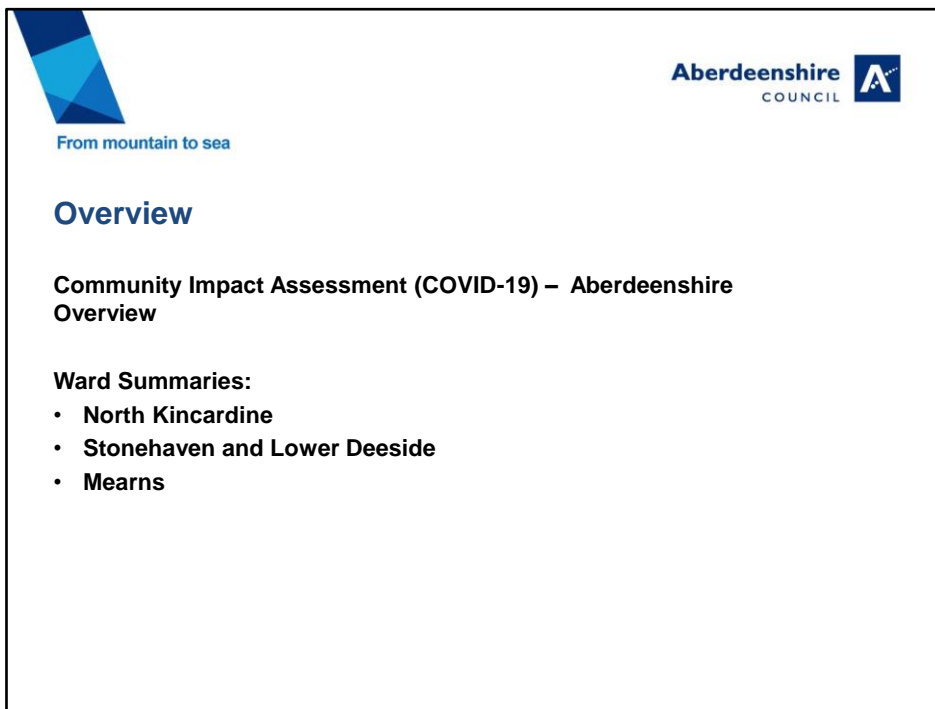


This presentation highlights some of the main themes pertaining to the three Kincardine and Mearns Wards - namely North Kincardine, Stonehaven and lower Deeside and Mearns.

The document called 'CIA Ward Areas and Intermediate Zones Kincardine and Mearns.docx' (separate document) shows the location of the Intermediate Zones referred to in the presentation, along with notes on the indicators at the end of this document.

This presentation is entirely based on the COVID-19 Community Impact Assessment. It uses a variety of indicators to highlight areas that may potentially be vulnerable in respect of COVID-19 in the three Kincardine and Mearns Area Wards.



Overview

Community Impact Assessment (COVID-19) – Aberdeenshire Overview

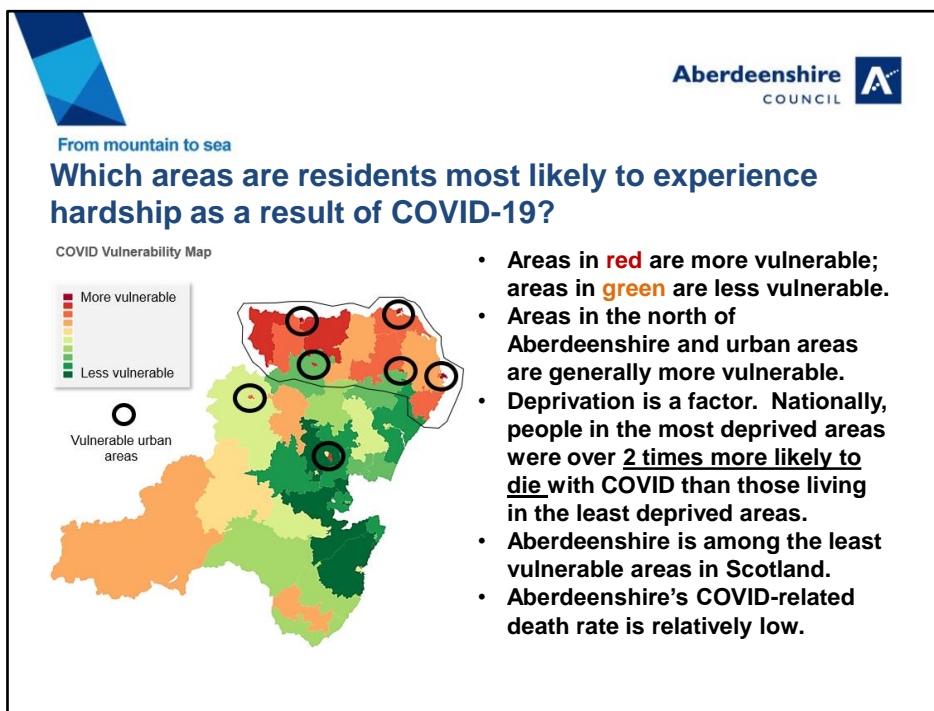
Ward Summaries:

- North Kincardine
- Stonehaven and Lower Deeside
- Mearns

The analysis incorporated dozens of indicators to highlight areas potentially vulnerable in respect of COVID-19;

Provides Ward profiles based on various themes:

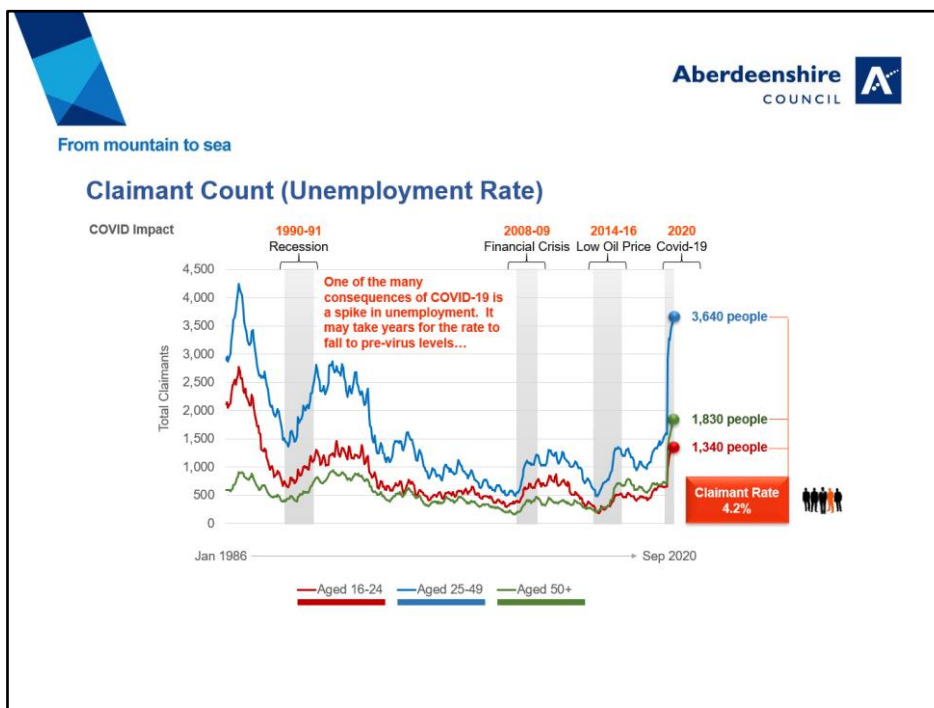
1. COVID Vulnerability
2. Demographic Vulnerability
3. Health Vulnerability
4. Economic Vulnerability
5. Other Social Data



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.

