Agenda Item No.2

South Ayrshire Council

Report by Chief Executive
to Service and Partnerships Performance Panel (Special)
of 1 October 2025

Subject: Local Government Benchmarking Framework – Overview of 2023/2024

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1. Purpose

1.1 The purpose of this report is to update Panel on the publication of the Local Government Benchmarking Framework (LGBF) data for 2023/2024 and for panel to consider where scrutiny of this information can help drive improvement.

2. Recommendation

2.1 It is recommended that the Panel:

2.1.1 notes the overall year on year performance highlighted in section 4.1 and Appendix 1;

2.1.2 notes the new process for LGBF scrutiny highlighted in section 4.4; and

2.1.3 notes the accompanying themed data packs (part one and part two) for more extensive scrutiny (attached as Appendices 2 and 3).

3. Background

3.1 The LGBF is a high-level benchmarking tool which allows local authorities to compare their performance across a wide range of key service areas such education, environmental services and adult social care. The framework is based on overall service groupings which cover the major public-facing services provided to local communities and the support services necessary to do that:

- Children's services;
- Adult social care;
- Culture and leisure services;
- Environmental services;
- Corporate services;
- Housing services;
- Economic development and planning;
- Climate Change;
- Corporate assets; and
- Financial sustainability.

3.2 While a useful tool for beginning conversations around performance, the Improvement Service highlight that the LGBF data should not be considered in isolation but rather be used as starting point for more in-depth scrutiny of performance.

3.3 The Improvement Service has produced a National Benchmarking Overview Report for 2023/2024 that can accessed here.

3.4 The Improvement Service report provides links to further national context and analytical tools such as:

- LGBF Performance Dashboard;
- Good practice principles to using LGBF data;
- How Council's are using LGBF; and
- LGBF Website

3.5 As highlighted in the Audit Scotland Best Value Assurance Report published 27 October 2021 (paragraph 34), it was recommended that targets are set to improve performance. Targets allow significant variations in performance to be identified and acted upon. However, targets should not be looked at in isolation as they are only one aspect of performance and do not show whether specific outcomes have been achieved. All actions supporting the new Council Plan 2023-28 are required to set a target and a completion date.

3.6 In March 2024, data packs were created and distributed to relevant Service Leads/Lead Officers with responsibility for reporting on LGBF indicators. Each data pack contained information on:

- South Ayrshire's individual performance over three and five years;
- South Ayrshire's performance in relation to our Family Group and National average over three and five years;
- The performance of our Family Group for the current year for which data is available; and
- An abbreviated commentary on the performance of the indicator nationally.

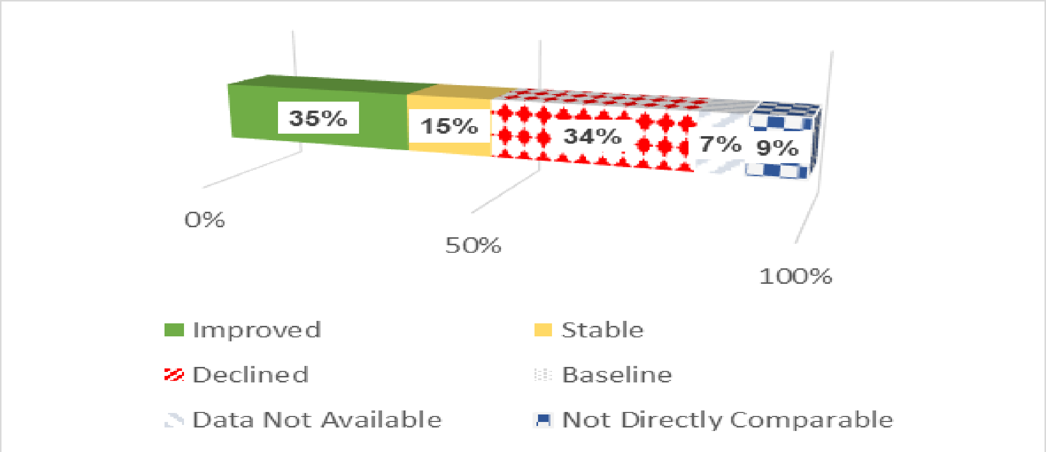
3.7 In 2025, the data packs have been revised and updated to reflect the Accounts Commission Statutory Performance Information Direction 2024 and now include information on:

- South Ayrshire's individual year on year performance and from the base year of 2018/19 or the appropriate year where comparison with 2018/19 is not possible;
- Longitudinal information on our performance with comparison to national and family group data which highlights the potential impact of Covid on the statistics; and
- Heat maps which show our Family Group Ranking from the base year.

4/

4. Proposals

4.1 Overall the year-on-year performance data suggests that 50% of indicators have improved or are stable, 34% of indicators have declined, 7% of indicators have no data available and 9% have data which is not directly comparable as highlighted in the following chart:



4.2 Appendix 1 provides the year-on-year performance data when broken down into themes (Corporate Services and Corporate Assets are combined as they are report together) and Children's Services has been further broken down into Broad General Education, Senior Phase Education and Vulnerable Children.

4.3 To allow members with an opportunity for more extensive scrutiny of the LGBF data, supplementary data (presented by theme and indicator) is being presented based on themes.

- **Part one themes** are: *Corporate Services, Climate Change, Economic Development and Planning, Environment and Financial Sustainability*.

- **Part two themes** are: *Adult Social Care, Vulnerable Children Broad General Education, Senior Phase Education, Housing, and Culture and Leisure.*

4.4 Specific data packs for each of these themes are presented in Appendices 2 and 3. The data reports also allow for comparison with other local authorities within our family groups alongside commentary from the responsible officer.

5. Legal and Procurement Implications

5.1 The recommendations in this report are consistent with legal requirements.

5.2 There are no procurement implications arising from this report.

6. Financial Implications

6.1 Not applicable

7. Human Resources Implications

7.1 Not applicable

8. Risk

8.1 ***Risk Implications of Adopting the Recommendations***

8.1.1 There are no risks associated with adopting the recommendations.

8.2 ***Risk Implications of Rejecting the Recommendations***

8.2.1 There are no risks with rejecting the recommendations.

9. Integrated Impact Assessment (incorporating Equalities)

9.1 The proposals in this report allow scrutiny of performance. The report does not involve proposals for policies, strategies, procedures, processes, financial decisions and activities (including service delivery), both new and at review, that affect the Council's communities and employees, therefore an Integrated Impact Assessment is not required.

10. Sustainable Development Implications

10.1 ***Considering Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)*** - This report does not propose or seek approval for a plan, policy, programme or strategy or document otherwise described which could be considered to constitute a plan, programme, policy or strategy.

11. Options Appraisal

11.1 An options appraisal has not been carried out in relation to the subject matter of this report as follows:

- Appendices 1, 2 and 3 allows for scrutiny of performance.

12. Link to Council Plan

12.1 The matters referred to in this report contribute to all Priorities of the Council Plan.

13. Link to Shaping Our Future Council **Yes ☐** **No ☑**

13.1 Not applicable.

14. Results of Consultation

14.1 There has been no public consultation on the contents of this report.

14.2 Consultation has taken place with Councillor Brian Connolly, Portfolio Holder for Corporate and Strategic, and the contents of this report reflect any feedback provided.

Background Papers	**National Benchmarking Overview Report 2023/2024**
Person to Contact	**Kevin Anderson, Assistant Director (Corporate Policy, Strategy and Performance)** **County Buildings, Ayr** **Email kevin.anderson@south-ayrshire.gov.uk**

Susan McCardie, Service Lead (Performance, Community Planning and Sustainability)
County Buildings, Ayr
E-mail susan.mccardie@south-ayrshire.gov.uk

Date: 28 August 2025

APPENDIX 1

Title	Year on Year Performance	Performance V Base Year
Corporate Services		
Support services as a % of total gross expenditure	Stable	Improved
% of the highest paid 5% employees who are women	Declined	Improved
The gender pay gap (%)	Improved	Improved
The cost per dwelling of collecting council tax	Improved	Improved
Sickness absence days per teacher	Declined	Improved
Sickness absence days per employee (non-teacher)	Stable	Declined
% of income due from council tax received by the end of the year	Stable	Stable
% of invoices sampled that were paid within 30 days	Declined	Declined
% of Crisis Grant Decisions within 1 day	Stable	Stable
% Community Care Grant Decisions within 15 Days	Improved	Improved
Proportion of Social Welfare Fund Budget Spent	Improved	Improved
Proportion of Discretionary Housing Payment Funding Spent	Declined	Improved
% of operational buildings that are suitable for their current use	Improved	Declined
% of internal floor area of operational buildings in satisfactory condition	Improved	Improved
Financial Sustainability		
Total useable reserves as a % of council annual budgeted revenue	Declined	Declined
Uncommitted General Fund Balance as a % of council annual budgeted net revenue	Declined	Declined
Ratio of Financing Costs to Net Revenue Stream - General Fund	Declined	Declined
Ratio of Financing Costs to Net Revenue Stream - Housing Revenue Account	Declined	Declined
Actual outturn as a percentage of budgeted expenditure	Improved	Improved
Economic Development and Planning		
% of unemployed people assisted into work from council operated / funded employability programmes	Improved	Improved
Cost of Planning & Building Standards per planning application	Declined	Declined
Average time per business and industry planning application (weeks)	Improved	Declined
% of procurement spend spent on local enterprises	Improved	Improved
No of business gateway start-ups per 10,000 population	Declined	Declined

Investment in Economic Development & Tourism per 1,000 Population	Improved	Improved
Proportion of people earning less than the real living wage	Improved	Improved
Proportion of properties receiving superfast broadband	Stable	Improved
Town Vacancy Rates	Declined	Declined
Immediately available employment land as a % of total land allocated for employment purposes in the local development plan	Data Not Available	Data Not Available
Gross Value Added (GVA) per capita	Data Not Available	Data Not Available
Claimant Count as % of Working Age Population	Improved	Declined
Claimant Count as % of 16-24 Population	Improved	Improved
Environment		
Net cost of waste collection per premise	Declined	Declined
Net cost of waste disposal per premise	Stable	Declined
Net cost of street cleaning per 1,000 population	Declined	Declined
Street Cleanliness Score	Improved	Improved
Cost of Trading Standards per 1,000 population	Declined	Improved
Cost of environmental health per 1,000 population	Declined	Declined
% of total household waste arising that is recycled	Stable	Improved
% of adults satisfied with refuse collection **(Note 1)**	Stable	Improved
% of adults satisfied with street cleaning **(Note 1)**	Declined	Declined
Cost of Roads per KM	Stable	Improved
% of A Class roads that should be considered for maintenance treatment **(Note 2)**	Improved	Improved
% of B Class roads that should be considered for maintenance treatment **(Note 2)**	Improved	Declined
% of C Class roads that should be considered for maintenance treatment **(Note 2)**	Improved	Improved
% of U Class roads that should be considered for maintenance treatment **(Note 3)**	Improved	Improved
Climate Change		
CO2 emissions area wide per capita	Data Not Available	Data Not Available
CO2 emissions are wide: emissions within scope of LA per capita	Data Not Available	Data Not Available
CO2 Emissions from Transport per Capita	Declined	Declined
CO2 Emissions from Electricity per Capita	Declined	Declined
CO2 Emissions from Natural Gas per Capita	Improved	Improved
Adult Social Care		
Home care costs per hour for people aged 65 or over	Improved	Declined

Self-Directed Support (Direct Payments + Managed Personalised Budgets) spend on adults 18+ as a % of total social work spend on adults 18+	**Improved**	**Declined**
% of people aged 65 and over with long-term care needs who receiving personal care at home	**Improved**	**Declined**
% of adults supported at home who agree that their services and support had an impact in improving or maintaining their quality of life	**Declined**	**Declined**
Percentage of adults supported at home who agree that they are supported to live as independently as possible	**Declined**	**Declined**
Percentage of adults supported at home who agree that they had a say in how their help, care or support was provided	**Declined**	**Declined**
Percentage of carers who feel supported to continue in their caring role	**Declined**	**Declined**
Residential costs per week per resident for people aged 65 or over	**Declined**	**Declined**
Rate of readmission to hospital within 28 days per 1,000 discharges	**Declined**	**Improved**
Proportion of care services graded 'good' (4) or better in Care Inspectorate inspections	**Improved**	**Declined**
Number of days people spend in hospital when they are ready to be discharged, per 1,000 population (75+)	**Improved**	**Declined**
Vulnerable Children		
The Gross Cost of 'Children Looked After' in Residential Based Services per Child per Week	**Declined**	**Declined**
The Gross Cost of 'Children Looked After' in a Community Setting per Child per Week	**Declined**	**Declined**
% of children being looked after in the community	**Stable**	**Declined**
Literacy Attainment Gap (P1,4,7 Combined) - percentage point gap between the least deprived and most deprived pupils	**Improved**	**Improved**
Numeracy Attainment Gap (P1,4,7 Combined) - percentage point gap between the least deprived and most deprived pupils	**Stable**	**Improved**
School attendance rate (Looked After Children) **(Note 4)**	**Data Not Available**	**Declined**
School exclusion rates (per 1,000 'looked after children') **(Note 4)**	**Data Not Available**	**Improved**
% of child protection re-registrations within 18 months	**Stable**	**Improved**
% looked after children with more than 1 placement in the last year (Aug-July)	**Improved**	**Improved**
% of children living in poverty (After Housing Costs) **(Note 5)**	**Improved**	**Improved**
Broad General Education		
Cost Per Primary School Pupil	**Declined**	**Declined**

Cost per Pre-School Education Registration	Declined	Declined
% of Adults Satisfied with Local Schools **(Note 1)**	Declined	Declined
% of P1, P4 and P7 pupils combined achieving expected Curriculum for Excellence (CFE) Level in Literacy	Stable	Improved
% of P1, P4 and P7 pupils combined achieving expected CFE Level in Numeracy	Improved	Improved
% of children meeting developmental milestones	Declined	Declined
% of funded early years provision which is graded good/better	Declined	Declined
Senior Phase Education		
Cost per Secondary School Pupil	Declined	Declined
% of Pupils Gaining 5+ Awards at Level 5 **(Note 6)**	Not Directly Comparable	Not Directly Comparable
% of Pupils Gaining 5+ Awards at Level 6 **(Note 6)**	Not Directly Comparable	Not Directly Comparable
% of Pupils from Deprived Areas Gaining 5+ Awards at Level 5 Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) **(Note 6)**	Not Directly Comparable	Not Directly Comparable
% of Pupils from Deprived Areas Gaining 5+ Awards at Level 6 (SIMD) **(Note 6)**	Not Directly Comparable	Not Directly Comparable
Proportion of Pupils Entering Positive Destinations	Stable	Improved
Overall Average Total Tariff **(Note 6)**	Not Directly Comparable	Not Directly Comparable
Average Total Tariff SIMD quintile 1 **(Note 6)**	Not Directly Comparable	Not Directly Comparable
Average total tariff SIMD quintile 2 **(Note 6)**	Not Directly Comparable	Not Directly Comparable
Average total tariff SIMD quintile 3 **(Note 6)**	Not Directly Comparable	Not Directly Comparable
Average total tariff SIMD quintile 4 **(Note 6)**	Not Directly Comparable	Not Directly Comparable
Average total tariff SIMD quintile 5 **(Note 6)**	Not Directly Comparable	Not Directly Comparable
School attendance rate	Improved	Declined
School exclusion rates (per 1,000 pupils) **(Note 4)**	Data Not Available	Improved
Participation rate for 16–19-year-olds (per 100)	Stable	Improved
Housing		
Gross rent arrears (all tenants) as at 31 March each year as a percentage of rent due for the reporting year	Declined	Declined
% of rent due in the year that was lost due to voids	Improved	Declined
% of council dwellings meeting Scottish Housing Standards	Stable	Declined
Average number of days taken to complete non-emergency repairs	Improved	Improved

% of council dwellings that are energy efficient **(Note 7)**	**Data Not Available**	**Data Not Available**
Culture & Leisure		
Cost per attendance at sports facilities	**Improved**	**Declined**
Cost per library visit	**Improved**	**Declined**
Cost of museums per visit	**Improved**	**Improved**
Cost of parks & open spaces per 1,000 population	**Declined**	**Declined**
% of adults satisfied with libraries **(Note 1)**	**Improved**	**Declined**
% of adults satisfied with parks and open spaces **(Note 1)**	**Declined**	**Declined**
% of adults satisfied with museums and galleries **(Note 1)**	**Stable**	**Declined**
% of adults satisfied with leisure facilities **(Note 1)**	**Declined**	**Declined**

Note 1: The customer satisfaction data drawn from the Scottish Household Survey is presented in 3-year rolled averages to deliver the required precision at local level. Base period for comparison is 2016-19.

