

City Chambers
DUNDEE
DD1 3BY

22nd November, 2024

Dear Colleague

You are requested to attend a MEETING of the **CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE** to be held in the Council Chamber, City Chambers, City Square, Dundee and also to be held remotely on Monday, 2nd December, 2024 at 5.00pm.

The meeting will also be livestreamed to YouTube. Members of the Press or Public wishing to join the meeting as observers should follow this link www.dundee.gov.uk/live or alternatively they may attend in person.

Should you require any further information please contact Committee Services on telephone (01382) 434818 or by email at committee.services@dundee.gov.uk.

Yours faithfully

GREGORY COLGAN

Chief Executive

AGENDA OF BUSINESS

1 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Members are reminded that, in terms of The Councillors Code, it is their responsibility to make decisions about whether to declare an interest in any item on this agenda and whether to take part in any discussions or voting.

This will include all interests, whether or not entered on your Register of Interests, which would reasonably be regarded as so significant that they are likely to prejudice your discussion or decision-making.

2 PUPIL REPRESENTATION ON THE CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE (AN35-2024)

On a reference to Article II of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 2nd September, 2024 wherein it was noted that the City Wide Pupil Voice had nominated a replacement representative.

Eva Dey has been nominated for Session 2024/2025.

The nominee has agreed to abide by the Code of Conduct in accordance with the Standards Commission's Guidance.

The Committee are asked to approve the appointment.

3 PROGRESS UPDATE: SENIOR PHASE ATTAINMENT 2023/24 - Page 1

(Report No 337-2024 by the Executive Director of Children and Families Service, copy attached).

4 TAYSIDE PLAN FOR INFANTS, CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES 2023-26: ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT 2023-2024 - Page 29

(Report No 338-2024 by the Executive Director of Children and Families Service, copy attached).

5 CONSULTATION ON THE CLOSURE OF ST PIUS X ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY (AN36-2024)

Since the report on the Consultation on the Closure of St Pius X Roman Catholic Primary School and Nursery (Article II of the minute of meeting of the Children, Families and Communities Committee of 28th October, 2024 report (296-2024) refers) was deferred, there has been further engagement with representatives from the Diocese of Dunkeld.

After the Committee on 28th October, 2024 the Diocesan education representatives on the Children, Families and Communities Committee arranged to meet with the recently consecrated Bishop of the Diocese of Dunkeld.

Following that meeting, on 12th November, 2024, there was a face-to-face follow up meeting with Diocesan and Dundee City Council representatives.

After a full discussion and clarification of some details in the report, the Service representatives and the Church representatives agreed to work in partnership to consider a wider strategic approach to looking at the provision for Catholic Education across the whole City. These ongoing discussions to inform a strategy would give due consideration to several key themes, including enrolment and placing request procedures; professional learning for staff; the availability of teachers with a Catholic Education teaching certificate and catchment areas.

There was also agreement that if the consultation to consider the permanent closure of St Pius X RC primary school goes ahead, the Diocesan representatives would work closely with the Catholic community of St Pius X through the consultation process to gain an understanding of their views and concerns and to ensure they were fully represented in any follow up recommendations and report.

The Service representatives also confirmed that when the Service can ascertain, through the consultation process if approved, the number of children and families choosing the RC education provision at St Francis RC PS, the service would have more detailed discussions with the Council's Transport Team to consider the appropriate support and adjustments required to ensure that transport routes to St Francis RC PS were viable.

Whilst it was recognised that there is work still to do to ensure that the views of the whole school community are known, it was agreed that this can only be achieved through the formal consultation process.

Section 5 and Appendix 1 of the report on the Consultation on the Closure of St Pius X Roman Catholic Primary School and Nursery (Article II of the minute of meeting of the Children, Families and Communities Committee of 28th October, 2024 report (296-2024) refers) includes reference to a timeline which has now been adjusted as follows to take account of the report being deferred and subject to Committee approval.

6th January, 2025	Consultation begins
27th January, 2025	Week beginning - Public meetings
19th February, 2025	Consultation ends
3rd March, 2025	Education Scotland consider proposals and produce report (3-week engagement with schools beginning 3rd March)
23rd June, 2025	Consultation report with recommendations to Children, Families and Communities Committee.

It is recommended that the Committee gives approval for the Executive Director of the Children and Families Service:

- (a) to formally consult on the proposal for the permanent closure of St Pius X Roman Catholic (RC) Primary School and Nursery at the end of academic session 2025/26 (2nd July, 2026).
- (b) to formally consult on the expansion of the St Francis Roman Catholic Primary School catchment area to accommodate the existing St Pius X Roman Catholic Primary School catchment area.
- (c) report the outcomes and recommendations resulting from the statutory consultations.

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ITEM No ...3.....

REPORT TO: CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE 2 DECEMBER 2024

REPORT ON: PROGRESS UPDATE: SENIOR PHASE ATTAINMENT 2023/24

REPORT BY: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SERVICE

REPORT NO: 337-2024

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report informs the Children, Families and Communities Committee of senior phase attainment by Dundee pupils to the end of academic session 2023-24. The data is taken from Insight, the Scottish Government's benchmarking tool. They are based on the latest Insight data release, published in September 2024.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Children, Families & Communities Committee:
- a Notes the contents of the report and,
 - b Instructs the Chief Education Officer to update the Committee about senior phase attainment in academic session 2024/25 after the Insight update in September 2025.

3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 None.

4 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 This report is focused on providing Committee with an update about the attainment of pupils in the senior phase during academic session 2023/24.
- 4.2 Data used in this report is taken from Insight. Insight is the professional benchmarking tool for analysing attainment data in the senior phase, accessible by secondary schools and local authorities. It is designed to support self-evaluation and provide schools with their attainment information in a format that makes it straightforward to identify possible areas for improvement for pupils in S4 to S6. Much of the attainment information is based on pupils' best awards in each subject. Insight does not include data relating to attainment in S1 - S3. Although Insight provides data on the attainment of a wide range of Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF) awards from a range of providers, not all SCQF achievement awards are included.
- 4.3 This committee report is based on the September Insight refresh, which adds results from the 2024 exam diet and allows stage-based measures to be calculated.
- 4.4 The latest Insight update includes the following COVID-19 Statement:
- 4.5 There were different approaches to awarding in sessions included in this update. Comparisons of attainment between years should be treated with significant caution and do not allow for conclusions to be drawn on changes in education performance during this time. Comparisons of entries, attainment volumes and attainment rates should only be made with full consideration and recognition of each of these different approaches. Attainment data (as updated in September 2024), depending on the cohort selected, may include attainment gained across a number of academic sessions (typically these would be S5 and S6 cohorts) and therefore reflect differing approaches to certification dependant on the session in which the achievement was certificated.

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- 4.6 Stage-based measures are provided in this report for 'S6 based on S4.' It is important to know that measures such as "Attainment for All" and "Breadth and Depth" are cumulative, in the sense that they show attainment gathered through the Senior Phase. An S6 pupil will have all their "best (in each subject)" S4, 5 and 6 attainments included. It is also important to note that "S6 based on S4" can be heavily impacted by leavers' rate. If a school, or local authority, has a high S4 leavers' rate this means less pupils stay on to sit Highers and Advanced Highers.
- 4.7 This year's S6 based on S4 is based on 1,465 pupils who would have started their senior phase in S4 in August 2021. Of these, 614 live in Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) Quintile 1 (Scotland's 20% most deprived data zones) and 264 live in SIMD Quintile 5 (Scotland's 20% least deprived data zones). Over half, 759, of this cohort had at least one Additional Support Need (ASN) recorded. 18 pupils were experiencing local authority care.
- 4.8 Insight provides a Virtual Comparator for each school and local authority to allow them to benchmark their progress against similar pupils. For each pupil in a school or local authority ten similar pupils (similar in terms of age, gender, deprivation and additional support needs) are selected at random from other local authorities. These characteristics were selected due to their significance in explaining differences in the attainment and destinations of school leavers in Scotland. This selection of pupils makes up the Virtual Comparator.

5 SENIOR PHASE ATTAINMENT 2023/24

- 5.1 When looking at the measures discussed below, the COVID-19 impact statement in paragraph 4.4 above should be borne in mind. Many of these measures show a peak in 2022 with a decline thereafter. This would have been the cohort that started S4 in 2019 and finished S6 in 2022; they had no exams in 2020 and used the Alternative Certification Model in S5 in 2021. Other cohorts before and after having also had different combinations of exams and assessments.

Literacy and Numeracy

S6, Based on S4 (1,465 pupils)

- 5.2 In 2024, 89% of pupils achieved Literacy at SCQF Level 4 or better, the same as 2023. 72% achieved Literacy at SCQF Level 5 or better, down 1 percentage point from 2023. The gap in Literacy attainment between pupils from the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) Quintiles 1 (most deprived) and 5 (least deprived) has reduced from 14 percentage points (pp) in 2020 at SCQF Level 4 to 11 pp in 2024, and from 31 pp at SCQF Level 5 to 26 pp over the same period.
- 5.3 In 2024, 85% of pupils achieved Numeracy at SCQF Level 4 or better, a reduction of 2pp since 2023. 63% achieved Numeracy at SCQF Level 5 or better, down 1 pp from 2023. The gap in Numeracy attainment between SIMD Quintiles 1 and 5 at SCQF Level 4 increased from 12pp in 2023 to 15pp in 2024 but remains narrower than the 17pp seen in 2020. The gap in Numeracy attainment between SIMD Quintiles 1 and 5 at SCQF Level 5 remained at 28pp, narrower than the 35pp gap seen in 2020.

S6, Based on S6 (713 pupils)

- 5.4 In 2024, 97% of S6 pupils achieved Literacy at SCQF Level 4 or better, compared to 98% for Dundee's Virtual Comparator (VC). 95% of S6 pupils achieved Literacy at SCQF Level 5 or better, the same as the VC.
- 5.5 In 2024, 96% of S6 pupils achieved Numeracy at SCQF Level 4 or better, the same as the VC. 87% of S6 pupils achieved Numeracy at SCQF Level 5 or better, the same as the VC.

Improving Attainment for All

S6, Based on S4 (1,465 pupils)

- 5.6 Insight produces average tariff scores for: the lowest attaining 20%, middle 60% and highest attaining 20% of pupils. The average tariff score for Dundee's lowest attaining 20% of pupils increased from 67 points in 2023 to 73 in 2024. Tariff scores for the middle and highest attaining groups have fallen and now lie at 503 and 1184 respectively.
- 5.7 The gaps in tariff points between pupils from the most and least deprived areas (SIMD Quintiles 1 and 5) have decreased in all three attainment groups. The gap amongst the lowest attaining 20% is now 135 points, amongst the middle attaining 60%, 387 points, and 344 within the highest attaining group.

S6, Based on S6 (713 pupils)

- 5.8 As Figure 1 shows, the performance of the lowest attaining 20% (365 points) of our S6 pupils in 2023/24 is greater than the VC (311 points); this is recorded as statistically significant in Insight. The performance of the lowest attaining 20% is also greater than the Scotland average (351 points). The middle 60% (859 points) attained in line with the VC (853 points) and the highest 20% (1,342 points) attained in line with the VC (1,353 points).

The selected year is 2024

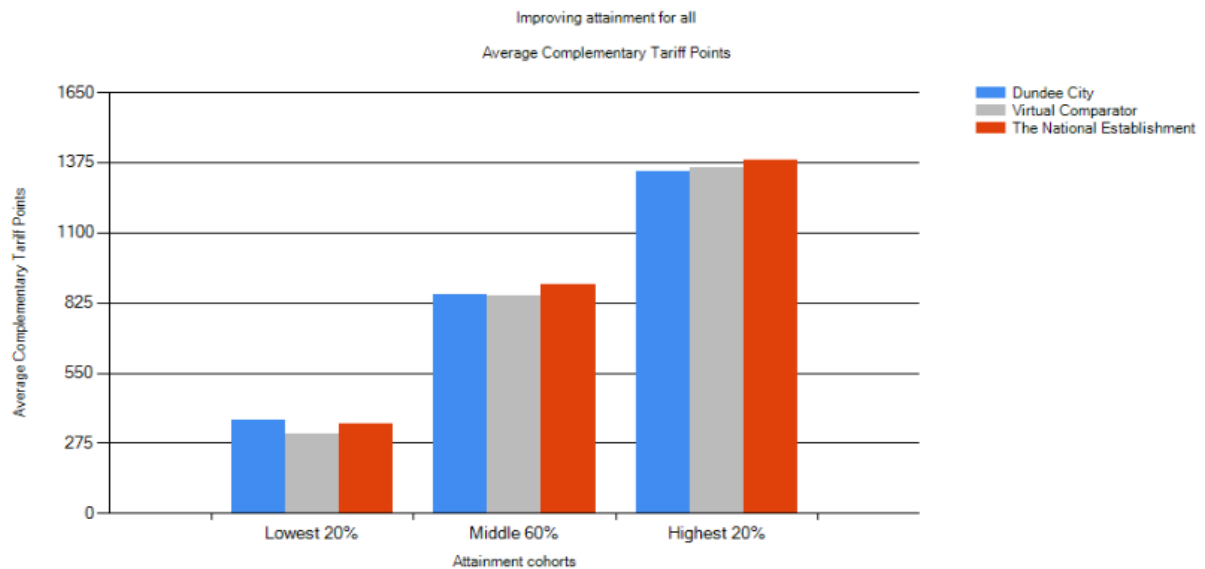


Figure 1 Improving Attainment for All, Performance of S6 pupils in 2024

Breadth and Depth

- 5.9 Breadth and Depth counts the number of awards a pupil has achieved at or above a certain SCQF level. The Children and Families Service has a range of measures relating to Breadth and Depth within our Strategic Equity Fund Stretch Aims. The Service has stretch aims for the percentage of pupils achieving 1 or more awards at SCQF Level 4 or better, broken down by pupils with Additional Support Needs and those without. There are also stretch aims for the percentage of pupils achieving 1 or more awards at SCQF Level 5 or better and 6 or better. For these measures the Service is also specifically looking at pupils living in SIMD Quintiles 1 and 5 and the gap between them.

S6, Based on S4 (1,465 pupils)

- 5.10 The percentage of pupils achieving 1 or more awards at SCQF Level 4 or better increased from 91% in 2023 to 92% in 2024. The percentage of pupils achieving 1 or more awards at SCQF Level 5 or better has remained steady at 82%. The overall percentage of pupils achieving 1 or more awards at SCQF Level 6 or better has dropped by 1pp to 47%. However, the percentage of pupils from the most deprived areas achieving 1 or more awards at SCQF Level 6 or better has increased to 47%, its highest value in the last five years.

S6, Based on S6 (713 pupils)

- 5.11 90% of S6 pupils achieved 5 or more awards at SCQF Level 5 or better; this is 3pp higher than the VC. 240 S6 pupils live in SIMD Quintile 1; 87% of these pupils achieved 5 or more awards at SCQF Level 5 or better; this is 9pp greater than the VC (78%). 29% of pupils in S6 living in SIMD Quintile 1 achieved at least 1 award at SCQF Level 7 compared to 28% for the VC.

Attainment versus Deprivation

S6, Based on S4 (1,465 pupils)

- 5.12 Insight shows the average tariff points achieved by the total number of pupils in each SIMD decile compared to the VC and tests for any 'significant comparisons.' The performance of Dundee's pupils compared to the VC can be seen in Figure 2. Testing found that there were no significant comparisons for this measure.

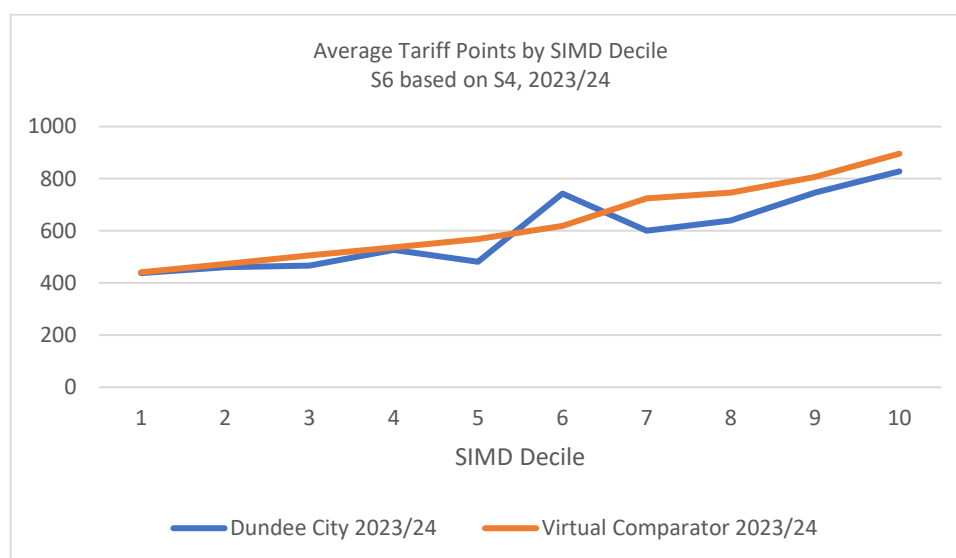


Figure 2 Average Tariff Points at each SIMD Decile, S6 based on S4. 2023/24.

S6, Based on S6 (713 pupils)

- 5.13 The performance of all Dundee's S6 pupils (by SIMD decile) compared to the VC can be seen in Figure 3 below. Insight testing found that the following comparisons were significant:
- In SIMD decile 6, performance is much greater than the Virtual Comparator
 - In SIMD decile 1, performance is greater than the Virtual Comparator
 - In SIMD decile 2, performance is greater than the Virtual Comparator

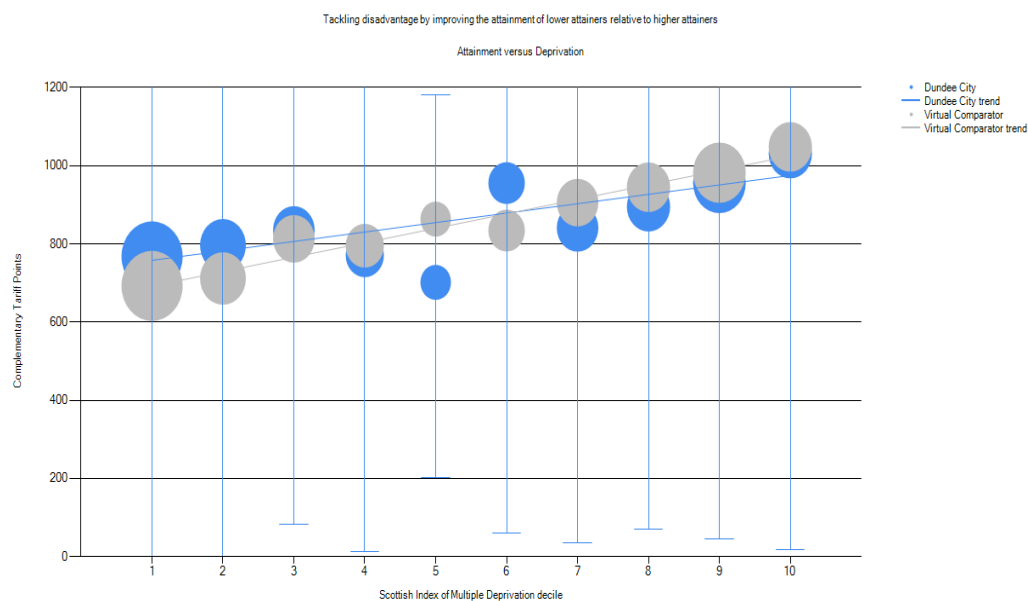


Figure 3 Average Tariff Points at each SIMD Decile, S6 based on S6. 2023/24.

