

COVID-19 Community Impact Assessment Overview

*Banff & Buchan Area
Wards – Key Messages*

This presentation highlights some of the main themes pertaining to the three Banff and Buchan Wards – Banff and District, Troup, and Fraserburgh and District.

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**Community
Impact Assessment
(COVID-19) –**

**Aberdeenshire
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Ward Summaries:

**Banff & District
Troup
Fraserburgh & District**

**Community Impact
Assessment (COVID-19)**



- *Incorporates dozens of indicators to highlight areas potentially vulnerable in respect of COVID-19;*
- *Provides Ward profiles based on various themes:*

1. *COVID Vulnerability*
2. *Demographic Vulnerability*
3. *Health Vulnerability*
4. *Economic Vulnerability*
5. *Other Social Data*

In terms of structure, the presentation covered two main items:

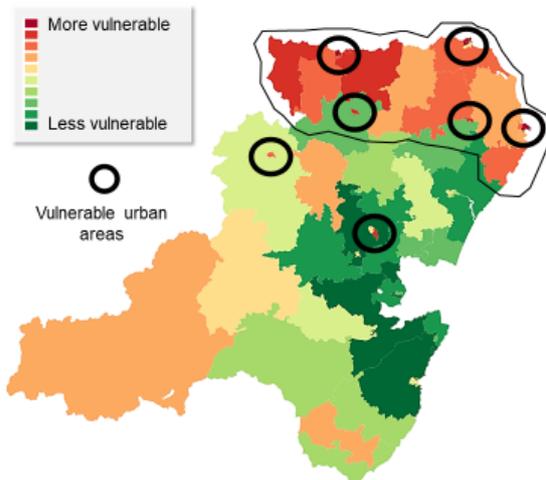
1. The overall findings of the Community Impact Assessment; and
2. Specific vulnerabilities identified per Ward

The presentation was entirely based on the COVID-19 Community Impact Assessment. It uses dozens of indicators to highlight areas that may potentially be vulnerable in respect of COVID-19. There are 5 main themes in the document. These are:

1. **COVID Vulnerability**
2. **Demographic Vulnerability**
3. **Health Vulnerability**
4. **Economic Vulnerability**
5. **Other Social Data**

COVID-19 Community Impact Assessment

COVID Vulnerability Map



- Areas in **red** are more vulnerable; areas in **green** are less vulnerable.
- Areas in the north of Aberdeenshire and urban areas are generally more vulnerable.
- Deprivation is a factor. Nationally, people in the most deprived areas were over 2 times more likely to die with COVID than those living in the least deprived areas.
- Aberdeenshire is among the least vulnerable areas in Scotland.
- Aberdeenshire's COVID-related death rate is relatively low.

The map of Aberdeenshire is colour coded. Areas highlighted in red are considered more vulnerable in terms of the potential impact of COVID-19; green areas are considered less vulnerable. Dozens of indicators were ranked in order to compile this map. So this map essentially answers the question: in which areas are residents most likely to experience hardship as a result of COVID-19?

Areas in the north of Aberdeenshire and urban areas tend to be more vulnerable, according to the various indicators and themes contained in the report.

Some of the more rural areas, whilst vulnerable in certain respects due to geographic remoteness and poorer internet connections, tend to be less vulnerable overall.

Areas to the west and south of Aberdeen City are among the least vulnerable in Aberdeenshire.

Areas in the north tend to be home to a higher proportion of people aged 65 and over who have social care needs and are receiving Attendance Allowance benefits. This is payable to people over the age of 65 who are so severely disabled, physically or mentally, that they need a great deal of help with personal care or supervision. There is a moderately strong correlation between Attendance Allowance rates and COVID-related death rates in that, where Attendance Allowance rates are relatively high, so too is the COVID death rate.

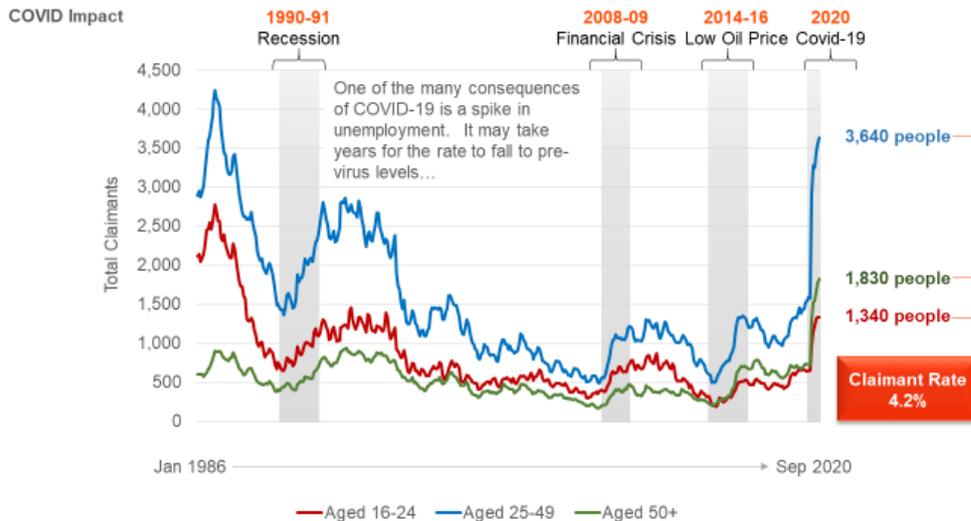
Residents in the north also tend to experience poorer health outcomes and lower life expectancy rates relative to those living elsewhere in Aberdeenshire.