Note 2: Figures represent a two-year rolling average from the condition surveys. Base period for comparison is 2017/19.

Note 3: Figures represent a four -year rolling average from the condition surveys. Base period for comparison is 2015/19.

Note 4: Data for this indicator is published biennially and data for 2023/24 should be available in summer 2025.

Note 5: 2023/24 data for this indicator was not available in previous reporting but is now included.

Note 6: COVID-19 led to changes in how National Qualifications were assessed and graded in the years 2020 to 2023. This will have had an impact on the attainment of school leavers in 2019-20, 2020-21, 2021-22 and 2022-23. Care must be taken when comparing attainment of school leavers in 2018-19 and before, with that of school leavers in 2019-20 and beyond. Any interpretation of changes must take full account of the different certification methods used in different years, and changes in the attainment levels in 2019-20, 2020-21, 2021-22 and 2022-23 should not be seen as an indication that performance has improved or worsened, without further evidence.

Note 7: Statistics from the **2023 Scottish House Condition Survey (SHCS)** were published on 28th January 2025. As p**reviously advised**, in the 2021 survey, the lack of SHCS data for 2020 and the enforced changes for 2021 cause issues with the production of local authority estimates from the SHCS which uses a three-year pooled data set. Therefore, data for 2023 Local Authority Analysis will not be produced. A return to the usual approach for producing local authority estimates from the SHCS will not take place until the 2024 wave of the SHCS has completed. Statistics will be produced based on a three-year average for 2022 to 2024 and published in early 2026.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BENCHMARKING FRAMEWORK (LGBF):

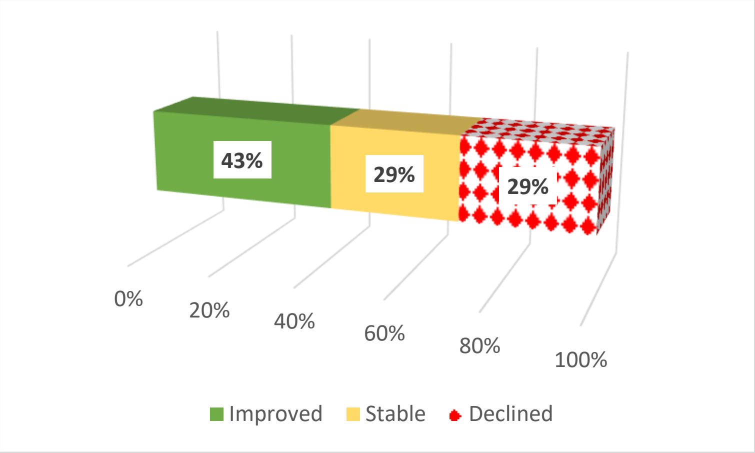
PART ONE THEMES PRESENTED FOR SCRUTINY

Contents:

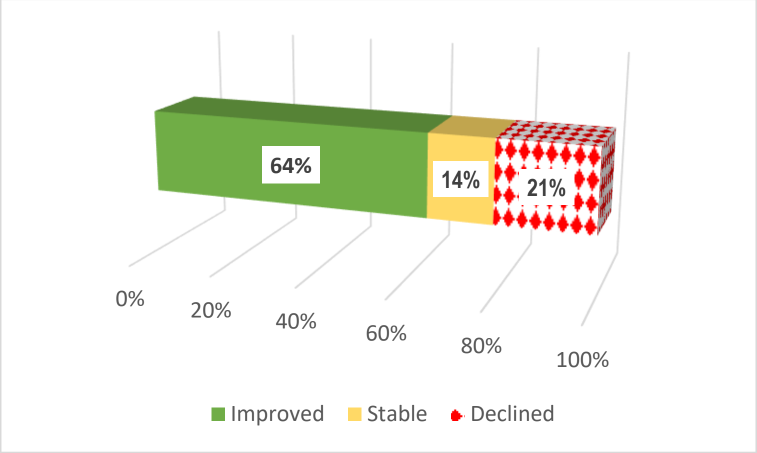
CORPORATE SERVICES

Title	Year on Year Performance	Performance V Base Year
Support services as a % of total gross expenditure *(page 3)*	Stable	Improved
% of the highest paid 5% employees who are women *(page 3)*	Declined	Improved
The gender pay gap (%) *(page 4)*	Improved	Improved
Sickness absence days per teacher *(page 4)*	Declined	Improved
Sickness absence days per employee (non-teacher) *(page 5)*	Stable	Declined
The cost per dwelling of collecting council tax *(page 6)*	Improved	Improved
% of income due from council tax received by the end of the year *(page 5)*	Stable	Stable
% of Crisis Grant Decisions within 1 day *(page 6)*	Stable	Stable
% Community Care Grant Decisions within 15 Days *(page 7)*	Improved	Improved
Proportion of Social Welfare Fund Budget Spent *(page 7)*	Improved	Improved
Proportion of Discretionary Housing Payment Funding Spent *(page 8)*	Declined	Improved
% of invoices sampled that were paid within 30 days *(page 8)*	Declined	Declined
% of operational buildings that are suitable for their current use *(page 9)*	Improved	Declined
% of internal floor area of operational buildings in satisfactory condition *(page 9)*	Improved	Improved

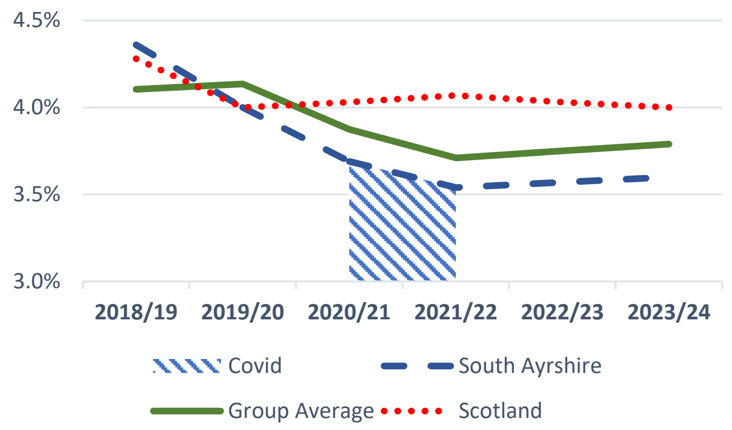
Year on Year Performance



Performance V Base Year



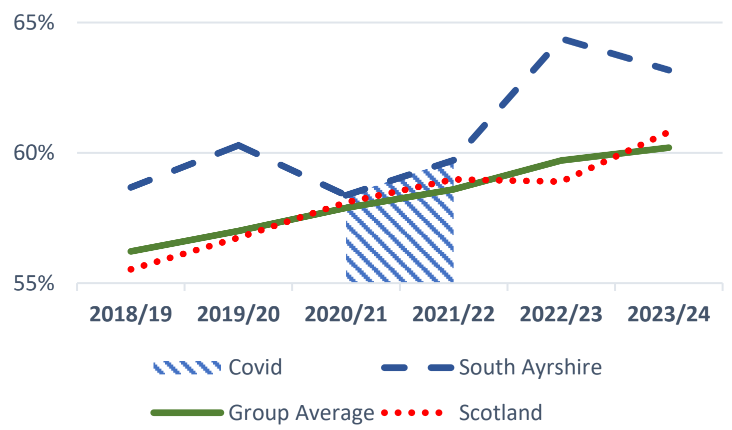
Support services as a % of total gross expenditure:



Family Group Ranking						
Date	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
East Ayrshire	2	2	2	2	2	2
East Lothian	8	7	8	8	7	8
Fife	7	8	7	6	6	6
Moray	5	6	5	5	5	5
North Ayrshire	1	1	1	1	1	1
Perth & Kinross	4	3	4	4	3	3
South Ayrshire	6	4	3	3	4	4
Stirling	3	5	6	7	8	7

Commentary
Sustained improvement in this performance indicator in recent years is now reflected in a stable and consistent outcome compared with target and prior years. The Council remains below both the national and 'family group' (of comparable local authorities) averages.

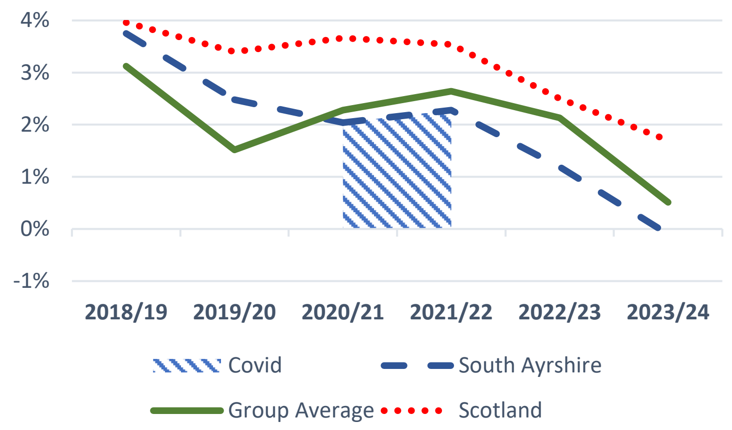
Percentage of the highest paid 5% employees who are women:



Family Group Ranking						
Date	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
East Ayrshire	7	7	6	6	6	6
East Lothian	5	5	8	8	8	8
Fife	4	4	4	4	4	3
Moray	6	6	3	1	5	4
North Ayrshire	2	2	1	3	3	1
Perth & Kinross	8	8	7	7	7	7
South Ayrshire	3	3	5	5	2	2
Stirling	1	1	2	2	1	5

Commentary
For this period, we continue to have made more female appointments than male, we also continue to have more female employees in temporary positions at higher graded positions. This trajectory continues.

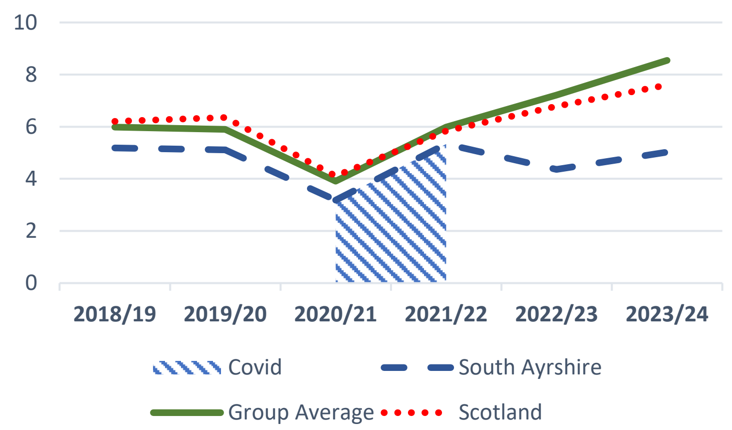
The gender pay gap:



Family Group Ranking						
Date	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
East Ayrshire	7	4	7	7	8	7
East Lothian	5	6	6	6	6	4
Fife	3	3	4	4	4	3
Moray	8	8	8	8	7	1
North Ayrshire	4	5	3	3	3	DNA
Perth & Kinross	2	2	1	1	1	6
South Ayrshire	6	7	5	5	5	2
Stirling	1	1	2	2	2	5

Commentary
The 24/25 pay award continues to contribute positively on this factor, we see this as a positive outcome and one that should continue over the coming two years.

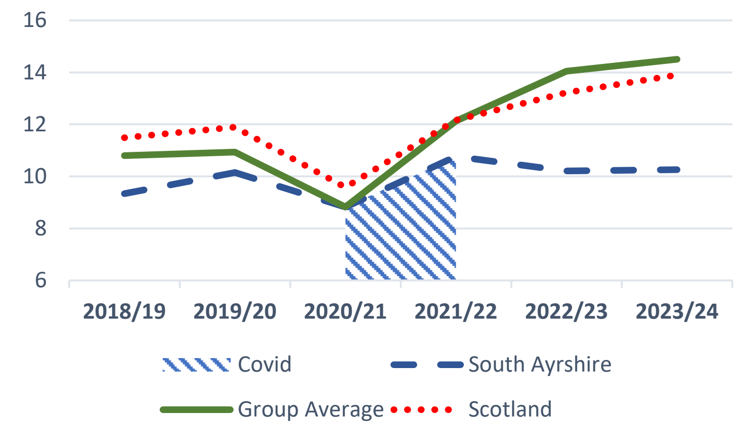
Sickness absence days per teacher:



Family Group Ranking						
Date	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
East Ayrshire	1	2	2	2	3	5
East Lothian	5	1	1	1	2	2
Fife	7	6	8	7	7	4
Moray	6	7	6	4	6	7
North Ayrshire	3	4	7	8	5	6
Perth & Kinross	8	8	5	5	4	3
South Ayrshire	2	3	3	3	1	1
Stirling	4	5	4	6	8	8

Commentary
Although reporting as higher, measures have been put in place to support all employees, including the introduction of the Employee Assistance Programme and the services of a new Occupational Health Provider – PAM group. A review of the absence management policy is underway which will support Employee Wellbeing, this will further enhance what is already offered to employees.

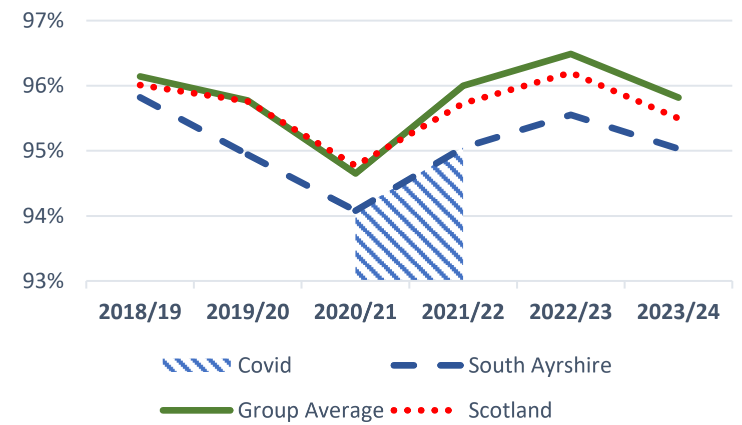
Sickness Absence Days per Employee:



Family Group Ranking						
Date	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
East Ayrshire	2	3	1	6	6	6
East Lothian	6	2	2	1	2	3
Fife	8	8	8	8	7	7
Moray	7	7	4	4	3	5
North Ayrshire	5	1	6	5	5	4
Perth & Kinross	1	5	3	3	4	2
South Ayrshire	3	4	5	2	1	1
Stirling	4	6	7	7	8	8

Commentary
Although reporting as higher, measures have been put in place to support all employees, including the introduction of the Employee Assistance Programme and the services of a new Occupational Health Provider – PAM group. A review of the absence management policy is underway which will support Employee Wellbeing, this will further enhance what is already offered to employees.

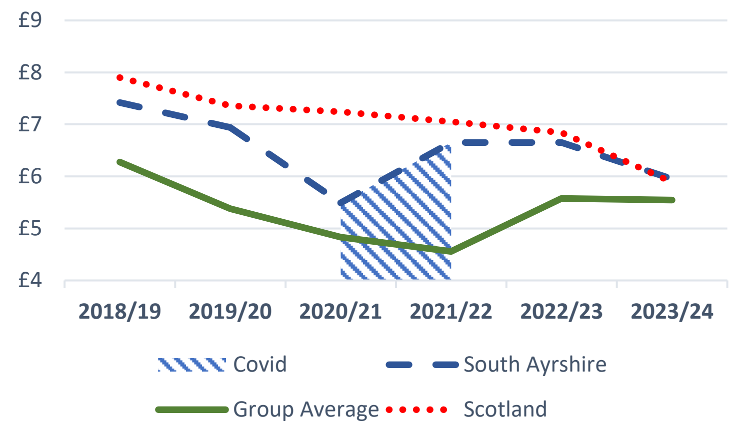
Percentage of income due from council tax received by the end of the year:



Family Group Ranking						
Date	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
East Ayrshire	8	7	7	7	7	7
East Lothian	4	4	4	3	3	3
Fife	6	5	6	5	5	5
Moray	3	3	3	4	4	4
North Ayrshire	7	8	8	8	8	8
Perth & Kinross	1	2	2	1	1	1
South Ayrshire	5	6	5	6	6	6
Stirling	2	1	1	2	2	1

Commentary
Collections improved slightly against target. Revenues Services continue to take all steps possible to improve in year collections.

