













## 2023-2024 Annual Report: Resilient Communities

PI Status		Long Term Trends		Short Term Trends	
 Red	Alert	 Improving		 Improving	
 Amber	Warning	 No Change		 No Change	
 Green	OK	 Getting Worse		 Getting Worse	
	Data Only				

Performance Indicator	Traffic Light	Red Threshold	Amber Threshold	Short Trend	Annual Data		
						Value	Target
% revenue budget allocated via participatory budgeting	 Red	5,142,350	5,358,870	 Getting Worse			
					2021/22	1,923,780	6,624,000
					2022/23	171,889.11	5,213,000
					2023/24	91,702	5,413,000

This data is taken from the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA) 2023/24 return.



The Aberdeenshire target for participatory budgeting is 1% of revenue budget which equates to £5.413 million

Total council budget subject to participatory budgeting in 2023/24 is £91,702.44.


Performance Indicator	Traffic Light	Red Threshold	Amber Threshold	Short Trend	Annual Data		
						Value	Target
		427.5	445.5				

Number of individuals sharing their experience, including young people	Red			Getting Worse	2021/22	N/A	N/A
					2022/23	608	450
					2023/24	401	450
<p>Local voices have been involved in over 15 developments including focusing on transport, reducing the need for foodbanks, reducing stigma and developing tools, training and policies for a range of partners including NHS Grampian who are developing their own engagement and participation strategy.</p> <p><b>Reduction in local voices</b> – In 2022 there were a number of events held to raise the profile and work of the lived experience/ local voice work therefore the numbers were higher for 2022/23.</p> <p>Over the past 12 months there has been a range of opportunities to coproduce opportunities, allocate funding and inform service deliver.</p> <p>Those who are coming forward to be involved in this area of work require long term support to develop their confidence and self-belief that their voice matters. This has resulted in a higher level of support for the engagement team reducing the number of people they can work with.</p>							



Performance Indicator	Traffic Light	Red Threshold	Amber Threshold	Short Trend	Annual Data		
						Value	Target
Number of households supported to reduce their housing costs	 Green	11,400	11,880	 Getting Worse			
					2021/22	N/A	N/A
					2022/23	21,731	12,000
					2023/24	12,704	12,000
<p>The final draft reports for the Fairer Aberdeenshire Tackling Poverty &amp; Inequalities Annual Report for 2023 and the Local Child Poverty Action Plan 2023/24 (Year 6) have been uploaded. This will be replaced with the final version once it has had final sign off from the Integrated Joint Board on the 28th June 2024.</p>							

Performance Indicator	Traffic Light	Red Threshold	Amber Threshold	Short Trend	Annual Data		
						Value	Target
Client Financial Gain (overall)	 Green	3,800,000	3,960,000	 Improving			
					2021/22	N/A	N/A
					2022/23	6,509,323	4,000,000
					2023/24	6,598,608	4,000,000

The final draft reports for the Fairer Aberdeenshire Tackling Poverty & Inequalities Annual Report for 2023 and the Local Child Poverty Action Plan 2023/24 (Year 6) have been uploaded. This will be replaced with the final version once it has had final sign off from the Integrated Joint Board on the 28th June 2024

Performance Indicator	Traffic Light	Red Threshold	Amber Threshold	Short Trend	Annual Data		
						Value	Target
Total number of people who have participated in the services, opportunities and events that the partners have collectively delivered in the year	 Green	19,000	19,800	 Getting Worse			
					2021/22	N/A	N/A
					2022/23	26,073	20,000
					2023/24	23,482	20,000

The final draft reports for the Fairer Aberdeenshire Tackling Poverty & Inequalities Annual Report for 2023 and the Local Child Poverty Action Plan 2023/24 (Year 6) have been uploaded. This will be replaced with the final version once it has had final sign off from the Integrated Joint Board on the 28th June 2024