The relationship between deprivation and COVID vulnerability isn't just a local phenomenon. National data show that, after adjusting for age, people in the most deprived areas were over 2 times more likely to die with COVID than those living in the least deprived areas, and individuals from ethnic minorities, poorer socio-economic backgrounds and deprived areas are more likely to suffer.

It should be noted that the vulnerable areas in the map are based on Aberdeenshire-specific data. If we consider the bigger picture, we'd see that Aberdeenshire is among the least vulnerable areas in Scotland.

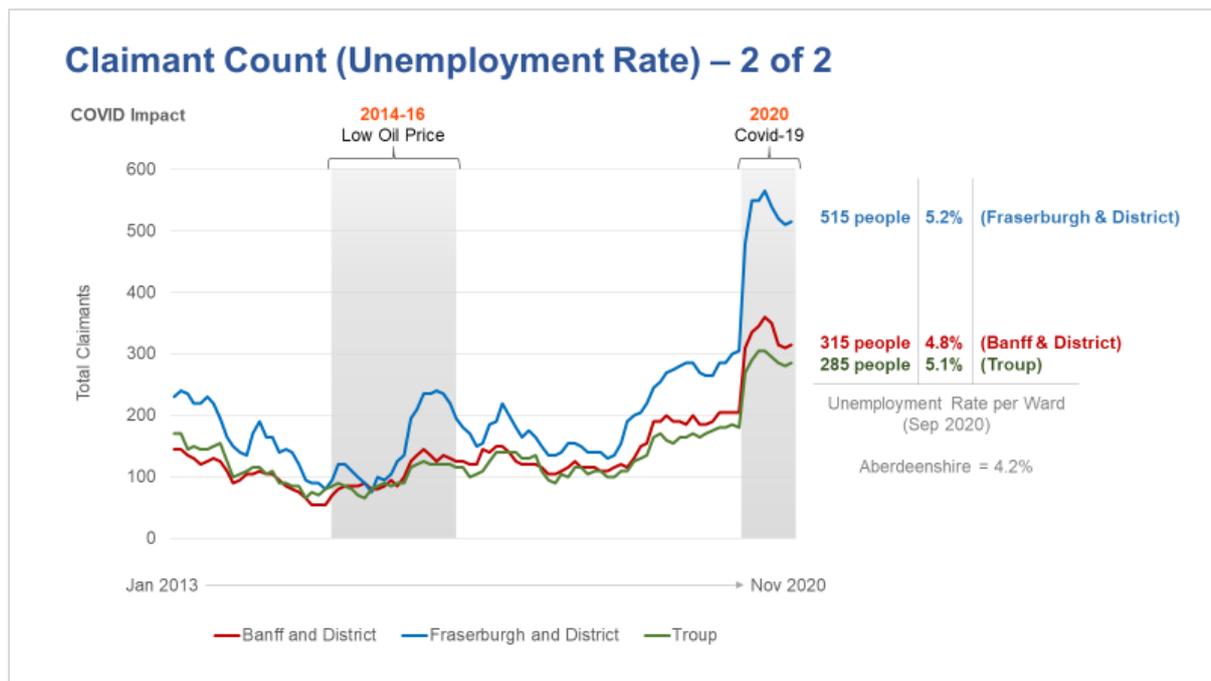
Therefore, although these areas are vulnerable in the context of Aberdeenshire, they are statistically less vulnerable when viewed alongside other areas in Scotland.

Claimant Count (Unemployment Rate) – 1 of 2



The economic consequences of COVID will likely be felt for years to come. Arguably, the best indicator to explain that is the claimant count (or unemployment rate). The slide contains a graph detailing Aberdeenshire's claimant count from January 1986 to September 2020 per broad age group: those aged 16 to 24, 25 to 49, and over 50. The COVID pandemic is placed in the context of previous recessions and crises, as shown by the grey vertical bars in the chart.

The Claimant Count measures the number of people claiming unemployment related benefit in the UK. Aberdeenshire's claimant count has, like the rest of Scotland, increased over the last few months to levels not seen since the UK-wide recession in the early 90's. Approximately 6,810 people claimed unemployment benefits in Aberdeenshire over the course of September 2020, more than doubling since February (prior to the first Lockdown). That equates to 4.2% of the working age population, up from just over 2% in February. Although this is the 3rd lowest rate in Scotland, it is a relative 'shock' in the context of recent local employment data and could potentially push a greater proportion of residents and families closer to the threshold of relative deprivation. The situation may be exacerbated once the existing furlough scheme expires.



