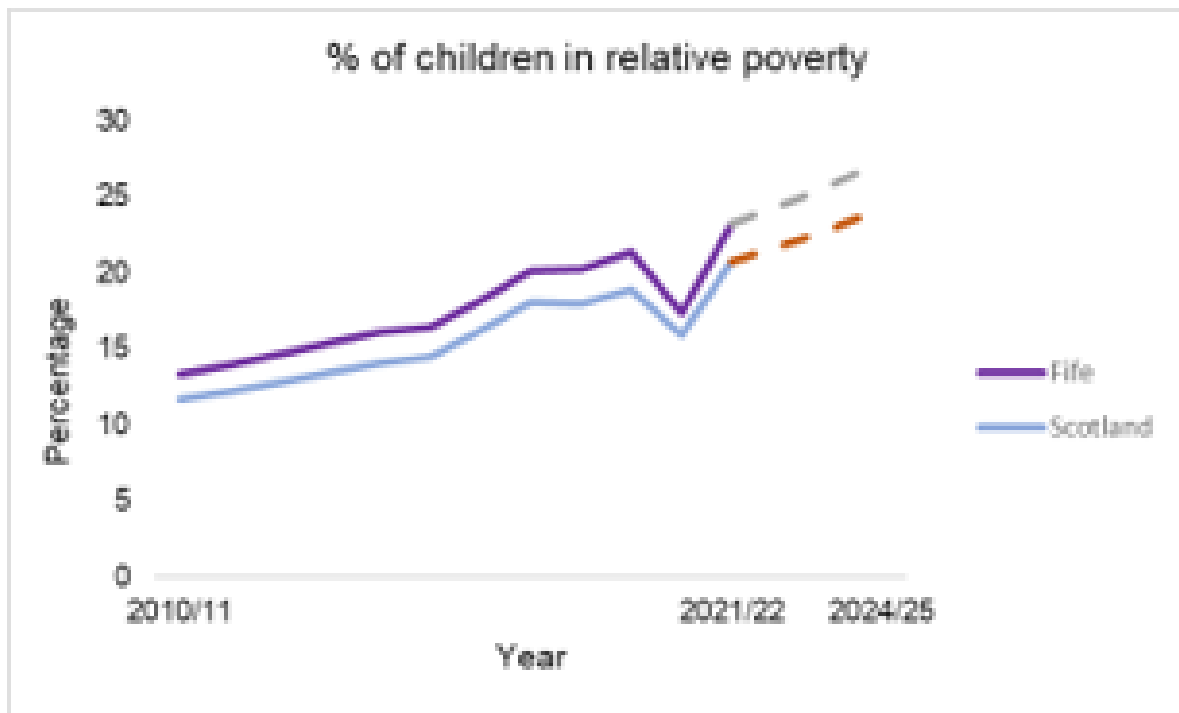


Figure 5.3 - % of children in low income families (2010/11 - 2024/25, CPOP¹²)

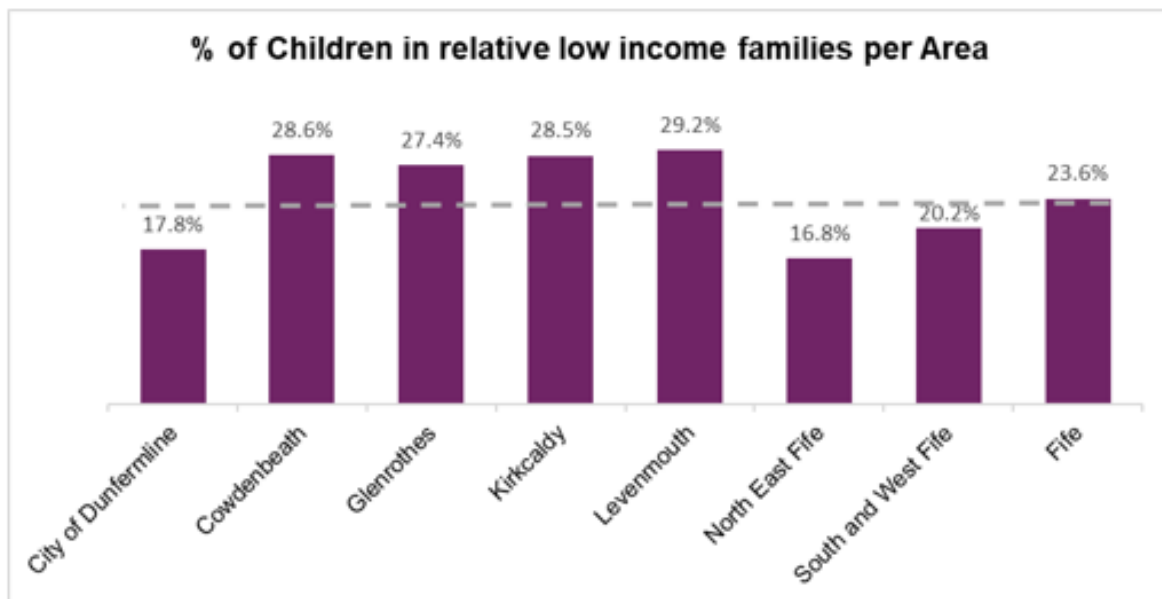


Figure 5.4 - Percentage of children in low income families (relative poverty) by Area (DWP, FYE 2023)

¹² CPOP (shinyapps.io)

Low income households

As at February 2024, there were an estimated 31,285 low income households in Fife (LIFT dashboard). Table 5.4 shows that single households are the largest group, accounting for two thirds of all low income households, and 89% of those who are in a cash shortfall (expected take-home income less than expected expenditure). Lone parents are the second largest group (17.5%), followed by couples without children (9.8%). Couples with children account for 5.1% of low income households.

Table 5.4 - Financial resilience of low income households by type (LIFT, February 2024)

	Coping	Struggling	At Risk or In Crisis (cash shortfall)	Total
Couple with children	1,559	9	35	1,603
Couple without children	2,868	73	131	3,072
Lone parent	5,239	49	176	5,464
Single	17,625	719	2,802	21,146
All Low Income Households	27,291	850	3,144	31,285

Welfare reform

Since 2010, there have been substantial reforms to the UK welfare system, including the rollout of Universal Credit in Fife from 2017. As of February 2024, approximately 27,507 people in Fife are now on Universal Credit (LIFT, UCDS). Of the 31,285 low income households in Fife as at February 2024, 12,921 have moved to UC, while 7,985 households remain on legacy benefits and are still to transition to Universal Credit. 76.5% of low income households are expected to be better off after transition (LIFT).

Through a process of managed migration, DWP are inviting people on legacy benefits (including Housing Benefit) to make the move to UC. It will be important for households to move in the prescribed window, to ensure that they benefit from transitional protection (worth £3.8 million to both people's pockets and the local economy (LIFT)). The five week wait for new claims to Universal Credit continues to place additional financial pressures on households at this critical time.

Food and household support

Public services are facing a number of pressures particularly due to the cost of living crisis, not only due to funding cuts but because of increased pressure on resources as more people require help and those communities have more complex needs.

The Scottish Welfare Fund (SWF) provides community care grants (to help people live independently and cover items such as furniture, white goods and essential heating expenses) and crisis grants (to help those on a low income with an emergency situation).

Applications reached an all-time high in 2022/23 (37,073) but dipped again slightly in 2023/24 (30,693). In 2023/24 there were more applications for crisis grants (26,309) than community care grants (4,384) with 69% of crisis applications granted.

The amount awarded through the Scottish Welfare Fund for crisis grants increased substantially over the period 2020 to 2023, peaking at more than £2.7 million of crisis support over 2022/23. The amount awarded in 2023/24 has reduced but remains above pre-pandemic levels.

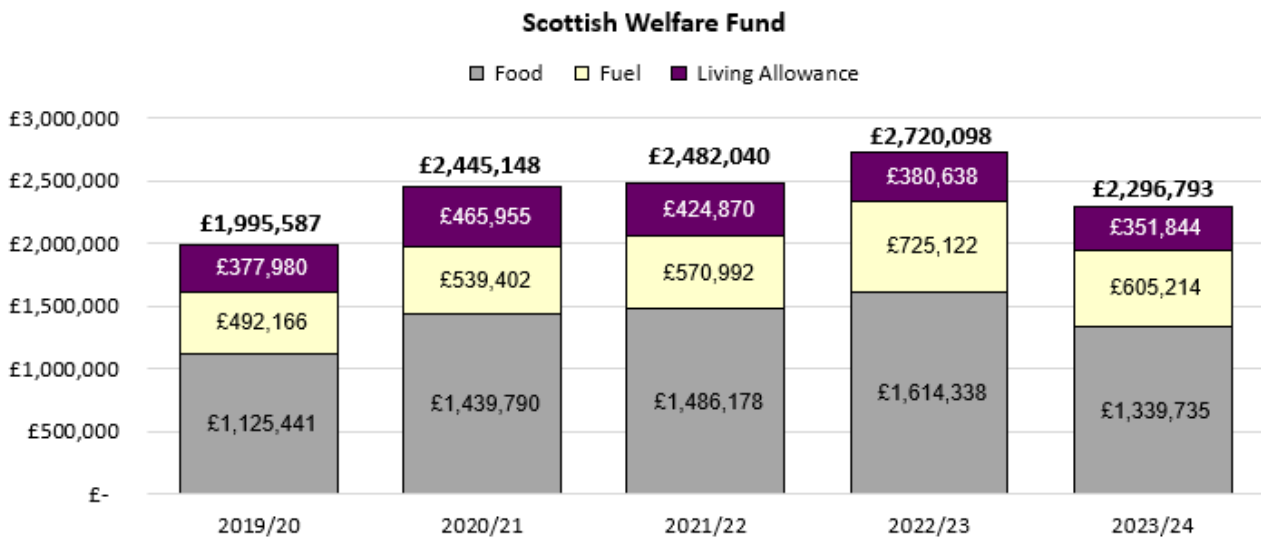


Figure 5.6 - Crisis grant awards for food, fuel and living allowance, Scottish Welfare Fund, 2019/20 – 2023/24

6. Children and young people

Childhood years contribute to the lifelong foundations of an adult's health and life skills. In recent years young people have experienced the impact of COVID-19 and measures associated with withdrawal of usual activities, services and supports and more recently the cost of living crisis. It is important to understand how Fife young people are doing. This is mirrored in the decision to focus on children and young people in the Director of Public Health Annual report for Fife 2023/24¹³.

The child population of Fife is expected to reduce by around 11,000 (-17%) by 2043. The ages showing the largest decreases are expected in primary school age children (-21%), followed by pre-school (-13%) and secondary ages (-13%). This has implications for service planning and the Fife economy.

Children (0-15)

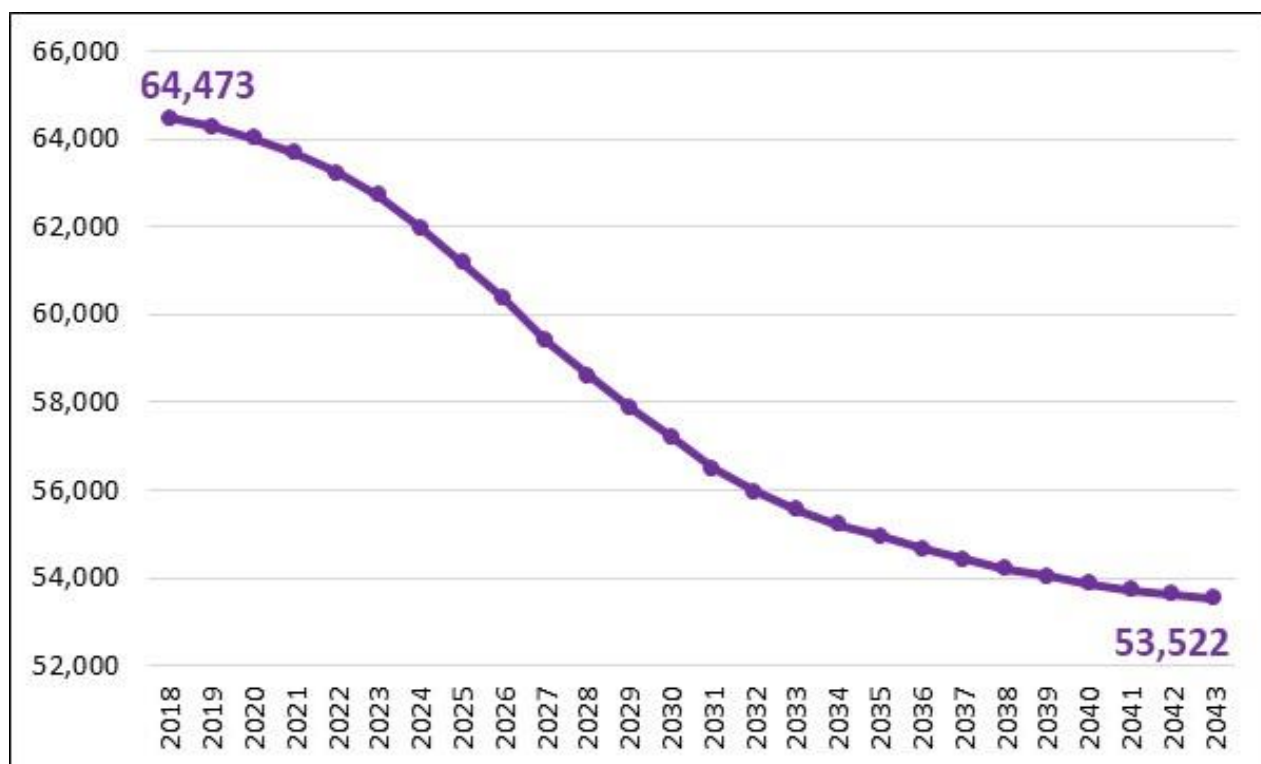


Figure 6.1 - Projected Change in Fife Child Population 2018-2043 (NRS)¹⁴

Fife wellbeing indicators developed by Fife Children's Services Partnership are now being used to monitor progress in a range of outcomes and experiences for children, young people and families. Indications are that poverty continues to be a challenge for Fife as a key contributor to poorer health and well-being outcomes for children.

Levels of child poverty vary across Fife, linked to areas of deprivation. As of December 2023, 25,200 of children in Fife (39.5%) were actively benefiting from the Scottish Child Payment. Higher take up in most compared to least deprived areas suggests that the payments are getting to those families who need them the most to mitigate the worst effects of poverty.

¹³ [Director of Public Health Report 2023 | NHS Fife](#)

¹⁴ [Population Projections for Scottish Areas \(2018-based\) | National Records of Scotland \(nrscotland.gov.uk\)](#)

Early years

Health inequalities during pregnancy, birth and early years can have a significant bearing on a child's development and their lifelong health, happiness and productivity in society. The circumstances children experience growing up largely reflect the resources available to their parents or carers, their family income and the environments in which they can afford to live. Early intervention is crucial as the opportunity to reduce the impact of inequalities declines as children age.

One of the poorer outcomes that is being seen for children is in relation to low birth weight. In 2021/22 there was a marked reduction (4%) from the previous year in healthy birth rates. This change has also been experienced nationally at a slightly lower level. This is notable as for the last 10 years healthy birth rates have been sitting around 89% with progress between 2018 and 2020 taking the figure above 90% tracking Scotland at a slightly lower rate.

The Director of Public Health Report 2023¹⁵ notes the science of connection shows that nurture in early years of life is critical for brain development and for lifelong health and wellbeing, and investment in early years has the greatest economic impact. The proportion of young children meeting development milestones tends to track below Scotland. Latest data available from 22/23 confirms that there was 4.3% reduction in Fife children achieving these milestones (81.1%) staying broadly the same as the previous year.

This reduction is notable as previously the percentage of young children meeting development milestone had improved since 2013/14 (81.4%) hovering around 84% across 2018/19-2020/21. Reviews were largely maintained during the pandemic (with the exception of the 4-5 year review). This indicates possible real changes in the occurrence of development problems contributing to concerns.

This is consistent with national trends reported in the Early Child Development report from Public Health Scotland, which reported increases of developmental concerns across all domains and at all review points in 2021/22 compared to the previous year. There are consistently more children in Fife with developmental concerns in the most deprived communities compared to the least deprived communities.

Quality childcare supports economic growth and supports ambitions to reduce child poverty. In 22/23 the quality of early years care in Fife remained good with 94% of funded early years provision graded good or better by the Care Inspectorate. The proportion graded good or better however has been reducing since 2020/21 but remains above the trend for Scotland though this gap is closing.

¹⁵ [Director of Public Health Report 2023 | NHS Fife](#)

Educational attainment

In the earliest stages of education, there has been continued recovery shown through improvement in key Primary stage combined attainment since the COVID pandemic.

In 22/23 pupils achieving expected level of literacy was 70% an improvement of 1.9% compared to the previous year. In numeracy 77% of pupils achieved expected levels an improvement of 2.2% since the previous year.

Overall Fife is tracking national trends for key Primary stage attainment but at a slightly lower level.

There are indications that young children are struggling to achieve their full potential in deprived areas of Fife. 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 had to be put on hold or curtailed.

Pupils' progress and attainment within deprived areas are amongst those who may have been most negatively affected. The attainment gap between most to least deprived areas is measured in percentage points (pp). For primary school at combined key stages the literacy gap is 22 pp, while in numeracy the attainment gap is 19 pp. There has been some improvement in reducing this gap since 20/21, particularly in numeracy.

Interpreting trends in secondary school level attainment levels is difficult due to the different assessment methods during the pandemic. Although 2023 was not yet a complete return to normal, the approach operated on established pre-pandemic procedures with due consideration for legacy of impacts and supports.

Table 6.2 - School Leaver Attainment in Fife and Scotland, 2022/23¹⁶

	1+ at SCQF Level 4 or better	1+ at SCQF Level 5 or better	1+ at SCQF Level 6 or better
Fife	96%	79%	51%
Scotland	96%	85%	56%

For school leavers in 2022/23, around 96% left with 1+ SCQF Level 4 pass or better (equivalent to previous general level standard grade). 79% left with 1+ SCQF Level 5 or better (equivalent to previous credit standard grade or better) and approx. 51% left with 1+ qualification(s) SCQF Level 6 or better (equivalent to previous Higher grade or better).

In comparison to Scotland, a lower proportion of pupils in Fife have achieved pass marks in more demanding SCQF levels. When breaking down attainment of Fife school leavers by SIMD quintiles (where 1 is 20% most deprived) the attainment gap between young people from the most and least deprived areas in Fife can be clearly be seen.

¹⁶ [Summary Statistics for Attainment and Initial Leaver Destinations, No. 6: 2024 Edition, released on 27th February 2024](#)

School Leaver Attainment 2022/23

SCQF Level 4 or better, to Level 6 or better: SIMD 1 v 5 comparison

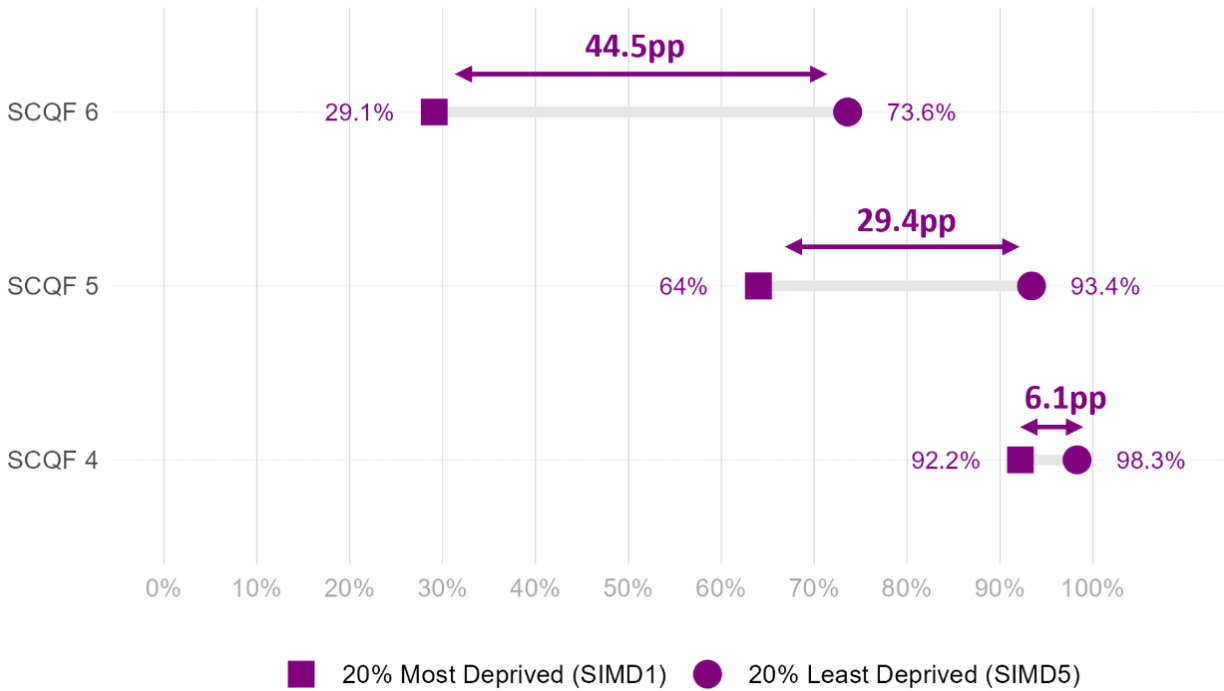


Figure 6.3 - School Leaver Attainment by SIMD quintile (1=most deprived), 2022/23

As the level of qualification increases, the gap widens. In achievement of 1+ SCQF level 5 or better there is a 29% gap from most deprived SIMD 5 to least deprived area SIMD 1. In achievement of 1+ SCQF at level 6 or better the attainment gap is 45% from most to least deprived areas. This has implications for access to opportunities in employment and further education. A similar picture is seen at the Scottish level, however the gap is wider in Fife.

The cost of living crisis has created additional pressures on families that will further increase the risk of these issues and is likely to impact on outcomes over the coming years. In Autumn 2023, the Scottish Government announced a key youth policy objective would be a further £200m investment to help schools and authorities improve the attainment of children and young people impacted by poverty. Continued investment may offset some of these socioeconomic issues and reduce this imbalance.

Attendance

Poor attendance at school has been linked to lower levels of attainment; isolation from peers; emotional and behavioural difficulties and poorer employment opportunities. Overall school attendance in Fife has been declining since 2014/15 to 90% average attendance in 22/23; the trend tracks the Scottish picture but has shown a steeper decline.

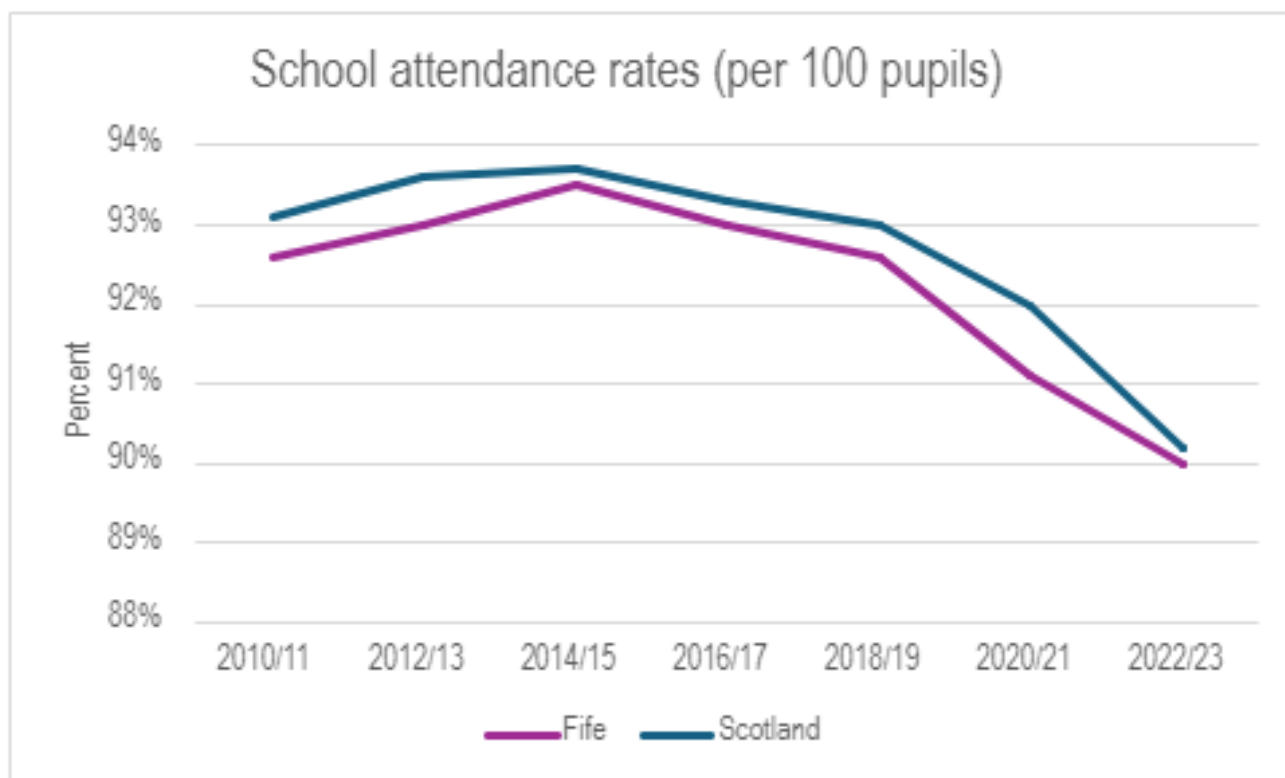


Figure 6.4 - School Attendance Rates (per 100 pupils), 2010/11 - 2022/23

There is evidence that deprivation does contribute to poor attendance – particularly in secondary school¹⁷

Review of available research into causes that affect school attendance confirms that this is a complex, multifaceted area that can encompass, individual, peer, family and school issues¹⁸. Research identifies that these issues can occur across broad categories, which are not in isolation to each other, including:

- illness
- deprivation
- mental health
- pressures of the school environment
- parental attitudes

¹⁷ Attendance Report session 2022/23 [download-document-sharepoint \(fife.gov.uk\)](#)

¹⁸ School attendance literature review 2024 [School-attendance-literature-review-final.pdf \(fife.scot\)](#)

Young people’s health and wellbeing

Every child has a right to be safe; healthy; achieving; nurtured; active; respected; responsible; and included. This is how wellbeing is defined in the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014. The Fife young people’s health and wellbeing survey (2023) was designed to help understand the wellbeing needs of children and young people across Fife and to inform work to improve services for children and families. Across the reported measures, analysis indicates attitudes to school; views on neighbourhood and life at home; physical health and mental health and wellbeing, differ by stage, sex and deprivation. A particular area of concern from the survey was around feelings of anxiety. 50.3% of young people P5-S1 agreed “there are lots of things I worry about in my life” compared to the national figure of 41.9%.

Teachers noted during lockdown a worsening of student’s mental wellbeing; socioeconomically deprived young people were identified as struggling even more so. Loss of socialisation was identified as a significant stressor as well.¹⁹ Young people are struggling with mental health. The referral rate to Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) remains greater than pre-pandemic levels, referrals have however started to reduce for the first time in three years. Poor mental health can impact on individual wellbeing, health, education and employment which may limit future opportunities and increase the risk of poverty.

Table 6.5 – Rate per 1,000 referrals made to Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)²⁰

	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Fife	35.9	34.2	40.9	38.1	46.9	39.9

From Schools, Health and Wellbeing Improvement Research Network (SHINE) local authority level on pupil mental health-2022 results, key themes from the data indicate that young people are struggling with self-confidence, loneliness, poor body image and maintaining positive peer relationships.

Of all the school years participating in the surveys, S2 boys and S4 girls are the two where scores are most concerning. Scores show that S4 girls are particularly low in mood, confidence, and emotional symptoms and are most likely to feel lonely with the lowest score relating to peer relationships. S2 boys appear to be struggling more with peer relationships, liking school and feeling pressured by schoolwork (by more than 10% above the Scottish average).

Research into the impact of the use of electronic devices by children is limited. Some evidence suggest that screen time can both support and inhibit development, depending on activities undertaken. Research to determine the youthwork needs in Fife after the COVID-19 pandemic found that almost all young people that participated use social media and a wide range of apps. 29% say using social media is good for you and 27% say it is not. Time spent on social media, the volume of information consumed and access to inappropriate content were all concerns voiced²¹. This area requires further investigation and monitoring at local and national levels.

¹⁹ [ssf letterhead new.fh11](#) Scottish Sport Future Trauma and Poverty

²⁰ fife.publichealthintelligence@nhs.scot

²¹ The youth work needs of young people in Fife after the coronavirus pandemic

The research found that young people felt physically healthy, over half reported positive mental health although this was a concern for some. Concerns were also raised about poverty and inequality in Fife as well as cultures on bullying and extreme behaviour.

Young people require more support in Fife. The number of Fife pupils that require additional support in schools has significantly increased in recent years. Pupils with at least one additional support need (ASN) has increased by 4,052 in the last five years, a 15.2% increase. The rate of pupils with additional support needs in Fife secondary schools is approaching 50%. Fife tracks the Scottish trends at a slightly higher rate.

In Fife secondary schools the category of social, emotional and behavioural difficulties is consistently reported as the highest ASN experienced by pupils. There are a number of factors that have influenced this increase including increased awareness of additional support needs and changes in the descriptors of additional support needs.

Scotland's promise to care experienced young people that 'you will grow up loved, safe and respected. And by 2030 that promise must be kept'²² is a key priority in Fife. When considering vulnerable children over a three year period (19/20-21/22) there was a downward trend in the proportion of Fife children formally 'looked after'. There is a risk that the continued impact of the pandemic on mental health and the societal impact of the cost of living crisis may create an increase in demand in future years, and close monitoring is important to understand the impacts of this.

Play

The National Planning Framework 2023 recognises that providing quality opportunities for children of all ages to play will benefit their physical and cognitive development. Fife published its Fife Play Sufficiency assessment in 2023²³ assessing play opportunities as well as needs, demands and aspirations of Fife communities.

Quality of playparks is an issue with 63% of Fife's play parks rated as poorer quality and/or offer limited play value. This is mainly because of missing or dated equipment; or limited by suitability for young age or specific activity e.g. skatepark. Less than 6% of play parks met the criteria of 'High Quality'. These tend to be the destination play parks within Fife's larger towns.

Play parks are only one element of outdoor play, and assessments of settlements showed that most villages had sufficient play opportunities, but most towns didn't. Time spent playing outside is varied - 68% of children and young people said they played outside every day or 2 or 3 times a week; 11% only played outside once a month or not at all. Slightly more than half of children and young people felt that places to hang out and play in Fife were good. While slightly less than half of adults felt that places for children to hang out and play in Fife were good.

In more rural locations in Fife, it was often necessary to travel for more varied or exciting play opportunities. For many families this meant being able to drive or having access to a car. Young people talked about being excluded from play areas, whether through parental concern, poor design or fears about older adults or children. Young people want better designed play spaces closer to home catering for different needs.

²² The Promise [The Promise](#)

²³ Fife's Play Sufficiency Assessment 2023 – StoryMap ([FIFE'S PLAY SUFFICIENCY ASSESSMENT \(arcgis.com\)](#))

Positive Destinations

Education and training are important phases in young people's lives preparing them and improving their job opportunities, and there is evidence that young people in Fife are progressing positively.

The participation rate of 16-19 years old in Fife engaged in learning, training and work has improved reaching 92.9% in 22/23, which is a growth of 1.2% since 2019/20.

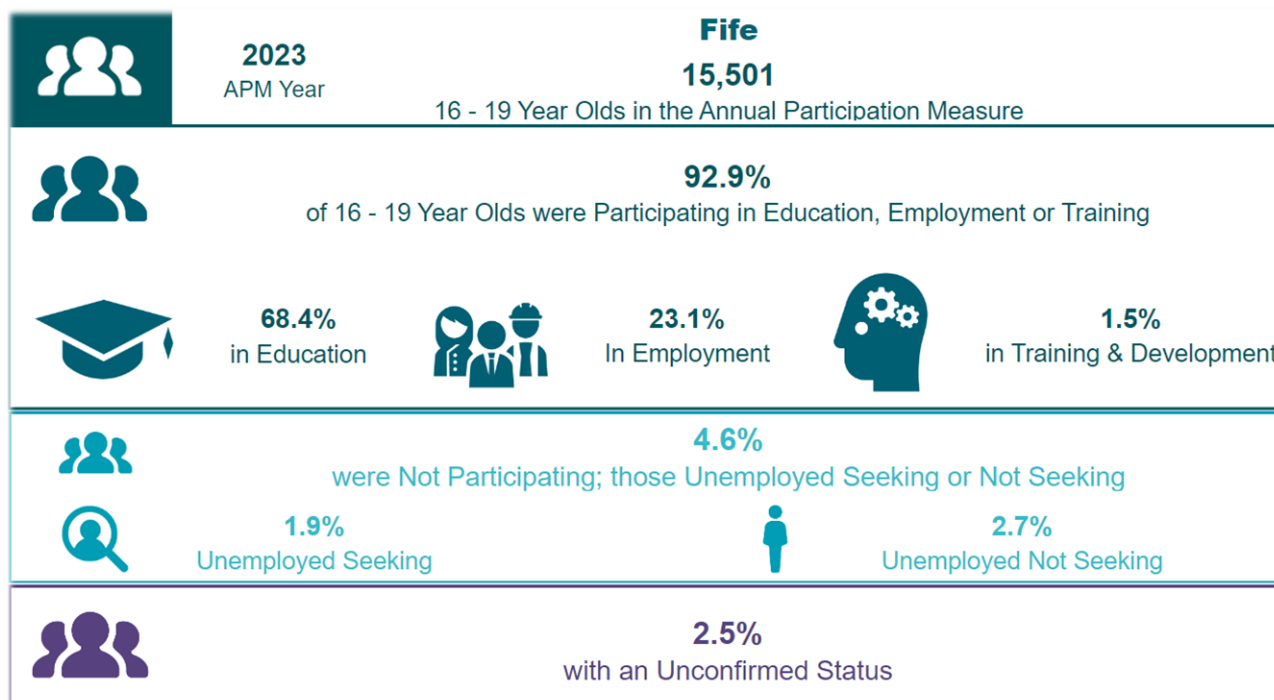


Figure 6.6 – Fife Infographic for Annual Participation Measure, 2023 (Skills Development Scotland)²⁴

While Fife is tracking Scottish trends on the overall annual participation measure (APM) at a slightly lower rate, there are different patterns to the participation of 16 to 19 year olds in Fife compared to Scotland.

Table 6.7 – Comparing participation rates of 16 to 19 year olds in Fife and Scotland (Annual Participation Measure, 2023, Skills Development Scotland)

APM	Participating			Not participating		
	Education	Employment	Training/ development	Unemployed seeking work	Unemployed not seeking work	
Fife	92.9%	68.4%	23.1%	1.5%	1.9%	2.7%
Scotland	94.3%	71.3%	21.4%	1.6%	1.6%	2.1%

Positive destinations for school leavers include higher education, further education, employment, training, voluntary work or activity agreements. The proportion of school leavers entering positive destinations has been improving in recent years to around pre-pandemic levels, reaching 95% in 21/22 (94% in 2018/19). Fife tracks the Scottish average at a slightly lower rate. While ongoing improvement is projected to 2024/25, Fife is expected to continue to lag behind Scotland.

²⁴ [Annual Participation Measure - Skills Development Scotland](#)

7. Working age

Fife's working age population increased steadily from 1997 to 2011, where it peaked. Since then, the number of working age people has reduced almost year-on-year, and this trend is expected to continue for the foreseeable future, with an estimated reduction of around 23,000 (-10%) in the next 20 years.

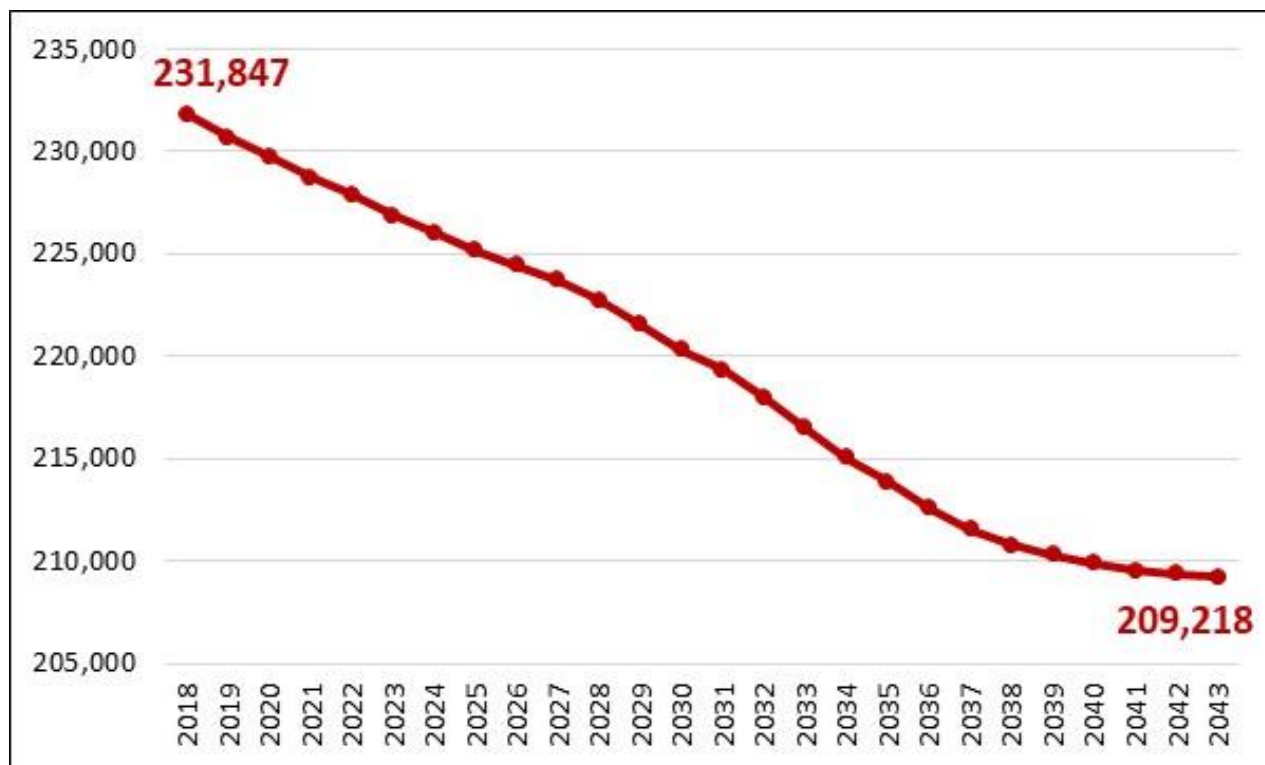


Figure 7.1 Projected Change in Working Age Population (16 to 64) 2018-2043²⁵

The ages with the largest decreases are expected in the 16-24 age group (-15%), followed by those aged 45-54 (-12%) and 55-64 (-10%). The main driver for this reduction is decreasing fertility rates. A declining birth rate leads to a smaller number of young people entering the workforce every year, and a reduced working-age population over time.

A smaller number of working age people poses some major challenges for Fife. One of the main challenges is that it restricts economic growth. As the working age population reduces in size, there are fewer workers that can contribute to the area's economic output and this can hamper the growth in the labour market, and lead to a reduction in economic expansion. Fewer working age people also challenges the labour market leading to shortages in some industry sectors and employers finding it difficult to recruit skilled workers. This has an impact on productivity and overall economic performance.

For most of the last two decades, the EU was the major source of work-related migration to the UK. After the Brexit referendum in 2016 visa grants to EU citizens dropped sharply, even before any new migration policies had been introduced. The recent visa rule changes in the UK, set to come into force in Spring 2024, will have further implications for both migrant workers and their families. The UK Government hopes to significantly reduce the number of successful applicants for work visas, which will affect not only the lead applicants but also

²⁵ [Population Projections for Scottish Areas \(2018-based\) | National Records of Scotland \(nrscotland.gov.uk\)](https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/population-projections)

their family members joining them. As a result, the overall pool of migrant workers will decrease, and this will impact both the workforce and fertility rates.

While the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on workforce size and shape is still too early to quantify, there are certain age groups in which it had a major effect. One of the main groups to be affected was people nearer to retirement age, as the COVID-19 pandemic pushed older adults to retire early. This resulted from changes around work demands and practices, and in particular, the shift to working from home, which had a major influence on their attitudes to work life.

Special populations

Many areas in Scotland have what are termed “special populations” (a community or section of the population that doesn’t follow the same pattern of ageing as mainstream populations), for example, military bases, prisons, large asylum and refugee populations, student accommodation, elderly care homes, etc.

One of these special populations is the proposed super garrison at **Leuchars Military Base**. As of 1 February 2024, the population of the base, including military personnel, their dependents, and civilian staff, was just under 1,900. This makes up around 60% of the population of Leuchars town. In the next five years this population is expected to increase to around 2,700, with a planned increase in the garrison’s size making it one of the largest in the UK. There will be an increased demand for services for service personnel and their families. At a Fife level, this is not particularly significant, but at a local level this can have a major impact on the characteristics of the community.

The primary healthcare, including community mental health of serving personnel is taken care of by Defence Medical Services (DMS) who provide an all-inclusive, comprehensive package of health services. However, in relation to the health of their family members, there is a mixed economy of provision.

The report, *Living in our Shoes*, published in 2020 highlighted the key challenges for families as:

- registering with and accessing GPs and dentists
- waiting lists, particularly for mental health services
- continuity of treatment
- assessments for special educational needs and disability
- the timely transfer of patient records
- variations in healthcare provision in different localities and in the devolved governments

The **student population in St Andrews** is another example of large numbers of people that have an impact on the make-up of a medium sized town.

It is worth bearing this in mind when looking at how an area’s population may change over time. Unlike in a normal population that ages over time, these special populations do not share the same characteristics, as they are replaced by similar aged people within certain time periods, for example, a posting to a military base, or attendance at a university or college for a set period of time.

Similarly, those areas with a large number of elderly care homes can skew the age profile of the area compared with a similar sized area without any care homes.

8. Economy

Fife's economy is still recovering from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent global and national pressures such as Brexit, the war in Ukraine, disruption to supply chains, increases in fuel and energy costs, high rates of inflation and interest rates, and the recent conflict in the Middle East. Figures are only now starting to show how Fife has been impacted by these events, but getting an accurate localised perspective is challenging (data at both the Fife and local committee area geographies can be unreliable or unavailable) and figures must therefore be used with caution.

Not only has there been a persisting cost-of-living crisis, but also a cost-of-doing business crisis. Economic growth in both the UK and Scotland has been and remains subdued. In Fife the number of VAT/PAYE-registered businesses has fallen; there have been fewer new business start-ups, and some have struggled to survive their initial years of trading in such difficult economic conditions. The proportion of Fife businesses surviving the first three years since start-up fell from 60.3% in 2019 to 44.8% in 2022²⁶. For the past two years, the number of business closures has exceeded the number of business births, although in the second half of 2023, more businesses started up than closed. The impact has been greatest on micro-companies (those employing 0-9 people) whose numbers fell by 945 businesses (-11%) between 2020 and 2023²⁷.