5.14 Appendix 1 includes some further detail and analysis of Senior Phase attainment in 2023/24.

6 NEXT STEPS

- 6.1 The performance of pupils in the Senior Phase is the culmination of a pupil's learning journey through early learning and childcare, primary and secondary education. Therefore, there are a range of improvement actions which will contribute to further raising attainment and achievement. Here are some high-level key actions to further improve senior phase attainment.
- 6.1.1 Each school is required to have a school inquiry focused on improving the presence (attendance, punctuality and engagement) of all pupils. Key improvement activities will be outlined in school improvement plans. Five schools (primary and secondary) will engage in the national quality improvement Improving School Attendance programme, with key learning shared across all schools.
- 6.1.2 School Improvement Partnerships (SIPs) will be further strengthened to ensure that leaders at all levels can support and challenge effectively.
- 6.1.3 We will continue to work in partnership with Education Scotland to strengthen secondary practitioners' knowledge and understanding of the learning, teaching and assessment cycle in the Broad General Education. Working with the Tayside Regional Improvement Collaborative develop a specific improvement plan to further improve the learning transition from P7 to S1.
- 6.1.4 There will be a redesign of the central quality improvement team and engagement in appropriate professional learning to ensure that the team has the requisite knowledge and skills to affect school and service improvement.
- 6.1.5 The planned programme of quality improvement activity at universal, targeted, and intensive ('team around the school') levels using a data informed approach is being implemented, with some schools receiving a range of targeted and intensive support as a result.

7 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 This report has been subject to the Pre-IIA Screening Tool and does not make any recommendations for change to strategy, policy, procedures, services, or funding and so has not been subject to an Integrated Impact Assessment. An appropriate senior manager has reviewed and agreed with this assessment.

8 CONSULTATIONS

- 8.1 The Council Leadership Team has been consulted in the preparation of this report and are in agreement with its content.

9 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 9.1 None.

Audrey May
Executive Director of Children and Families

Paul Fleming
Chief Education Officer
Head of Service – Education, Learning & Inclusion

November 2024

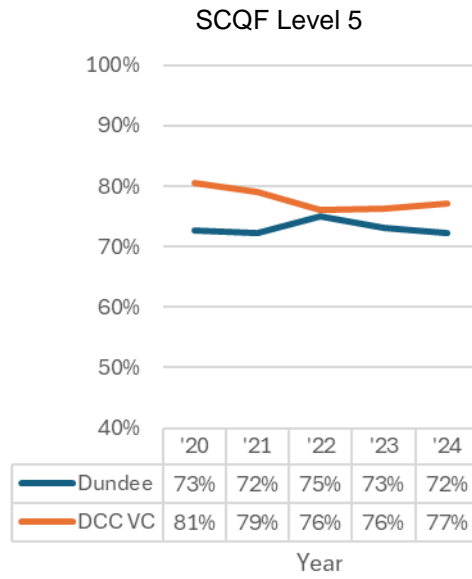
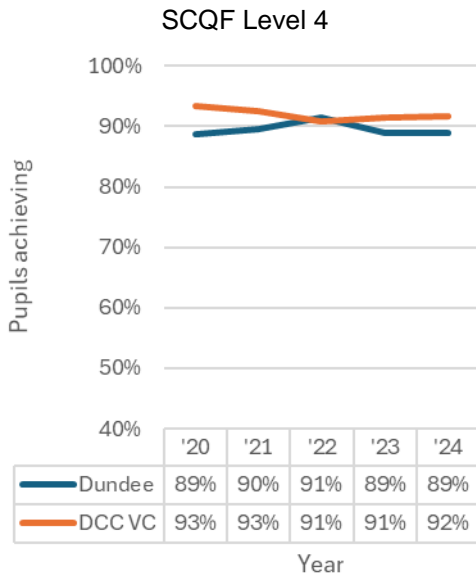
APPENDIX 1

Charts, tables and narrative outlining Insight attainment measures, S6 based on S4, following the September 2024 Insight refresh, along with pass rates for SQA graded subjects at National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher.

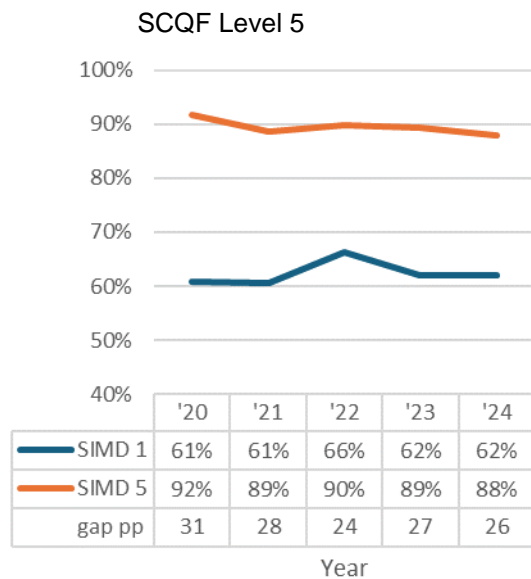
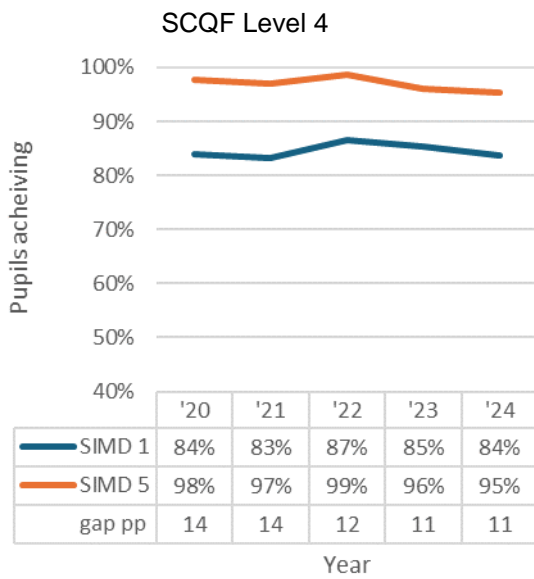
LITERACY AND NUMERACY

Literacy

Percentage of Dundee pupils achieving literacy at, or above...



Percentage of Dundee pupils in SIMD Quintiles 1 and 5 achieving literacy at, or above...



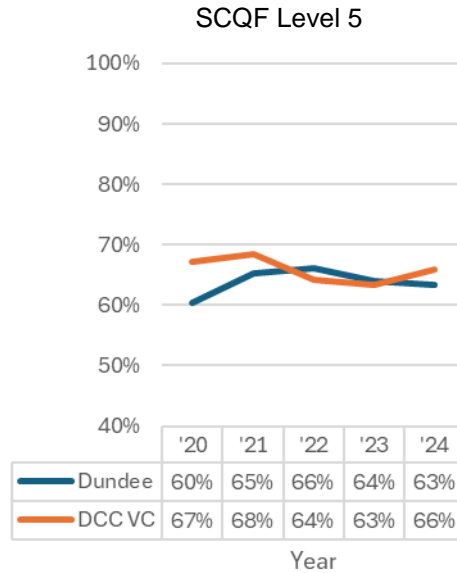
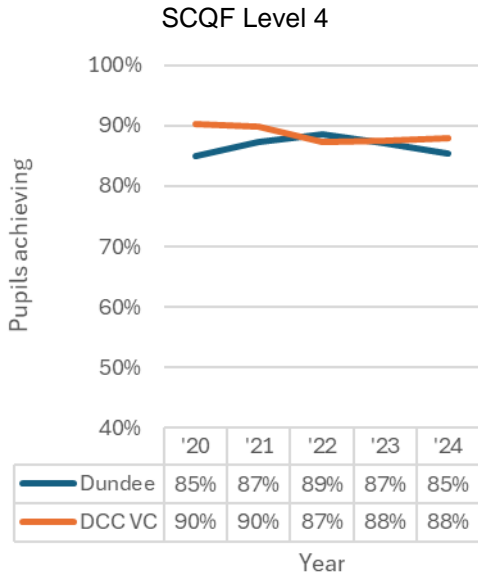
Literacy

Dundee saw a peak in levels of attainment in literacy in 2022. This would have been the cohort that started S4 in 2019 and finished S6 in 2022; they had no exams in 2020 and used the Alternative Certification Model in S5 in 2021. Since then Dundee has seen a decrease in the percentage of pupils achieving literacy at SCQF Levels 4 and 5 or better. Dundee currently lies three percentage points below its Insight Virtual Comparator (VC) at SCQF Level 4, and five points below at Level 5

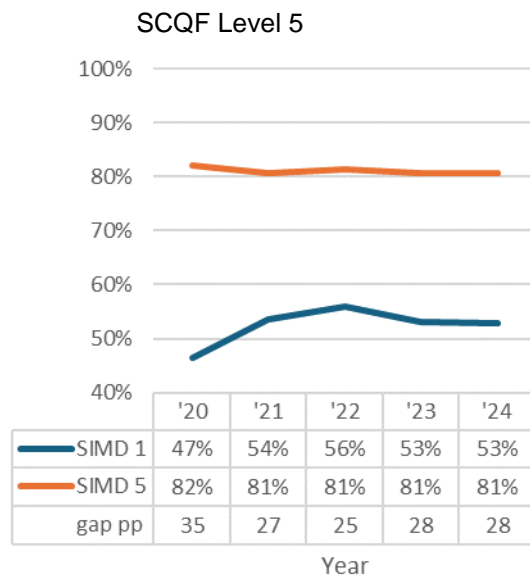
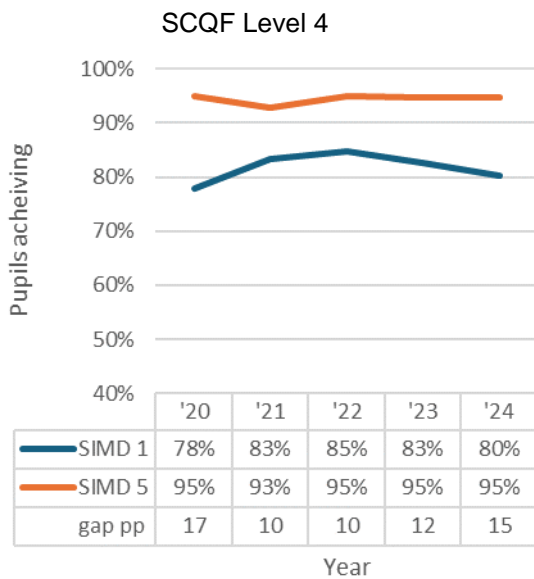
The gap in literacy attainment between Dundee pupils in SIMD Quintiles 1 and 5 has narrowed at both SCQF Levels 4 and 5 or better. Most of this narrowing though has been due to decreases in literacy attainment by pupils from SIMD Quintile 5.

Numeracy

Percentage of Dundee pupils achieving numeracy at, or above...



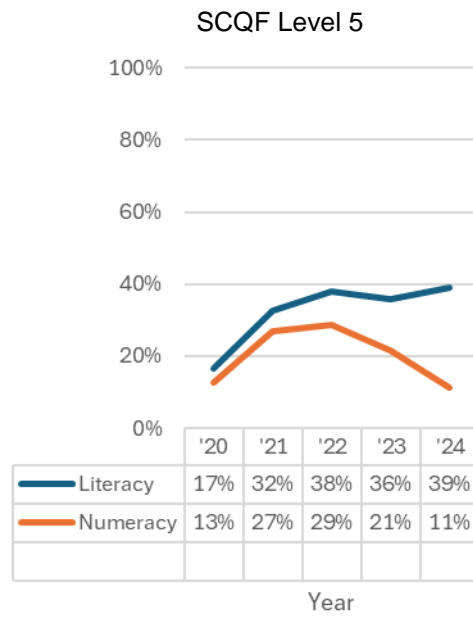
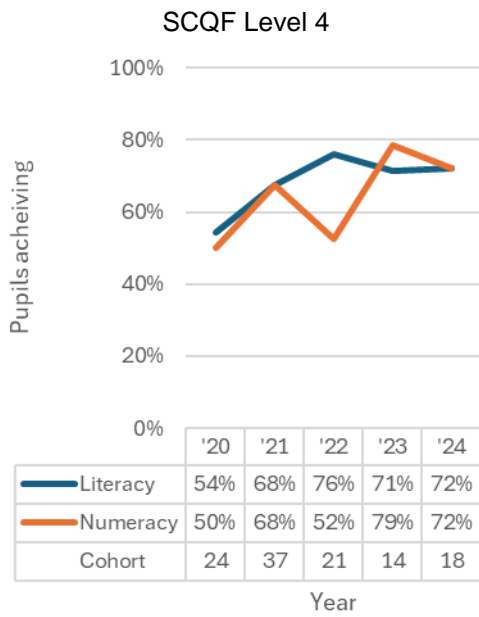
Percentage of Dundee pupils in SIMD Quintiles 1 and 5 achieving numeracy at, or above...



As with literacy, Dundee saw a peak in levels of attainment in numeracy in 2022. Dundee saw a decline in numeracy attainment in 2023 and 2024. Dundee currently lies three percentage points below its Virtual Comparator at both SCQF Levels 4 and 5.

The gap in Dundee in numeracy attainment between SIMD Quintiles 1 and 5 has grown since 2022.

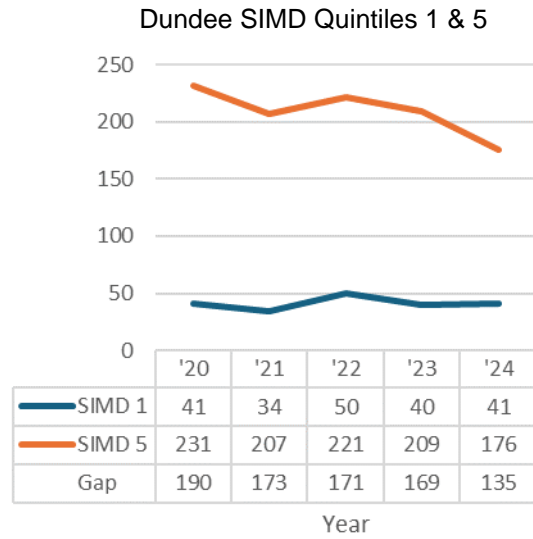
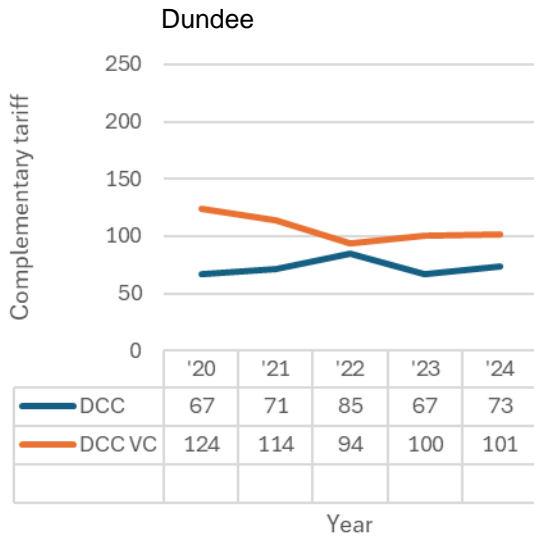
Literacy and Numeracy for Care Experiencing Pupils



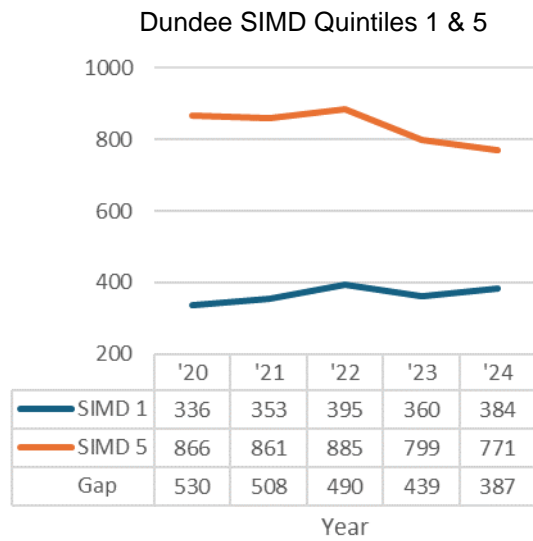
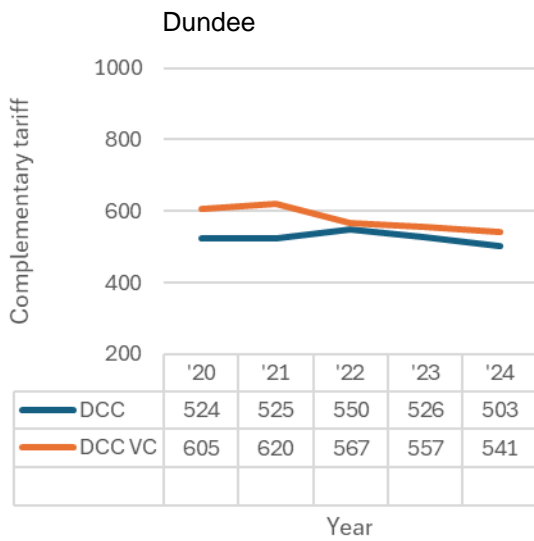
Dundee has a small number of care experiencing young people in the senior phase, with 18 in the latest cohort. This small cohort size can lead to fluctuations in outcome measures that are not statistically significant. Variations reflect the individual pupils involved rather than overall population trends.