The graph in the slide shows the claimant count per Banff & Buchan Ward from January 2013 to November 2020.

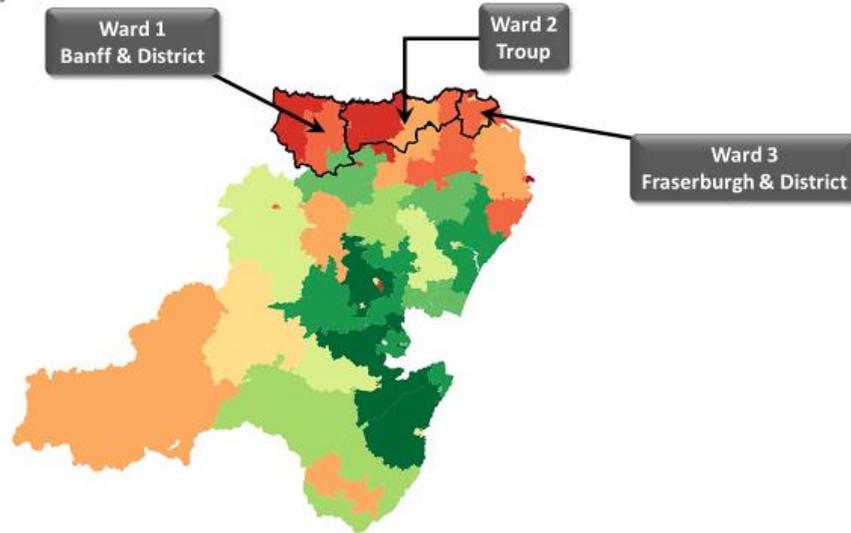
As the graph shows, the impact of COVID is similar on a Ward basis in that the spike in unemployment is evident over recent months. Latest data show each Ward's claimant rate exceeds the Aberdeenshire average (4.2%) – yet all are below the Scottish rate (which is 6.3%) and the UK-wide rate (6.5%).

If we take a longer term view for a moment, the economy will likely recover but the path and speed of recovery will mirror success in managing the health crisis and will require careful planning and management of economic activity so that society can operate in a different but productive manner.

The longer the measures to tackle the pandemic are in place, the harder the impact will be on the public finances and the less scope there will be for a fiscal stimulus in the recovery, with a greater risk of wider economic contagion.

COVID-19 Community Impact Assessment

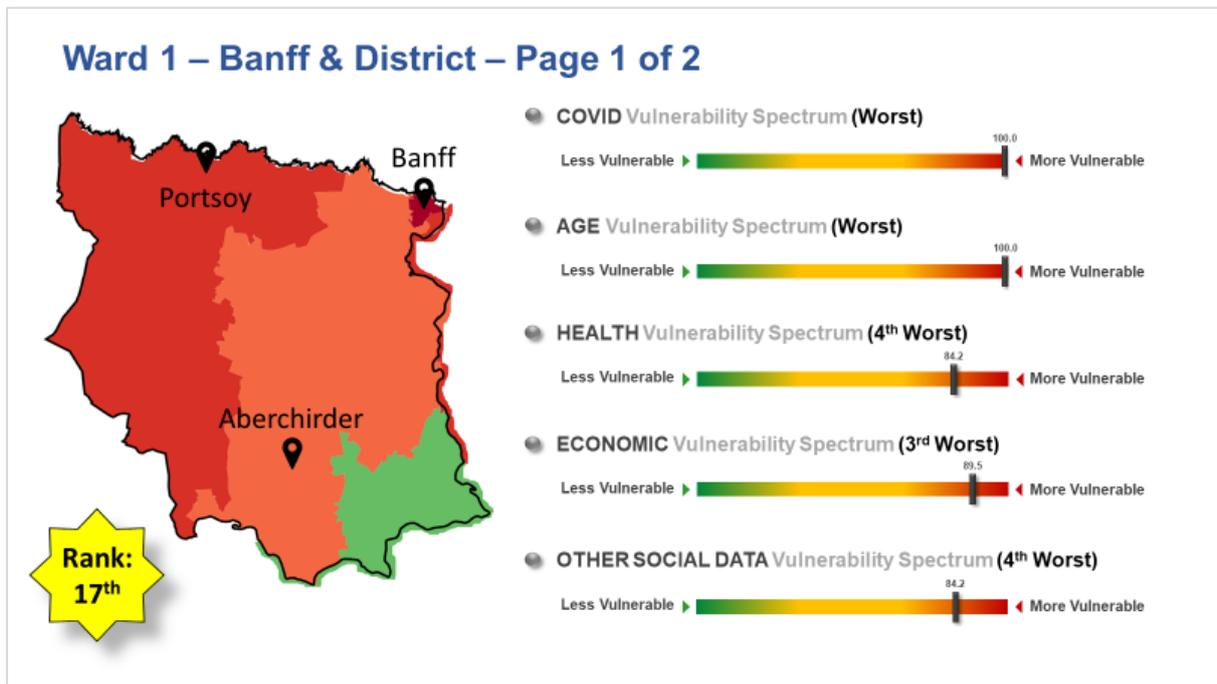
COVID Vulnerability Map



This map shows overall vulnerability per Aberdeenshire Intermediate Zone, with the three Banff & Buchan Wards delineated for clarity. What should be evident is the extent to which reds and oranges are the prevailing colours within these 3 areas, which suggests they are among the most vulnerable in Aberdeenshire.