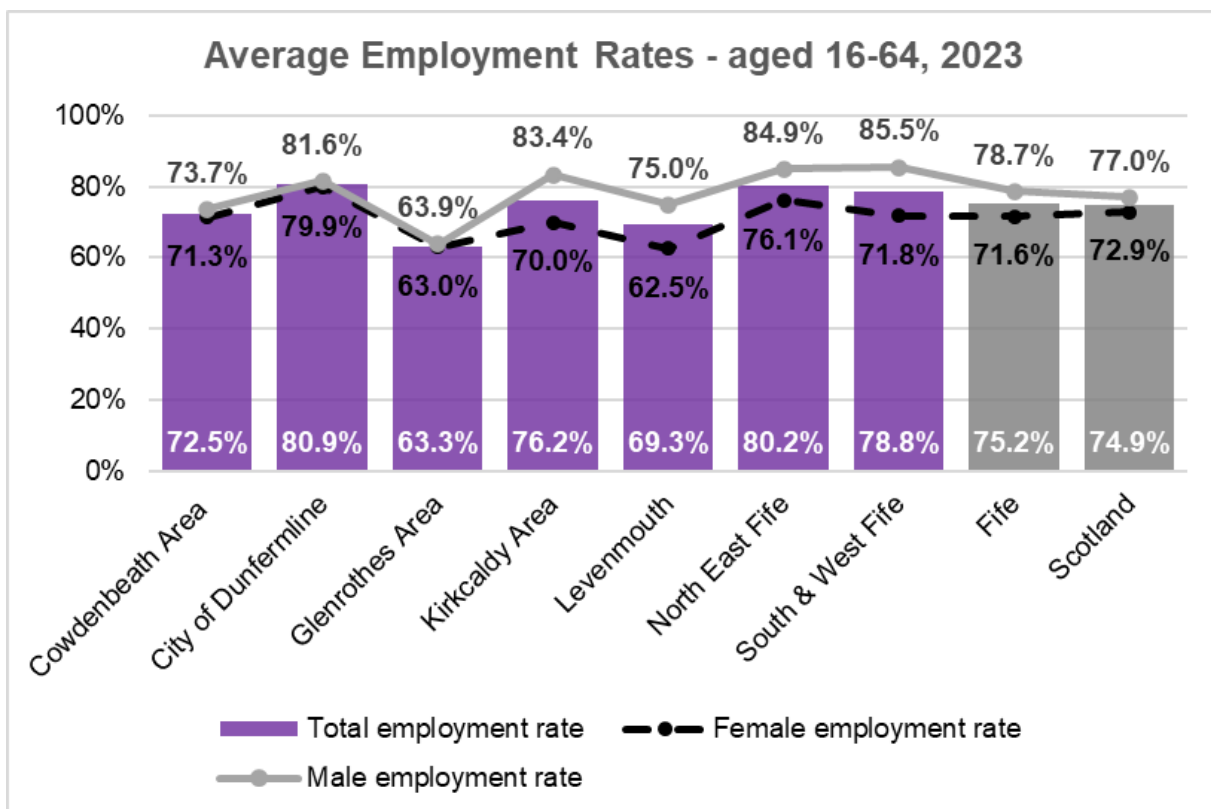


Figure 8.1 – Employment Rates in Fife (averages of the rates in 2023)²⁸

²⁶ Business Demography, UK: 2022, Office for National Statistics

²⁷ UK Business Counts, Office for National Statistics

²⁸ Annual Population Survey, Office for National Statistics

Fife's overall employment rate is however now higher than it was before the COVID-19 pandemic and in 2023 a larger proportion of Fife's working age population²⁹ (75.2%) was in work compared within Scotland as a whole (74.9%)³⁰. Fife's unemployment rate has fallen to a record low and there are fewer people claiming out-of-work benefits than prior to the pandemic.

Although Fife as a whole currently has a high overall employment rate and low unemployment rate, these figures mask sub-regional variations in the proportion of people in work (Figure 8.1). While only 1.7% of the working age population in North East Fife claim out-of-work benefits (the lowest rate in Fife), there are persistently high rates of people claiming out-of-work benefits in the Levenmouth, Kirkcaldy and Cowdenbeath Areas.

In 2023, Fife saw the proportion of its 16-19 year olds participating in education, training or employment increase to 92.9%, the highest level recorded. In Levenmouth, Dunfermline and the Cowdenbeath and Glenrothes Areas however, 16-24 year olds have the highest claimant rates of all age groups.

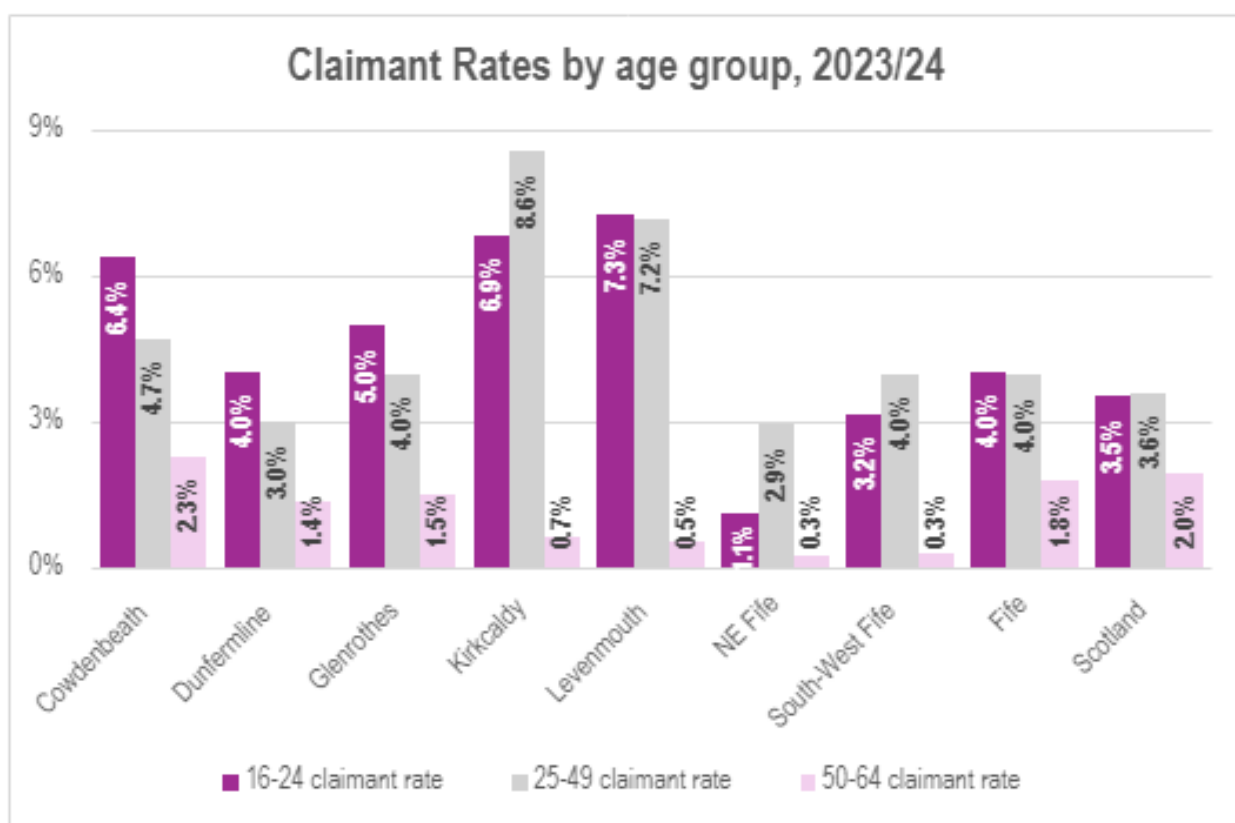


Figure 8.2 – Claimant rates (out of work benefits) by age group, 2023/24

Fife's job density is lower than for Scotland as a whole: in 2022 it had 0.69 jobs per working age person, compared with 0.81 jobs in Scotland.³¹ The Cowdenbeath Scottish Parliamentary Constituency has the lowest job density in Fife (0.55 jobs per working age person).

²⁹ Those aged 16-64 years.

³⁰ [Annual Population Survey, Office for National Statistics](#)

³¹ [Job Density, Office for National Statistics](#)

An Economic Prospectus was produced in 2021 to identify a framework of investment opportunities within Mid-Fife (Kirkcaldy, Levenmouth, Cowdenbeath and Glenrothes). In 2023/24 55% of business start-ups supported by Business Gateway Fife were located in Mid-Fife, with 340 new businesses supported which were expected to create 474 jobs.

The proportion of jobs paid less than the Real Living Wage (a voluntarily wage paid by employers based on the UK cost of living⁸) fell to 11.7% in 2023, the lowest level since recording began in 2015, although higher than the Scottish rate of 10.1%. The average wage of a person living in Fife however was £670.40 in 2023, less than the Scottish average weekly wage of £702.40 which equates to a yearly difference of £1,664³².

The number of people able to work in, and contribute to, the economy of Fife – Fife’s labour market - is also of concern. As previously discussed, the size of our working age population is shrinking (see Working Age section). In addition, over a fifth (22%) of those of working age – an estimated 50,000 people - are economically inactive, that is they are neither working nor seeking work. Over a third (around 16,000 people) are inactive due to long-term ill health and 36% are aged between 50 and 64, so at greater risk of never returning to work.

High rates of economic inactivity along with low rates of unemployment restrict the labour supply to employers making it hard for them to fill vacancies and secure and retain staff with the right skills. Understanding the drivers and scale of economic inactivity will help to identify the policy measures needed, both to support more people into work and to provide employers with a skilled workforce able to support their needs.

In common with the rest of Scotland and the UK, the changing dynamics of high street retail are still an issue in many of Fife’s towns. While only 6.1% of retail and service units were vacant in St Andrews town centre in 2023, over a fifth of units were vacant in Dunfermline, Glenrothes, Kincardine, Kirkcaldy and Lochgelly town centres. Burntisland, Cowdenbeath, Cupar and Kincardine all saw the proportion of vacant units fall between 2019 and 2023, whilst over the same period, other towns such as Glenrothes and Kirkcaldy saw the proportion of vacant units rise. Work is still ongoing to support town centres with investment through a ‘town centre first’ approach being one focus in the Plan for Fife 2017-2027.

Tourism continues to be a key sector for the Fife economy and the industry has recovered from the global impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and associated restrictions on travel. In 2023 Fife received 3.2 million visitors – 15% more than the number of visitors in 2019. These visitors brought an estimated £513 million into Fife’s economy, more than prior to the pandemic (visitors brought in £455 million (in 2023 prices) in 2019) and supported an estimated 5,621 full-time equivalent jobs³³.

Fife is embedding a Community Wealth Building approach as an overarching strategy for its economic recovery and renewal. With a focus on local people and directing wealth back into the local economy, action is being taken to harness the power of anchor organisations (including Fife Council, NHS Fife, and Fife College) to create more local opportunities for good and fair work, to enable smaller businesses to bid for contracts from the public sector, and to make better use of land and assets for the benefit of Fife’s communities.

³² [Median gross weekly earnings, Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, Office for National Statistics](#)

³³ Fife STEAM Report for 2012-2023 - Draft, Global Tourism Solutions

9. Older people

Fife's population is ageing, and older people (65+) will be the only group to see an increase in numbers in most areas. Over the next couple of decades this group is expected to grow by around 26,000 people (34%), with the over 85s, seeing a near 100% increase.

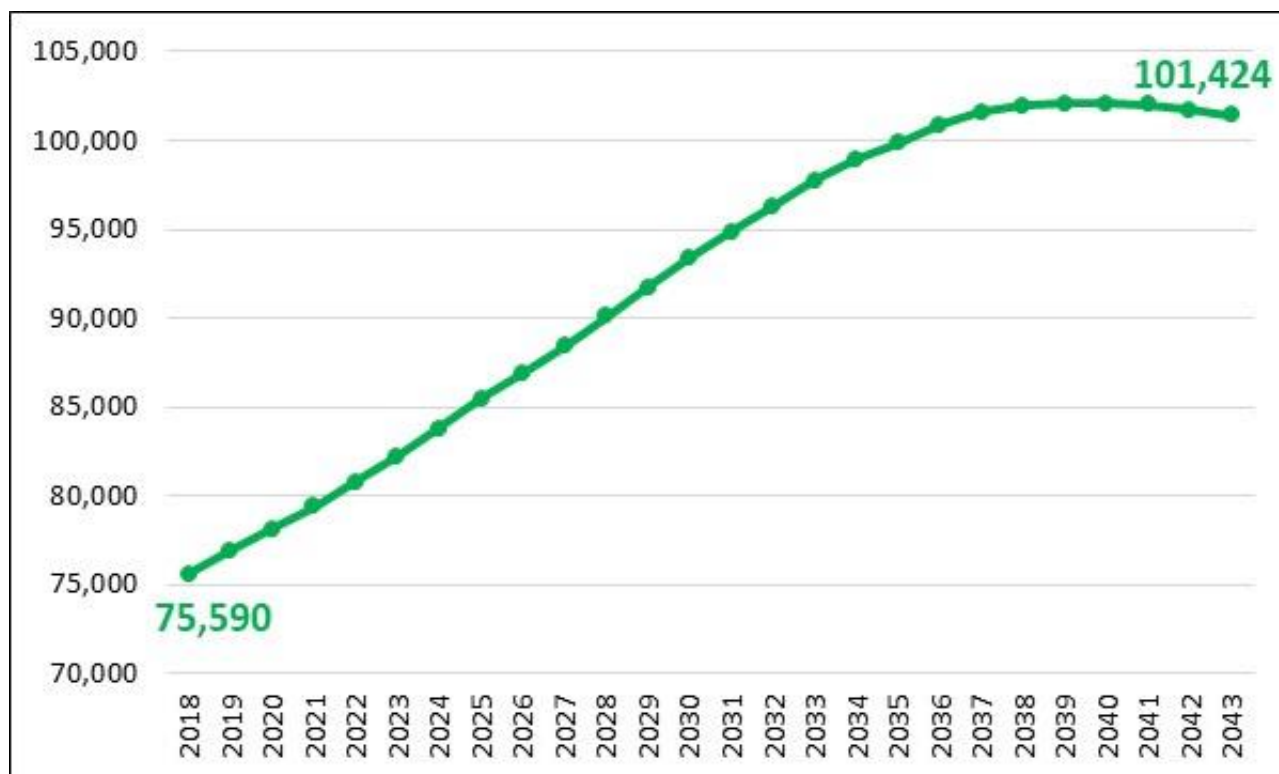


Figure 9.1 - Projected Change in Older People Population (65 and over) 2018-2043³⁴

In 2022, older people made up around 22% of the population, and by 2043 they will make up around 28%. This increasing proportion of the population made up of older people contrasts with previous decades. From the 1970s to 2011, people aged 15 and under outnumbered those aged over 65. From then on, the number of older people has been constantly rising and there are now more people aged 65 and over than people aged under 15.

Improvements in life expectancy over the last several decades has been the main driver of increases in numbers of older people. Life expectancy however has been levelling out in recent years, and in some of Fife's more deprived areas has started to reduce. This will mean that although older people will still continue to make up an increasing proportion of the overall population, their numbers are expected to level off around the early 2040s.

Unfortunately, although people in Fife are living longer, greater numbers are now living with ill health in older age for longer, particularly women. This places greater demand on health and social care services.

³⁴ [Population Projections for Scottish Areas \(2018-based\) | National Records of Scotland \(nrscotland.gov.uk\)](https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/population-projections)

10. Health and Wellbeing

Demand for social care services remains one of the greatest challenges facing Fife and in response to this a wide range of health and social care services are delivered across Fife by the Fife Health & Social Care Partnership, NHS Fife, GP practices and third sector organisations.

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a substantial impact on the health and wellbeing of individuals and their communities. It has also increased the demand for social care services, highlighted high levels of inequalities in the health of the population, and changed the way that we all live our lives. The ongoing impact of the pandemic, and unprecedented demand over the winter period, has created increased demand for health and social care services.

Significant health inequalities exist and persist within the Fife population and Fife is committed to delivering a range of actions critical to local recovery from the coronavirus pandemic, within the wider context of addressing inequalities and making a continued shift to early intervention and prevention.

Life and Healthy Life Expectancy

Life expectancy has stalled in recent years and is in decline. In Fife in 2020-2022, life expectancy at birth was 76.9 years for males and 80.9 years for females (76.5 and 80.7 for Scotland). This is a decrease of around three months for males and six months for females since last year's estimates.

Healthy life expectancy is also reducing, particularly for those in the more deprived areas, who can expect to live shorter lives and spend fewer years in good health. A new-born baby boy is now only expected to live around 59 years in good health, and females only 55 years. For the last 18 years for males and 26 for females, would be affected by health problems. This is a worrying trend for females, where, compared to the Scottish average, they will spend 7 years less in good health (a reduction of 4.5 years since 2018-20 estimates).

In line with the rest of Scotland, life expectancy has now dropped below the 2011-2013 figure, reflecting unprecedented changes in life expectancy trends. Life expectancy is calculated from mortality rates so changes to these will be reflected in life expectancy estimates.

The Glasgow Centre for Population Health's (GCPH) report³⁵ concluded that austerity made the most substantial contribution to the overall stalled mortality trends in Scotland and across the UK. Additional factors that may be contributing towards these changing trends include:

- stalled improvements in cardiovascular death rates especially in people aged between 55 and 74
- increased drug-related deaths of younger people aged 35-54
- increase in people over 75 dying from dementia
- increased prevalence of obesity

This 'stalling' of improving life expectancy and mortality rates represents an overall UK picture which masks a widening of inequalities.

³⁵ [Changing mortality rates in Scotland and the UK - an updated summary original.pdf \(gcpH.co.uk\)](#)

Health Inequalities

Health inequalities are a consequence of unfair differences in people's living conditions and life experiences (wider determinants of health). Increase in health inequalities for more deprived populations have been observed across the UK since the early 2010s, with austerity evidenced as making an important and substantial causal contribution. Trends in the socioeconomic factors that influence health provide little indication that health inequalities will improve in future, underlined by increasing rates of extreme poverty.

Significant health inequalities exist and persist within the Fife population. The difference in life expectancy between the 20% most and least deprived areas in Fife was 13.7 years for males (was 10.9 years), and 10.5 years for females (was 8.2 years).

The most deprived areas have 36% (was 35%) more deaths and 109% (was 106%) more early deaths (ages 15 to 44) than the Fife average. If the levels of the least deprived area were experienced across the whole population, deaths from all ages would be 27% lower and early deaths would be 72% lower.

Other indicators of Health Inequalities:

- The rate per 100,000 for all causes of premature mortality is 3 times greater in the most deprived areas of Fife (Q1 723, Q5 227).
- The rate per 100,000 for alcohol specific deaths is 4.8 times greater in the most deprived areas and 4.5 times greater for alcohol related hospital admissions.
- Drug related hospital admissions are 20 times greater and 22 times greater for drug-related deaths in the most deprived areas.
- Smoking during pregnancy is 9.4 times greater in the most deprived areas and premature births are 1.6 times greater.

In the 2023 report by the Health Foundation, Leave No-one Behind ³⁶, three specific areas of concern were highlighted, further supporting the information above:

- prevalence of drug-related deaths
- inequalities in health and experiences of infants and children in their early years
- health and socioeconomic outcomes of young and middle aged men

Long Term Conditions

In Fife, 39% of adults aged 16 and over had a limiting long term physical or mental health condition or illness. This is significantly higher than Scotland (35%) and has steadily increased since 2012-2015 (Scottish Health Survey 2022).

Long-term conditions include cardiovascular, neurodegenerative, and respiratory conditions, as well as other organ conditions (namely liver disease and renal failure), arthritis, cancer, diabetes, and epilepsy.

³⁶ [Leave no one behind | Health Foundation](#)

Health Behaviours

Our own health behaviours play a significant role in health outcomes and the development of a range of both acute and chronic or long-term conditions. Qualitative evidence also suggests that people with multiple disadvantages are more likely to have adverse experiences throughout their lives, from childhood through to young adulthood.

The Scottish Health Survey reports that 61% of adults in Fife are meeting the recommended physical activity guidelines, compared with 66% in Scotland. Fife also shows relatively poorer results when looking at our eating habits (68% of adults in Fife eat less than the recommended portions of fruit and veg per day) and the proportion of adults who are overweight or obese (68% of Fife adults were obese or overweight).

Self-assessed general health measures are similar to Scotland with 70% (72% for Scotland) of adults rating their health as very good or good (72% of males, 67% of females). The profile of our smoking and drinking behaviours mirror the national picture. Smoking behaviour is comparable to Scotland as a whole, with 57% having never smoked or are an ex-occasional smoker, 27% ex-regular or occasional and 17% regular smoker. 22% of adults admit to drinking at hazardous or harmful levels, on par with the Scottish average.

Following a reduction in 2020/21, alcohol related hospital admissions are on the increase and in 2021/22, are now higher than the Scottish average, with 640 admissions per 100,000 (611 per 100,000 for Scotland).

Among young people (11-25 years) Fife has a significantly higher rate of alcohol related hospital admissions than Scotland (Fife 3 year average 2019/20 to 2021/22 is 389.28 per 100,000, compared to Scotland rate of 255.26), there is little sign of this gap reducing.

Smoking in pregnancy is also higher in Fife than the national average. The 3-year rolling average for those recorded as “current smoker” at first antenatal booking was 19.05% in Fife compared with 12.92% in Scotland.

Prevention and Early Intervention

Given the rising cost and increasing demand for health and social care services, there is a continuing shift towards prevention and early intervention approaches. These approaches will aim to improve overall public health and wellbeing by preventing or limiting impact of disease or other social problems. They may be aimed at a whole population (universal) which influence health behaviours or address the social determinants of health (childhood experiences, education, housing, social support, family income, employment, our communities, access to health services).

Interventions can also be targeted to groups with particular needs or that are particularly likely to benefit (such as screening for cancer in those at greatest risk). Importantly, the Fife Health & Social Care Partnership's new Prevention and Early Intervention strategy will look broadly at the prevention and early intervention of health and social problems (such as homelessness, social isolation or functional decline with age).

Personal wellbeing

While there is some sign of recovery from the pandemic in terms of an uptick in people feeling life is worthwhile, personal wellbeing data for Fife (ONS) shows that there has been only a marginal improvement recently in life satisfaction and levels of anxiety, with happiness continuing a downward trend.

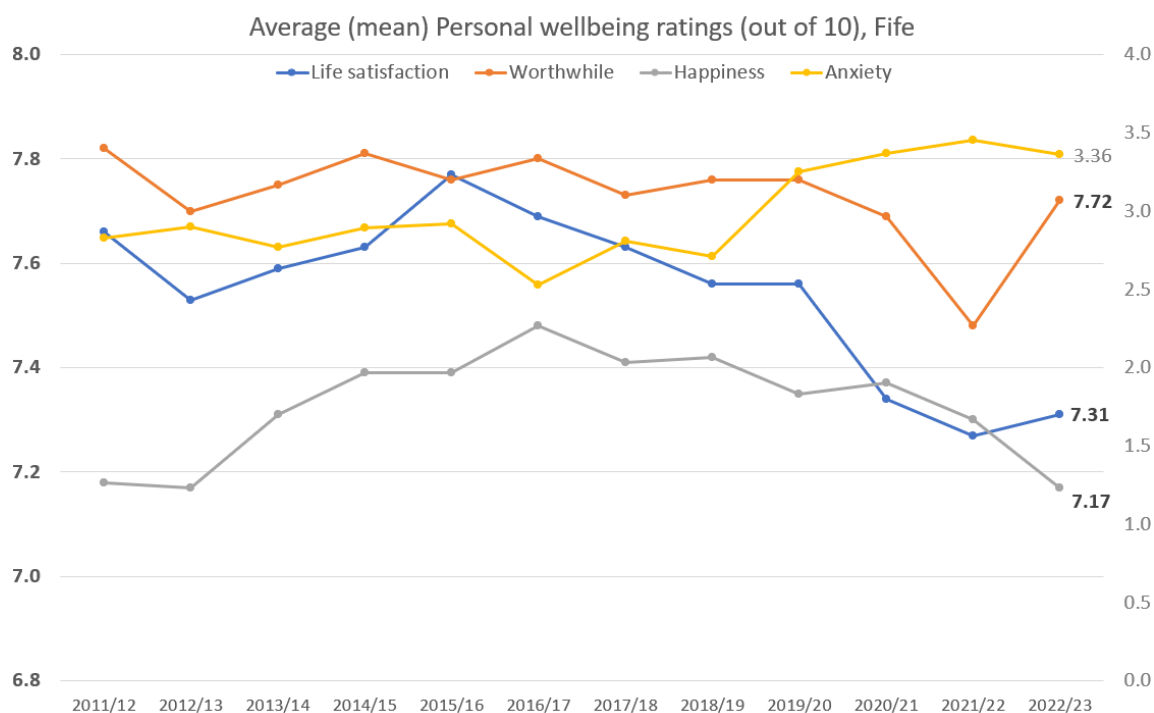


Figure 10.2 – Average (mean) Personal wellbeing ratings for Fife, 2011/12 to 2022/23 (Personal well-being in the UK - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk))

Loneliness matters for wellbeing because connections with others help people cope with difficulties. Losing connections means less emotional support.

The cost of living crisis is compounding the adverse effects on levels of social isolation and loneliness seen during the pandemic. 81% of Scottish people agreed that the increased cost of living will make more people lonely. 43% said that they would restrict how much they socialise because the cost of living is going up.

Socio-economically disadvantaged people are more likely to experience poorer mental and physical wellbeing, lower life satisfaction, and feelings of loneliness, all of which either have already been impacted by the pandemic or are likely to be impacted by an economic downturn and increased poverty.

Those most likely to be affected are:

- Disabled people or people with long term conditions
- Young people
- People on low incomes
- People who are digitally excluded
- People living alone
- People living in deprived areas or without access to green space

Mental health

Mental health conditions are a leading cause of ill health, disability and early death. Mental health problems are influenced from an early age by social environment. Half of all lifetime mental health problems start by the mid-teens and three-quarters by the mid-twenties. Adversity and multiple disadvantages in childhood, as well as abuse and neglect, poor parenting, and parental mental health problems, are some of the factors associated with an increased risk of mental health problems in both childhood and adulthood³⁷.

The mental wellbeing scores (based on the mean score on the Warwick-Edinburgh Mental Well-being scale) in Fife for females (48.3) and males (49.3) are comparable with Scotland. (Overall 48.8 in Fife, 48.9 in Scotland, Scottish Health Survey 2023). This follows the Scottish trend, which shows a continuing decrease in levels of mental wellbeing.

The estimated percentage of the population being prescribed drugs for anxiety, depression or psychosis in Fife is higher than in Scotland (21.32% in 2021/22 compared with 20.14) and, following a reduction in 20/21, is increasing in line with Scottish trends.

Between 2018 and 2022, there were 243 suicides in Fife (13.74 per 100,000, slightly lower than the Scottish rate of 14.5 per 100,000). 180 were male (20.8 per 100,000, below the Scotland rate of 21.6), and 63 were female (6.8 per 100,000, below Scotland rate of 7.4). Death by suicide is over twice as likely among those living in the most socio-economically deprived areas than among those living in the least deprived area. However, suicide deaths in the least deprived areas are at their highest level since 2002/04.

In young people between the ages of 11 and 25 years old, the rate was 10.46 per 100,000, (slightly lower than the Scotland rate of 11.06) from 2017-202. Between 2011-2019, an average of 60% of the cohort had a mental health drug prescription in the period before suicide; 50% had hospital contact and 46% had community contact (e.g. NHS24, GP out of hours)³⁸.

Death and Cause of Death

In 2022, there were 4,560 deaths in Fife. This is a 0.3% decrease from 4,575 deaths in 2021. Of these 4,560 deaths, 2,310 (50.7%) were female and 2,250 (49.3%) were male.

In men, the leading cause of death is Ischaemic heart disease and in females, Alzheimers and dementia. However, if all cancers were grouped together, cancer would be the leading cause of death. The second most common cause of death was cardiovascular disease, followed by neurological disease. By males and females, the leading causes of death were:

Table 10.1 – Leading causes of death for males and females in Fife in 2022

Male	Female
Ischaemic heart disease 14.9%	Alzheimers and dementia 13.9%
Alzheimers and dementia 6.5%	Ischaemic heart disease 9.0%
Lung cancer 6.5%	Cerebrovascular disease 7.0%

The figures above do not take into account health inequalities, which result in greater levels of premature mortality in more deprived areas.

³⁷ <https://www.scotpho.org.uk/media/1685/efa-mental-health-and-wellbeing-short-evidence-briefing-20180905.pdf>

³⁸ [Scottish suicide information database - A profile of deaths by suicide in Scotland from 2011 to 2019 - Scottish suicide information database - Publications - Public Health Scotland](#)

11. Safer Fife

Community safety encompasses a range of issues including crime, antisocial behaviour, public perception of crime, and safety in homes and on roads. This broad remit reflects that community safety issues have the potential to affect all of Fife's population. This makes it important that community safety trends are understood, allowing issues and areas of note to be promptly addressed. Crime and antisocial behaviour are areas heavily linked with community safety, and recent years have seen an increase in the Fife crime rate. 2022/23 marked the third consecutive year where the Fife crime rate per 10,000 population had increased. Perhaps more significantly, this rate of 549 crimes per 10,000 population represented the first time in a ten-year period where the Fife rate exceeded the Scottish figure.³⁹

Much of the increase in charges was driven by crimes of dishonesty, with theft of a motor vehicle, shoplifting and fraud crimes all increasing to their highest level in the ten-year period. Between 2021/22 and 2022/23, Scottish shoplifting offences increased from 42 to 52 per 10,000. The Fife increase was from 49 to 77, with only Dundee City (113) and Aberdeen City (79) having higher rates. It is unclear to what extent such crimes of dishonesty – particularly shoplifting – may be linked to the ongoing cost of living crisis.

22,961 antisocial behaviour incidents were recorded by Fife Division in 2022/23, equating to 614.7 incidents per 10,000 population. Analysis has highlighted that fewer than 20% of calls to the police result in a crime being recorded, with Police Scotland increasingly providing support to people experiencing mental health distress.⁴⁰

Unintentional injuries within Fife follow Scottish trend: most prevalent for 0-4 age group and those aged 65+. There is a gender divide in such figures, with males having a higher rate of injury at every age group until the age of 64, when the female injury rate becomes higher, before peaking in the 85+ age group. The female admission rate is 11,634 per 100,000 population, with the male equivalent at 7,579. An upwards trend in fall admissions has been particularly apparent for males aged 85+, with the Fife 2022/23 rate of 73.6 per 1,000 being the highest on record. The Fife Cares service carried out 766 home visits in 2022/23, with Kirkcaldy (157), Glenrothes (156) and Cowdenbeath (124) receiving the most visits.

There were 1,908 Fife fire incidents in 2022/23, the highest since 2009/10. An increase in outdoor fires – particularly grassland/woodland/crops - gave Fife a total primary outdoor fire rate of 111.7, considerably above the Scottish figure of 65.7, and just short of West Lothian's peak rate of 112 per 100,000. While this increase has been evident across every committee area, Kirkcaldy has been most affected.⁴¹

Violence against women (including domestic abuse and sexual abuse) continues to be a priority area within Fife, with recognition that the effects of lockdown had the potential to increase levels of risk for some women and children. 4,903 incidents of domestic abuse were reported in 2022/23 (down 17% from previous year), still significantly above the 2019/20 figure of 4,525 incidents and appears to be a legacy of the increase seen during the COVID-19 pandemic.⁴²

³⁹ Scottish rate for 2022/23 was 528 per 10,000. 'Recorded crime in Scotland, 2022-23', (<https://www.gov.scot/publications/recorded-crime-scotland-2022-23/documents/>)

⁴⁰ (<https://www.spa.police.uk/spotlight-on/mental-health/>)

⁴¹ 'Scottish Fire and Rescue Service: Fires dataset, 2009/10 – 2022/23' (<https://www.firescotland.gov.uk/about/statistics/>)

⁴² 2023 annual report, (Fife violence against women partnership, 2023)

Place

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12. Place and wellbeing

Since 2016, to better understand strengths and the need for improvement in places, we have been embedding a structured method for considering places. Our starting point was the Place Standard tool - jointly developed by Architecture & Design Scotland, NHS Scotland and the Scottish Government - complementing our place and community-based activities. We have since repeated this process three times, approximately every two years in 2018, 2021 and most recently in 2023⁴³.

In the place standard tool, people are asked to rate fourteen aspects of place on a 7 point scale, where 1 is most need for improvement and 7 is little need for improvement.

People in Fife generally view where they live with mixed feelings, seeing it as ok but with growing room for improvement. Overall, Fife is seen as a place with good natural spaces and active travel options but where greater improvement could be achieved in relation to work and the local economy, housing and community and in how they can influence what is going on around them to provide a greater sense of control.

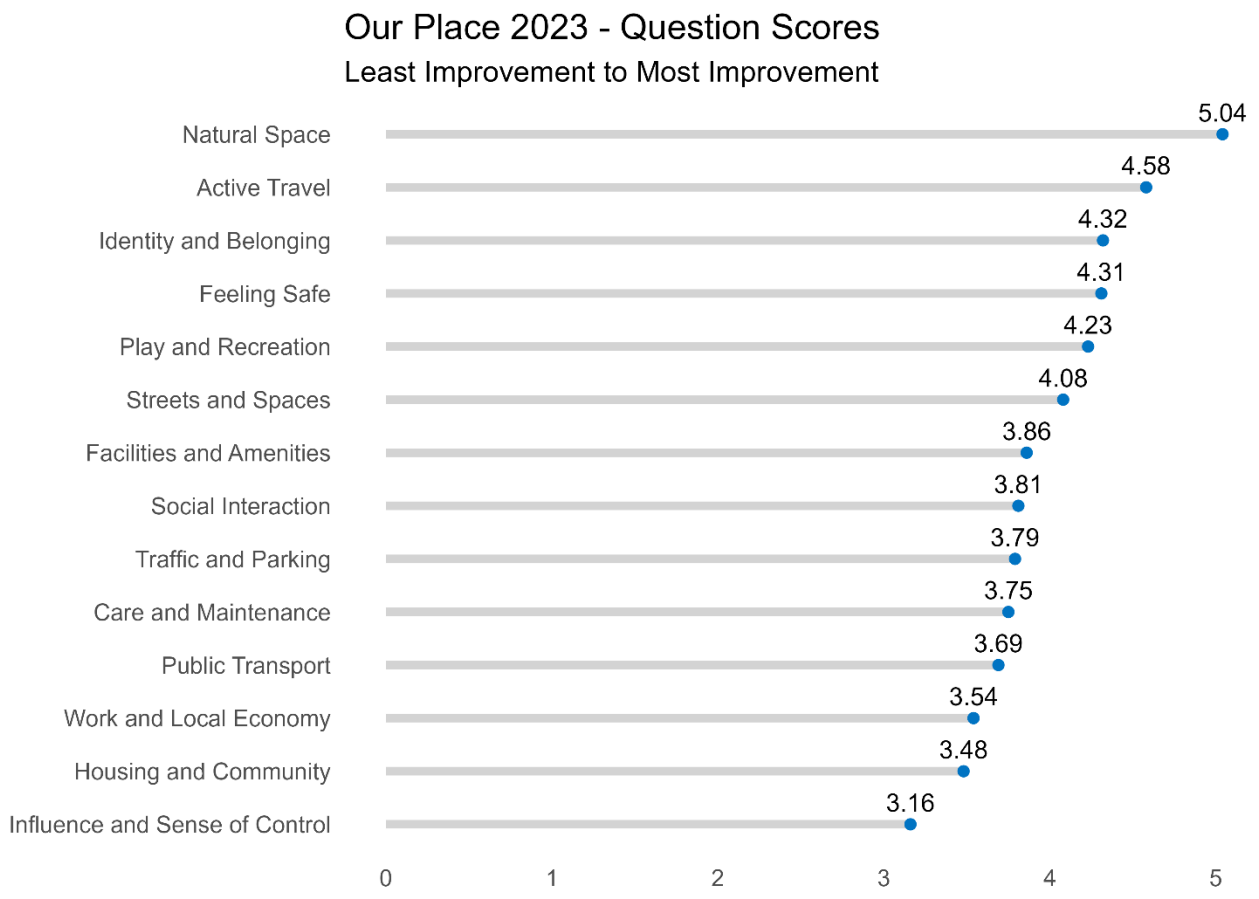


Figure 12.1 - Our Place 2023 Fife Scores

⁴³ Our Place 2023 Report [Our-Place-Fife-2023.pdf](#)

There are similarities and differences in and between Areas

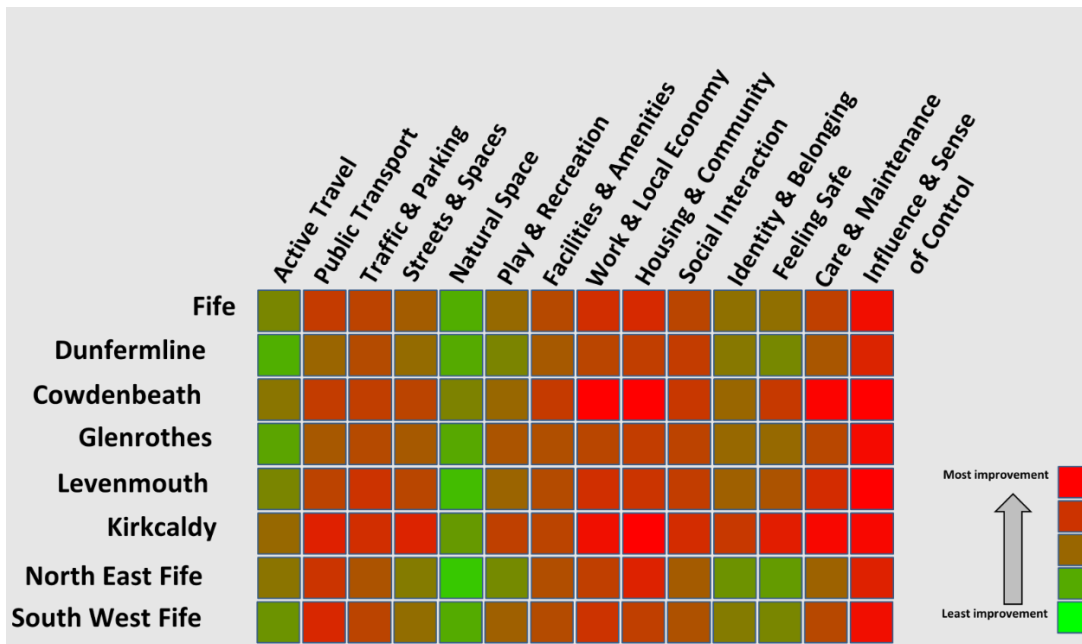


Figure 12.2 - Colour shaded diagram of how different aspects of Place are viewed across Fife

Change over time is generally going in the wrong direction, with community perceptions indicating a growing need for improvement across all the different aspects of place.

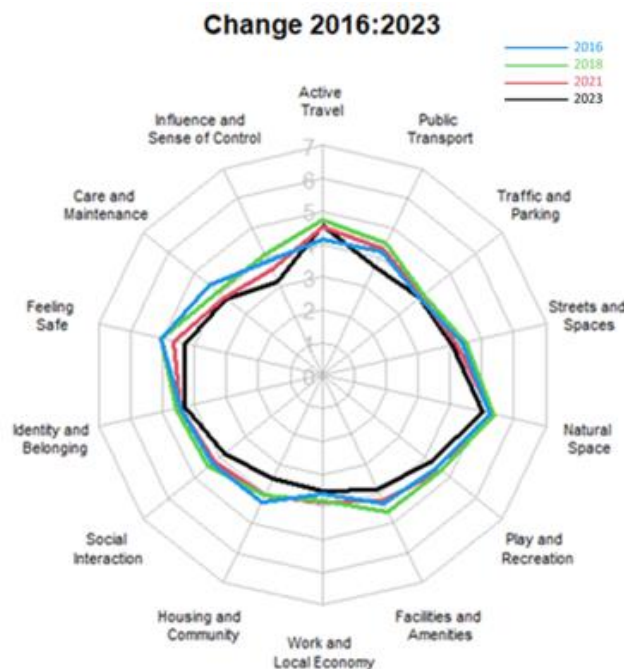


Figure 12.3 - Radar chart - How people perceive Fife as a Place, 2023 and change from previous years (2016, 2018, 2021, 2023)

Place and Wellbeing outcomes

A recent evolution has been the development of the [Place and wellbeing outcomes](#) ⁴⁴ framework, which identifies the key elements of what makes a place better (Figure 12.4).

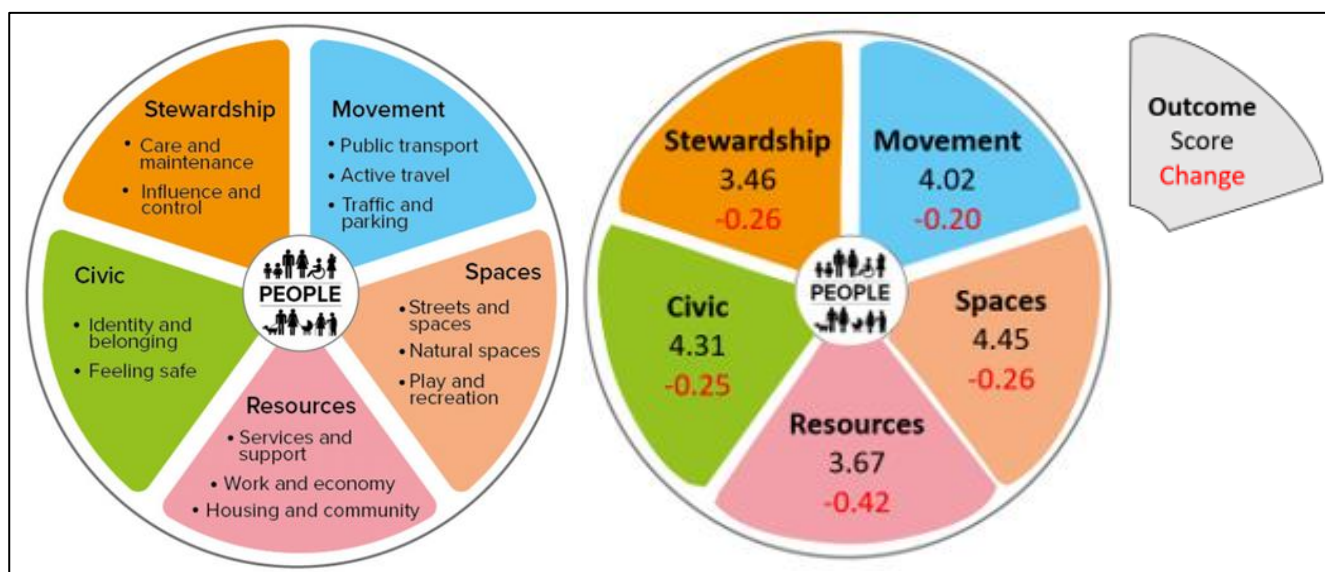


Figure 12.4 - Place & Wellbeing Outcomes: Fife outcome score 2023, change from 2021

This allows us to consider a wide range of key elements consistently and to think about how they link together and what this may look like in Fife, and how we might improve it. Derived from the place standard tool these are:

1. [Movement](#) – active travel; public transport; traffic and parking
2. [Spaces](#) – streets and spaces; natural spaces; play and recreation
3. [Resources](#) – services and support; work and economy; housing and community
4. [Civic](#) – identity and belonging; feeling safe
5. [Stewardship](#) – care and maintenance; influence and control

Results from the Our Place 2023 survey show that Spaces are ranked the highest (least in need of improvement) and Stewardship the lowest (most in need of improvement).

Table 12.5 – Place and wellbeing outcome scores for Fife and change from 2021

Outcome	Movement	Space	Resources	Civic	Stewardship
Fife	4.02	4.45	3.67	4.31	3.46
change	-0.20	-0.26	-0.42	-0.25	-0.26

However, all outcomes have decreased in the last two years with Resources showing the biggest drop (-0.42) indicating that - together with Stewardship - the areas in this outcome would benefit most from a focus for collaborative effort.

⁴⁴ [Place and wellbeing outcomes](#)

Table 12.6 shows the Place and Wellbeing outcome scores for the seven local committee areas of Fife, along with the change in score from the 2021 survey.

Table 12.6 – Place and wellbeing outcome scores by Area and Fife

Area Committee	Outcome				
	Movement	Space	Resources	Civic	Stewardship
Cowdenbeath	3.93	4.18	3.13	3.93	2.94
	-0.29	-0.21	-0.78	-0.53	-0.49
Dunfermline	4.37	4.61	3.82	4.51	3.72
	0.21	0.02	-0.32	0.12	-0.02
Glenrothes	4.28	4.34	3.81	4.23	3.48
	-0.03	-0.11	-0.17	0.08	0.09
Kirkcaldy	3.99	4.40	3.69	4.05	3.23
	-0.18	-0.22	-0.52	-0.54	-0.48
Levenmouth	3.71	3.99	3.36	3.50	3.08
	-0.46	-0.48	-0.39	-0.43	-0.36
North East Fife	3.98	4.81	3.78	4.77	3.77
	-0.21	-0.37	-0.55	-0.63	-0.47
South West Fife	4.00	4.48	3.79	4.52	3.51
	-0.53	-0.65	-0.63	-0.31	-0.62
Fife	4.02	4.45	3.67	4.31	3.46
	-0.20	-0.26	-0.42	-0.25	-0.26

The table cells are shaded to show where outcomes are scoring highest (deeper / darker green) through to lowest (deeper / darker red). The change in score since 2021 is shown in **red bold** for a decrease in score and **black bold** where an increase is seen.