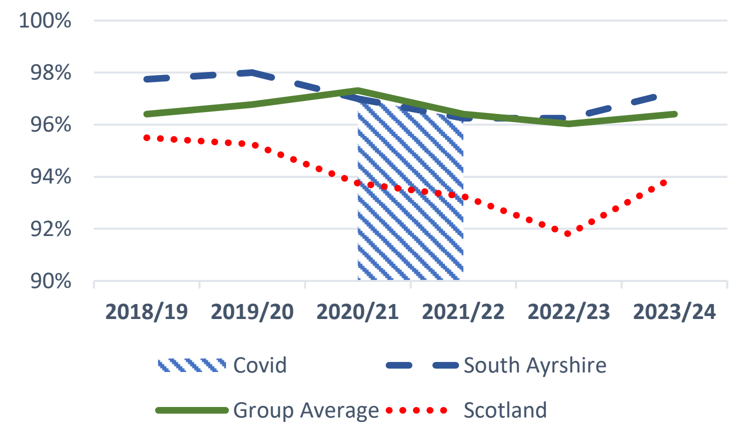
Cost of collecting council tax per dwelling:



Family Group Ranking						
Date	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
East Ayrshire	2	1	4	2	3	3
East Lothian	4	4	6	4	8	8
Fife	1	2	2	1	1	1
Moray	8	8	8	8	7	6
North Ayrshire	6	3	1	3	2	2
Perth & Kinross	3	5	3	6	4	7
South Ayrshire	7	6	5	7	6	4
Stirling	5	7	7	5	5	5

Commentary
Costs can fluctuate dependent on central support allocations which can vary widely between Council's. In 2023/24 employee costs reduced due to pension adjustments.

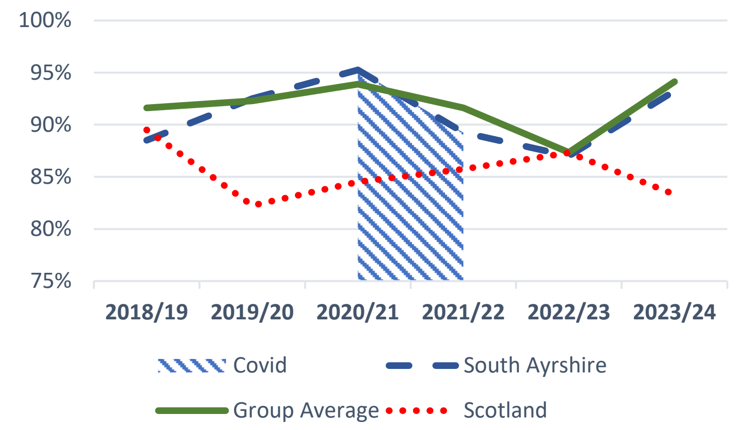
Percentage of Crisis Grant Decisions within 1 day:



Family Group Ranking						
Date	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
East Ayrshire	4	2	1	1	1	1
East Lothian	6	8	7	7	7	8
Fife	3	1	3	2	3	1
Moray	7	6	5	4	5	5
North Ayrshire	1	3	2	3	1	4
Perth & Kinross	1	3	3	5	4	1
South Ayrshire	5	5	6	6	6	6
Stirling	8	7	8	8	8	7

Commentary
Performance has improved against 2022/23 and we remain above the LGBF family group average for processing Crisis Grants

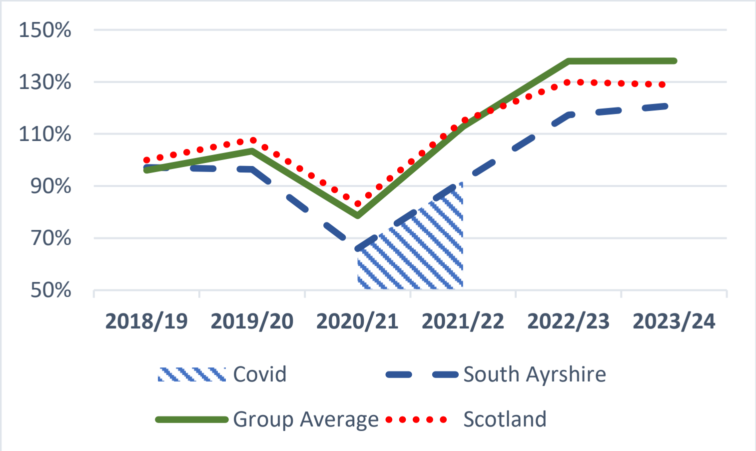
Percentage Community Care Grant Decisions within 15 Days:



Family Group Ranking						
Date	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
East Ayrshire	2	3	1	1	1	1
East Lothian	3	2	2	3	3	2
Fife	7	8	8	7	7	7
Moray	5	7	6	4	5	4
North Ayrshire	1	1	2	2	2	3
Perth & Kinross	4	4	4	5	4	5
South Ayrshire	6	5	5	6	6	6
Stirling	8	6	7	8	8	8

Commentary
2023/24 Processing performance has improved substantially after Covid where resources were being diverted to award Covid related grants.

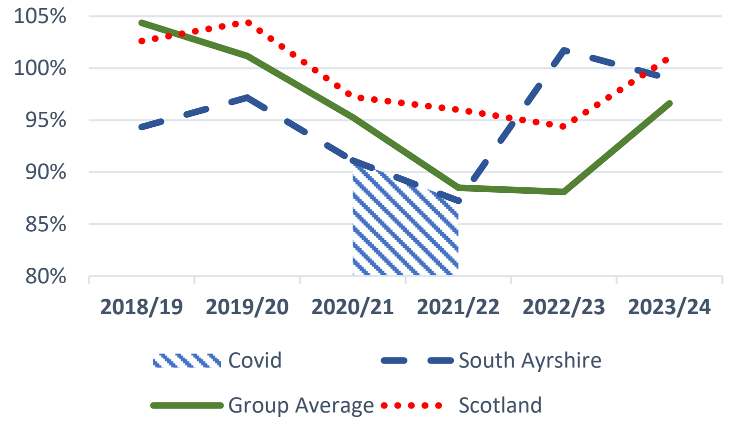
Proportion of Scottish Welfare Fund (SWF) Budget Spent:



Family Group Ranking						
Date	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
East Ayrshire	6	7	5	7	7	4
East Lothian	3	4	2	2	1	7
Fife	5	1	4	3	3	2
Moray	8	8	7	5	5	6
North Ayrshire	2	3	8	8	8	8
Perth & Kinross	7	5	1	1	2	1
South Ayrshire	4	6	6	6	6	5
Stirling	1	2	3	4	4	3

Commentary
The Council has supplemented Scottish Government funding for SWF during 2023/24 which has resulted in 121% of the budget being spent.

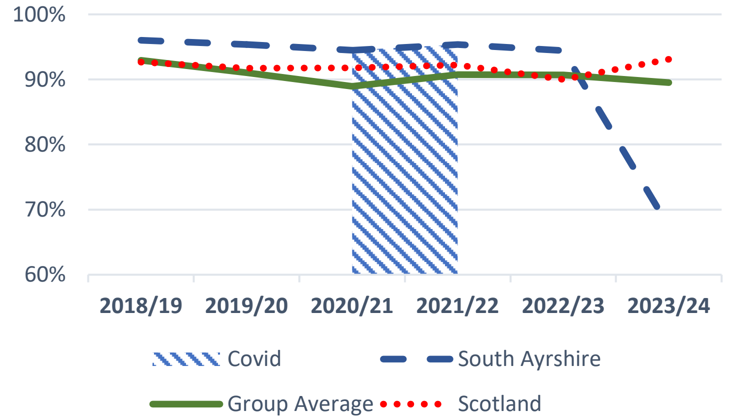
Proportion of Discretionary Housing Payments (DHP) Funding Spent:



Family Group Ranking						
Date	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
East Ayrshire	4	4	4	4	5	5
East Lothian	2	2	1	1	7	3
Fife	5	1	2	2	3	1
Moray	8	7	6	8	8	7
North Ayrshire	3	3	3	3	2	2
Perth & Kinross	7	8	8	6	4	6
South Ayrshire	6	6	5	5	1	4
Stirling	1	5	7	7	6	8

Commentary
2.1% reduction in applications when compared to 22/23. Team continues to work to fully maximise budget spend. The Scottish Government reconcile all unspent DHP budgets and underspends are reallocated to be carried forward to the following year.

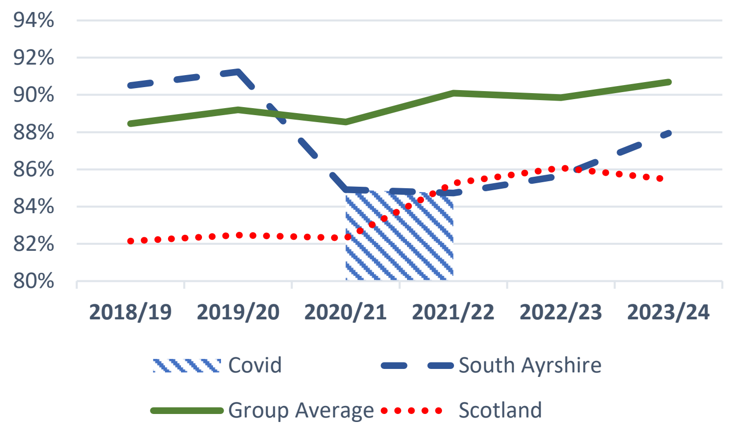
Percentage of invoices sampled that were paid within 30 days:



Family Group Ranking						
Date	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
East Ayrshire	4	2	3	4	7	4
East Lothian	8	7	7	8	8	7
Fife	1	1	1	5	4	1
Moray	7	6	6	6	6	6
North Ayrshire	3	4	4	1	3	2
Perth & Kinross	5	5	5	3	2	3
South Ayrshire	2	3	2	2	1	8
Stirling	6	8	8	7	5	5

Commentary
During April/May 2023 the Council implemented a new financial/invoicing system FUSION. The previous system was switched off on March 31st, 2023, and there was a period of downtime for approximately 3/4 weeks where no invoices could be processed electronically. This resulted in a skew with the overall percentage for 2023/24 and a backlog of processing which has had an effect on our performance for this year.

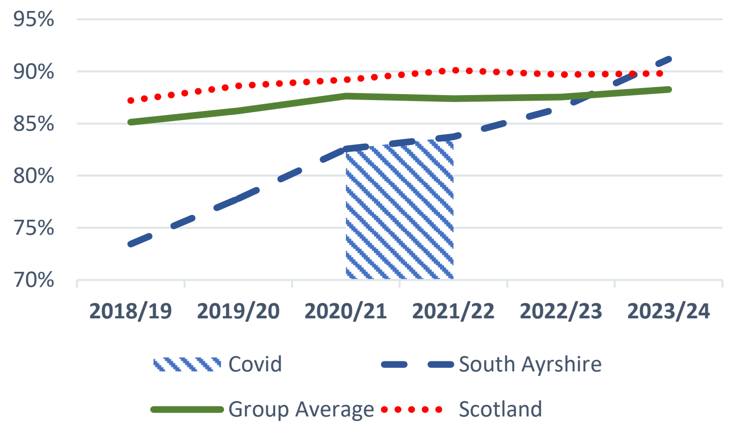
Proportion of operational buildings that are suitable for their current use:



Family Group Ranking						
Date	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
East Ayrshire	5	5	5	5	5	5
East Lothian	6	8	8	6	8	8
Fife	8	7	7	8	7	7
Moray	1	1	1	1	1	1
North Ayrshire	2	3	2	3	3	3
Perth & Kinross	7	6	3	2	2	2
South Ayrshire	4	2	6	7	6	6
Stirling	3	4	4	4	4	4

Commentary
After a period when this indicator remained static it has now begun to improve with our performance now better than the Scottish average. Further improvement should be seen in future by strategic investment in our properties and further rationalisation of our estate.

Proportion of internal floor area of operational buildings in satisfactory condition:



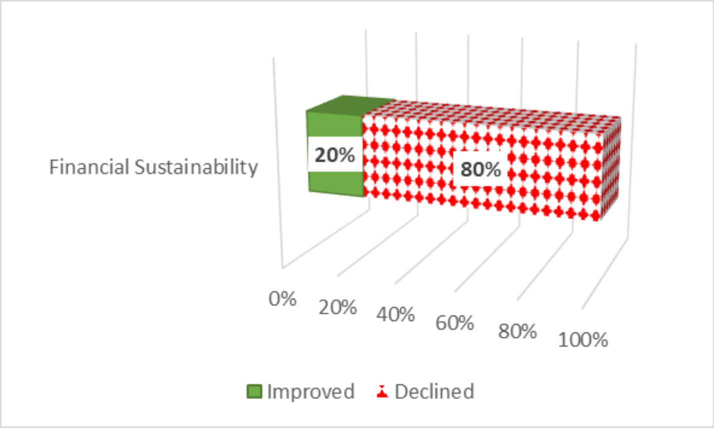
Family Group Ranking						
Date	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
East Ayrshire	1	2	2	2	2	2
East Lothian	5	6	5	4	6	7
Fife	6	5	4	5	4	5
Moray	8	8	8	8	8	8
North Ayrshire	3	3	3	3	3	3
Perth & Kinross	4	4	6	6	5	6
South Ayrshire	7	7	7	7	7	4
Stirling	2	1	1	1	1	1

Commentary
The overall floor space of operational buildings in satisfactory condition has increased again in 2023/24, with the result that our performance is now better than both our Family Group and national average. This figure continues to be influenced by building improvements to the School estate including the new Maybole campus.

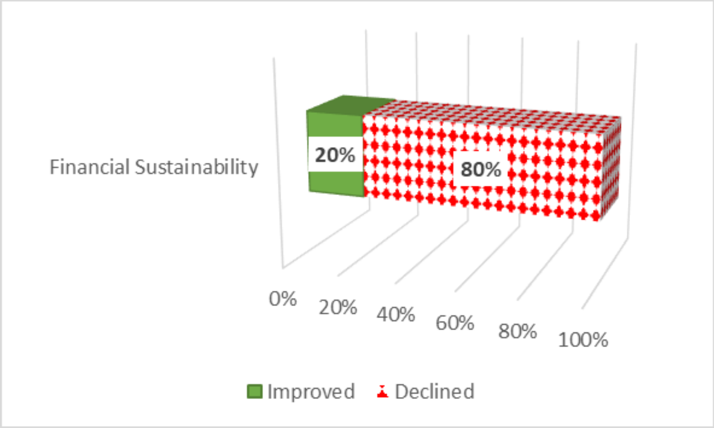
FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

Title	Year on Year Performance	Performance V Base Year
Total useable reserves as a % of council annual budgeted revenue *(page 11)*	Declined	Declined
Uncommitted General Fund Balance as a % of council annual budgeted net revenue *(page 12)*	Declined	Declined
Ratio of Financing Costs to Net Revenue Stream - General Fund *(page 13)*	Declined	Declined
Ratio of Financing Costs to Net Revenue Stream - Housing Revenue Account *(page 14)*	Declined	Declined
Actual outturn as a percentage of budgeted expenditure *(page 14)*	Improved	Improved

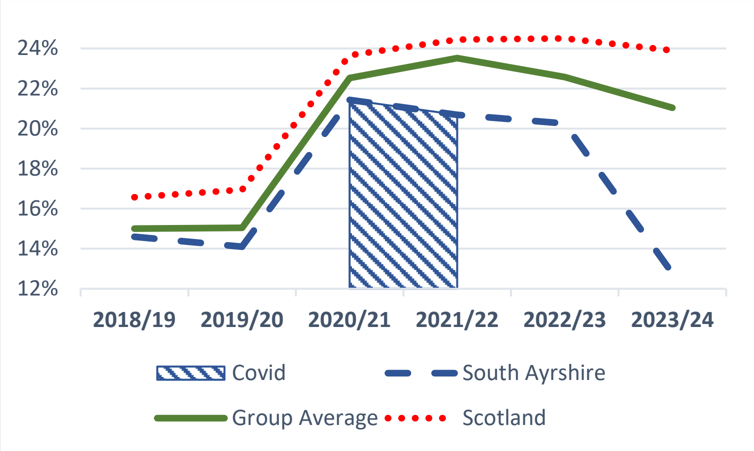
Year on Year Performance



Performance V Base Year



Total useable reserves as a % of council annual budgeted revenue:

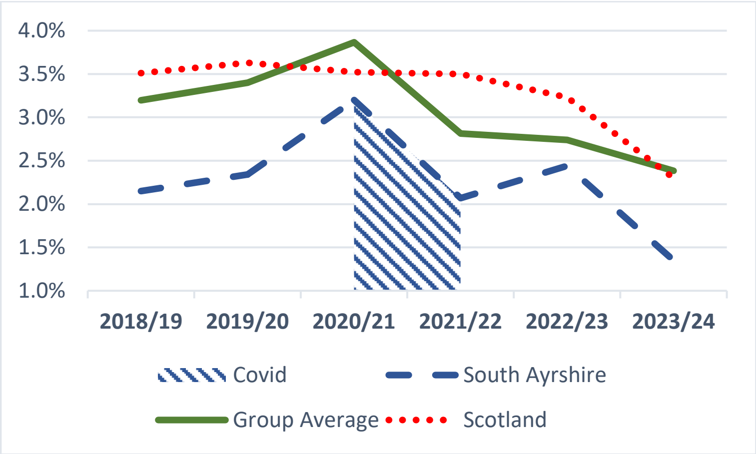


Family Group Ranking						
Date	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
East Ayrshire	2	2	2	2	2	2
East Lothian	6	7	8	8	7	6
Fife	8	8	6	5	4	7
Moray	7	4	3	3	3	4
North Ayrshire	5	6	7	4	1	1
Perth & Kinross	1	1	1	1	5	3
South Ayrshire	4	5	5	7	6	8
Stirling	3	3	4	6	8	5

Commentary

The movement (which was anticipated) reflects the approved application of reserves during 2023/24, including £6.12m as part of the budget setting process. The utilisation of reserves to help balance budgets and address unplanned expenditure such as the former Station Hotel continues to be regularly and closely monitored.