Reasons for this should become apparent when each Ward is summarised in the subsequent pages.

Ward 1 – Banff & District – Page 1 of 2



This is an enlarged portion of the map on the previous page. It shows Banff & District's overall vulnerability per Intermediate Zone. Again, green denotes areas that are less vulnerable overall; reds and oranges denote more vulnerable areas.

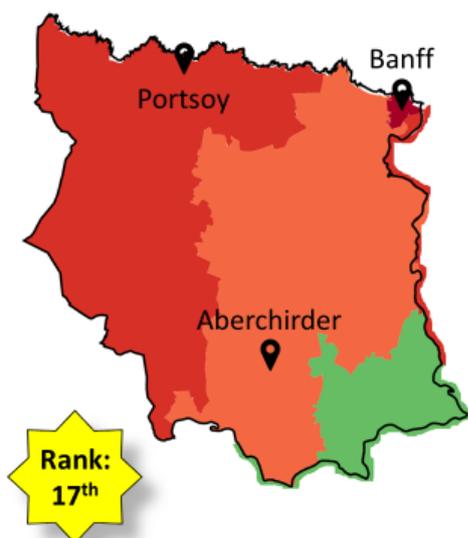
There are also 5 slider graphs. These are the 5 themes used in the Community Impact Assessment. They simply place the Ward on a spectrum, from least vulnerable in Aberdeenshire to most vulnerable. The closer the black marker is to the green side of the graph the less vulnerable that Ward is relative to all other Wards in Aberdeenshire.

In short, the farther the black marker is to the **left**-hand side of the graph, the better.

The Ward's ranking per Theme is also included, as well as the overall ranking (the yellow star at the bottom-left).

So overall, this Ward is ranked 17th out of the 19 Wards in Aberdeenshire, which means only 2 Wards have a worse ranking in the context of Aberdeenshire.

Ward 1 – Banff & District – Page 2 of 2



- **Ward is on the more vulnerable end of the spectrum.**
- **COVID Vulnerability** – Banff potentially vulnerable (multiple reasons, including high % of jobs in retail sector).
- **Age Vulnerability** – Portsoy, Fordyce & Cornhill potentially vulnerable (high 65+ pop. with underlying health conditions).
- **Health Vulnerability** – Banff arguably has worst overall health profile in this Ward.
- **Economic Vulnerability** – Ward generally located on the more vulnerable end of the spectrum across a range of indicators.
- **Other Vulnerability** – relatively poor accessibility potentially an issue.

In terms of the two national COVID studies, this Ward is the most vulnerable in Aberdeenshire. One of these studies, the ScotPHO index, which places an emphasis on health-related indicators, shows Banff as the most vulnerable area in this Ward – and the 8th most vulnerable in Aberdeenshire (out of 59 Intermediate Zones). And it scores relatively poorly in respect of the more comprehensive British Red Cross index. This is largely a result of vulnerabilities across the spectrum, particularly in terms of health and the make-up of the local jobs market.

This Ward is home to a relatively high proportion of people who are out of work and receiving benefits relating to poor health, particularly in Banff where 9% of Working Age adults fall into that category (compared to less than 2% in places like Westhill). The Ward also contains a high proportion of jobs in the health and hospitality industries – both vulnerable in the context of COVID. Additionally, Banff contains a relatively high proportion of retail businesses, which again are vulnerable in the context of COVID.

In terms of demographics and age-related vulnerability, Banff & District is the most vulnerable Ward in Aberdeenshire. This Ward is home to a relatively large proportion of people aged over 80 – about 3 to 3.5% of the population, which is higher than the Aberdeenshire average. Portsoy, Fordyce and Cornhill would be considered the most vulnerable area in this particular Ward, although all three Intermediate Zones fall within the most vulnerable quadrant. The general Portsoy area is home to a higher-than-average proportion of people aged 65 and over with underlying health conditions (i.e. those in receipt of Attendance Allowance benefits); only 3 Intermediate Zones in Aberdeenshire (out of 59) contain a higher proportion of older people with underlying health conditions. As we know, age is a risk factor in terms of COVID, particularly in relation to serious illness, and the risk increases in populations with a higher incidence of underlying health conditions.