Space and Civic outcomes score relatively well across all Areas. Scores range from 4.81 for Space in North East Fife to 2.94 for Stewardship in Cowdenbeath area.

Change is predominantly negative, pointing to a growing need for improvement across aspects of Place for areas, with the exception of Dunfermline and Glenrothes, where marginal improvements are seen for some outcomes.

Looking at the outcomes across the Areas of Fife, there is broad agreement in how they rank. Resources and stewardship show greatest need for improvement and are consistently ranked 4th or 5th in all areas.

Space is the outcome in least need of improvement for all areas except South West Fife, where the Civic outcome is in the top spot. The second and third ranking outcomes then vary between areas with Movement and Civic outcomes alternating position across the areas.

13. Connectivity

Limited connectivity, encompassing physical, digital, and social aspects, reduces choice and influence over desired activities and outcomes. It can lead to decreased social connectivity, with research suggesting that loneliness and social isolation causes negative health outcomes.⁴⁵

Despite national efforts to encourage alternative transport, including public transport and active travel, driving remains the main form of transport in Fife, as shown in Figure 13.1. Substantial variation in physical connectivity is still apparent, with urban centres, towns and Forth Bridgehead well served by public transport, and areas such as West Fife villages and North East Fife being poorly served.⁴⁶ There is unequal access to car ownership and public transport in Fife, with barriers to public transport including cost, connections and reliability. Fife Council has adopted the sustainable travel hierarchy, acknowledging the importance of car travel, however prioritising sustainable travel including active travel and public transport.

All Journeys in Fife in 2022

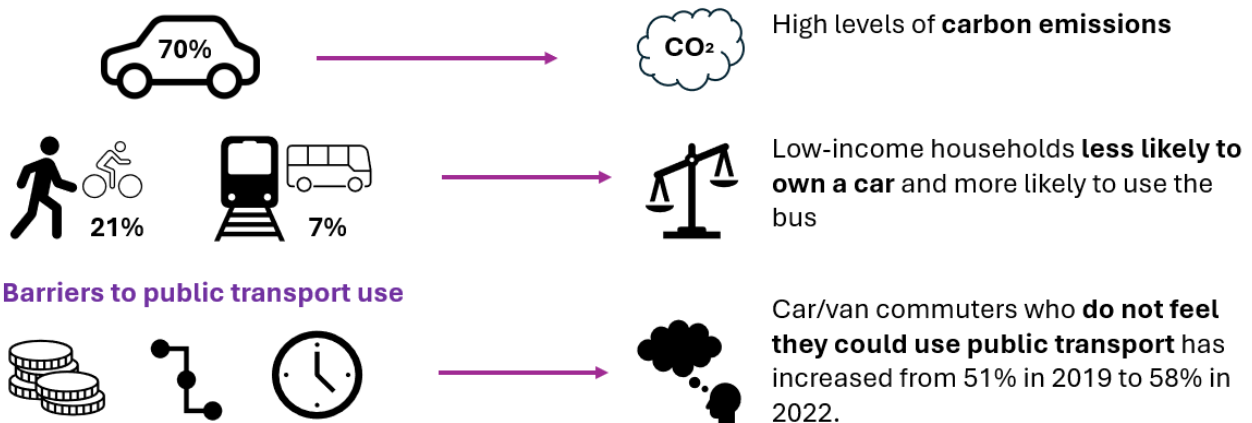


Figure 13.1 – All Journeys in Fife in 2022 (Scottish Household Survey, Transport Scotland & Fife Council, Our Place Survey 2023)

Disparity in active travel accessibility is evident between urban and rural areas at a Scottish, and at a Fife level as shown in figure 13.2, when examined across combined Scottish Living Locally Data Portal (SLLDP) domains.⁴⁷

Increased accessibility is detailed within the most deprived areas, as shown in figure 13.3, when a comparison is made between the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) quintile 1 (most deprived) and quintile 5 (least deprived). Although unhealthy retailers such as fast food restaurants, pubs and bars were removed from the eating establishment domain analysis, these areas are also more likely to have increased density of these outlets that can adversely impact health, and socio-economic barriers to using facilities/services.

Urban and town centres detail increased general accessibility with areas on the periphery and rural areas experience poorer access. Infrastructure can also be considered a barrier to active travel, with roads and railway cutting centres off from the wider area. Increasing

⁴⁵ Foster et al. (2023). Social connection and mortality in UK Biobank: a prospective cohort analysis, BMC Medicine, 21, 1-17. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12916-023-03055-7> (Accessed 20th December 2023).

⁴⁶ [Local Transport Strategy for Fife 2023-2033](#) (Accessed 8th January 2024).

⁴⁷ The [Scottish Living Locally Data Portal \(SLLDP\)](#) is an interactive online map showing locations in Scotland whether they have access (15 minute, 20 minute and 30 minute) to 12 living locally domains.

connectivity within and between accessible small towns would enhance accessibility, promote active travel and reduce carbon emissions.

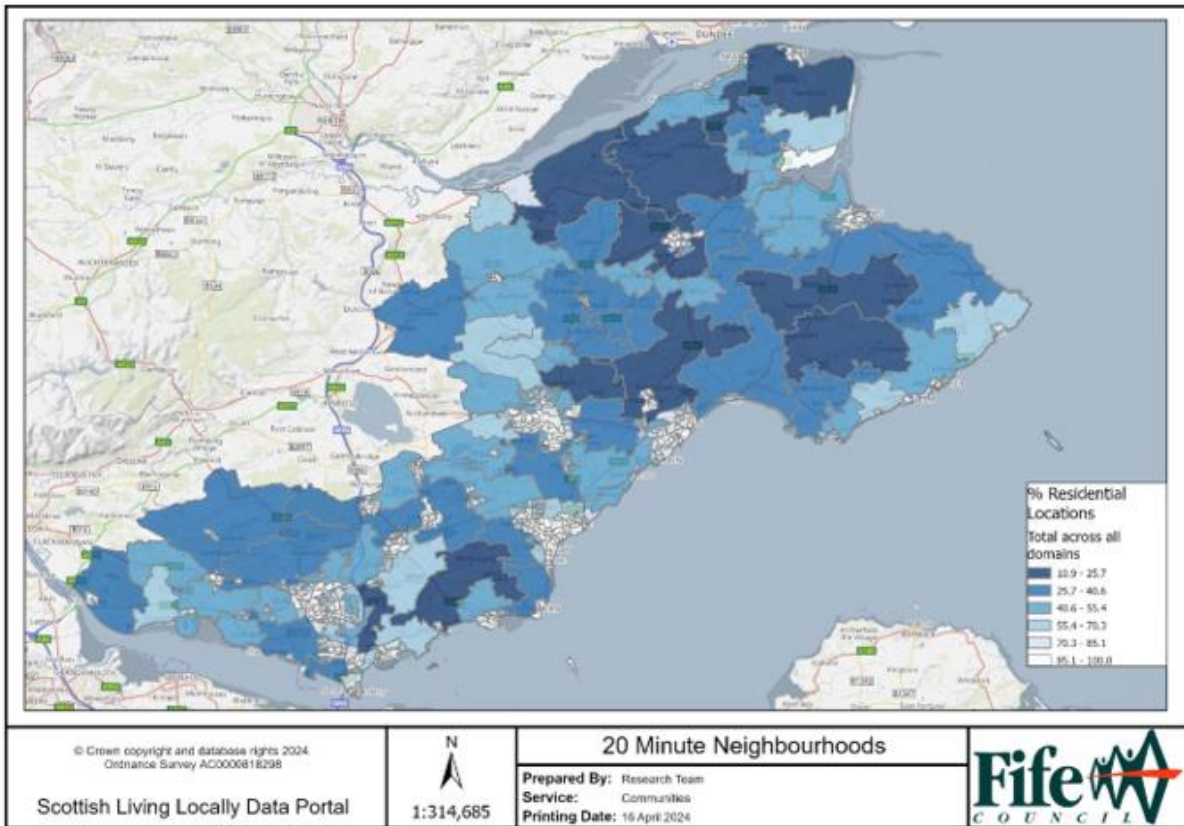


Figure 13.2 - 20 Minute Neighbourhoods (Scottish Living Locally Data Portal) - Percentage of residential locations across all domains

Scottish Living Locally Data Portal

20-minute neighbourhoods by data portal domain: deprivation comparison

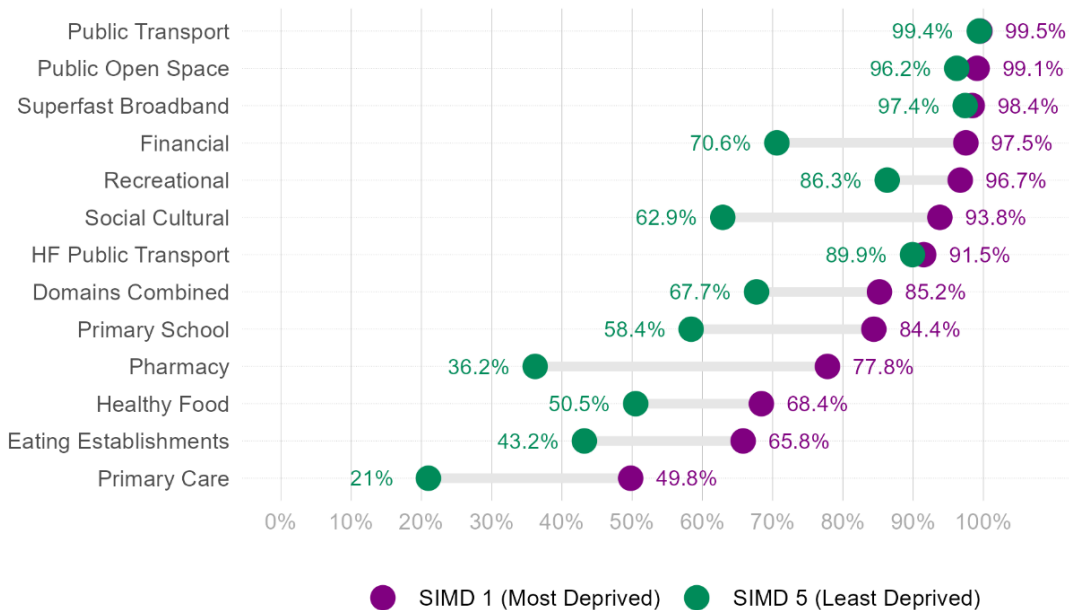


Figure 13.3 - 20 Minute Neighbourhoods (Scottish Living Locally Data Portal) – Comparison of most and least deprived areas across domains and combined

Fife has adopted a living locally context, following the same ambition as 20 minute neighbourhoods, but better reflecting the challenges and realities of living in rural areas⁴⁸. Embedding spatial network analysis into place design provides insight and understanding of how our communities/places are being supported, including those areas experiencing connectivity issues and are at an increased risk of transport poverty.

While Fife has good fixed broadband availability (96.5% of residential premises in Fife in 2022 having superfast broadband)⁴⁹, issues of unequal access including data and device poverty, digital exclusion, and poor digital literacy persist. These issues are particularly prevalent among older and low-income populations. Housing tenure is also a factor in internet access with homeowners having increased access compared to those living in social housing. In 2022, 22% of employed people (16+) in Fife reported working from home, compared to 14% in 2019. Rural areas typically have more to gain from improved connectivity compared to urban areas. As more services move online, the requirement for consistent, reliable digital connectivity increases, as does the risk of people becoming digitally excluded due to the cost of living crisis.

The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the importance of social connectivity and how it impacts on physical and mental health. In 2022, 23% of adults in Scotland reported feelings of loneliness in the last week, up from 21% in 2018.⁵⁰ People within the most deprived areas and disabled people are twice as likely to report loneliness. The highest levels of loneliness are in those aged 75 or older (29%) followed by those aged 16-24 years (24%).

Although the benefits of social connectivity are apparent, understanding what organisations and communities can do to support social relationships and connectivity is more complex. Research carried out by What Works Wellbeing in 2018 and 2023⁵¹ reviewed intervention types and influence on outcomes linked to social connectivity and wellbeing. This highlighted that place interventions can have both a positive and negative impact on social connectivity outcomes. Community hubs and community development have a strong positive impact on outcomes, whereas other interventions had positive outcomes, but negatively impacted those they excluded. As services work together under the no wrong door approach (community assistance hubs) this will influence physical, digital and social connectivity as digital literacy and infrastructure will become increasingly important.

Areas with poor physical connectivity also highlight worsening social connectivity. Actions to improve physical connectivity in Fife include new transport links, for example Levenmouth railway and transport links, and concession schemes. Digital support initiatives are also in place to mitigate digital exclusion. The challenges of diverse urban and rural areas, socio-economic barriers, and the demand for greater digital inclusion remain.

⁴⁸ Fife Council [Annex-7-Local-Living-and-20-Minute-Neighbourhoods-Storymap-v2.pdf \(fife.gov.uk\)](#) (Accessed 3 March 2024)

⁴⁹ [Connected Nations 2022: data downloads - Ofcom](#) (Accessed 12 January 2024).

⁵⁰ [Scottish Household Survey 2022: Key Findings - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#) (Accessed 3 April 2024).

⁵¹ [WWW Review - Places Spaces \(whatworkswellbeing.org\)](#) (Accessed 21st February 2024).

14. Spatial issues

Fife is the 3rd largest of 32 local authorities by population, and the 13th largest by geographic size, covering 1,325 square kilometres of land. Bounded by the River Tay to the north, and River Forth to the south, Fife's coastline extends for around 185 kilometres.

Fife has a decentralised structure based around 7 Area Committees, which are the same as Health and Social Care Localities. Each Area is built up from a local grouping of Fife's 22 multi-member Wards, within which are settlements (or towns).

While Fife has a mixture of urban and rural settlements, two-thirds of people tend to live in urban areas, mainly in or near to its three largest urban centres, City of Dunfermline, Kirkcaldy and Glenrothes, with the remaining people living in smaller towns or villages. Central and south Fife are characterised by a mainly urban and industrial landscape, while the south west of Fife and most of the east of Fife, are more rural in nature.

Key challenges identified for delivering local living in Fife include centralisation of key services, infrequent, slow and expensive public transport, size of settlements and distance between them in some very rural areas, and lack of good quality, safe and direct active travel links between key destinations.

Actions put forward for improving connectivity within the Area Committees is evidenced within the Local Development Evidence report, with accessibility considerations stipulated within planning requirements.

Local Development Plan

A new Local Development Plan (LDP) will be prepared to replace the current FIFEplan⁵² (adopted in 2017). The LDP is the spatial expression of the Plan for Fife⁵³, representing both the spatial and land use aspects of the Local Outcome Improvement Plan.

The submission of the Evidence Report⁵⁴ in March 2024, marks the first stage of this task, the purpose of which is to support the quality and effectiveness of the local development plan. It sets out the information on which the new plan will be founded and what the Council needs to plan for.

The next stage is to engage stakeholders, including community groups, in a call for sites to be assessed for inclusion on the development plan. The Proposed Plan will set out where development could go, how places could change and the policies to support that change. Consultation on the proposed plan will be undertaken during 2025/26. The Plan is expected to be adopted in 2027/28.

The following table highlights some of the similarities and differences across the 7 area committees for ten broad topics based on the Fife Local Development Plan Evidence Report published to Fife Council on 21st March 2024.

⁵² [Adopted FIFEplan](#)

⁵³ [FIFEplan interactive mapping](#)

⁵⁴ fife.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0028/564175/01-The-Evidence-Report-with-images-Council-version.pdf

Table 14.1 - Similarities and differences across the 7 Area Committees for ten broad topics based on Fife Local Development Plan #2 Evidence Pack (March 2024)

Theme Category	Topics	Comments
Past development	Core and connectivity	Connections and access to local services within town centres are generally good but become less so on the outskirts of towns and in villages due to rurality, distances, poor layouts or physical barriers.
The need to change due to climate and biodiversity emergencies	Flooding and erosion	All areas have had experienced repeated incidents of flooding with coastal erosion in South West Fife, Kirkcaldy, Levenmouth and North East Fife areas.
	Water quality	Ground and surface water is of mixed quality in all areas with legacy pollution from mining.
	Green networks	All areas are part of the Central Scotland Green Network and have identified potential Heat Network Zones. All areas have some form of special landscape areas including nationally important peatlands.
Infrastructure issues to be addressed	Healthcare	All areas require additional NHS Fife primary care facilities.
	Greenspace	Access to and provision of quality green space is mixed, but below average in Cowdenbeath and Levenmouth.
	Public transport and access to employment	Public transport is mostly good but is less so on the outskirts of towns and in rural areas. Public transport access to employment varies but is best in the Dunfermline and Kirkcaldy areas and less so in the Levenmouth area.
How the economy is performing and how resilient it is	Deprivation	The highest levels of deprivation are in the Cowdenbeath and Levenmouth areas and the lowest levels are in the North East Fife and South West Fife areas.
	Travel to work	Most travel to work is within areas except for locations close to the Forth Bridgehead and Tay Bridgehead which have significant numbers of people traveling to Edinburgh and Dundee.
	Town centres	Most town centres are experiencing similar challenges around vacant premises and footfall but premise occupancy rates in Glenrothes and the South West Fife area are generally good.

Source: Fife Local Development Plan 2, Evidence Report, March 2024 (as published to Fife Council on 21st March 2024)




15. Environment

Fife is well known for its historic attractions and scenic landscapes, attracting increased levels of visitors and strengthening the region's economy. The diverse landscape, from low lying arable farmland, upland pasture and moorland, hills and the coastline, is a very important asset with Fife's beaches winning the highest number of beach awards in Scotland in 2023.

Addressing the impact of climate change is a major challenge, and a key strategic risk for Fife, that cuts across many outcomes. Monitoring and incorporating solutions to improve Fife's environment, including climate change mitigation and climate change adaptation is essential to maintain our places, assets, and quality of life.

Fife's climate change mirrors the Scottish picture, with increases in flood risk, coastal change, damage to buildings and infrastructure and prevalence of pests/diseases in the natural environment. The urgent need for reduced carbon emissions, and greater community resilience to climate change, is emphasised in Fife Council's key strategies. Figure 15.1 provides an overview of the key climate change hazards and risks identified in 2020 in Fife.⁵⁵

Table 15.1 – Climate change hazards in Fife

Hazard	Type	Threat / Risk
 Flooding	River Coastal Surface Sewer	Infrastructure Housing Business Sites
 Storms/high temperatures	Wind storms Electrical storms Storm surges High temperatures Wildfire	Infrastructure: Transport ICT Energy Biodiversity
 Water Scarcity	Rural water supplies Private water supplies	Reliant on private boreholes Increase biodiversity loss

Supporting communities to make long term changes and building resilience is key to achieving the vision for climate Fife, with the six action programme themes outlined including buildings, low carbon energy, zero waste, transport and travel, nature and land, and protecting and supporting our communities.⁵⁶

Planning for rising sea levels, increased flooding events and water scarcity caused by climate change is essential in ensuring risk to people, place and property is appropriately managed. Those who are at the highest risk from climate change hazards are often those that are least able to adapt. Specific locations, and factors such as health conditions, poverty and age, influence communities' resilience, resulting in unequal impact to climate change.

⁵⁵ [Climate Change 2022-23 \(fife.gov.uk\)](https://www.fife.gov.uk) (Accessed 5th March 2024)

⁵⁶ [Climate Fife 2024 Strategy and Action Plan](#) (Accessed 3rd April 2024)

Carbon Emissions

Fife continues to be road dominated, impacting carbon emissions, with car the prominent travel mode. There has been an overall reduction in carbon dioxide (kt CO₂e) emissions for all sectors in Fife (37%), excluding agriculture from 2005 – 2021, with the transport sector being a significant emissions risk, following domestic, due to levels reducing at a lower rate.⁵⁷ Although the agriculture sector accounts for 3.7% of carbon emissions in Fife within the same period, levels in 2021 are significantly higher than previous years due to the increase in agriculture gas. The Scottish picture also reflects the increase in agriculture emissions in 2021.

Although air quality is high in most parts of Fife there are a few historical areas of concern, however these areas show continuing improvement.⁵⁸ Public engagement/education, including the anti-idling campaign and clean air day, as well as Fife's modal shift to active travel and public transport continue to inform and target congestion and pollution in Fife. Although there has been an increase in electric vehicle owners in Scotland in 2022, cost of purchase was the consistent reason for not owning a vehicle, rising from 36% of responses in 2019 to 52% in 2022, demonstrating unequal access to climate mitigation measures.

To significantly reduce carbon emissions, we must change energy systems and how we heat and power our homes and businesses. Fuels from the heat sector made up half of Scotland's energy consumption (50.6%) in 2021 and accounted for 19.7% of greenhouse gas emissions (mt CO₂e)⁵⁹. 57% of renewable electricity generation in Fife in 2022 was from plant biomass, followed by onshore wind (29%), anaerobic digestion (7%) and solar (5%). The rise in number of renewable electricity installations from 2020 to 2022 is due to a 35% increase in solar installations.⁶⁰ Actions should only be implemented that support communities' access to affordable clean heating and transportation, where there is no detrimental impact. The Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy (LHEES)⁶¹ provides a local tailored approach for improving energy efficiency, including heat network opportunities, and changing to low carbon heating in buildings, in a way that financially benefits the people of Fife. Making buildings greener, easier to heat and more environmentally friendly will help reduce greenhouse gas emissions, meeting national targets, however this must not negatively impact households with existing cost pressures, with increased fuel poverty and costs for businesses.

Unequal Access to Open Space

Strategies continue to address the unequal access to open space and biodiversity, and the health and wellbeing benefits these areas provide. Alongside the significant risks linked to the ever-changing climate and unseasonable weather events, other risks include the availability of land for differing purposes including affordable housing, renewables, forest regeneration and wider biodiversity projects. The Scottish Biodiversity Strategy (SBS) outlines Scotland's goal of moving from the current trend of declining biodiversity, to halting biodiversity loss by 2030 and reversing the trend to increasing biodiversity by 2045⁶². Significant biodiversity loss has occurred in Fife due to urbanisation, agriculture, and

⁵⁷ [UK local authority and regional greenhouse gas emissions national statistics, 2005 to 2021 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-local-authority-and-regional-greenhouse-gas-emissions-national-statistics-2005-to-2021) (Accessed 4th March 2024)

⁵⁸ Fife Air Quality Annual Progress Report. Available at: [Ricardo report template \(fife.gov.uk\)](https://www.fife.gov.uk/ricardo-report-template) (Accessed 5th March 2024)

⁵⁹ [Scottish Energy Statistics Hub \(shinyapps.io\)](https://shinyapps.io/scottish-energy-statistics/) (Accessed 27th February 2024)

⁶⁰ Regional Renewable Statistics. [Regional Renewable Statistics - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/regional-renewable-statistics) (Accessed 5th March 2024)

⁶¹ [Local heat & energy efficiency strategy \(LHEES\) and delivery plan | Fife Council](https://www.fife.gov.uk/local-heat-and-energy-efficiency-strategy-lhees-and-delivery-plan/) (Accessed 5th March 2024)

⁶² [Framework for 30 by 30 in Scotland - Draft | NatureScot](https://www.naturescot.gov.uk/framework-for-30-by-30-in-scotland-draft/) (Accessed 6th March 2024)

industry.⁶³ Increasing biodiversity supports significant health benefits by removing carbon dioxide emissions by healthy ecosystems, cleaner air, water purification, supporting sustainable food production and flood prevention.

Green and blue spaces combat excessive heat from rising temperatures from a mitigation and adaptation perspective and improve health and wellbeing outcomes. Unequal access to these spaces in Fife is being addressed by strategies, including the Play Space strategy⁶⁴, NHS Greenspace Strategy⁶⁵, as well as biodiversity metrics built into the Open Space assessment criteria, and opportunities to restore biodiversity and access to these areas across Fife within the Green and Blue Network Audit^{66 67}. The development of green networks and provision of cycleways and paths will support active travel in providing alternatives to car use and contribute to reducing car emissions. The renewal of Fife's greenspace audit and strategy will provide a local level assessment of greenspaces including quantity, quality and accessibility.

Food and Waste

Agriculture is a crucial driver of climate change, therefore tackling what we eat and how we produce food will have a significant impact on the environment due to the vast land use involved.⁶⁸ Although both urban and rural areas show pockets of increased priority, Mid Fife is highlighted, with a higher concentration of highest priority datazones that have a lack of accessibility to cheap, healthy and sustainable sources of food.⁶⁹ Reduced transport options in rural areas exacerbates the problem, with a dependence on private transport for shopping, lowering access to fresh produce outlets. Local food has been brought into Fife's public buildings including schools, hospitals and learning institutions, working towards establishing sustainable food chains and ensuring wealth generated by the local food economy stays in Fife. With the number of emergency food provision facilities rising, alongside increased cost of living, understanding how to distribute surplus food, support community growing initiatives and facilitate healthy eating and skills development is paramount.

There has been a slight increase in Fife's recycling rates between 2021 and 2022 from 43.6% to 45.7%, remaining above the Scottish average (43.3%).⁷⁰ COVID-19 has had an impact on amount of waste produced, with an increase from home working and home improvements, and a decrease for 2022 following the easing of restrictions. 9.4% of household waste was diverted from landfill in 2022. Although the amount of household waste generated in Scotland in 2022 represents the lowest figure on record, Fife Council will need to introduce new waste management infrastructure to meet Scottish Government objectives.

The vision of Fife outlined by Climate Action includes a Fife with energy efficient homes, neighbourhoods that are greener and more resilient to flooding, fewer journeys made by car and less food waste. To achieve this everyone, from households, communities, and businesses must be supported to make achievable change by focussing on collaborative place-based approaches.

⁶³ Fife Local Biodiversity Action Plan. 2013 – 2018 [FifeLBAP 4thEd.pdf](#) (Accessed 26th March 2024)

⁶⁴ [DRAFT Play Park Strategy 2018 - 2028 \(fife.gov.uk\)](#) (Accessed 5th March 2024)

⁶⁵ NHS Fife 2030 Greenspace Strategy, [NHS Fife Greenspace strategy - Draft 2 May 23](#) (Accessed 11th March 2024)

⁶⁶ [Green and Blue Networks in Fife Audit - 2023 \(arcgis.com\)](#) (Accessed 7th March 2024)

⁶⁷ Fife Council: [Green and Blue Networks Reports | Fife Council](#) (Accessed 7th March 2024)

⁶⁸ [Food4Fife strategy and action plan consultation draft-online.pdf](#) (Accessed 5th March 2024)

⁶⁹ [CDRC Mapmaker: Priority Places for Food Index \(Version 2\) \(Overall decile\)](#) (Accessed 6th March 2024)

⁷⁰ [scottish-household-waste-generated-and-managed-commentary.pdf \(sepa.org.uk\)](#) (Accessed 1st February 2024).

Performance

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16. Plan for Fife Ambitions

The Annual Review of Plan for Fife Priorities and Ambitions 2023⁷¹ reflected the ongoing and not unexpected challenges that Fife continues to face in recovering from the pandemic and the cost of living crisis.

Through a continued focus on recovery and renewal priorities, Delivery Boards have shown good progress. There has been improved use of data and evidence to target poverty interventions and maximise household incomes.

Partners are flexing their power as anchor organisations to re-wire systems and processes to deliver Community Wealth Building: increasing local procurement, increasing recruitment for those facing most barriers, and capturing greater community benefits. In terms of local economic recovery, as well as post-pandemic growth in tourism, external funding has been secured to support businesses, create jobs and opportunities in mid-Fife.

The delivery of community climate projects continues to expand, biodiversity enhancement activity underway with grants available to support transition to net zero for businesses in Fife. Good progress is also being made in reducing Fife's carbon footprint.

Across the wider ambitions, while good progress is being made in literacy and numeracy, and in closing the attainment gap, the gap remains between most and least deprived communities. More young people are now going into positive destinations on leaving school. Fewer people are being paid less than the living wage.

Tourism is a success story in terms of economic recovery. Town centres continue to face ongoing challenges. Lower business survival rates reflect the increased costs of doing business arising from a mix of factors (including Brexit, the pandemic and rising energy costs). Sports facilities, culture and leisure are taking time to recover to pre-pandemic levels.

Mid-Fife continues to be an area of strategic concern with persistently lower employment and higher unemployment rate relative to other areas of Fife. Poverty levels remain stubbornly high. Cost of living pressures have increased demand for community food, fuel and crisis support, working against the desire to move to more preventative approaches to tackling poverty before people end up in crisis.

Difficult economic circumstances are reflected in increased crime in some communities. Challenges remain around housing and homelessness with temporary accommodation limited and under pressure. Longer term health impacts on local communities continue to be an area of concern.

Despite the challenging social and economic context continuing to hamper improvement efforts, maintaining focus on the recovery and renewal priorities is supporting partners to work collaboratively to make a step change in the areas which will make the biggest difference to achievement of the long-term ambitions set out in the Plan for Fife 2017-2027.

⁷¹ [Plan for Fife Annual Review of Priorities and Ambitions 2023](#)










17. State of Fife

The State of Fife indicators are designed as a high level monitor of whether the Plan for Fife process is having the desired strategic impact it aims to achieve.

Nine indicators are being tracked based on the following criteria: strategic importance, availability of data, availability of benchmarking and availability of trend information (forwards and backwards). The indicators are intended to provoke discussion on whether we are doing the right things, approaching them in the right way and achieving the right level of impact.

High level monitoring of State of Fife indicators shows Plan for Fife delivery is not having the intended impact. Latest data, trends and the gap between most and least deprived areas, reveal a worsening picture for almost all outcomes. There are significant inequalities in outcomes between most and least deprived communities. The gap is widening over time in relation to key outcomes such as life expectancy and school attainment.

Table 17.1 – Assessment of progress with State of Fife Indicators for most and least deprived areas, Fife and Scotland

			Most deprived	Least deprived	Fife	Fife Trend	Scotland
1	Life expectancy in years	Females	76.9	85.1	80.9		80.7
		Males	71.5	82.4	76.6		76.5
2	Healthy life expectancy in years	Females	not available		54.5		61.1
		Males	not available		58.6		60.4
3	Early child development concerns		27.1%	15.2%	19.1%		17.9%
4	School attainment (One or more Higher at S5)		27.4%	70.1%	47.8%		55.3%
5	Employment rate		not available		75.2%		74.9%
6	Income deprivation		26.4%	2.2%	11.9%	N/A	12.1%
7	Influence over decisions		18%	19%	24%	N/A	18%
8	Mental health (prescriptions for anxiety and depression)		27.1%	15.3%	21.3%		20.1%
9	Mental wellbeing (WEMWBS)		46.5	51.2	48.8		48.9

Life expectancy continues to stall, indicating a need to monitor trends and inequalities in mortality and a more general need to improve health and its determinants.

In Fife, over the last fifteen years, the health inequality gap in life expectancy has widened. Men in the most affluent areas of Fife will live, on average, 13.9 years longer (was 10.7 years) than men in the most deprived areas, while for women the difference is 10 years (was 6.3 years).

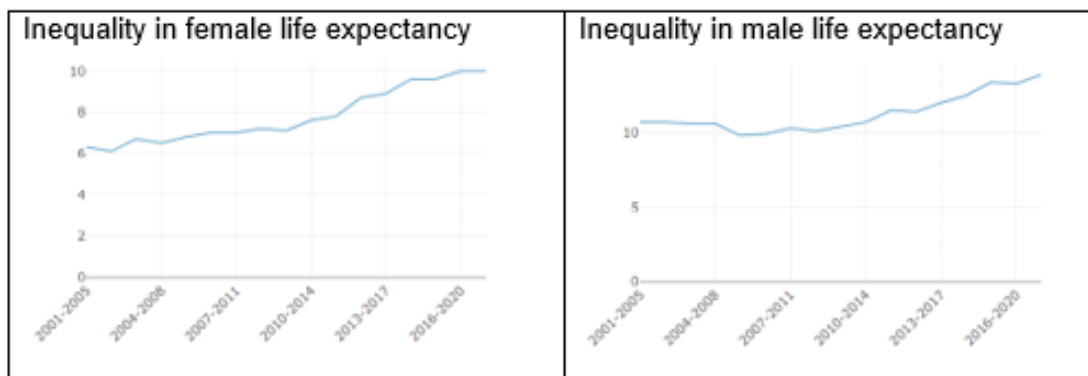


Figure 17.2 – Inequality gap (slope index) in female and male life expectancy in Fife (most and least deprived quintiles, 2005-2021 (ScotPHO))

While healthy life expectancy overall has been reducing, Fife is reducing at a sharper rate than Scotland, particularly for females.

The proportion of children in Fife with any developmental concern recorded at the 27-30 month review increased to 19.1% for 2021/22 compared to 14.6% for 2020/21. This is higher than the Scottish average for 2021/22 (17.9%) but consistent with national trends which report developmental concerns increasing across all domains and all review points.

Fife’s school attainment score for those seeking access routes through higher education, as a means to improving the inclusion of post school opportunities, continues to track below the Scottish average. The inequality gap for attainment between most and least deprived areas is much higher in Fife (2.6 times), while for Scotland the gap is only twice the rate (38.1% vs 76.9%).

In most parts of Fife, employment rates in 2022-2023 were above the pre-pandemic 2019 levels. Fife’s overall employment rate was at 75%, higher than that of Scotland at 74.6%, and higher than 2019 at which time it was 73.2%.

While there has been no update to this indicator since SIMD 2020, Fife income deprivation tends to track the Scottish level.

In 2019, while Fife residents felt more able to influence decisions in their local area compared to Scotland, this was a reduction from previous years. Analysis by quintile shows that those living in quintiles 2,3 and 4 felt more able to influence decisions in their local area than those living in the most or least deprived areas of Fife.

The proportion of the population in receipt of prescriptions for anxiety and depression is significantly higher in Fife than Scotland. The rate in Fife’s most deprived areas is nearly twice that in its least deprived areas.

The latest data (2018-22) for the Warwick Edinburgh Mental Wellbeing Scale (WEMWBS) shows the lowest average WEMWBS score (48.8) in Fife recorded in the Scottish Health Survey and continues a downward trend for both Fife (49.4 in 2017-21 and 49.9 in 2016-19) and for most and least deprived areas of Fife.

18. Community Planning Outcomes

The Improvement Service provides an independent annual assessment of how Community Planning Partnerships are performing against a set of core measures on key life outcomes including early years, older people, safer/stronger communities, health and wellbeing, and engagement with local communities.

This provides a good high level reflection of the broad range of life outcomes that the Plan for Fife is looking to improve. It helps to assess if the lives of people in Fife are improving and provides a consistent basis for measuring outcomes and inequalities of outcome, from Fife, down to Area, and neighbourhood level (as per Local Strategic Assessments).

While the assessment is retrospective, based on a snapshot of data available for all Community Planning Partnership (CPP) Areas across Scotland as at 2021/22 the most recent data shows a relative worsening of Fife’s performance across key life outcomes compared to Scotland since the 2020 Strategic Assessment. More recent progress will be reflected in future annual updates.

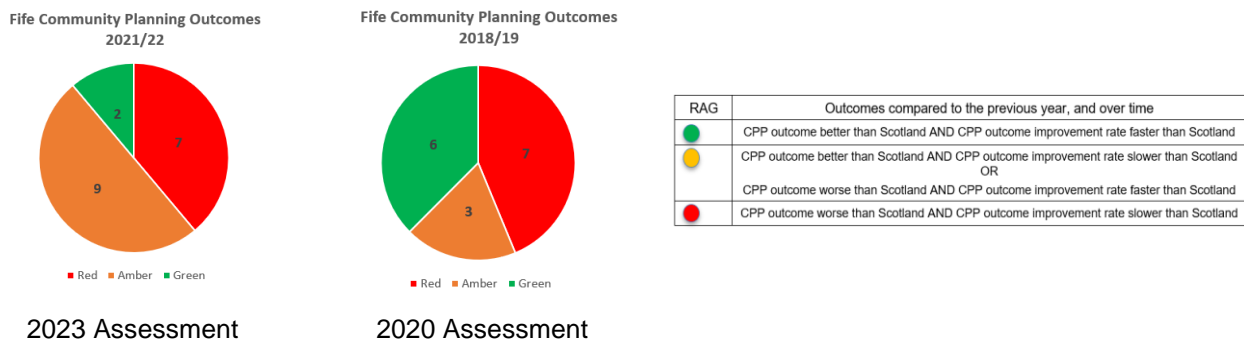


Figure 18.1 – Performance assessment for Fife CPP Area over time (Community Planning Outcomes Profiling tool (as at October 2023))

Of the 18 indicators in the Community Planning Outcomes Framework, only 2 are assessed as Green, showing good progress relative to other areas of Scotland. This includes child healthy weight where more progress could be made. Caution is advised re assessment for fuel poverty, when this is based on projected rather than actual data, in context of higher energy costs.

9 indicators are assessed as Amber. This includes premature mortality, child poverty, healthy birthweight, unplanned hospital attendances, emergency admissions, crime rates, dwelling fires, and carbon emissions. Where progress against key life outcomes has been assessed as Amber, this is often against a generally improving trend, but Fife is not improving at the same rate as Scotland.

7 indicators are assessed as Red, including employment rate, median earnings, out of work benefits, business survival, fragility, and wellbeing reflecting the difficult social and economic context for recovery. Challenges remain around raising attainment and supporting positive destinations.

More information on the Community Planning Outcomes Profiling Tool, including indicator definitions, and locality information, is available at [Community Planning Outcomes Profile | Improvement Service](#).

19. Neighbourhood Improvement

The Community Empowerment Scotland Act 2015 requires Community Planning Partnerships to identify smaller areas within the local authority area which experience the poorest outcomes and prepare and publish locality plans to improve outcomes on agreed priorities for these communities (the outcomes prioritised for improvement may differ from those in the Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP)). We refer to these as Neighbourhood Plans, to differentiate them from locality plans for Health and Social Care.

Previous Local Strategic Assessments for each of the 7 Areas have highlighted those communities experiencing the poorest outcomes, drawing on evidence from the Community Planning Outcomes Profiling (CPOP) Tool. This has led to the development of Neighbourhood plans for some of these areas.

The map of community vulnerability below shows that poorer outcomes are firmly rooted in Place. Mid-Fife remains an area of strategic concern, with poorer outcomes for local communities, particularly in parts of Levenmouth, Kirkcaldy and Cowdenbeath Areas.

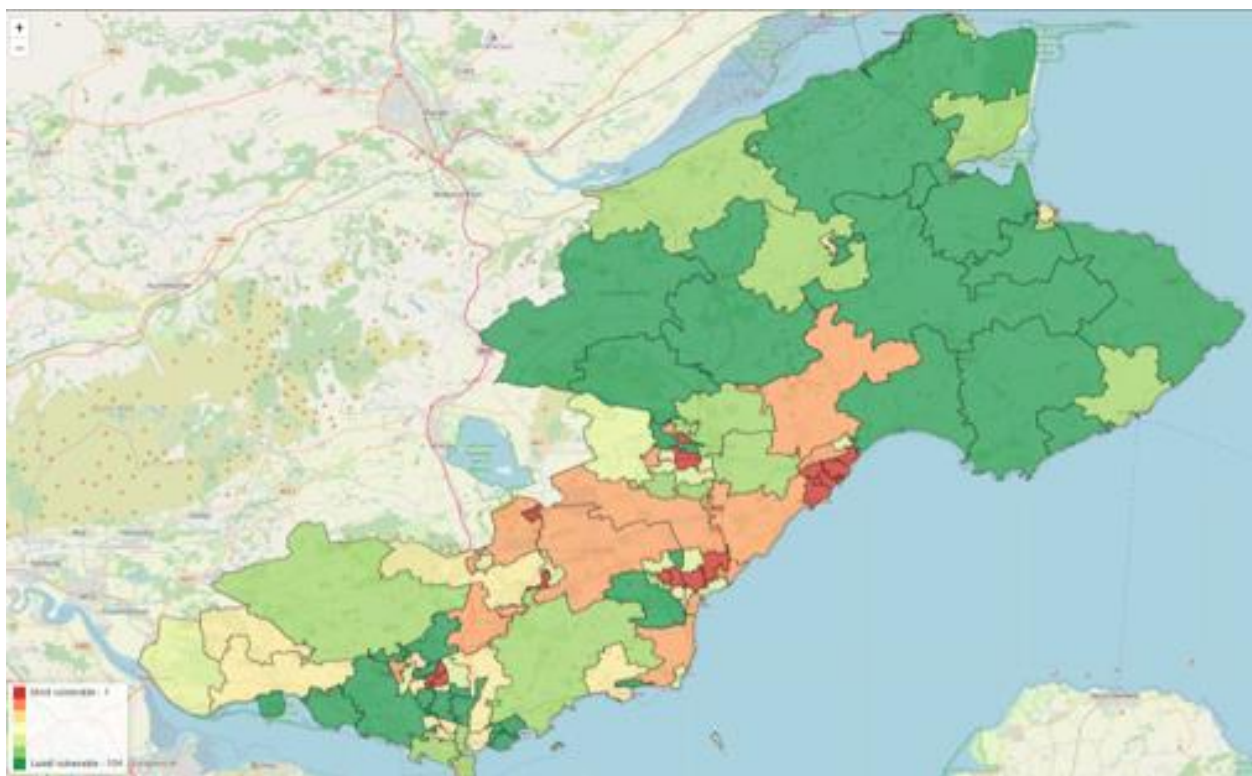


Figure 19.1 – Community map of neighbourhood vulnerability, Fife (CPOP, 2023)

While 53% of local communities in Fife are performing better than expected (compared to similar communities elsewhere in Scotland), this varies between and within Areas. Communities at the bridgeheads, closer to the cities of Dunfermline, Edinburgh and Dundee, continue to have better outcomes: 62% in South and West Fife and City of Dunfermline, and 60% in North East Fife.

While 47% of communities in the Kirkcaldy Area and 45% in the Levenmouth Area are performing better than expected, there is variation within the Areas, with these areas have greater concentrations of the communities with 20% poorest outcomes for Fife. Only 20% of communities in the Cowdenbeath Area are performing better than expected.

The table below highlights the communities with the 20% poorest outcomes in Fife by Area. The top 5 areas of greatest need are in the Levenmouth and Kirkcaldy areas.

Table 19.2 – Overview of how communities are performing by Area, including where local communities with 20% poorest outcomes are located (CPOP, 2023)

Area	% of communities better than expected	Fife Rank	Communities with 20% poorest outcomes
South and West Fife	62%		n/a
City of Dunfermline	62%	8	Dunfermline Abbeyview North
		12	Dunfermline Touch and Woodmill
Cowdenbeath	20%	7	Ballingry
		15	Lochgelly West and Lumphinnans
		17	Cowdenbeath South
		18	Lochore and Crosshill
Kirkcaldy	47%	2	Kirkcaldy Gallatown and Sinclairtown
		4	Kirkcaldy Hayfield and Smeaton
		9	Kirkcaldy Templehall West
		10	Kirkcaldy Templehall East
		16	Dysart
Glenrothes	57%	6	Glenrothes Auchmuty
		13	Glenrothes Cadham and Pitcoudie
		19	Glenrothes Macedonia and Tanshall
Levenmouth	45%	1	Methil West
		3	Methil East
		5	Buckhaven, Denbeath and Muiredge
		11	Leven East
		14	Methil Methilhill
		20	Wemyss
North East Fife	60%		n/a
Fife	53%		n/a

Exploration of these communities reveals common themes that underly poor outcomes. Child poverty is at a higher level than the Fife and Scottish averages, with the majority of identified communities seeing a year-on year increase. Emergency admissions per 100,000 is another key indicator, with most communities having a higher rate than Fife and Scotland, and this gap increasing. Poor health outcomes are also evidenced by premature mortality per 100,000, with rates above the Fife average and this divide increasing for many communities. Methil West has seen an increase for seven consecutive years, with the total increasing by 86% over this period.

This inequality gap linked to key life outcomes, and others such as attainment, crime rate, and participation of 16-19 year olds show that there is a greater gap in outcomes between most and least deprived areas of Fife, than for most and least deprived areas of Scotland.

Table 19.3 – Inequality gap in key life outcomes for most and least deprived areas in both Fife and Scotland (Community Planning Outcomes Profiling Tool)

	Fife		Scotland	
	Least deprived	Most deprived	Least deprived	Most deprived
Average Highest Attainment - 2020/21	6	4.9	6.1	5.1
Child Poverty (%) - 2021/22	7.5	37.4	6	37.3
Crime Rate, per 10,000 - 2021/22	414.7	2426.7	519.3	1882.5
Depopulation Index - 2021/22	97.3	101.2	94.2	100.3
Premature Mortality, per 100,000 - 2021/22	245.6	698.4	243.6	794.7
Emergency Admissions, per 100,000 - 2021/22	17227.2	29734.8	18309.4	32122
Out of Work Benefits (%) - 2021/22	4.2	33.1	4.3	31.4
Participation Rate - 2021/22	96.1	83.9	96.2	87.2

20. Views on Council services

In February 2024, alongside the issues barometer, we asked people for their views on their local council and the services that it provides.