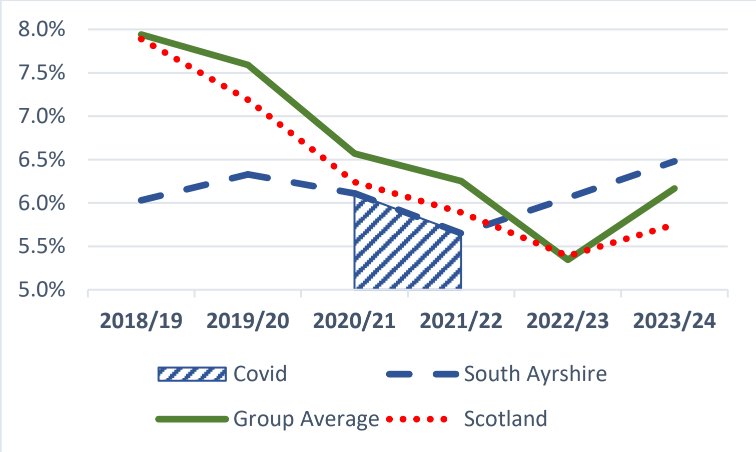
Uncommitted General Fund Balance as a % of council annual budgeted net revenue:



Family Group Ranking						
Date	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
East Ayrshire	3	5	6	5	3	2
East Lothian	8	8	8	8	5	4
Fife	7	7	2	3	2	8
Moray	1	1	1	6	8	5
North Ayrshire	6	4	4	4	7	6
Perth & Kinross	4	3	7	2	1	1
South Ayrshire	5	6	4	7	4	7
Stirling	2	2	3	1	5	3

Commentary
By excluding reserves committed to approved projects, this indicator is more reflective than the previous one of the Council's capacity to deal with the financial consequences of unforeseen circumstances. The Council’s approved Financial Strategy is to maintain a level of uncommitted funds between 2% and 4% in line with best practice. The Council’s indicator decreased for 2023/24 in line with the broader trend across both the family group and Scotland-wide, which reflected the utilisation of reserves to help address continuing financial constraints. The movement specifically reflects the approved application of reserves during 2023/24, including £6.12m as part of the budget setting process. With the indicator falling below the level required by the approved strategy, a review of committed reserves was undertaken during 2024/25 which increased uncommitted reserves by £0.887m. A further £4.053m was allocated to uncommitted reserves as part of the approved 2025/26 budget in order to address the falling indicator.

Ratio of Financing Costs to Net Revenue Stream - General Fund:

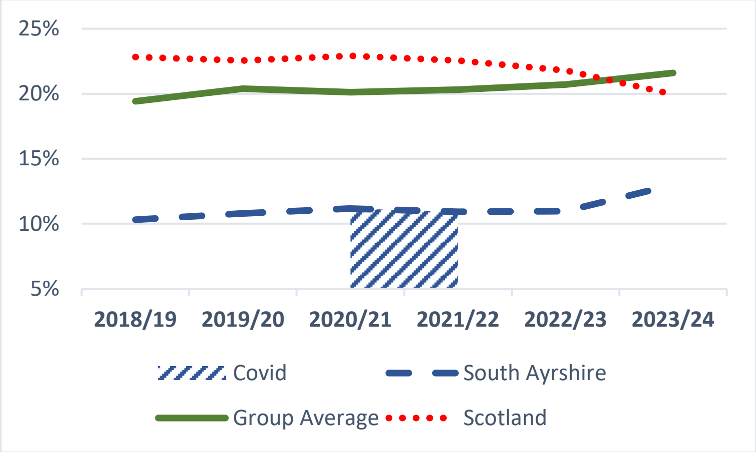


Family Group Ranking						
Date	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
East Ayrshire	8	7	8	8	8	8
East Lothian	3	2	2	2	3	2
Fife	5	4	3	4	1	4
Moray	7	8	7	7	7	7
North Ayrshire	1	1	1	1	2	1
Perth & Kinross	4	5	6	6	6	6
South Ayrshire	2	3	4	3	5	5
Stirling	6	6	5	5	4	3

Commentary

This ratio calculates the percentage of General Fund expenditure used to pay for financing costs, i.e. borrowing to support the capital programme. The Council's 2023/24 ratio increased from that of 2022/23, which mirrors the trends for both the family group and Scotland-wide and reflected sustained high interest rates despite a pragmatic approach to the Council's borrowing requirements. This is an important indicator for the Council's financial health which remains under close and regular scrutiny.

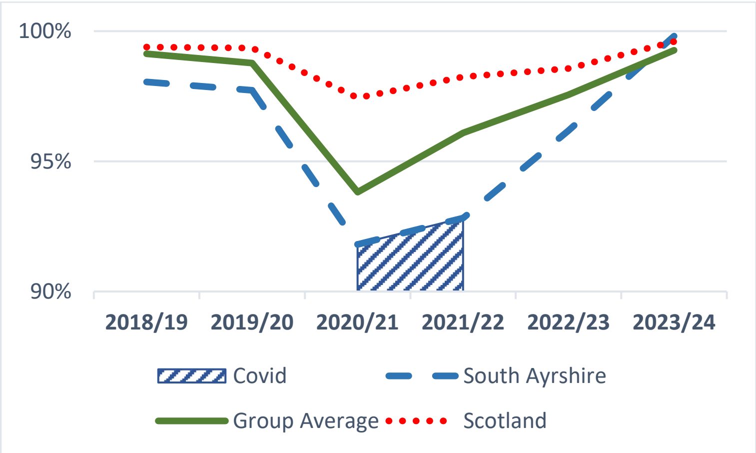
Ratio of Financing Costs to Net Revenue Stream - Housing Revenue Account (HRA):



Family Group Ranking						
Date	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
East Ayrshire	3	2	3	2	3	2
East Lothian	8	8	8	8	8	8
Fife	5	6	6	6	7	7
Moray	6	5	5	5	5	6
North Ayrshire	2	3	2	3	4	3
Perth & Kinross	7	7	7	7	6	5
South Ayrshire	1	1	1	1	1	1
Stirling	4	4	4	4	2	4

Commentary
This ratio calculates the percentage of HRA expenditure used to pay for financing costs, i.e. borrowing to support the Housing capital programme. Although the Council's 2023/24 ratio has increased compared with 2022/23, it remains significantly lower than both the Council's 'family group' of comparable local authorities and the Scottish average, which reflects a comparatively low reliance on borrowing to support investment in the Council's housing stock.

Actual outturn as a percentage of budgeted expenditure:



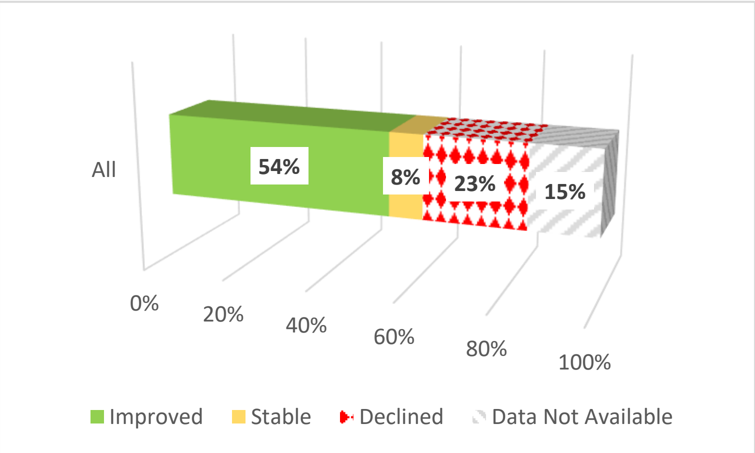
Family Group Ranking						
Date	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
East Ayrshire	4	3	1	2	3	2
East Lothian	5	1	3	3	1	1
Fife	1	4	5	6	8	6
Moray	3	8	7	8	7	7
North Ayrshire	6	5	8	4	4	3
Perth & Kinross	8	7	4	5	5	8
South Ayrshire	7	6	6	7	6	4
Stirling	2	2	2	1	2	5

Commentary
This ratio continues to increase since 2020/21, directly mirroring both the family group and Scotland-wide trends towards 100% (fully expended budget).

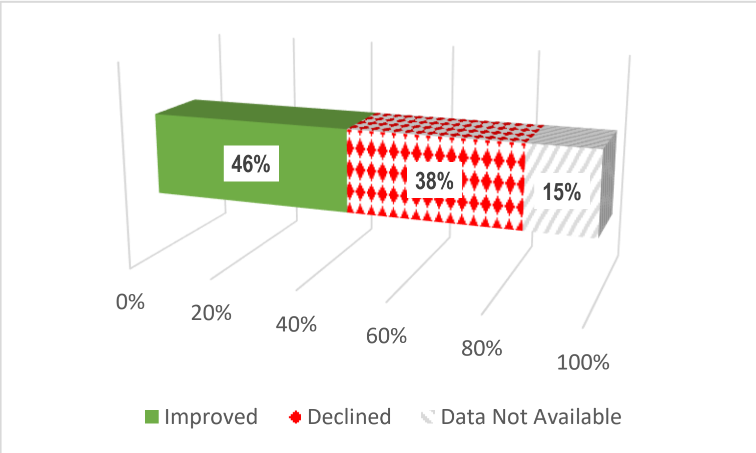
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING

Title	Year on Year Performance	Performance V Base Year
% of unemployed people assisted into work from council operated / funded employability programmes *(page 16)*	Improved	Improved
Cost of Planning & Building Standards per planning application *(page 17)*	Declined	Declined
Average time per business and industry planning application (weeks) *(page 17)*	Improved	Declined
% of procurement spend spent on local enterprises *(page 18)*	Improved	Improved
No of business gateway start-ups per 10,000 population *(page 18)*	Declined	Declined
Investment in Economic Development & Tourism per 1,000 Population *(page 19)*	Improved	Improved
Proportion of people earning less than the real living wage *(page 20)*	Improved	Improved
Proportion of properties receiving superfast broadband *(page 21)*	Stable	Improved
Town Vacancy Rates *(page 22)*	Declined	Declined
Immediately available employment land as a % of total land allocated for employment purposes in the local development plan *(page 22)*	Data Not Available	Data Not Available
Gross Value Added (GVA) per capita *(page 23)*	Data Not Available	Data Not Available
Claimant Count as % of Working Age Population *(page 24)*	Improved	Declined
Claimant Count as % of 16-24 Population *(page 25)*	Improved	Improved

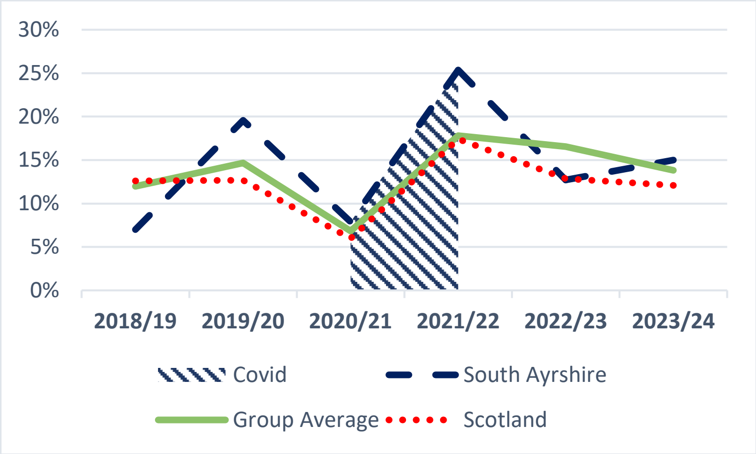
Year on Year Performance



Performance V Base Year



% of unemployed people assisted into work from Council operated/funded Employability Programmes:

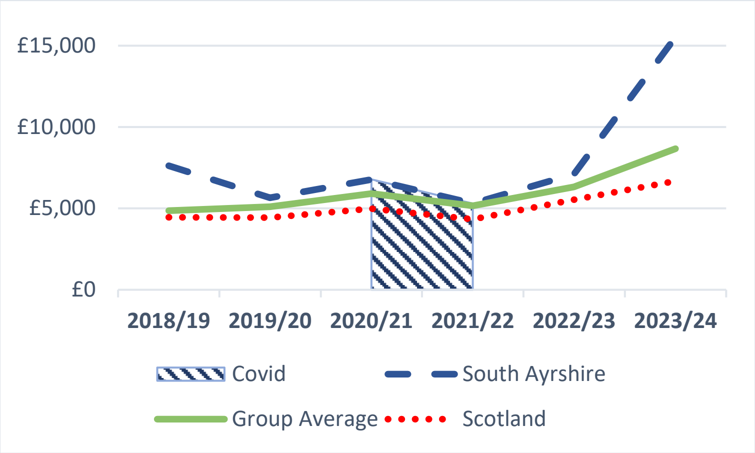


Family Group Ranking						
Date	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
East Ayrshire	5	5	1	7	2	3
East Lothian	7	7	8	6	4	7
Fife	4	6	7	4	7	5
Moray	8	8	6	8	8	8
North Ayrshire	2	2	2	3	3	2
Perth & Kinross	1	1	4	5	5	6
South Ayrshire	6	3	5	2	6	4
Stirling	3	4	3	1	1	1

Commentary

The number of people progressing into employment from our programmes continues to increase. Thriving Communities have developed courses to support local demand using labour market intelligence. Programmes such as Evolve and PAVE are having a positive impact in supporting adults into employment. Commissioned sector based work academies are also supporting people into employment. Officers have delivered workshops or Elected Members briefings showcasing some of the work while highlighting some of the targeted planned work over the next twelve months.

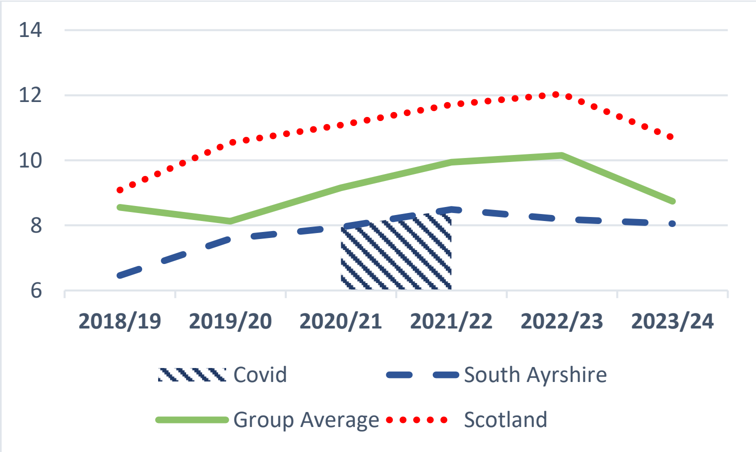
Cost of Planning and Building Standards Services per planning application:



Family Group Ranking						
Date	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
East Ayrshire	7	8	8	8	8	6
East Lothian	1	1	1	1	1	1
Fife	3	2	4	3	2	3
Moray	4	3	3	5	4	2
North Ayrshire	2	4	2	2	3	4
Perth & Kinross	5	7	7	7	5	5
South Ayrshire	8	6	6	6	6	8
Stirling	6	5	5	4	7	7

Commentary
The costs this year are higher than previously due significant emergency works being carried out to a fire damaged building under the Building Scotland Act. In addition, significant fees have been incurred in relation to two planning matters that required external legal support.