Most health-related indicators suggest the general population within the Ward is at a relative disadvantage compared to those living elsewhere in Aberdeenshire. This is particularly the case for Banff residents. This is largely due to the fact that Banff ranks relatively poorly in relation to Alcohol-related hospital stays, early deaths from cancer, maternal obesity, patients hospitalised with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, emergency hospitalisations, and overall death rates.

The general Portsoy and Aberchirder areas fare a bit better, although they rank poorly in terms of alcohol-related hospital stays, coronary heart rates, and overall death rates relative to most other Intermediate Zones in Aberdeenshire.

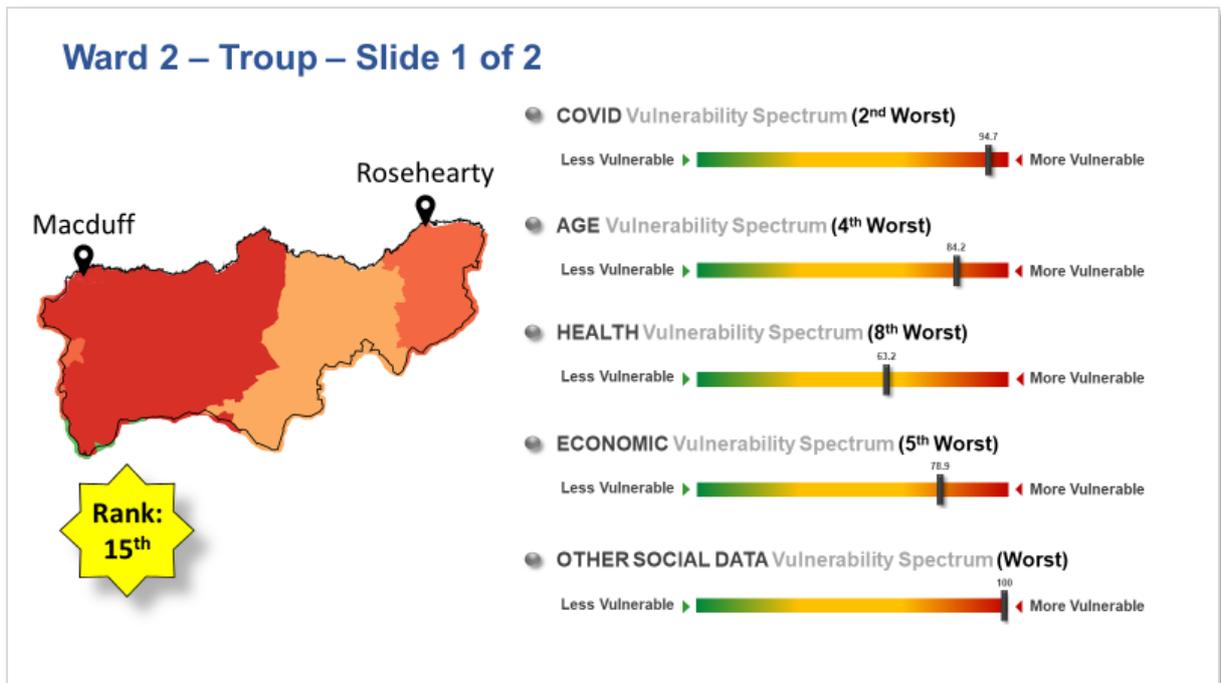
In terms of COVID deaths, a total of 3 were recorded between the 1st of March and 31st December 2020, meaning no new deaths have been recorded since the CIA report was published late last year. The Ward recorded a few **cases** in mid-to-late-December, for example 26 cases were recorded in the last week of December. This reduced to 3 cases the week ending 21st of January 2021. (Cases in Aberdeenshire more than halved over the same period suggesting lockdown measures were having a positive effect).

In terms of economic vulnerability, this Ward is generally worse-than-average, according to the 15 indicators used in the main report. The proportion of households earning less than £20,000 is among the highest in Aberdeenshire, and median household income is towards the lower end of the spectrum. The proportion of pensioners in receipt of Pension Credits in Banff is among the highest in the region, suggesting pensioner poverty may be an issue here – the same may be said of income deprivation generally, and child poverty. And the unemployment rate – at 5.2% - is towards the higher end of the spectrum in an Aberdeenshire context, although it's low by national standards. The Ward is also home to a relatively high proportion of people on Universal Credit whilst in employment, suggesting in-work poverty may be an issue.

The 30 or so other indicators used to gauge other forms of vulnerability are generally worse than the Aberdeenshire averages. The area arguably suffers a bit in terms of the 'access' indicators, for example average distances to the nearest food bank are among the highest in Aberdeenshire. This issue may be compounded by the fact that a relatively large proportion of residents don't have access to a car or van and bus accessibility is relatively poor. The area also ranks poorly due to the fact that a relatively high proportion of the area's jobs are associated with the hospitality sector, particularly accommodation and food services, which are vulnerable in the context of the COVID pandemic.

Taking all the indicators together, Banff & District is one of the most vulnerable Wards in Aberdeenshire. Banff is the most vulnerable area in this Ward overall, followed by Portsoy, Fordyce and Cornhill, and Aberchirder and Whitehills.