Around two thirds of people believe that Fife Council provides high quality services. This rating has improved to 65.6% from 48.1% in 2022.

Other ratings which are showing improvement since 2022 are that the Council is addressing the key issues that affect the quality of life in local neighbourhoods (44.6% from 27.7%) and it designs its services around the needs of the people who use them (31.9% up from 20.7%).

Just under half agree that the Council does the best it can with money available, and a third believe the Council is good at letting people know about the services that it provides. Both of these ratings are similar to what they were in 2022.

Results which show a slight reduction since 2022 are in relation to how good the council is at letting people know how it is performing (22.4%), listening to local people’s views before it takes decisions (20.4%) and keeping people informed about what is happening in the local area (17.8%). This is consistent with findings on influence and sense of control from the Place survey.

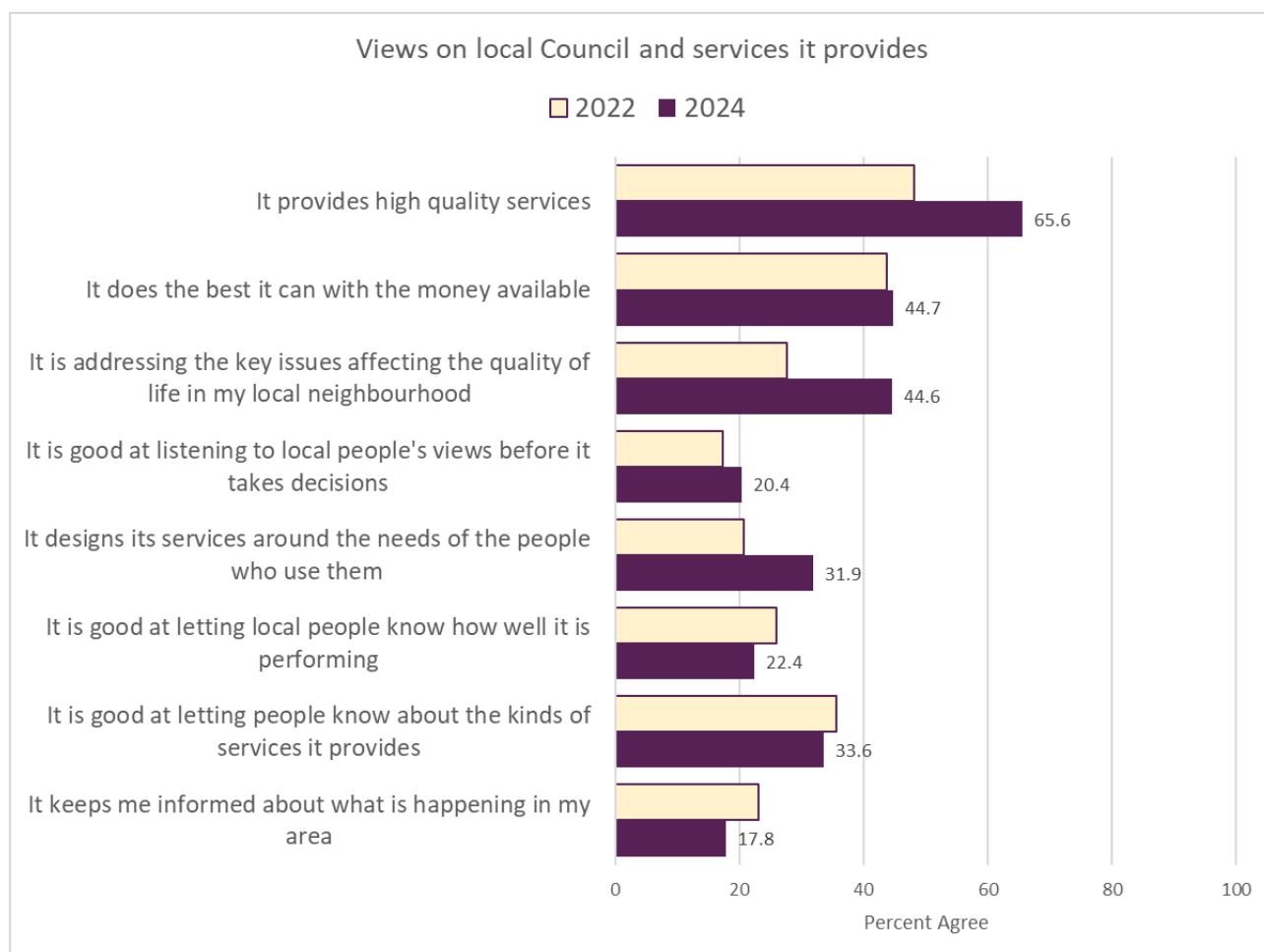


Figure 20.1 – Views on local Council and services it provides (Fife People’s Panel, 2024 vs 2022)

21. How Fife compares

The Local Government Benchmarking Framework (LGBF) brings together a wide range of information about how all Scottish councils perform in delivering services to local communities.

The Local Government Benchmarking Framework (LGBF) brings together a wide range of information about how all Scottish councils perform in delivering services to local communities.

The national benchmarking overview report for 2022/23 highlights that councils are facing increasingly challenging decisions around service delivery due to deepening fiscal, workforce, and demand pressures. It finds that funding for councils is failing to keep pace with increasing demand for services, growing need, and costs pressures, while workforce recruitment and retention are growing issues across much of the workforce.

All councils are continuing to protect social care, education and looked after children however the degree of protection and investment choices vary. Reductions are in similar areas across the board although Fife has reduced some to a greater degree over the same period.

Scotland vs Fife Change in Expenditure Trends

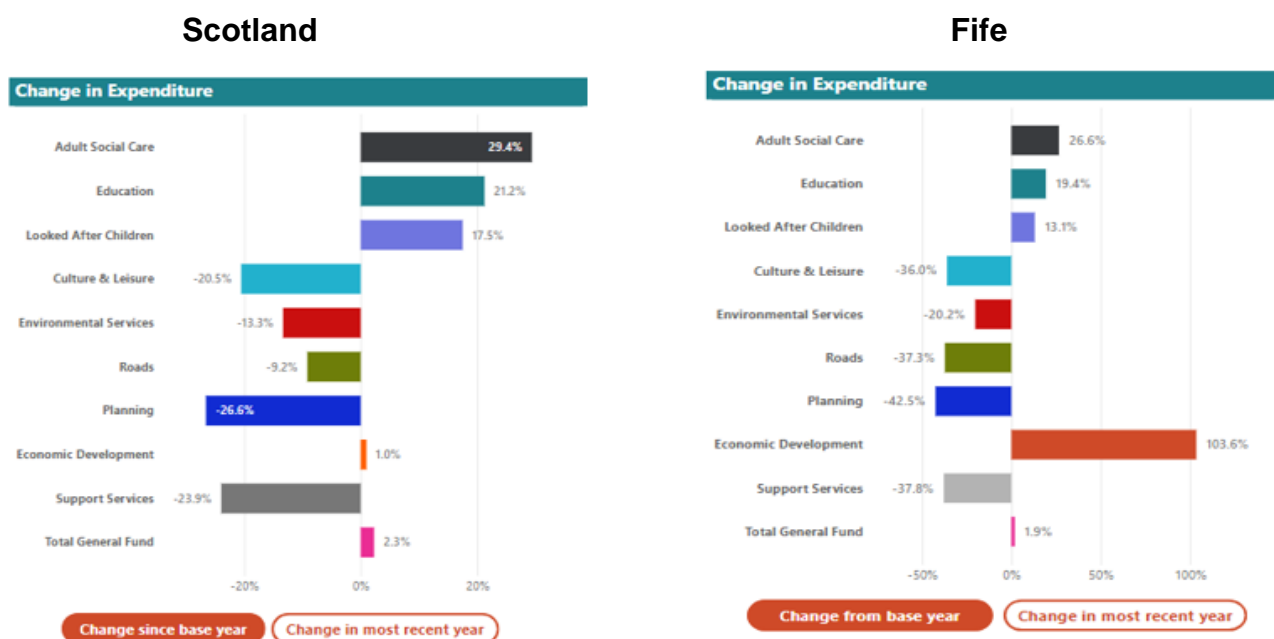


Figure 21.1 – Change in expenditure trends, Scotland and Fife (Local Financial Returns, LGBF 2022/23)

Note: the substantial increase in expenditure within Economic Development was not investment made by Fife Council directly but can be attributed to £73million of government funding to mitigate the impact of COVID-19. In terms of local economic recovery, as well as post-pandemic growth, this funding helped secure support to businesses, which ensured sustainability of jobs, particularly in Mid-Fife. This included increased business start ups from people who adapted or identified gaps in the market during the pandemic.

An overall comparison of LGBF performance across all 32 councils across Scotland shows year to year fluctuation in the number of indicators where Fife features in the top two quartiles. Caution is needed in interpreting performance relating to 2020/21.

The current position with LGBF data published for 2022/23 shows 57% of indicators in the top two quartiles, reflecting improved performance. Note, as at 1 May 2024 there remain 13 of 108 LGBF indicators for which data is still to be published for 2022/23 which may change the overall position.

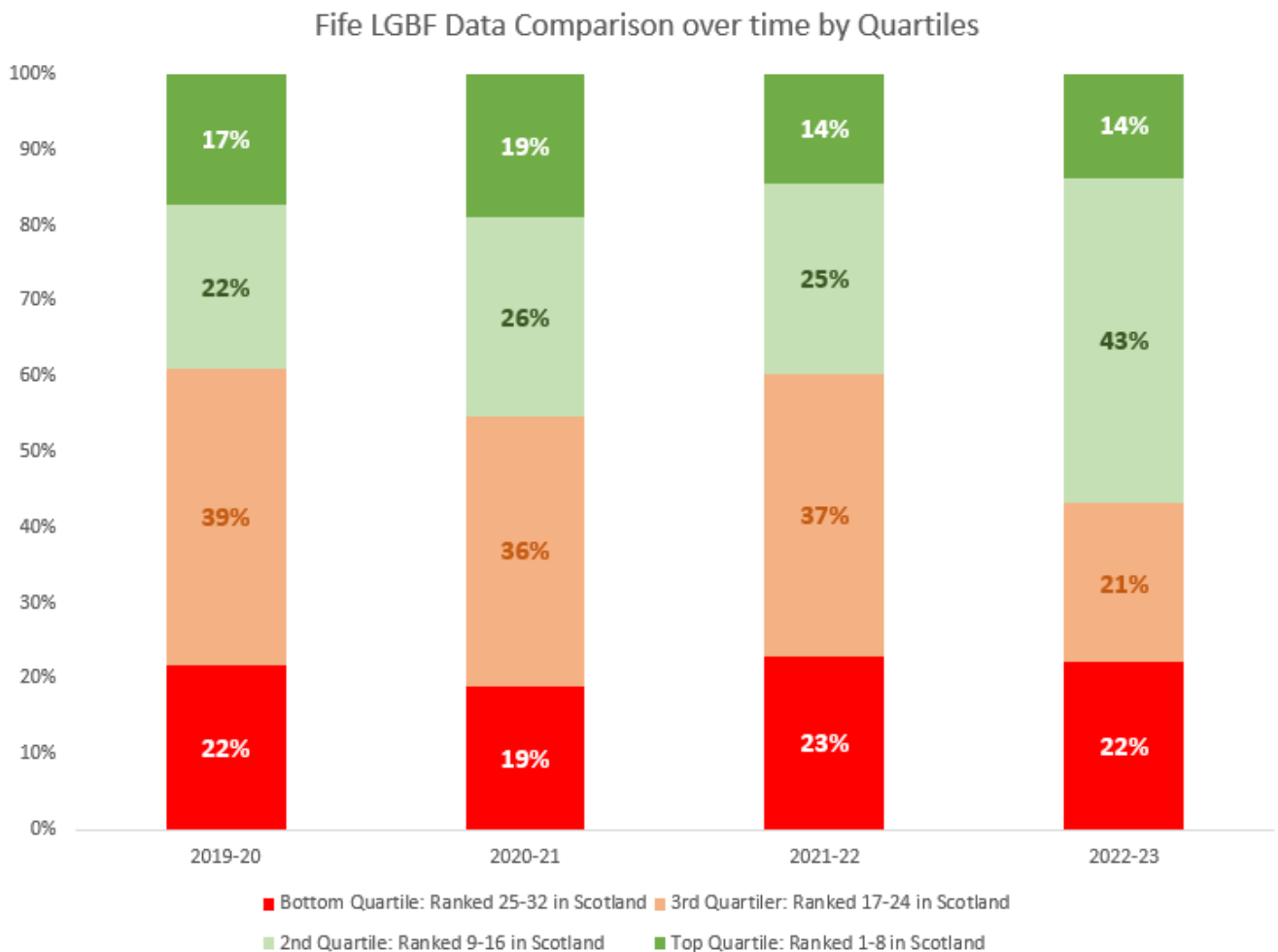


Figure 21.2 – LGBF data comparison across all 32 Councils by quartile (note analysis of LGBF data available as at May 2024)

For each of the indicators within the benchmarking framework we have reviewed where Fife’s performance has improved or declined over time, and how it compares with Fife’s Family Group and Scotland overall.

While Fife has improved its performance over time on 59% of the LGBF indicators, it has only improved on 41% of indicators relative to its Family Group and 42% compared to Scotland, suggesting other Councils are improving their performance to a higher level (see Figure 21.3).

Figure 21.3 – How Fife’s performance on LGBF indicators compares over time, with family group and Scotland

	Better	Worse	Unchanged
Fife over time	59%	40%	1%
Fife vs Family Group	41%	59%	0%
Fife vs Scotland	42%	58%	0%

The following narrative reviews and summarises performance for each of the Service areas within the benchmarking framework:

Culture and Leisure

Cost of sports facilities, libraries, parks and open spaces, user satisfaction with, libraries, parks and open spaces, museums and galleries, and leisure services have all improved, with most performing better than Fife’s Family Group and Scotland overall.

Performance against the cost of museums and galleries has declined and performs worse compared with the Family Group and Scotland.

Children's Services

Percentage of Pupils Gaining 5+ Awards at Level 5 and Level 6 and in the 20% most Deprived Areas, gross costs of 'Children Looked After' in residential-based services, proportion of pupils entering positive destinations, School exclusions rates, participation rate for 16–19-year-olds, and Overall Average Total Tariff and for quintiles 1-5 all improved, but performed worse than the Family Group or Scotland

Proportion of funded early years provision which is graded good/better, and proportion of children being looked after in the community also improved and performed better than the Family Group and Scotland.

Adult’s satisfaction with schools, Literacy and numeracy, and gap, amongst P1, P4, and P7 pupils, gross costs of 'Children Looked After' in a community setting, cost of providing pre-school, primary, and secondary school places, school attendance rates, proportion of Children meeting developmental milestones, proportion of Child Protection re-registrations within 18 months, Proportion of Looked After Children with more than one placement in the last year, and Proportion of children living in poverty (after housing costs) all declined, and performed worse than Fife’s Family Group and Scotland.

Corporate Services

The Gender pay gap, the proportion of the highest paid 5% of employees who are women, support services as a percentage of gross expenditure, Cost per dwelling of collecting Council Tax, and Proportion of Scottish Welfare Fund budget spent all improved and performed better than Fife’s Family Group and Scotland.

Sickness absence levels for all employees (teaching and non-teaching), percentage of invoices paid within 30 days, proportion of Scottish Welfare Fund Community Care Grant decisions within 15 days, and Proportion of Discretionary Housing Payment funding spent all declined and performed worse than the Family Group and Scotland.

Corporate Assets

The percentage of operational buildings that are suitable for their current use and % of internal floor area of operational buildings in satisfactory condition improved in performance. The % of operational buildings performed worse, and the internal floor area performed better against the Family Group and Scotland.

Economic Development and Planning

The percentage of unemployed people assisted into work from council programmes, Proportion of procurement spent on local enterprises, Investment in Economic Development and Tourism, the proportion of people earning less than the living wage, the proportion of properties receiving Superfast Broadband the claimant count for working age and 16-24s, have all improved, although only spend on local enterprises, Superfast Broadband and the Living Wage have performed better against the Family Group and Scotland.

The cost of Planning & Building Standards applications, the average time for processing Business and Industry Planning applications, the number of Business Gateway Start-ups, Town Centre Vacancy rates, Immediate available employment land as a % of total land allocated for employment purposes, and Gross Value Added (GVA) per capita, all declined, and performed worse compared to the Family Group and Scotland.

Environmental Services

Net cost of Waste collection and waste disposal, Net cost of Street cleaning

Street cleanliness, Cost of roads per kilometre, Percentage of A B C classed roads and Unclassified roads considered for maintenance treatment, and Cost of Trading Standards and environmental health all improved. Only net cost of street cleaning performed worse than their Family Group and Scotland.

Cost of Trading Standards, Money Advice & Citizens Advice per 1,000 population, Proportion of total household waste arising that is recycled and Street cleaning, all declined, with only street cleaning performing better than the Family Group and Scotland.

Tackling Climate Change

CO2 emissions per capita for - area wide, within scope of LA, Transport, and Electricity, all improved but generally performed worse compared with the Family Group and Scotland.

CO2 emissions for Natural Gas also declined but performed better than the Family Group and Scotland.

Financial Sustainability

Total useable reserves as a % of council annual budgeted revenue, and Ratio of Financing Costs to Net Revenue Stream - General Fund, both improved, and performed better than their Family Group and Scotland.

Uncommitted General Fund Balance as a % of annual budgeted net revenue, Ratio of Financing Costs to Net Revenue Stream - Housing Revenue Account, and Actual outturn as a percentage of budgeted expenditure all declined, and only the uncommitted General Fund Balance performed better than the Family Group and Scotland.

Housing

Rent due in the year lost due to Voids, proportion of Council Dwellings meeting Scottish Housing Quality Standards, the proportion of Council Dwellings that are Energy Efficient, and average number of days taken to complete non-emergency repairs all improved, and generally performed better than the Family Group and Scotland.

Gross rent arrears as a percentage of rent due for the Year, declined, although performed better than the Family Group and Scotland.

Adult Social Care

Self-directed Support (SDS) Direct Payments (DP) Managed Personalised Budgets (MPB) spend on adults as a percentage of total Adult Social Work spend, and percentage of people 65+ with long-term care needs receiving personal care at home, all improved but performed worse compared with the Family Group and Scotland.

Home care costs per hour, % of adults supported at home who agree services improved/maintained their quality of life, supported them to live as independently as possible, agreed they had a say in how their help was provided, and feel supported to continue in their caring role, all declined, as did Rate of readmission to Hospital within 28 days, Residential costs per week per resident for people aged 65 or over, and proportion of adult care services graded good or better. All these indicators performed worse against the Family Group and Scotland. The number of days people spend in hospital when they are ready to be discharged also declined but performed better than the Family Group and Scotland.

22. Conclusions

What this assessment tells us

This assessment of a range of data and evidence tells us that Fife continues to face key challenges. These are persistent, wicked issues that are already known to us.

A common thread throughout this assessment has been poverty and inequality, reflecting the impact of wider economic factors on living standards at a very local level.

The State of Fife indicators highlight issues around equity. Inequality is widening and causing social, economic and environmental harm to people and communities in Fife.

Poorer life outcomes for individuals are firmly grounded in place, with Mid-Fife continuing to lag behind other areas of Fife. Place outcomes show growing need for improvement across Fife reflecting tightening budgets and difficult decisions around balancing protecting spending for education and health and social care, with the wider set of public services which councils traditionally have provided. This highlights the importance of joint working on place.

After a period of population growth, Fife is one of many council areas where population is starting to decline. With restrictions on migration since Britain's exit from the European Union, including being able to bring family members with them, fewer people of working age are coming to Scotland and the UK to work. The number of both children and working age are declining, but the older population will continue to grow in size.

In an uncertain context, what is most certain is that the Fife population is ageing, and this will drive demand for public services. The number of people in older age groups is increasing, and older people – particularly women – are likely to live longer in poorer health.

Changes of particular concern since the last assessment include: declining mental wellbeing of both children and adults, and worsening outcomes for children and young people.

The long-term impacts of poor educational outcomes for school-age children and young people are well known. These include a reduction in further and higher education participation, limited employment opportunities and earnings potential and poor health outcomes, all of which risk further entrenching poverty and inequality. The longer-term impacts of poor education and associated low incomes often fall to councils to resolve, which is why specific, targeted work is needed to reduce the equity gap at an early stage.

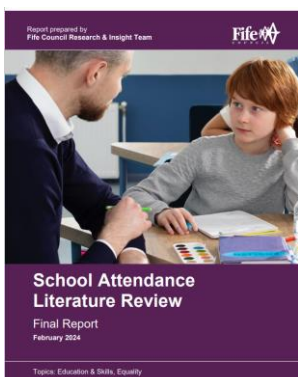
Addressing the impacts of climate change continues to be a strategic priority, cutting across services and outcomes. Those at highest risk of climate change hazards are often those that are least able to adapt. Factors impacting vulnerability include age, poverty, pre-existing health conditions, limited mobility, as well as specific locations and industries being adversely affected. Moving towards a fair and sustainable Fife requires improved evaluation of climate change risks, to help prioritise resilience action and ensure a just transition.

Current research

The Fife Strategic Assessment 2024 has been informed by a number of targeted pieces of research that sought to update or fill gaps in our evidence base.

Alongside this report we have published a number of companion documents which provide more in-depth information on the issues highlighted. These are available for the following topics:

School Attendance



Place



Connectivity



Safer Fife



Work is underway with services and partners to:

- understand factors affecting young people's attendance at school, to help to identify interventions that can be put in place to support better outcomes for our children and young people. This will involve looking further into the effect of technology and changes to childhood with the knock-on effect on resilience and attendance, and the impact of technology.
- develop a composite fuel poverty index to direct targeting of support to reduce fuel poverty as part of Fife's local heat and energy efficiency strategy
- review the effectiveness of the rapid rehousing transition plan and update demand analytics around homelessness
- develop a corporate networked dataset to support improved use of spatial analysis in planning local services.

Looking ahead

This assessment points to further areas for research and review to help us get a deeper understanding of:

- the challenges of a diminishing working age population, including the drivers and scale of economic inactivity to identify the policy measures needed, both to support more people into work and to provide employers with a skilled workforce able to support their needs.
- how and where Fife's communities are impacted by climate change, and the inequality in terms of those with reduced social infrastructure and increased deprivation are disproportionately affected. We plan to develop and test and methodology to look at community resilience to flood risk.

Opportunities for partners

The first phase of Fife Partnership Leadership Summits sought to broaden the involvement and influence of Fife Partnership leaders and senior managers in the design and delivery of the Plan for Fife. Together, leaders explored opportunities to work together and drive public sector reform. From this four strategic change ambitions and leadership commitments emerged:

Fife Partnership Strategic Change Ambitions and Leadership Commitments 2023

1. Put Community Wealth Building (CWB) at the heart of what we're doing, so we actively engage and work with local business, start-ups and third sector to win more of our work; reach out our recruitment to local communities; prioritise CWB within our key strategies e.g. economy, climate, health.
2. Live up to the Place Principle, so we work through a shared approach to how we inform, plan, review and engage locally; adjust our structures and operating arrangements to enable locally responsive teamwork; make resource decisions together.
3. Implement system change in how we are supporting people and families to improve their quality of opportunity and life, so we commit to share knowledge, review our referral approaches, and redesign processes; join up our access and information; lead and invest in multi-service team working and skills.
4. Prioritise health and wellbeing when we plan our places and services, so we invest in local community groups to facilitate local action; design our workplaces and the services they deliver to improve physical activity and health and wellbeing; work to create community networks and use all our assets to support physical activity and health and wellbeing, especially our green spaces.

This report provides context that will add to the research and insight developed by partners individually. Considered in the round, it can help shape the change required to ensure Fife's public services continue to be responsive and sustainable for the future.

The evidence in the assessment informed the Fife Partnership Board decision in May 2024 to maintain focus and action against the existing Recovery & Renewal Priorities for 2024-2027. It can further be used to shape the development of the Fife Partnership collaborative programme over this year to 2027. The purpose of the programme is to scope priority collaborative projects partners will focus on which have the potential to offer scale and to therefore make a greater impact against our priorities more quickly.

The strong theme of inequality revealed in the analysis – which is a challenge for all partners in addressing the social determinants of health – indicates the value in taking a whole system lens to our work to shape investment, redesign opportunities and resource allocations as part of collaborative programme development for the remainder of the plan to 2027.

Partners are encouraged to use this report to:

- Compare and consider findings with related research
- Explore and question organisational priorities
- Consider shared objectives, the use of collective resources with other partners
- Explore the levers within Fife and the Fife Partnership's control that could help address the challenges in new ways such as - land, assets and public spending.

23. Resources

The following companion resources are available to support further exploration of the findings in this assessment:

People	Resource	Link
3. Population	Population (National Records of Scotland)	Population National Records of Scotland (nrsotland.gov.uk)
4. Housing	Homelessness Statistics	Homelessness statistics - gov.scot (www.gov.scot)
5. Poverty	Fife findings – Children in Low Income Families 2023	Fife Findings Children in Low Income Families 2023
6. Children and young people	2018-based Population Projections Director of Public Health Annual Report 2023 School Attendance Review StoryMap - Fife's Play Sufficiency Assessment 2023	Population Projections for Scottish Areas (2018-based) National Records of Scotland (nrsotland.gov.uk) Director of Public Health Report 2023 NHS Fife School-attendance-literature-review-final.pdf (fife.scot) Fife's Play Sufficiency Assessment (arcgis.com)
7. Working age	2018-based Population Projections	Population Projections for Scottish Areas (2018-based) National Records of Scotland (nrsotland.gov.uk)
8. Economy	Fife Local Area Economic profiles 2022-23	Fife Local Area Economic Profiles 2022-23
9. Older people	2018-based Population Projections	Population Projections for Scottish Areas (2018-based) National Records of Scotland (nrsotland.gov.uk)
10. Health and wellbeing	ScotPHO profiling tool	ScotPHO profiles (shinyapps.io)
11. Safer Fife	Topic Report – Safer Fife	Safer-Fife-report-Jun-24.pdf
12. Place and wellbeing	Topic report – Our Place	Our-Place-Fife-2023.pdf

Place	Resource	Link
13. Connectivity	Topic report – Connectivity Scottish Living Locally Data Portal (SLLDP) Scottish Living Locally Data Portal – Fife Overview Local Living and 20 Minute Neighbourhoods	Connectivity report Scottish Living Locally Data Portal (SLLDP) Scottish Living Locally Data Portal - Fife Overview Local Living and 20-Minute Neighbourhoods (arcgis.com)
14. Spatial issues	Local Development Plan Evidence Report Adopted Local Development Plan FIFEplan interactive mapping	Local Development Plan Evidence Report Adopted FIFEplan FIFEplan interactive mapping
15. Environment	Scottish Energy Statistics Hub NHS Fife Land Use Navigator Green and Blue Networks Priority Places for Food Index 2	Scottish Energy Statistics Hub (shinyapps.io) NHS Fife Land use view (arcgis.com) Green and Blue Networks Reports Fife Council CDRC Mapmaker: Priority Places for Food Index (Version 2) (Overall decile)
Performance	Resource	Link
16. Plan for Fife Ambitions	Plan for Fife Annual Review of Priorities and Ambitions 2023	Plan for Fife Annual Review of Priorities and Ambitions 2023
17. State of Fife	ScotPHO profiling tool	ScotPHO profiles (shinyapps.io)
18. Community planning outcomes	Community Planning Outcomes Profiling (CPOP) Tool	CPOP (shinyapps.io) Go to CPP over time
19. Neighbourhood improvement	Community Planning Outcomes Profiling (CPOP) Tool	CPOP (shinyapps.io) Go to My Communities or Community Profile
20. Views on Council Services	Scottish Household Survey	SHS Data Explorer (shinyapps.io)
21. How Fife compares	Local Government Benchmarking framework (LGBF)	Explore the data Benchmarking (improvementservice.org.uk)

About this report

Fife Council Research and Insight Team works on prioritised projects to deliver strategic insight for the Council and community planning partners in Fife.

We aim to deliver engaging high-quality general insight for those involved in delivering public services across Fife.

Contact

Coryn Barclay, Research and Insight Manager

coryn.barclay@fife.gov.uk

General enquiries

research.enquiries@fife.gov.uk

KnowFife Hub

<https://know.fife.scot>

Important Notes on this Report

1. Since 2017, Fife Council's Research and Insight Team have committed to producing a Fife Strategic Assessment, every three years, to support the Plan for Fife (local outcome improvement plan).
2. This brings together into a single document, a definitive synthesis of the latest research evidence and assessment of the shared challenges facing local communities and partner agencies in Fife.
3. In between, Local Strategic Assessments have been produced for each of the 7 areas to inform local community planning. The next Local Strategic Assessments will be 2025.
4. The Fife Strategic Assessment 2024 is intended to provide strategic insight and challenge, to inform the three year review of the Plan for Fife, ahead of the next 10 year plan from 2027.
5. Through the lenses of People, Place and Performance, the most recent evidence and emerging issues are reviewed to inform discussions about the next stage of planning of priorities to deliver on the ambitions of the Plan for Fife 2017-2027.

Fife Partnership Board

www.fife.gov.uk/committee/fifepartnership

Agenda Item No. 5

6 August 2024

Local Child Poverty Report for Scottish Government 2023/24

Report by: Michael Enston, Executive Director, Communities, Fife Council

Purpose

To report on tackling poverty and preventing crisis for the period 2023/24.

Recommendations

Board members are asked to:

1. Note the progress 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 meets the requirements for the LCPAR.

Consultation

Tackling Poverty & Preventing Crisis (TPPC) Board members, the Opportunities Fife Partnership and Whole Family Wellbeing Leadership Group, have been involved in preparing this report.



**#Keeping
The Promise
in Fife**

1.0 Background

- 1.1 The Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017 states that a local authority and each relevant Health Board must jointly prepare and publish a report - a “local child poverty action report” annually.
- 1.2 Examples and Learning from the Year 5 (2022/23) reports from across Scotland¹ highlighted the progress being made towards preventative and evidence-based approaches to tackling child poverty.
- 1.3 Specific feedback to Fife, given at the annual meeting between the Improvement Service, Public Health Scotland, Fife Council and NHS Fife noted as good practice the Low-Income Family Tracker in targeting support, the partnership delivery of the Winter cost of living programmes and benefit maximisation work.
- 1.4 This report highlights specific examples of progress to date of the Fife Advice Framework and Cash First. It highlights actions specifically addressing child poverty, fulfilling the statutory requirement to produce an annual local child poverty action report under the Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017.

2.0 Progress Made

- 2.1 The report gives updates on the project delivery undertaken during 2023/24 to
 - Get people the benefits they are entitled to
 - Protect people from cost-of-living increases with a focus on support for food, fuel and childcare costs
 - Prevent crisis through a No Wrong Door approach ensuring early and joined up support
 - Improve the use of data relating to poverty and crisis to target spend on prevention of crisis
 - Tackle Homelessness.
- 2.2 The breadth of activity undertaken is substantial. Despite this, poverty remains persistent.
- 2.3 23.6% of children in Fife are now living in relative poverty (in households with an income of less than 60% of UK median income) compared to 21.3% for Scotland (DWP, FYE 2023).

3.0 Next Steps: 2024/25

- Implementing a 'No Wrong Door' approach with the emphasis on prevention and earlier intervention.
- Reducing long term food poverty through the delivery of the Food4Fife Strategy launched in May 2024 and Cash First tests of change.
- Developing a joined-up system of household support.
- Working with communities to create welcoming places that provide wrap around advice and support.

Report contact

Sheena Watson
Tackling Poverty and Preventing Crisis Board Programme Manager
Sheena.watson@fife.gov.uk

6 August 2024

Appendix 1 – Fife Local Child Poverty Report (LCPR) 2023/24

ⁱ [Examples and learning from Year 5 local action on child poverty \(cloud.microsoft\)](#)

Tackling poverty and preventing crisis

Annual Report 2023/24

Contents

- Introduction
- Key Findings and Next Steps
- Poverty in Fife
- Prevention
- Social Inclusion and Stigma
- Appendix 1 Progress Report 2023/24
- Appendix 2 Case Studies

Introduction

This is Fife's annual report on Tackling Poverty & Preventing Crisis.

It sets out progress, priorities for 2024/25 and next steps towards our preventative approach.

Fife continues to face challenges in recovering from the health, social and financial crises of recent years. Through partnership work, people are being supported to meet these challenges and take control with dignity and respect.

A number of initiatives are underway to bring about change and improvement. Programmes aiming to enhance family support and provide 'no wrong door' services are underway so people can access the help they need as early as possible. These balance the urgent need for public service redesign alongside critical ongoing support for those facing the complex challenges of living on a low income.

Change on this scale takes time. A whole system approach to improvement, drawing on the evidence from the annual Winter, Cost of Living Programmes and more recently, the Fife Strategic Assessment published in August 2024, are identifying challenges and opportunities to increase the impact of anti-poverty projects.

This report highlights specific examples of progress to date on benefit maximisation, the Fife Advice Framework and Cash First and identifies next steps. It highlights actions specifically addressing child poverty, fulfilling the statutory requirement to produce an annual local child poverty action report under the Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017.

Key Findings and Next Steps

Evaluations of recent programmes and research is telling us:

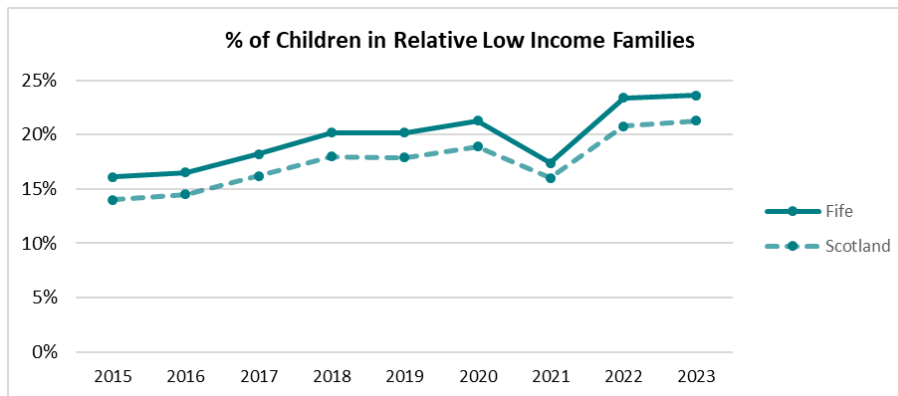
Findings	Fife Picture	Next Steps
<p>Significant levels of benefit underclaiming is leaving people with less than they need to manage on.</p> <p>Policy in Practice¹ estimates that the total amount of unclaimed income related benefits and social tariffs across Great Britain is now £22.7 billion a year.</p>	<p>Large scale benefit uptake campaigns in Fife are helping increase people's income from benefits and getting more people their full benefit entitlement.</p> <p>The financial gain to date is estimated to be £6.7 million.</p>	<p>A rolling programme of benefit take up campaigns is scheduled for 2024/25.¹</p>
<p>The need for emergency food is frequently not the only issue those using a food bank have.</p> <p>Many of those using food banks need help with other underlying issues such as debt, employment support and living with long term health issues and disabilities.</p>	<p>There is a need not to deal with the need for emergency food in isolation.</p> <p>The development and roll out of the Fife Advice Framework is better equipping front-line staff and volunteers to provide first level benefits advice.</p>	<p>Funding is secured to scale up Fife's Poverty Awareness and benefit checker training programme. This will build staff skills and knowledge in supporting people.</p> <p>Learning for Fife's Cash First programme approaches will increase dignity and reduce food bank use in Fife</p>
<p>The Scottish Welfare Fund and the provision of home starter packs by a variety of Council and third sector organisations, is not meeting the level of need for household items in Fife.</p>	<p>People are struggling to get items to set up home. A range of organisations and Council services provide support in isolation of each other.</p>	<p>A review of the Scottish Welfare Fund is being undertaken.</p> <p>A Fife Council and third sector collaboration is scoping the improvements needed to create a joined-up system of household support.</p>

¹ [Missing out 2024: £23 billion of support is unclaimed each year - Policy in Practice](#)

Findings	Fife Picture	Next Steps
<p>Better intelligence is needed to proactively reach people in need, with a focus on prevention rather than just responding to crisis</p>	<p>The use of data and the Low-Income Family Tracker (LIFT) is providing evidence of both current and future need, helping to target support.</p> <p>This is key as available budgets to deliver support, decrease.</p>	<p>The continued use of the Low-Income Family Tracker and the Fife Benefit Checker will help Fife target support.</p>
<p>Warm and Welcoming Places are community-led and helping to break social isolation experienced by many in the community. Meals and wider support and being provided,</p>	<p>A significant number of users have long term health issues and are experiencing poor mental health and are not accessing help elsewhere.</p>	<p>Develop community led welcoming places to provide wrap around advice and support.</p>
<p>Lived Experience People with lived experience of poverty are having an increased number of opportunities to be able to influence change.</p>	<p>Project Assistants who have lived experience of poverty have been employed to work in some Areas in Fife. This is being rolled out across more areas in Fife.</p>	<p>In partnership with the Poverty Alliance, Fife is developing mechanisms for working with those with lived within the Cash First programme.</p>

Poverty in Fife

- Child poverty in Fife continues to track just above Scotland for both relative and absolute poverty rates (see table 1)
- 23.6% of children in Fife are now living in relative poverty (in households with an income of less than 60% of UK median income) compared to 21.3% for Scotland (DWP, FYE 2023).
- While both Fife and Scotland have seen an increase in child poverty between 2019 and 2023, this had been projected before the cost-of-living crisis so was not unexpected. Levenmouth, Kirkcaldy, Cowdenbeath and Glenrothes Areas all have higher child poverty rates than Fife as a whole. This is broadly consistent with income and employment deprivation (SIMD 2020).



- As of March 2024, 25,320 children in Fife were actively benefitting from the Scottish Child Payment (Social Security Scotland, 2024). The Fife Benefit Checker (Entitled To) is updated with new benefits as legislation changes occur. The Scottish Child Payment was included in the benefit checker since its introduction promoting the uptake.
- There were an estimated 33,888 low-income households in Fife in April 2024 (Low Income Family Tracker dashboard).
- Single households are the largest group, accounting for two thirds of all low-income households, and 92% of those who are in a cash shortfall (expected take-home income less than expected expenditure).
- Lone parent households (5545 households, approx. 10,700 children) were the second largest group (16.4%), followed by couples without children (9.7%). Couples with children accounted for 4.8% of low-income households (1632 households, approx. 4,000 children).

Prevention

Fife has focused on income maximisation and targeted programmes of winter support, as ways to address poverty and prevent crisis during the cost-of-living crisis. Partnership work training and raising the capacity of front line staff and volunteers to give advice and support, has increased the number of people and places where early help can be accessed in Fife communities.

Tackling Poverty and Preventing Crisis Board and Winter Programme 2023/24

Fife's Tackling Poverty and Preventing Crisis Board refocused its delivery plan this year building on learning from the winter support and cost of living programmes.

This is the second year of delivering the Winter Programme and was supported with £5.3 million of funding. This was in addition to a £1.8million top up to the Scottish Welfare Fund. The support has been shared across fuel, food, and cash support, mostly accessed at the point of crisis. (See Infographics below highlighting the key aspects of the programme)

Preventative measures have focussed on benefit maximisation campaigns and a new partnership with the Fuel Bank and Cosy Kingdom², which has provided both energy advice and emergency fuel top ups.

Welcoming Places have been developed by a range of voluntary groups and some areas have developed welfare hubs where wrap around support can be offered.

Given Fife's longstanding challenges of deep-rooted poverty and inequality, alongside pressing budget reductions and constraints, there is a need to be smarter in how whole system change is delivered.

² Cosy Kingdom is a free and impartial energy and debt advice service available to all tenants and homeowners across Fife.

Winter and Cost of Living Programmes

Food



277,112 meals

were provided by Fife Council over the school holidays for the year



17,112 food parcels

distributed by Trussell Trust in Fife 2023/24 from 11 centres

£1.3 million

was spent on crisis awards for food from the Scottish Welfare

Fuel



£155,317

worth of fuel top ups issued

1,220 people

have received first level energy advice



199 frontline workers

trained to give energy advice

33 households

benefited from Boiler Repair Scheme, with a spend of **£73,147**



£30,000

spent on Winter Warmer packs to help those in crisis situations, including heated blankets, fleeces, gloves, hat and scarves

87

Welcoming and Warm Places were provided

Additional £1.8m

provided by Fife Council on top of Scottish Government SWF allocation



8,865

completed benefit checks over the past 12 months

44,190 views

on the Our Fife/Get Help website

Benefit Maximisation

£6.7 million

Large scale benefit uptake campaigns gain to date is estimated to be

867

have increased their income by **£860,870** through Pension Credit campaigns - an estimated lifetime value of **£3.9 million**

Approx. £470,980

additional financial gains from Pension Credit campaigns, with a lifetime value of **£2.8 million**

440

new Tax-Free Childcare accounts, saving each family **20%** of their total childcare costs each month.

Fife Advice Framework and Poverty Awareness Training

Providing staff and volunteers with the knowledge they need to signpost and offer first level benefits advice.

A huge range of cost of living and welfare support is available. For those who aren't eligible for any benefits, some of the support which is offered is universal, meaning anyone can get it.

Crisis support
Community Support Line
 If unable to access information online, staff will be able to assist or arrange an appointment.
0800 952 0330 (Mon-Fri, 9am-5pm) or call **07432 609475**

Benefit Checks
Self help - Free online benefits checker at: our.fife.scot/gethelp/income
 For those under 18, not a UK national or having trouble using the online calculator a benefit check appointment can be arranged by calling the Community Support Line.
 Welfare support staff can offer support & help at our **community job clubs**. visit: www.fife.gov.uk or call **07432 609475**

Drop-in advice & help
Local support
 Welfare support staff can offer support & help at our **community job clubs**. visit: www.fife.gov.uk or call **07432 609475**
The Well is a place where you can drop-in, both in the community and online. Call **03451551500** or visit: www.fifehealthandsocialcare.org

One to one support
Support & Connect
 For families with children in education. Referral only- online form
CARF (Citizens Advice and Rights Fife)
 Welfare benefits **03451400092**
 General Advice **03451400095**
 Debt Advice **03451400094**
www.cabfife.org.uk
Frontline Fife
 Homelessness, housing advice, short-term housing and addictions support.
www.frontlinefife.co.uk
Cosy Kingdom
 Free, impartial energy and debt advice.
www.cosykingdom.org.uk

For useful information, advice, help with benefits, energy bills and food go to: our.fife.scot/gethelp

The awareness and knowledge to use the Our Fife /Get Help website alongside the Fife Benefit Checker has been scaled up this year. Citizen's Advice and Rights Fife (CARF) have proactively engaged with public sector staff teams and community groups to embed income maximisation into their usual offer of support.

Local Authority teams already undertaking this approach include Housing Officers, Rent Officers (debt collection), Welfare Support Officers, customer facing staff in local council offices and telephone helplines, revenues officers and fuel poverty officers. Elected Members in Fife have undertaken the training to support their constituency casework and some Community Council members have also participated. Third sector agencies involved has included local health condition support groups, employability support agencies and even a local grass roots football coaching team. Most recently, Scottish Autism have been able to upskill staff to embed income maximisation into their practice.

This work has been jointly delivered with the Health Promotion Service who have delivered this targeted 'Level 1 Fife Benefit Checker and Our Fife Toolkit Training' to key teams/services. Innovative approaches to the delivery of training including lunchtime poverty discussions, online modules, and the creation of a 'training the trainer' network has helped reach a wide range of staff and volunteers.

In total, 722 staff and volunteers were trained in 2023/24 and a group of 35 training the trainers was established to continue rolling out the programme.

Targeted Poverty Awareness information sessions on how poverty can impact children and young peoples' health, education and developmental milestones has been created. The training covers having a healthy conversation with children and young people about poverty and increases knowledge of national and local sources of support.

Social Inclusion and Stigma

Key to tackling the stigma surrounding poverty, is to involve people with lived experience of poverty in the design of services.