Performance Indicator	Traffic Light	Red Threshold	Amber Threshold	Short Trend	Annual Data		
						Value	Target
Number of individuals who have been supported to enhance their employability skills through targeted training programmes, work experience and delivery of supported employment schemes	 Green	950	990	 Improving			
					2021/22	N/A	N/A
					2022/23	1,200	1,000
					2023/24	1,243	1,000

The number of individuals who have been supported to enhance their employability skills through employability programmes in 2023/2024 is 804.  
A full breakdown is provided below:

**Male:** 430

**Female:** 367

**Prefer not to say:**7

**Age 16 -24:**354

**Age 25+:** 450

**Into employment:** 235


**Male:** 124

**Female:** 90

**Prefer not to say:** 21


**Age 16-24:** 83

**Age 25+:** 152

Performance Indicator	Traffic Light	Red Threshold	Amber Threshold	Short Trend		Value
Total new claims processed for Housing Benefit and Council Tax Reduction in quarter	 Data Only	Data Only	Data Only	Data Only		
					Q1 2022/23	1,698
					Q2 2022/23	1,776
					Q3 2022/23	1,553
					Q4 2022/23	1,761


This indicator details the number of new claims processed each quarter. Quarters 1 and 2 tend to be higher because of the impact of council tax annual billing and the first recovery runs. The data is extrapolated from statutory monthly returns to the Department for Work and Pensions and the Scottish Government, the primary data source is retained on file. The data is monitored monthly by the Service in order to determine workload trends.

The number of new claims processed in-year has reduced by 16.9%. However, the number of Council Tax Reduction cases has remained fairly stable. The Working-Age Housing Benefits caseload is reducing due to the roll out of universal credit and the migration of legacy benefit claimants to universal credit, which is currently expected to be completed by the end of 2025.

Performance Indicator	Traffic Light	Red Threshold	Amber Threshold	Short Trend		Value
FS02 – Total Changes of Circumstances processed for Housing Benefit and Council Tax Reduction in quarter	 Data Only	Data Only	Data Only	Data Only	Q1 2022/23	23,152
					Q2 2022/23	14,792
					Q3 2022/23	13,334
					Q4 2022/23	30,466

This indicator details the number of changes in circumstances processed each quarter. Quarters 1 and 4 are significantly higher than Quarters 2 and 3 because of annual rent increases and state benefit up-rating. The data is extrapolated from statutory monthly returns to the Department for Work and Pensions and the Scottish Government, the primary data source is retained on file. The data is monitored monthly by the Service in order to determine workload trends.

The number of changes in circumstances processed in-year has reduced by 7.6% due to the reduction in the working age housing benefit caseload. This is due to the roll out of universal credit and the migration of legacy benefit claimants to universal credit, which is due to be completed by the end of 2025.


Performance Indicator	Traffic Light	Red Threshold	Amber Threshold	Short Trend		Value
% of children living in absolute low income families	 Data Only	Data Only	Data Only	Data Only	2021/22	8%
					2022/23	9.6%
					2023/24	N/A

The most up to date data for the indicator is for the 2022/23 financial year:

The rising cost of living, impact of Brexit and the pandemic has resulted in Aberdeenshire witnessing an increase in child poverty to 16% in 2022/23. Despite the increase in child poverty Aberdeenshire remains below the Scottish average of 24%. There are approximately 12.1% children living in relative poverty and 9.6% in relative poverty. Source: [children-in-low-income-families-local-area-statistics-2014-to-2023](#) (This includes some children up to age 19, as that is the age groups the Department for Work and Pensions provide).

Relative low income refers to people living in households with income below 60% of the median in a given year.