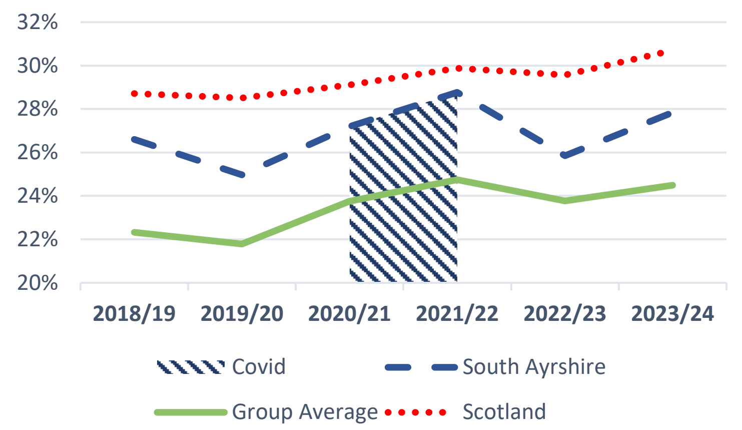
Average time per business and industry planning application (weeks):



Family Group Ranking						
Date	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
East Ayrshire	5	7	8	6	6	7
East Lothian	7	8	7	4	7	3
Fife	6	5	6	8	8	6
Moray	2	2	2	2	2	2
North Ayrshire	3	1	1	1	1	1
Perth & Kinross	4	4	4	5	4	8
South Ayrshire	1	3	3	3	3	4
Stirling	8	6	5	7	5	5

Commentary
Despite reduced resources, the Service has ensured that resource has been focused on determining Commercial applications to support the local economy.

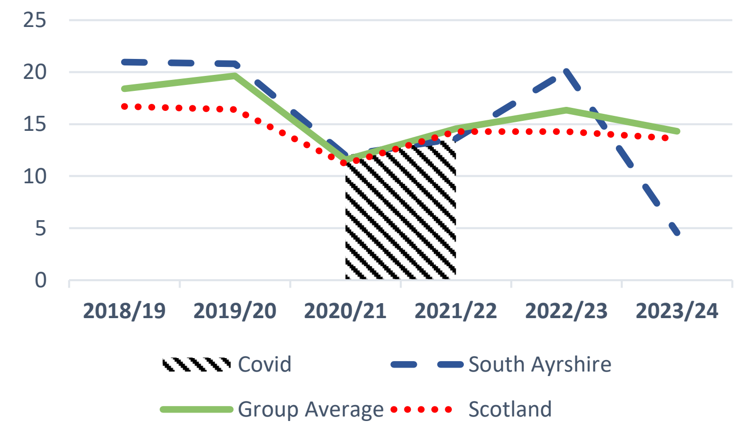
% of the Council's procurement spent on local enterprises:



Family Group Ranking						
Date	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
East Ayrshire	6	8	5	5	7	3
East Lothian	5	3	6	7	8	8
Fife	1	1	1	1	1	1
Moray	3	5	3	3	3	5
North Ayrshire	8	6	7	6	4	4
Perth & Kinross	4	4	4	4	5	7
South Ayrshire	2	2	2	2	2	2
Stirling	7	7	8	8	6	6

Commentary
SAC successfully increased the % of spend with Local suppliers in 23/24 by 1.9% compared to the previous year. This equates to 549 local South Ayrshire suppliers being used by the Council during 23/24 at a total spend of circa £62M within the South Ayrshire region.

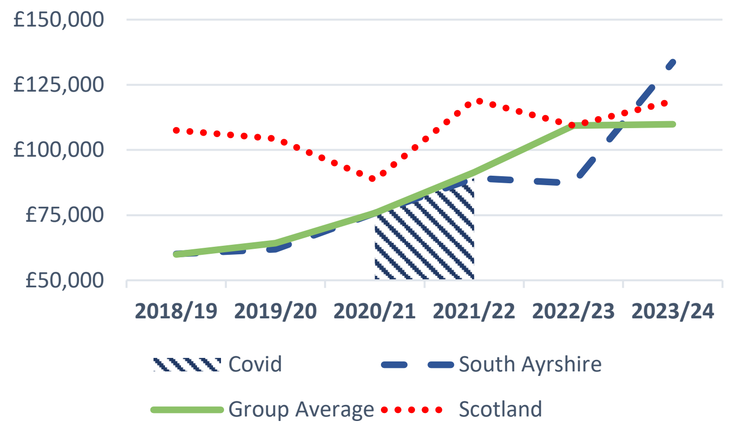
No. of business gateway start-ups per 10,000 population:



Family Group Ranking						
Date	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
East Ayrshire	4	3	8	1	1	2
East Lothian	5	7	7	8	6	3
Fife	7	6	3	3	5	4
Moray	8	8	5	6	7	7
North Ayrshire	2	2	6	7	8	6
Perth & Kinross	6	5	2	4	4	5
South Ayrshire	3	4	4	5	2	8
Stirling	1	1	1	2	3	1

Commentary
The significant drop in start-up claims has resulted from internal challenges in recording data on the Customer Relationship Management(CRM) system. Planning start engagements rose from 218 in 2022/23 to 247 in 23/24, which provides a clearer indication of trend.

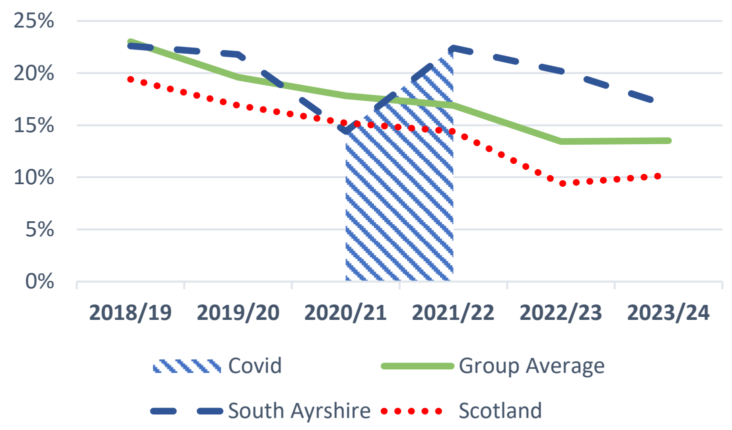
Investment in Economic Development & Tourism per 1,000 Population:



Family Group Ranking						
Date	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
East Ayrshire	2	2	1	2	6	8
East Lothian	5	7	4	6	1	3
Fife	6	3	2	5	3	4
Moray	8	8	8	8	7	7
North Ayrshire	1	1	3	1	2	1
Perth & Kinross	4	6	6	3	4	6
South Ayrshire	3	4	5	4	5	2
Stirling	7	5	7	7	8	5

Commentary
South Ayrshire Council continues to invest in 'Destination South Ayrshire'(DSA). The number of events across South Ayrshire continues to increase and additional resources have been committed to support DSA. The UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) has allowed additional funding to be made available for groups and organisations to organise events and South Ayrshire has committed to supporting events over the next 3 year including the Ayr Show, Lowland Gathering and Prestfest.
Activity within our event spaces at The Cutty Sark and The Grain Exchange continues to evolve with plans to increase activity over the next 12 months.

Proportion of people earning less than the real living wage:

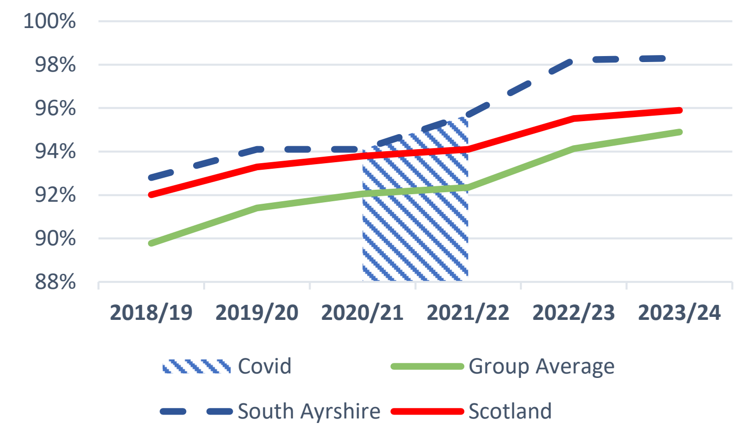


Family Group Ranking						
Date	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
East Ayrshire	7	7	6	1	1	4
East Lothian	2	3	5	8	DNA	6
Fife	2	4	3	5	3	3
Moray	8	8	7	6	4	5
North Ayrshire	6	2	4	2	DNA	2
Perth & Kinross	1	5	8	4	2	1
South Ayrshire	5	6	2	7	5	7
Stirling	4	1	1	3	DNA	DNA

Commentary

There continues to be an improvement in the proportion of people earning less than the real living wage and SAC continue to support and promote Fair work principles with local businesses and employers as part of our ongoing commitment to improving this statistic. Community Wealth Building (CWB) officers have supported local businesses and grants that are distributed through our grants and commissioned services require organisations to pay the real living wage. Officers continue to promote fair work however understand the challenges for local businesses with the increase costs in supplies, services, and utilities.

Proportion of properties receiving superfast broadband:

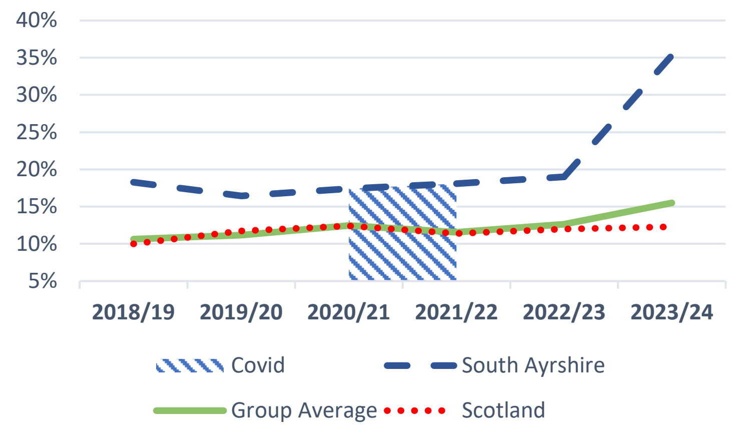


Family Group Ranking						
Date	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
East Ayrshire	2	2	2	1	2	1
East Lothian	5	5	5	5	5	5
Fife	1	1	1	2	3	2
Moray	7	8	8	8	8	8
North Ayrshire	3	3	3	4	4	4
Perth & Kinross	7	7	7	7	7	7
South Ayrshire	4	3	4	3	1	2
Stirling	6	6	6	6	6	6

Commentary

South Ayrshire continues to perform better than our family group, work continues to develop to improve 5G and superfast broadband across South Ayrshire. Work is underway to improve Wi-Fi at our event spaces including the Low Green, this will further enhance connectivity in the area. Local community groups and organisations have also benefited from Community Benefit from Virgin/O2 as part of SAC commissioned contract, this benefit include Wi-Fi being installed in community venues and devices and data being distributed to young people who are care experienced.

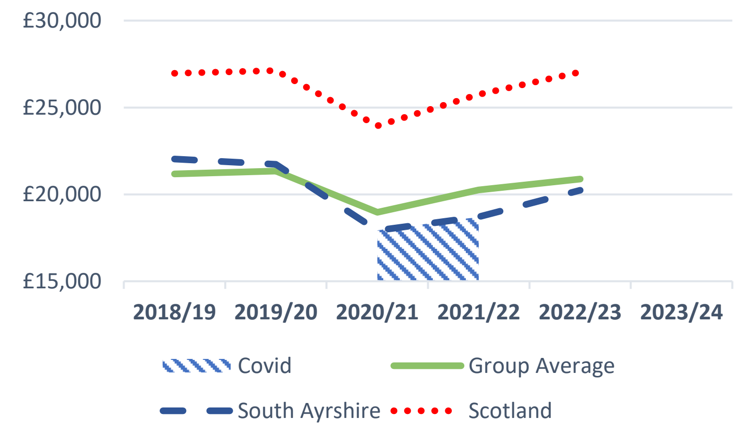
Town Vacancy Rates:



Family Group Ranking						
Date	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
East Ayrshire	6	5	5	6	6	4
East Lothian	4	4	2	3	1	3
Fife	7	8	8	8	7	7
Moray	2	2	3	4	3	6
North Ayrshire	5	6	6	5	2	1
Perth & Kinross	3	3	4	1	4	2
South Ayrshire	8	7	7	7	8	8
Stirling	1	1	1	2	5	5

Commentary
Town Centre Vacancy rates in South Ayrshire remained high during 2023/24, the closure of the Arran Mall in Ayr and Kyle Centre in Ayr continues to have an impact on this stat. Work is ongoing in each of our towns to enhance place and spaces to make our towns both attractive and accessible. Ayr Town Centre Framework was approved in 2024 and plans to develop areas including Burns Statue Square and Arran Mall Site are progressing. Following on from the Town Centre Audit in 2022 a further audit has been commissioned in 2025 and this audit will provide stats and data on each of our five towns.

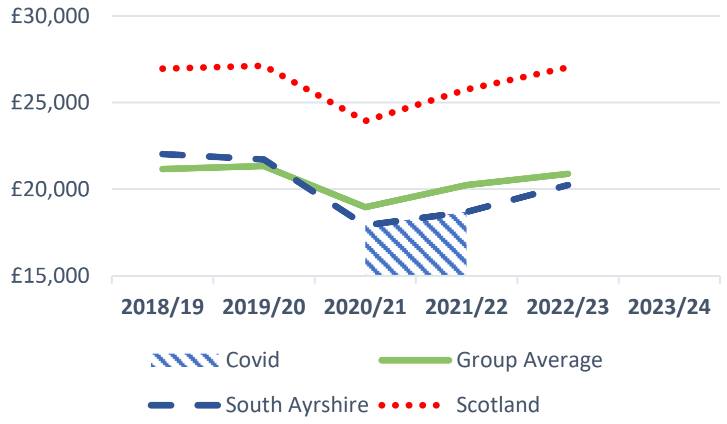
Immediately available employment land as a % of total land allocated for employment purposes in the local development plan (203/24 Data not available):



Family Group Ranking						
Date	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
East Ayrshire	6	5	5	2	2	1
East Lothian	7	7	7	3	5	6
Fife	8	8	8	7	7	7
Moray	3	4	4	4	3	4
North Ayrshire	1	2	3	1	1	2
Perth & Kinross	5	6	6	5	4	5
South Ayrshire	2	1	1	8	8	DNA
Stirling	4	3	2	6	6	DNA

Commentary
South Ayrshire data is not available for this indicator.

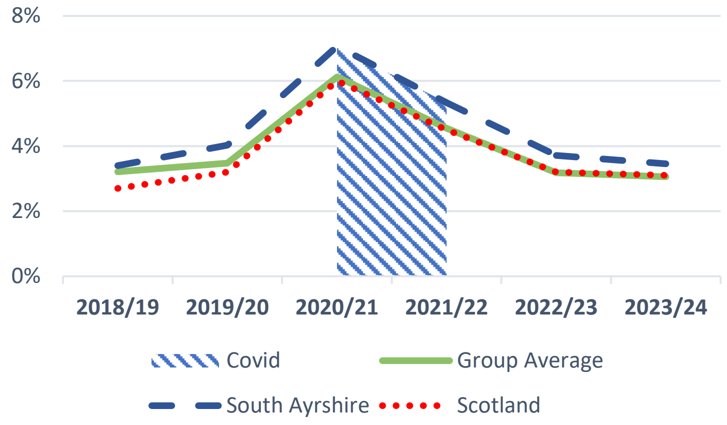
Gross Value Added (GVA) per capita (2023/24 Data not available):



Date	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
East Ayrshire	8	8	8	8	8	DNA
East Lothian	6	7	7	7	7	DNA
Fife	5	5	4	4	5	DNA
Moray	3	3	3	3	3	DNA
North Ayrshire	7	6	6	6	6	DNA
Perth & Kinross	1	1	1	2	2	DNA
South Ayrshire	4	4	5	5	4	DNA
Stirling	2	2	2	1	1	DNA

Commentary
Data is not available for this indicator.

Claimant Count as % of Working Age Population:



Family Group Ranking						
Date	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
East Ayrshire	7	7	7	7	7	7
East Lothian	4	4	4	4	1	3
Fife	6	5	5	5	5	5
Moray	2	3	3	3	4	1
North Ayrshire	8	8	8	8	8	8
Perth & Kinross	1	1	1	2	2	2
South Ayrshire	5	6	6	6	6	6
Stirling	3	2	2	1	3	4

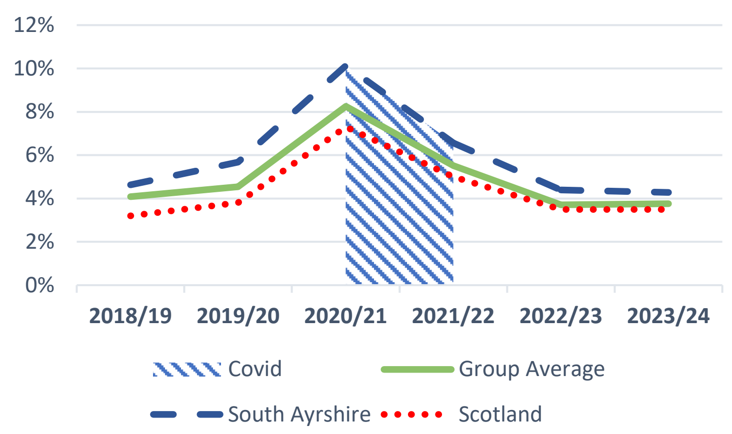
Commentary
The Local Employability Partnership (LEP) and Financial Inclusion and Growth Strategic Delivery Partnership are trying to address this stat. Workshops and meeting have taken place with partners and local data is being analysed to understand where this stat peaks.