Project Assistants with personal experience of poverty, have been employed to work in Areas Teams in Fife. They have so far inputted to issues around recruitment, communication, system changes (No Wrong Door Approach) and the evaluation of winter funding. They are involved in the cash first pilot and will be part of the steering group for the next Rural Poverty Conference in October 2025.

A Food4Fife Strategy was launched in May 2024 with the aim of preventing food poverty by providing a dignified, fair and just access to healthy and affordable food for all one. The Council adopted the Dignity Principles in May 2018, and these underpin the work that is done in relation to food insecurity including Cafe Inc. Key principles include giving people the power to choose their meals and including families in decision making. A research project including both surveys and a focus group is planned for summer to discover from families (both children and adults) about what can be improved in the delivery of Cafe Inc and the difference it is making.

Cash First is an approach rooted in human rights that can have an immediate impact on people's lives by offering flexibility and respect for people to decide what their immediate needs are. Following a successful bid, Fife Council has been awarded funding by the Scottish Government to run a series of tests of change over the next 24 months in each of the seven Area Committee areas exploring Cash First approaches to mitigating and preventing poverty. Building on Kirkcaldy's Choice First cash first initiative and the Hardship Grants provided during COVID, the tests of change will help understand and overcome specific local barriers experienced by individuals and families facing crisis. The chosen areas reflect diverse local circumstances and levels of maturity in developing cash-first approaches.

To ensure more children and families are involved in service design, Fife's Whole Family Wellbeing Fund is funding projects to help shape a better understanding of current experiences of services, what needs to improve and how change can be facilitated by working together through a co-production/co-design approach. This is being achieved by improving the interface across the third sector, statutory services, and community planning partnerships and through meaningful involvement of families in Fife in the design, development and delivery of services. The project is 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.

Tackling Poverty & Preventing Crisis Delivery Plan 2021-2024:

The progress updates in the tables below provide the detail of the projects to:

- Get people the benefits they are entitled to
- Protect people from cost-of-living increases with a focus on support for food, fuel and childcare costs
- Prevent crisis through a No Wrong Door approach ensuring early and joined up support
- Improve the use of data relating to poverty and crisis to target spend on prevention of crisis
- Tackle Homelessness

Next steps for Fife 2024/25 include:

- Implementing a No Wrong Door approach with the emphasis on prevention and earlier intervention
- Reducing long term food poverty through the delivery of the Food4Fife Strategy launched in May 2024 and Cash First tests of change
- Developing a joined-up system of household support
- Working with communities to create welcoming places that provide wrap around advice and support.

Outcome:

Get people the benefits they are entitled to

	2023/24 progress update and priorities for 2024/25	Status / notes
Welfare benefit take up campaigns to increase take up in benefit entitlement	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tax-Free Childcare targeted campaign reached people with no entitlement to welfare benefits but were impacted by low income. The campaign secured and increased of 440 new Tax-Free Childcare accounts and used which saved each family 20% of their total childcare costs each month.• 35 families who use Fife Council childcare provisions mitigated the annual price increase as actually reduced their childcare costs. A case example evidenced a household saving of £684.50 per year. This campaign is currently being delivered again following improvement recommendations from the last campaign activity.• Campaigns ran to reach those entitled to Scottish Child Payment, Best Start Foods.• Managed migration and the start of new replacement benefits such as health-related benefits and unpaid carers	Child poverty

	2023/24 progress update and priorities for 2024/25	Status / notes
<p>Access to services and advice out with office hours</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to services and support is available 24 hours per day via the Our Fife Toolkit (Cost of Living Support (Fife. Scot)). This one stop shop website for Fife residents hosts self-service access to The Fife Benefit Checker, information on local food and fuel support provision, health support, support for your family and a section specifically for young people. • The site also hosts a self-service portal for debt advice provided by Citizens Advice & Rights Fife. • Organisations such as faith-based groups, sports clubs and community councils enable income maximisation and crisis support information to be cascaded not only in locations the community are accessing, but also at a suitable time for them. • To support campaign activity to promote the take up of Tax-Free Childcare accounts, Fife Council staff who provide childcare in breakfast and after school clubs have all undertaken training to provide support and guidance to parents either before 9am, or until 6pm. These staff also operate over the holiday and in-service days. 	<p>Child Poverty Strategic Assessment completed on benefit max delivery against 6 priority groups by TPPC Board</p>
<p>Income maximisation provided in a range of settings</p>	<p>Embedding income maximisation advice into maternity services continues to work well.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 508 families have engaged with the dedicated worker either while pregnant or while they have a child under the age of 5 in the household. 29% are under the age of 25- yrs. and 32% are lone parents. • Over the course of the financial year, the adviser has achieved client financial gains of £645,232.57 As a return on investment for every £1 invested, the return has been over £11. <p>Support & Connect (Education led welfare and benefits support)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An Education Welfare Network has been established to improve the knowledge about what support is available in their local area to support the families in their school. <p>91 Referrals were made £145,579 of financial gains were made for the families.</p> <p>Breakdown of referrals by child poverty priority groups are shown below</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ethnic minority families 4 ○ Families with more than 3 children 40 ○ Families where the mother is aged 25 or under 6 ○ Mothers and families with a child under 1 year 3 ○ Families with a disability 43 ○ Lone parents: 57 	<p>Child Poverty Data matched against 6 characteristics Support and Connect</p>

	2023/24 progress update and priorities for 2024/25	Status / notes
	<p>Boosting Budgets (a 7-week financial capability group for parents and carers across various schools) Total financial gain for the families who took part in 2022/23 - £51,258.07.</p>	Child Poverty
<p>Direct support lone parents to increase the take up of child maintenance</p>	<p>Child Maintenance – Child Maintenance Update 23/24</p> <p>Family Support</p> <p>Provision of direct support to resident lone parents in Fife focused on income maximisation and a child's right to fair financial support (wherever possible) from both their parents.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 57 referrals received • 55 families engaged in advice or casework. • Financial Gain £20,569 to benefit 19 children living in 13 households. <p>Training Development</p> <p>Developing a training module which will enable workers and volunteers to include Child Maintenance in all income maximisation conversations with lone parent families.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tested and developed “Confident conversations about Child Maintenance” course (2-hour in person module) • Delivered 5 training sessions with 72 participants from Fife Gingerbread, FRASAC and Fife Women's Aid • Hosted introductory “mini talks” with Scottish Women's Aid and Citizens Advice Scotland Money Talks team 	Child Poverty
<p>A tiered training programme on welfare support to increase the range and number of staff participating in the Health Promotion poverty awareness training</p>	<p>The Poverty Awareness Training Programme – 722 people received training broken down as</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • virtual workshops - total of 173 participants • 43 face-to-face and virtual workshops were delivered with 361 participants in attendance. <p>In addition to this there were 3 x Train the Trainer Workshops – In total there are now 35 trained trainers from across all sectors supporting the delivery of Poverty Awareness Training.</p>	Child Poverty

	2023/24 progress update and priorities for 2024/25	Status / notes
Provision of community-based advice and support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2711 engagements with welfare support assistants across Fife • 865 telephone calls to the Welfare Support help line - a way to contact preferred by families. • 18 additional welfare support assistants employed through Community Recovery Funding • Increased joint working with Citizen's Rights and Advice Fife staff 	

Outcome:

Protect people from cost-of-living increases with a focus on support for food, fuel and childcare costs

	2023/24 progress update and priorities for 2024/25	Status / notes
Tackling Fuel Poverty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinated crisis fuel support through the partnership with the Fuel Bank (a national charity), Cosy Kingdom and the Council created a single point of contact for people needing immediate help with a fuel top up. Since October 2023 when the partnership with the fuel bank started, 2048 Council tenants have received £134,390 and 431 vouchers have been awarded to non- Council tenants totalling £20,927. The Housing Service has proactively provided additional HRA funded support to tenants in low fuel efficiency houses and those with damp and mould where fuel poverty is assessed as a contributory factor. • The Handy service installs small measures to help reduce heat loss, save energy, and keep participants warmer at home. Measures can include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ LED Light bulbs ○ Thermal curtains ○ Reflective radiator Foil ○ Draught excluders ○ Window & door draught proofing 	

	2023/24 progress update and priorities for 2024/25	Status / notes
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They can also provide microwaves, electric blankets, halogen heaters & cosy packs where needed too. The Handy Service was funded to increase its reach by a third. Below are the figures for the additional funded work: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 717 additional households have received Handy Service measures. ○ Average financial gains because of receiving the handy service £168 per home. ○ 59 households have received income maximisation support. ○ 1,220 people have received first level energy advice. ○ 199 frontline workers trained to give energy advice. ○ 33 households benefited from Boiler Repair Scheme, with a spend of £73,147. • Winter Warmer Packs Winter Warmer packs were provided for people in crisis situations. Heated blankets in the packs. This has cost £30 k with 1000 packs distributed including to Afghan refugee families. • Warm Spaces – Warm and Welcoming Places are providing community-led local provision helping break social isolation, provide meals and the opportunity to access wider support and services. This has developed as an offer over the 24 months from a starting point of funds for the purchase of food to meet the demand the community food providers were experiencing through to a Hub type model where people are comfortable to attend and get wider support. A significant number of users have long term health issues and are experiencing poor mental health. 	
Free period products	<p>The online ordering service was re-instated in September of last year, so people can order products directly to their home.</p> <p>New community groups have come on board over the last 12 months to further expand the provision in the community.</p>	
Improved access to local, affordable and flexible childcare	<p><u>Early Adopter Community Work</u></p> <p>Fife Council continues to work with the Scottish Government through the School Aged Childcare Early Adopter Community Team. The work is focussed in the Levenmouth Area, with opportunities to capture learning and apply this to other areas of Fife. The aim of the project is to ensure there are sufficient, affordable and sustainable childcare options for school aged children across Levenmouth.</p>	Child Poverty

	2023/24 progress update and priorities for 2024/25	Status / notes
Employability Support	<p>In 2023 with UK Shared Prosperity Fund allocation from UK Government 14 projects were added to the employability pathway. This activity commenced in July 2023 and will run to March 2025.</p> <p>This included additional provision supporting those with mental health issues as a barrier to work, green skills training, a volunteering into work project, industry specific qualifications as well as additional projects supporting vulnerable families.</p> <p>Making it Work for lone parents is a partnership project with staff from Fife Gingerbread, Clued Up and Citizens Advice & Rights Fife working collaboratively. Lone Parents are a high priority group (disproportionately impacted by child poverty) facing multiple and complex barriers. The project is largely funded through the City Deal but has received Whole Family Wellbeing Funding to expand the cohort of families eligible for support. This is helping improve outcomes for children, young people and families that are affected by substance use and poor Education attendance/engagement.</p>	Child Poverty
Community Wealth Building	<p>Life Chances is a progressive approach to recruitment that seeks to re-wire existing systems and processes to change the mainstream ways the Council recruits by applying a Community Wealth Building lens.</p> <p>The Life Chances model was developed and tested in 2023/24 to design employability provision into public sector recruitment. The programme works with people who find it difficult to overcome labour market challenges (such as long-term unemployment, little or no work experience) to progress into fair, sustainable work in the public sector.</p> <p>The Life Chances pilot started in June 2023 with 24 placement opportunities across Fife Council lasting 13-weeks with participants paid the real Living Wage (as a minimum) alongside access to employability support. By the end of 2023/24, 11 participants had secured ongoing employment with Fife Council and a further 12 have had their placements extended to allow access to upcoming vacancies.</p>	
Food4Fife Strategy	<p>A Food4Fife Strategy was launched in May 2024 with the aim of preventing food poverty by providing a dignified, fair and just access to healthy and affordable food for all one. The delivery plan is being developed to :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce long term food poverty by better integrating support for people experiencing food insecurity. • Increase financial inclusion through increasing benefits maximisation. 	

Outcome:

Prevent crisis through a No Wrong Door approach ensuring early and joined up support

	2023/24 progress update and priorities for 2024/25	Status / notes
<p>Develop the ‘No Wrong Door Approach’</p>	<p>The NWD approach will ensure easier access to services, more joined up partnership working and less duplication of services maximising hr resources to ensure effectiveness and efficiency.</p> <p>The emphasis is on prevention and earlier intervention through the development of a streamlined pathway which avoids people having to navigate across a whole range of services to address the issue that matters to them.</p> <p>A programme of work has been underway to support transformational change. The design of the model is now focusing on one locality ie Cowdenbeath which will inform the development of an operational model which can be scaled up across the 7 localities in Fife.</p> <p>Whole Family Wellbeing Fund (WFWF)</p> <p>The WFWF is funding an extensive programme of work and is supporting the development of the No Wrong Door business case, including design work to develop a Fife-wide early intervention approach. This is supporting Fife in its vision to localise provision as part of a people and place-based model, which is accessible and avoids multiple interventions across the system, involving issues such as money advice, housing, food and fuel poverty, and wellbeing.</p> <p>One of the projects is a test of change - Putting People First (PPF) has provided holistic wraparound support on a 1:2:1 and community basis. To date this team has supported 168 households in the Kirkcaldy Area with a wide range of interlinked issues.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 46% of the cohort are in one or more of the child poverty Priority Groups • 23% of people have been care experienced or have had a child placed in care. • Project data estimates that where support was given 60% of people were facing poverty related issues e.g. low to negative household income, poor living conditions and material hardship that required simultaneous council and partner service responses. <p>A further initiative is being tested in Cowdenbeath building on the learning from this work .</p> <p>The programme of activity for the WFWF is aligned to priorities in the Children’s Services Plan 2023-26. A report on progress of the development and delivery of whole family support in Fife has been submitted to the Scottish Government and is included in the annual report for the Children’s Services Plan 2024. The next stage of Whole Family Wellbeing will continue to focus on the key drivers for</p>	<p>Child Poverty</p>

	2023/24 progress update and priorities for 2024/25	Status / notes
	change to support service redesign across the partnership leading to a sustainable model of delivery within communities in Fife.	

Outcome:

Improve the use of data relating to poverty and crisis to target spend on prevention of crisis

	2023/24 progress update and priorities for 2024/25	Status / notes
Use data and project intelligence to deliver better outcomes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Fuel Poverty Needs and Demand Assessment was undertaken to learn from winter 2022/23 and inform approach to support over winter 2023/24. Recommendations included Fife Council partnering with the Fuel Bank, to deliver fuel top-ups, and training of frontline organisations in provision of first level home energy advice. • Through the Low-Income Family Tracker (LIFT) there was an annual gain of £1,331,850 to Fife households via the Pension Credit and Attendance Allowance campaigns • LIFT enabled us to use our administrative datasets to quickly and accurately identify households that were subject to the benefit cap and met the criteria for DHP. This criteria includes those who were claiming Housing Benefit or the housing element of Universal Credit. A total of £111,979.28 April 23 was paid out for a total of 73 cases in 2023/24. • Tracking of impact of Unpaid Carers Campaign (September 2023) 	

	2023/24 progress update and priorities for 2024/25	Status / notes
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Debt profiling of LIFT data identified that 1 in 4 low-income households are in some kind of debt to Fife Council (the majority of debt relates to Council tax arrears). This identified a number of potential groups to target for support. 	
Improve data sharing across the Partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The LIFT Dashboard continues to provide valuable insight to services that enables them to target support to low-income households to maximise benefits and tackle debt. We met regularly with Social Security Scotland (SSS) to share Fife's information needs to inform what could be put in place for all council areas. This included facilitating links between SSS and SAVVI (Scalable Approach to Vulnerability Via Interoperability) A Fife briefing on analysis of first release of sub-local authority data on take up of Scottish Child Payment (SCP), showed strong positive correlation between take up of SCP and relative child poverty, suggesting that SCP is mitigating the impacts of poverty for those households in greatest need. We met with Julie Arnot from Public Health Scotland to explore new indicators being developed to assist in measuring child poverty at a local level. This included sharing innovative examples of how we have been using data locally, including use of LIFT for targeting, and local interpretation of nationally published data. 	
Targeting anti-poverty spend focussed on tangible impact that increases prevention measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Benefits maximisation projects were reviewed to assess the scale of each project relative to the size of the target group, including priority groups where possible. 	Data collected against 6 characteristics
Improve community voice structures	<p>North East Fife Lived Experience – Project Assistants</p> <p>The area team in North East Fife have recruited three Project Assistants, all with experience of living in poverty, to help the design, development, monitoring and review of projects, Project Assistants work closely with the area's Rural Poverty Group, which is focused on tackling poverty and improving access to services in the rural area of North East Fife.</p> <p>WFWF co-production and co-design approach</p>	

	2023/24 progress update and priorities for 2024/25	Status / notes
	The fund has enabled the creation of a Family Services Improvement Co-ordinator in FVA. A 2-day training course for the co-production project team was held in June 2023. The co-production team, which has been named 'Together for Change', identified the theme of service disconnection as an area of enquiry. Collaborative Conversations with CYPF and the workforce have been held across the seven localities. This is focusing on service users' perspectives and experiences of using services – what is working, what could be better, and how involved they are in shaping services. CYPF involvement has consisted of 135 C&YP and 184 Parents/Carers. An independent evaluation is being undertaken by IRISS and will be completed by August 2024.	

Outcome: Tackle Homelessness

	2023/24 progress update and priorities for 2024/25	Status / notes
Tackling homelessness	<p>Fife Council declared a housing emergency in March 2024. A three-year plan to tackle homelessness highlighted the need for an estimated £67.3 million to help the escalating number of families without permanent housing.</p> <p>Between March 2020 and March 2024, the number of households in temporary accommodation in Fife increased by 110%, rising from 525 to 1,100. As at March 2024, 387 children were living in temporary accommodation, up from 315 in 2020. Between 2023 and 2024 there was a 36% increase in households in temporary accommodation, however the number of children in temporary accommodation decreased by 5.6% over this period.</p>	
Implement the Housing First Model for 75 tenancies per year focussed on groups at risk of homelessness	<p>Progress in 2023/24 - Housing First was provided by 4 providers in 2023/24 to support all age groups across Fife. The number of Housing First Tenancies at the end of March 2024 was 66. Awareness sessions on the benefits of Housing First have been delivered to all Area Housing Teams, RSL Housing Officers, Temporary Accommodation and Safer Communities Teams.</p> <p>Priorities in 2024/25 – The aim is to continue to grow Housing First to 115 tenancies and build on partnerships within Health & Social Care partnership to improve wraparound support services.</p>	
Recommission a range of housing support and homelessness services with	Progress in 2023/24 - Our commissioned services have remained the same over this period as we are still trying to stabilise our support services after the disbanding of the PSP. Over the 23/24 period, 1771	

	2023/24 progress update and priorities for 2024/25	Status / notes
an enhanced focus on prevention and early intervention	<p>people have received support which includes both accommodated and visiting support clients, with over 90,000 hours of support being provided.</p> <p>Priorities in 2024/25 - Our aim is to continue to assist those most vulnerable, ensuring they receive the most appropriate support tailored to their needs. We will also strive to ensure that current commissioned services are performing to their potential in line with their SLAs.</p>	
Implement the Transitional Affordable Housing programme (TAHP)	<p>Progress in 2023/24 - FC & FHAA delivered 131 affordable units in 23/24 taking its total to 259 since the implementation of the TAHP. Open Market Shared Equity (OMSE) & Open Market Transactions (OMT) targets were met. New Builds started to complete, with all other new builds on site.</p> <p>Priorities in 2024/25 - The TAHP programme is expected to complete in 26/27. Fife Council had 8 new builds handed over at Methil High Street at the beginning of the financial year with a further 158 new builds expected to complete this year.</p> <p>It is unlikely that the TAHP target of 1200 Affordable Homes will be achieved. The TAHP is on target to complete 931 affordable Homes (78% of original TAHP Target) between 2022/23 and 2026/27.</p>	

Case Study

Client was referred for assistance by a Health Visitor. Food insecurity had occurred due to financial strain of the family relocating from Ireland to Fife.

A benefit check was completed, and the client disclosed that she had never been in receipt of Child Benefit for any of her 5 children as she thought that was what the Child Responsibility element of Universal Credit was all she was entitled to. In not claiming this benefit, the family was missing out on £87.60 per week.

The client has also not been claiming Scottish Child Payment. She was missing out on £25 per week per child = £125 per week.

During the conversation, the client also mentioned that she hadn't heard of the Best Start Grants or Best start foods administered by Social Security Scotland. The client could claim the Best Start Early Learning Payment for the 3-year-old child and Best Start School Payment for the 5-year-old child which was £589.40 in total. The client was also not claiming Best Start foods at £39.60 every 4 weeks.

Total unclaimed client financial gain = £11,644.40

Case Study

MTT (Maternity Income Maximisation)

A Family Nurse Practitioner called the MTT about a client who had put £30 into her meter for electricity and bought some food shopping but had no money left to last under her next universal credit payment in 6 days. The clients only received only £292.11 per month UC standard allowance with rent of £303 per month.

. The client is 19 years old and now 37 weeks' gestation with her first child, but due to being under 25, she only receives the lower rate of Universal Credit until her child is born. Client does receive Best Start Foods of £19.80 every 4 weeks and had received Best Start Pregnancy and Baby Payment of £707.25 The client has full Council Tax Reduction in place, all household bills are up to date, and she has no debt liabilities.

To assist the client the Family Nurse Practitioner offered to assist the client with an application to the Scottish Welfare Fund. The client was awarded £110 to support her with food and utility costs until the next payment of Universal Credit was received.

The client secured a Crisis Grant of £110, Child Responsibility Element of £244.58 per month, Child Benefit at £24 per week and Scottish child payment at £25 per week, which in total gave the client an additional £5,286.



BENEFIT TAKE UP CAMPAIGN TIMELINE

CAMPAIGN	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	
TAX FREE CHILDCARE	■						
HEALTH RELATED BENEFITS			■				
JOB START PAYMENT				■			
SCHOOL AGE CHILDREN				■			
FUNERAL SUPPORT PAYMENT						■	

Fife Partnership Board

www.fife.gov.uk/committee/fifepartnership

Agenda Item No. 6

6 August 2024

Fife Children's Services Annual Report 2023-24

Report by: Angela Logue, Co-Chair, Children in Fife

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to present Fife Partnership Board with the Fife Children's Services Annual Report 2023-24 for the Board's consideration and approval. The Annual Report provides an overview of progress with implementation of the Fife Children's Services Plan 2023-26. Approval of the report will enable the statutory requirement for reporting on children's services to be completed.

Recommendations

That Fife Partnership Board:

1. Consider and approve the Fife Children's Services Annual Report 2023-24.

Resource Implications

The Annual Report outlines the steps being undertaken by the Children's Services Partnership to ensure that outcomes for children, young people and families in Fife improve, by ensuring that best value is achieved from existing resources.

Consultation

The work of the Children's Services Partnership is informed by an ongoing process of consultation and engagement with leaders and representatives of staff from across the partnership, together with feedback from children, young people and families, which is gathered through a range of sources.



**#Keeping
The Promise
in Fife**

1.0 Background

- 1.1 The Fife Children's Services Plan 2023-26 is an overarching strategic plan, whose purpose is to safeguard, support and promote the wellbeing of all children. The plan meets a statutory requirement (under para. 8 of Part 3 of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014) for the publication of a three-year strategic plan for partnership children's services. The current plan was endorsed by the Fife Partnership Board in November last year and can be found at: <https://www.fife.gov.uk/FifeCSPlan2023>.
- 1.2 The Fife Children's Services Annual Report 2023-24 provides an overview of progress with implementation of the Fife Children's Services Plan 2023-26, during the statutory reporting period April 2023 - March 2024. The Annual Report meets a statutory requirement (under para. 13 of Part 3 of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014) for the publication of a report on progress in implementing the current plan.
- 1.3 The Fife Children's Services Annual Report 2023-24 is included as Appendix 1 to this paper. Approval of the report by the Fife Partnership Board will enable the statutory requirements for annual reporting on children's services to be completed.

2.0 Progress during 2023-24

- 2.1 The Annual Report provides an overview of improvement activity across the four main areas of improvement in the current Children's Services Plan. These are:
 - Health and Wellbeing
 - Supporting Families
 - Engagement of our Children, Young People and Families
 - Equity and Equality
- 2.2 The report highlights a number of areas where significant progress was made during 2023-24. In particular:
 - Findings from the first **Fife Health and Wellbeing Survey** are being used to inform ongoing activity to improve Health and Wellbeing (as detailed on pages 7-10 of the Annual Report).
 - A comprehensive **Review of Whole Family Wellbeing** in Fife has been undertaken. This review has identified specific actions to help improve the focus and impact of Fife's approach to Whole Family Wellbeing (as detailed on pages 11-13 of the Annual Report). The Review and its recommendations have been accepted by the Whole Family Wellbeing Leadership Group. A specific action plan is currently being developed to implement these recommendations.
 - The **Child Wellbeing Pathway** is the multi-agency process in place across the Children's Services Partnership to support implementation of Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC). This has been refreshed to take account of

new national GIRFEC guidance and also national Child Protection Guidance. The refresh has also included a review of the child's plan and Multi-Agency Chronology guidance (as detailed on page 19 of the Annual Report).

- Recognising our clear commitment to keeping the Promise and ensuring continuous improvement, a **Promise Lead Officer** has been appointed. This has helped to deliver a more coordinated approach to the Promise across the Children's Services Partnership and the Fife Corporate Parenting Board (as detailed on pages 20-23 of the Annual Report).
- The Whole Family Wellbeing Review also identified a number of areas for improvement relevant to the **wider working of the Fife Children's Services Partnership**. These are summarised in section 3.0 of this paper. Children in Fife has accepted these findings. Actions have been agreed for Next Steps to Improve our Partnership Approach to children's services. These are summarised in section 4.0.

3.0 Key findings for partnership working from the Whole Family Wellbeing Review

3.1 Significant progress has been made in a number of key areas over the past year (as summarised in section 2 of this paper). One particularly important element of this progress has been the completion of a comprehensive review of Whole Family Wellbeing. This review was thorough and wide-ranging and has helped to crystallise a number of areas for improvement in wider partnership working. In particular:

- **Our Whole-System Approach.** We have a range of services that provide support for children and families, across universal, additional and intensive levels of need. However, we do not have an agreed, clear and explicit framework to describe our current service offer across all levels of need. We also have a limited ability to understand the pathways taken by families and children as their needs and personal circumstances develop over the course of time.
- **Quality Improvement at a System Level.** We have significant expertise in the use of Quality Improvement approaches, well-established expectations regarding the use of rigorous approaches to improvement, and a record of developing effective and evidence-based programmes and interventions. However, quality improvement activity has not been well targeted at issues of strategic or system-level importance. There has also been limited success in scaling and spreading effective programmes and interventions, developed through rigorous quality improvement work.
- **Our Theories of Change and Evidence of Impact.** Leaders and staff across the partnership have shown a strong intuition about the type of activity that could help improve service design and delivery. However, this is often not well formulated as a testable proposition (i.e., a theory of change) with appropriate measures to evidence the short-, medium- and longer-term impact of improvement work is variable.

- **The Effective Use of Resources.** We use resources and existing expertise to support the development – and ongoing improvement – of a wide range of services to better support families and children. However, there is limited targeting or coordination in the way that we currently use resources to address issues of strategic or system-level importance.

3.2 Children in Fife (the governance group for the Fife Children’s Services Partnership) has considered the Whole Family Wellbeing Review and has accepted these findings. The following section outlines the improvement actions that are being taken to address these findings.

4.0 Next Steps

4.1 In order to address the Areas for Improvement highlighted in section 3.0, Children in Fife agreed to adopt the following immediate and longer-term improvement actions.

4.2 Immediate improvement actions

4.2.1 To recruit a Lead Performance Analyst for Children’s Services. This post will provide the skills and capacity needed:

- To help progress existing improvement actions relating to children’s services data (including: improving data on Equity and Equality, developing evidence regarding the pathways of children and families through our system of support, developing measures for the impact of early intervention and prevention).
- To provide support and challenge for the choice of appropriate short-, medium- and long-term improvement actions across all areas of quality improvement activity.

4.2.2 To identify additional capacity (in the form of a policy officer / project manager) to strengthen support and challenge for our current improvement actions. This will build on the model provided by the Whole Family Wellbeing Review, to strengthen the capacity available for structured, informed, strategic-level discussions of improvement actions across all aspects of Children’s Services.

4.3 Longer-term improvement actions (2024-26)

4.3.1 To develop a “**whole system**” **framework** of Fife children’s services. This will be based on a formal, clear and explicit mapping of current services and will provide a strengthened basis for quality assurance. The framework will be designed to:

- Incorporate a range of evidence, including quantitative, process indicators and qualitative feedback.
- Support a better understanding of the pathways taken by families and children through our current system of services.
- Inform our understanding of current “whole system” performance.
- Enable a clearer basis for systematic self-evaluation and ongoing review of existing services and improvement activity.

- Provide a more robust basis for evaluating our use of available resources to meet the needs of children and young people.

4.3.2 To review our **approach to strategic improvement**, with the aim of ensuring that:

- Improvement plans are supported by a well formulated and testable proposition (i.e., a theory of change) with appropriate measures to evidence the short-, medium- and longer-term impact of improvement work is variable.
- Expertise in quality improvement approaches is used to better identify and support issues of strategic or system-level importance, with a view to structured scale and spread of improvement.

4.3.3 The longer-term improvement actions summarised above will be progressed through a short-life working group after the summer.

4.3.4 Scoping work is currently being undertaken by a core group of members of the Fife Children's Services Partnership, to develop guidance for this short-life working group. This will include a draft scope, remit, timescale and support arrangements for the work of this group, as well as a summary of useful evidence and information to support its work.

5.0 Conclusion

5.1 The Fife Children's Services Annual Report 2023-24 provides an overview of progress with implementation of the Fife Children's Services Plan 2023-26.

5.2 Significant progress has been made in a number of key areas over the past year (as summarised in section 2 of this paper). One particularly important element of this progress has been the completion of a comprehensive review of Whole Family Wellbeing. This review was thorough and wide-ranging and has helped to crystallise a number of areas for improvement in wider partnership working (as summarised in section 3). Specific actions are now being developed to help ensure an improvement to these aspects of partnership working over the remainder of the current Children's Services Plan (as summarised in section 4).

5.3 The Fife Partnership Board is invited to comment on the approach being taken to improve partnership working across children's services and to approve the Fife Children's Services Annual Report 2023-24.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Fife Children's Services Annual Report 2023-24

Report Contacts:

Angela Logue
Head of Education
Education Directorate, Fife Council
Angela.Logue@fife.gov.uk



Children's Services Annual Report

2023-24

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Fife Children's Services Annual Report 2023-24

Introduction

Fife's Children's Services Partnership involves a range of partners who provide services for children and young people. We promote, support and safeguard the wellbeing of our children and young people, by working collaboratively to provide early and preventative support for all.

This Annual Report reviews the progress that we have made in implementing the *Fife Children's Services Plan 2023-26*. A copy of the plan can be found at: www.fife.gov.uk/FifeCSPlan2023.

This Report describes a wide range of work involving staff and services across the Fife Children's Services Partnership. These actions are helping us to work towards fulfilling the aspirations of the landmark incorporation of children's rights into Scottish law and are supporting us to achieve our vision: **"making Fife a place where every child and young person matters"**.

June 2024



Lisa Cooper

Co-Chair, Children in Fife

*Head of Primary & Preventative
Care Services, Fife Health and
Social Care Partnership*



Angela Logue

Co-Chair, Children in Fife

*Head of Education,
Fife Council*

Section 1 – Some notable achievements in 2023-24

- Findings from the first **Fife Health and Wellbeing Survey** are being used to inform ongoing activity to improve Health and Wellbeing (pages 7-10).
- We have undertaken a comprehensive **Review of Whole Family Wellbeing in Fife**. This review has identified specific actions to help improve the focus and impact of Fife's approach to Whole Family Wellbeing (see pages 11-13).
- The **Child Wellbeing Pathway** is the multi-agency process in place across the Children's Services Partnership to support implementation of Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC). This has been refreshed to take account of new national GIRFEC guidance and also national Child Protection Guidance. The refresh has also included a review of the child's plan and Multi-Agency Chronology guidance (see page 19).
- Recognising our clear commitment to keeping the Promise and ensuring continuous improvement, a **Promise Lead Officer** has been appointed. This has helped to deliver a more coordinated approach to the Promise across the Children's Services Partnership and the Fife Corporate Parenting Board (see pages 20-23).
- The Whole Family Wellbeing Review also identified a number of areas for improvement relevant to the wider working of the Fife Children's Services Partnership. Children in Fife has accepted these findings. Actions have been agreed for **Next Steps to Improve our Partnership Approach** to children's services planning. This will be implemented over the remaining two years of the current Children's Services Plan (see pages 24-25).

Section 2 –
Our progress
with
improvement
in 2023-24

Our approach to improvement

The following page provides an overview of the priorities for improvement identified in the Fife Children's Services Plan 2023-26.

There are four main areas of improvement:

- **Health & Wellbeing**
- **Supporting Families**
- **Engagement of our Children, Young People and Families**
- **Equity and Equality**

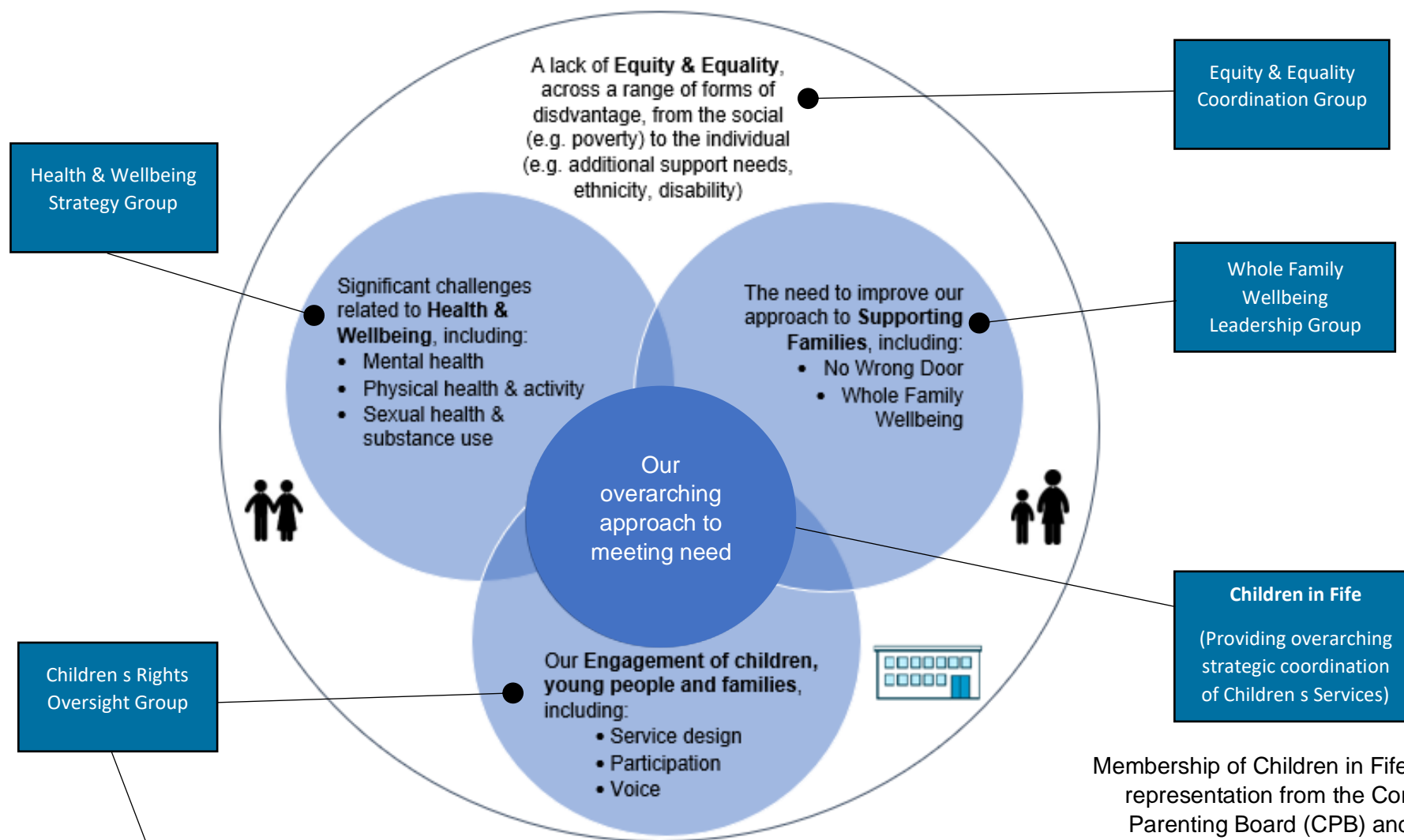
This improvement work is overseen by Children in Fife, the Governance Group for Fife Children's Services Partnership. The group receives regular updates from the strategic lead groups for each priority.

This section provides an update on work undertaken for these four improvement priorities.

Children in Fife oversees the partnership's wider approach to prevention and early intervention, its implementation of GIRFEC and Delivery of the Promise. Children in Fife ensures that our **overarching approach** to children's services meets the needs of all children and young people, including children and young people at risk of harm, in need of care, or in need of protection.

Section 3 of this Annual Report provides a review of this work.

Work to oversee implementation of the Fife Children’s Services Plan 2023-26 is being led by the following strategic groups:



● In addressing these challenges, our work – with children, young people and families, collectively as a children’s services partnership, and with wider partners – will be underpinned by a **rights-based approach** rooted in the UNCRC.

Membership of Children in Fife, includes representation from the Corporate Parenting Board (CPB) and Child Protection Committee (CPC) – to ensure alignment of actions for Looked After Children (LAC) and children on the Child Protection Register (CPR) – as well as each of the lead strategic groups

Our progress in improving Health and Wellbeing

Context

The **Health & Wellbeing Strategy Group** oversees implementation of the improvement plan for Health and Wellbeing.

The group includes lead members from the 3 key partnership groups that oversee work relating to health and wellbeing. It:

- Owns: the action plan for the improvement theme of Health & Wellbeing
- Provides a link to the work of: the Fife Alcohol & Drugs Partnership (ADP) and the Health and Social Care Partnership
- Promotes: within the UNCRC relating to health and wellbeing

The table below provides an update on progress in implementing the improvement plan for Health and Wellbeing, as set out in the Fife Children's Services Plan 2023-26:

What is the key issue/ challenge?	What do we need to do to address this?	Summary of progress made during period April 2023 - March 2024	Evidence of progress and impact as at March 2024	Next steps for year 2024-25
Multi-agency approaches to ensure access to mental health supports and services for all children, young people and their families	Improved accessibility to mental health supports for children, young people and their families, ensuring they receive the right support at the right time from the right service	Funding has been extended in SHOUT service until March 2024 - crisis support service. Funding sources are being explored to continue this resource. A group has been established to review practices between and across partners who provide targeted services to support young people's mental wellbeing. They are looking at current criterion, thresholds etc. and will propose areas for improvement.	Work is underway exploring shared pathways, practices and processes to streamline them and make them more cohesive and simpler. This includes consideration of how to widen spectrum of support provided through e.g. School Counselling Services to include CBT delivery linking to commissioning timeline through reporting to the Strategic Commissioning Group.	Development of a Multi-agency Single Point of Access Pilot, to include mechanism for follow-on supports (e.g., in a locality)

	<p>Professional Development and capacity building opportunities are in place for all staff supporting children, young people and their families mental health, focusing on early intervention approaches</p>	<p>Six multi-agency trainers now trained in Decider Skills. Whole School approach to Decider Skills being piloted in 3 primary schools across Fife, with all school staff now trained. In collaboration with School Nursing and Barnardo's the 3 schools are developing an action plan for implementation to all senior pupils and families within the school community.</p>	<p>Consultation is underway on the new, refreshed Fife guidance on how to effectively understand & respond to Young People at risk of Suicide. Next steps have been identified in ensuring that children, young people, staff & families from groups who are more vulnerable or at risk of poor mental health have increased access to support with greater focus on targeted support.</p>	<p>Support roll out & implementation of new guidance on how to effectively understand & respond to Young People at risk of Suicide. Pilot an extension of hours for Children and young people who are either admitted to a Fife inpatient setting or who present with self-harming behaviours, suicidal ideation or other in line with CAMHS National Specification & National developments</p>
	<p>Improved multi-agency data to inform the mental health needs of young people and their families in Fife, ensuring that we respond appropriately</p>	<p>Themes for improvement from Fife Young People's HWB Survey being widely shared across partners and geography of Fife to inform local improvement work</p>	<p>Data sessions completed with all 3 H&WB Strategic groups to look at YP H&WB Survey in depth with compatible data alongside wellbeing data delivered at 7 Area Committees alongside Health. Mapping exercise being undertaken to look at group structures within the Physical Activity and Healthy Diet landscape and considering outcomes, influence and future work.</p>	<p>Actions focus on Early Intervention and prevention. Work with Young People and other partners to develop improvement activities which will lead to an impact positively on future data.</p>
<p>Children & young people's physical wellbeing and participation in physical activity & sport has been negatively impacted by the covid- 19 pandemic. The Scottish Parent Survey reported a consistent decline</p>	<p>Increase access to sport & physical activity for our most vulnerable and / or disadvantaged Children & Young People. Enable Children, Young People & families to understand the importance of leading an active lifestyle, healthier diet and healthy weight.</p>	<p>Mapping exercise complete to identify group structures within the Physical Activity and Healthy Diet landscape and considering outcomes, influence and future work. Example project across Active Fife partnership - Active for Life - Hub / Club Connect: £60K over two years' funding secured from Community Recovery Fund to roll out Hub/Club Connect across all 7 localities to connect community sports hubs and clubs with pupils from local schools to aid the transition of inactive</p>	<p>New physical activity & healthy diet group established with group reps confirmed across a range of partners. Consultation amongst partners complete to refine future direction for the group with delivery plan & actions confirmed. Initial review of HWB survey to inform future planning with mapping of associated group structures complete with view to influencing wider systematic</p>	<p>Communication mechanisms to be established across all associated group structures, ensuring awareness raising at all levels and influence of test of changes projects which are reported on effectively. Work with associated groups, using data to inform practice / activities delivered across PA & HD landscape.</p>

<p>in children's activity levels, socialisation & free play with other children, with the greatest impact on those most vulnerable and / or disadvantaged.</p>		<p>children into community hubs/sessions.</p>	<p>change across the PA & HD landscape.</p>	
<p>Increasing the level of confidence, competence and knowledge of the workforce to engage with children and young people about Healthy Relationships and Substance Use (including parental substance use)</p>	<p>Develop and deliver a workforce development programme for staff working with children and families.</p>	<p>A short workforce development online questionnaire is being devised. Promotion of this will be broad and feedback will inform the planning for workforce development across the three HWB subgroups.</p>	<p>Draft questions relating to all three subgroups have been developed and circulated to group members.</p>	<p>Complete survey by Sept 2024. Consider responses and develop WFD action plan for implementation April 2025</p>
<p>Increasing the confidence, competence and knowledge of parents and carers to engage with children and young people about Healthy Relationships and Substance Use.</p>	<p>Develop and deliver resources, information, support and training to parents and carers.</p>	<p>Development work in relation to RSHP resource being undertaken as part of school community awareness raising and roll out of resource. A pilot of online support provided by ADP and Children Services third sector partner to parents and carers.</p>	<p>Development group has been formed & progression pathways have been started to cover:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Positive Relationships • Role of Parent & Carer • Physical Changes, Sexual Health & Sexuality <p>The deadline date for these is June 2024 in readiness for use in the 24-25 academic session within schools.</p>	<p>Needs analysis to be completed with school staff next session to identify further support required to ensure knowledge and confidence of staff to deliver RSHP. SWAYS and presentation slides to be developed for sharing with parents and carers by school staff.</p>

<p>Ensuring safety health and wellbeing of children and young people who experience alcohol or drug related hospital admissions</p>	<p>Ensuring safety health and wellbeing of children and young people who experience alcohol or drug related hospital admissions</p>	<p>Working group established and led by Fife Alcohol and Drug Partnership (ADP) with relevant hospital, school and community-based staff to further analyse admissions data for this group, sensitive to age ranges. Voice of lived experience has been included via third sector youth forum. Objective is to review and refresh pathways</p>	<p>Pathways being reviewed and refined to include integration of ADP funded third sector services in line with ADP Strategy theme of protecting and supporting families, children/young people and communities</p>	<p>Approval of new pathway via appropriate governance routes, disseminate and promote pathway. Build in an evaluation process to assess impact on a strategic, service and personal outcome level.</p>
<p>Understanding and responding to children and young people who are Care experienced or in need of additional support (1) in relation to Healthy Relationships and Substance use (Including parental/ carer substance use)</p>	<p>Explore the needs of care experienced receiving additional support in relation to healthy relationships and substance use.</p>	<p>Work in this area being led by other strategic groups in Health. HWB group is linked into Health in Care experienced community /Promise groups within health to ensure Sexual health and wellbeing and substance use issues is considered in support being developed/actions agreed.</p>	<p>Members of HWB group connected to Promise and Health In Care experienced groups. A newly established multi agency Rapid Action Group led by HSCP is leading on a preventative and early intervention approach in line with the ADP Strategy to support young people at risk of harm caused by their own use of substances and has both a whole population approach and specific targeting for young people at the most risk. This group provides updates to CPC.</p>	<p>Support roll out & implementation of new guidance on how to effectively understand & respond to Young People at risk of Suicide. Pilot an extension of hours for Children and young people who are either admitted to a Fife inpatient setting or who present with self-harming behaviours, suicidal ideation or other in line with CAMHS National Specification & National developments</p>

Our Progress in better Supporting Families

Context

The Whole Family Wellbeing Fund is being used in Fife as the basis for improving support for families. This work is overseen by the Whole Family Wellbeing Fund Leadership Group, which includes representation from partners within Fife Children's Services Partnership.