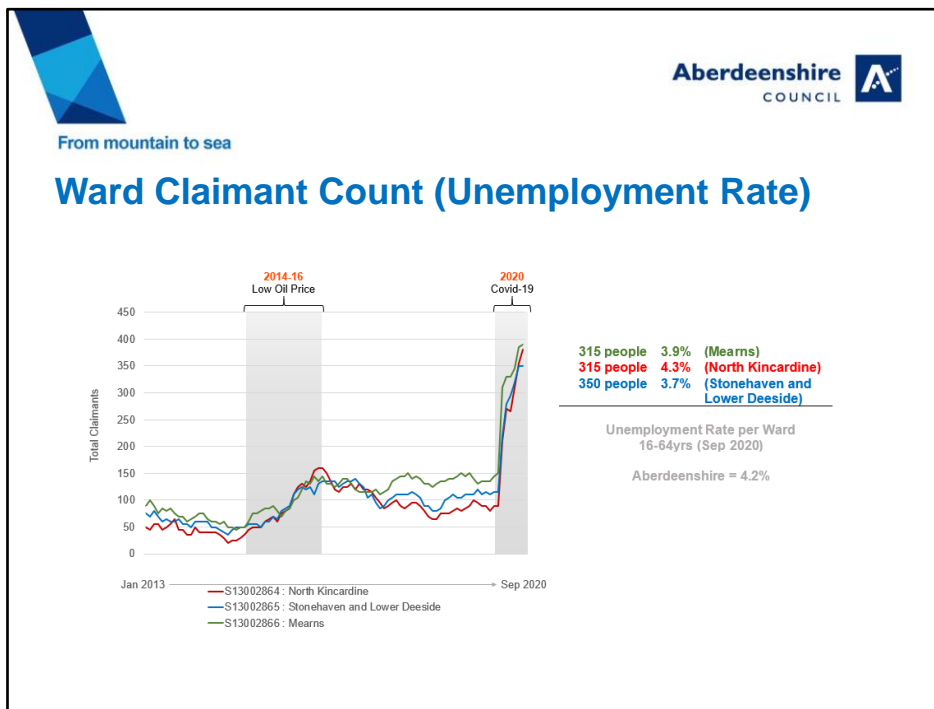
Areas in the north tend to be home to a higher proportion of people aged 65 and over who have social care needs and are receiving Attendance Allowance benefits. This is payable to people over the age of 65 who are so severely disabled, physically or mentally, that they need a great deal of help with 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.

The vulnerable areas you see in the map are based on Aberdeenshire-specific data. If we widen our lens a moment and 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.



The economic consequences of COVID will likely be felt for years to come. Perhaps the most accessible manifestation of that statement is found in the claimant count (or unemployment rate), which is tracked, in the first instance, from January 1986 to September 2020. The COVID pandemic is placed in the context of previous recessions and crises, as shown by the grey vertical bars in the chart. The first chart simply traces the claimant count of the respective age group over the years.

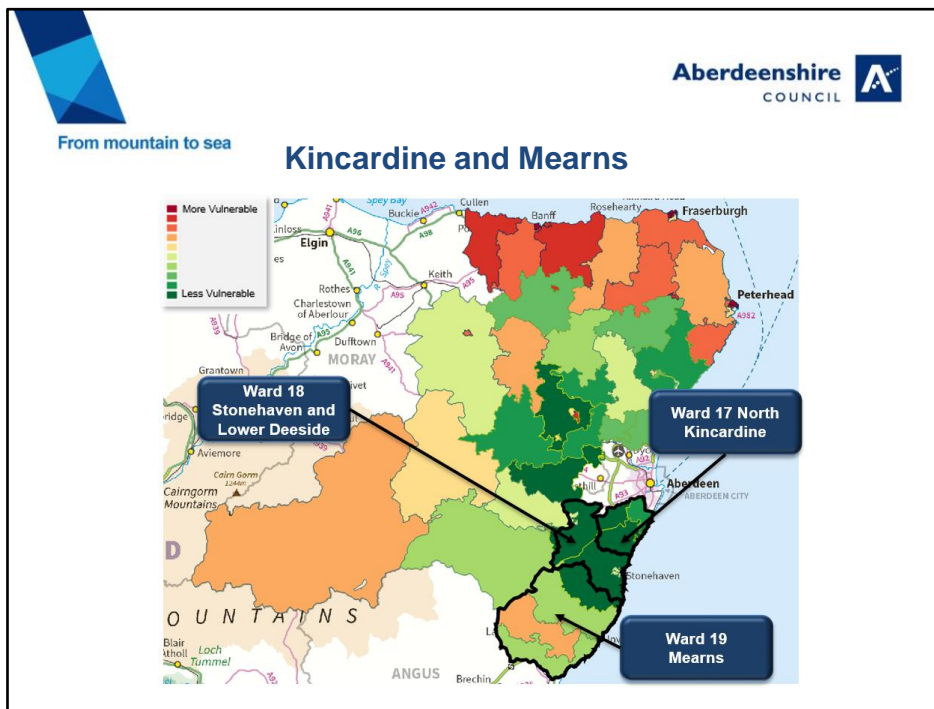
The Claimant Count measures the number of people claiming unemployment related benefit in the UK. Aberdeenshire's claimant count has, like the rest of Scotland, increased over the last few months to levels not seen since the 1990/91 UK-wide recession. Approximately 6,810 people claimed unemployment benefits in Aberdeenshire over the course of September 2020, up from 2,980 in February (prior to Lockdown). That equates to 4.2% of the total population aged 16-64, up from 2.3% 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 now that the existing furlough scheme has expired. A new furlough system is now in place however it was announced too late for some companies who had already announced redundancies once furlough ended.