IMPROVING ATTAINMENT FOR ALL

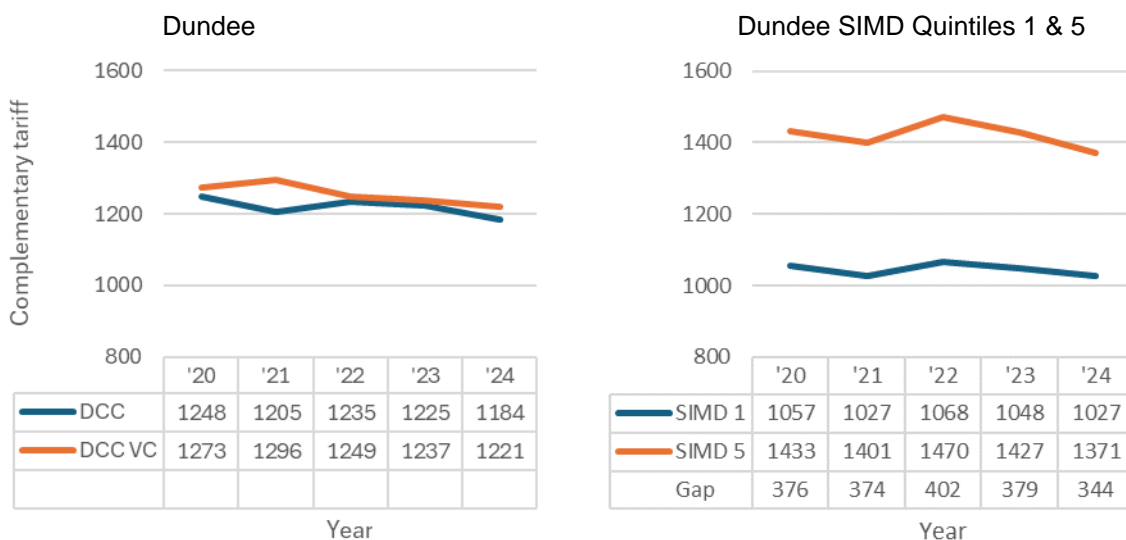
Lowest performing 20%



Middle performing 60%



Highest performing 20%



Insight uses tariff points to provide a summary view of a wide range of achievement and different awards from a variety of providers. Tariff scores are based on the latest and best results a young person achieves at school. For example, if a pupil has National 5 French and Higher French only the tariff points from the Higher award would be counted. The table below shows some example tariff scores. It can be seen that at each SCQF level increment, the tariff score more than doubles. Significantly, a pupil attempting Advanced Highers in S6 has the potential to gain considerably more points than a pupil leaving with only Highers or National 5's. An S4 pupil with six awards at National 4 would score just under 200 points. A high-achieving, S6 pupil with six National 5's, five Highers and three Advanced Highers could have around 2,000 points. Insight divides each cohort into three sections when reporting tariff scores: the top attaining 20% of pupils, the middle 60% and the lowest attaining 20%

	Pass	
National 4	33	
	Grade C	Grade A
National 5	64	84
Higher	160	204
Advanced Higher	400	480

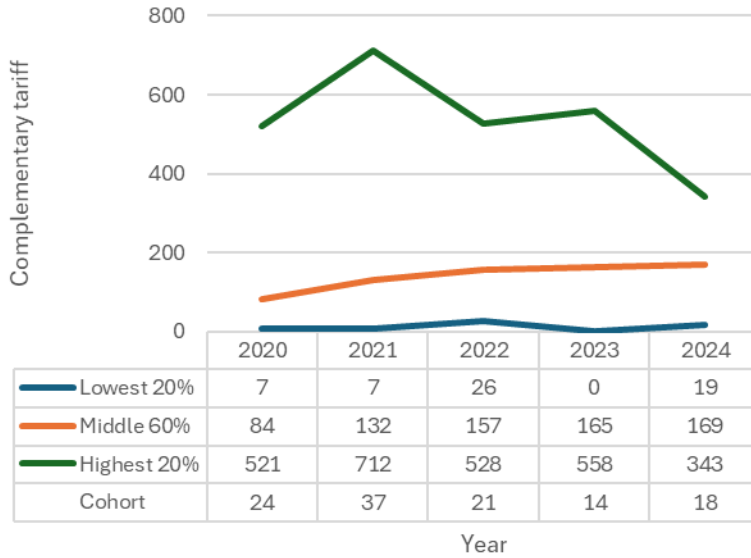
Across Scotland local authorities and schools have different curriculum models in the senior phase. This makes it hard to benchmark tariffs between authorities. To address this the Insight tool calculates a complementary tariff scale. The complementary tariff only includes a pupil's results from their best 120 SCQF credits: generally speaking a pupil's best five results.

Complementary tariff scores peaked in Dundee in 2022. Tariff scores have decreased in Dundee 2022, although Dundee's lowest attaining 20% increased their tariff score in 2024 compared to 2023.

Dundee's complementary tariff scores are lower than those of its Virtual Comparator.

The gap between tariff scores for Dundee pupils living in SIMD Quintiles 1 and 5 has narrowed. This has been predominantly driven by declines in tariff scores for pupils living in SIMD Quintile 5.

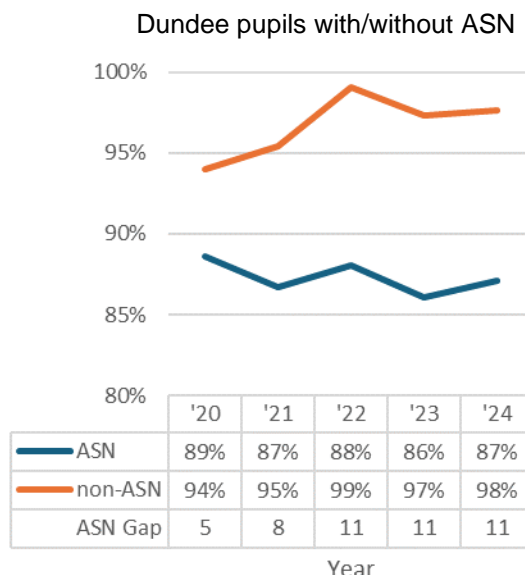
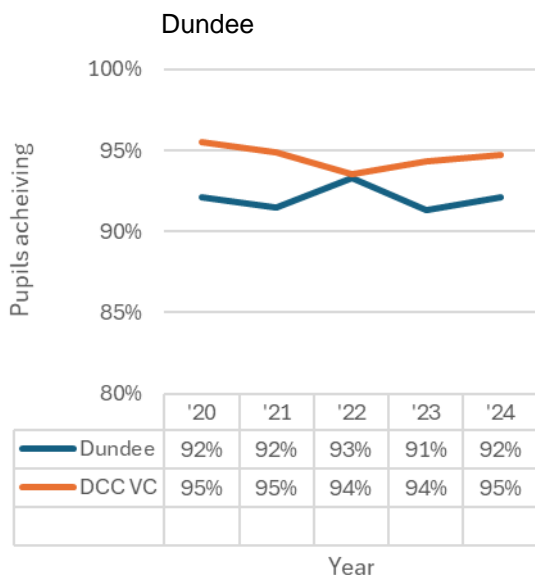
Complementary tariff points for Care Experiencing Pupils



Dundee has a small number of care experiencing young people in the senior phase, with 18 in the latest cohort. This small cohort size can lead to fluctuations in outcome measures that are not statistically significant. Variations reflect the individual pupils involved rather than overall population trends.

BREADTH AND DEPTH

1 or more awards at SCQF Level 4 or better

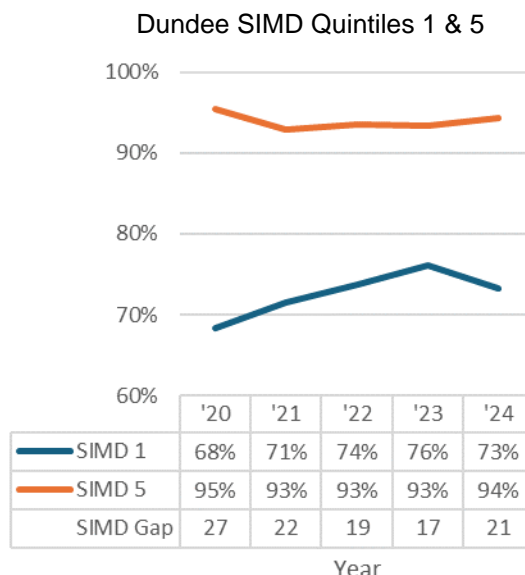
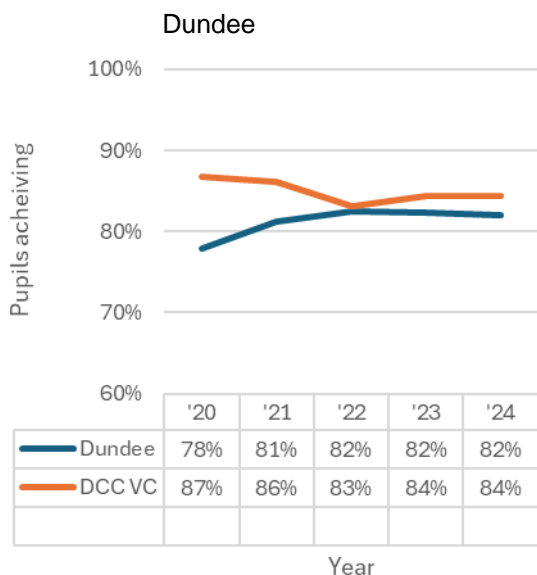


Dundee has set a local Strategic Equity Fund (SEF) Stretch Aim of increasing the percentage of pupils attaining one or more awards at SCQF Level 4 or better as well as closing the gap between pupils with identified Additional Support Needs (ASN) and those without. 759 (52%) of pupils in the 2024 cohort had at least one ASN recorded.

The percentage of Dundee's senior phase gaining at least one award at SCQF Level 4 or better has fluctuated slightly but remains at 92%, lower than its Virtual Comparator at 95%. Dundee's stretch aim for 2026 is to increase this to 97%.

The gap between pupils with and without Additional Support Needs in Dundee has remained static for the last three years at 11 percentage points. Dundee's stretch aim for 2026 is to narrow this gap to 5 percentage points.

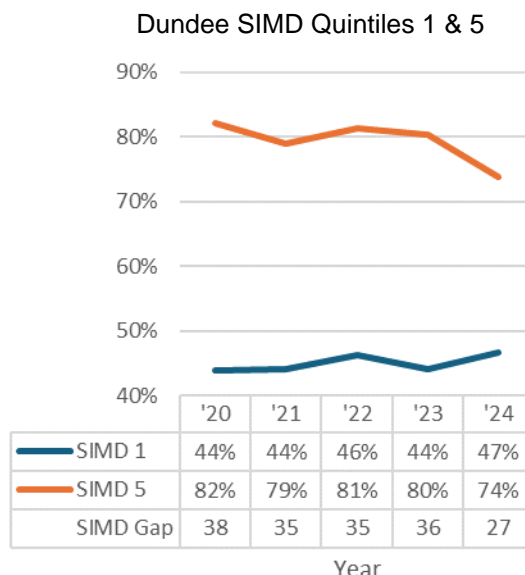
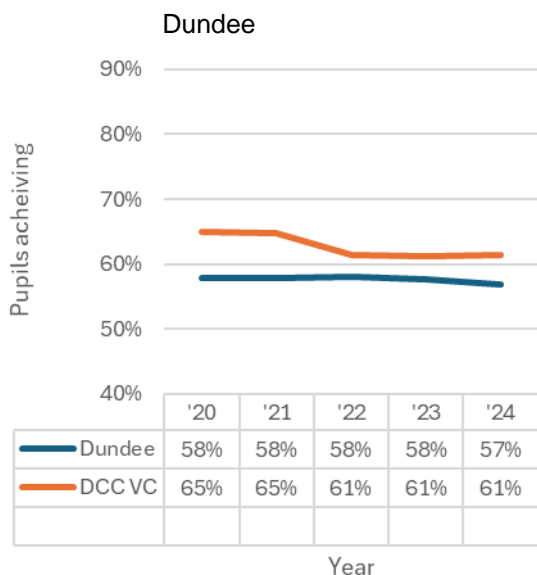
1 or more awards at SCQF Level 5 or better



Dundee’s core SEF Stretch Aim for attainment at SCQF Level 5 or better is 87% of pupils achieving 1 or more awards at this level. Dundee has improved from 78% in 2020 but remained static at 82% for the last three years. Dundee’s virtual comparator has remained static at 84% for two years, two percentage points above Dundee.

The gap between SIMD Quintiles 1 and 5 in Dundee had narrowed from 27 percentage points in 2020 to 17 in 2023. In 2024 this gap has widened again to 21 percentage points. Our target for 2026 is a 14 percentage point gap.

1 or more awards at SCQF Level 6 or better

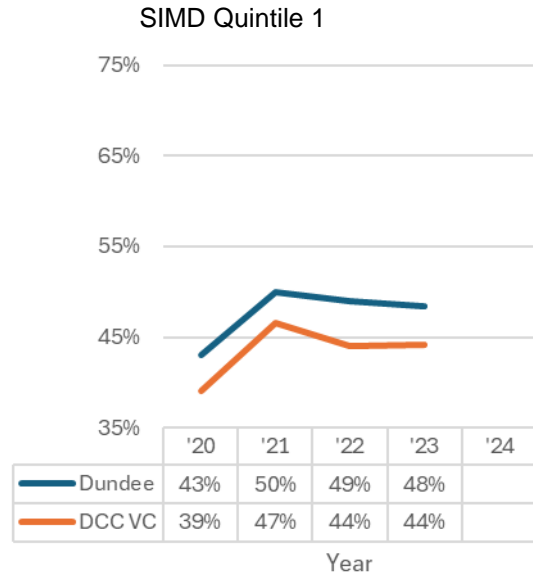
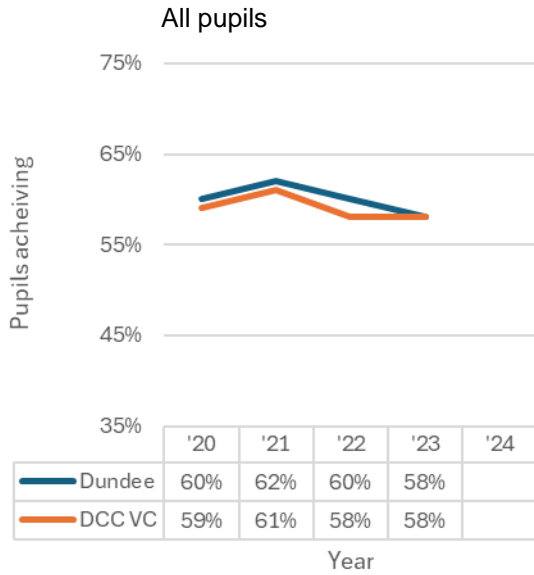


Dundee’s core SEF Stretch Aim for attainment at SCQF Level 6 or better is 65% of pupils achieving 1 or more awards at this level. From 2020 to 2023 Dundee remained static at 58% but decreased in 2024 to 57%. Dundee’s Virtual Comparator has remained static at 61% for three years, three to, now, four percentage points above Dundee.

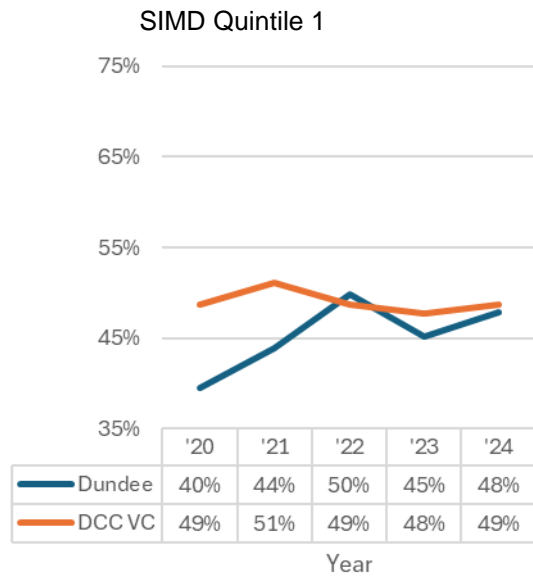
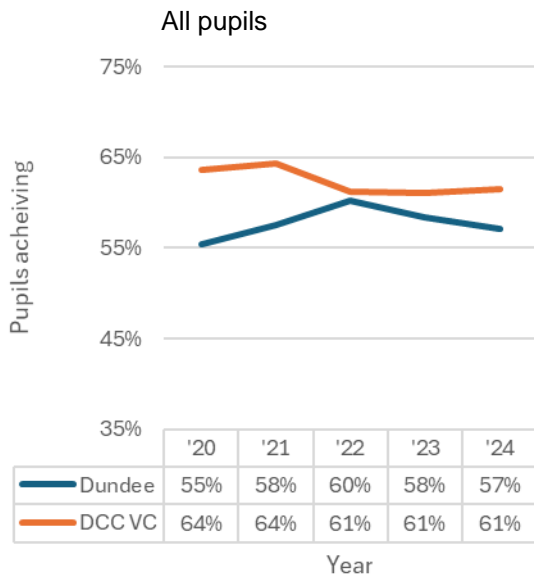
The gap in Dundee between SIMD Quintiles 1 & 5 has reduced from 38 percentage points to 27. This is now better than our 2026 stretch Aim of a 28-point gap. This reduction though has predominantly been driven by a decline in attainment in SIMD Quintile 5.

5 or more awards at SCQF Level 5 or better

LGBF published data – Leavers



Equivalent S6 based on S4 stage data, available for 2023/24



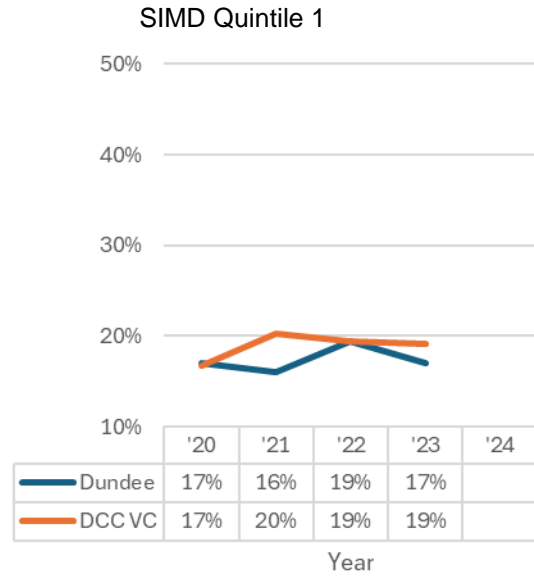
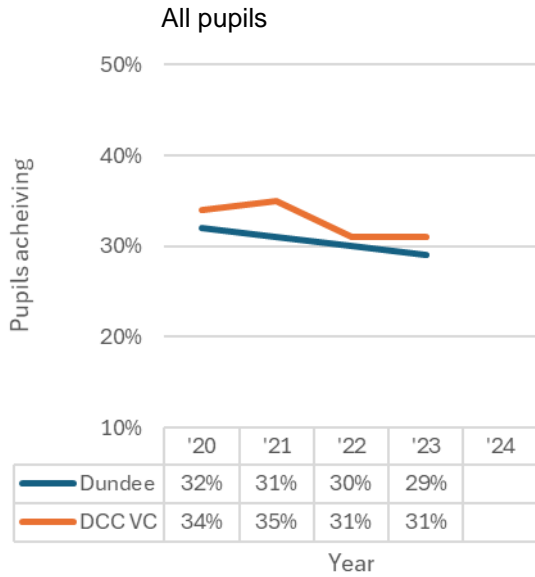
5 or more awards at SCQF Level 5 or better

The Local Government Benchmarking Framework (LGBF) publishes a suite of measures at local authority level to allow benchmarking between authorities. The LGBF includes two measures at SCQF Level 5: CHN4, percentage of pupils gaining 5+ awards at SCQF level 5 and CHN6, percentage of pupils living in the 20% most deprived areas gaining 5+ awards at level 5. The published figures on the LGBF website <https://www.improvementservice.org.uk/benchmarking/explore-the-data> are Insight Leavers' data and 2023/24 data has not been published yet. Insight S6 based on S4 data is available to us now for 2023/24 and is shown in the lower charts against the equivalent historic data.