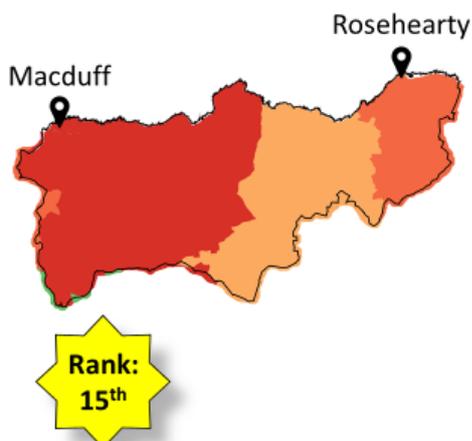
Ward 2 – Troup – Slide 1 of 2



The same format will be used for the remaining Wards. This slide details Troup's rankings per theme.

Troup is the area's least vulnerable Ward but with a ranking of 15 (out of 19), it is still among the most vulnerable Wards in Aberdeenshire. This is confirmed by the slider graphs on the right – in most instances the black markers are more towards the right hand side of the spectrum.

Ward 2 – Troup – Slide 2 of 2



- **Ward is on the more vulnerable end of the spectrum – but least vulnerable in B&B.**
- **COVID Vulnerability** – Gardenstown & King Edward and Macduff potentially vulnerable.
- **Age Vulnerability** – Gardenstown & King Edward potentially vulnerable (higher population 65+ with underlying health conditions).
- **Health Vulnerability** – Macduff arguably has worst overall health profile in this Ward.
- **Economic Vulnerability** – Macduff generally more vulnerable (urban).
- **Other Vulnerability** – The general Ward area suffers a bit in terms of the 'remoteness' indicators, particularly New Pitsligo.

In terms of the two national COVID studies, Troup is among the most vulnerable in Aberdeenshire. All four Intermediate Zones fall within the most vulnerable quadrant. This is due to a number of reasons. For example, the area is generally home to a greater proportion of residents who are unable to work due to ill health or caring responsibilities relative to Aberdeenshire as a whole. A large proportion of workers within Troup are also self-employed, which may squeeze a number of households through lack of work and support. The general Gardenstown area has the 2nd highest proportion of self-employed adults in Aberdeenshire – 18% which is almost double the Aberdeenshire average. Pensioner poverty may also be an issue in this Ward, which contributes to the Ward's relatively poor ranking. Pensioner poverty appears to be a greater problem in Macduff than elsewhere in the area.

In terms of demographics and age-related vulnerability, Troup is situated towards the more vulnerable end of the spectrum. Gardenstown & King Edward would be considered the most vulnerable area in this particular Ward. This is due to the fact that the area is home to a higher-than-average proportion of people aged 65 and over with underlying health conditions as well as a higher-than-average population aged 65 and over.

The various health-related indicators used in the main report suggest health is a relative weakness for the area, albeit the ranking is more in keeping with Aberdeenshire averages. As the rankings are weighted in favour of COVID-related deaths, the fact that the Ward accrued a total of 5 such deaths at the time of writing the report would largely account for this. Unfortunately, the number of deaths increased to 8 since the first CIA report, so an extra 3 COVID-related deaths were recorded in the past few months.

In terms of the number of cases, latest data show that Gardenstown and King Edward recorded a 7-day positive rate of 6 cases the week ending 22nd of January. The rate per head of population was slightly higher than the national rate over the same period. Macduff recorded 3 cases. For context, the highest number of cases were recorded in Stonehaven South (31 cases). Aberdeenshire as a whole recorded fewer cases per head of population than Scotland – a 7-day positive rate of 112 for Aberdeenshire while Scotland recorded a rate of 177.

If COVID deaths were taken out of the equation, then Macduff arguably has the worst overall health profile in this Ward. This is due to a relatively high rate of hospitalisations for certain conditions, such as coronary heart disease, and a relatively high rate of multiple A&E visits for

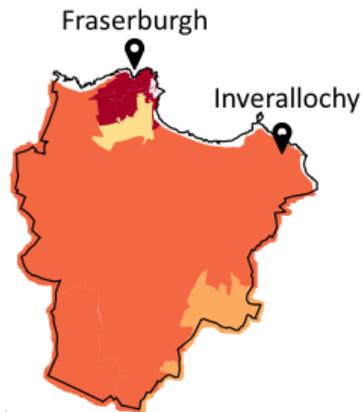
people over the age of 65. The area is also home to a relatively large proportion of households in receipt of Personal Independence Payments (or PIPs). PIPs help with some of the extra costs caused by long-term disability, ill-health or terminal ill-health.