This slide showing the Claimant count for 16-64 year olds in the three Kincardine and Mearns Wards up to September 2020. The highest increase is found in North Kincardine, however as you can see it is a similar story in all Wards. The highest unemployment rate is North Kincardine at 4.3%, followed by Mearns at 3.9% and Stonehaven and Lower Deeside at 3.7%. The Aberdeenshire average is 4.2%

Claimant numbers Feb 2020 Ward 17 - 90, Ward 18 - 115, Ward 19 – 145
 Claimant numbers Sep 2020 Ward 17 - 380, Ward 18 - 350, Ward 19 – 390

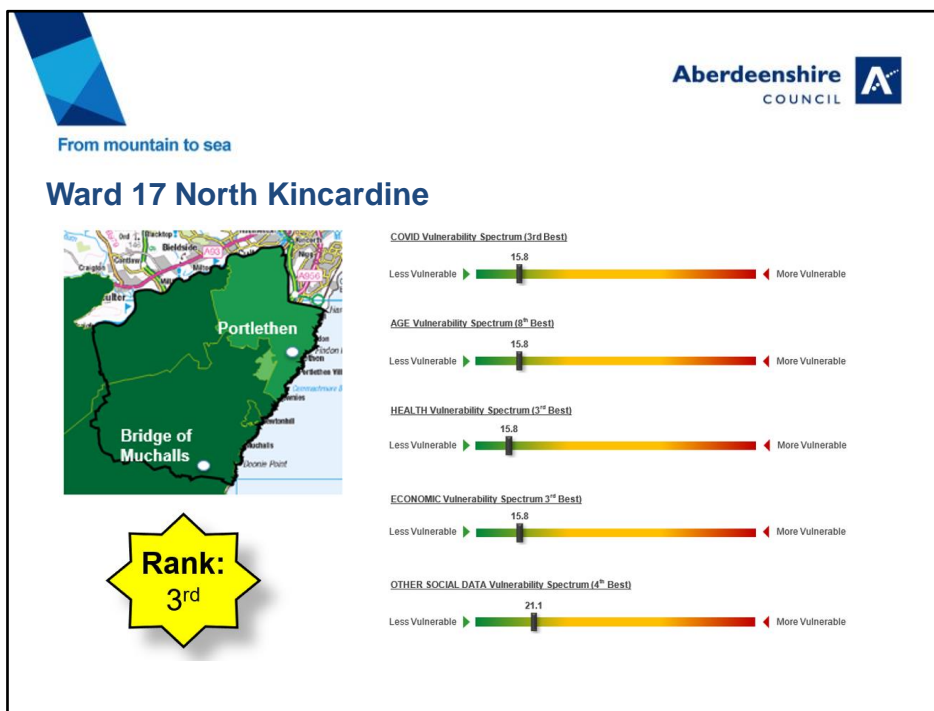
The next few slides look at Kincardine and Mearns and its three wards individually and see what the data is telling us.



This map is based on the most recent data, in which areas residents are most likely to experience hardship as a result of COVID-19. Red – most vulnerable, green least vulnerable. The map also shows the locations of the three Kincardine and Mearns Wards.

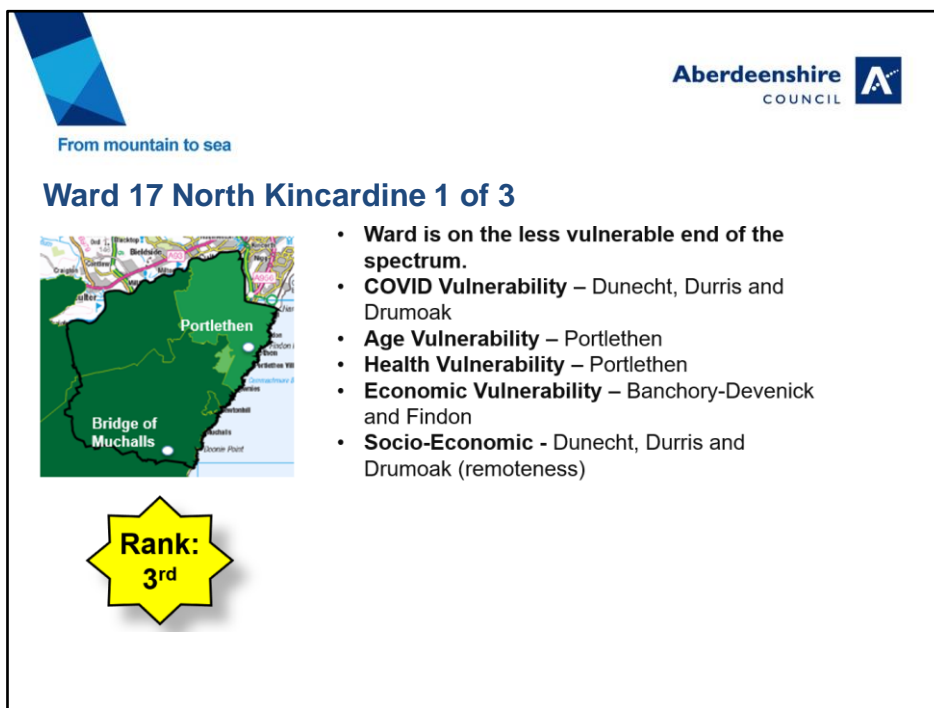
Dozens of indicators were used and ranked in order to compile this map. So this map essentially answers the question: in which areas are residents most likely to experience hardship as a result of COVID-19?

The following slides look at each of the three Kincardine and Mearns Wards individually to see what the data is telling us.



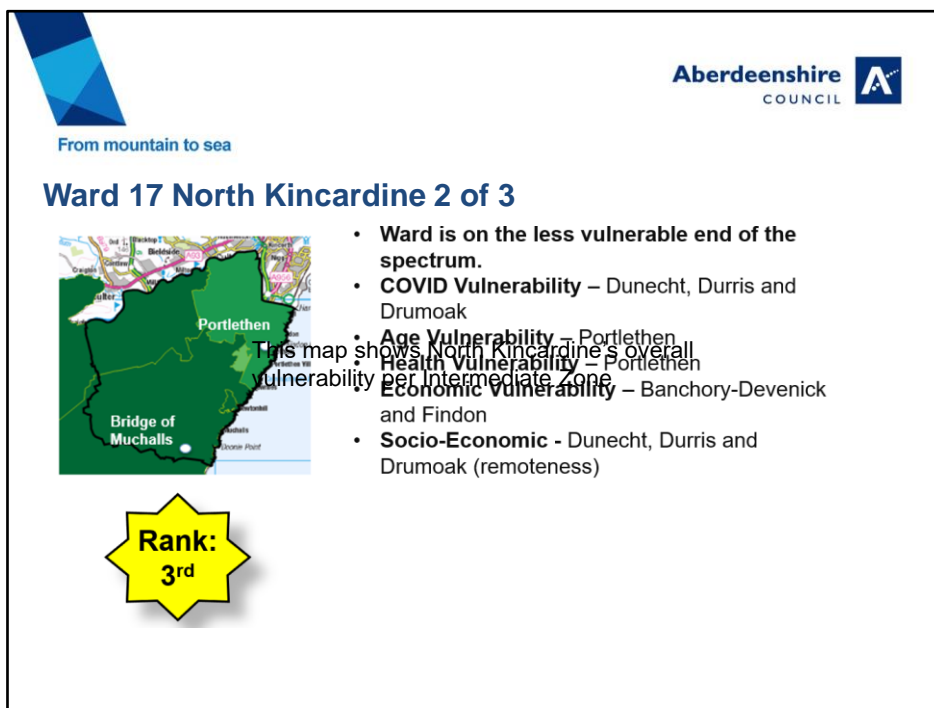
This map shows North Kincardine’s overall vulnerability per Intermediate Zone. Green denotes areas that are less vulnerable overall, reds and oranges denote more vulnerable areas. As can be seen from this map, the Intermediate Zones are shaded green in colour and they get darker the further they are from Aberdeen. On this map The five slider graphs are representative of 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. So, in short, the farther the black marker is to the **left**-hand side of the graph, the better. On the right hand side, you can see the Ward’s ranking per theme:

The yellow star at the bottom-left of your screens is the Ward’s overall ranking – joint 13th least vulnerable - out of the 19 Wards in Aberdeenshire.