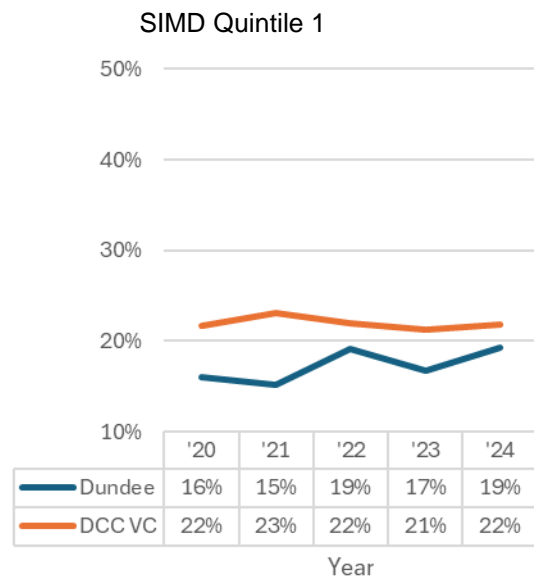
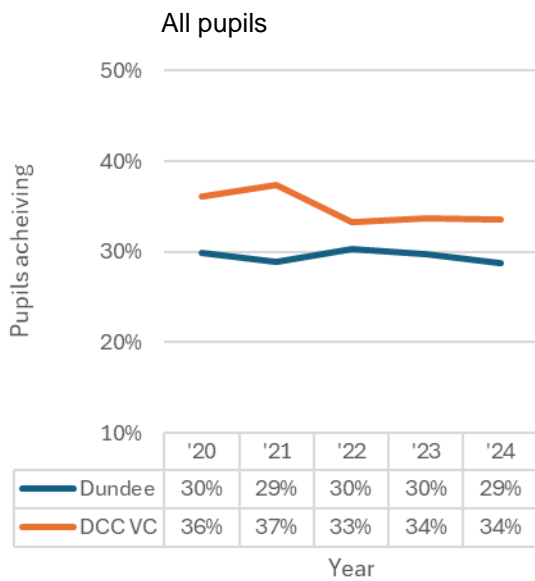
Dundee has seen a decline in leavers attaining 5 or more awards at SCQF Level 5 or better since 2021. Dundee also saw a decline in leavers from SIMD Quintile 1 attaining 5 or more awards at SCQF Level 5 or better from 50% in 2021 to 48% in 2023. However, it remains ahead of its Virtual Comparator on this measure.

5 or more awards at SCQF Level 6 or better

LGBF published data – Leavers



Equivalent S6 based on S4 stage data, available for 2023/24



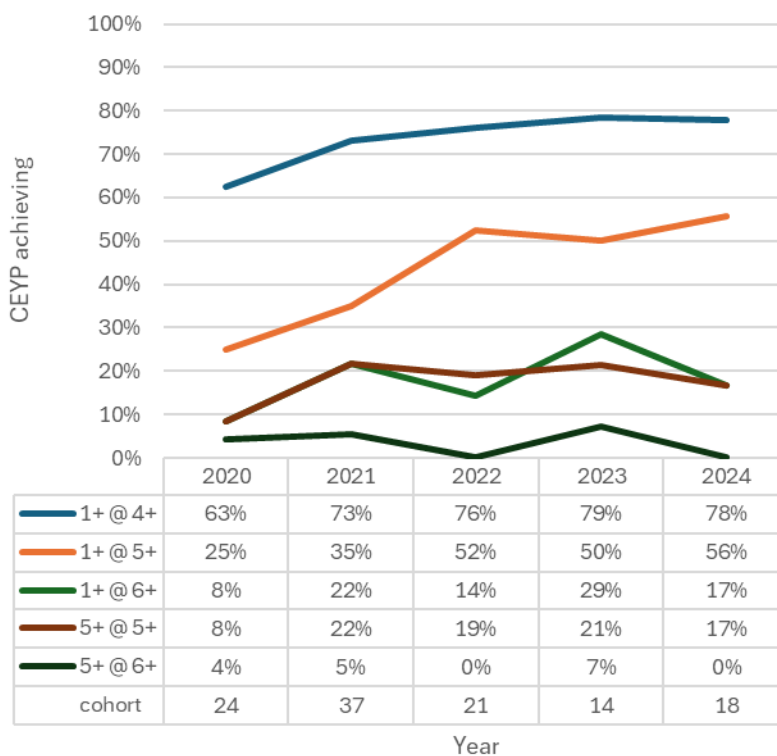
5 or more awards at SCQF Level 6 or better

The LGBF includes two measures at SCQF Level 6: CHN5, percentage of pupils gaining 5+ awards at SCQF level 6 and CHN7, percentage of pupils living in the 20% most deprived areas gaining 5+ awards at level 6. The published figures on the LGBF website <https://www.improvementservice.org.uk/benchmarking/explore-the-data> are Insight Leavers' data and 2023/24 data has not been published yet. S6 based on S4 data is available and is shown in the lower charts against the equivalent historic data.

Dundee has seen a decline in leavers attaining 5 or more awards at SCQF Level 6 from 32% in 2020 to 29% in 2023 and 2024.

S6 based on S4 attainment at SCQF Level 6 for pupils in SIMD Quintile 1 has fluctuated, between 16% and 19% in Dundee. 2024 saw a 2 point increase from 2023.

Breadth and Depth for care experiencing young people



As with previous measures, care experiencing young people show fluctuations in breadth and depth measures due to their small cohort sizes. There is though overall clear trends of improvement in the percentage gaining one or more awards at SCQF Levels 4 and 5.

SUBJECT LEVEL SQA RESULTS

The number of entries in 2024 in Dundee for each subject at National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher, together with Dundee's A-C pass rate, is shown in the tables below.

The SQA's published national A-C pass rate for education authorities is shown for context. Pass rates are dependent on presentation policies.

These results are as published in August and do not reflect the outcomes of any changes due to appeals.

Figures are based on all entries, regardless of Stage.

National 5

Subject	Dundee Entries	A-C Pass Rate	
		Dundee	National EA
Accounting	38	79%	84%
Administration and IT	133	85%	81%
Applications of Mathematics	536	61%	59%
Art and Design	240	98%	92%
Biology	436	61%	63%
Business Management	217	83%	82%
Chemistry	282	67%	75%
Classical Studies	14	57%	75%
Computing Science	138	70%	78%
Design and Manufacture	51	61%	73%
Drama	80	90%	93%
Engineering Science	96	75%	78%
English	1129	84%	84%
English for Speakers of Other Languages	8	88%	72%
Environmental Science	< 5	50%	55%
Fashion and Textile Technology	12	67%	75%
French	44	84%	84%
Geography	139	69%	75%
German	33	82%	84%
Graphic Communication	84	61%	65%
Health and Food Technology	77	66%	69%
History	298	59%	70%
Mandarin (Simplified)	< 5	100%	n/a
Mathematics	741	66%	67%
Media	14	86%	77%
Modern Studies	317	67%	74%
Music	123	94%	91%
Music Technology	39	92%	87%
Philosophy	< 5	50%	45%
Physical Education	472	90%	95%
Physics	243	73%	72%

Subject	Dundee Entries	A-C Pass Rate	
		Dundee	National EA
Practical Cake Craft	57	88%	70%
Practical Cookery	242	86%	83%
Practical Electronics	8	63%	74%
Practical Metalworking	53	57%	74%
Practical Woodworking	219	76%	82%
Religious, Moral and Philosophical Studies	54	61%	69%
Spanish	37	78%	85%

Higher

Subject	Dundee Entries	A-C Pass Rate	
		Dundee	National EA
Accounting	45	80%	74%
Administration and IT	111	78%	76%
Applications of Mathematics	77	60%	60%
Art and Design	183	91%	81%
Biology	50	80%	68%
Business Management	197	80%	77%
Chemistry	190	69%	73%
Childcare and Development	5	60%	74%
Computing Science	77	55%	71%
Design and Manufacture	21	38%	50%
Drama	46	72%	82%
Engineering Science	57	58%	60%
English	837	70%	73%
English for Speakers of Other Languages	8	50%	87%
Environmental Science	20	55%	54%
Fashion and Textile Technology	< 5	100%	82%
French	19	84%	84%
Geography	130	59%	73%
German	6	100%	86%
Graphic Communication	51	61%	70%
Health and Food Technology	87	75%	66%
History	211	57%	64%
Human Biology	244	63%	64%
Mandarin (Simplified)	< 5	100%	n/a
Mathematics	337	66%	71%
Media	21	33%	69%
Modern Studies	248	63%	75%
Music	85	93%	92%
Music Technology	44	98%	89%
Philosophy	13	54%	50%
Photography	53	87%	82%
Physical Education	249	81%	86%
Physics	162	69%	74%
Politics	49	65%	70%
Psychology	19	53%	70%
Religious, Moral and Philosophical Studies	96	74%	74%
Spanish	8	63%	82%

Advanced Higher

Subject	Dundee Entries	A-C Pass Rate	
		Dundee	National EA
Art and Design (Design)	25	96%	93%
Art and Design (Expressive)	39	95%	94%
Biology	52	58%	63%
Business Management	9	67%	62%
Chemistry	49	69%	68%
Computing Science	10	70%	67%
Drama	< 5	100%	86%
English	48	48%	68%
French	< 5	100%	80%
German	< 5	100%	n/a
Graphic Communication	< 5	50%	57%
History	21	76%	74%
Italian	< 5	100%	n/a
Mathematics	63	62%	67%
Modern Studies	22	55%	72%
Music	41	95%	92%
Music Technology	13	100%	82%
Physical Education	11	27%	66%
Physics	41	56%	70%
Religious, Moral and Philosophical Studies	9	100%	87%

Appeals

Dundee had a total entry of 11,234 awards at National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher. Following publication of results in August, 1,109 appeals were made by Dundee pupils. Of these, 83 were upheld by the SQA. We have not yet received updated statistics reflecting these 83 changes, but overall impact on the figures presented in this report will be minimal

GLOSSARY

Insight	<p>Insight is an online tool for benchmarking the senior phase. It is a professional tool available to secondary schools and local authorities to allow them to look at specific cohorts of learners and identify areas of success and where improvements can be made.</p> <p>Although Insight provides data on the attainment of a wide range of Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF) awards from a range of providers, not all SCQF achievement awards are included.</p>
Senior Phase	<p>The Senior Phase, which takes place from S4 to S6 in schools, is the phase when young people will begin to build up a portfolio of qualifications and awards.</p>
SIMD	<p>Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) is a tool for identifying the places in Scotland where people are experiencing disadvantage across different aspects of their lives. SIMD gives a ranking for each small area, or data zone, which shows how deprived that area is compared to other areas.</p> <p>SIMD is a relative measure which shows whether one area is more deprived than another, but it does not say how much more deprived. A change in level of deprivation, or SIMD rank, shows that the relative deprivation compared to other parts of Scotland has changed, but this does not necessarily mean that the area has changed in an absolute sense.</p> <p>The latest figures show:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the area with the largest local share of deprived areas was Inverclyde, with 45% of data zones among the 20% most deprived areas in Scotland, • Glasgow City has similar deprivation levels at 44%, • Other local authorities with relatively high levels of deprivation include North Ayrshire and West Dunbartonshire at 40% and Dundee City at 38%. <p>SIMD considers deprivation by looking at income, employment, health, education, housing, access to services and levels of crime in an area.</p> <p>SIMD identifies deprived areas, not people. Over half of people on low income do not live in the 20% most deprived areas in Scotland. So, using SIMD to identify individuals experiencing deprivation will not work in some areas, such as remote rural areas and the islands.</p> <p>The SIMD 2020 introductory booklet is available.</p>
Tariff Points	<p>The Tariff Scale is a key feature of the Insight online benchmarking tool. It allows a score to be calculated that summarises a wide range of achievement and awards from a range of providers. The tariff score is based on elements from the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF), in particular SCQF Credit Points and levels, as well as elements related to a qualification's composition. The tariff</p>

	<p>scale allows comparisons to be made between cohorts, schools, local authorities, and their virtual comparators.</p> <p>The tariff points accrued by schools, local authorities and cohorts should not be viewed as the only way of measuring performance and should be considered in the context of the other outcome measures included in the tool, for example, breadth and depth, improving post-school participation and raising attainment in literacy and numeracy as well as other data sources.</p> <p>Tariff points are based on the latest and best results a pupil achieves at school. For example, if a pupil has National 5 French and Higher French only the tariff points from the Higher award would be counted. The table below shows some example tariff scores.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="614 734 1401 972"> <tr> <td></td> <td colspan="2">Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>National 4</td> <td colspan="2">33</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Grade C</td> <td>Grade A</td> </tr> <tr> <td>National 5</td> <td>64</td> <td>84</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Higher</td> <td>160</td> <td>204</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Advanced Higher</td> <td>400</td> <td>480</td> </tr> </table> <p>At each SCQF level increment, the tariff score more than doubles. Significantly, a pupil attempting Advanced Highers in S6 has the potential to gain considerably more points than a pupil leaving with only Highers or National 5's. An S4 pupil with six awards at National 4 would score just under 200 points. A high achieving S6 pupil with six National 5s, five Highers and three Advanced Highers could have around 2,000 points.</p> <p>Insight divides each cohort into three sections for the Improving Attainment for All measures: the top attaining 20% of pupils, the middle 60% and the lowest 20%.</p> <p>Across Scotland local authorities and schools have different curriculum models in the senior phase. This makes it hard to benchmark tariffs between authorities as pupils sitting eight subjects can accrue more points than those sitting six. To address this the Insight tool introduced a complementary tariff scale. The complementary tariff only includes a pupil's results from their best 120 SCQF credits: generally speaking, a pupil's best five results.</p>		Pass		National 4	33						Grade C	Grade A	National 5	64	84	Higher	160	204	Advanced Higher	400	480
	Pass																					
National 4	33																					
	Grade C	Grade A																				
National 5	64	84																				
Higher	160	204																				
Advanced Higher	400	480																				
Virtual Comparator	<p>For each school leaver, then matching school leavers are randomly selected based on gender, additional support needs, stage of leaving school (S4, S5 or S6) and the social context in which they live (Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation). These characteristics were selected due to their significance in explaining differences in the attainment and destinations of school leavers in Scotland.</p> <p>The virtual comparator is a valuable resource for self-evaluation and continuous improvement. It enables schools and local authorities to reflect on performance while considering relevant context and additional sources of information,</p>																					

Abbreviation	Full Words
SCQF	Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework
SIMD	Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation
ASN	Additional Support Needs
PP	Percentage Points
VC	Virtual Comparator
SIPS	School Improvement Partnerships

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REPORT TO: CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE 2 DECEMBER 2024

REPORT ON: TAYSIDE PLAN FOR INFANTS, CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES 2023-26: ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT 2023-24

REPORT BY: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SERVICE

REPORT NO: 338-2024

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 This report provides an update on the progress made in 2023-24 to meet the priorities in the Tayside Plan for Infants, Children, Young People and Families 2023-2026 (Appendix 1), hereafter referred to as the Tayside Plan. The Tayside Plan Annual Report 2023-2024 and associated documents (Appendix 2) details progress being made in relation to the five collective commitments outlined in the Tayside Plan.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 It is recommended that Committee:
- a. Note the progress detailed in the Tayside Plan Annual Progress Report 2023-24.
 - b. Require the Executive Director to submit a further annual update in 12 months.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 A Scottish Government grant allocation of £790,426 for the period 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024 supported delivery of the five priorities in the Tayside Plan. A detailed breakdown of expenditure is provided below. In the current year, funding to all Regional Improvement Collaboratives has been tapered by 50% and will cease from March 2025.

Workstream	Staff Costs (incl. WTE)	Other/resource Costs	Workstream Cost 2023-24
Infrastructure & Leadership	£143,903	£5,000	£148,903
Pre-birth and Early Years	£20,000		£20,000
Learning & Attainment	£176,117	£5,000	£181,117
Learning & Attainment-digital learning	£375,406	£5,000	£380,406
Health & Wellbeing	£20,000		£20,000
Looked after Children, Care Leavers & Young Carers	£20,000		£20,000
Safeguarding and Child Protection	£20,000		£20,000
Totals	£775,426	£15,000	£790,426

- 3.2 The Tayside Regional Improvement Collaborative Leadership Group remains committed to working collaboratively to help address shared priorities outlined in the Tayside Plan beyond March 2025 through existing resources. Options on the further development of a regional plan beyond March 2026 will be outlined in the next annual report.

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 requires Local Authorities and relevant Health Boards to prepare a 3-year Children's Services Plan and provide an annual update on the extent to which children's services and related services have been provided in accordance with the plan. The first Tayside Plan covered the period 2017-20 and partners have since continued to collaborate and jointly address key shared priorities.
- 4.2 Governance of the progress towards the actions in the Tayside Plan is carried out via the Tayside Regional Improvement Collaborative (TRIC) multi-agency leadership group. The plan complements local work on the Children and Families Service Improvement Plan, Our Promise and Protecting People plans, all of which are also reported to Elected Members.

5.0 CURRENT POSITION

- 5.1 The Tayside Plan Annual Report 2023-2024 provides details on our progress towards the five thematic priorities. There is a particular focus on addressing inequalities in health, wellbeing and educational attainment. Some key highlights include work on transitions of vulnerable infants into Early Learning and Childcare; work to support vulnerable adolescents; and work to implement Bairns Hoose.

- Our Children will have the best start in life.
- Our children and young people will achieve and make positive contributions.
- Our children and young people will enjoy good physical and mental health.
- Our children and young people will have their rights protected and voices heard.
- Our children and young people will be safe and feel loved.

6.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The content of this report was previously considered in report (361-2023) and remains valid. The original report was subject to an Integrated Impact Assessment. An appropriate senior manager has checked and agreed with this assessment. For follow-ups relating to initial reports agreed prior to 22/8/22 a copy of the Integrated Impact Assessment is available on the Council's website at www.dundee.gov.uk/ia.

7.0 CONSULTATIONS

- 7.1 The council leadership team have been consulted in the preparation of this report and are in agreement with its content.

8.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 8.1 None.

Audrey May
Executive Director
Children and Families Service
8 November 2024

Glyn Lloyd
Head of Service
Children and Community Justice Services
8 November 2024

Tayside Plan for Infants, Children, Young People and Families 2023-2026

Foreword

As Chair of the Tayside Regional Improvement Collaborative Leadership Group, I'm delighted to introduce our ambitious Tayside Plan for Infants, Children, Young People and Families for the period 2023-26. The priorities and actions outlined in this plan are designed to complement activities at a local level. As the revised title suggests, we've strengthened our focus on early years whilst continuing to coordinate improvements in support to children and young people. You will see from the content that we remain committed to addressing inequalities in income, health and wellbeing; narrowing the attainment gap; and protecting vulnerable families from harm.

As a collaborative, we have been very conscious that certain infants, children, young people and families are more likely to face significant challenges for which they require additional support, at least at certain times in their lives. The Covid-19 pandemic has now ended but has had a disruptive and enduring impact, which has been exacerbated by the cost-of-living crisis. The importance of further enhancing early years support; improving pupil's presence, participation and performance at primary and secondary school; promoting emotional health and wellbeing; and further strengthening child protection arrangements has been brought into even sharper focus.

In the context of such key policies as the Scottish Government Child Poverty Delivery Plan, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), Keeping the Promise Implementation Plan, Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC) and Delivering Excellence and Equity, our new plan incorporates actions on how we will consistently support our workforce and how we will pro-actively target, listen and flexibly respond to vulnerable families. We want to jointly understand their challenges and work with them to build capacity and overcome barriers. We recognise that because this often involves multiple and overlapping needs, it requires a consistent holistic approach from all our services.

The Regional Improvement Collaborative has been making good progress in improving support and this plan confirms our commitment to make further improvements over the next 3 years. As a Leadership Group, we will review internal governance arrangements which ensure that actions to address each priority are appropriately aligned and allow us to efficiently implement the plan at pace. We will also provide updates on progress to Scottish Government and within our respective local partnership and organisational governance arrangements at agreed intervals. In doing so, we will, wherever necessary, adapt our approaches and continue to both explore and respond to new opportunities whenever we can.