Statistics include:

- 1 in 5 of residents claiming out of work benefits in South Ayrshire is the 30–39-year age group. This is higher than the Scotland rate of 17.4%.
- In Scotland the highest percentage of people claiming out of work benefits are aged 60-64 years.

The LEP continue to offer training and employment opportunities that will have a positive impact on these stats.

Claimant Count as % of 16-24 Population:



Family Group Ranking						
Date	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
East Ayrshire	7	7	7	7	7	7
East Lothian	4	3	3	3	3	4
Fife	5	5	5	5	5	5
Moray	3	4	4	4	4	2
North Ayrshire	8	8	8	8	8	8
Perth & Kinross	1	2	2	2	2	3
South Ayrshire	6	6	6	6	6	6
Stirling	2	1	1	1	1	1

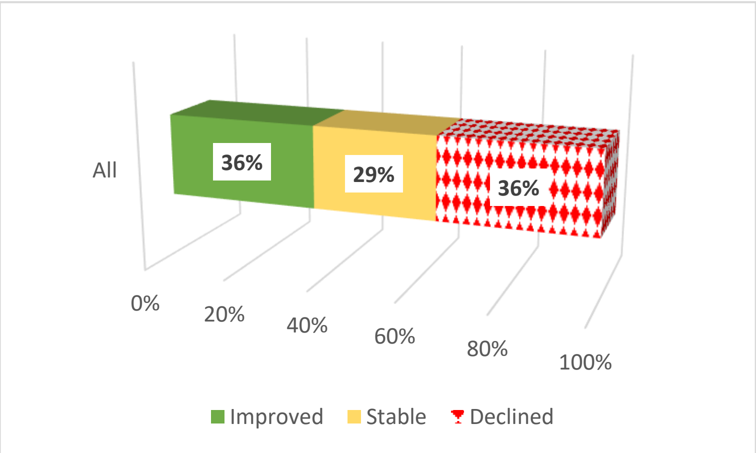
Commentary

This figure continues to decrease however is slightly higher than the family group. Over the past three years South Ayrshire has remained in the top three local authorities for positive destinations and are currently top of Scotland. There has been a focus on improving the participation measure and this focus has resulted in the decrease in this stat. The Local Employability Partnership (LEP) continues to be focused on improving this statistic and is reviewing the data for young people aged 20-24 where there is an increase in unemployment.

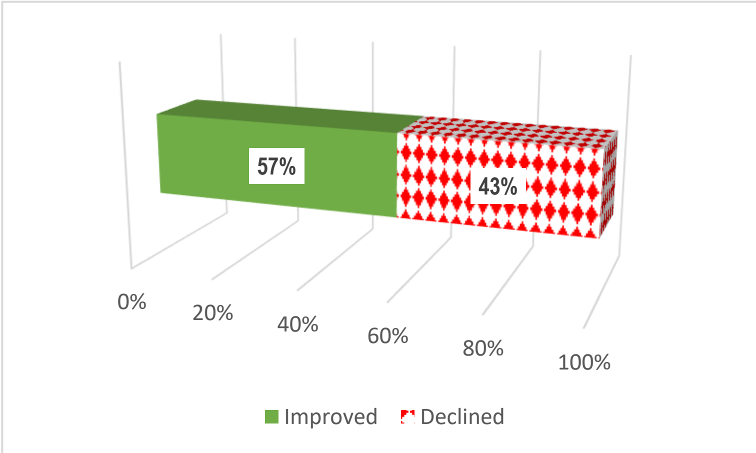
ENVIRONMENT

Title	Year on Year Performance	Performance V Base Year
Net cost of waste collection per premise *(page 27)*	Declined	Declined
Net cost of waste disposal per premise *(page 27)*	Stable	Declined
Net cost of street cleaning per 1,000 population *(page 28)*	Declined	Declined
Street Cleanliness Score *(page 28)*	Improved	Improved
Cost of Trading Standards per 1,000 population *(page 30)*	Declined	Improved
Cost of environmental health per 1,000 population *(page 31)*	Declined	Declined
% of total household waste arising that is recycled *(page 30)*	Stable	Improved
% of adults satisfied with refuse collection services (Note 1) *(page 29)*	Stable	Improved
% of adults satisfied with street cleaning services (Note 1) *(page 29)*	Declined	Declined
Cost of Roads per KM (page 31)	Stable	Improved
% of A Class roads that should be considered for maintenance treatment (Note 2) *(page 32)*	Improved	Improved
% of B Class roads that should be considered for maintenance treatment (Note 2) *(page 33)*	Improved	Declined
% of C Class roads that should be considered for maintenance treatment (Note 2) *(page 33)*	Improved	Improved
% of U Class roads that should be considered for maintenance treatment (Note 3) *(page 34)*	Improved	Improved

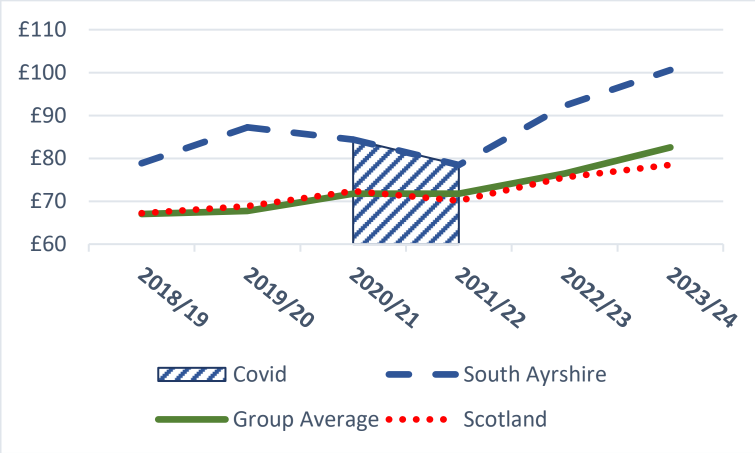
Year on Year Performance



Performance V Base Year



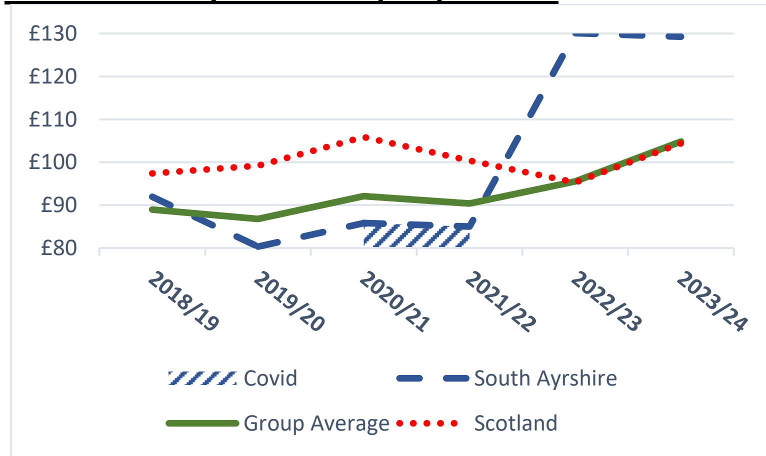
Net waste collection cost per premise:



Family Group Ranking						
Date	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
East Ayrshire	5	4	5	3	3	4
East Lothian	4	5	4	7	5	5
Fife	1	2	2	2	2	2
Moray	2	1	1	1	1	1
North Ayrshire	3	3	3	4	4	3
Perth & Kinross	6	6	6	5	6	6
South Ayrshire	7	7	7	6	7	7
Stirling	8	8	8	8	8	8

Commentary
In 2023/24 we saw a significant increase in employee and transport costs. It should be noted that not all Authorities manage the replacement of fleet and machinery in the same way. In South Ayrshire we lease vehicles and larger machinery which allows us to have a younger fleet. Whereas some Authorities capitalise their fleet and retain vehicles and machinery longer. South Ayrshire invests more in our parks and public open space, and this is seen in the Customer Satisfaction and the awards gained for our parks and beaches.

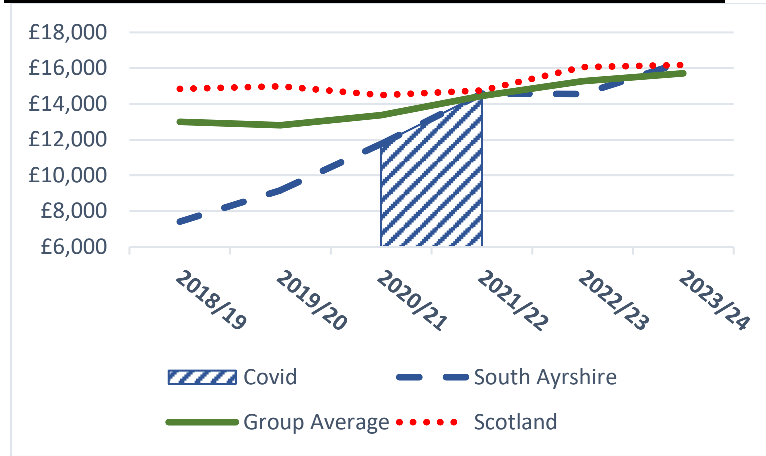
Net waste disposal cost per premise:



Family Group Ranking						
Date	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
East Ayrshire	2	3	2	1	1	5
East Lothian	1	1	1	2	2	1
Fife	3	2	3	4	3	2
Moray	8	6	7	7	6	3
North Ayrshire	7	7	5	5	5	6
Perth & Kinross	6	8	6	8	7	4
South Ayrshire	5	4	4	3	8	8
Stirling	4	5	8	6	4	7

Commentary
South Ayrshire's percentage increase in the Net Waste Collection Costs mirrors that of the family group average increase. All Authorities have different methods of collection. South Ayrshire offers a full suite of segregated waste collection.

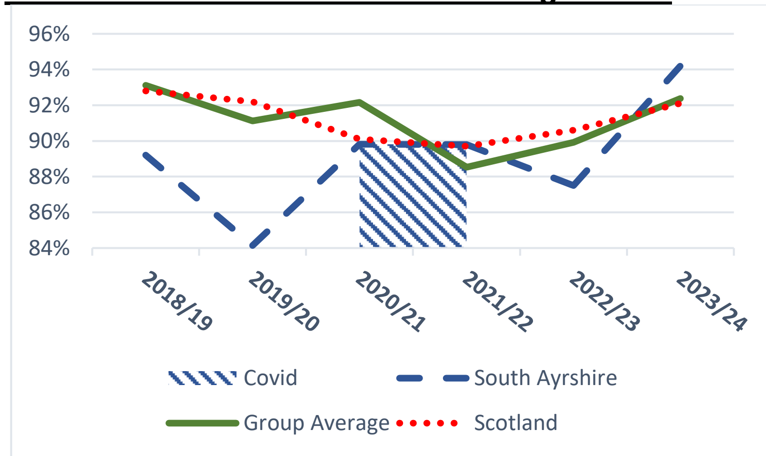
Net cost of street cleaning per 1,000 population:



Family Group Ranking						
Date	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
East Ayrshire	4	4	2	2	1	2
East Lothian	5	5	3	3	3	3
Fife	3	2	5	5	5	5
Moray	2	1	1	1	2	1
North Ayrshire	6	6	6	6	6	6
Perth & Kinross	7	7	7	7	7	7
South Ayrshire	1	3	4	4	4	4
Stirling	8	8	8	8	8	8

Commentary
2023/24 saw the introduction of a new financial system and when figures were submitted there may well have been issues with mis coding. The Service believes that the cost assigned to them for 2023/24 should be lower and they will be working with finance to ensure that figures submitted for 2024/25 are more accurate.

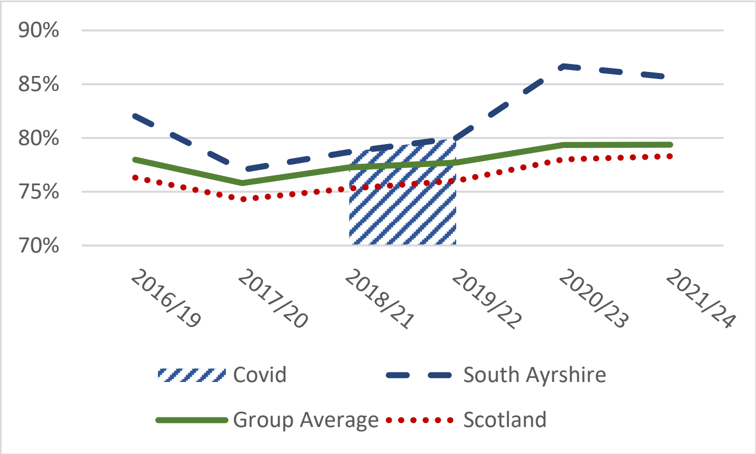
Street Cleanliness Index - Percentage Clean:



Family Group Ranking						
Date	2016/17	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
East Ayrshire	7	6	2	5	5	6
East Lothian	5	5	6	3	4	7
Fife	2	3	1	4	1	4
Moray	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A
North Ayrshire	4	2	5	7	7	5
Perth & Kinross	1	4	3	6	2	1
South Ayrshire	6	7	7	2	6	3
Stirling	2	1	4	1	3	2

Commentary
Waste Management undertook a review of their Street Cleaning Service and implemented a new zonal system for the small street sweepers, this has been augmented by the use of a private contractor to provide a large unit to clean our wider and busier roads where there is often a heavier level of detritus. The service will continue to monitor and adapt when and where necessary. The success of the implementation of the changes is reflected in our increased Street Cleanliness Index to 94.2%

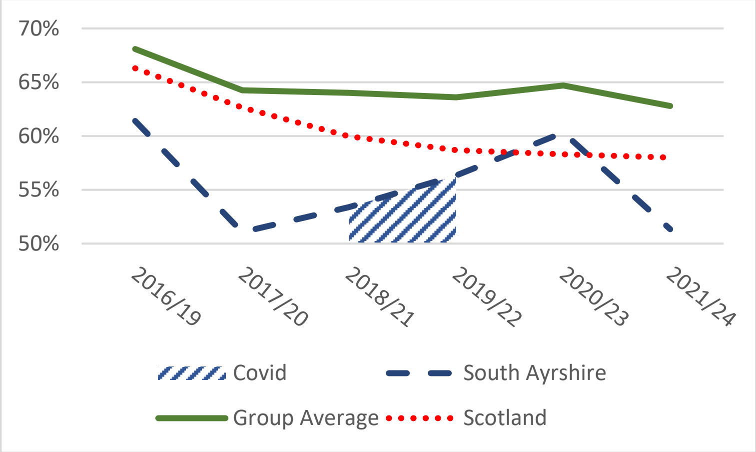
Percentage of adults satisfied with refuse collection services:



Family Group Ranking						
Date	2016/19	2017/20	2018/21	2019/22	2020/23	2023/24
East Ayrshire	7	8	8	8	7	6
East Lothian	6	3	2	2	2	1
Fife	5	2	3	3	5	4
Moray	2	6	7	7	6	7
North Ayrshire	1	4	4	5	3	3
Perth & Kinross	4	1	1	1	4	5
South Ayrshire	3	5	5	4	1	2
Stirling	8	7	6	6	8	8

Commentary
Waste Management works hard to provide an efficient collection system which maximises the opportunity for households to recycle at their doorstep. The Service collects over 6,000,000 bins per annum so very pleased to see that customer satisfaction percentage has been sustained and is significantly higher than our family group.