To date, the Whole Family Wellbeing Fund has supported a range of projects developed by partners, to support improvement across all aspects of Whole Family Wellbeing. These have sought to strengthen and extend the impact of existing approaches, or to support improvement work to address specific, known gaps or challenges in current practice, support or provision.

Appendix 1 to this Annual Report provides a review of the work progressed within these projects over the past year.

The Whole Family Wellbeing Review

A review of work in Fife supported by the Whole Family Wellbeing Fund has been underway since January 2024, which has considered projects currently supported by the Whole Family Wellbeing Fund within the period 2023-24 and 2024-25.

The purpose of the review has been to assess how well our current approach meets the key criterion for Whole Family Wellbeing Funding: ***to support transformational change across the system to deliver whole family support which is sustainable and focused on earlier intervention and support.***

In order to make this assessment, the review has considered:

- How the funded work is helping improve Whole Family Support in Fife.
- How the work is developing an evidence base for change.
- How the work can ensure sustainable change with a lasting impact beyond the term of the Whole Family Wellbeing Fund.

A final report containing the findings of the review has been considered by the Whole Family Wellbeing Fund Leadership Group and by Children in Fife (the governance group for Fife Children's Services Partnership). The report included a number of recommendations that have been adopted as the basis for better Supporting Families in Fife.

The following pages provide an overview of key findings from the Review.

Key findings of the Whole family Wellbeing Review in Fife

Work to date has been organised around a number of specific projects that have used improvement approaches to address existing challenges and to build on existing good practice. These have been predominantly focussed on particular aspects of service delivery, support, or ways of working.

A more strategic approach to the use of Whole Family Wellbeing funding is now needed in order to enable transformational change across the system, which is sustainable and focused on earlier intervention and support.

It is recommended that Whole Family Wellbeing work should be progressively focussed on a number of specific challenges defined by the following four strategic themes:

Children and families at the centre

- A. The **Child Wellbeing Pathway** has a central role to play in the development of a more coherent whole system view of service provision. It is important that the use of the Child Wellbeing Pathway as a key process to support earlier intervention is well supported.
- B. Work should be undertaken to scope and develop a **structured evidence base** to understand the pathways taken through available services by children and young people. This should include quantitative data (e.g., process indicators) and qualitative evidence (e.g., lived experience). The evidence base should (ultimately) enable the consequences of system-level change to be measured and understood.
- C. The development of a structured evidence base will be a complex task. Available evidence will be partial and incomplete; and the underlying issues influencing the needs of children and families will include 'wicked issues' (e.g., poverty). Consideration should be given to scoping support from appropriate sources of **expertise** in developing this evidence base (e.g., accessing academic expertise in systems tools and approaches, via a research project or Knowledge Transfer Partnership).

Availability and access

- D. A **formal partnership framework** should be developed reflecting services that the Children's Services Partnership considers to be of strategic importance for effective family support, early intervention and prevention. Commissioning should be used to ensure that this service provision meets the needs of disadvantaged or vulnerable children and families.
- E. Evidence-based programmes have a key role to play in the development of an effective system of support for families. Established programmes for family support should be embedded within the **Family Support Service** to ensure their longer-term sustainability.
- F. A **benchmarking** exercise should be undertaken with other CSPPs to establish how Fife's current work on integrated early support and early help can be further developed into a more comprehensive, integrated model of early support (see WFW key finding 5).

Whole system approach

- G. **A more structured approach to the use of Quality Improvement** is needed to support ongoing improvement in Whole Family Wellbeing. This will require a review of the way that available expertise in quality improvement methodologies is used by the Fife Children's Services Partnership, if this is to achieve system level impact.
- H. This would help to ensure a more strategic approach to implementing improvement actions within the Children's Services Plan. It will be important to ensure that learning from quality improvement work is embedded within the **quality assurance framework** supporting children's services, as improvement projects come to a close. This could be achieved (for example) by ensuring that appropriate quality control measures are identified and included within a structured evidence base to support whole system improvement.

Leadership, workforce and culture

- I. The Children's Services Partnership should recognise the need for a "**learning organisation**" approach which encompasses the key, strategic elements of children's services planning and provision. This should be focussed on enabling whole system understanding and improvement for family support, early intervention and prevention.
- J. Adequate **resources** and capacity will need to be identified to support this approach. Mechanisms will need to be established to retain collective, current knowledge and understanding. These should focus on knowledge and understanding of particular strategic significance. This focus would be linked to the scope of a structured evidence base to better understand the pathways of children and young people through the whole system of family support.
- K. There will be a significant interface between work on Whole Family Wellbeing and the **No Wrong Door** model currently being developed in Fife. It will be important to ensure that the children's services partnership retains the capacity for system/organisational learning, as NWD develops. Available evidence will need to support appropriate strategic theories of change for ongoing improvement work, linked to a continuously developing professional understanding of service needs. There are risks in focussing on the data alone, rather than the understanding of what the data means.

Next Steps

During 2024-25 a specific action plan is being developed to implement the recommendations outlined above. This will include work to update the driver diagram for Fife's approach to Whole Family Wellbeing, informed by learning from the review of Whole Family Wellbeing. As current improvement projects funded by the WFW Fund come to a close learning and good practice achieved will be integrated into our services, to ensure the ongoing improvement of our offers of support and ways of working.

Work in this area will also be supported by the next steps for improved partnership working outlined in section 4. These have been developed in response to wider areas for improvement in partnership working identified through the Whole family Wellbeing Review.

Our Progress in improving Engagement

Context

The **Children's Rights Group** oversees implementation of the improvement plan for Engagement.

It is a partnership group that oversees work to promote children's rights and the partnership's approach to participation and engagement.

The group:

- Owns: action plan for improvement theme of Engagement of children, young people and families
- Coordinates: collective ownership and delivery of the UNCRC
- Is responsible for: Children's Services Plan requirements relating to Children's Rights Reporting
- Promotes: defined rights within the UNCRC, including article 12 (I have the right to be listened to and taken seriously)

The table below provides an update on progress in implementing the improvement plan for Engagement, as set out in the Fife Children's Services Plan 2023-26:

What is the key issue/challenge?	What do we need to do to address this?	Summary of progress made during period, including evidence of progress April 2023 - March 2024	Next steps for year 2024-25
Develop a consistent approach to participation and engagement with children and young people	Jointly agree the principles of effective engagement and participation. Create an overview of engagement and participation across services	A Children's Rights Strategic group has been formed and a short life working group for participation and engagement. Participation and engagement strategies have been gathered in from 5 partner services. Good practice visits have taken place to Inverclyde and Dundee to look outward to learn from what is happening in other local authorities.	Develop a Children Services participation and engagement strategy or framework. Map out existing groups that engage with children and young people across Fife. Create a calendar of planned participation across Children Services.
Ensure that there are active and meaningful engagement of children and young people in decisions that affect them and the planning	Support the framework devised by young people during the Children's Services Plan 2021-23	A Project Manager is now in post and a Youth worker has been recruited to support this work.	In line with above action, a assurance framework will be designed to measure impact and outcome of participation and engagement approaches

and delivery of services across Fife.			
Ensuring that we work with – and support – young people in a rights-based way	Raise awareness of UNCRC across wider partnership services <i>(Delivery Group: Workforce Development Subgroup)</i>	A questionnaire has been created to gather a baseline of maturity. Support materials are being gathered to feed the comms strategy.	We will carry out the questionnaire. We will launch an intranet site to host materials. Deliver training on the effective engagement of children and young people.
	Promote a rights-based approach through the introduction of a Children's Rights Charter	Project Manager is now in post. Youth worker has been recruited. Good practice visit to Inverclyde. Draft proposal created.	Measure and evidence impact of any recommendations and plans implemented with an ongoing improvement approach reporting accordingly to Children in Fife re progress and learning with assurance re actions taken
	Develop Guidance for creating child friendly complaints procedures	We have joined the Scottish governments pilot of the new child friendly complaints procedure.	Adapt this guidance for use in Fife in partnership with children and young people. Share guidance across the partnership services
	Ensure that we fulfil our requirement to report progress to the Scottish Government	A Children's Rights report for 2020-23 has been completed, signed off and published Work is ongoing to further develop and implement the improvement plan for 2023-26	Ongoing work to implement the improvement plan for 2023-26 signed off by partnership Ongoing collation of evidence of impact and improvement, to help inform ongoing reporting on Children's Rights in Fife

Our Progress in improving Equity and Equality

Context

The **Equity & Equality Coordination Group** oversees implementation of the improvement plan for Equity and Equality.

The group works to ensure Children in Fife has oversight of key actions relating to issues of equity and equality. The Group **reports** to Children in Fife on progress with:

- Tackling poverty and preventing crisis, as it affects families with children and young people. This work is overseen by the Child Poverty Group and is progressed within the work programme of the Tackling Poverty and Preventing Crisis (TPPC) Group. This forms part of wider partnership working within the Plan 4 Fife (the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan for Fife) to tackle poverty and prevent crisis; this also incorporates Fife's Local Child Poverty Action Reporting.
- Monitoring general progress in improving outcomes for children and young people affected by issues of equity & equality (unless these are specifically monitored elsewhere). This work is overseen by the Children's Services Data Group and involves reporting on outcomes within the Fife Wellbeing Indicator set for key risk groups. A significant element of this work involves improving the scope of data available relating to families affected by equity and equality issues.

Our approach in 2023-24

In addressing equity and equality issues across Fife there has been a need to work collaboratively across health and education services, ensuring at all times that identified groups within the Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017 are at the heart of the work that is being undertaken. Equity and Equality are areas that cut across all the work that we do and need to be embedded across services.

In collaboration with the Scottish Government's School Aged Child Care Team, we have worked to co-design what childcare would be required to support families into work, as well as supporting those identified as being within the six key groups in the Best Start Bright Futures national delivery plan. This has involved scoping out existing childcare within the Early Adopter Community of Levenmouth through engagement with a wide range of stakeholders in the area to gain feedback on current childcare usage and future need to identify what the demand may look like. This work aligns directly with the work of the Child Poverty Group. We are now in the process of devising a referral system to support families who require childcare and find the cost difficult and also for families where the children would benefit from accessing quality childcare provision. This work is being carried out with involvement from key partners such as Fife Gingerbread, CARF, Home Start, Education, Social Work partners.

A key element of our work this year has been to ensure that families are supported to maximise their incomes. This work has been undertaken through a range of income maximisation initiatives including Support and Connect; Boosting Budgets; Education Welfare network and Cost of the School Day. The **Case Study** on the following page provides an example of the impact of this work.

Our Additional Support for Learning Strategy has been developed in response to the Angela Morgan Review 2020, which examined how well embedded the ASL legislation was in Scottish Education. Our vision is to support children and young people to have high quality educational experiences both in their local settings, in line with the presumption of mainstream, and in our enhanced support provisions and to provide high quality professional learning. Our strategy and workplan came out of an extensive consultation process, where we took feedback on how the Education Service is meeting the needs of children and young people with additional support needs, from staff, parents and carers and children and young people. Over the course of this year, we have worked with partners to:

- Increase the visibility of meeting additional support needs across the Service
- Review how we allocate places within our enhanced support provisions (Special Schools, Additional Support Classes in primaries and Departments of Additional Support in high schools)
- Move the funding for these provisions closer to children and young people, to allow for greater agility based on need
- Further develop the suite of professional learning and signposting, particularly with regard to neurodiversity and universal approaches to meeting the needs of learners
- Rigour around data gathering and using this to inform decisions
- Plan for additional support needs emphasising the importance of pupil voice and the views of families

A key aspect of our work this year has been in partnership with our health colleagues in implementing changes to the neurodevelopmental assessment process.

Through the Health Equity Group work has been undertaken to understand the gaps and barriers for supporting good health and wellbeing for children and young people with disabilities. This has involved consultation with key stakeholders to identify areas for improvement and development. Following circulation and presentation of the Closing the Equity Gap report to Child Health Management Team in March 2024, and thereafter an extraordinary meeting April 2024 focussing on the report's recommendations, an improvement plan for children and young people with disabilities was agreed. This work will significantly contribute to services fulfilling their legislative duties in regard to UNCRC.

Boosting Budgets – A Case Study

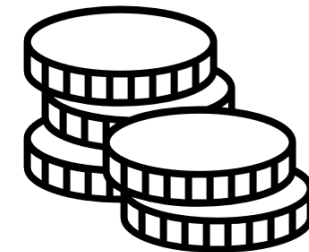
(Names have been changed to preserve anonymity)

- Mary was referred to the Boosting Budgets worker by her grandson's school via Support and Connect. I have been working with Mary for over 1 year.
- She is a kinship carer for 2 of her grandchildren and was in receipt of Universal Credit (with child element), Child Benefit and Scottish Child Payment, alongside her Kinship Care Allowance from Fife Council.
- I carried out a benefit check with Mary, this identified that she was not claiming Council Tax Reduction. I helped her to complete this application, and this was awarded.
- At the initial appointment, Mary was advised of the widening of Scottish Child Payment to include children up to age 16 (this was in Nov 2022). I let her know how to contact Social Security Scotland to apply for this for both children.
- Mary reported that she has serious health conditions and was in receipt of the LCWRA (Limited Capability Work Related Activity) element on her UC. I let her know about a possible entitlement to ADP if she were to claim. I also gave her advice on how to make this claim and the evidence that she would need to support her application.
- Mary also let me know that her grandson was being assessed for possible ADHD and is being sent home from school on at least a weekly basis. I let Mary know that she may be able to claim CDP for him and advised her how to do this.
- I offered to support Mary to complete the applications, but she felt confident enough to do this herself after our discussion and she submitted online applications for both ADP and CDP.
- Mary was firstly awarded ADP – high-rate Daily Living and Low-Rate Mobility. However, the CDP decision remained outstanding for some time. It was confirmed that Social Security Scotland had the form though.

Impact

Financial gains for Mary have totalled more than £20,000 from a range of entitlements, including:

- Council tax reduction
- Scottish Child Payment
- Adult Disability Payment (Daily Living and Mobility elements)
- Child Disability Payment (Care and Mobility elements)
- Universal Credit (Disabled Child Payment)



Section 3 - our overarching approach to meeting need

Our approach to implementing GIRFEC



The Child Wellbeing Pathway is Fife's multi-agency process in place across the Children's Services Partnership to support implementation of Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC). The Pathway was refreshed in 2023-24 to take account of new national GIRFEC guidance and also national Child Protection Guidance.

What is the key issue/ challenge?	What do we need to do to address this?	Summary of progress made during period April 2023 - March 2024	Evidence of progress and impact in 2023-24	Next steps for year 2024-25
Ensuring that the Child Wellbeing Pathway provides an effective basis for our GIRFEC approach	Ensure all staff have clear guidance on the use of the Child Wellbeing Pathway	The Child Wellbeing Pathway has been the multi -agency process in place across the Children's Services Partnership to support implementation of Getting it Right for Every Child since 2018. This has been refreshed to take account of new national GIRFEC guidance and also national Child Protection Guidance. The refresh has also included a review of the Childs Plan and Multi- Agency Chronology guidance.	The Children in Fife group approved the refreshed guidance on the 2nd of May 2024.	Single agencies are now developing implementation plans focused on the workforce, quality improvement and further consideration of the data both quantitative and qualitative that should be collated. Multi-agency Practice Development Sessions are planned from August 2024-July 2025, these will provide opportunities to consider themes such as Assessment Practice and Tools; Information Sharing; A Team Around the Child approach. Evaluation of the workforce developments will be considered by the Whole Family Wellbeing Leadership Group.
	Workforce development on use of the Child Wellbeing Pathway	A key focus in Fife is to streamline pathways to enable children, young people and families to access the right support at the right time. Key practice principles have been strengthened, this has included a review of the Getting It Right in Fife Framework which places emphasis on children at the centre, voice of children and young people, rights-based practice and a Team Around the Child approach. The focus remains earlier intervention, mobilising support early and in a proportionate way.		
	Ensure that we are recording use of the CWP and are able to monitor the journey of children			

Our approach to Delivering the Promise

Work on Delivering the Promise in Fife is overseen by Children in Fife, the governance group for the Fife Children’s Services Partnership. The table below provides a summary overview of progress in addressing the key actions identified to strengthen Fife’s approach in the Fife Children’s Services Plan 2023-26. The following pages provide a more detailed review of ongoing work.



What is the key issue/ challenge?	What do we need to do to address this?	Summary of progress made during period April 2023 - March 2024	Evidence of progress and impact in 2023-24	Next steps for year 2024-25
Keeping The Promise in Fife	<p>Establish a role of Keeping the Promise in Fife Lead Officer, to provide a strategic lead for The Promise and to coordinate with other aspects of children’s services.</p> <p>Awareness of the Promise and its importance to the work of all in Fife Partnership – as corporate parents</p>	<p>A lead officer has been appointed and has taken a lead in developing a more coordinated approach to the Promise across the Children’s Services Partnership and the Fife Corporate Parenting Board.</p> <p>The following section provides a review of the progress made over the past year across the four priorities: a good childhood, whole family support, planning, and workforce.</p>	<p>Feedback has been very positive from partners regarding the impact that the role has had.</p> <p>The following section provides an Overview of Success of the work undertaken to date.</p>	<p>The following section provides a description of Our Future Focus for work on Delivering the Promise.</p>
	Data for the Promise, Corporate Parenting Board	The Promise Lead Officer has undertaken initial work to collate and improve the reporting of key data for care experienced young people in Fife.	Children in Fife and the Fife Corporate Parenting Board are receiving regular and structured updates on key data.	The appointment of a Lead Analyst will help to improve the scope and frequency of data reported. It will also help to improve the understanding and impact of available data. Further information can be found in Section 4 of this Report.

Priority 1: A Good Childhood

There has been significant progress within Fife across the partnership including accessing funding opportunities to focus on early intervention and prevention, the redesign of services across the partnership by focussing on the key priority areas of the Promise. Key highlights include:

- A Senior Mental Health Nurse within the Young People's Team supporting those with care experience moving on to independence.
- Learning with Care team within Education focussing on not only improving attendance but engagement in the supportive offer from education.
- Active Schools have a project to engage children and young people in their education by using a strength-based approach.
- Redesign of a Close Support Team for a targeted focus on interventions with young people in residential childcare
- The Willow Project: a CAMHS service specifically for Kinship care
- Health have increased their offer of attending and supporting children's planning reviews
- Sexual health services are offering increased drop-in clinics and proactively seeking to improve their support for Care Experienced children and adults across their services.
- A range of developments within Children and Family Social Work services to support earlier supports and intensive support during times of family crisis

Priority 2: Whole Family Support

Supporting Families is one of the improvement priorities for the current Children's Services Plan and Whole Family Wellbeing is an integral part of this work. Further information regarding work in this area can be found under the priority update for Supporting Families in this report.

Priority 3: Planning

Children in Fife (The Promise): Provide strategic oversight of the implementation of the Children's Services Plan and the Promise Lead Officer is a member of this group.

The Promise Lead Officer is also leading the Corporate Parenting workstream, ensuring the views of the care experienced community are part of policy and practice change. This has been captured via a range of methods including focus groups, digital participation and one to one sessions

utilising connections across the service and partnership. The Corporate Parenting Board has increased its meeting frequency and a multi service, co-produced Corporate Parenting Plan is being updated for period 2024 – 2027.

Data: The Children’s Services Data Group is developing a performance report which will inform on areas for improvement. Focussed data collection on the priority areas of the Promise across the partnership is underway. The Children and Family Social Work service shares data gathered in relation to care experienced young people.

Priority 4: Workforce

Trauma Informed Practice is being strengthened across the partnership via a training plan implemented through corporate services and supported by all partners within the council.

WFW funding has been used effectively to support multi-agency sessions looking at our refreshed GIRFEC approaches in Fife, allowing for awareness raising, training and the development of relationships within a community of practice.

Regular updates in relation to progress are shared across the workforce in SWAY and staff updates/briefings.

Voice

Children and Family Social Work employed social work assistants with lived experience, who co-produced our Corporate Parenting Training which is delivered as multi agency training across the service and partnership. Whilst the original staff have moved on to different posts, we have continued to employ 2 social work assistants to specifically work alongside SCRA to improve the participation and attendance of children and young people at their Children’s Hearings and Looked After Reviews. They have produced visual aids and information leaflets to support children and young people to understand how important their voice is.

We have been able to strengthen our connections across the care experienced community and ensured we have collated their views and fed back any updates to ensure they remain connected to policy and practice developments. This includes evaluating the localised Embrace groups for the care experienced community who were initially set up without fully scoping views of young people. Moving forward we have been consulting with the community in Fife which has allowed us to review, reflect, evaluate, and develop future planning. This has culminated in developing a co-produced summer 24 program of events.

Overview of success

Through our Belonging to Fife strategy, we have made significant progress in relation to our ability to safely maintain children and young people at home, within family-based care, and within their local communities. This strategy has been driven by Children and Family Social Work Services with the support of other agencies across Fife.

The development of our Kinship service including dedicated workers to scaffold families, ensuring children remain in family-based care.

The development of the Fife CAMHS service- The Willow Project which provides a service specifically addressing the therapeutic needs of children, young people and carers who are in kinship arrangements.

The implementation of the National House Project. All the Young People who have been supported through the Housing Project have been successful in retaining their tenancies. This is a major achievement, and we are keen to explore how the work of the House Project could potentially be expanded. The difference in Fife is that this is supported jointly with Housing Services and Children's Services allowing joint support of resources.

An increase in participation with children understanding the importance of attending their meetings, reducing barriers to their attendance at key decision-making meetings and feeling empowered to do so.

Partner agencies being motivated to reflect on their own offer and begin the process of change to improve and consider their functions and processes to improve accessibility and increasing understanding of trauma informed practice.

Our future focus

As we continue to build on the good work outlined above, we have also acknowledged a need to focus on the areas highlighted in The Promise Oversight Board Two Report:

- Education: strengthening Children's Rights and aiming to end exclusions.
- Brothers & Sisters: the challenges include finding places where siblings can remain together when there is a reduction in foster carers and restricted funding options.
- Housing: there are challenges in relation to limited stocks and supporting pathways to expand successful projects like the National House Project
- Continue ongoing improvement activity across our residential provision.
- Transitions: keeping the needs of young people at the centre of transition planning within the complex integration models in Fife.



Section 4 –our next steps: improving our partnership approach

A review of Fife’s approach to Whole Family Wellbeing was undertaken during the course of 2023-24. The scope of the review was limited to work currently supported by the Whole Family Wellbeing Fund. However, the key findings that emerged reflected a number of areas for improvement that are relevant to wider partnership working across children’s services. Separate recommendations to address these findings were included within the *Final Report of the Whole Family Wellbeing Review*.

The *Final Report* was considered by Children in Fife (which provides governance and oversees the best value use of resources across all aspects of children’s services planning) on 13 June 2024. The key findings and recommendations relating to the Whole Family Wellbeing Fund (specifically) and wider children’s services partnership working (generally) were agreed.

Areas for improvement

Children in Fife recognises the following areas for improvement in our partnership approach to children’s services planning:

1. **Our Whole-System Approach.** We have a range of services that provide support for children and families, across universal, additional and intensive levels of need. However, we do not have an agreed, clear and explicit framework to describe our current service offer across all levels of need. We also have a limited ability to understand the pathways taken by families and children as their needs and personal circumstances develop over the course of time.
2. **Quality Improvement at a System Level.** We have significant expertise in the use of Quality Improvement approaches, well-established expectations regarding the use of rigorous approaches to improvement, and a record of developing effective and evidence-based programmes and interventions. However, quality improvement activity has not been well targeted at issues of strategic or system-level importance. There has also been limited success in scaling and spreading effective programmes and interventions, developed through rigorous quality improvement work.
3. **Our Theories of Change and Evidence of Impact.** Leaders and staff across the partnership have shown a strong intuition about the type of activity that could help improve service design and delivery. However, this is often not well formulated as a testable proposition (i.e., a theory of change) with appropriate measures to evidence the short-, medium- and longer-term impact of improvement work is variable.
4. **The Effective Use of Resources.** We use resources and existing expertise to support the development – and ongoing improvement – of a wide range of services to better support families and children. However, there is limited targeting or coordination in the way that we currently use resources to address issues of strategic or system-level importance.

In order to address the Areas for Improvement recognised above, Children in Fife agreed – at its meeting on 13 June 2024 – to adopt the following steps to improve our partnership:

Immediate improvement actions

To recruit a Lead Performance Analyst for Children's Services. This post will provide the skills and capacity needed:

- To help progress existing improvement actions relating to children's services data (including: improving data on Equity and Equality, developing evidence regarding the pathways of children and families through our system of support, developing measures for the impact of early intervention and prevention).
- To provide support and challenge for the choice of appropriate short-, medium- and long-term improvement actions across all areas of quality improvement activity.

To identify additional capacity (in the form of a policy officer / project manager) to strengthen support and challenge for our current improvement actions. This will build on the model provided by the Whole Family Wellbeing Review, to strengthen the capacity available for structured, informed, strategic-level discussions of improvement actions across all aspects of Children's Services.

Longer-term improvement actions (2024-26)

To develop a "**whole system**" **framework** of Fife children's services. This will be based on a formal, clear and explicit mapping of current services and will provide a strengthened basis for quality assurance. The framework will be designed to:

- Incorporate a range of evidence, including quantitative, process indicators and qualitative feedback.
- Support a better understanding of the pathways taken by families and children through our current system of services.
- Inform our understanding of current "whole system" performance.
- Enable a clearer basis for systematic self-evaluation and ongoing review of existing services and improvement activity.
- Provide a more robust basis for evaluating our use of available resources to meet the needs of children and young people.

To review our **approach to strategic improvement**, with the aim of ensuring that:

- Improvement plans are supported by a well formulated and testable proposition (i.e., a theory of change) with appropriate measures to evidence the short-, medium- and longer-term impact of improvement work is variable.
- Expertise in quality improvement approaches is used to better identify and support issues of strategic or system-level importance, with a view to structured scale and spread of improvement.

Work to scope how these two actions will be taken forwards will be undertaken during the summer of 2024, with a view to delivery of a specific programme of improvement over the period from the autumn 2024 to the winter 2025.

Section 5 – Outcomes for Children and Young People

The **Fife Wellbeing Indicator Set** provides an overview of key outcomes for children and young people in Fife. The table below provides a 5-year trend view of current outcomes. Baseline data for the current children’s services plan is highlighted in orange.

	Measure	Fife outcomes					Fife 5 year trend	Benchmark outcomes (national unless otherwise indicated)					Trend vs benchmark			
		2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23		2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23				
	Context															
FWI 1	Children in Low Income Family Measure (CILIF) - relative poverty (aged under 16)	20.2%	21.3%	17.4%	23.4%	23.6%		17.9%	18.9%	16.0%	20.8%	21.3%				
FWI 2	Percentage of P5-S6 children who agree that their local area is a good place to live	Source: Fife Health & Wellbeing Survey (baseline survey undertaken March 2022-April 2023)					60.9%	-	Source: national health and wellbeing census data (2021/22 outcomes report)					64.5%	-	
	Safe															
FWI 3	Children on the Child Protection Register per 10,000 aged 0-17 (Number on CPR)	31.8	22.9	23.9	21.4	13.9		28.0	28.8	23.2	22.3	20.8				
		(205 CPR)	(147 CPR)	(152 CPR)	(136 CPR)	(97 CPR)		(2580 CPR)	(2641 CPR)	(2119 CPR)	(2031 CPR)	(2094 CPR)				
FWI 4	LAC per 1,000 CYP aged 0-17 (Number of LAC)	13.0	12.8	11.4	10.4	10.6		13.9	14.1	12.9	12.3	12.1				
		(935 LAC)	(919 LAC)	(817 LAC)	(748 LAC)	(740 LAC)		(14262 LAC)	(14458 LAC)	(13255 LAC)	(12596 LAC)	(12206 LAC)				
FWI 5	Measures of system success, relating to the impact of scaffolding to support prevention	Data gap identified. Work to address this is being progressed as part of work on Supporting Families (see section 4 - Next Steps).					-						-			
	Healthy															
FWI 6	% women who reported being current smokers at ante-natal booking appointment (calendar year)	18.0%	19.5%	18.8%	17.5%	15.6%		15.2%	14.6%	12.6%	12.1%	11.9%				
FWI 7	Warwick Edinburgh Mental Wellbeing Score for S2-S6 children (WEMWBS)	Source: Fife Health & Wellbeing Survey (baseline survey undertaken March 2022-April 2023)					43.8	-	Source: national health and wellbeing census data (2021/22 outcomes report)					45.3	-	

	Measure	Fife outcomes					Fife 5 year trend	Benchmark outcomes (national unless otherwise indicated)					Trend vs benchmark
		2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23		2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	
	Healthy												
FWI 8	Rate per 1000 people of referrals made to CAMHS	34.2	40.9	38.1	46.9	39.9		34.7	33.9	28.1	36.7	37.6	
FWI 9	% babies being exclusively breastfed at 6-8 weeks	29.6%	30.6%	30.7%	30.9%	29.5%		31.9%	31.6%	32.0%	32.1%	32.0%	
FWI 10	% P1 year children with healthy weight	77.9%	75.7%	N/A	77.3%	77.1%		76.6%	76.3%	69.7%	74.7%	76.8%	
FWI 11	% P1 year children free from obvious dental decay	69.8%	73.2%	N/A	70.9%	69.6%		71.6%	72.4%	N/A	73.1%	73.8%	
	Achieving												
FWI 15	Percentage of P1, P4 and P7 children achieving expected CfE levels in literacy	74.2%	N/A	64.6%	68.4%	70.3%		72.3%	N/A	66.9%	70.5%	72.7%	
FWI 16	Percentage of P1, P4 and P7 children achieving expected CfE levels in numeracy	80.2%	N/A	71.3%	74.8%	77.0%		79.1%	N/A	74.7%	77.9%	79.6%	
FWI 17	Percentage of all school leavers in positive destination on leaving school	94.4%	91.9%	93.9%	94.8%	95.3%		95.0%	93.3%	95.5%	95.7%	95.9%	
	Included												
FWI 23	Number of children in temporary accommodation at 31 March	317	343	313	388	533		<i>Data source: Service Data Work to be undertaken to scope benchmark</i>					-
FWI 24	Number of Homeless Applications involving children	1406	1222	1182	1203	1368		<i>Data source: Service Data Work to be undertaken to scope benchmark</i>					-

Section 6. How Our Plan Is Supporting National Policy

The Children & Young People Act 2014 sets out a requirement to deliver services aimed at promoting, supporting and safeguarding the wellbeing of children, young people and their families.

The Act is underpinned by the **United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child**, which were incorporated into Scottish law by the UNCRC (Incorporation) (Scotland) Act 2024, with effect from 16 July 2024. The UNCRC was developed in 1992 and is the most widely adopted human rights treaty globally. The UN reports periodically on signatories to determine progress towards realising rights. Incorporation into domestic law brings stronger accountability in domestic law where breaches may have occurred. It means that public bodies must act compatibly with the UNCRC and gives children (those under the age of 18) or those acting on their behalf the right to seek legal redress, and the Children's Commissioner additional powers to act where rights may have been breached.



The policy framework of **Getting It Right For Every Child** is now well embedded across the Fife partnership supported by key local policy frameworks such as the Getting in Right in Fife framework and the Child Wellbeing Pathway which promotes early & proportionate intervention to address wellbeing needs and concerns across the continuum of need – whether universal, additional or intensive.

The Independent Care review, commissioned in 2017, led to a root and branch review of Scotland's care system resulting in the publication of **The Promise** in 2020. The five foundations of the Promise are central to the new Children's Services plan, reflect the key principles of the Belonging to Fife Strategy and weave across our priorities. They will help transformation our systems, practice and culture, ensuring that:

Voice: children are listened to and meaningfully and appropriately involved in decision-making about their care.

Family: where children are safe in their families and feel loved they must stay there – and families must be given support together to nurture that love and overcome the difficulties they face.

Care: where living with their family is not possible, children must stay with their brothers and sisters where safe to do so and belong to a loving home, staying there for as long as needed.

People: children that we care for must be actively supported to develop relationships with people in the workforce and wider community, who in turn must be supported to be compassionate.

Scaffolding: children, families and the workforce must be supported by a system that is there when it is needed. The 'scaffolding' of help, support and accountability must be ready and responsive when it is required.



How Our Plan Supports Strategic Planning of Children's Services

	Main focus of monitoring for outcomes (SHANARRI)	Contribution to key statutory responsibilities and national policy delivery	Statutory Planning & Reporting Responsibility	Main links to wider partnership planning and delivery of related services
Health and Wellbeing Strategy Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healthy • Active 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Health Promotion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All health-related planning and reporting responsibilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health & Social Care Partnership • Alcohol and Drugs Partnership
Equity and Equality Coordination Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Achieving • Included • Nurtured 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child Poverty 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Child Poverty Action Reporting • Protected Characteristics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan 4 Fife (Tackling Poverty and Crisis Prevention) • Strategic Equity Fund
Supporting Families Strategy Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Included • Nurtured 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early Intervention • Whole Family Wellbeing • Family Support • Commissioning Strategy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whole Family Wellbeing Fund 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan 4 Fife (No Wrong Door) • Best Value
Children in Fife	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safe • Nurtured 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevention • GIRFEC • The Promise 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children's Services Planning and Reporting • Joint Inspection of Children's Services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fife Partnership • Corporate Parenting Board • Child Protection Committee • Chief Officers Public Safety Group (COPS)
Children's Rights Oversight Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respected • Responsible 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children's Rights • UNCRC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children's Rights Reporting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotion of children's rights across wider partnership services
Children's Services Data Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving the range of data available across SHANARRI for key risk groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring alignment with the National Performance Framework 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting a regular cycle of reporting on progress for each improvement priority 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reporting of outcomes for wider strategic planning (e.g., Plan 4 Fife)

How Our Plan Promotes Children's Rights

Each key strategic group has oversight of children's rights related to that improvement priority. In addition, the Children's Rights Oversight Group oversees the Partnership's collective responsibility for delivery of the UNCRC.

Health and Wellbeing Strategy Group

Article 24: Every child has the right to the best possible health.

Article 31: Every child has the right to relax, play and take part in a wide range of cultural and artistic activities

Article 33: Governments must protect children from taking, making, carrying or selling harmful drugs

Article 34: The government should protect children from sexual exploitation



Equity and Equality Coordination Group

Article 2: All children have all these rights, no matter who they are.

Article 23: Every child with a disability should enjoy the best possible life in society

Article 26: Governments should provide money or other support to help children from poor families.

Article 28: Every child has the right to an education.



Supporting Families Strategy Group

Article 5: Governments should let families and communities guide

their children so that, as they grow up, they learn to use their rights in the best way.

Article 9: Children should not be separated from their parents unless they are not being properly looked after.

Article 18: Parents are the main people responsible for bringing up a child.



Children in Five

Article 3: When adults make decisions, they should think about how their decisions will affect children.

Article 19: Governments must protect children from violence, abuse and being neglected

Article 22: Children who move from their home country to another country as refugees should get help and protection

Article 36: Children have the right to be protected from all other kinds of exploitation.



Children's Rights Oversight Group

Oversight of the UNCRC



Article 4: Governments must do all they can to make sure that every child in their countries can enjoy all rights.



Article 12: Children have the right to give their opinions freely on issues that affect them.



Article 42: Governments should ensure that everyone knows about children's rights.



Appendix 1 – Report on the use of the Whole Family Wellbeing Fund

Supporting Families remains a key focus for our partnership working and is an improvement priority within the *Fife Children's Services Plan 2023-26*. It is a key element of our partnership approach to improving prevention and early intervention.

This section reviews how we have used the support provided through the Whole Family Wellbeing Fund (WFWF) to further develop Fife's approach to supporting families over the course of 2023-24.

SECTION 1: Activities, WFWF Logic Model Outcomes, and Estimated Budget Allocated

For all responses, please be as specific and descriptive as possible. This means providing clear descriptions of activities, groups involved, sources of evidence.

Activity 1:

Question 1: Activity title and description:

Family and Parenting Support – evidence-based group work

This activity is based on the early years Family Nurture Approach (FNA) evaluation and will enable re-engagement with parenting and family learning approaches in early years, primary and secondary, primary evidence-based group work. This has involved coordinating and establishing a framework for systematic training and delivery of evidence-based programmes that are supported in a sustainable way. Mapping of current family support resources has been undertaken with consideration of the wider 'offer' across the partnership from pre-birth-18 yrs. Fife has strong evaluative evidence from the FNA with improved outcomes in respect to early literacy and family wellbeing. This work is being led by a small, seconded team, the majority of staff have substantive posts in the Children & Families, Family Support Service. The aim of this activity is to improve access to a range of evidence-based group work across the continuum leading to better outcomes for children, young people and families.

Question 2:

a) Which WFWF Logic Model outcome(s) does this activity contribute to? Please indicate the relevant early (year 1 and year 2-4 outcomes), intermediate, and long-term outcomes.

b) During this financial year (23/24), how has this activity contributed toward these outcomes? Please describe how this has happened (what processes or mechanisms) and who has been involved (i.e., CSPP staff roles and the types of families receiving support), use specific qualitative or quantitative evidence and cite the sources used.

Please include WFWF Logic Model outcomes used in response to question 2 of your previous WFWF annual report template. Responses relating to each activity can be up to 250 words but may be less where appropriate.

- *Better collective awareness of available support (year 1)*
- *Increased co-production between delivery partners (year 2-4)*
- *Increased service capacity (year 2-4)*
- *Increase in early intervention support (year 2-4)*
- *Non-siloed, aligned working (year 2-4)*
- *Availability and access (intermediate outcome / whole family wellbeing driver)*
- *Improved Family Wellbeing (long-term)*
- *Reduction in families requiring crisis intervention (long-term)*

As noted, a seconded team has been established to deliver training across Fife and to work with key partners. Mapping has been completed on current capacity of staff within the CSPP to support the delivery of evidence-based programmes. Training needs have been identified for current staff to ensure they are re-equipped to support the programmes, and gaps in provision have been mapped. A gap has been identified in midwifery and ante-natal parenting.

So far, the work has found that pre-existing evidence-based programmes provide a comprehensive range of support for families and parents, but consideration needs to be given to participation and access, particularly timing and receptivity.

An initial report received from POPP indicated positive change / outcomes for families with 87% of families from top SIMD areas and 87% of families had an improved SDQ score.

There is recognition of the need for measures of success with data being identified on the level of provision (i.e. the level of provision the CSPP feels should be offered and the extent to which the capacity is in place and is being effectively maintained) and post-programme life trajectories (i.e. outcomes for families and parents who have completed the programme, in comparison to those who have not engaged/dropped out before completing the programme). This data will be gathered and monitored by the project team and WFW support.

Question 3: Estimate of WFWF funding spent on this activity in this financial year (in pounds):

Please provide the best estimate of this figure for the activity. This greatly helps to provide an understanding of how WFWF is supporting these activities.

£482,889

Activity 2:

Question 1: Activity title and description:

Residential Support Team (formerly Outreach)

Targeted support to children and young people who may require a residential placement, or the placement is at risk of breaking down. Intensive, wraparound support will be offered to de-escalate risk and address trauma.

Question 2:

a) Which WFWF Logic Model outcome(s) does this activity contribute to? Please indicate the relevant early (year 1 and year 2-4 outcomes), intermediate, and long-term outcomes.

b) During this financial year (23/24), how has this activity contributed toward these outcomes? Please describe how this has happened (what processes or mechanisms) and who has been involved (i.e., CSPP staff roles and the types of families receiving support), use specific qualitative or quantitative evidence and cite the sources used.

- *Whole system change (intermediate / WFW driver)*
- *Reduction in residential moves out with Fife (long-term)*
- *Reduction in placement breakdowns (long-term)*
- *Improved wellbeing for children and young people (long-term)*

A review has been undertaken within C&Fs residential resources to consider the interface with key teams, for example, close support team and the challenges in terms of emergency placements, matching children's needs with the right resource and providing stable and nurturing placements.

The project aims to have three posts dedicated to this work; which are underwritten by Fife Council Children & Families Social Work; therefore, they will be core and sustainable.

Measures of success for this project will focus on the stability of placements, reductions in placement moves, improved relationships and less risk taking.

Question 3: Estimate of WFWF funding spent on this activity in this financial year (in pounds):

£87,763

Activity 3:

Question 1: Activity title and description:

Emergency Support Team (EST)

Intensive support is offered to carers and young people during the initial stages of placements or when placements become fragile. The project aims to improve access to supports that improve whole family wellbeing and build the confidence and capacity of foster carers to meet the needs of children and young people in their care to keep them within their placement.

Question 2:

a) Which WFWF Logic Model outcome(s) does this activity contribute to? Please indicate the relevant early (year 1 and year 2-4 outcomes), intermediate, and long-term outcomes.

b) During this financial year (23/24), how has this activity contributed toward these outcomes? Please describe how this has happened (what processes or mechanisms) and who has been involved (i.e. CSPP staff roles and the types of families receiving support), use specific qualitative or quantitative evidence and cite the sources used.

- *Increase service capacity (year 2-4)*
- *Increase early intervention support (year 1)*
- *Children and families at the centre of service design (intermediate outcome / WFW driver)*
- *Improved wellbeing of children and young people (long-term)*
- *Reduction in placement breakdowns (long-term)*
- *Improved capacity of carers to provide care and support (long-term)*

Support is being offered at the point before a notice to end the placement is submitted, to sustain the placement, keep children out of high-cost care, and increase the capacity of carers to support foster children. The funding is supporting three posts in the Emergency Support Team with collaboration between the team and Family Placement Team. Support is flexible, offered 7 days a week, 9am-10pm, with a dedicated phonenumber as well.

A review of impact has confirmed:

- *More than half of the referrals to EST resulting in placements being sustained.*

- *Where placements were sustained, follow ups were made to foster carers to find out the status of the placement. After 3 months, 15 placements were still sustained, and after 6 months, 7 were still sustained and carers hadn't submitted a notice, despite saying they would before they received EST support.*
- *Where placements ended, the majority of these were planned moves that had been agreed prior to EST becoming involved.*

The focus for the next stage is to understand more fully:

- *the specifics of each placement outcome - i.e. number and nature of placements sustained, ended or unplanned.*
- *crisis management and early intervention - a measure of success will be the EST offering support earlier.*
- *understanding what was making the placement fragile and the extent the EST has helped stabilise the placement.*

Question 3: Estimate of WFWF funding spent on this activity in this financial year (in pounds):

£110,428

Activity 4:

Question 1: Activity title and description:

Under 4s

This initially was scoped out as a multi-disciplinary team aimed at supporting women in the early stages of pregnancy and/or with young children, who use harmful substances. Consultation across the partnership to consider gaps identified the benefits in commissioning this area of practice. A service brief is now completed and applications from Third sector partners will be assessed in July. The funding for this work is for an initial year once the service in place is operational.

Question 2:

a) Which WFWF Logic Model outcome(s) does this activity contribute to? Please indicate the relevant early (year 1 and year 2-4 outcomes), intermediate, and long-term outcomes.

b) During this financial year (23/24), how has this activity contributed toward these outcomes? Please describe how this has happened (what processes or mechanisms) and who has been involved (i.e. CSPP staff roles and the types of families receiving support), use specific qualitative or quantitative evidence and cite the sources used.