In terms of the two national COVID studies, this Ward is among the least vulnerable in Aberdeenshire. Dunecht, Durris and Drumoak is the most vulnerable in the overall COVID vulnerability spectrum. In terms of the ScotPHO index, which places an emphasis on health-related indicators, **Portlethen and Newtonhill are the most vulnerable IZs** in this Ward. Portlethen (and Newtonhill) do score well (less vulnerable) in respect of the more comprehensive British Red Cross index. The opposite is the case for Dunecht, Durris and Drumoak and Fetteresso, Netherley and Catter. This is largely a result of business-related vulnerabilities – for example, a relatively high proportion of small businesses are located here.

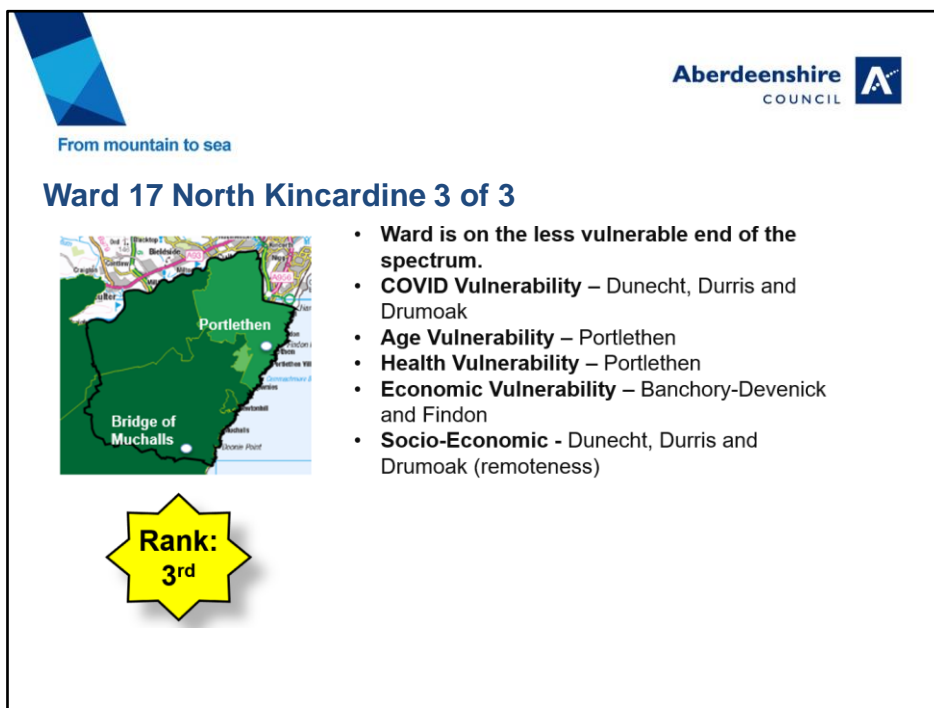
The Intermediate Zones within this Ward are among the less vulnerable in Aberdeenshire, according to the demographics and age vulnerability indicators making North Kincardine one of the least vulnerable Wards in Aberdeenshire. **Portlethen** would be considered one of the most vulnerable areas in this particular Ward. The Portlethen 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); As we know, age is a risk factor in terms of COVID, and the risk increases in populations with a higher incidence of underlying health conditions. Newtonhill also has a higher-than-average population aged 65 and over but not a high % claiming AA.



Most health-related indicators suggest the general population within the Ward is relatively healthy, with the weighted rankings suggest the area is below the Aberdeenshire average in most cases. There were three COVID-related deaths reported up to July 2020 which is below the average. If COVID deaths were taken out of the equation, then **Portlethen**. For Portlethen: All-cause mortality among the 15-44 year olds, Deaths all ages, Patients hospitalised with asthma, Maternal obesity (% of women at antenatal booking), Child dental health in primary 1 (% of P1 pupils) and Developmental concerns at 27-30 months.

Dunecht, Durris and Drumoak is home to an average proportion of households in receipt of Universal Credit with Limited Work Capability relative to the other Intermediate Zones in the Ward. This just means a health condition or disability prevents someone from working or limits the amount of work they can do.

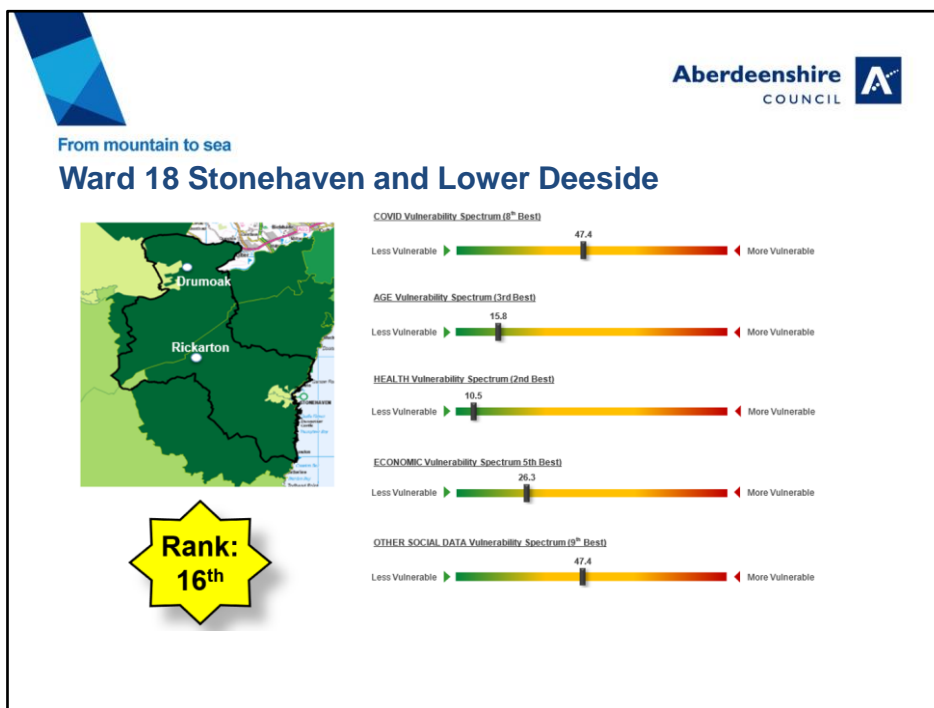
In terms of economic vulnerability, this Ward is generally better-than-average, according to the 15 indicators used in the main report. The proportion of households earning less than £20,000 is among the lowest in Aberdeenshire, and median household income for all IZs is among the top 40% in Aberdeenshire. The proportion of pensioners in receipt of Pension Credits is among the lowest in the region, suggesting pensioner poverty is not an issue here – neither is income deprivation generally, (as is the unemployment rate, albeit at 4.3% it's just above the average for Aberdeenshire).