Audrey May

Executive Director, Children and Families Service, Dundee City Council

Tayside Plan for Infants, Children, Young People & Families 2023-2026

Key Statutory Drivers

Our collaborative is driven by a range of key statutory requirements which share a similar theme of providing support which gives all infants, children, young people and families the best start in life and address inequalities in health, wellbeing, attainment and positive destinations. This includes the Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968, which outlines requirements relating to families in need of additional support; the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014, which introduced new requirements relating to care leavers; the Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017, which includes a focus on 6 priority groups; and the Education (Scotland) Act 2016, which places an emphasis on the importance of addressing inequalities.

National Outcomes				
Our children grow up loved, safe and respected so that they realise their full potential	Our children live in communities that are inclusive, empowered, resilient and safe	Our children are respected, protected, fulfil their human rights and live free from discrimination	We tackle poverty by sharing opportunities, wealth and power more equally	
Our collaborative work is built on				
Getting It Right For Every Child	The Promise	United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child	Trauma Informed workforce	The Infant Pledge
Vision				
Our children and young people will have the best start in life and Tayside will be the best place in Scotland to grow up				
Our Five Tayside Priorities		Our Guiding Principles		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Our children will have the best start in life Our children, young people and families will achieve and make positive contributions to communities Our children and young people will enjoy good physical and mental health Our children and young people will have their rights protected and their voices heard Our children and young people will be safe and loved 		<p>Based on what people who know and use our services tell us and taking account of the fundamentals of the Promise our plan is underpinned by the following principles:</p> <p>Rights based – this means that there is evidence that children’s rights are considered in everything we do and that rights are promoted or enhanced by what we are doing.</p> <p>Easily understood and accessible – we will make sure that we clearly say what we are doing and what difference it will make. We won’t use confusing or stigmatising language, acronyms or jargon to ensure everyone has the same understanding of what we want to do.</p> <p>Based on what people with lived experience tell us – this means asking, listening, and acting on the voice and experience of people who use services and have lived experience.</p> <p>Linked clearly to evidence - it will be clear what our evidence base shows and we will measure the difference we are making. This will include use of data measures and the views of those accessing services, staff working with families, national impact reports and local research etc.</p> <p>Making the best use of resources - The benefits of working together on a Tayside basis and across different agencies/services will be clearly stated.</p>		

Key Policies and Strategies

Compliance with our statutory requirements is shaped by a range of national policies and frameworks which promote both universal and targeted support. This includes the all-encompassing UNCRC, which outlines 54 Articles designed to ensure infants, children, young people and families benefit from all their social, political, economic, educational and cultural entitlements and are kept safe from harm. This is complemented by GIRFEC, which includes a focus on Health, Education and Social Work professionals acting as Named Persons and/or Lead Professionals for infants, children and young people with additional support needs and coordinating Child's Plans.

In Early Learning and Childcare settings and Schools, Achieving Excellence and Equity: National Improvement Framework and improvement plan 2023 sets out the vision and priorities for Scottish education. The Scottish Attainment Challenge (SAC) Framework for Recovery and Accelerating Progress sets out a refreshed mission to use education to improve outcomes for children and young people impacted by poverty, with a focus on tackling the poverty-related attainment gap. Other key strategies we need to consider when framing improvement priorities include the Refreshed Narrative for Scotland's Curriculum, the Additional Support for Learning: Action Plan (updated October 2021).

In relation to children and young people at risk of significant harm, all partners within the collaborative play a key role and work in accordance with the National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland (2021). For children and young people on the edge of care or in the formal care system, the Independent Care Review promotes improvements in the 5 foundations of The Promise of Voice, Family, Care, People and Scaffolding and the Promise Oversight Report. As many people in the justice system are also parents or carers, the National Community Justice Strategy, which emphasises the importance of holistic support to address risks and needs, is also relevant. Further guidance to ensure the safeguarding of children is also provided in Early Learning and Childcare national frameworks, Child Protection guidelines and the Promise Oversight report.

Each of these policies and strategies, alongside a requirement to make the best use of resources, avoid duplication, promote consistency and both support and challenge each other, encourage us to work as a regional collaborative with our third sector partners with a particular focus on addressing inequalities. This extends to work with other key partners, including Scottish Government, the Scottish Prison Service, Parole Board, Sheriff Courts, Crown Office Procurator Fiscal Service, Health and Social Care Partnerships, Scottish Children's Reporter Administration, Education Scotland, Care Inspectorate, Scottish Social Services Council, Kinship Carers, Foster Carers and Adopters.

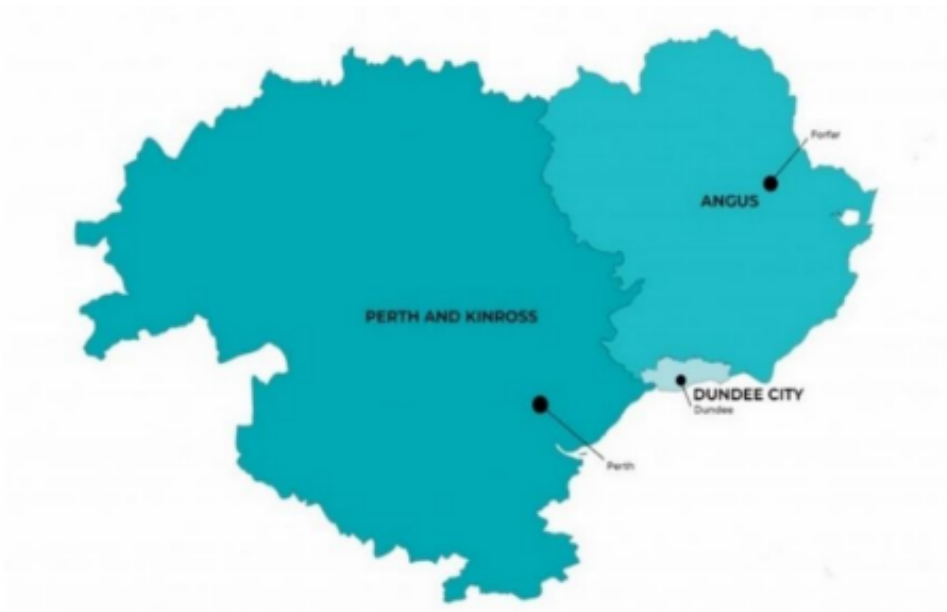
Our relationship with the Third Sector is important as we commission or spot purchase a range of services designed to provide extra support to vulnerable families and address inequalities. This includes funding from core budgets and other funding such as Pupil Equity Funding (PEF) and Scottish Attainment Challenge (SAC) funding. At a local level, each Children's Service Planning Partnership (CSPP) will also be coordinating the deployment of Scottish Government Whole Family Wellbeing Funding (WFWF), which has been allocated to promote innovation and transformational change in the way we deliver preventative support to families. Our Third Sector partners will inform regional and local opportunities.

Regional Context

Our approach towards leading, managing, delivering and commissioning support to parents/carers, infants, children and young people must also be informed by an understanding of regional and local demographics. We know that although the nature and extent differ across the 3 local authority areas, there are enough commonalities to encourage a shared approach. Crucially, these issues include children, young people and families experiencing poverty and the various inter-related ways this can impact on life chances. Our plan therefore complements the 3 Local Authority Poverty Delivery Plans or their equivalent.

These Delivery Plans set out bold and ambitious actions needed with partners to provide the support families need both immediately and in the medium to longer term, to address the cyclical drivers and impact of poverty, including employability, income, housing, mental health and substance use. This regional plan describes priorities and actions designed to contribute towards addressing each of these factors and give families the opportunity to participate and be economically active.

Area covered across Tayside Region



Tayside data (2022/23)

Data represents the most recent nationally published data for each measure. Due to delays in publishing data due to COVID, this data may be a mix of 2021 and 2022 data.



Population

(A = Angus, D = Dundee, P = Perth & Kinross)

0-15 years



A: 18,639
D: 23,704
P: 24,218

0-18 years

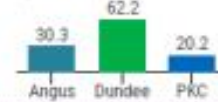
A: 22,362
D: 28,147
P: 29,129

0-21 years



A: 25,785
D: 35,343
P: 33,444

% Pupils in SIMD quintiles 1 and 2



Education

Children in primary school



A: 8,421
D: 10,114
P: 10,115

Children in secondary school



A: 6,592
D: 8,074
P: 7,850

English as a second language



A: 5.8%
D: 12.0%
P: 9.0%

Additional Support Needs



	Primary	Secondary
A:	15.9%	38.4%
D:	27.1%	43.1%
P:	27.8%	40.8%

Registered for free school meals



A: 17.5%
D: 32.2%
P: 13.22%

Primary school pupils registered for Free School Meals (P6-7)



A: 14.12%
D: 28.2%
P: 9.24%

Secondary school pupils registered for Free School Meals

Looked after children

Looked after (all)



A: 1.0%
D: 1.6%
P: 1.0%

More than one placement



A: 32.2%
D: 28.0%
P: 20.8%

% of children looked after in the community



A: 82.5%
D: 86.9%
P: 93.7%

Child protection

Number on Child Protection Register (rate per 1000 population aged 0-15)



A: 3.2
D: 2.6
P: 2.1

Child Protection Conferences (rate per 1000 population aged 0-15)



A: 11.7
D: 27.1
P: 13.3

Health

Teenage pregnancy (rate per 1000 females 15-19 y)



A: 30.9
D: 38.7
P: 21.4

Child healthy weight P1



A: 75.8%
D: 73.8%
P: 79.8%

Source for Looked After and Child Protection figures: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/childrens-social-work-statistics-scotland-2021-22/>

Message to Our Parents/Carers, Infants, Children and Young People

As a collaborative, we want to assure parents/carers, infants, children and young people that we have taken all available data into account when developing our priorities and actions. In each of the three partnership areas, work has taken place to engage with children, young people, families and communities to understand what matters most. Staff across the multi-agency workforce are committed to representing the voice of children and young people in key decisions affecting their lives, in developing supports and services and setting a strategic direction. The Promise, Children and Young People's Rights and Participation Strategy and the Infant Pledge have influenced our work on engagement.

Our message to parents, cares, children and young people:

We are committed to ensuring families have the best possible start; to supporting you to reach your potential; to helping you enjoy good physical and mental health; to keeping you safe; and to listening to your needs and responding flexibly. We believe that having identified these as shared regional priorities, there are opportunities for us to share our resources and use them to enhance support in some key areas.

Your rights are:**Our commitments are:**



Tayside Plan for Infants, Children, Young People & Families 2023-2026

Governance including links with local Children's Service Planning Partnerships

The collaborative operates on a regional basis and its priorities and delivery plan complement activities at a local level. Our regional and local governance arrangements, in terms of how respective plans are developed, implemented and monitored, are therefore fully aligned and mutually informed. The links between respective partnership forums and regional and local plans are illustrated in the graphic below. Further details on Community Planning Partnerships and local strategic plans, including relevant connections with partnerships which are focused on specific themes such as child protection, healthy weight or substance use, can be found in the links towards the end of this plan.



What we have been doing and our next steps

Progress of work led by the priority groups is detailed in the 2022-2023 annual report and is summarised below to demonstrate the connection between the previous plan and the next 3 years.

Priority 1 – Pre-birth and Early Years

There has been a key focus on improving transitions to Early Learning and Childcare (ELC), starting with a general mapping of support available for children with emerging developmental or additional support needs moving into ELC settings. During 2022-23, process maps were used to identify gaps in transition processes, identify Tayside-wide solutions and create a Pan-Tayside pathway. Also, in 2022-23, an Early Years tracking tool developed to monitor the progress of children aged 3-5 years, was refined by each local authority in response to evaluative feedback and is being used across Tayside by ELC staff to provide timely, targeted support for children in their learning and development, including onward transitions to P1. Following some refinements, this tool will be used across Tayside in session 2023/24 and will inform further developments. The transitions survey will also be repeated in 2023-24 to measure the impact of the new pathways and similarly inform next steps.

Priority 2 - Learning and Attainment

There has been a particular focus on building capacity to promote UNCRC, providing targeted support to specific groups and creatively enhancing digital learning opportunities. Professional learning sessions on Rights Respecting Schools Award (RRSA) continued to be offered to all schools to help increase understanding of UNCRC and were attended by over 500 members of staff.

The Tayside Virtual Campus was expanded to offer support to 35 learners engaging with 6 Advanced Higher subjects. The campus offers a blend of self-study, live delivery, webinars and tutorials. For session 2023-24, 180 young people are enrolled to study 7 Advanced Higher subjects and 1 Higher subject. National 1-3 resources have been developed and collated for learners in the Senior Phase in all STEM subject areas. A new website, Open Tay Learning, has been created to house these resources and has many accessibility functions to enhance learning for our young people with additional support needs and barriers to learning. Each local authority is now utilising the Digital Schools Award Scotland self-evaluation framework to develop their digital pedagogy.

Our Tayside Leadership, Development and Induction programme continued in 2022/23 with participation of another 15 Head Teachers from across Tayside. Following COVID-19 and recovery, reciprocal visits resumed in this session to support local authority central teams and build the capacity of school leaders across Tayside.

Priority 3 – Health and Wellbeing

Following extensive consultation and engagement 'Helping Tayside's Children & Young People Feel Great and Ready to Learn' Tayside's Child Healthy Weight Strategy (CHWS) was co-produced and subsequently launched in 2021. Pressures relating to the cost-of-living crisis and increasing numbers of families living with food insecurity sets a clear and ongoing need for implementation and spread of a Whole Systems Approach to Child Healthy Weight across Tayside. This work will be informed by the early adopter work in Dundee and the need to advance the realisation of the vision of the CHWS *'for every child in Tayside to grow up in*

Tayside Plan for Infants, Children, Young People & Families 2023-2026

a community and environment that supports them to feel great and ready to learn so that they can achieve optimum health and flourish to their best of abilities’.

Following the launch of ‘Connected Tayside: An Emotional Health and Wellbeing Strategy for Children and Young People’ in November 2021, an implementation plan was similarly developed. The Children and Young People’s Charter and a padlet of resources have been developed, including links to e-learning modules, the previously developed Emotional Health and Wellbeing Toolkit and a variety of useful links to support teachers, parents and carers. Additional supports have been provided through CAMHS and ‘Living Life Well’, the overarching population-wide mental health strategy for Tayside. Alongside the above, and in line with national strategies, work on both suicide prevention and the voice of the infant has been actively developed.

Priority 4 – Care Experienced Children and Young People

The focus for PG4 changed to key aspects of the 5 foundations of The Promise, including the coordination of some regional activity and some shared learning about local initiatives which could be transferred between areas. This included work with Strathclyde University Centre of Youth and Criminal Justice, the 3 Local Authorities and NHS Tayside to carry out a regional self-evaluation of practice against new national Secure Care Standards. The group also reviewed data pertaining to the school attendance of care experienced children and young people. Actions to develop better support for these cohorts of young people were identified and have included work on transitions and additional support at home, school and the community.

A focus on maintaining relationships with brothers and sisters was taken forward in Angus, with a view to scaling this up to a Tayside-wide model. This will inform action plans on how to maximise opportunities to maintain relationships, including in respect of brother/sister informed assessments, obtaining the views of brothers and sisters and placement capacity. It is also helping to confirm some constraints and complexities, such as children being placed into adoption well before much younger brothers or sisters are born, either with the same or a different father, all with parental rights and responsibilities.

Priority 5 – Safeguarding and Child Protection

Founded upon research carried out for Tayside by Dr Sharon Vincent from Northumbria University, PG5 has focused on the inter-related themes of workforce development, practitioner guidance and peer learning. This has, in turn, informed local Child Protection Committee Improvement Plans, including additional learning from case reviews and further workforce development. Tayside Practitioner Guidance on Chronologies, Concern for Unborn Babies and Inter-Agency Referral Discussions (IRDs) were all reviewed and refreshed, ensuring compliance with the National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland (2021).

Following the publication of National Guidance for Child Protection Committees Undertaking Learning Reviews, local arrangements have been updated and Significant Case Reviews (SCRs) and Initial Case Reviews (ICRs) replaced with multi-agency Learning Reviews. Angus and Dundee Child Protection Committees have jointly commissioned a consultant to review and develop local learning review guidance for all Protecting People arrangements.

Tayside Plan for Infants, Children, Young People & Families 2023-2026

Looking forward

Having reviewed the work undertaken previously through the annual report and after analysis of local data and national policy developments, we have agreed the priorities and actions as a focus for collaboration and joint learning and these are set out in the plan below.

The 2023-26 Tayside plan is an ambitious 3 year plan with some work to be carried out on refining our performance framework. We will continue to work to this plan in partnership with other key strategic partnerships including Child Poverty, Alcohol and Drug Partnership, Child and Adult Protection Committees and Community Planning Partnerships more widely. Additionally, each of the respective local authorities and their partners have established robust Whole Family Wellbeing Plans to support early and effective help for families. This will further enhance the collaborative commitment of partners across Tayside to deliver on the strategic priorities specified in this plan. (For details, please see attached plans for each local authority area and NHS Tayside).

Our overall thematic priorities have been refreshed as collective commitments to infants, children, young people and families across Tayside as follows:

- Our Children will have the best start in life.
- Our children and young people will achieve and make positive contributions.
- Our children and young people will enjoy good physical and mental health.
- Our children and young people will have their rights protected and their voices heard.
- Our children and young people will be safe and feel loved.

Please refer to the Delivery Plan below for further detailed actions and measures.

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Delivery Plan and measures of success April 2023 – March 2026

What We Want to Achieve	How We Will Achieve It We will	What will success look like?	Baseline Data
Our children will have the best start in life	<p>Ensure clear pathways are in place for early identification of need in children pre-birth to age 3 with specific attention to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-birth support pathways • Transition pathways into early years settings for children with significant early concerns in relation to their development or emerging additional support needs 	<p>Families with identified needs are matched with support at an early stage.</p> <p>Reduced number of concerns identified at 27-30mth review compared to 13-15 month review (showing success of early intervention).</p> <p>Increased % of children aged 3-5 newly enrolled at LA ELC where significant early concerns were raised with the ELC prior to child starting (indicating good information sharing).</p> <p>Infant mental health is understood and promoted.</p>	<p>Unborn baby referrals per quarter (data for Feb-Apr'23) – no audit data yet Angus: 40 Dundee: 46 Perth & Kinross: 27</p> <p>% of children with concerns identified at 13-15mth & 27-30mth Angus: 13.4% (16.0%) Dundee: 16.6% (17.5%) Perth & Kinross: 15.0% (16.6%) Tayside: 14.9 (16.8 %) (figure in brackets is 27-30mth; both figures 2021-22)</p> <p>93 children or 51% of children newly enrolled at LA ELC aged 3-5 with significant early concerns raised prior to starting nursery</p>
	<p>Provide accessible, responsive, and flexible parenting support</p>	<p>Increased availability of Solihull programme delivered in local areas.</p> <p>Increased range and uptake of supports and services available to families in local communities.</p> <p>Evidence of engagement and involvement of fathers/those in a fathering role in children's health, education, and child's plans</p>	<p>Solihull staff training data - figures show 2022-23 (<i>italics and brackets show total trained to date</i>): Angus Council: 52 (737) Dundee CC: 89 (432) Perth & Kinross C: 103 (364) NHS Tayside: 147 (199)</p> <p>Local monitoring of Whole Family Wellbeing Plans – outcome measures.</p>

Tayside Plan for Infants, Children, Young People & Families 2023-2026

What We Want to Achieve	How We Will Achieve It We will	What will success look like?	Baseline Data
Our children and young people will achieve and make positive contributions to communities	Implement effective strategies to increase school attendance	<p>Increased attendance across all groups.</p> <p>Increased attendance and attainment for children living in SIMD 1 and/or looked after at home.</p>	<p>Attendance 2020/21 Angus: 92.8% Dundee: 90.6% Perth & Kinross: 91.9%</p> <p>Attendance gap by SIMD SIMD 1 – most deprived, <i>and in italics SIMD 5- least deprived</i>) Angus – 89.9% (<i>95.0%</i>) Dundee- 88.2% (<i>94.6%</i>) Perth & Kinross: 88.9% (<i>93.7%</i>) - <u>2020/21 data</u></p> <p>Attendance gap for looked after children all pupils in normal font, <i>LAC in italics</i>) Angus – 92.8 (<i>86%</i>) Dundee – 90.6% (<i>88%</i>) Perth & Kinross: 91.9% (<i>89%</i>) - <u>2020/21 data</u></p>
	Implement plans focused on raising attainment and meaningful engagement (participation).	Reduced attainment gap between the most and least disadvantaged children and young people.	Measures as set out in each of the local authority stretch aims.