- *Increase service capacity (year 1)*
- *Increase early intervention support (year 1)*

- *Increased parental resilience (year1)*
- *Improved early attachment and reduction in risk (year 1)*

Question 3: Estimate of WFWF funding spent on this activity in this financial year (in pounds):

£0 – spend expected in 24/25

Activity 5:

Question 1: Activity title and description:

Community Social Work

*This was a Test of Change (TOC), aimed at providing early access to social work support through a place-based approach. This early intervention model was tested in 2 of the 7 localities in Fife and the learning has now been applied to the wider reform programme in Fife Council i.e. **No Wrong Door (NWD)**. The TOC ended in May 2024 and the learning has contributed to the next stage of the NWD design phase – supported by Inner Circle Consultancy who have also been funded through WFW.*

Question 2:

- a) Which WFWF Logic Model outcome(s) does this activity contribute to? Please indicate the relevant early (year 1 and year 2-4 outcomes), intermediate, and long-term outcomes.
- b) During this financial year (23/24), how has this activity contributed toward these outcomes? Please describe how this has happened (what processes or mechanisms) and who has been involved (i.e. CSPP staff roles and the types of families receiving support), use specific qualitative or quantitative evidence and cite the sources used.

- *Increased co-production between delivery partners.*
- *Increase in accessible points to access services.*
- *Increase in early intervention support.*
- *More collaboration*
- *Holistic workforce approach*
- *Availability and access (intermediate / WFW driver)*

The TOC focused on providing community-based support at an earlier stage, which involved building networks in the community to support families. Support was multi-faceted and addressed issues including welfare and housing matters, fuel poverty, social isolation, and poor mental health. Hubs were provided in schools as a drop-in service with a group work offer also being a core aspect of the model.

The project completed a mapping exercise for local support, which was shared with local Elected Members and community groups, to stop families from having to navigate many services to find the right support.

Question 3: Estimate of WFWF funding spent on this activity in this financial year (in pounds):

£166,353

Activity 6:

Question 1: Activity title and description:

Workforce Learning and Development

Fife has evidenced the benefits of learning together across the partnership through a localised model of communities of practice. This area of development involves revisiting what worked, providing a stronger foundation for collaborative working in local communities, developing further a common language and approach with a trauma-informed workforce across the CSPP. The aims of the project are to improve confidence, knowledge and skills in the workforce and encourage multi-agency/partnership collaboration and holistic workforce.

Question 2:

a) Which WFWF Logic Model outcome(s) does this activity contribute to? Please indicate the relevant early (year 1 and year 2-4 outcomes), intermediate, and long-term outcomes.

b) During this financial year (23/24), how has this activity contributed toward these outcomes? Please describe how this has happened (what processes or mechanisms) and who has been involved (i.e. CSPP staff roles and the types of families receiving support), use specific qualitative or quantitative evidence and cite the sources used.

- Leadership, workforce, and culture (intermediate / WFW driver)

This project has involved designing and delivering practice development sessions across the CSPP to improve workforce confidence, knowledge, and skills. The Practice Development Sessions focus on areas of process and practice that align with the Whole Family Wellbeing approach and encourage multi-agency and partnership collaboration for a holistic, whole family support workforce.

Practice Development Sessions are being held across Fife on different topics. So far, there have been three sessions. Data is only available for sessions 1 and 3 with 433 colleagues from across the CSPP attending session 1 and 248 attending session 2.

Evaluation mechanisms are in place with work being undertaken to review the feedback for each of the practice sessions.

Question 3: Estimate of WFWF funding spent on this activity in this financial year (in pounds):

£85,468

Activity 7:

Question 1: Activity title and description:

Third Sector Interface

A post was developed within Fife Voluntary Action (FVA), Fife's third sector interface, to support a joined up and collaborative approach across the third sector in Fife, strengthening connections between statutory and third sector partners, and influencing the co-production and delivery of whole family support. This will strengthen the work underway in Fife in respect to strategic commissioning with a key driver to shift to a local approach to commissioning in the medium to long term, aligned to the aspirations of embedded co-production and co-design.

Question 2:

a) Which WFWF Logic Model outcome(s) does this activity contribute to? Please indicate the relevant early (year 1 and year 2-4 outcomes), intermediate, and long-term outcomes.

b) During this financial year (23/24), how has this activity contributed toward these outcomes? Please describe how this has happened (what processes or mechanisms) and who has been involved (i.e. CSPP staff roles and the types of families receiving support), use specific qualitative or quantitative evidence and cite the sources used.

- *Improved collaboration (year1)*
- *Whole systems change (intermediate / WFW driver)*

The post within FVA has enabled improvement work to be completed on the FVA website and greater participation in the Children's Services Forum. A small working group of the Third Sector Children's Services Forum has been established to develop an annual plan and explore opportunities for increased collaboration, for example, on areas such as The Promise, community mental health, health and wellbeing, and funding for the third sector.

The funded post has enabled FVA to participate in the National TSI Children's Services Network, the WFWF 'Learning into Action' network, and various local groups and networks.

There are connections across areas of policy, as well as WFW funded work, particularly the Workforce Development Sessions, which FVA has attended. Ensuring connections and collaborations among workstreams (i.e. No Wrong Door) is also central to the third sector interface.

Question 3: Estimate of WFWF funding spent on this activity in this financial year (in pounds):

£214,916

Activity 8:

Question 1: Activity title and description:

Co-production and co-design

Working with CYPFs 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 priority seeks to strengthen co-production, co-design, and collaboration by improving the interface across the third sector, statutory services, and community planning partnerships. Central to this will be embedding the active and meaningful involvement of families in Fife in the design, development and delivery of services. 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.

Question 2:

a) Which WFWF Logic Model outcome(s) does this activity contribute to? Please indicate the relevant early (year 1 and year 2-4 outcomes), intermediate, and long-term outcomes.

b) During this financial year (23/24), how has this activity contributed toward these outcomes? Please describe how this has happened (what processes or mechanisms) and who has been involved (i.e. CSPP staff roles and the types of families receiving support), use specific qualitative or quantitative evidence and cite the sources used.

- *Children, young people and families participating in service design (Year 1)*
- *Redesigning / designing new whole family support services (Year 2-4)*
- *Increased co-production between delivery partners (Year 2-4)*
- *Children and families at the centre of service design (intermediate outcome/driver)*

The fund has enabled the creation of Family Services Improvement Co-ordinator in FVA, which was filled in June 2023. A 2-day training course for the co-production project team was held in June 2023.

The co-production team, which has been named 'Together for Change', identified the theme of service disconnection as an area of enquiry. Collaborative Conversations with CYPF and the workforce have been held across 7 localities. This is focusing on service users' perspectives and experiences of using services – what is working, what could be better, and how involved they are in shaping services. CYPF involvement has consisted of 135 C&YP and 184 Parents/Carers

An independent evaluation is being undertaken by IRISS and will be completed by August.

Question 3: Estimate of WFWF funding spent on this activity in this financial year (in pounds):

£150,000

Activity 9:

Question 1: Activity title and description:

Making it Work for Families (MIW)

A Third sector funded project to enhance scaffolding support for children and young people who are on the edge of care, crisis and family breakdown, there is also a focus on employability with the MIW project funded largely through the City Deal. The project aims to improve outcomes for children, young people and families that are affected by substance use and poor Education attendance/engagement. This has been delivered by focusing on:

- *Family learning to strengthen relationships in households.*
- *Co-production with the voice of families playing a central role in service design.*
- *Collaboration with partners outside of the MIWFF multi-agency team and more specifically Social Work teams.*

Question 2:

a) Which WFWF Logic Model outcome(s) does this activity contribute to? Please indicate the relevant early (year 1 and year 2-4 outcomes), intermediate, and long-term outcomes.

b) During this financial year (23/24), how has this activity contributed toward these outcomes? Please describe how this has happened (what processes or mechanisms) and who has been involved (i.e. CSPP staff roles and the types of families receiving support), use specific qualitative or quantitative evidence and cite the sources used.

- *Better collective awareness of available support (Year 1)*
- *Increased service capacity (Year 2-4)*
- *Stigma-free, rights-led support (Year 2-4)*
- *Holistic workforce approach (Year 2-4)*

In February 2024, there were 50 families participating in 1:1 support, family learning activities, financial inclusion support and groupwork: 65 parents/carers; 75 young people; and 39 children.

Question 3: Estimate of WFWF funding spent on this activity in this financial year (in pounds):

£78,294

Activity 10:

Question 1: Activity title and description:

Housing Whole Family Wellbeing

Fife Council Housing Service is adopting a Whole Family Wellbeing approach, focusing on staff having a deeper understanding of service roles and responsibilities when working with children, young people and families. This requires an informed and skilled workforce, providing staff with the skills and awareness across the whole system, not just in Housing, to be able to identify and assist vulnerable families that are struggling, whether that be through direct housing support or signposting and referrals to other services.

Question 2:

a) Which WFWF Logic Model outcome(s) does this activity contribute to? Please indicate the relevant early (year 1 and year 2-4 outcomes), intermediate, and long-term outcomes.

b) During this financial year (23/24), how has this activity contributed toward these outcomes? Please describe how this has happened (what processes or mechanisms) and who has been involved (i.e. CSPP staff roles and the types of families receiving support), use specific qualitative or quantitative evidence and cite the sources used.

- *Leadership, workforce and culture (intermediate outcome / WFW driver)*
- *Tenants have stable housing conditions (long-term)*
- *Staff attitude change (long-term)*

A staff survey has been completed to understand baseline knowledge of children, young people and families' needs, and to identify current training needs. The team is developing a directory of relevant services and agencies with contact details and referral information.

Officers are working with an established focus group to improve current processes and practices and inform better ways of working with children and families by putting them at the centre of service design.

Work is ongoing to develop appropriate training and awareness raising for Housing officers that focuses on whole family, holistic support.

Question 3: Estimate of WFWF funding spent on this activity in this financial year (in pounds):

£92,619

Activity 11:

Question 1: Activity title and description:

Senior Practitioners in Schools

By embedding Social Work Senior Practitioners as a key resource in schools, the aim is to improve collaborative working between Education and Social Work leading to better outcomes for children and young people. Senior Practitioners support schools to address attendance, behaviour and develop an understanding of the impact of underlying issues and how to identify them at an early stage. Practitioners explore challenges and barriers relating to current pathways and access points to support, as well as current joint working practice. This has led to areas for improvement and greater collaborative working with more opportunities to reflect on practice and barriers to collaboration.

Question 2:

a) Which WFWF Logic Model outcome(s) does this activity contribute to? Please indicate the relevant early (year 1 and year 2-4 outcomes), intermediate, and long-term outcomes.

b) During this financial year (23/24), how has this activity contributed toward these outcomes? Please describe how this has happened (what processes or mechanisms) and who has been involved (i.e. CSPP staff roles and the types of families receiving support), use specific qualitative or quantitative evidence and cite the sources used.

- *Availability and access (intermediate / WFW driver)*
- *Improved wellbeing for children and young people (long-term)*
- *Reduction in referrals for additional and intensive support (long-term)*

Senior Practitioners are working with a small case load of children at an early stage to prevent escalation of risk as well as promoting practice of collaboration, non-siloed, aligned working, and collective awareness of support.

In supporting the project's own objective of improving C&YP wellbeing, different approaches are being trialled by the Senior Practitioners to engage with young people who are at risk of continued exclusion. This has included securing places for three young people from one school to take part in the Scottish Sports Futures programme.

Question 3: Estimate of WFWF funding spent on this activity in this financial year (in pounds):

£184,243

Activity 12:

Question 1: Activity title and description:

WFW Homemakers

The Homemakers role is to focus on engagement with families in a very practical way to better understand needs and the type of support required, leading to improved wellbeing and greater capacity within families.

Question 2:

a) Which WFWF Logic Model outcome(s) does this activity contribute to? Please indicate the relevant early (year 1 and year 2-4 outcomes), intermediate, and long-term outcomes.

b) During this financial year (23/24), how has this activity contributed toward these outcomes? Please describe how this has happened (what processes or mechanisms) and who has been involved (i.e. CSPP staff roles and the types of families receiving support), use specific qualitative or quantitative evidence and cite the sources used.

- *Availability and access (immediate outcome / WFW driver)*
- *Improved wellbeing and greater capacity for families (long-term)*

The project is focused on practical skill building for families who would benefit from a longer period of support from Social Work. It focuses on targeting resource and providing wraparound support. This includes:

- *Providing practical and emotional support and assistance to children, young people and families to manage independence in their home, establish routines boundaries etc.*
- *Assisting case responsible SW in delivering an attuned service to meet each child, young person and families' specific needs and contribute to SW assessment through observation but not case responsible.*
- *Empowering families to take control and involve the family – not do it for them.*

Recruitment to the Homemaker posts has been a challenge causing delays to the project, currently only 5 are in post across the 13 operational C&F SW teams. A review of this role is to be undertaken within the wider C&F SW service change plans to determine if this will progress beyond this financial year.

Question 3: Estimate of WFWF funding spent on this activity in this financial year (in pounds):

£114,941

Activity 13:

Question 1: Activity title and description:

MAIT

The original concept was a multi-agency improvement team comprising Education, Health and connecting with C&F Social Work to work on common improvement themes. The initial focus was pathways and access to support, quality of referrals and a review of key processes. Much of this work has now been superseded by the refresh of Fife's Child Wellbeing Pathway as the main process to deliver GIRFEC. The project has been subject to review due to changes in personnel and focus.

Question 2:

a) Which WFWF Logic Model outcome(s) does this activity contribute to? Please indicate the relevant early (year 1 and year 2-4 outcomes), intermediate, and long-term outcomes.

b) During this financial year (23/24), how has this activity contributed toward these outcomes? Please describe how this has happened (what processes or mechanisms) and who has been involved (i.e. CSPP staff roles and the types of families receiving support), use specific qualitative or quantitative evidence and cite the sources used.

- *Better collective awareness of available support*
- *Increase in early intervention support.*
- *More collaboration*
- *Availability and access (intermediate outcome / primary WFW driver)*
- *Leadership, workforce and culture (intermediate outcome / secondary WFW driver)*

Question 3: Estimate of WFWF funding spent on this activity in this financial year (in pounds):

£140,641

Activity 14:

Question 1: Activity title and description:

Sleep project

Sleep is one of the foundations of wellbeing, alongside nutrition and exercise. Sleep can determine how we function and our productivity. Improved wellbeing through better sleep can help children, young people and families, particularly families with children that have complex care and health needs and disabilities. The project is to support the workforce to become more aware of the importance of sleep and build skills and knowledge in this area. Sleep Scotland have been commissioned to deliver training across the partnership.

Question 2:

- a) Which WFWF Logic Model outcome(s) does this activity contribute to? Please indicate the relevant early (year 1 and year 2-4 outcomes), intermediate, and long-term outcomes.
- b) During this financial year (23/24), how has this activity contributed toward these outcomes? Please describe how this has happened (what processes or mechanisms) and who has been involved (i.e. CSPP staff roles and the types of families receiving support), use specific qualitative or quantitative evidence and cite the sources used.

- *Leadership, workforce and culture (intermediate / WFW driver)*

An action plan is to be developed for this project.

The work will involve training staff across the children's services partnership (500) in sleep awareness, mapping work has been undertaken to identify how many Sleep Advisors are currently working in the Health Visiting Service and how they are currently interacting with other services. Ongoing gap with children and young people with complex care needs and disability. This links to child poverty priority family groups, which may provide an opportunity for further work following this project.

Question 3: Estimate of WFWF funding spent on this activity in this financial year (in pounds):

£0 – spend will be incurred in 24/25

Activity 15:

Question 1: Activity title and description:

Let's Connect

This is a tried and tested approach to early learning, speech and communications. The funding enables the implementation of the approach with the aim to achieve a spread and scale in workforce skills and resources.

Funding provides capacity to train staff in Let's Connect. A manual (step-by-step guide) for implementing Let's Connect has been developed and will be used as a guiding approach for practitioners, which can be circulated and used in training following completion of the project.

Targeted approach for 2-year-olds with bespoke methods for families when, where and how they want it.

Question 2:

a) Which WFWF Logic Model outcome(s) does this activity contribute to? Please indicate the relevant early (year 1 and year 2-4 outcomes), intermediate, and long-term outcomes.

b) During this financial year (23/24), how has this activity contributed toward these outcomes? Please describe how this has happened (what processes or mechanisms) and who has been involved (i.e. CSPP staff roles and the types of families receiving support), use specific qualitative or quantitative evidence and cite the sources used.

- *Availability and access (intermediate / WFW driver)*

The project is making use of champions and an evolving community of practice to embed Let's Connect. This is involving leadership teams in the monitoring of Let's Connect, including continually considering the impact of staff turnover and training requirements for staff.

Question 3: Estimate of WFWF funding spent on this activity in this financial year (in pounds):

£0 – spend will be incurred in 24/25 and 25/26

Activity 16:

Question 1: Activity title and description:

CYPIC Early Language and Communication

The purpose of this project is to improve Early Language and Communication outcomes for children within the ante-pre-school year and not at risk of clinical intervention who are not meeting their expected language and communication milestones.

The project team will work closely with colleagues leading 'Lets Connect' to share knowledge and learning, ensuring that learning is joined up and shared between projects.

Question 2:

a) Which WFWF Logic Model outcome(s) does this activity contribute to? Please indicate the relevant early (year 1 and year 2-4 outcomes), intermediate, and long-term outcomes.

b) During this financial year (23/24), how has this activity contributed toward these outcomes? Please describe how this has happened (what processes or mechanisms) and who has been involved (i.e. CSPP staff roles and the types of families receiving support), use specific qualitative or quantitative evidence and cite the sources used.

- *Whole systems change (intermediate / WFW driver)*

The team will approach this project across a range of disciplines. Knowledge is tried and tested having been gained through previous work, this has however never been implemented fully. The WFWF provides a platform to implement the approach more widely and track that through a multi-agency QI faculty. This project is in its early stages and more information will be reported in the Year 3 return.

Question 3: Estimate of WFWF funding spent on this activity in this financial year (in pounds):

£0 spend will be incurred in 24/25

Activity 17:

Question 1: Activity title and description:

Community Database

To provide public, community organisations and public sector partners access to a single, secure, comprehensive, online database of public and support services across Fife. This new system led by FVA – Third sector Interface will support self-directed support, self-service and inform referral processes and is connected to the NWD programme.

Question 2:

a) Which WFWF Logic Model outcome(s) does this activity contribute to? Please indicate the relevant early (year 1 and year 2-4 outcomes), intermediate, and long-term outcomes.

b) During this financial year (23/24), how has this activity contributed toward these outcomes? Please describe how this has happened (what processes or mechanisms) and who has been involved (i.e. CSPP staff roles and the types of families receiving support), use specific qualitative or quantitative evidence and cite the sources used.

- Whole system change (intermediate/ WFW driver)

The database will build on mapping work undertaken through the third sector interface project. The database focuses on three user groups including FVA (for understanding the third sector landscape), the public (to identify services and contact them) and the public sector. Funding will enable FVA to allocate resource to its development and maintenance.

The project will focus on design for 6-8 weeks (depending on consensus from partners) which will determine the data fields for gathering information. FVA will be recruiting to support the build of the database. This in the early stages of development.

Question 3: Estimate of WFWF funding spent on this activity in this financial year (in pounds):

£0 – spend will be incurred in 24/25

Activity 18:

Question 1: Activity title and description:

Attendance Research

Declining school attendance is leading to a discontinuity/absence of learning with low attendance more prevalent in more deprived areas. Research undertaken by the Fife Council Research Team shows that the pandemic has had an impact on attendance and changed the issues relating to non-attendance. There is a lack of national and international research into non-attendance. This research led by Education seeks to understand why young people don't attend, why they drift in and out of learning, and understand parental attitudes about school.

Question 2:

- a) Which WFWF Logic Model outcome(s) does this activity contribute to? Please indicate the relevant early (year 1 and year 2-4 outcomes), intermediate, and long-term outcomes.
- b) During this financial year (23/24), how has this activity contributed toward these outcomes? Please describe how this has happened (what processes or mechanisms) and who has been involved (i.e. CSPP staff roles and the types of families receiving support), use specific qualitative or quantitative evidence and cite the sources used.

- *Whole system change (intermediate / WFW driver)*

The Project has been delayed due to not being able to appoint a researcher to undertake this work. It has been reviewed and the Making it Work project will conduct 'conversations' with families. This will involve research to understand the contemporary issues relating to non-attendance and how this has changed post-pandemic, and the lived experience of young people who aren't attending school or who are at risk of becoming non-attenders.

Question 3: Estimate of WFWF funding spent on this activity in this financial year (in pounds):

£0 – spend expected to be incurred in 24/25

Activity 19:

Question 1: Activity title and description:

Children affected by Disability.

There is unmet need for families with children affected by disability as they are unable to access support (either through employing a PA or purchasing a service from an independent agency). The Children Affected by Disability Team within Social Work are aware of 50 families who are unable to find a service to support them to care for their child at home. The project will facilitate the development of an in-house team of support staff, giving an additional option for families to consider.

Question 2:

a) Which WFWF Logic Model outcome(s) does this activity contribute to? Please indicate the relevant early (year 1 and year 2-4 outcomes), intermediate, and long-term outcomes.

b) During this financial year (23/24), how has this activity contributed toward these outcomes? Please describe how this has happened (what processes or mechanisms) and who has been involved (i.e. CSPP staff roles and the types of families receiving support), use specific qualitative or quantitative evidence and cite the sources used.

- *Availability and access (intermediate outcome / WFW driver)*

Limited progress has been as a job profile evaluation process is required to progress to recruitment. Five support workers are to be recruited.

Question 3: Estimate of WFWF funding spent on this activity in this financial year (in pounds):

£0 – spend expected to be incurred in 24/25

Activity 20:

Question 1: Activity title and description:

Cash First Coordinator

Coordination for Fife’s Cash First pilot area to research and test different approaches to cash first through local area pilots. WFWF has been provided for the post which will be instrumental in supporting delivery.

Question 2:

a) Which WFWF Logic Model outcome(s) does this activity contribute to? Please indicate the relevant early (year 1 and year 2-4 outcomes), intermediate, and long-term outcomes.

b) During this financial year (23/24), how has this activity contributed toward these outcomes? Please describe how this has happened (what processes or mechanisms) and who has been involved (i.e. CSPP staff roles and the types of families receiving support), use specific qualitative or quantitative evidence and cite the sources used.

- *Availability and access (intermediate / WFW driver)*

Limited progress has been made due to recruitment issues; however, a Coordinator is now in post and work will begin to progress.

Question 3: Estimate of WFWF funding spent on this activity in this financial year (in pounds):

£0 – spend expected to be incurred in 24/25

Activity 21:

Question 1: Activity title and description:

No Wrong Door – Consultants

Inner Circle Consultancy are supporting Fife partnership with a business case including design work to develop an earlier intervention and wellbeing service in all 7 localities in Fife. The key areas informed by analytics involve issues such as money advice, housing, food and fuel

poverty and wellbeing issues. Currently in Fife there is a centralised Contact Centre, the aim is to localise provision as part of a people and place-based model which is accessible and avoids multiple interventions across the system.

Question 2:

a) Which WFWF Logic Model outcome(s) does this activity contribute to? Please indicate the relevant early (year 1 and year 2-4 outcomes), intermediate, and long-term outcomes.

b) During this financial year (23/24), how has this activity contributed toward these outcomes? Please describe how this has happened (what processes or mechanisms) and who has been involved (i.e. CSPP staff roles and the types of families receiving support), use specific qualitative or quantitative evidence and cite the sources used.

- *Increase in early intervention support.*
- *More collaboration*
- *Holistic workforce approach*
- *Availability and access (intermediate / WFW driver)*

Question 3: Estimate of WFWF funding spent on this activity in this financial year (in pounds):

£122,486

At total of £245,241 is also allocated to support roles which include the lead for WFWF, business support, Promise lead for 2023-24

SECTION 2: Progress Narrative for your overall WFWF plans

*Please complete one response to each question below. **Examples are included in [Annex B](#) (below).** Responses to each question can be up to 250 words but may be less where appropriate. Please try to include all activities mentioned in Section 1 above within your response, recognising that there may be little or no detail at this stage.*

Question 4: How have the activities and outcomes in Section 1 been identified, informed by, and/or developed by different stakeholders? (especially third sector partners and children and families) Please cite your evidence sources. May include: number and groups of children and families engaged (be specific as to which groups), the way in which they were engaged and how that influenced the activity.

The activity in Fife continues to be wide ranging, and the approach to self-assessment from the start of the funding period was to consider the HGIOFS framework, undertaking surveys with leaders, the wider workforce, children, young people and families (CYPF)

to inform the priorities for transformational change. The surveys focused on the 4 drivers and 354 were completed by the workforce and 193 by CYPF.

A summary of the survey analysis is grouped by drivers:

Children at the Centre

Identified there were pockets of good practice where services involved CYPF in service design, children's rights are promoted and services are stigma free, but this did not appear to be universal. One area to be explored relates to availability and access, and in particular flexibility and adaptability of services to meet changing needs of service users.

Availability and Access

The need to explore more fully access to services and barriers was identified. There was a mixed response from CYPF on awareness of available services, with a similar theme to the above on where, how and when services are delivered, and this should be in a flexible and adaptable way requiring better coordination.

Whole System approach

Similar to the other drivers there were identified pockets of good practice but a need to areas such as non-siloed working, joined up approaches and co-production of services.

Leadership, workforce and culture

Overall, the workforce reported a high level of competence and confidence whereas the leadership group reported partnership working and the involvement of children, young people and families (CYPF) in the development of holistic whole family wellbeing support.

The self-assessment undertaken by the CSPP also influenced the co-production work in activity 8, where through an appreciative enquiry approach there have been a series of 'conversations' across the 7 localities in Fife.

Overall, the range of activity in Fife has been driven by the shared principle of collaboration and involvement of CYPF. Equally the Third sector who are part of the WFW Leadership group and also leading work in activity 7, 8 & 17 have been influential.

The WFW Leadership group drives forward the priority theme **Supporting Families** in the current Fife Children's Services Plan (2023-26). This group is multi-agency in membership and has identified leads for each service within the CSPP. The group meets every 6 weeks, and the chair is a member of the Children in Fife group which is the senior group with oversight and governance in respect to the Children's Service Plan 2023-26.

As part of a review of all funded work – embedded in section 7- the lead Service Manager for WFWF, Policy Officer and Improvement Manager have led a comprehensive review of all projects between Jan – April 2024, this has ensured scrutiny of all funding and confirmed where progress is most evident as well as areas for development. Membership of the WFW leadership group is subject to review to ensure there is greater involvement at a senior management level and a strategic focus which will support whole system change – the report in section 7 provides full details of the key next steps.

Question 5: Please provide a broad overview of what has been achieved to date and how this compares to what was planned (i.e. is the programme on track?), including specific partners who have been involved in delivery, particularly third sector organisations. Where relevant, please indicate how these activities align with other policy priorities (i.e. mental health, child poverty, The Promise).

Please only add what has not been stated in Section 1 responses above, this helps provide additional context. It may help to refer to the original WFWF criteria in the allocation letter included above. Please indicate any related local evaluation work in progress here.

A review of WFWF projects was undertaken to assess our current approach to support transformational change across the system to deliver whole family support which is sustainable and focused on earlier intervention. The review considered:

- How the funded work is helping improve whole family support in Fife Council*
- How the work is developing an evidence base for change*
- How the work can ensure sustainability with a lasting impact beyond the WFWF timescale*

The report embedded in question 7 provides details of the analysis of the activities noted above, however the main findings which have led to a set of recommendations under each driver are as follows:

Child at the Centre

- Strengthen the implementation of the refreshed child wellbeing pathway as the key process in Fife to deliver GIRFEC*
- Further scoping on pathways to access services*
- Develop a structured evidence base given available evidence from the majority of activities is partial or incomplete – the intent is to connect with sources of expertise via a research project or Knowledge transfer Hub*

Availability & Access

- Focus on commissioning and the development of a partnership framework to ensure we are meeting needs for all C&YP across the continuum from earlier intervention and in line with the calls for action in the Promise plan
- Integrate the delivery of evidence base programmes into the Family Support Service
- Benchmark with other CSPP's to establish how Fife's current work on integrated early help and support can be further developed and scaled across the localities in Fife

Whole System approach

- Develop a more structured approach to Quality Improvement and develop a robust quality assurance framework for early intervention

Leadership, workforce and culture

- Develop and promote a learning organisation approach across the whole system to enable change
- Ensure there is adequate resources and capacity to lead this next stage of work for example recruit a lead performance analyst
- Ensure there is a close and connected interface with the wider Council reform agenda in respect to NWD.

Question 6: Describe the main successes to delivery and how specific factors enabled these successes.

Please describe your evidence sources. Please note engagement with children and families should be covered under question 7 below. May include resourcing, skill development, planning or engagement, activities, or emerging outcomes. Evidence of economic/budgetary impact may also be included.

Factors which have supported the elements in the programme of work to progress have involved the following:

- Oversight of the WFW Leadership group and Children in Fife group ensuring the activities are aligned to priorities within the Children's Service Plan
- Regular review and monitoring of the funded work led by the Lead Service Manager, Policy Officer and Improvement Manager, has resulted in all activities submitting 6 monthly updates based on a template informed by HGIOFS Framework. The review findings report has been critical in agreeing next steps for the duration of the funding However this activity has indicated that ongoing support for projects is required to ensure measurable outcomes are in place and opportunity to reflect and learn.

- Workforce development and leadership have been one of the main drivers across a large majority of projects, a subgroup developing the programme of multi-agency practice development sessions have been effective in the delivery of the sessions. However more work is required to evaluate the impact and be clear on measurable outcomes.

-At a strategic level WFWF links with the NWD programme, the current governance structure ensures partners within the Council and wider partnership are fully aware of the interface of this work and ensure learning is shared.

-The C&F Social Work Service underwriting posts has provided stability for some activities however recruitment due to short term funding remains a challenge

Question 7: Describe the main challenges to delivery, and how these have been mitigated or plans to mitigate them. Please include any details on any activities which have not progressed as expected. This is a space to reflect on any lessons learned and how these might inform future work.

Please cite your evidence sources. May include resourcing, skill development, planning or engagement, activities, or emerging outcomes. Evidence of economic/budgetary impact may also be included.

Fife's CSPP undertook a diverse programme of work to test and scale areas of work to support transformational change within year 1 and 2. However this has confirmed not all this activity will inform service redesign or be sustainable in terms of a whole system model for family support. However, the learning from TOC has been considered and will now be applied to a more focused programme of service redesign work which is associated with NWD and early support / early help. In addition, it is essential we ensure there is a continuum of family support resource in Fife and in particular a focus on C&YP with complex and diverse needs who require intensive support to mitigate against risk and adversity.

Commissioning is an area that requires a sharper focus as well as data analysis to inform planning hence the decision to recruit to a data analyst post.

The report below provides details of next steps; however, the intent will be fewer projects and a more focused approach to designing a model which is integrated and meets the needs of communities in Fife. The decision to review all projects is likely to lead to an underspend in 2025-26. On this basis it would be helpful to know if there is likely to be a carry forward into the next financial year.

The report below is the review report of the full programme of work to date with recommendations.



WFW%20Review%20-%20Working%20E

Additional: Any other comments, innovative work, relevant learning, or unexpected changes identified during this year?

May include: any progress not captured elsewhere in the table, or questions for Scottish Government.

The evaluation by IRISS regarding co-production will be completed in August, this should provide practitioners and leaders with more information on 'what works.'

Appendix 2 – Further Information

Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD)

The Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation is the Scottish Government's standard approach to measuring relative levels of disadvantage across Scotland. It provides information about a range of resources and opportunities available to communities at a local level. These relate to: income, employment, education, health, access to services, crime and housing.



SIMD is calculated for defined local, geographical areas called data zones. There are 6,976 datazones across Scotland.

Each of these datazones fall within five families, called quintiles, according to the overall level of multiple deprivation recorded by SIMD for that area. SIMD Quintile 1 (often abbreviated to **SIMD Q1**) refers to the most deprived areas, as measured by SIMD.

Further information can be found at: <https://www.gov.scot/collections/scottish-index-of-multiple-deprivation-2020/>

United Nations on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)

The UNCRC (Incorporation) (Scotland) Act 2024 gained Royal Assent on 16 January 2024 and will be in force from 16 July 2024. The UNCRC was developed in 1992 and is the most widely adopted human rights treaty globally. The UN reports periodically on signatories to determine progress towards realising rights.



Incorporation brings stronger accountability in domestic law where breaches may have occurred. Incorporation means that public bodies must act compatibly with the UNCRC, and gives children, defined as those under the age of 18, or those acting on their behalf the right to seek legal redress, and the Children's Commissioner additional powers to intervene or bring proceedings where rights may have been breached.

Further information can be found at: <https://www.gov.scot/policies/human-rights/childrens-rights/>

Child Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment (CRWIA)

The Child Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment (**CRWIA**) is the approach that officials use to provide evidence that proper consideration has been given to the impact that any policy or strategy will have on children and young people up to the age of 18.

Further information can be found at: <https://www.gov.scot/collections/childrens-rights-and-wellbeing-impact-assessments-guidance/>

GIRFEC

Scotland's national approach for supporting children, is called Getting it right for every child (**GIRFEC**). It supports families by making sure children and young people can receive the right help, at the right time, from the right people. The aim is to help them to grow up feeling loved, safe and respected so that they can realise their full potential.



GIRFEC helps the different agencies, services and teams who form part of the Fife Children's Services Partnership work better together.

Further information can be found at: <https://www.gov.scot/policies/girfec/>

The Promise

In 2017, the Scottish Government launched an Independent Review of Scotland's Care System (Children and Young People) to help Scotland deliver the 'world's best care system'.



The Promise is responsible for driving the work of change demanded by the findings of the Independent Care Review, following their publication in 2020. It works with all kinds of organisations to support shifts in policy, practice and culture so Scotland can *#KeepThePromise* it made to care experienced infants, children, young people, adults and their families - that every child grows up loved, safe and respected, able to realise their full potential.

Further information can be found at: <https://thepromise.scot/>



Fife Partnership Board Update

www.fife.gov.uk/committee/fifepartnership

Agenda Item No. 7

6th August 2024

Communities & Wellbeing Partnership Report

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

Purpose

To update partners on progress since the last report to Fife Partnership Board in August 2023 and propose next steps.

Recommendations

Fife partners are asked to:

- i) note progress and challenges outlined in Section 2.0 and Appendix 1
- ii) advise on the approach outlined in 3.0 and the priority themes suggested

Resource Implications

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

Consultation

The Communities & Wellbeing Partnership and action leads across delivery areas have informed the content of this report.



#Keeping
The Promise
in Fife

1.0 Background

- 1.1 The Communities & Wellbeing Partnership (CWP) drives the Fife Health and Wellbeing Delivery Plan.
- 1.2 The delivery plan sets out key actions and annual milestones which contribute to achievement of outcomes linked to:
 - Ambition 3 – Reducing levels of preventable ill health and premature mortality across all communities
 - Ambition 7 – Ensuring every community has access to high quality outdoor, cultural and leisure opportunities
- 1.3 The current 2021-24 delivery plan was agreed by the Recovery and Renewal Leadership Board in April 2021. The final progress report on this plan is at **Appendix 1**. The format of this has been refined following feedback on the last update to Fife Partnership Board in August 2023. A new plan is required for 2024 onwards.
- 1.4 CWP is the parent governance body for the Community Learning and Development (CLD) Plan, the Fife Volunteering Strategy and Action Plan and the Food for Fife Partnership, which report at least annually to CWP. These areas of work contribute across P4F themes / ambitions and priorities. A brief summary of recent progress on CLD and Volunteering is at **Appendix 2**.

2.0 Progress and challenges

- 2.1 The delivery plan encompasses a wide range of activity from across services, reporting to a range of governance structures. While the plan met the requirements of the Leadership Board in 2021 and provides a useful overview of work being taken forward to deliver P4F ambitions, it has created a degree of duplicate reporting.
- 2.2 The focus of the CWP over the last year in particular has been on Public Health Priority 6 - eating well and being physically active - and developing small tests of change through targeted collaboration. This complements and supports the work undertaken through other Partnerships and Boards to tackle critical factors (social determinants) impacting on health and inequality such as income, employment, housing and education.

Eating well and being physically active (Public Health Priority 6)
- 2.3 Building on the health and wellbeing Leadership Summits in 2022/23, a range of work has been considered and brought together to help identify gaps and duplication and to scale up good practice.
- 2.4 This has highlighted scope for a more systemic, place-based approach to improving the health of Fifiers through healthy eating and physical activity.

- 2.5 Using the evidence-based recommendations set out in Obesity Action Scotland report, [Local Levers for Diet and Healthy Weight](#), a mapping exercise has been carried out which has identified priorities for action, e.g. around food advertising and food environments.
- 2.6 Work is under way to progress these priorities and a stakeholder conference is being planned for autumn 2024 and, Public Health Priority 6 will be the theme of this year's Director of Public Health Annual Report.
- 2.7 Fife's Physical Activity and Sport Strategy is currently being reviewed and a refreshed strategy will be in place by 2025. This will build on the work outlined in the progress report (Appendix 1) but with a sharper focus on reducing inequalities, understanding and measuring impact.

Joint working to reduce and prevent harms caused by substance use

- 2.8 As a result of discussions at CWP in June 2023, some joint areas of work have been developed in this area. Notably, a test of change project has sought to improve wellbeing and tackle issues of stigma, isolation and inequalities in access to services and opportunities to improve health and wellbeing.

'Recovery Outdoors' Test of Change

A collaboration of Active Communities, Fife's Alcohol and Drugs Partnership, Restoration Fife, FIRST and Outdoor Education Fife, this test of change involved a programme of outdoor activities for people in recovery. 12 local people took part in activities including cycling, coastering, team building and island-hopping at Lochore Meadows. The evaluation found improvements in participants' physical health, mental wellbeing and social connectedness:

"I haven't had the opportunity to participate in any of the activities throughout my life, so this was a great experience."

"Programme challenged me mentally and physically."

"Reduced anxiety"

"Given me more confidence meeting new people."

The project also succeeded in increasing staff knowledge and awareness of the challenges facing people in recovery.

Further programmes are being planned for later in 2024 and further evaluation to evidence impact and understand the SROI of such interventions. There is also work under way to expand the partnerships and build pathways to connect people into physical activity opportunities in their communities.

- 2.9 Other collaborative work has taken place to support the roll-out of Take Home Naloxone training to new frontline teams, including Fife Sports & Leisure Trust staff.
- 2.10 Future priorities include developing a whole population approach to reducing harmful and hazardous drinking in Fife, generated by the ADP / Public Health needs assessment and in need of wider stakeholder involvement from CWP members.

3.0 Next steps

- 3.1 CWP has provided a much needed space to build understanding and develop a strong collaborative approach that has resulted in impactful, small tests of change that would otherwise not have happened.
- 3.2 There is potential to build on this test of change/collaborative approach to enhance the impact of joint initiatives across the health and wellbeing agenda and encourage wider more consistent involvement from practitioners and senior leaders across the Partnership.
- 3.3 A new plan is required to focus the work of the Partnership from 2024 onwards. It is proposed that will continue to focus on Ambitions 3 and 7 and Public Health Priority 6 but focus less on coordinating 'business as usual' activities and more on a small number of specific tests of change/collaborative priorities, with potential to work at scale.
- 3.4 Potential priority themes/focus areas for wider development include:
 - Whole system approach to the targeting and coordination of physical activity/ opportunities locally
 - Collaborating on the HSCP Prevention & Early Intervention Strategy
 - Supporting strategies to reduce hazardous and harmful drinking in Fife
 - Coordinating improvement across the Partnership's community engagement
- 3.5 Further work would be required to develop these themes and consider the Partnership approach to resourcing and delivering the improvements required.