In terms of economic vulnerability, this Ward generally ranks poorly relative to Aberdeenshire with regards to the various indicators used to compile the rankings, particularly Macduff. The town ranks poorly compared to the rest of Aberdeenshire in terms of households earning less than £20k, median Household Income, and the unemployment rate. Macduff is among the most income deprived areas in Aberdeenshire (although Aberdeenshire is one of the most affluent areas in the country, so it's a high bar to clear). Gardenstown & King Edward and New Pitsligo, although they both have relatively poor economic rankings, appear to have been a bit more resilient over the course of the pandemic in terms of the rate of change in unemployment: the deterioration in the employment rate is not as bad in these areas compared to most other areas in Aberdeenshire.

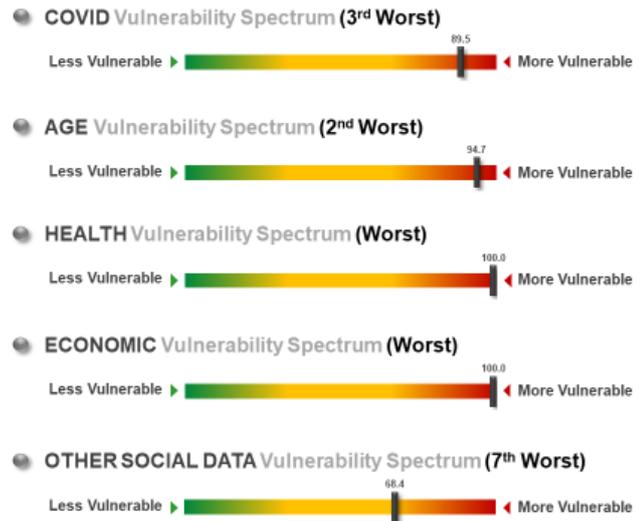
But taken together, the economic data suggests that certain residents in the Ward may experience financial hardship to a greater degree than those elsewhere in Aberdeenshire.

The 30 or so indicators used to gauge other forms of vulnerability suggests the area suffers a bit in terms of the 'remoteness' indicators. For example, average drive times to various local amenities are relatively high, bus accessibility is relatively poor, and access to superfast broadband may be described as patchy. This latter point could hamper or frustrate internet users in some parts, especially if they rely on fast internet connections for work purposes.

Ward 3 – Fraserburgh & District – Page 1 of 2

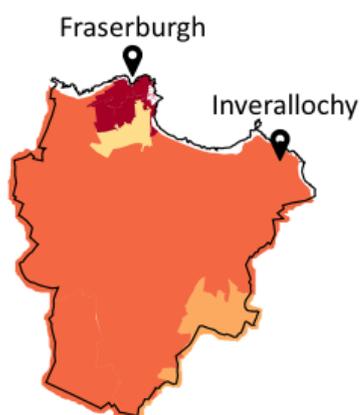


**Rank:
19th**



Fraserburgh & District has a ranking of 19, meaning it is the most vulnerable Ward in Aberdeenshire when all relevant indicators are taken into account. This is evidenced by the map on the left (generally red) and the slider charts on the right (which show the black markers towards the right-hand side of the respective chart).

Ward 3 – Fraserburgh & District – Page 2 of 2



Rank:
19th

- **Ward is one of the most vulnerable in Aberdeenshire.**
- **COVID Vulnerability** – Fraserburgh Harbour & Broadsea most vulnerable in Ward and among most vulnerable in Aberdeenshire.
- **Age Vulnerability** – Central Fraserburgh potentially vulnerable (higher population 65+ with underlying health conditions).
- **Health Vulnerability** – Fraserburgh arguably has worst overall health profile in this Ward.
- **Economic Vulnerability** – Among most economically vulnerable in Aberdeenshire.
- **Other Vulnerability** – Fraserburgh ranks positively in terms of accessibility but exhibits vulnerabilities in terms of retail jobs.

In terms of the two national COVID studies, Fraserburgh & District is among the most vulnerable in Aberdeenshire. Four of the Ward's Five Intermediate Zones fall within the most vulnerable quadrant. Fraserburgh Harbour and Broadsea would be considered the most vulnerable area in this Ward and it's just outside the 20% most vulnerable in Scotland.

In terms of demographics and age-related vulnerability, Fraserburgh and District is again one of the most vulnerable Wards in Aberdeenshire. The Ward is generally home to a higher-than-average proportion of people aged 65 and over and a relatively high proportion of over 65's with underlying health conditions. This is especially the case in the central Fraserburgh area, where just over 13% of the over 65 population reportedly has some kind of underlying health condition, which is the 2nd highest proportion in Aberdeenshire. A couple of other areas in Fraserburgh make it into Aberdeenshire's top 10, suggesting the area is home to a relatively high proportion of over 65s with underlying health conditions.

Most health-related indicators suggest Fraserburgh ranks poorly relative to most other areas in Aberdeenshire.