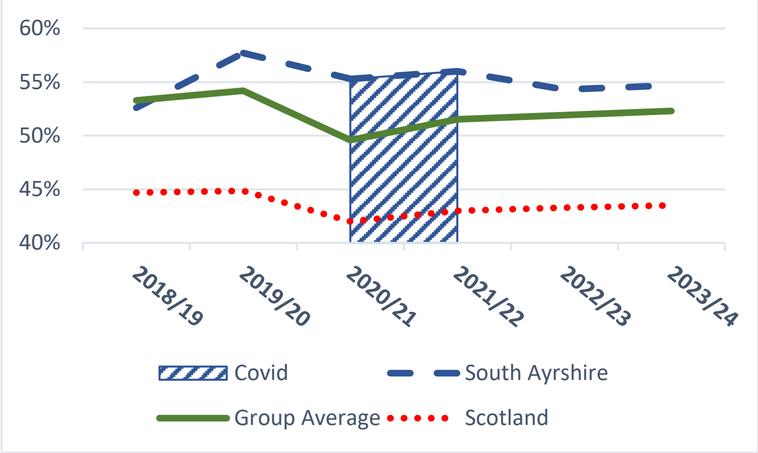
Percentage of adults satisfied with street cleaning services:



Family Group Ranking						
Date	2016/19	2017/20	2018/21	2019/22	2020/23	2023/24
East Ayrshire	6	7	8	8	7	7
East Lothian	1	1	1	1	1	1
Fife	3	3	3	3	4	2
Moray	5	6	5	5	5	6
North Ayrshire	4	4	6	7	7	5
Perth & Kinross	2	2	2	2	2	4
South Ayrshire	7	8	7	6	6	8
Stirling	8	5	4	4	3	3

Commentary
While it is extremely disappointing to see a drop in percentage of people satisfied with street cleansing, it should be remembered that this is an opinion and one where we do not know what they are dissatisfied with. It also does not reflect the Street Cleanliness Index detailed above where the Service has seen an increase from 87.5% to 94.2%.

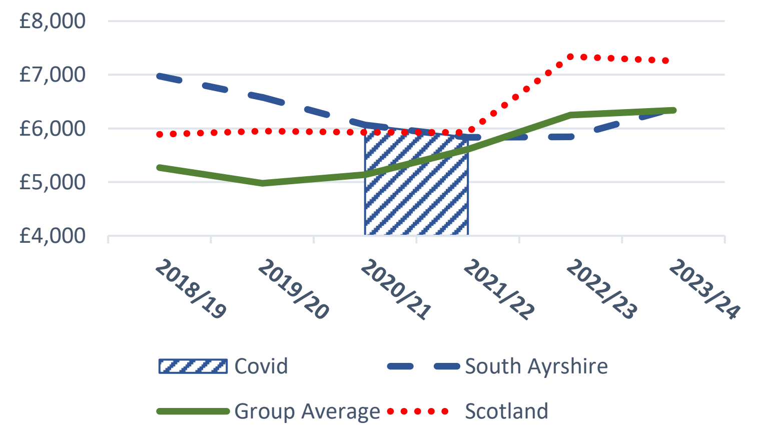
Percentage of total household waste that is recycled each calendar year:



Family Group Ranking						
Date	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
East Ayrshire	6	6	8	7	7	7
East Lothian	4	4	3	3	4	4
Fife	8	8	7	8	8	8
Moray	1	1	2	4	1	2
North Ayrshire	2	3	4	1	2	1
Perth & Kinross	7	7	5	6	6	5
South Ayrshire	5	2	1	2	3	3
Stirling	3	5	6	5	5	6

Commentary
The 2023/24 report has seen a slight increase. The Service works to maximise domestic waste recycling and to reduce recycle that is placed in the residual bin. The Waste Aware Team worked with Zero Waste Scotland and undertook a project to trial interventions that would increase the number of households participating in presenting their Food Waste Caddy. With a percentage of 54.7% South Ayrshire is 5th highest of the Scottish Local Authorities for recycling.

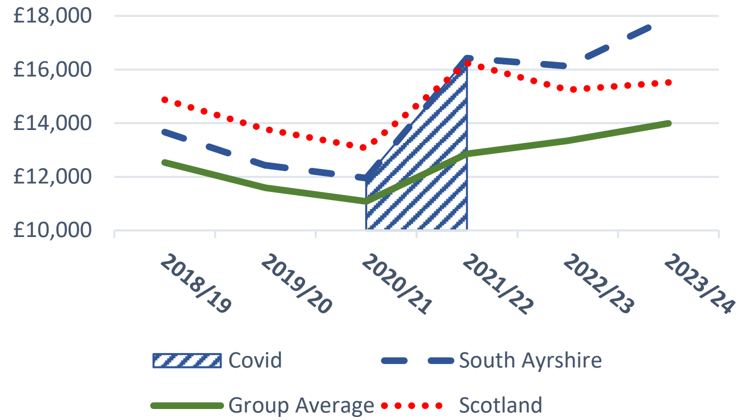
Cost of trading standards per 1,000 population:



Family Group Ranking						
Date	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
East Ayrshire	4	4	5	5	4	4
East Lothian	1	2	2	2	2	2
Fife	7	7	7	7	8	7
Moray	5	5	4	3	5	3
North Ayrshire	2	1	1	1	1	1
Perth & Kinross	3	3	3	6	6	6
South Ayrshire	6	6	6	4	3	5
Stirling	8	8	8	8	7	8

Commentary
This budget has remained stable over recent years and any increases are inflationary. Changes to advice provision should result in a reduction in this figure for 2026.

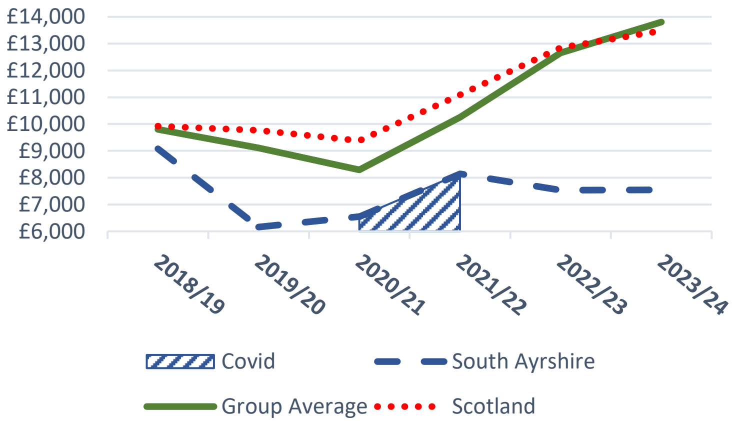
Cost of environmental health per 1,000 population:



Family Group Ranking						
Date	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
East Ayrshire	2	3	4	3	3	4
East Lothian	3	4	3	4	4	3
Fife	5	2	1	1	1	1
Moray	8	8	8	8	8	6
North Ayrshire	1	1	2	2	2	2
Perth & Kinross	7	5	5	5	5	5
South Ayrshire	6	6	6	7	6	7
Stirling	4	7	7	6	7	8

Commentary
The costs in this indicator include the costs of public conveniences which are out with the budget of Trading Standards and Environmental Health. The costs for Environmental Health are £11,929 per 1000 population and have remained consistent after allowing for inflationary increases.

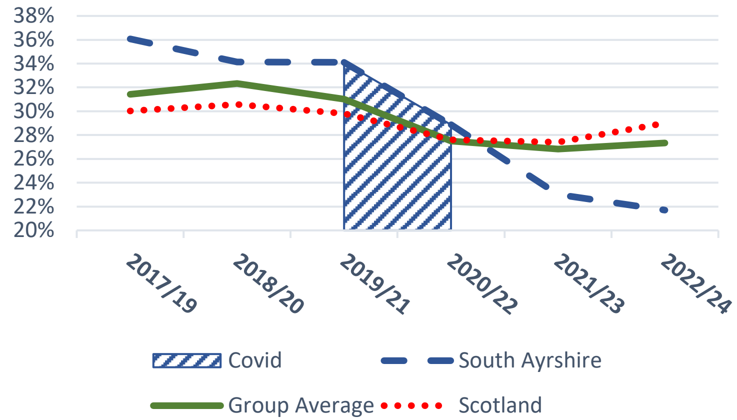
Cost of Roads per KM:



Family Group Ranking						
Date	2016/17	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
East Ayrshire	5	6	8	4	3	3
East Lothian	2	3	4	3	5	4
Fife	4	7	5	5	4	5
Moray	1	2	1	1	1	1
North Ayrshire	6	5	7	7	7	7
Perth & Kinross	7	4	3	8	8	8
South Ayrshire	3	1	2	2	2	2
Stirling	8	8	6	6	6	6

Commentary
The cost of maintenance per kilometre of roads (capital and revenue cost) varies year on year depending on the capital budget and revenue budget allocated to roads maintenance.

% of A Class roads that should be considered for maintenance treatment:

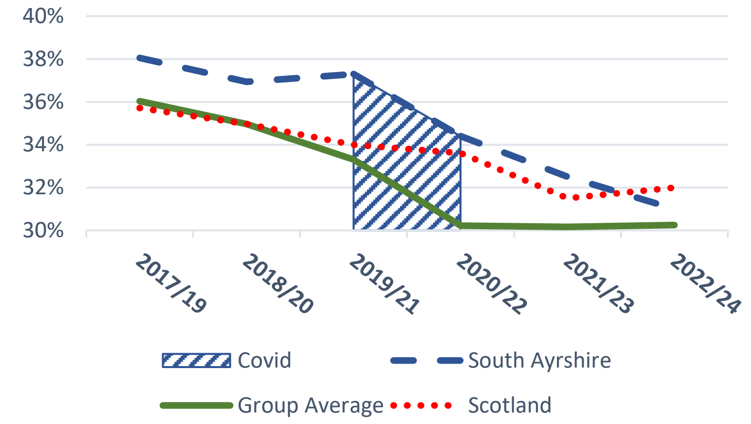


Family Group Ranking						
Date	2017/19	2018/20	2019/21	2020/22	2022/23	2023/24
East Ayrshire	1	1	1	1	1	1
East Lothian	5	3	3	3	4	4
Fife	4	4	4	6	6	4
Moray	3	2	2	2	3	3
North Ayrshire	8	7	7	7	7	6
Perth & Kinross	7	8	8	8	8	8
South Ayrshire	6	6	6	4	2	2
Stirling	2	5	5	5	5	7

Commentary

The condition of our A Class roads in 2023/24 has improved by 1.7% to 21.7% compared to 2022/23 The 2023/24 result of 21.7% for A Class roads is the best result achieved by the Council since the Surveys started in 2006/07 financial year. A factor contributing to this ongoing improvement in the condition of the A Class roads was ongoing targeted carriageway structural maintenance expenditure on A Class Roads The condition of our A Class Roads is 5.6% better than the Scotland national average for this class of road and is now only 4.1% worse than of the equivalent A Class roads in East Ayrshire

% of B Class roads that should be considered for maintenance treatment:

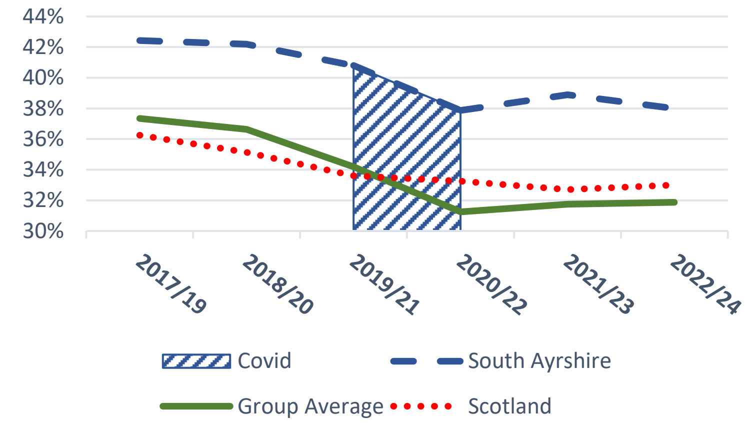


Family Group Ranking						
Date	2017/19	2018/20	2019/21	2020/22	2022/23	2023/24
East Ayrshire	2	2	3	2	2	2
East Lothian	8	7	2	4	6	7
Fife	3	3	5	7	7	6
Moray	1	1	1	1	1	1
North Ayrshire	7	5	3	3	3	3
Perth & Kinross	4	4	6	5	4	5
South Ayrshire	5	6	7	6	5	4
Stirling	6	8	8	8	8	8

Commentary

The condition of our B class roads saw an improvement in condition over the course of the year, by 0.9% to 32.5% compared to 2022/23 which was 34.4%. The 2023/24 result of 31.0% for B Class roads is the best result achieved by the Council since the Surveys started in 2006/07 financial year. A factor contributing to this improvement in the condition of the B Class roads was ongoing targeted carriageway structural maintenance expenditure on B Class Roads This left the condition only 0.7% worse than the Scotland national average for this class of road and is now only 4.9% worse than of the equivalent B Class roads in East Ayrshire.

% of C Class roads that should be considered for maintenance treatment:

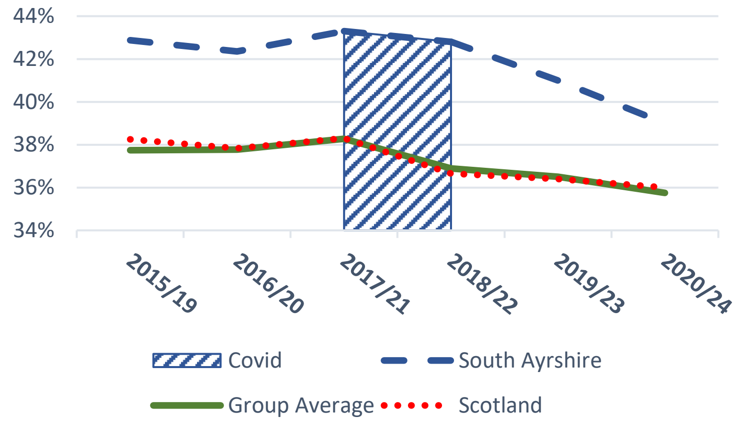


Family Group Ranking						
Date	2017/19	2018/20	2019/21	2020/22	2022/23	2023/24
East Ayrshire	6	5	5	3	5	4
East Lothian	4	2	2	2	2	3
Fife	2	3	3	5	3	2
Moray	1	1	1	1	1	1
North Ayrshire	8	8	8	7	7	8
Perth & Kinross	3	4	4	4	4	4
South Ayrshire	7	7	6	6	6	7
Stirling	5	6	7	8	8	6

Commentary

The 2023/24 results a slight improvement of 0.9% in the condition of our C Class roads to 38.0% compared to 2022/23. To the improvement in the condition of the C Class roads, consideration will be given in future financial years to include a programme of targeted surface dressing which seals the road surface to prevent further deterioration.

% of U Class roads that should be considered for maintenance treatment:



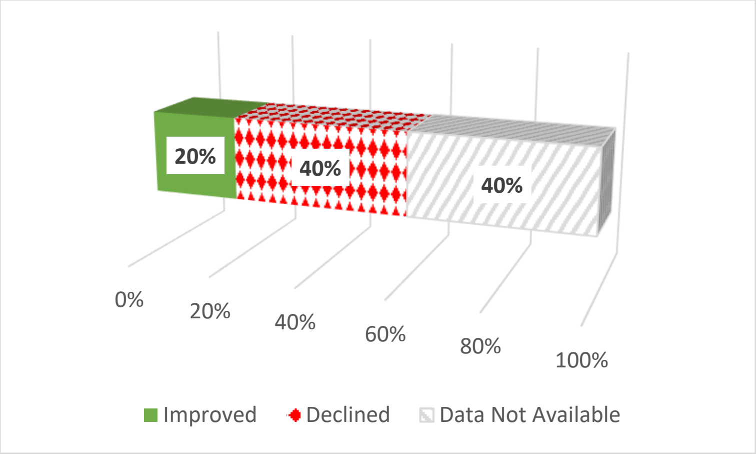
Family Group Ranking						
Date	2015/19	2016/20	2017/21	2018/22	2022/23	2023/24
East Ayrshire	7	6	6	6	6	6
East Lothian	3	2	5	4	5	5
Fife	2	1	1	5	3	4
Moray	1	4	3	2	2	1
North Ayrshire	4	3	4	3	4	2
Perth & Kinross	5	5	2	1	1	2
South Ayrshire	6	7	7	7	7	6
Stirling	8	8	8	8	8	8

Commentary
The 2023/24 results show an improvement of 2.0% in the condition of our U Class roads to 39.0%. To continue this improvement in the condition of the U Class roads, consideration will be given in future financial years to include a programme of targeted surface dressing which seals the road surface to prevent further deterioration.