Tayside Plan for Infants, Children, Young People & Families 2023-2026

What We Want to Achieve	How We Will Achieve It We will	What will success look like?	Baseline Data
Our children and young people will enjoy good physical and mental health.	Ensure full implementation of the Child Healthy Weight Tayside Strategy.	Increased proportion of children with a healthy weight Reduced inequality in healthy weight between children living in the most and least deprived areas in Tayside.	A revised Child Health Weight outcomes framework is under development. Proportion of Children with Healthy Weight by SIMD quintile (SIMD 1 – most deprived, <i>in italics SIMD 5-least deprived</i>) Angus – 59.2% (89.3%) Dundee - 68.5% (76.5%) Perth & Kinross - 73.2% (74.6%) Tayside 68.2% (78.5%)
	Work collectively to support uptake of immunisation for children across Tayside.	Increased proportion of children receiving all immunisations.	First MMR by age 24mths Angus: 91.4% Dundee: 89.7% Perth & Kinross: 92.6% Scotland: 93.4%
	Implement the Tayside Action Plan to reduce suicide in children and young people	Reduced number of children and young people completing suicide Increased number of identified staff trained in suicide intervention. Increased satisfaction with information sharing from child death/suicide review.	Tayside Suicide Review Group (TSRG) Data Set
	Continued implementation of 'Connected Tayside; an emotional health & wellbeing strategy for children & young people' (2021-23)	Tayside Mental Health pathways are fully implemented and supports are accessible. Health and Wellbeing survey will show an increase in pupils who say they feel positive about their future.	% of pupils who feel positive about their future Angus: 70.2% Dundee: 74.6% Perth & Kinross: 78.0% Scotland: 72.8%

Tayside Plan for Infants, Children, Young People & Families 2023-2026

What We Want to Achieve	How We Will Achieve It We will	What will success look like?	Baseline Data
<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Our children and young people will have their rights protected and their voices heard</p>	<p>Support the multi-agency workforce to promote rights, choice and control for children and young people on how their views are heard and represented and how they are involved in decisions that affect them.</p>	<p>Children and young people will have access to independent advocacy, informal advocacy and digital tools to support participation.</p> <p>Attending child's planning meetings will be supported and the environment inclusive.</p> <p>Children with additional needs will have support to share their views and be involved in decisions.</p> <p>Views are well represented at child's planning meetings.</p> <p>Children's Hearing decisions are fully informed by the views of children and young people.</p> <p>Staff will have access to training on UNCRC, The Promise, engagement and feel confident in supporting young people.</p>	<p>Local performance measures will be shared, and best practice built upon including outcomes from local self-evaluation, audit, feedback from young people, and use of digital tools.</p> <p>Number of schools with Rights Respecting Schools Awards (July 2023): Gold - 16 Silver - 36 Bronze - 87 Registered – 42</p>
	<p>Promote and protect relationships that are important to children and young people when children are separated from their families and it is safe to do so.</p>	<p>When children are separated from people that are important to them, there are clear plans to maintain and promote safe family time.</p>	<p>National Data set for siblings will be implemented and monitored</p>

Tayside Plan for Infants, Children, Young People & Families 2023-2026

What We Want to Achieve	How We Will Achieve It We will	What will success look like?	Baseline Data
Our children and young people will be safe and feel loved	<p>Ensure appropriate housing options are in place for vulnerable families including pregnant women and families with children.</p>	<p>Children and families are secure in good quality accommodation that meets their needs.</p> <p>Reduction in the number of children growing up in temporary accommodation.</p>	<p>Households with children or pregnant women in temporary accommodation on 30.09.2022 (and no. of children in brackets): Tayside: 100 (245)</p>
	<p>Further develop approaches to identifying, responding, and managing risk to young people aged 12 – 18 including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young people at risk of secure care • Young people subject to Care and Risk Management (CARM) planning. • Young people who go missing 	<p>Young people in our settings feel informed and feel that their rights have been respected.</p> <p>Young people at risk of harm have access to appropriate support and clear plans to address need and risk.</p> <p>Secure care standards will be implemented with evidence of rights-based practice.</p>	<p>CARM data set under development.</p>
	<p>Make progress toward the implementation of Bairns' Hoose Principles.</p>	<p>Provide trauma responsive supports and services to children and young people involved in child protection.</p>	<p>To be established following outcome of Pathfinder Bid.</p>

Tayside Plan for Infants, Children, Young People & Families 2023-2026

What We Want to Achieve	How We Will Achieve It We will	What will success look like?	Baseline Data
	Introduce the Scottish Child Interview Model for children and young people.	Reduced requirement for children and young people to attend Court.	To be established as part of implementation programme.

APPENDIX 2

The PRAM Outcomes for referrals were:

Direct referral to Social Work	35%
Social Work Assessment (following PRAM)	22%
Universal services	18%
Family Nurse Partnership	7%
Glen Clova	2%
Perinatal Mental Health	2%

The number of Child Concern Reports has increased marginally from an average of 512 per quarter in 2020/21 to an average of 520 per quarter in 2023/24.

The number of Initial Referral Discussions has seen a gradual decrease over the past few years from 272 in 2020/21 to 200 in 2023/24. There has been a commensurate decrease in Joint Investigative Interviews from 131 in 2020/21 to 117 in 2023/24 and in the number of children subject to Child Protection Investigations from 294 in 2020/21 to 124 in 2023/24. At least part of the decline is explained by a move to categorise Pre-Birth Assessments as assessments rather than investigations, the number of these referrals are detailed above.

Conversely the requirement for Forensic Medical Examinations has increased from 13 in 2020/21 to 20 in 2023/24.

Dundee

In the Dundee partnership continues to implement the Tayside Unborn Baby (UBB) Protocol and provide support to parents, babies and infants via a range of services. This has included support from Health Visitors, New Beginnings, Locality Social Work Teams and the Family Nurse Partnership. To further enhance support, the partnership has also recently deployed Whole Family Wellbeing Funding (WFWF) to fund 2 initiatives focused on providing additional support to pregnant and vulnerable women and Corra Funding to implement Infant Pledge with parents and babies. Currently,

we are engaging with The Wave Trust to explore how to further shift resources towards enhancing preventative support in the first 1,000 days of a child's life. This will continue to be a key priority, with 187 referrals involving concerns about unborn babies in 2023-24. There are also a disproportionate number of babies and infants on the Child Protection Register or in care when compared with the national averages. In 2022-23, 13.8% of children had at least one developmental concern recorded at 13-15 months review and 17.7% of children had at least one developmental concern recorded at 27-30 months review. This is a 0.1% increase from previous year and a 2% increase from around 15% pre Covid-19

Perth & Kinross

The partnership in Perth and Kinross continues to implement the *Tayside Multi-Agency Practitioner's Guidance: Concern for Unborn Babies* – often referred to as the Unborn Baby 'Protocol'. This guidance continued to help practitioners identify needs, risks and vulnerabilities for unborn babies at an early stage, resulting in regular referrals to the Unborn Baby Multi-Agency Screening Group (UBB MASG). The purpose of this group - which meets fortnightly and includes representation from Social Work, Health and the Police - is to share information regarding the identified needs, risks and vulnerabilities in each referred case, and to decide on appropriate actions and interventions. The UBB MASG has continued to perform a very effective operational function in our partnership – resulting in early, and proportionate, interventions with vulnerable parents to make safe and supportive plans for babies pre-birth. Thirty three of 79 cases (42%) referred to UBB MASG during the reporting period were allocated to the First Steps Team for Social Work assessment. The figure of 42 % is positive as it shows that more than half of cases referred to UBB MASG were able to be returned to Universal Services or referred to the Third Sector for a lower level of intervention.

For UBB cases where Social Work assessment was required, the First Steps Team continued to provide a high-quality early intervention service to parents and babies. This was grounded in a strong ethos of relationship-based practice and a focus on keeping babies in the care of their parents where possible, or placing babies in the care of extended family members where this was not possible. Midwifery, the Family Nurse Partnership and the Health Visiting Service continued to be key partners to the First Steps Team. A Mental Health Nurse and Drug and Alcohol Worker are part of the First Steps Team - this provided early and focused interventions to address parental mental health and substance misuse issues. The team implemented the Lanarkshire Infant Mental Health Indicator Set during the reporting period. This provided for earlier identification and increased understanding of mental health needs in infants, and helped practitioners understand by observing behaviour, how the infant is feeling and interpreting their surroundings. To support the implementation of the Lanarkshire Indicator Set into practice, First Steps had monthly consultations with NHS Tayside's Lead Clinician for Infant Mental Health.

Thirty-one unborn/babies were subject to Child Protection Registration during the reporting period. Eighteen pre-birth Child Protection Planning Meetings were held, and 4 Initial Child Protection Planning Meetings (after the baby was born). Eight babies became Looked After and accommodated (7 via Child Protection Order, and one via Section 25). This figure means that 10% of unborn babies referred to UBB MASG during the reporting period were later placed outwith the care of their parents. Seven babies were approved for permanence during the period - 6 for Adoption and 1 for Permanent Kinship Care.

The First Steps team also offer Family Group Decision Making (FGDM) to families referred to their service, to support and empower families to utilise supports in their wider network and make a family plan to enhance the support to the family and the safety of the baby. This approach has helped babies remain within their family where it is safe to do so, including supporting them to identify kinship options where needed.

(ii) Reduced number of concerns identified at 27-30 month review compared to 13-15 month review:

Baseline data - children identified with concerns at 13-15 and then 27-30 months.

Data from 2020-2021: Angus 13.4%, 16.0%; Dundee 16.6%, 17.5%; Perth and Kinross 15.0%, 16.6%

Data from 2022-2023: Angus 13.5%, 17.4%; Dundee 13.2%, 18.2%; Perth and Kinross 14.6%, 17.4%

In 2022-23, the percentage of children in Angus identified with concerns at 13-15 months, then 27-30 months increased. In both Dundee and Perth & Kinross, the percentage of children identified with concerns at 13-15 months decreased, and the percentage with concerns at 27-30 months increased.

(iii) Increase the percentage of children aged 3-5 newly enrolled in LA ELC for whom significant concerns were raised prior to enrolment.

Baseline Data

2022 - 51% (93) of children with significant concerns raised prior to enrolment

2023 - 51% (128) of children with significant concerns raised prior to enrolment.

Number of 3-5-year olds (Tayside combined)

	Currently enrolled
	2022 - 3,420
	2023 - 4,432
	Newly enrolled
	2022 - 2,392 (70%)
	2023 - 1,722 (39%)
	Newly enrolled: with significant early concerns
	2022 - 183 (8%)
	2023 - 251 (15%)
	Newly enrolled with early concerns: raised prior to enrolment
	2022 - 93 (51%)
	2023 - 128 (51%)
	- Significant increase in the number of 3-5-year-olds currently enrolled across Tayside (influence by increase in the number of settings reporting at 121 up from 93 last year)
- Decrease in both the number and percentage newly enrolled	
- Increase in the number and percentage newly enrolled with significant early concerns	

- Increase in the number of early concerns raised prior though the percentage has remained at 51%

(iv) Infant mental health is understood and promoted

This is an outcome of the Solihull training programme, further details are provided below on page 6.

Our children will have the best start in life

We will provide accessible, responsive, and flexible parenting support

Progress Updates

(i) Increased availability of the Solihull programme.

Baseline data

For 2022-2023 - Number of staff trained during the year: Angus 52; Dundee 89; Perth and Kinross 103; NHS Tayside 147.

For 2023-2024 – Number of staff trained during the year: Angus (93, including follow-up training); Dundee 32; Perth & Kinross 38; NHS 39.

In 2023-24, Angus had the following numbers attend the sessions offered:

- Number of staff trained at Foundation Level Solihull Approach – 81
- Number of staff who attended Solihull in Practice session – 12 (this is a follow up to foundation training and offered 3-6 months after completion of foundation training)
- Number of staff who attended our first Solihull Celebration Event – 30 (this was a celebration of practice to recognise 5 years of delivery in Angus)
- A total of 818 staff have now completed the training.

All trained staff are encouraged to point parents to the free online materials <https://inourplace.co.uk/scotland/> and the Family Nurture Support Team offer the Solihull Parenting Programme to parents

Dundee

For the academic year 2023 to 2024 Dundee had 32 staff members attend training. There were challenges in enabling staff to be released for training. This applies to staff in both local authority and private sector settings.

A total of 464 staff have now completed the training.

Perth & Kinross

In 2023-24, a further 38 employees accessed the Solihull programme. A total of 403 staff have completed the training.

(ii) Increased range and uptake of supports and services available to families in local communities.

Baseline data - local monitoring of Whole Family Wellbeing Plans

Angus

Whole Family Wellbeing funding has been used in Angus to take an enhanced focus on pregnant women and families with at least one child under 3. During this period consultation and engagement has taken place to inform a plan which includes enhanced welfare rights and housing support to pregnant women, extension of the Angus gender specific women's support service Glen Clova, enhanced early intervention support through a third sector contract and support to a third sector led project looking at choice points and access for families. Data measures have been developed. Updates and an annual report on the outcomes for families with a child under 3 will be reported to the Integrated Children's Services Board.

Dundee

Over the last 12 months, the service worked with other Childrens Service Planning Partnership (CSPP) partners to coordinate deployment of Scottish Government Whole Family Wellbeing Funding. The delivery of services continues to be monitored by a WFWF Steering Group and details of impact will be included in the next Our Promise Annual Report.

The partnership continues to implement a Team Around the Child framework, which includes a focus on parents/carers needs where there are concerns about a family. In an Addressing Neglect and Enhancing Wellbeing initiative, over 70% of parents/carers said they felt engaged in the process and this is now being scaled across all schools in the city.

There are also a range of targeted or specialist supports, including from a Birch Programme for mothers who have experience of having a child removed from their care; a New Beginnings Team supporting vulnerable pregnant women; a Family Nurse Partnership for young families; the Caledonian Programme for both perpetrators and victims of domestic abuse; and a number of commissioned services such as Home Start supporting 600 parents a year, One Parent Families Scotland supporting 200 parents a year and Parent to Parent, supporting 500 families a year. The partnership also delivers advocacy services for parents and is in the process of carrying out a review to raise awareness of available advocacy services and make best use of available capacity from different providers.

Perth & Kinross

Perth and Kinross Council's vision is to create a place where its citizens can live life well, free from poverty and inequities. The five regional priorities outlined in the Tayside Plan link well with the journey to achieving this vision. The main national drivers have been the UNCRC, The Promise, GIRFEC, and the Infant Pledge as well as the ongoing development of a Trauma informed workforce. These drivers feed into local PKC plans which support a rights based, inclusive approach to supporting infants, children, young people and their families at an early point in need so they are able to achieve their life potential.

PKC have taken these drivers, combined with a focus on Whole Family Well Being, and begun to shift services from crisis intervention to early help. This shift has been supported by the ethos of the Whole Family Wellbeing Fund through the development of community resources like 'Letham for All' as well as a self-referral service for families at the earliest point in need. These changes are in the early stages but PKC hope to see increasing numbers of families accessing early supports in the coming year.

(iii) Evidence of engagement and involvement of fathers/those in a fathering role in children's health, education and child's plans.

Angus Council

Since the Involving Dads Steering Group formed in April 2022, Angus has seen a number of soft outcomes to practice, with a wider focus on involving Dads in the lives of their children and considering factors which affect them. These small changes to practice have been seen to gain momentum and start to embed in day-to-day practice locally. In addition, there have been some significant service developments across multiple sectors which have taken big steps in improving father's visibility and engagement for professionals supporting families.

The multi-agency group continue to meet and will continue to focus on topical priorities for Dads and for services supporting them and their families, in order to direct and support the work of individual service specific subgroups. The group will continue to adopt a “what else can we do” when considering the question “what about Dad?”

Dundee

Local GIRFEC Guidance stipulates that both parents with Parental Rights and Responsibility must be invited to Team Around The Child Meetings and that where this is not possible or appropriate due, for instance, to safety issues, alternative arrangements are made to engage with any absent parent. The ANEW initiative indicates that where they do attend they find it helpful. In relation to Initial Child Protection Planning Meetings (ICPPMs), over the last 12 months at least one parent was present at 93% of meetings, an improvement from 81% over the previous year. The respective attendance of mothers and fathers is monitored and in the last quarter 5 fathers and 3 mothers were not present but in all meetings at least one parent attended. To enable attendance, meetings are sometimes delayed when it is defensible to do so because parental contributions are considered more important than meeting procedural timescales. The partnership has recently committed to conduct a survey of parent/carer views of meetings and wider support to inform developments.

Perth & Kinross

Most childcare services have actions identified in their improvement plans to increase the involvement of fathers / male carers. The Parenting and Family Learning team indicate that they have increased male participation by 64% but there is still a great deal of work required to get where we want to be in the provision of services for male parents /carers. The Child Protection Committee Improvement Plan also now has an action to improve the voices of fathers across services in recognition that there is work to do in this area.

Our children will have the best start in life

We will refine the Early Years tracking tool and embed use across Tayside from 2023-24

Progress Updates

Tools for capturing children’s development, learning and progress for children aged 2 – 3 years and 3 – 5 years are being implemented and embedded across Tayside following agreement of the process/method.

	Ongoing support is available to settings to consider the sensitive and meaningful interpretation of information available within the tool, to inform planning and improvements. Professional dialogue and reference to traces of learning continues to be essential when completing and using these tools.
Our children will have the best start in life	
We will repeat the transitions survey in 2023-24 to measure the impact of new pathways and inform next steps	
Progress Updates	The transitions survey was repeated in 2023-24. Results show that whilst the % of children newly enrolled at LA ELC aged 3-5 with significant early concerns raised prior to starting nursery remained at 51%, there was a notable increase from 93 to 128 children recorded. The survey will be repeated in 2024-25 when findings will be analysed, and feedback will be sought on use of the pathways. Improvements will be made as appropriate.