Banchory-Devenick and Findon is the most vulnerable IZ based on People on Universal Credit (In Employment) (Jun total) as a percentage of working age population (2018) percentage difference between Jan-20 and Jun-20, Pension Credit Caseload (Feb-20) as a % of 65+ population (2018), Alternative Claimant Count (May Total) as a Proportion of the Working Age Population (2018) and Percentage of population Income Deprived.

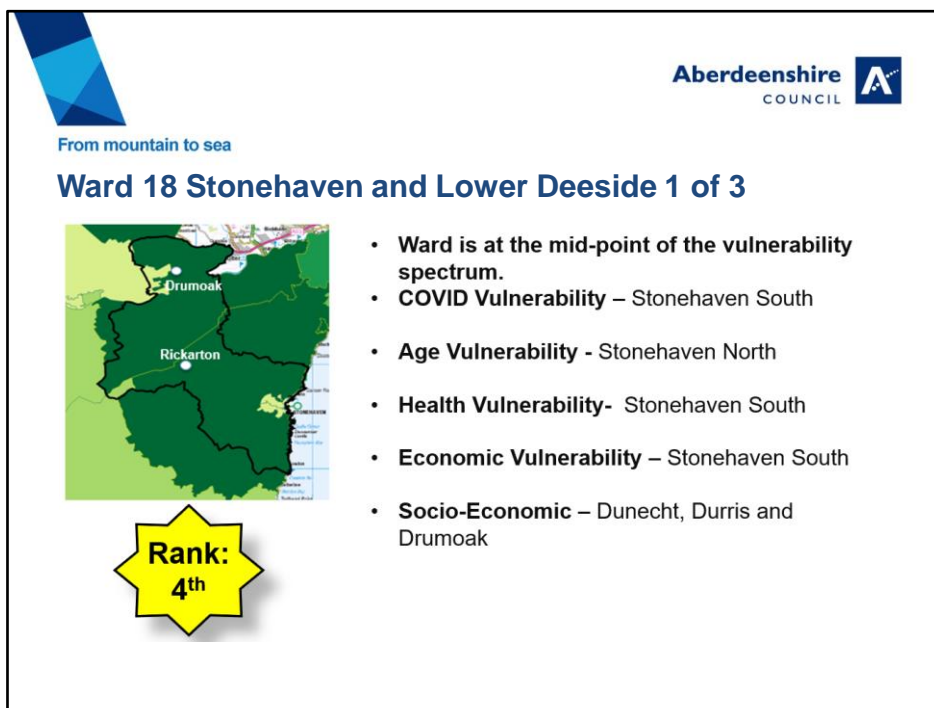
The 30 or so other indicators used to gauge other forms of vulnerability are generally in keeping with Aberdeenshire averages. The area arguably suffers a bit in terms of the 'remoteness' indicators, e.g. average drive times to local amenities are relatively high, bus accessibility is relatively poor 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. % of jobs in retail may suggest an at risk area for Portlethen and Newtonhill but as most of them are in food supermarkets this may not be an issue in the short term at least.

Dunecht, Durris and Drumoak is the most vulnerable IZ



Using the same format for the remaining Wards, the map suggests the area surrounding Stonehaven is generally among the least vulnerable in Aberdeenshire (denoted by the green colours). This slide shows the Ward’s ranking per Theme, as well as the overall ranking (the yellow star at the bottom-left of your screens).

So overall, this Ward is ranked 4th best (or 4th least vulnerable) out of the 19 Wards in Aberdeenshire. Looking at the slider graphs on the right it can be seen that in a couple of instances the black markers are more towards the right hand side of the spectrum, meaning the Ward is more vulnerable. This is particularly the case in relation to the overall vulnerability and, to a lesser extent, the socio-economic theme. The overall COVID vulnerability for Ward 18 places it just below the average rank for Aberdeenshire. (similar story for Mearns). The following slides will look at each of the five themes individually.

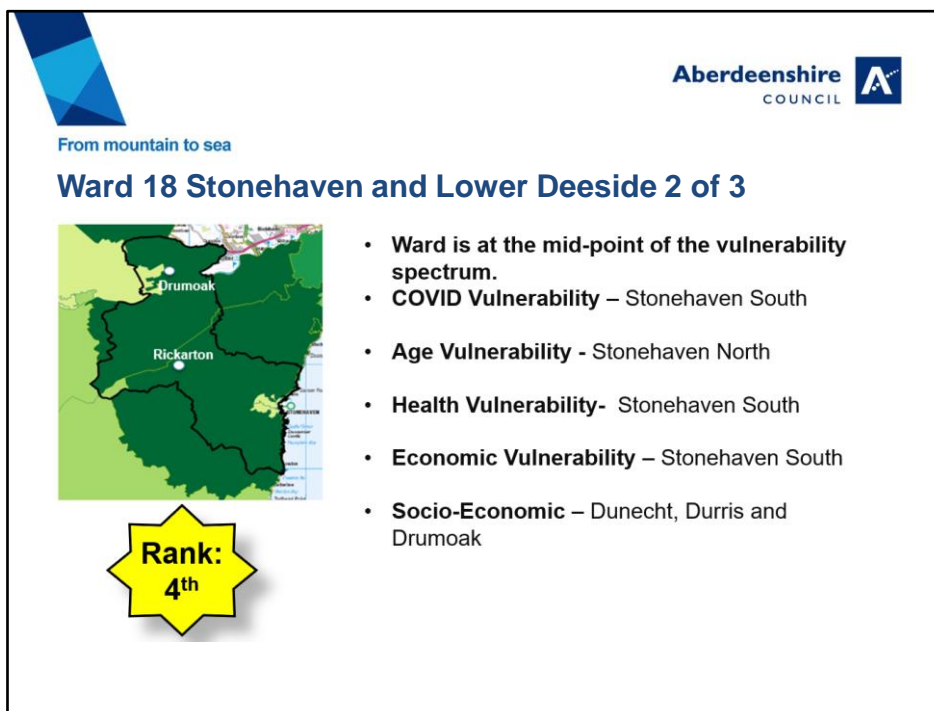


On the Covid Vulnerability spectrum Fetteresso, Netherley and Catter is the least vulnerable IZ and Stonehaven South is the most vulnerable IZ. The IZs in this Ward are only found in the 2nd and 3rd most vulnerable quadrants. At an IZ level, **Stonehaven South** is most vulnerable, followed by Stonehaven North.