Report contact

Gill Musk
Policy Officer
gill.musk@fife.gov.uk

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Health & Wellbeing Progress Updates
Appendix 2 – CLD and Volunteering Updates

Appendix 1 - Health and Wellbeing Delivery Plan: Progress Updates July 2024

RAG status code: **Green** = progressing / delivered; **Amber** = work initiated; **Red** = work not started

AMBITION 3: Reduced levels of preventable ill health and premature mortality across all communities				
Outcome: More integrated and community-based programmes of interventions (particularly for obesity , substance use and smoking)				
Ref	Action	Lead	RAG	Update July 2024
1.1	Roll out Type 2 Diabetes Prevention programme	Jo-Anne Valentine	A	Work continues to progress whole systems approaches to Public Health Priority 6 (diet, healthy weight and physical activity) across Fife, building on the WSA pilot and Fife Partnership Leadership Summits in 2022/23. A mapping exercise has identified priority actions (recommendations by Obesity Action Scotland in its local levers report) not currently being taken forward in Fife and work is under way to progress these, to strengthen place-based approaches to diet and healthy weight. A follow-up stakeholder conference is planned for autumn 2024.
1.2	Create a sustainable food culture for a healthy Fife	Jo-Anne Valentine	A	The Food4Fife Strategy and action plan was agreed by Fife Council Cabinet in May 2024. This was developed by the Food4Fife Partnership and sets out actions across six pillars, representing all parts of the food system in Fife. Priority actions within each of the six pillars within the strategy will be agreed by October 2024.
1.3	Implement early intervention and prevention of type II diabetes programmes	Kerry Aitken	A	<p><u>Tier 2:</u> Partnership working with Fife Sports and Leisure. Combined exercise and lifestyle programme over 12 months. A digital option implemented using Second Nature.</p> <p><u>Let's Prevent Diabetes:</u> Group Programme empowering individuals to make positive lifestyle changes to prevent or delay the onset of type 2 diabetes. Paused due to poor engagement, outcomes that are difficult to interpret and a significantly high Admin resource requirement. The service has implemented a new Diabetes Prevention Programme which includes the group programme Prevent It.</p> <p><u>Counterweight Plus:</u> Type 2 Diabetes Remission Programme. Two-year intensive weight loss programmes to help those living with type 2 diabetes achieve and maintain remission.</p> <p><u>Gestational Diabetes:</u> Programme supporting diet and lifestyle management of gestational diabetes to reduce complications for mother and baby.</p> <p>Significant reduction in funding has resulted in ending fixed term contracts; it is anticipated this will increase waiting times. Year on year funding for length of parliamentary term prevents ability to recruit to permanent contracts, impacting on recruitment and retention.</p>

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	RAG	Update July 2024
2.1	Establish an Addressing Alcohol Specific Deaths group (AASDG) as a subgroup of the ADP	Elizabeth Butters (ADP Service Manager) Fiona McKay (ADP Chair)	G	<p>Research on Alcohol Specific Deaths has been completed and recommendations were submitted to the ADP Committee in Feb 2024 under these themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Screening and Harm Reduction • Prevention • Referral pathways and access to treatment • Integrated working and Communications • Support, treatment and alcohol detoxification • High risk times <p>A new group will take forward a first-year delivery plan based on quality improvement actions under each theme.</p>
2.2	Enhance community-based, integrated support for those most at risk of alcohol related harm and alcohol specific death	Elizabeth Butters (ADP Service Manager) Fiona McKay (ADP Chair)	G	<p>The Hospital Liaison Service has continued and is now co- located with the Compass Social Work Service. NHS Addictions received 904 referrals within the year and referring locations have increased from 10 to 52 demonstrating a good level of coverage and reach across the hospital. 20% have been generated from A&E and admissions units. There are significant reductions in admissions 3 months post contact with the service and a reduced average length of stay for those admitted. There are also significant reductions in A&E attendances at the 3-month post contact point.</p> <p>Since it commenced in August 2023, Compass have received 66 referrals all of which have been allocated and are active and long-term cases. Most referrals are for people for whom poly drug use is a risk factor, though 15 are for alcohol use only. It is too early to assess the most at risk 12 months+ target.</p>
3.1	Theme – Harm Reduction Increase training in THN (Take Home Naloxone) & Overdose Education	Elizabeth Butters (ADP Service Manager) Fiona McKay (ADP Chair)	G	<p>Over 18 new services have been trained in Take Home Naloxone (THN) over the year with 1900 people receiving this vital harm reduction training. This includes family members, people at risk, and communities and businesses in areas where prevalence of drug related harm is high.</p> <p>Following discussions at Communities & Wellbeing Partnership this training will be now rolled out to new frontline teams, in collaboration with Fife Sports & Leisure Trust and others.</p> <p>1674 people have been provided with a THN kit - 17% higher than the ADP target and an increase of 52% on the previous year's performance.</p>

3.2	Theme – Access & Retention in treatment and support MAT (Medication Assisted Treatment) Standards Implementation	Elizabeth Butters (ADP Service Manager) Fiona McKay (ADP Chair)	G	<p>Fife ADP completed its third year of the MAT Standards Implementation Plan. This has been externally validated by Public Health Scotland based on process, numerical and experiential data gathered over the year and submitted at the end of 2023/24.</p> <p>MAT 1 to 5 has been assessed the final PHS assessment indicates a status of green fully implemented for MAT 1 to 5 and partial green, a strong progress towards full implementation for MAT 6 to 10. (Note that green was not available on MAT 6 to 10 for all ADP areas.)</p> <p>At the end of Q2 in 2023/24, the numbers in Opiate Replacement treatment target have increased by 11% to 1899 from the baseline of 1711 patients. This exceeded the Scottish Government target of 9%.</p>
3.3	Develop and test a new locality-based approach in Levenmouth	Elizabeth Butters (ADP Service Manager) Fiona McKay (ADP Chair)	G	<p>The one stop shop (KY8 Club) in Methil has been in operation since March 2022. On average 28 people attend each week. The new one stop shops in Kirkcaldy and Lochgelly (established in August 2023) have also continued, with good levels of attendance each week.</p> <p>The one stop shops reduce isolation by providing a safe, warm and welcoming space and access to a range of supports, including housing, welfare checks and mental health support, in addition to addictions services. They provide a new vital pathway for people not able to access support via existing referral processes. Over the last six months, 37 people from the KY Clubs have started Opiate Replacement Therapy treatment on the same day with NHS Fife Addiction Services.</p>
Outcome: More integrated and community-based programmes of interventions (particularly for obesity, substance use and smoking)				
Ref	Action	Lead	RAG	Update July 2024
4.1	Reduce active smoking (Smoking Cessation)	Patricia Allan	A	<p>Nationally the new Tobacco and vaping framework: roadmap to 2034 has been launched. This includes the first implementation plan, with a focus on these priority groups: most deprived groups (SIMD 1 and SIMD 2); pregnant smokers; people with enduring mental health problems; people requiring acute services due to smoking related illnesses.</p> <p>The Stop Smoking Service has increased face to face support provision by 33% to date in 2024 to 40 clinics per week. Increased provision is targeted in our most deprived communities. Referrals and footfall have been fewer in number than pre-Covid levels. In response to this and client feedback, the service now provides an additional 4 telephone support clinics per week, helping meet the needs of people who are housebound or unable to attend a face-to-face appointment. Use of the mobile unit as a pop-up clinic helps support people in their community who continue to be impacted by the cost-of-living increases.</p>

				<p>Successful quit data from Public Health Scotland for 2022/23: whole population 12 week quits is 473, of which 307 are from our most deprived communities. This equates to 64.9% of the Local Delivery Plan target. (Scotland is at 69.4% made up from all boards who range between 36.8% and 144.7%.)</p> <p>Work across Fife NHS acute sites has resulted in weekly onsite clinic provision at 5 hospitals. We continue to work on embedding a referral pathway for in-patient smokers at point of discharge as standard practice.</p>
4.2	Reduce uptake of smoking (Prevention)	Patricia Allan	G	<p>Programmes delivered during the 23/24 school year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 61 primary schools registered to the Smoke Factor 23/24 programme and 3800 pupils were signed up • 5486 pupils across 213 classes in 70 secondary schools took part in the Smoke-Free Class programme, an increase of 824 compared with 2022/23. <p>Evaluation of pupils' beliefs and perceptions surrounding tobacco before and after taking part in programmes showed increased awareness and positive preventative messaging. For example, the number of pupils who believed that most people smoke was reduced by 41%, and those that believed parents would approve of smoking was reduced by 75%.</p> <p>We have delivered training on vaping in young people in Fife to the School Nursing Service. An outcome was that education services required a clear referral pathway to the Quit Your Way Service, with the aim to support young non-smokers who were vaping to stop and reduce their risk of taking up tobacco in the future. This has been implemented and future work will continue to raise awareness and evaluate uptake to the service.</p> <p>Digital materials to raise awareness of the risks of vaping to under-18s in Fife was sent out via secondary schools to the pupils' parents/carers through the school's digital communication channels.</p>
4.3	Reduce harms caused by others smoking (Protection)	Patricia Allan	A	<p>Work has taken place to raise awareness of and encourage compliance with the Smoke Free NHS sites. Enforcement of the Smoke Free legislation and the issuing of fixed penalties is with the Fife Safer Communities team. Warnings have been issued to smokers within the 15-metre boundary; no fines have been issued to date.</p> <p>The updated Smoke Free Home programme is being promoted to households at family-focussed events, to encourage people to create a smoke free environment within the home. An evaluation will be available in May 2025.</p> <p>The Fife Young Persons Tobacco (and Vaping) Issues Group have created refreshed Terms of Reference specifically to include vaping. New members include young people from the Youth Scotland Police Volunteers.</p> <p>A weekly clinic is carried out within the maternity dept at Victoria Hospital and fortnightly at Queen Margaret Hospital. All staff from the Specialist Stop Smoking service have undergone specialist training to positively engage with women and complete a successful 12 week quit. Use of the maternity opt out process is positive with maternity department staff providing reassurance of the individual support options available.</p>

Outcome: Improved mental health				
Ref	Action	Lead	RAG	Update July 2024
5.1	Review Fife's Mental Health Strategy and revise implementation structures	Jillian Torrens	G	<p>Work on the new Fife Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy and Year One Delivery Plan is under way. This will include a review of the draft strategic priorities to ensure alignment with identified issues and challenges.</p> <p>Participation and Engagement Engagement activities for the new Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy started in June 2023 (planning stage) and were completed in February 2024 (analysis and evaluation). Most stakeholder engagement took place during Nov/Dec 2023. Over 1,000 provided their views on the draft vision, mission, values and strategic priorities.</p> <p>Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy Work completed includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation and Engagement Report completed. • Review of national situation, and national drivers identified. • STEEP analysis of external environment. • SWOT analysis of internal environment. • Review and evaluation of the previous Mental Health Strategy (2020-2024) • Collated financial budgets to produce an integrated overview of the Partnership's mental health services. • Developed a first draft of new Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy. • Started to complete an Equality Impact Assessment.
5.2	Improve information and communication around mental health interventions	Ruth Bennett Dr Frances Baty	G	<p>To support the delivery of the refreshed Fife Mental Health Strategy, a communication plan is being developed, to be ready by September 2024. Delivery will be overseen by the Mental Health & Wellbeing in Primary Care and Community Settings Project Board.</p> <p>Funding for the Action 15 12-month secondment ended in January 2023. Members of the Health Information Communications Multiagency Group, developed as part of the secondment, continue to work together and were invited to join the newly formed Health Literacy Fife Network, led by Health Promotion Service, due to the shared working practice across communication and health information.</p> <p>The Keeping Connected: Keeping Well leaflet is regularly reviewed/updated by the Health Promotion Service. It has a high order rate, is used by a number of services to signpost patients/service users and also within:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NHS Fife Pain Talking web pages • Wellbeing Toolkit

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	Jacquie Stringer	G	<p>HSCP's Community Led Support Service (CLSS) sits within Locality Planning (Business Enabling Portfolio) and includes The Well, Link Life Fife (LLF) and Macmillan Improving the Cancer Journey (ICJ). The Well provides a light touch support and information service, with LLF and ICJ Community Link Workers (CLWs) supporting people with more complex social and health needs, working closely with the Council and third sector services CARF, FVA, Fife Carers and Fife Forum. CLSS is offered throughout Fife. The new GP Framework Contract (2018) recognised one of the most challenging aspects of being a GP was workload. To maximise referral opportunity from primary care to CLSS, the Partnership can now receive referrals via SCI Gateway (electronic referral platform utilised by GPs). The data below highlights the increased referrals from Primary Care.</p> <p>CLSS 23/24 stats:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CLSS received 3895 referrals (3 services) • Overall Engagement rate 77% • Top 3 concerns reported by people who engaged - Emotional Health, Community Support, Money/Finance <p>The Wells 23/24:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2037 interactions using the Good Conversations approach (43% increase from 22/23) • 1654 referrals (38% increase from 22/23) • Physical Well available across the 7 localities (21hrs per week) <p>Link Life Fife 23/24:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1236 referrals (18% increase 22/23) • Engagement rate 76% • 85% of referrals from Primary Care - 55% of referrals from Primary Care Mental Health Nurse and 30% from GPs <p>Improving Cancer Journey 23/24:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1005 referrals (10% decrease from 22/23 due to staff absence/vacant posts – full staffing compliment in place for 24/25) • Over 80% of referrals from NHS Fife Acute Division <p>Monitoring and evaluation of the CLSS is key to inform workforce and service development. The Services are currently testing the CollaboRATE tool. This tool measures the level of shared decision making in the interaction from the person's perspective. The 54 responses received to date indicate that the link workers in Fife have successfully ensured service users feel involved in the supporting process and that their opinions and feelings are considered when making decisions.</p>
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Outcome: Improved trauma awareness across services				
Ref	Action	Lead	RAG	Update July 2024
6.1	Develop trauma-informed workforces and practice across Fife	Andy Summers / Diarmuid Cotter	A	<p>Progress made since the Project Manager has been put in place. However now seeking a replacement. Strong foundations on which to work.</p> <p>The Trauma Collective continues to ensure training and wide-ranging discussion continues across multiple services.</p> <p>Level 1 learning now mandatory for all Council staff. Training modules updated and work progressing well with level 3 training where the role requires it.</p> <p>Need to work on the evaluation of trauma-informed practice in 24/25 as this has slowed.</p>
Outcome: More targeted support for carers				
Ref	Action	Lead	RAG	Update July 2024
7.1	Refresh the Fife carers strategy	Scott Fissenden	G	<p>The refreshed carers strategy was developed and agreed in July 2023, following extensive carer engagement. Priorities remain broadly in line with the previous strategy.</p> <p>We have established a new in-house service to support unpaid carers with 10 new Social Work Assistants adding significant capacity to the service. We have delivered function specific induction, established a staff group forum for collective learning and development of the service, who are managed by different line managers, and provided access to Good Conversations training.</p> <p>We launched a new Carers Community Chest fund and invested over £400,000 to support 54 new community-based projects specifically to help unpaid carers in their localities, each project developed by and for unpaid carers. We invested £100,000 in additional short breaks for unpaid carers through a third sector partner, Crossroads, and continued to invest significant resources to strengthen the breadth and depth of the support offered to unpaid carers through our commissioned third sector partners.</p>

Outcome: Improved air quality to meet prescribed standards to reduce preventable ill health				
Ref	Action	Lead	RAG	Update July 2024
8.1	Monitoring and assessment of air quality	Kenny Bisset	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 2023 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 2024. 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 and Bonnygate Air Quality Action Plan measures	Kenny Bisset	G	Both the Appin Crescent (Dunfermline) and Bonnygate (Cupar) Air Quality Management Areas have been fully revoked (December 2023) because of statutory air quality objectives being achieved. Monitoring and assessment will continue at these locations to ensure statutory air quality objectives are met.
8.3	Meet the aims and objectives of Fife Council's Air Quality Strategy 2021-2025	Kenny Bisset	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 actions 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	RAG	Update July 2024
9.1	Continue to implement the Personal Outcomes Programme of work across Fife	Fiona McKay	G	<p>The HSCP’s Self-Directed Support team provides advice and support to colleagues across the Partnership through daily duty access, induction/information sessions, staff guidance as well as a range of materials available on the On Your Doorstep website (www.onyourdoorstepfife.org).</p> <p>The information and support provided enables practitioners to feel fully informed when supporting individuals and their carers through the assessment and planning process. This in turn ensures individuals and their carers feel involved and listened to when making decisions about their lives.</p>

				<p>The milestones identified previously continue to be worked towards. Through annual performance reports and case file audits, the Partnership will evidence the personal outcomes programme continues to be implemented in Fife.</p> <p>The Good Conversation approach to assessment and support planning continues, with the most recent course taking place during May and June '24. This was to support staff working with unpaid carers. Feedback indicates that the course was well received with 18 of the 19 participants reporting they were "Very Satisfied" with the content.</p>
Outcome: More people can look after themselves to live in good health longer				
Ref	Action	Lead	RAG	Update July 2024
10.1	Deliver the Home First Programme as part of HSCP Transformation	Anca Wilson	G	<p><u>Complete</u> Home First Strategy was signed off by IJB in July 2023. To reflect the financial challenges Fife HSCP is facing and aiming to close the financial gap, whilst still delivering the strategic ambition, Medium Term Financial Strategy identified in 2023 three key transformational change projects implementing efficiency savings aligned to Home First, as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Community Rehabilitation & Care Model, including Community Hospitals Review 2. Centralised Scheduling 3. Care at Home – Single Handed Care <p>To reflect these projects, the Home First programme, which is the delivery mechanism for the Strategy, has been reviewed and its structure amended to incorporate the new workstreams and supporting service initiatives.</p> <p><u>In Progress</u> The three projects identified above are at planning phase, activities and associated timescales are being collated to ensure the delivery of the Home First benefits. Proof of concept for each of these workstreams are being proposed and included within the delivery plans and project timelines.</p> <p>A number of related tests of change are progressing as proof of concepts for the proposed models of care:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Enhanced Intermediate Care Team Plus (EICT) 2. The British Red Cross – Supported Discharge 3. Levenmouth Multi Agency/ Primary Care Case Management Verification Group (Home First Levenmouth Test of Change) 4. Prevention of Admission and Early Discharge 5. Identification of Frailty in the Community 6. Anticipatory Care Planning 7. Adults with Incapacity (AWI)

				<p>Challenges Challenges around the wider financial pressures, lack of budgets allocated to the programme, staffing/ resourcing issues and progress on tests of change implications etc are included in the programme risk/ issue registers and monitored regularly to ensure mitigating actions are identified to manage these risks.</p>
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AMBITION 7: Every community has access to high quality outdoor, cultural and leisure opportunities				
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	RAG	Update July 2024
11.1	Reduce inequalities in physical activity and sport across Fife	Paul Vaughan Emma Walker Pam Colburn	G	<p>Work to tackle financial and other barriers to participation has included the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fife Sports & Leisure Trust (FSLT) launched an enhanced membership product at reduced price in Jan 2024 to make it easier to access venues and services. Since its launch, membership has grown from 12k to just under 16k with increasing participation across all age groups and improved concessionary access to FSLT facilities. Targeted FSLT outreach programmes, e.g. work with the Kinship Team to provide funded places for Active Kidz camps, gym induction sessions (inc. two months of free membership) and free swimming lessons for 12 months. The 'Recovery Outdoors' test of change project, a partnership of Active Communities, the Fife Alcohol & Drug Partnership, Restoration Fife, FIRST and Outdoor Education Fife, which aimed to reduce inequalities and improve the physical, mental and social wellbeing of those on the pathway to recovery from addiction. Joint working Active Communities and OT for Fife Council Care Homes, to set up a meaningful activity network for care settings. This work builds on the work of the previous Physical Activity team by now taking a more strategic and sustainable approach to delivery by securing buy-in from the HSCP, wider care settings and voluntary sector, ensuring capacity is built to deliver more opportunities within this setting. Active Communities and Community Use have developed a programme of holiday activities to complement the Café Inc offer and ensure price is not a barrier to participation. Warm Spaces – FSLT, OnFife, Community Use and Lochore Meadows offered spaces and free activities.

11.2	Increase and sustain physical activity, physical confidence and sport participation	Paul Vaughan Emma Walker Pam Colburn	G	<p>Following the success of the 4DX programme, Active Fifers teams across Fife – a collaboration of the Council’s Active Communities, Community Use, CLD and Active Schools teams, FSLT and HSCP - continue to develop innovative and sustainable ways of increasing participation in physical activity and sport. In the first three months of 24/25, 863,663 attendances were recorded (24% of the target for this year). In addition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FSLT has expanded the fitness programme to over 250 weekly classes and boosted its health and wellbeing programme, which supports people with long-term health conditions, to over 90 classes each week. Rise Gymnastics was introduced late 2023 to the Junior fitness programme and has now grown to over 1,100 young people participating weekly in the programme for gymnastics alone. • FSLT 'Learn to Swim' programme has grown to over 8,000 participants and remains one of the largest learn to swim programmes in Scotland. • In spring, with a full complement of seasonal skilled instructors in place, Outdoor Education Fife saw an increase in participation across public access, groups, and events, with 3,589 attendances between April-May 2024. It is anticipated that the summer programme will see a further increase in participation rates. • Education: results of the Fife Young People Health & Wellbeing Survey were launched from Sept 2023. The Health & Wellbeing Strategy year 1 has focused on 9 key outcomes linked to the 5 key priorities for children, young people and staff: Mental Wellbeing, Physical Wellbeing, Health Inequalities, Communication & Relationships & Behaviour. In relation to physical activity, in terms 1, 2 & 3 there were 2416 unique extra-curricular blocks of sport and physical activity provision (min 6 weeks per block) delivered across 18 school clusters. 80% of provisions were universal / participation provisions. 20% of provisions were targeted, based on community activity data of young people not engaged with physical activity. Moving forward key priorities will be on Staff Wellbeing, building on feedback.
11.3	Build resilient communities that are physically active and participate in sport		G	
11.4	Invest in facilities and infrastructure for physical activity and sport	Emma Walker Paul Vaughan	G	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FSLT has launched a new website in July 2024 with over 500 pages that contains SEO optimised content with live ‘venue status’ providing customers with up-to-date information on services including venue timetables and booking classes directly from the website. A dynamic of ‘Find your activity’ tool is available ensuring easy access to the activity of choice, integrated social media feeds, live and personalised search functions etc. • Cowdenbeath Leisure Centre closed 28th April 2024 for refurbishment works with all venue programmes successfully relocated to Lochgelly Community Use School, Maxwell Centre, Bowhill Swimming Pool and Lumphinnans Sports Hub to ensure continuity of delivery to the community. • Community Access offer at Dunfermline Learning Campus from Oct 24, Abbeyview Community Hub due to open Oct 24 and work will start on new Templehall Hub in spring 25. • Ongoing programme in place to replace synthetic turf pitches and replace/upgrade playparks.

Outcomes: Increased participation in cultural life
 Increased satisfaction with outdoor, cultural and leisure opportunities
 Improved mental health

Ref	Action	Lead	RAG	Update July 2024
12.1	Develop and implement a recovery plan for cultural engagement and participation in Fife	Heather Stuart	A	<p>OnFife has increased participation and improved mental health, e.g. through an outreach Storytelling Wagon collecting inter-generational oral and filmed memories in Kincardine and Oakley. With Fife Council YouthSpace and Police Scotland Young Volunteers, we have supported young people to create short films tackling issues such as mental health, peer pressure and vaping, resulting in an installation <i>Sugarcoat</i> at Dunfermline Carnegie Library & Galleries June to September 2024. We ran a successful dementia friendly screening of Cliff Richard film <i>Summer Holiday</i> at Carnegie Hall Dunfermline and plan to run another film and a dementia friendly disco later in 2024.</p> <p>We participated in Tree in the Park, Dunfermline’s first outdoor health festival in Pittencrieff Park showcasing a range of free activities available at DCLG.</p> <p>We are now working on legacy plan from the Wellbeing project and developing a Wellbeing Approach that will form a core part of our corporate strategy.</p> <p>In May 2024, OnFife together with Fife Council and the University of St Andrews hosted a Culture Summit to start exploring across wellbeing, education, enterprise and culture sectors the cultural values and objectives we hold in common. Work will continue throughout 2024.</p>

Appendix 2 – Brief progress updates on CLD and Volunteering

Community Learning and Development (CLD)

1. Community Learning and Development (CLD) in Fife is delivered through local action in Fife's seven areas, aligned to the Fife-wide CLD Plan. The CLD Plan is developed and monitored by the multi-agency CLD Partnership group, reporting annually to the Communities & Wellbeing Partnership. The current CLD Plan 2021-24 was published in September 2021; a new plan is in development.
2. CLD activity contributes across Plan for Fife themes, ambitions and priorities. Achievements over the last year have included:
 - A wide range of work to tackle poverty, help people get into work, mitigate and prevent food insecurity (see Poverty report)
 - Engaging increasing numbers of young people in both universal and targeted youth work, with numbers moving back to pre-Covid levels in most areas
 - Research with young people aged 11-21 to understand the effects of Covid on their learning, emotional and social development and how CLD can best respond; the results are informing the new Fife youth work strategy and CLD Plan.
 - Delivery of a wealth of adult and family learning opportunities in communities, including literacy, numeracy, digital skills, ESOL, wellbeing and food skills
 - Work to reduce social isolation and help people to feel more connected, e.g. Warm Welcome provision, social activity groups, community events and consultations
 - Leading and facilitating community engagement in decision-making and supporting a broad range of partnership work to develop places and spaces, enhance local facilities, improve access to services etc.
 - Support for local organisations to address local issues, enhance their sustainability and governance arrangements, access funding
 - Improving community voice structures to connect people to decision makers, including launch of a community engagement toolkit
 - Support for volunteers and volunteering.
3. A recent [progress visit by HMle](#) (December 2023) highlighted some particular strengths of across CLD activity in Fife, including the following: effective leadership at all levels; CLD is well embedded in strategic partnerships; CLD partners' knowledge of communities; strong focus on addressing inequalities, and all of this is improving life chances.

'CLD Partners know their communities well.... this is helping to address barriers to accessing provision and improving timely access to resources and services for those most in need.' (HMle – December 2023)

4. HMle also highlighted an area for action around the collective development of outcomes with clear measures of success, to *'help support the systematic monitoring and recording of impact, identify trends over time, and inform continuous improvement'*. This is being taken forward in the development of the new CLD Plan.

Volunteering

1. Fife Partnership Board approved a Volunteering Strategy for Fife in August 2021. The strategy has these key ambitions:
 - To increase the number of people volunteering in Fife;
 - To further develop the capacity of organisations to involve volunteers;
 - To improve the volunteering experience for everyone involved.

The accompanying action plan sets out a range of partnership activity.
2. A Volunteering Strategy Implementation Group, led by Fife Voluntary Action, meets quarterly to take forward and review progress, reporting annually to CWP.
3. Issues recently highlighted include:
 - Widespread issues of volunteer recruitment and retention, and a decline in levels of informal volunteering (the impacts of Covid and the cost-of-living crisis are significant factors here);
 - Lack of formal recognition award for volunteers over 25 years old;
 - Challenge of monitoring impact in an area where data is limited.
4. A joint marketing campaign was launched following Volunteers' Week 2024. A first for Fife partners in the field of volunteering, this aims to help address current issues in volunteer recruitment and retention.

Fife Partnership Board

www.fife.gov.uk/committee/fifepartnership

Agenda Item No. 8

6 August 2024

Recovery & Renewal Leadership Group Report: Plan for Fife 2024-2027

Report by: Michael Enston, Executive Directorate Communities, Fife Council

Purpose

To agree next steps in the Plan for Fife 2027 development, consider current governance improvements and the scope for a proposed collaborative delivery programme.

Recommendations

That Fife Partnership Board

1. Approves the Plan for Fife approach for 2024-2027 and improved governance delivery arrangements in Section 2.0 and as detailed in Appendix 1
2. Approves the approach to preparations for Plan reset in 2027.

Resource Implications

There will be resource requirements to plan and manage collaborative projects. This will be considered by the Leadership Board as projects develop. Work with the Institute of Health Equity on the 2027 refresh of Plan for Fife will require resource. There is a possibility of joint work on this with Public Health Scotland.

Consultation

The Recovery & Renewal Leadership Group, Programme Managers, Partnership Coordinators, Chairs and Community Managers informed this report.

1.0 Background

- 1.1 In May 2024, Fife Partnership Board (FPB) agreed the 2024-27 focus would remain on the existing recovery and renewal priorities.
- 1.2 FPB acknowledged the need for improved coordination and delivery, recommending a review with key stakeholders to shape future action. The review involved
 1. a desk-based review of current delivery and co-ordination arrangements, reporting lines and statutory requirements
 2. a survey to delivery leads, programme managers partners, partnership co-ordinators and partnership chairs and,
 3. one to one discussion with stakeholders and group engagement with partnership co-ordinators.
- 1.3 Summary improvement proposals are set out in Section 2.0 with further details in **Appendix 1**.

2.0 Priorities & Governance Improvements

- 2.1 Maintaining focus on existing priorities of poverty, economy and climate underpinned by community wealth building ensures continuity of strategy and the opportunity to shift from a recovery stance into prevention, growth and sustainability. The 2024 Strategic Assessment reinforces the importance of strengthening existing delivery to ensure that energy and focus is not dispersed.
- 2.2 The review identifies three issues which currently work against the desire for focus, collaboration and performance review:
 1. There is duplication of work across different partnership groups.
 2. Plan For Fife priorities or ambitions can be an additional responsibility on partnership groups rather than a redefinition of priority.
 3. Reporting arrangements have become fragmented raising issues of assurance and accountability.
- 2.3 Detailed proposals are outlined in **Appendix 1**. These do not amount to a fundamental change to partnership structure and roles. That may be needed in terms of shaping the 2027 Plan for Fife. For now, the aim is to make a few changes which will improve focus and delivery of current priorities.

3.0 Preparing for a new Plan in 2027

- 3.1 As Partnership focus sharpens on priorities and delivery over the next three years, work needs to start on shaping the next plan.

- 3.2 The Strategic Assessment highlights the challenge of health inequality in Fife, and that poorer outcomes in terms of health, life expectancy and the gap between those living with wealth or in poverty are widening and firmly grounded in place.
- 3.3 The health of the population is not just a matter of how well health services are funded and function, health is closely linked to the conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work and age, as well as inequalities in power, money and resources. Taking action on the social determinants of health however requires a partnership and whole system approach to succeed.
- 3.4 There are also direct financial costs to inequality in terms of the demand for, and cost of, providing crisis response and preventative services. New strategies are needed if public services are to continue to be responsive and sustainable in the face of rising demand and decreasing funding.
- 3.5 The previous meeting of the FPB agreed to explore building the next Plan on the social determinants of health using the developing approach of Professor Michael Marmot and the Health Equity Institute. This has been explored further with Public Health Scotland. The attraction is the system wide focus on prevention which such an approach at community planning level would bring.
- 3.6 The current Plan for Fife, Fife Public Health priorities and Marmot Principles, while formulated from different perspectives, have a great degree of overlap: a focus on place; opportunities for all; good work; prevention and early intervention; sustainability and, above all, reducing inequality and promoting fairness. Further work is needed to unpack the findings and assess the implications of the Strategic Assessment and consider what a stronger focus on health equity might offer and what it would mean for the way we plan and deliver outcomes together.
- 3.6 Alongside this, the next Fife Local Development Plan is being created over a similar timeframe as the new community plan. This opens up a new opportunity to align policy, asset and land use more deliberately and ways to better support community wealth building and priority objectives.
- 3.7 Two proposals have been discussed at the Leadership Board to develop this work. Firstly, the creation of a leadership group to begin the task of shaping the next Plan. This will include working alongside Public Health Scotland and the Institute of Health Equity on the approach. Secondly, the aim will be to expand collaboration across partners to broaden and deepen the commitment.
- 3.8 Delivery plans and projects were reviewed across the priority themes and candidate collaborative projects were selected on the following principles:
- Common purpose across partners
 - Existing work that had greater potential at scale
 - Alignment with poverty, economy, wealth building and climate
 - Potential to accelerate pace/depth of change and amplify impact
 - Potential for joint resource/delivery
- 3.9 Three initial collaborative projects are proposed as tests of change:
1. Accelerating Community Wealth Building benefits through procurement
 2. Maximising Life Chances through joint progressive recruitment practices

3. Creating Sustainable Places through whole-system place-based design/delivery

- 3.10 Appendix 2 provides an example model for (1) CWB benefits through procurement proposition, a map of existing activity to the priorities and a description of existing collaboration in practice that could be built-upon. If agreed, this method would be refined and developed for all three projects. Beyond, these tests of change the aim would be to implement a more effective delivery model for collaborative work across partners.

4.0 Conclusion

- 4.1 This report confirms the priorities for 2024-27, the rationale and action that will improve governance to support delivery over the next three years and the foundations for the next Plan for Fife. It will help align and strengthen partnership delivery and joint working over the next three years.
- 4.2 The information and approach outlined in this report will be the basis of a new leadership engagement, building on the Summits in 2022/23 and a communication drive: sharing the vision and priorities, delivery in practice and engagement opportunities to encourage ownership and build momentum.

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Detailed Governance Improvements

Appendix 2 – Collaborative Projects Modelling/Assessment

Report Contacts:

Val Millar

Policy and Communications

Fife Council

Val.millar@fife.gov.uk

PLAN FOR FIFE GOVERNANCE IMPROVEMENTS

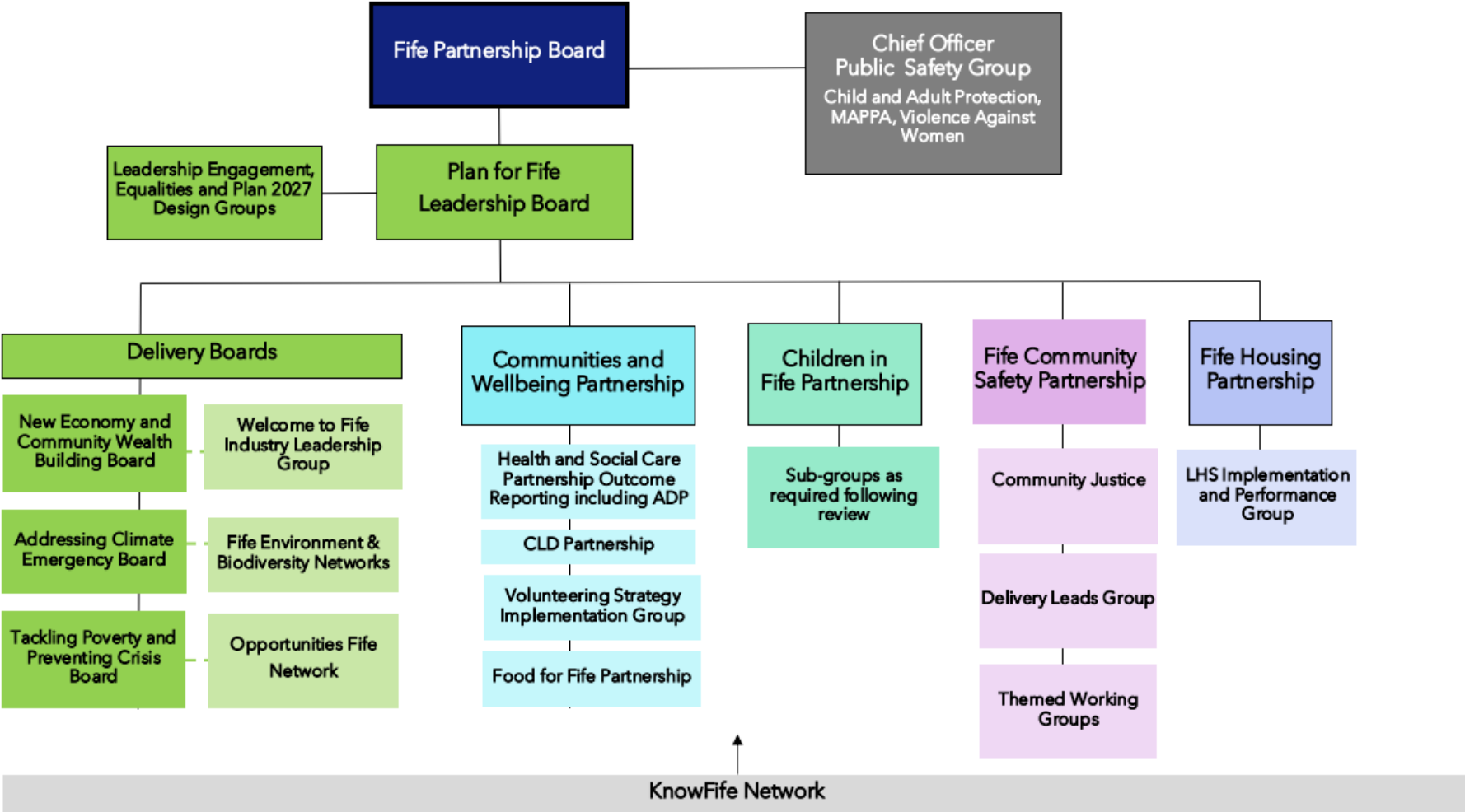
	Group	Current arrangements	New proposals
1	Chief Officers Public Safety Group (COPS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of groups reporting to COPS on public protection issues e.g. adult/child protection, Violence Against Women MAPPA (Multi agency public protection arrangement) Some but not all groups report into other partnerships/ committees for awareness No formal overview of protection and safety issues and learning available to inform FPB, other partnerships/ groups 	<p>Reconfirm the following formally report to COPS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adult Protection Committee Child Protection Committee Violence Against Women Partnership MAPPA (Multi agency public protection arrangement) <p>Produce annual COPS public protection report for FC People/ Communities, FPB and other Partner reporting lines as required</p> <p>Consider any other improvements to structure or alignment through the existing COPS review that was initiated in June 2024.</p>
2	Fife Partnership Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mixed agenda, four meetings a year themed around the delivery priorities –various operational and information reports across levels, history of annual reporting and reports more for awareness/ briefing 	<p>Refocus agenda on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reform/Recovery priorities Collaborative programme Exception reporting/thematic discussions where there are issues/risks/new opportunities
3	Recovery and Reform Leadership Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Originally positioned as a temporary Group – not formal board, to support new delivery board arrangements for the 2021-24 plan Agenda mix of strategic and operational, updates/delivery assurance 	<p>Formalise as Plan for Fife Leadership Board and refocus agenda and membership on</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plan for Fife Strategy Delivery/cross board oversight/collaborative programme Outcome tracking Risk management Thematic review Escalation point for Delivery Boards <p>Establish two sub-groups of the board that bring in new/alternative perspectives to help development</p> <p>1. Leadership Engagement – a replacement for the former OD Group –</p>

			<p>to establish extended partnership leadership team, improve communication and run Summit/s, consider and advise on OD opportunities</p> <p>2. Plan 2027 – new - Design Group to explore next steps in Plan for Fife, focus on health equity and opportunities in Marmot approach.</p>
4	Delivery Boards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mixed structures and levels of partnership involvement • Reporting to RRLG/FPB but approach not clear • No performance management framework • Some measures in part but not full • Various formal reports – some annual – some to Council but not Partnership Board • No scheduling of reports 	<p>Reset Economic Recovery Board and Community Wealth Building Group to better integrate and align strategy and delivery across priorities.</p> <p>Board remits focused on</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategy and delivery planning • Performance/ outcome tracking and reporting • Risk management • Horizon scanning <p>Report to Plan for Fife Leadership Board</p>
5	Partnerships	<p>Lack of clarity on reporting lines, growing number of partnerships without formal reporting lines and various sub groups. Currently</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fife Housing (ambition 4) – reports to FPB • Communities and Wellbeing (3 and 7) – reports to FPB • Community Safety (6) – reports to FPB • Children in Fife (2) – parallel structures and multiple groups akin to the partnership structure wholesale • Child Protection – to COPS • Adult Protection – to COPS • MAPPA – to COPS 	<p><u>REVISED GROUPS AND REPORTING LINES</u></p> <p>PARTNERSHIPS reporting to Plan for Fife Leadership Board:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fife Housing Partnership • Communities and Wellbeing (including HSCP groups, CLD, Volunteering, Food for Fife, Drug and Alcohol) • Children in Fife • Community Safety <p>PUBLIC PROTECTION PARTNERSHIPS and Committees reporting to Chief Officers Public Safety Group (COPS)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child Protection Committee • Adult Protection Committee • Violence Against Women Partnership • MAPPA

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Violence Against Women Partnership – to COPS but also other committees for information • Alcohol and Drug Partnership – reports to Communities and Wellbeing • CLD – reports to Communities and Wellbeing • Volunteering Strategy Group – reports to Communities and Wellbeing • Food for Fife Partnership – reports to Communities and Wellbeing • Welcome to Fife Industry Leadership Group (Formerly Fife Tourism Partnership) – reports to LER • Senior officer equalities group – no formal reporting • Opportunities Fife Partnership – no formal reporting • Fife Environmental Partnership – no formal reporting • Biodiversity Partnership – no formal reporting 	<p>PARTNERSHIP NETWORKS with no formal reporting requirement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome to Fife Industry Leadership Group • Fife Environment • Biodiversity • KnowFife <p>Specific Proposals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunities Fife Partnership is realigned to report to Tackling Poverty and Preventing Crisis Board. • Duplication around Child Poverty work in Children’s Plan and Tackling Poverty to be further reviewed including funding streams (see note) • Align senior equalities officers group to Plan for Fife Leadership Board • Formalise role of KnowFife under Leadership Board to enhance focus on data and evaluation. <p>Note : following the changes in Fife Council in relation to Education, Children and Families and Criminal Justice, further work will be undertaken to review the partnership structure around Children’s Services.</p>
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See updated structure chart below

Proposal for Plan for Fife Delivery Structure



APPENDIX 2 (a): MODELLING CWB THROUGH PROCUREMENT

PROJECT : P4F Collaboration Priorities - Procurement

NEED & CONTEXT

Concerns around key aspects of Fife's local economy: fall in no. of businesses ; low survival rate of new start-ups; economic inactivity 21%; high claimant rates in some areas; below average workplace earnings. FC procurement spend of over £200m.

KEY POLICY CONDITIONS

Procurement legislation eg Procurement (Scotland) Regulations 2016
National procurement frameworks
Scottish Government Community Wealth Building policy ambitions
FES priority to increase scale/range of community benefits via procurement

IMPACTS (LONGER-TERM)

A resilient and sustainable local / regional economy
Local business growth
High levels of employment & low levels of unemployment / claimant rates

OUTCOMES (MEDIUM-TERM)

Increased FCPP procurement spend with local/regional suppliers
Increased number of local/regional suppliers
Increased scale & range of CWB benefits delivered via FCPP procurement

PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES

To increase the scale and range of community wealth building benefits delivered via public sector / anchor organisation procurement activity and expenditure in Fife and the wider regional economy – with a particular focus on support for employability, skills development, green skills, fair work practices, experiential learning opportunities,

INPUTS

Staff resources, inc new coordinator role
Staff training & development
Procurement conditions
Existing public sector procurement expenditure
Advice and guidance to local/regional suppliers
Political commitment
Analysis of procurement spend across Fife CPP

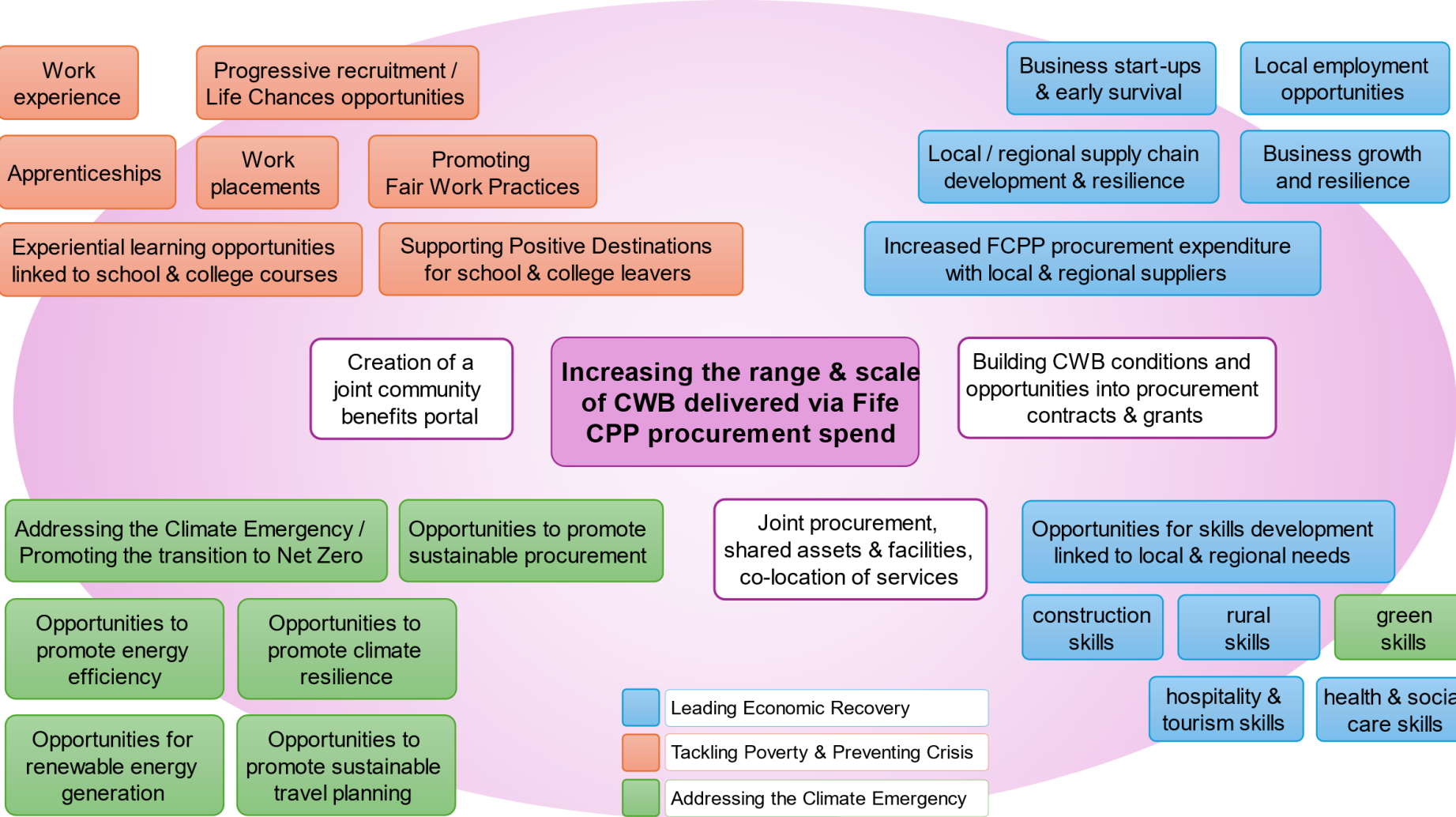
ACTIVITIES

Delivery of supplier development programme
Provision of online advice & guidance resources
Identify local/regional skills development needs
Strengthen links between procurement & employability
Establish coordination across Fife CPP procurement

OUTPUTS

High take-up / positive feedback for SDP
High take-up / positive feedback for online resources
Local skills needs addressed by procurement CWB
Employability activities supported via procurement
Increase in CWB benefits via FCPP procurement

Appendix 1 (b) MAPPING LINKS



Examples of CWB benefits delivered via Fife Council procurement spend

Dunfermline Learning Campus

Development of the new **Dunfermline Learning Campus** at Halbeath (incorporating two high schools and a new Fife College campus facility) has incorporated significant community benefits provision via main contractors Balfour Beatty and BAM.

To date, these include over 563 hours of volunteering and donations of over £56k to local community groups; £16m of work awarded to local businesses in Fife; 502 weeks of apprenticeships; 848 hours of supporting young people at work; and 87 local people employed on site.

Sustainability and a commitment to Net Zero has driven the design of the learning campus, which will be one of the largest projects in the UK built to Passivhaus accreditation standards.

Dunfermline Learning Campus is delivered by Fife Council in partnership with Fife College, The Scottish Government and Scottish Futures Trust. The project is procured and managed for Fife Council by hub East Central Scotland.

Inverkeithing Town House

The **Inverkeithing Built Heritage Regeneration Project** successfully delivered a bursary and mentoring programme that has allowed 26 people to access training in traditional skills at contractor level, nine at professional level, and seven individuals to work with an experienced mentor, to develop their careers over an extended period.

The Fife Council project was supported by funding from Historic Environment Scotland and the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

Lochore Meadows

Fife Council, in partnership with Lochore Meadows Country Park and Community Learning & Development, are offering a new 3-month outdoor **Access to Industry & Meta Skills (AIMS)** employability project. The project is designed to support clients to prepare for successful application and interview for potential jobs in key sectors of net zero, climate change and environmental impact, as well as gaining relevant Health & Safety training and outdoor work placement training. A new cohort of eight clients are due to commence on the programme in Feb 2024

A new partnership between the Lochore Meadows Country Park, Fife Council Employability Team and Rural Skills Scotland has also been developed over the last few months as part of their 'Grounds for Growth' employability programme and the park's aim of creating more opportunities for young people. The programme gives clients the opportunity to take part in a range of activities with a focus on green skills that can help them secure employment in a variety of jobs including grounds maintenance, estates work and forestry.