Absolute low income refers to people living in households with income below 60% of median income in a base year, usually 2010/11, adjusted for inflation. [\(Source: Child poverty: Statistics, causes and the UK's policy response - House of Lords Library \(parliament.uk\)\)](#)

Performance Indicator	Traffic Light	Red Threshold	Amber Threshold	Short Trend		Value
number of communities with active community councils	 Data Only	Data Only	Data Only	Data Only	2021/22	N/A
					2022/23	69
					2023/24	69

Having an active community council offers benefits both to the local community and partners such as the council. The council provides advice and support to try and ensure community councils are able to realise the aspirations of their communities and help make those communities great places to live. That might be through supporting festive lights, greening or representing the communities views through consultations. In 2024, the council is introducing community council single elections and now is a good time for people to get involved and join their local community council - [Community councils - Aberdeenshire Council](#).

There are 69 community councils across Aberdeenshire. By area, the number of community councils is as follows:

**Garioch:** 9 Community Councils including one shared with Marr.

**Marr:** 16 with an addition of the below 2 that are also shared with other areas:


- Monymusk, Midmar & Clunie with Garioch (Monymusk in Marr)
- Crathie, Drumoak and Durris with K&M (Crathie in Marr)

**Buchan:** 9

**Banff & Buchan:** 12

**Kincardine & Mearns:** 12

**Formartine:** 11

Performance Indicator	Traffic Light	Red Threshold	Amber Threshold	Short Trend	Value	
Number of communities with a live or in-development Place Plan	 Data Only	Data Only	Data Only	Data Only	2021/22	N/A
					2022/23	N/A
					2023/24	6

There currently 6 place plans, either live or in development. These are:

**Buchan:** 1 place plan in place - Peterhead



**Banff & Buchan:** 1 place plan in development - Fraserburgh

**Garioch:** 1 place plan in development- Inverurie

**Marr:** 1 Place plan in place- Huntly



**Formartine:** 1 Place plan in development -Turriff

**K&M:** 2 place plans in development - Stonehaven & Laurencekirk

Performance Indicator	Traffic Light	Red Threshold	Amber Threshold	Short Trend	Annual Data		
						Value	Target
Energy Efficiency Measures Installed in Private Sector Housing/Social Housing	 Red	5,704.75	5,944.95	 Getting Worse			
					2020/21	2,427	2,989
					2021/22	3,338	2,938
					2022/23	4,599	2,765
					2023/24	3,309	6,005

Aberdeenshire Council installed significantly fewer measures overall than planned in 2023/24. However, breaking this down between Private and Council homes, Private Sector installations were above expectations for the year with 316 measures installed against an expected value of 235. This means that the shortfall against planned installations was in the council's housing stock, where 2993 measures were installed against an expectation of 5770. The lower than anticipated number of installations has

been driven by factors such as budget changes, constraints on the electricity grid, supply chain issues for components such as doors or windows, and slippage in install dates.

Performance Indicator	Traffic Light	Red Threshold	Amber Threshold	Short Trend	Annual Data		
						Value	Target
LHS02.5: Households assisted to maximise their income	 Green	630	693	 Getting Worse			
					2021/22	1,018	700
					2022/23	1,683	700
					2023/24	1,168	700

Aberdeenshire Council's contract with SCARF enables home visits to be made by their Home Energy Advice Team (HEAT) to carry out a full Home Energy Check (HEC). The householder is provided with beneficial advice on how simple behaviour changes can reduce their energy costs and maximise their income.

The total enquiries received by SCARF during 2023/2024 was 1,168 of which 365 referrals were made to other agencies for further support.

Fuel Poverty Details were collected from 178 households, (where households were willing to share their financial situation) of which 111 households were calculated to be in fuel poverty. Suitable advice was given to assist these households reduce the level of fuel poverty they were experiencing and / or to remove them from fuel poverty. 4 households were completely removed from fuel poverty.

The change of energy efficiency behaviour advice and general information and support, provided to the households contacting SCARF, would generate annual savings of £48,025 and carbon savings of 138.72 (tCO<sub>2</sub>) if the changes were adopted.

114 households were assisted with fuel bill/tariff savings, which resulted in total savings of £40,698 (an average of £357 per household).

SCARF assisted 73 households to write off debt totalling £54,745.15

Through a variety of energy voucher schemes SCARF maximised households' income by £16,733.00.