In terms of age and demographic vulnerability Stonehaven North has an above average proportion of 65+ in receipt of AA payments (9.1% vs average 8.2%). **Stonehaven North is most vulnerable**, followed by Stonehaven South. Age vulnerability is low in Fetteresso, Netherley and Catter and Dunecht, Durris and Drumoak.

Health vulnerability is very low in Ward 18, most health related indicators suggest that the general population within the ward is relatively healthy, hence the low health vulnerability score. Stonehaven itself comprises of two IZs – Stonehaven South and Stonehaven North. They both contain an above average proportion of over 65's in receipt of AA payments (9.1%) – highest is Stonehaven North. Age is a risk factor in terms of COVID and the risk increases in populations with a higher incidence of underlying health conditions.

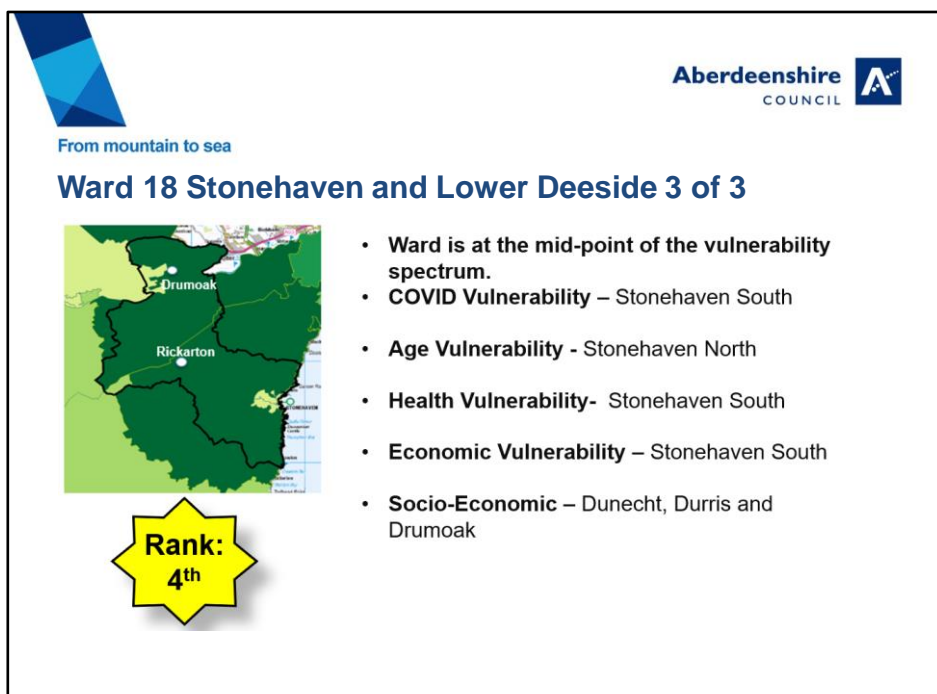
UC and PIP claims are low but AA is above average - As mentioned earlier Stonehaven has a high 65+ population.



In terms of health vulnerability Stonehaven and Lower Deeside is the least vulnerable of the three Wards, followed by North Kincardineshire and then Mearns. **Stonehaven North is the most vulnerable.**

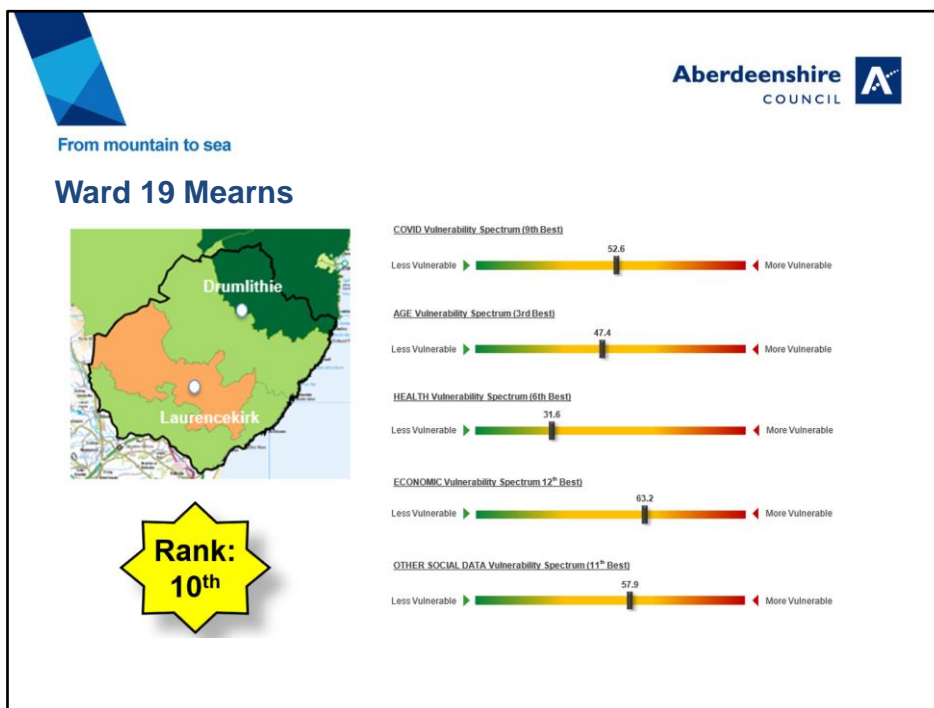
In terms of economic vulnerability, this Ward is generally better than average, according to the 15 indicators used in the main report. The proportion of households used earning less than £20K is the 4th lowest in Aberdeenshire, median household income is the third highest in Aberdeenshire, (North Kincardine is 2nd lowest), PIP and UC are all below average for the Shire. The proportion of pensioners in receipt of pension credit is the 9th lowest suggesting that pensioner poverty is not an issue and neither is income deprivation.

At an IZ level, Stonehaven South has the highest % of households earning less than £20k (22%), lowest median household income (still in top 50% in Aberdeenshire), Alternative Claimant Count (May Total) as a Proportion of the Working Age Population (2018); People on Universal Credit (Not In Employment) (Jun total) as a percentage of working age population (2018) percentage difference between Jan-20 and Jun-20; Percentage of population income deprived. **Stonehaven South is the most vulnerable in economic terms.**