TAYPLAN-2326-002

Our children and young people will achieve and make positive contributions to communities

We will implement effective strategies to increase school attendance

Progress Updates

(i) Increased attendance across all groups.

(ii) Increased attendance and attainment for children living in SIMD 1 and /or looked after at home

Baseline data:

Overall attendance 2020-2021 (LGBF)- Angus 92.8%; Dundee 90.6%; Perth and Kinross 91.9%

Overall attendance 2022-2023 (LGBF)- Angus 90.0%; Dundee 89.0%; Perth and Kinross 90.0%

Attendance gap between SIMD 1 and SIMD 5 2020-2021 - Angus 5.1pp; Dundee 6.4pp; Perth and Kinross 4.8pp

Attendance gap between SIMD 1 and SIMD 5 2023-2024 - Angus 6.6pp; Dundee 6.8pp; Perth and Kinross 6.7pp

Attendance gap for looked after children 2020-2021 (LGBF) - Angus 6.8pp; Dundee 2.6pp; Perth and Kinross 2.9pp

Attendance gap for looked after children 2022-2023 (LGBF) - Angus 7.2pp; Dundee 5.9pp; Perth and Kinross 3.2pp

Angus

In Angus during 2023-24, overall attendance at primary school was 92.8%, an increase of 0.4pp compared to the previous year. Attendance levels vary from school to school. The attendance gap between children living in SIMD 1 and 5 was 4.5pp, a decrease of 0.2pp compared to the previous year.

In 2023-24, the attendance of primary school children cared for away from home increased from 93.2% to 94.0% (0.8 percentage points (pp)). Attendance for primary school children looked after at home decreased from 91.6% to 80.9% (10.7pp), although it should be noted that this group represents 17 children and percentages may be

disproportionately affected by this. Attendance at primary school for children with previous care experience decreased from 87.1% to 87.0%.

In 2023-24, overall attendance at secondary school increased from 87.5% to 87.6% (0.1pp), compared to the previous year. Attendance levels also vary between schools. The attendance gap for young people living in SIMD 1 and 5 was 8.6pp, a decrease of 0.7pp compared to the previous year.

In 2023-24, the attendance of young people at secondary school who are cared for away from home increased from 87.6% to 88.3% (0.7pp). For young people looked after at home, attendance decreased from 54.2% to 52.5% (1.7pp), continuing a decreasing trend since 2020-21. This group comprised 18 young people in the reporting period. Attendance at secondary school for young people with previous care experience decreased by 0.5pp from 75.5% to 75.0%.

Over 2023-24 Angus Council retained a team of three Engagement Officers (EOs) and two Resource Workers (RW), funded by Strategic Equity Funding and the Care Experienced Children and Young People Fund within the Arbroath North and Brechin clusters. The EOs supported 27 primary school children with an increase in attendance of between 4.8 - 11.3%. For those supported in secondary, attendance remained stable over the year.

The EO team uses a range of interventions to encourage children to attend school and engage in their learning. These include providing social opportunities to build relationships between children, staff and families; after school activities; and partnership working to support transition from primary to secondary school. The EO team also provide links to other agencies and are supporting Young Carers. In October 2023 and April 2024 holiday activity programmes ran at Hayshead and Warddykes Primary Schools, in partnership with the Active Schools Team, providing an opportunity for families to participate in community activities, engage with Council services and build relationships. From October 2023 the EO Team in Brechin also provided support to families affected by Storm Babet.

Dundee

Dundee partnership approaches include improved use of data to promote better targeting of pupils with declining attendance and the shared development of holistic approaches which address the root causes at home, school and/or in the community. In 2023-24, the overall attendance rate for the whole school population in Primary and Secondary Schools was 89% compared with 85.4% for care experienced children and young people. Attendance rates for care experienced children and young people in Local Authority Foster Care (92.2%) and External Foster Care (87%) are higher than or close to the mainstream school population but lower for those at home (55%) and in Kinship Care (83%). We are therefore reviewing Looked After Children Scottish Attainment Challenge funding and the extent to which Pupil Support Workers can more effectively target support at these smaller cohorts of children and young people in each Secondary School. The focus on pupils in Kinship Care is augmented by the creation of a Kinship Care Team and the development of new practical and therapeutic supports with Sport Scotland, What Matters to You and Place 2 Be Parenting Programmes. While these programmes have a positive impact on targeted cohorts of pupils, they have not yet raised attendance of the overall school population and the partnership will continue to prioritise.

Perth & Kinross

In Perth and Kinross overall primary attendance has improved slightly, with figures of 93.1% in 2023/24 compared with 92.7% in 2022/23. However, it still remains 2% lower than pre-pandemic levels (95% in 2018/19).

Secondary attendance was 86.9% in 2023/24 with no change from 2022/23. This remains significantly lower (4%) than pre-pandemic levels (90.6% in 2018/19). There are differences between schools, however, with percentages ranging from 82.5% to 89.3%.

Combined attendance across Primary and Secondary schools for children and young people with no care experience was 89% compared with 90% for child and young people Looked After Away from home, 77% for those Looked After at Home, and this drops to 74% for children and young people who are previously Looked After. Attendance rates for Care experienced children in Primary has risen from 89% in 2022/23 to 90.4% in 2023/24. In our Secondary schools this has fallen from 81.3% in 2022/23 to 78.2% in 2023/24 and this is an ongoing focus area for us.

Our Young Carers are another cohort of children and young people we are focusing on tracking education outcomes for including attendance. For children and young people with no additional support needs the average attendance across primary and secondary schools combined is 93%, compared to 79% attendance for our Young Carers. We are continuing to work with our PKAVS Young Carers partners ensure schools have appropriate support in place to maximise attendance. A range of approaches have been taken to improve attendance in Perth and Kinross schools

including engagement with Education Scotland, and in-depth data analysis identifying trends and patterns in absence codes. These, along with SEF-funded support from the Educational Psychology Service, including a literature review of attendance interventions, provide an evidence base for the Staged Intervention Framework for Attendance as well as informing and enabling the delivery of specific projects to support families and staff in schools with addressing non-attendance. A total of £75,000 has been invested in this area and it is anticipated that 2024/25 attendance data will show improvement across both primary and secondary sectors.

Perth Autism Support have been commissioned to provide targeted support for up to 50 families in the first year through the 'Connecting Families' programme at a cost of £40,000. This project is designed to support families affected by poverty where their child or young person has an attendance level between 60% and 70%. Working with the family, they will identify barriers to attendance, agree actions and signpost to additional support services where that is appropriate.

Care Experienced Children and Young People funding has been used to contribute to a Promise Improvement Lead role with a focus on improving outcome for care experienced young people through partnership working. Additional Youth Workers are in place within secondary schools supporting care experienced young people in 1:1 work and facilitating our Champions Boards.

Our children and young people will achieve and make positive contributions to communities

We will implement plans focused on raising attainment and meaningful engagement (participation).

Progress Updates

(i) Reduced attainment gap between the most and least disadvantaged children and young people.

Baseline data - local authority stretch aims for 2023-24:

Progress towards reducing the attainment gap can be found in Appendix 3.

TAYPLAN-2326-003

Our children and young people will enjoy good physical and mental health.

We will ensure full implementation of the Child Healthy Weight Tayside Strategy.

Progress Updates

(i) Increased proportion of children with a healthy weight

(ii) Reduced inequality in healthy weight between children living in the most and least deprived areas in Tayside.

Baseline data:

Gap between SIMD 1 and SIMD 5 (2021-22) - Angus Council 30.1pp; Dundee City Council 8pp; Perth and Kinross Council 1.4pp; Tayside 10.3pp.

Gap between SIMD 1 and SIMD 5 (2022-23) – Angus Council 10.8pp; Dundee City Council 10.7pp; Perth & Kinross - 1.8pp; Tayside 9.1pp

A wide range of work to deliver on the Tayside Child Healthy Weight strategy (CHWS) has continued over the first 12 months of this plan, building on the existing strategic commitments, aligning existing resource and maximising partnership opportunities. These include:

Activities, events, workshops and focus groups to support a collective understanding of the issue of child healthy weight (CHW) across Tayside; to better understand the complexities of childhood obesity and identify collective and aligned actions.

Whole Systems Approach to CHW event in April 2024 to harness senior level support and leadership to further develop a shared understanding of the causes and complexity of childhood obesity, focus collective effort and existing resource to where it is needed most (shared responsibility), identify which of the local levers for child healthy weight are to be prioritised (for Dundee), improve the alignment of child healthy weight with existing and overlapping priorities, and to ensure consistency with performance measure/s related to child healthy weight.

The whole systems approach is being operationalised within existing governance structures of Angus Community Planning Partnership (CPP), specifically the Best Start, Bright Futures (Child Poverty) group that sits within Angus Integrated Children's Services Partnership. The rationale being that this offers an opportunity for a more coordinated and aligned approach to action planning and strategic alignment with minimisation of duplication and overlap in Angus.

Our children and young people will enjoy good physical and mental health.

We will work collectively to support uptake of immunisation for children across Tayside.

Progress Updates

(i) Increased proportion of children receiving immunisations.

Baseline data: From 2022-23 Angus 91.4%; Dundee 89.7%; Perth & Kinross 92.6%.

Baseline data: From 2023-24, Angus 93.2%, Dundee 88.0%; Perth & Kinross 92.5%

In addition to the single agency (NHS Tayside) Immunisation Steering Group, a new Childhood Immunisation Leadership Group has recently been established to focus on improving immunisation uptake. Partner membership of this group is currently being considered and established and early work is underway to review and improve data collection and reporting.

A new multi-agency childhood immunisation oversight group is also being considered to enable optimal support from all partners in improving childhood immunisation attendance by families.

Our children and young people will enjoy good physical and mental health.

We will implement the Tayside Action Plan to reduce suicide in children and young people

Progress Updates

(i) Reduced number of children and young people completing suicide.

Number of completed suicides in Tayside 2017-2021 for ages...

0-17: 6

0-19: 12

Source: TMSRG"

(ii) Increased number of staff trained in suicide intervention.

(iii) Increased satisfaction with information sharing from child death/suicide review

The Tayside Suicide Prevention Leadership Group action plan has driven work to reduce suicide in children and young people in Tayside in the last 12 months. This has included awareness raising across agencies working with children and young people. A capacity building programme and delivery of suicide prevention training continues underway across Tayside and staff working with children and young people have been a target group to receive this training. Training to support staff in understanding self-harm is also available.

A new information sharing pathway has been implemented between CAMHS and the named person to improve the co-ordination of support between agencies and reduce risks to young people. An assessment is being carried out to determine whether this pathway can be widened to include children and young people with risks presenting to physical health services. Awareness of services and what each provides remains an area of focus with a communications bulletin for schools, parents and others currently being developed to help improved shared understanding.

Our children and young people will enjoy good physical and mental health.

We will continue implementation of 'Connected Tayside; an emotional health & wellbeing strategy for children & young people' (2021-23)

Progress Updates

(i) Tayside mental health pathways are fully implemented and supports are accessible.

Implementation of the TRIC produced, 'Connected Tayside' strategy (2021) has continued, both within each core agency and collaboratively over the first 12 months of the new 3-year plan. The strategy's ambitions remain pertinent and align with the national Mental Health & Wellbeing strategy (June 2023), and all local and regional activity will extend for the duration of the current plan (2023-26), as a minimum. A partnership approach to oversight, evaluation of impact and any future strategy refresh is currently being explored.

(ii) The Health and Wellbeing survey will show an increase in pupils who say they feel positive about the future

The national Health and Wellbeing Survey has not yet been re-run, so there is no update regarding children and young people feeling positive about the future.

TAYPLAN-2326-004

Our children and young people will have their rights protected and their voices heard

We will support the multi-agency workforce to promote rights, choice and control for children and young people on how their views are heard and represented and how they are involved in decisions that affect them.

Progress Updates

(i) Children and young people will have access to independent advocacy, informal advocacy, and digital tools to support participation.

(ii) Attending child's planning meetings will be supported and the environment will be inclusive.

Baseline data:

July 2023, number of Tayside schools with Rights Respecting Schools accreditation - registered 42, Bronze 87, Silver 36, Gold 16

July 2024, number of Tayside schools with Rights Respecting Schools accreditation – registered 57, Bronze 60 (Angus and PKC), Silver 50, Gold 22

(iii) Children with additional needs will share their views and be involved in decisions.

(iv) Views are well represented at child's planning meetings

(v) Children's hearing decisions are fully informed by the views of children and young people

(vi) Staff will have access to training on UNCRC, The promise, engagement and feel confident in supporting young people.

Angus

To ensure that the voices of children, young people and families are heard, and they are able to influence decisions that impact them, funding has been increased for Independent Advocacy services throughout Angus. As part of the

expansion of advocacy services, an additional £60,000 annual investment in advocacy for children, young people and families has allowed us to work in partnership with Angus Independent Advocacy (AIA) to provide Family Advocacy as well as recruiting an additional young person advocate for children. We have also continued to commission individual advocacy and group advocacy from Who Cares? Scotland. Young people's views gathered from this work have fed into the improvement work across all services involved in supporting care experienced children. The expansion of advocacy services will ensure we continue to promote the rights of care experienced children and young people to express a view and have that view given due weight upholding United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC, Article 12).

Increased access to independent advocacy has been evident in social work assessments, reports, and attendance at care planning meetings where children's views have been supported by the use of independent advocacy. During 2022-23, 57 children and young people received a regular support service from AIA with the average age being 10yrs old. The areas children requested advocacy support with were wide ranging and included family time, current placement and future planning, mental health support, education issues, and transitions. Over the last year we have seen younger children from 12 months old being supported through non-instructed advocacy by both Who Cares? and AIA.

Children 'looked after' continue to have individual planning meetings reviewed in accordance with the Children (Scotland) Act 1995 by independent Quality and Review Officers who offer case objectivity to the multi-agency child's planning meeting. Following on from covid restrictions, Review Officers are offering choice on how meetings are held by rolling out digital, direct, and blended meeting options for children and families to support their engagement.

Training has been provided to staff and organisations that fall within the remit and responsibilities of being corporate parents. This training has been embedded into our online learning system in Angus Council. The training explains and helps promote understanding of our duties and responsibilities as corporate parents. The Promise Ambassadors have attended sessions with social work staff, head teachers, Angus wide leadership events as well as groups in the community such as the Rotary Club. During these sessions they provide context and engagement about their lived experience and how the role of a corporate parent is so important and the difference, individually and collectively, that corporate parents can have on the experiences of and opportunities for our care experienced young people.

Our Promise Hangout group continues to take place monthly for care experienced children and young people aged 5 and above. Since it opened in 2022 attendance has remained high with approximately 15-20 children and young people attending each month. Feedback from children note that they enjoy being able to spend time with other children with similar lived experience and have a sense of belonging. Children and young people have opportunities

to meet with professionals in a relaxed environment, build relationships and have fun. Corporate parents are regularly in attendance volunteering at the group including review officers, children's reporter, advocacy workers, active schools staff and the chief social work officer. This also offers an opportunity for children to have their say on the strategic direction of services. Young people also have the opportunity to get involved with project work and provide their views. Examples in 2023 include a focus group of young people who worked with Mairi Damer, a Communications and Media Consultant for Child Protection Committees Scotland, contributing to the design, language, and content of the new Child Protection Committee Scotland "Keeping Safe" campaign. Our young people came up with the creative social media idea of using Tik Tok adverts as a way of reaching large amounts of young people.

Dundee

The service has collaborated with NHS Tayside and Dundee University to develop an Infant Pledge resource entitled 'Hello in There Wee One'. This is designed to promote active listening and positive attachments between vulnerable expectant mothers and their babies. Launched in September 2024, it will be piloted in the New Beginnings Team, which supports pregnant women who are at risk of having babies or infants provided with alternative care.

For older children, the service continued to roll-out Mind of My Own (MOMO), a digital app which enables users to provide comments on the support they are receiving or would like to receive. This is then used to inform responses both on a day-to-day basis and during planning and review meetings, to place the child or young person at the centre. It provides an alternative option to 1:1 method to listen and respond more effectively.

In all 8 Secondary Schools, Champions Boards continued to be co-led by Pupil Support Workers and young people. As a result of their involvement in a Champions Board, 20 care experienced young people have now completed a Columba 1400 Leadership Academy, 17 have gained Saltire Awards and 2 have gained Emergency First Aid at Work SCQF Level 6. When asked to complete a sentence 'If it wasn't for the Champions Board', some said:

- 'I wouldn't have completed Columba 1400'
- 'I wouldn't have the confidence to join other groups'
- 'I wouldn't have met other CE pupils or other schools'
- 'I wouldn't have applied to join the Army and volunteered at St Andrews PS'

The service also rolled out training on Brothers and Sisters Staying Together and Connected. This includes an emphasis on listening to the child or young person's views as a core part of an assessment process, including whether they can

live with a sibling, remain in contact or know of their whereabouts. In the context of constraints such as complicated kinship arrangements and brothers or sisters in specialist care, the proportion remaining with at least 1 increased from 43% to 51%.

Perth & Kinross

As part of the Perth and Kinross Youth Strategy, our Members of the Scottish Youth Parliament (MSYPs) have encouraged and supported the development of the Youth Forum to drive forward the strategy, which is being supported by the Children's Rights Officer. The forum will be chaired by an MSYP, with representatives from a range of youth organisations, ensuring that there is a collective voice from our young people. It is anticipated in time, that the forum will challenge and support policies and practice in the best interests of young people.

Perth and Kinross continue to fund Independent Advocacy Perth and Kinross to provide individual advocacy for any young person involved with social work.

During the reporting period Perth and Kinross have started to develop champions boards in schools which act as a space where care experienced young people can come together, benefit from each other's experiences and express their views. During the reporting period all 11 secondary schools have developed champions boards.

We continue to train our staff in the use of talking mats which is a communication tool to allow children to express their views. Staff have reported that this tool has been a great addition to their toolbox and have been surprised by the information gained as a result.

Our children and young people will have their rights protected and their voices heard

We will promote and protect relationships that are important to children and young people when children are separated from their families and it is safe to do so.

Progress Updates

(i) When children are separated from people who are important to them, there are clear plans to maintain and promote safe family time.

(National dataset for siblings will be implemented and monitored)

Angus

Work has taken place supporting the very important relationships between brothers and sisters including development of training materials, guidance documents on assessments, and improving our spaces for brothers and sisters and other family members to spend family time together. As part of this work, we are developing data measures including looking at where children were living in the same household prior to becoming accommodated compared to where they were placed on admission to identify numbers of family groups that have been separated. Family household compositions can be complex and difficult to extract from our client index system. During 2023/24, 62.8% of placements of brothers and sisters living away from home (not in residential care) were with at least one sibling.

Where living with their family is not possible, we focus on supporting children to stay together with their brothers and sisters where safe to do so. Where this is not possible, it is important that we nurture and support those lifelong relationships. Identifying important relationships to the child and ensuring arrangements are in place when a child becomes looked after is recorded at the initial reception into accommodation meeting (held within 72 hours) and monitored through the subsequent child planning meetings.