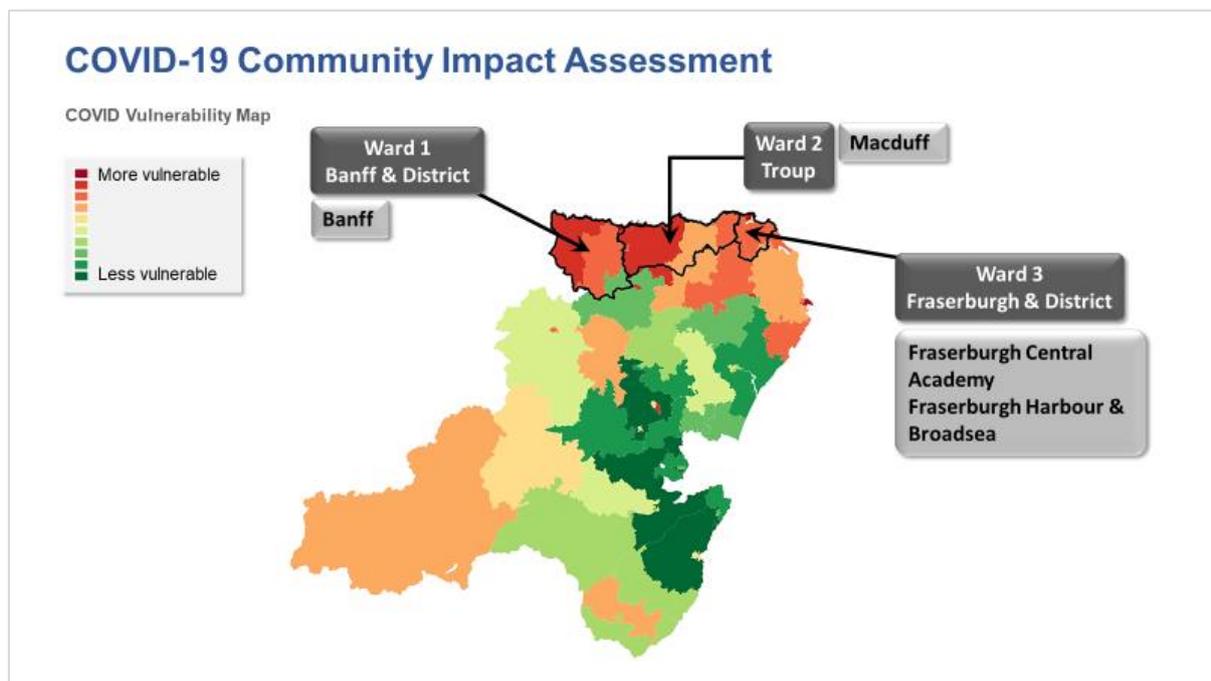
In terms of COVID-related deaths, this Ward accounted for a relatively large proportion of Aberdeenshire's total at the time the CIA report was first drafted – 12 deaths in total. No COVID-related deaths have been recorded since then.

In terms of positive COVID cases, a number of areas in Fraserburgh are towards the upper end of the spectrum within the context of Aberdeenshire. A total of 21 positive cases were recorded over the 7 days ending 23rd January. A further 9 were recorded in the general Rosehearty and Strathbeg area. On a population basis, Fraserburgh's rate is slightly higher than the national rate, Rosehearty's is slightly below – but above the Aberdeenshire rate.

The monthly proxy health indicators reinforce the general 'poor health' theme. The area is home to a relatively large proportion of households in receipt of Personal Independence Payments (or PIPs). The same story emerges in terms of Households in receipt of Universal Credit with Limited Work Capability.

In terms of economic vulnerability, most indicators suggest Fraserburgh (with the exception of Fraserburgh Smiddyhill) ranks poorly relative to most other areas in Aberdeenshire. This is the case across the 15 indicators used to compute the rankings. It's largely because of this that the Ward is the most vulnerable in terms of the Economic theme. However, Fraserburgh Smiddyhill actually has a decent ranking in terms of the economic profile of residents, which suggests economic inequalities or disparities are quite stark within the town of Fraserburgh itself.

The 30 or so other indicators used to gauge other forms of vulnerability are generally more aligned to the Aberdeenshire average. This is generally due to the fact that Fraserburgh, as an urban centre, is generally well served in terms of the accessibility indicators – drive times to various local amenities are good, as is bus accessibility, and superfast broadband access is among the best in the Shire. On the other hand, the area ranks poorly in terms of households with access to a car or van, overcrowded households, and the proportion of jobs in retail, which is a vulnerable industry in the context of COVID



To conclude we'll revisit a map we've seen before. This time the most vulnerable Intermediate Zones in the context of each Ward have been included. Most of the areas listed on the slide would be categorised as vulnerable in the context of Aberdeenshire.

However, given the fluid nature of the pandemic, and the myriad potential consequences of national and local policies, the picture may change very quickly. It is for this reason that a further report will be commissioned at some future date. The purpose is to track changes over time, to provide policy makers with the most up-to-date information during what may prove to be a protracted and complex experience.

Hopefully, this presentation and the accompanying reports have provided you with a flavour of some of the main datasets we have at our disposal as well as highlighting some of the vulnerabilities at Ward level.