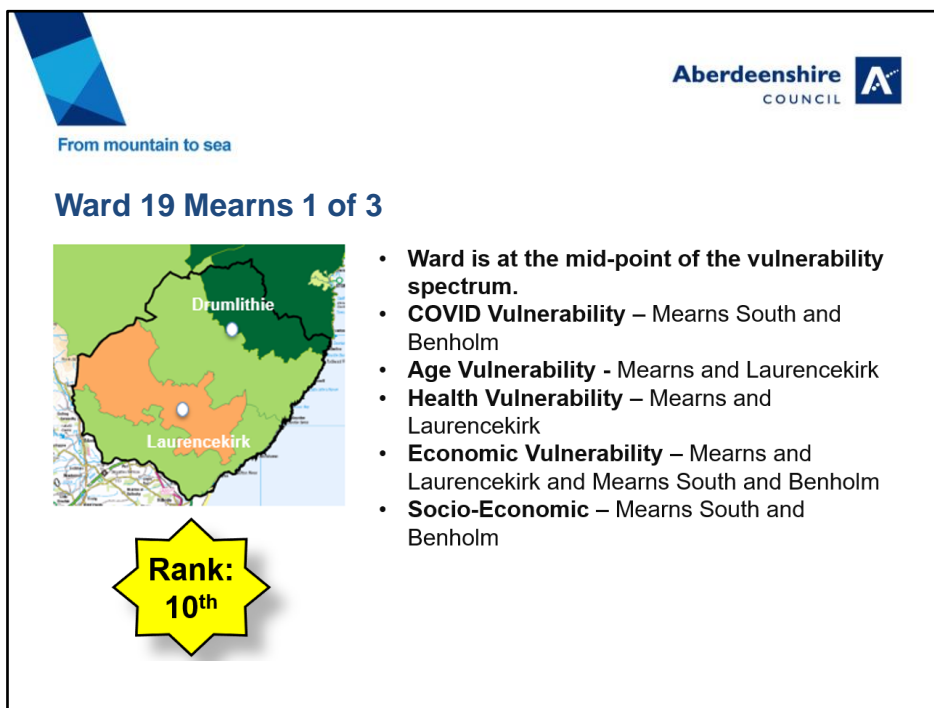
The thirty or so other indicators used to gauge other forms of vulnerability generally show the Ward in a favourable light, suggesting it is among the least vulnerable in terms of 'Other Socio-Economic Data'. Geographic access in terms of drive times is above average however bus accessibility is better than in many wards - Higher car ownership, 89.3% Almost 30% of premises are without access to superfast broadband. The loneliness Prescription Index suggests an increase risk. The % of single person households relative to total households is 30.5%, The % of addresses without private space is low in the context of Aberdeenshire. We know that during lockdown the ability to walk and visit suitable outdoor green space is beneficial. This might be because Stonehaven will have more flatted properties than a rural location. Residents are also generally close to public playing fields (average distance 1km) A risk sectors in terms of employment mark it as at or below average.

Geographic Access plays a large part in the vulnerability score for this Ward. **Dunecht, Durris and Drumoak is the most vulnerable.**



Mearns is ranked joint 12th least vulnerable Ward in Aberdeenshire when **all** relevant indicators are taken into account.

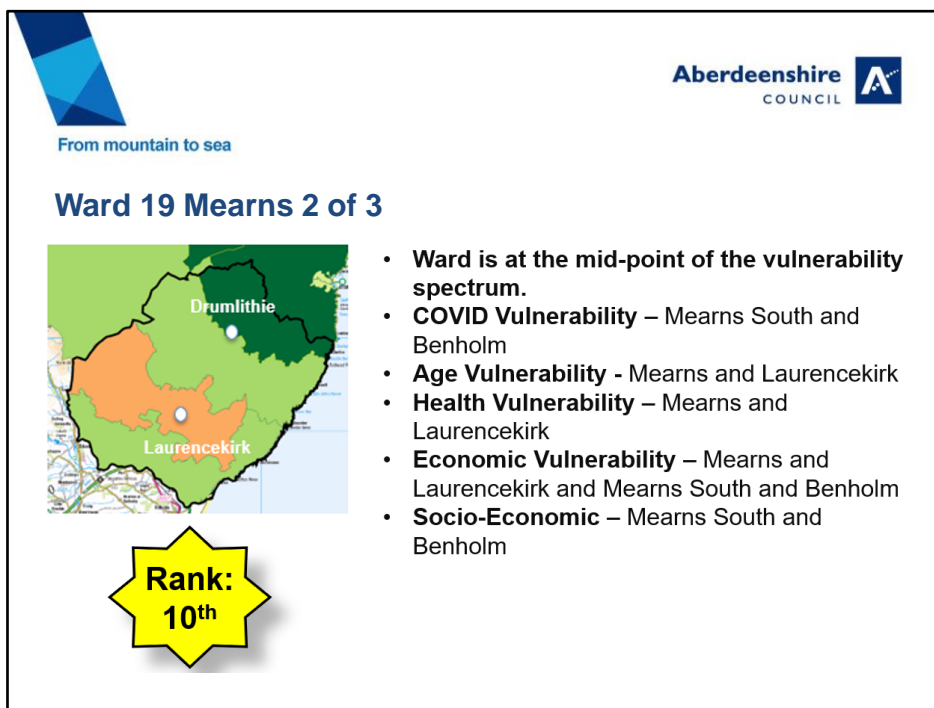
This is evidenced by the map on the left (generally green) but there is a more vulnerable area around the Laurencekirk Area that extends from the Clattering Brig in the West to the A92 Coast road in the East. This is slightly more vulnerable than the rest of the area. and the slider charts on the right show the black markers moving more towards the right hand side of the respective chart).



On the overall Covid Vulnerability spectrum Fetteresso, Netherley and Catter is the least vulnerable IZ and **Mearns South and Benholm is the most vulnerable**. None of the IZs actually lie in the least and most vulnerable quadrants and this is reflected in the position of the Ward on the vulnerability spectrum. Overall COVID vulnerability is just above the average value on the spectrum compared with the other 18 Wards.

In terms of demographics and age-related vulnerability, Mearns and Laurencekirk is relatively high compared with the other three Intermediate Zones. 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 (i.e. those in receipt of Attendance Allowance benefits) – one of the highest in Aberdeenshire, as well as a higher-than-average population aged 65 and over. So **Mearns and Laurencekirk would be considered the most vulnerable** area in this particular Ward. Fetteresso, Netherley and Catter is the least vulnerable IZ.