Dundee

The service has rolled out mandatory training in Siblings Staying Together and Connected to all teams. This training has been informed by The Promise, UNCRC, Children Acts and Looked After Children (Scotland) regulations and presumes brothers and sisters should remain together. It confirms the legal definition of a sibling and outlines assessment processes which inform whether can safely remain together, stay in touch and/or know of each others' whereabouts, including

strengths and risks of living together or apart. It encourages their views to be considered and recorded to inform decision making. It also acknowledges complexities and constraints, such as a brother or sister in secure care, complicated kinship arrangements and adult siblings. The service is also building local care capacity in Kinship Care, Foster Care and Residential Care to enable brothers and sisters to live together or more easily see each other. In the financial year 2023-24, 55% of the 117 children newly looked after were placed with at least one sibling, an increase from 52% in 2022-23. This includes both those on a CSO at home and those in other care arrangements. For only those accommodated away from home, 51% were placed with at least one sibling, an increase from 43% in the previous year. 71% of children on CSOs at home resided with at least one sibling, though this has decreased slightly from 78% in 2022-23. In the second half of 2024-25, an audit will be carried out to establish the number of brothers and sisters living together, the extent to which this training continues to promote improvements and any barriers or constraints.

Perth & Kinross

In Perth and Kinross we have been monitoring the number of brothers and sisters placed together as part of the Corporate Parenting plan for the past three years. Over the reporting period we have seen a positive improvement in the number of brothers and sisters placed together. During the period 1 August 2023 – 31 July 2024, 60% of brothers and sisters living away from home are with at least one brother or sister. It is recognised nationally that providing data for this area is extremely difficult within current systems and we are part of the working group addressing this.

We are implementing the use of a connections tool which will be completed by Social Worker at the beginning of our involvement and will identify who is important to the child/young person. This information will then form part of a child's plan. We are also introducing a sibling assessment which can be completed earlier, which will evidence whether they should be placed together or apart.

We continue to recruit foster carers who are able to take sibling groups and will move children and young people if necessary, in order to place siblings together. We are also looking to develop a space where siblings who are living apart can come together in an informal way and spend time together.

During this reporting period, there were two occasions where we supported families with either an extension or conversion of their property to facilitate siblings being accommodated in either a kinship or foster placement.

Perth and Kinross continue to promote the use of lifelong links as a way in which children and young people can reconnect with those important to them as well as understanding their journey. During the reporting period 13 children and young people benefited from this approach.

TAYPLAN-2326-005

Our children and young people will be safe and feel loved

We will ensure appropriate housing options are in place for vulnerable families including pregnant women and families with children

Progress Updates

(i) Children and families are secure in good quality accommodation that meets their needs.

(ii) Reduction in the number of children growing up in temporary accommodation.

Baseline data:
 Published September 2022, households including children or pregnant women in temporary accommodation, 100 households with a total of 245 children.
 Published September 2024, households including children or pregnant women in temporary accommodation, 90 households with a total of 190 children.

Angus

Many care leavers face independence alone and feel isolated as many lack a 'safety net' of family and friends. A trauma informed approach is therefore essential when supporting care leavers, with relationships at the heart of good practice. In Angus, a person-centred decision making with support approach is taken to ensure the most appropriate accommodations options are made available to our care leavers. This is to increase the likelihood of the young person sustaining the accommodation in the longer term. Housing and the Horizon team (TCAC) worked in partnership to develop a joint housing protocol in 2013 to support their corporate parenting responsibilities by jointly addressing the diverse accommodation and support needs of care leavers and other young people engaged with the Horizon team. The joint housing protocol recognises that living independently does not always work out for some individuals, services need to be more responsive to individual need with a return to care being an option where appropriate.

This year the Housing protocol was reviewed and updated. Since the protocol was introduced the number of care experienced young people (looked after less than 5 years ago) applying as homeless has reduced by 46%. The joint protocol ensures services work together to be responsive to the individual needs of young people.

Dundee

In Dundee, a Housing Protocol gives an outright priority for housing to all care leavers; 2 new supported accommodation facilities have been established in the last 12 months; and there are a small number of designated tenancies specifically for care leavers. For families with pregnant women or dependent children who are at risk of homelessness, mainstream properties in the community are used as temporary accommodation. There is an option for any family to remain in a network flat and have it as their permanent accommodation should they be happy there.

Perth and Kinross

In Perth and Kinross, there is a strong record around homelessness and, through the Home First approach, evidenced by the lowest prevalence of people requiring temporary accommodation in Scotland in the last 5 years (by population). There has been particular success in enabling families with children to directly access secure tenancies, avoiding the need for temporary accommodation, and where this is not possible, a furnished temporary flat in the community is provided on the basis that this could subsequently be transferred to a secure tenancy, avoiding the need for the family to move again. There is a strong partnership with Perthshire Women's Aid and provide refuge accommodation which again can be transferred to a secure tenancy if appropriate. A Common Housing Register provides a single route into around 97% of social-rented accommodation in Perth and Kinross provided by the Council and 3 Housing Association partners. The Common Housing Register is underpinned by a Common Allocations Policy which includes a Strategic Need pathway, enabling the prioritisation of care experienced young people and families with children in certain circumstances.

Our children and young people will be safe and feel loved

We will further develop approaches to identifying, responding, and managing risk to young people aged 12-18

This will include:

- Young people at risk of secure care
- Young people subject to Care and Risk Management (CARM) planning.
- Young people who go missing

Progress Updates

- (i) Young people in our settings feel informed that their rights have been respected.
- (ii) Young people at risk of harm have access to appropriate support and clear plans to address risk need and risk.
- (iii) Secure care standards will be implemented with evidence of rights-based practice.

Baseline data (CARM data set under development)

Angus

The CARM project has progressed well over the past year. The Multiagency steering group has directed this under the guidance of a senior practitioner and development officer who are dedicated to this work through CORRA foundation funding. Due to the expansion of our criteria to include children at risk to self this has increased our numbers of young people subject to CARM. This is viewed as a positive outcome as it now ensures there are robust multi-agency risk management plans in place for this small group of young people. In addition to this, we have introduced a policy that all children and young people must be considered for CARM to ensure that a risk management plan is clearly in place for their return to the community and afford them with the best opportunity to have positive outcomes.

Some tasks in progress to support the work of CARM include:

- Short film to support professionals understanding of CARM
- Short film to support children/young people and families understanding of CARM
- CARM card resource for CYP /families and professional
- Introduction of Mock CARM training
- Development of staged development programme for those involved with CYP at risk of harm to self or others.

Dundee

In the last 12 months we have completed a comprehensive partnership review of approaches towards vulnerable adolescents which will lead to the introduction of a new co-located multi-disciplinary team in April 2025. The team will

focus on young people in formal Child Protection and Youth or Criminal Justice processes up to age 26 years for care leavers. At the same time, parallel developments include single management oversight of Adolescent Team and Young People's Houses; sustained £1.1m funding to 4 Third Sector organisations providing additional targeted support; new Practice Standards; a revised Continuing Care Protocol; the introduction of Care and Risk Management Procedures; and 2 new supported accommodation facilities. Quantitative data shows comparatively high numbers of over 12's referred to IRDs and more progressing to CPPMs where a higher proportion are also placed on the Child Protection Register. Seven young people have been risk assessed, supported and managed via the CARM Protocol. In an audit of Social Work cases involving young people, over 83% were rated as Good or better overall. There have been no admissions to Secure Care for 18 months and there has been a 17% reduction in the number of missing episodes from Young People's Houses.

Perth and Kinross

A Care and Risk Management (CARM) Protocol was ratified by Perth and Kinross Child Protection Committee during the reporting period. This provides clear inter-agency guidance for practitioners on how to effectively manage and support young people aged 12 and above whose behaviour is presenting, or may present, a risk of serious harm to themselves or others. The protocol strengthens existing inter-agency child protection and risk management arrangements and is in keeping with national guidance – i.e. Framework for Risk Assessment Management and Evaluation (FRAME) with Children Aged 12-17 (Standards, Guidance and Operational Requirements for Risk Practice). The purpose of the protocol is to improve the identification of, and response to, risk of serious harm as it applies to young people who meet the CARM definition - and to provide a coherent framework within which to manage risk more effectively. A key aim is to identify and build upon strengths and protective factors which can support the delivery of risk management strategies that will reduce harmful behaviours and build capacity in the young person. Work is currently underway to 'operationalise' the protocol and implement it into practice. This is expected to be completed over the coming reporting period.

We have recently undertaken engagement with our young people, youth work providers and partners as part of a consultation exercise to develop a Youth Strategy. Part of the strategy will seek to address behaviours and offer support and opportunities for early intervention, preventing escalation of risks.

Our children and young people will be safe and feel loved

We will make progress toward the implementation of Bairns' Hoose Principles

Progress Updates

(i) Provide trauma responsive supports and services to children and young people involved in child protection.

Baseline data: to be established following outcome of Pathfinder bid

The Tayside Pathfinder continue to work towards meeting the Bairns Hoose Standards. An oversight Group is well established and is serviced by a Tayside Delivery Group who also oversee implementation Groups across the 3 LA's and NHS.

The Scottish Government are supporting Quality Improvement work across services and a collaborative aim alongside drivers are in the process of being finalised.

Project Plans are also being drafted to support the improvement work to fully meet the Bairns Hoose Standards in line with the StART tool.

To support the implementation of the Bairns Hoose an extended timeline has been agreed up to March 2027.

Funding applications have been agreed with each Bairns Hoose site upgrading co-located facilities and tendering for therapeutic support services.

Our children and young people will be safe and feel loved

We will introduce the Scottish Child Interview Model for children and young people.

<p>Progress Updates</p>	<p>(i) Reduce the requirement for children and young people to attend court.</p> <p>Baseline data: to be established as part of the implementation programme</p> <p>SCIM Implementation started in Tayside started in September 2023 with initial information sessions held by the National Implementation and Training Group. SCIM planning and implantation continued over the following months along with recruitment. 12 candidates were selected, six police officers and six social workers.</p> <p>All attended local and national training commencing locally in March 2024, followed by 4 weeks at Scottish Police College in Tulliallan and a final week locally in June 2024.</p> <p>All candidates were successful in their training and all are now deployed as interviewers. Plans are in place to have all interviewers co-located in their respective areas, this work is ongoing.</p> <p>SCIM went live in Tayside on 13th May 2024, following the successful completion of the interviewers 4 weeks training. Since that time, they have undertaken 28 interviews (as of 12th July) with several currently in the planning stages to be completed in the near future. Since the go live date 17 interviews have taken place using the 5 Day JII Model (old model). This represents SCIM interviews making up around 62% of all interviews of children since going live. Progress in terms in terms of internal and collective proves maps continue to be evaluated and modified as required and these are discussed collectively at the SCIM Implementation Groups.</p>
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<p>Our children and young people will be safe and feel loved</p>	
<p>We will jointly commission the development of local learning review guidance for all Protecting People arrangements</p>	
<p>Progress Updates</p>	<p>Learning review guidance has been prepared and is in use by both Angus and Dundee. Some further revisions may be made based on practical usage. In Angus, a learning review group has been established which has oversight of all learning review requests, decisions and recommendations.</p>

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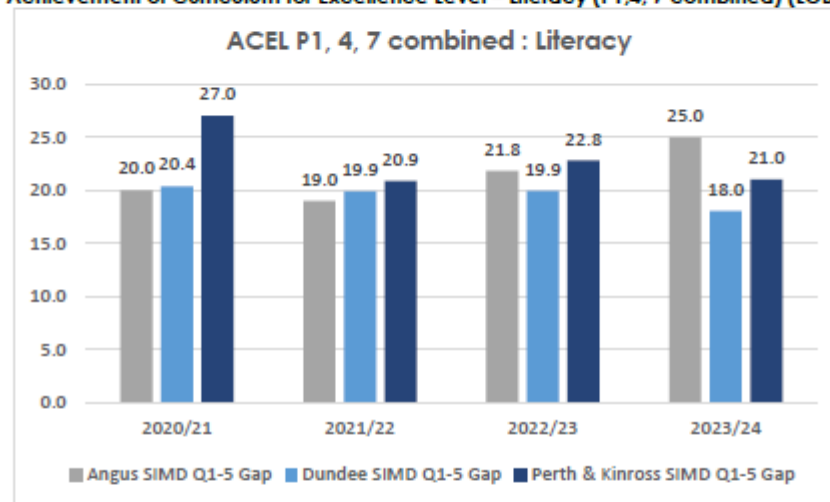
APPENDIX 3

We will implement plans focused on raising attainment and meaningful engagement (participation).

(i) Reduced attainment gap between the most and least disadvantaged children and young people.

The Scottish Government has identified five core stretch measures of attainment and participation. Local authorities are required on progress towards closing the poverty-related attainment gap for these measures. Progress for the three Tayside councils is set out below.

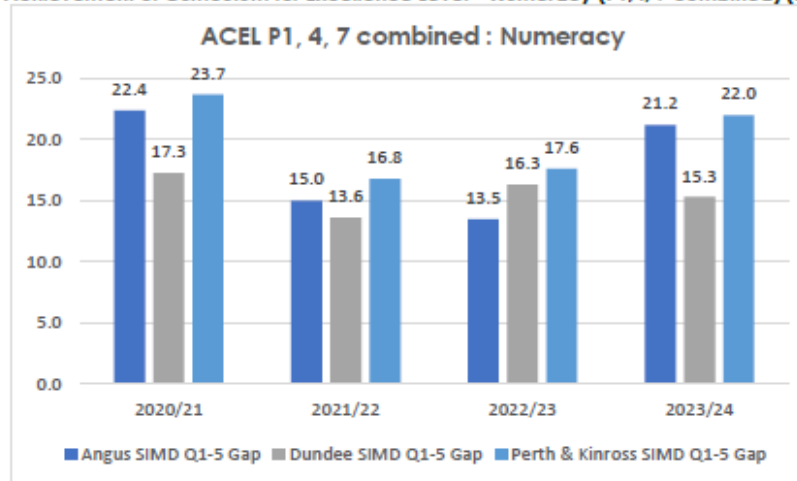
Chart 1 – Achievement of Curriculum for Excellence Level – Literacy (P1,4, 7 combined) (LGBF)



Data presented for 2023-24 is currently subject to validation through Scottish Government processes. As such, this data may change.

Based on the latest available information, in 2023-24 the poverty-related attainment gap for literacy increased by 3.2 percentage points (pp) in Angus. The gap decreased by 1.9pp in Dundee and by 1.8pp in Perth & Kinross.

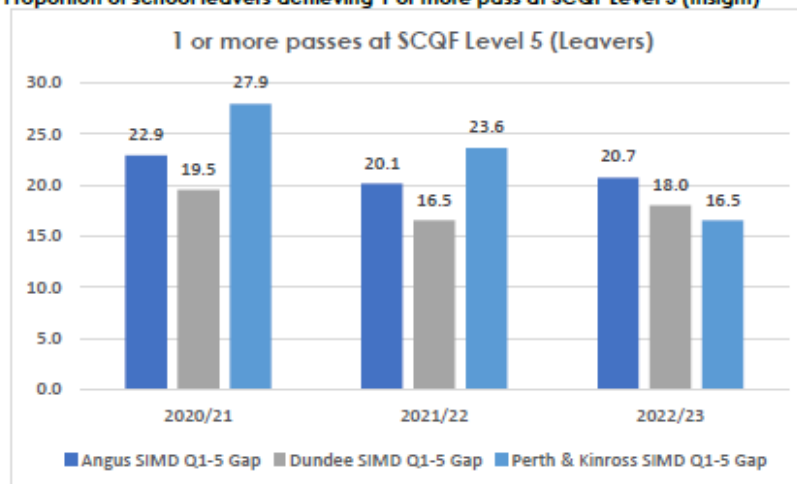
Chart 2 – Achievement of Curriculum for Excellence Level – Numeracy (P1,4, 7 combined) (LGBF)



Data presented for 2023-24 is currently subject to validation through Scottish Government processes. As such, this data may change.

In 2023-24, the poverty-related attainment gap for numeracy increased by 7.2pp in Angus, and 4.4pp in Perth & Kinross. The gap decreased by 1pp in Dundee.

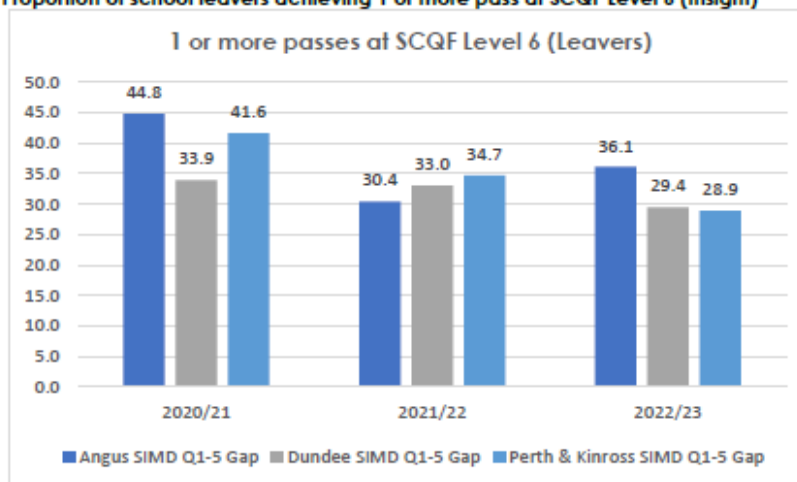
Chart 3 – Proportion of school leavers achieving 1 or more pass at SCQF Level 5 (Insight)



In 2022-23, the poverty-related attainment gap for school leavers achieving one or more passes at SCQF Level 5 increased by 0.6pp in Angus, and by 1.5pp in Dundee. The gap decreased by 7.1pp in Perth & Kinross.

Data for 2023-24 will be available after the next update to Insight (the national senior phase benchmarking tool) in February 2025.

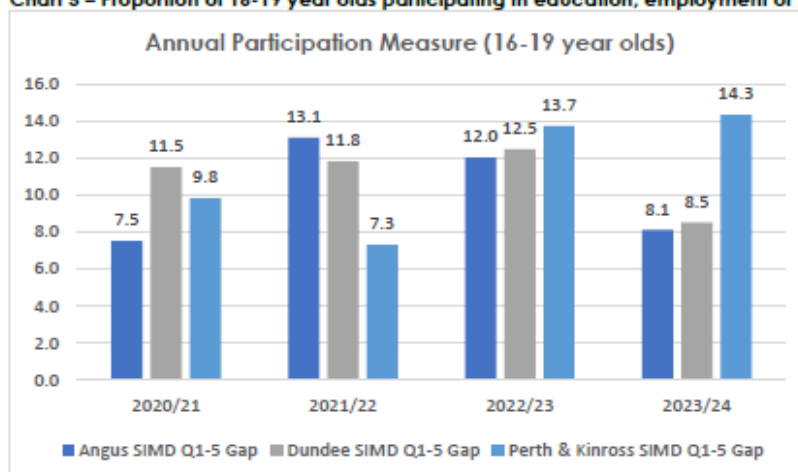
Chart 4 – Proportion of school leavers achieving 1 or more pass at SCQF Level 6 (Insight)



In 2022-23, the poverty-related attainment gap for school leavers achieving one or more passes at SCQF Level 6 increased by 5.7pp in Angus. The gap decreased by 3.6pp in Dundee, and by 5.8pp in Perth & Kinross.

Data for 2023-24 will be available after the next update to Insight (the national senior phase benchmarking tool) in February 2025

Chart 5 – Proportion of 16-19 year olds participating in education, employment or training.



In 2023-24, the poverty-related attainment gap for the annual participation measure decreased by 3.9pp in Angus, and 4pp in Dundee. The gap increased by 0.6pp in Perth & Kinross.