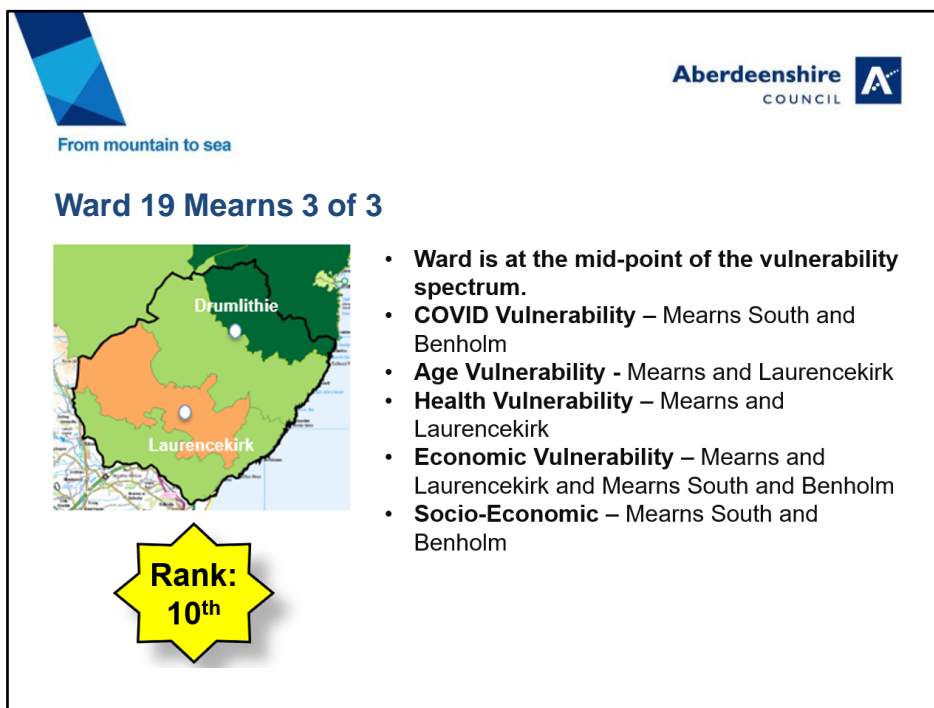
The various health-related indicators used in the main report suggest health is relatively good in the area. There have been 4 COVID-related deaths since March 1st, 2020 (Below average in Aberdeenshire), 3 of them in Mearns and Laurencekirk IZ. Again, the location of a care home or other institutional setting may have had some bearing on this outcome.



Most health-related indicators suggest the general population within the Ward is relatively healthy. A relatively small proportion of the 65+ population receive Attendance Allowance benefits (7.1% - the lowest proportion for a Ward in Aberdeenshire), and the proportion of the working age population receiving Personal Independence Payments is just below the average at 3.4%. PIPs help with some of the extra costs caused by long-term disability, ill-health, or terminal ill-health.

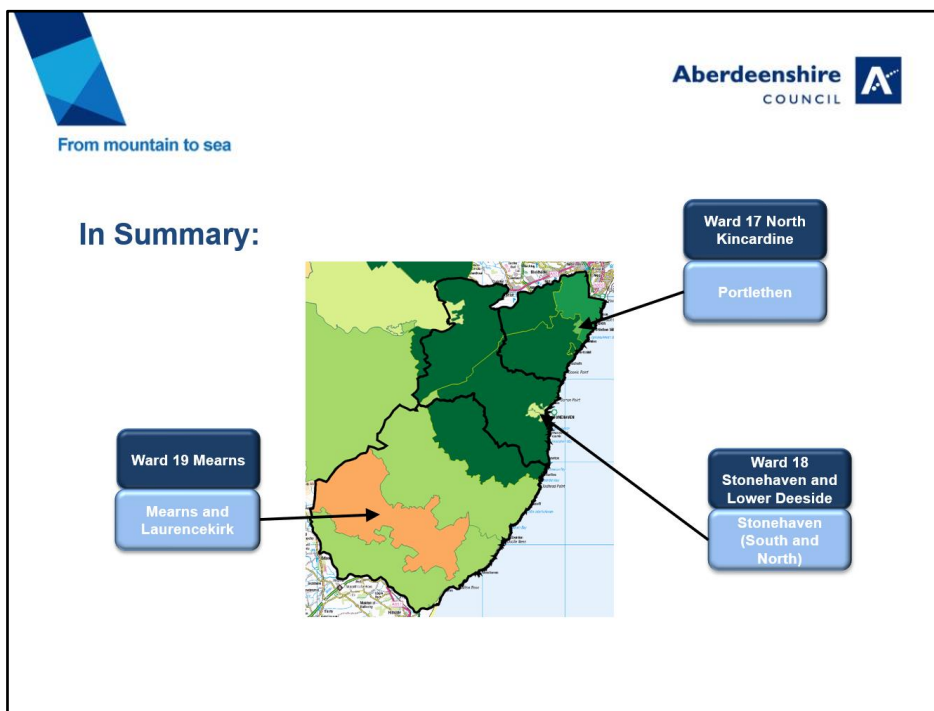
Mearns and Laurencekirk is the most vulnerable of the four Intermediate Zones in terms of health: Alcohol related hospital stays are 25% lower than the Aberdeenshire average and the Scottish average yet the trend is moving upwards. Multiple A&E hospitalisations are down - lower than Shire value but it is up for the area. Early deaths from cancer and COPD is lower than Shire value but again up for the area. Male life expectancy at birth in years has dropped. Deaths all ages is 22.4% higher than the Aberdeenshire average. The area also ranks poorly in terms of developmental concerns in young children.

In terms of economic vulnerability, this Ward is generally in keeping with the Aberdeenshire average in terms of the various indicators used to compile the rankings. There appears to be quite a large disparity in earnings between Fetteresso, Netherley and Catter (£56,625 in top 10% in Aberdeenshire) and the three Mearns Intermediate Zones with Mearns and Laurencekirk lowest at £42,723.



Taking into account the economic indicators, **Mearns and Laurencekirk is just slightly more vulnerable** than Mearns South and Benholm and Mearns North and Inverbervie. Fetteresso, Netherley and Catter is the least vulnerable IZ.

The 30 or so other indicators used to gauge other forms of vulnerability generally show the Ward in a favourable light, suggesting it is among the least vulnerable in terms of 'Other Socio-Economic Data'. Geographic access in terms of drive times are relatively high, bus accessibility is poor and over 90% of households have access to a vehicle. 31% of premises are without superfast broadband. We know that more people are now working from home (one study said that it's about 29%), Fishing and Farming (meat and fruit) rely on technology for selling and tracking. Now, and in the future, it will be of benefit to a more tech savvy workforce. And 92% of households have access to private outdoor space. Residents are also generally close to public playing fields. **Mearns South and Benholm** is most vulnerable, the two remaining Mearns IZs are close behind. Fetteresso, Netherley and Catter is the least vulnerable IZ.



The map of Aberdeenshire now includes the most vulnerable Intermediate Zones in the context of each Ward.

In summary

- Ward 17** Overall Vulnerability Ranks – **Portlethen**
- Ward 18** Overall Vulnerability Ranks – **Stonehaven and Lower Deeside**
- Ward 19** Overall Vulnerability Ranks – **Mearns and Laurencekirk**



From mountain to sea

Digital vulnerability – is not showing as a risk in any of the Kincardine and Mearns IZs. However we do know that many organisations and partners e.g. Citizens Advice Scotland found that there was a need for a rapid shift to **Signposting and online delivery of support** allowing them to deal with the rising numbers of requests for help and distancing measures brought in due to COVID-19.

The Digital Vulnerability measure included data on:

- Broadband speed
- Buying online
- Managing current accounts online
- Mobile phone ownership
- Internet usage
- People agreeing with the statement "computers confuse me, I will never get used to them"

The **Loneliness Prescription Index** is based on an approach developed by the Office for National Statistics' Data Science Campus, which uses GP prescription data to find areas with above-average prescriptions for five conditions where loneliness has been shown to be a risk factor: Alzheimer's, depression, high blood pressure, anxiety and insomnia.

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