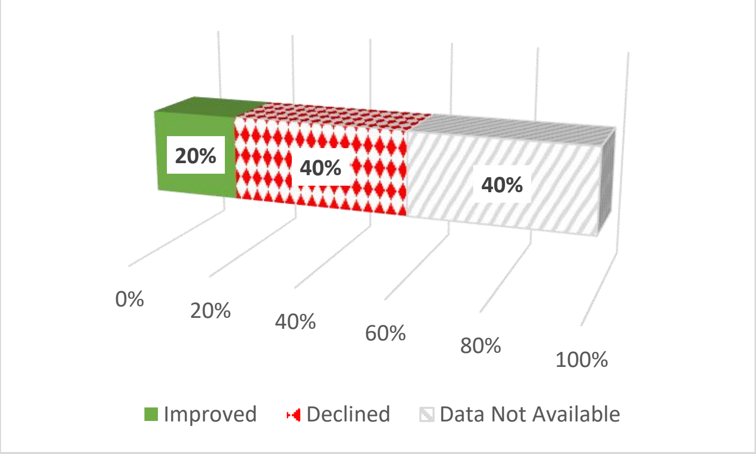
CLIMATE CHANGE

Title	Year on Year Performance	Performance V Base Year
CO_2 emissions area wide per tonne, per capita *(page 36)*	Data Not Available	Data Not Available
CO_2 emissions are wide: emissions within scope of LA per capita *(page 36)*	Data Not Available	Data Not Available
CO_2 Emissions from Transport per Capita *(page 37)*	Declined	Declined
CO_2 Emissions from Electricity per Capita *(page 37)*	Declined	Declined
CO_2 Emissions from Natural Gas per Capita *(page 38)*	Improved	Improved

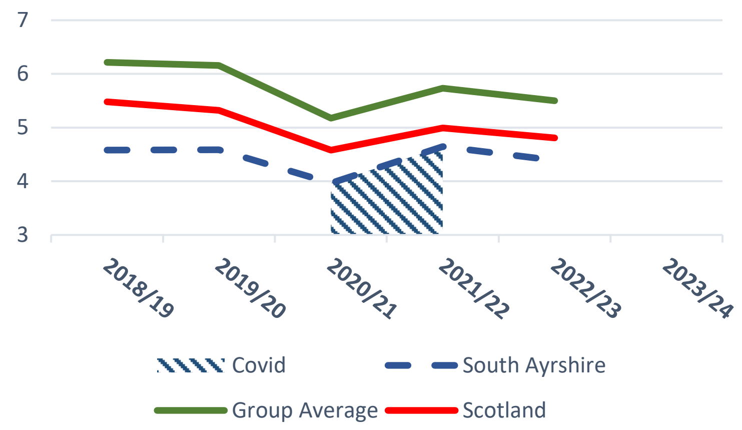
Year on Year Performance



Performance V Base Year



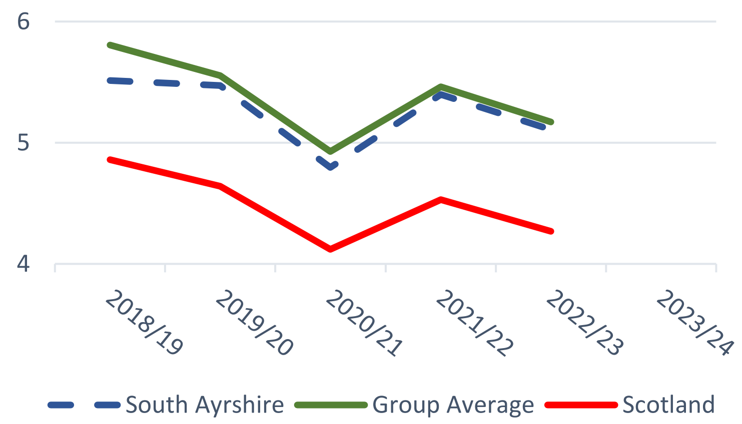
CO2 emissions area wide per tonne, per capita:



Family Group Ranking						
Date	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
East Ayrshire	1	1	1	1	1	#N/A
East Lothian	8	8	8	8	8	#N/A
Fife	7	7	7	7	7	#N/A
Moray	4	3	4	5	5	#N/A
North Ayrshire	5	5	6	6	4	#N/A
Perth & Kinross	6	4	5	4	6	#N/A
South Ayrshire	2	2	3	3	3	#N/A
Stirling	3	6	2	2	2	#N/A

Commentary
This data is produced with a delay, however our work with the Scottish Climate Intelligence Service to use the Climate View tool will support us to target action to tackle this area and drive emissions down.

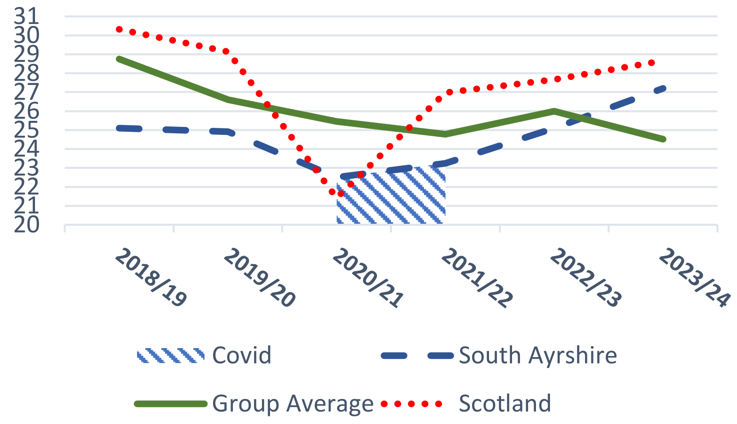
CO2 emissions are wide: emissions within scope of LA per capita:



Family Group Ranking						
Date	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	**2023/24**
East Ayrshire	1	1	1	1	1	#N/A
East Lothian	2	3	2	2	2	#N/A
Fife	3	2	3	3	3	#N/A
Moray	8	8	8	8	8	#N/A
North Ayrshire	4	4	4	4	4	#N/A
Perth & Kinross	6	6	6	6	7	#N/A
South Ayrshire	5	5	5	5	5	#N/A
Stirling	7	7	7	7	6	#N/A

Commentary
This data is produced with a delay, however our work with the Scottish Climate Intelligence Service to use the Climate View tool will support us to target action to tackle this area and drive emissions down.

CO2 Emissions from Transport per Capita:

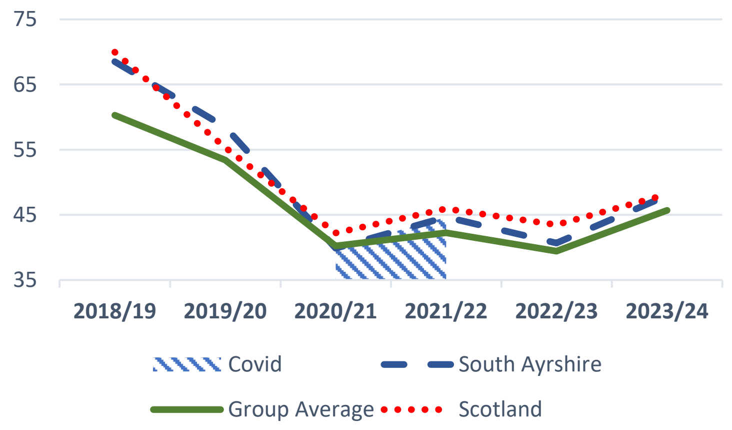


Family Group Ranking						
Date	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
East Ayrshire	7	3	8	5	2	1
East Lothian	1	1	1	1	1	2
Fife	6	5	5	6	6	7
Moray	8	8	7	8	8	8
North Ayrshire	5	7	6	7	7	6
Perth & Kinross	2	2	2	2	3	3
South Ayrshire	3	4	3	3	4	4
Stirling	4	6	4	4	5	5

Commentary

This data is produced with a delay, however our work with the Scottish Climate Intelligence Service to use the Climate View tool will support us to target action to tackle this area and drive emissions down.

CO2 Emissions from Electricity per Capita:

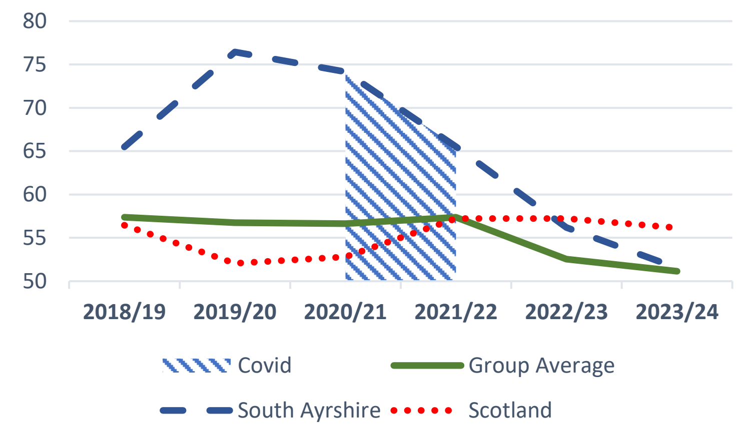


Family Group Ranking						
Date	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
East Ayrshire	5	5	6	4	5	5
East Lothian	4	4	3	3	3	8
Fife	8	8	8	8	6	6
Moray	2	1	1	1	1	1
North Ayrshire	7	6	7	7	7	3
Perth & Kinross	1	2	2	2	2	2
South Ayrshire	6	7	4	5	4	7
Stirling	3	3	5	6	8	4

Commentary

This data is produced with a delay, however our work with the Scottish Climate Intelligence Service to use the Climate View tool will support us to target action to tackle this area and drive emissions down.

CO2 Emissions from Natural Gas per Capita:



Family Group Ranking						
Date	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
East Ayrshire	6	6	6	6	7	7
East Lothian	4	5	5	4	4	3
Fife	5	4	3	5	5	5
Moray	3	1	1	3	2	2
North Ayrshire	8	7	7	8	8	8
Perth & Kinross	2	3	2	2	1	1
South Ayrshire	7	8	8	7	6	6
Stirling	1	2	4	1	3	4

Commentary

This data is produced with a delay, however our work with the Scottish Climate Intelligence Service to use the Climate View tool will support us to target action to tackle this area and drive emissions down.

Additional Notes:

Note 1: The customer satisfaction data drawn from the Scottish Household Survey is presented in 3-year rolled averages to deliver the required precision at local level. Base period for comparison is 2016-19.

Note 2: Figures represent a two-year rolling average from the condition surveys. Base period for comparison is 2017/19.

Note 3: Figures represent a four -year rolling average from the condition surveys. Base period for comparison is 2015/19.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BENCHMARKING FRAMEWORK (LGBF)

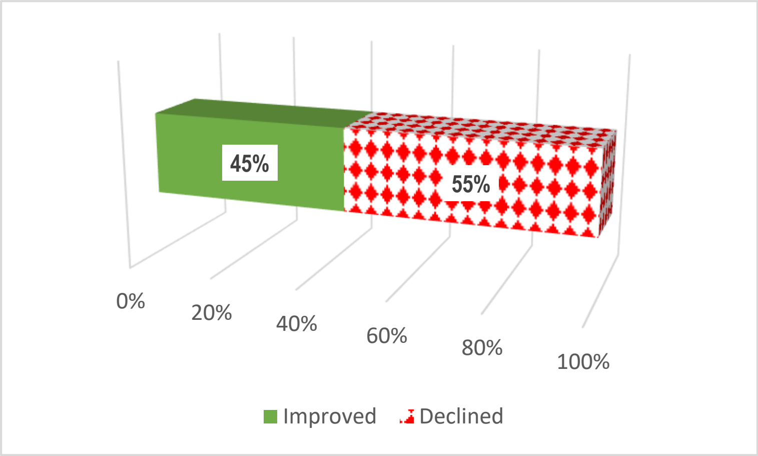
PART TWO THEMES PRESENTED FOR SCRUTINY

Contents:

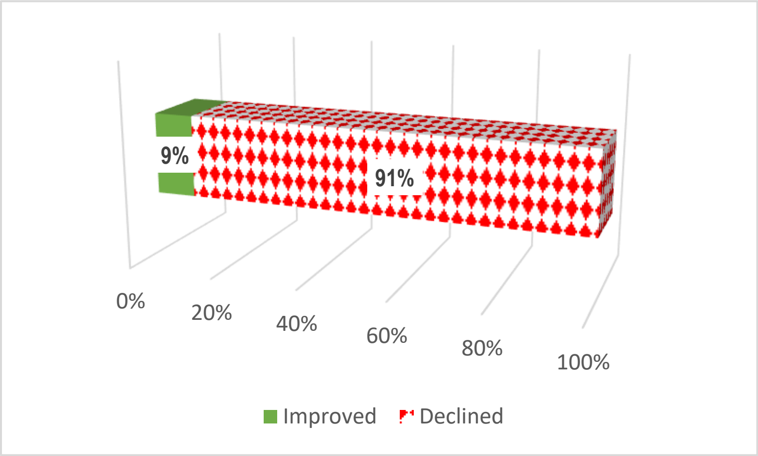
ADULT SOCIAL CARE

Title	Year on Year Performance	Performance V Base Year
Home care costs per hour for people aged 65 or over *(page 3)*	Improved	Declined
Self-Directed Support (Direct Payments + Managed Personalised Budgets) spend on adults 18+ as a % of total social work spend on adults 18+ *(page 4)*	Improved	Declined
% of people aged 65 and over with long-term care needs who receiving personal care at home *(page 5)*	Improved	Declined
% of adults supported at home who agree that their services and support had an impact in improving or maintaining their quality of life *(page 6)*	Declined	Declined
Percentage of adults supported at home who agree that they are supported to live as independently as possible *(page 7)*	Declined	Declined
Percentage of adults supported at home who agree that they had a say in how their help, care or support was provided *(page 7)*	Declined	Declined
Percentage of carers who feel supported to continue in their caring role *(page 8)*	Declined	Declined
Residential costs per week per resident for people aged 65 or over *(page 9)*	Declined	Declined
Rate of readmission to hospital within 28 days per 1,000 discharges *(page 9)*	Declined	Improved
Proportion of care services graded good or better in Care Inspectorate inspections *(page 10)*	Improved	Declined
Number of days people spend in hospital when they are ready to be discharged, per 1,000 population (75+) *(page 11)*	Improved	Declined

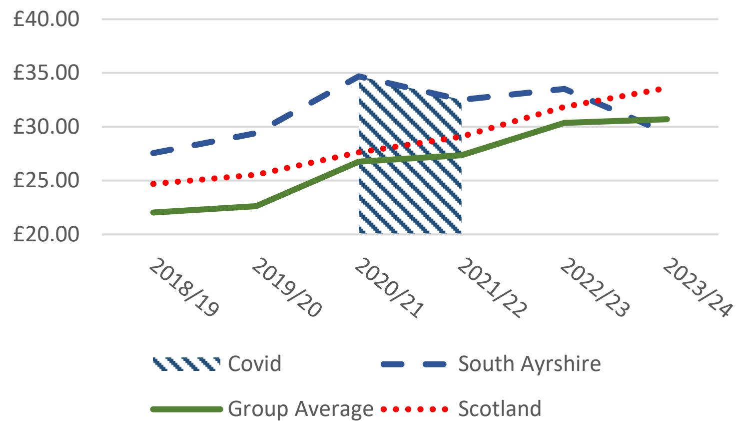
Year on Year Performance



Performance V Base Year



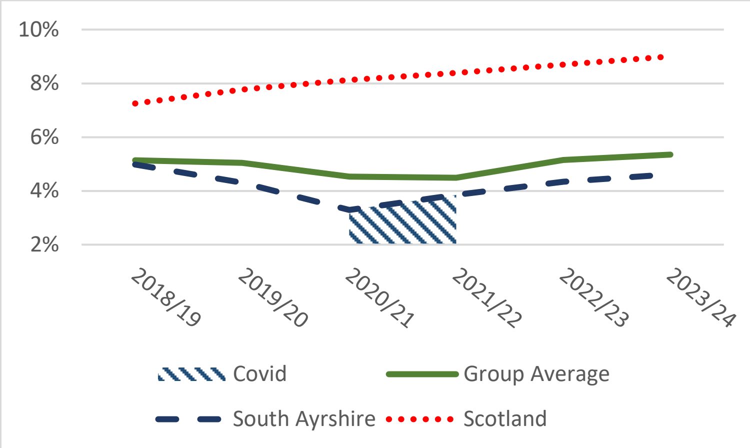
Home care costs per hour for people aged 65 or over:



Family Group Ranking						
Date	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Clackmannanshire	1	1	1	1	1	1
Dumfries & Galloway	2	2	2	2	3	3
Falkirk	5	7	8	8	7	6
Fife	4	6	6	7	8	8
Renfrewshire	7	4	4	4	4	5
South Ayrshire	8	8	7	6	6	4
South Lanarkshire	3	3	3	5	5	7
West Lothian	6	5	5	3	2	2

Commentary
Unit Costs have continued to decrease as a result of increase capacity internally through use of CM2000, purchased care at home hours remain the same as previous with an increase in internally provided care at home.

Self-Directed Support (Direct Payments + Managed Personalised Budgets) spend on adults 18+ as a % of total social work spend on adults 18+:



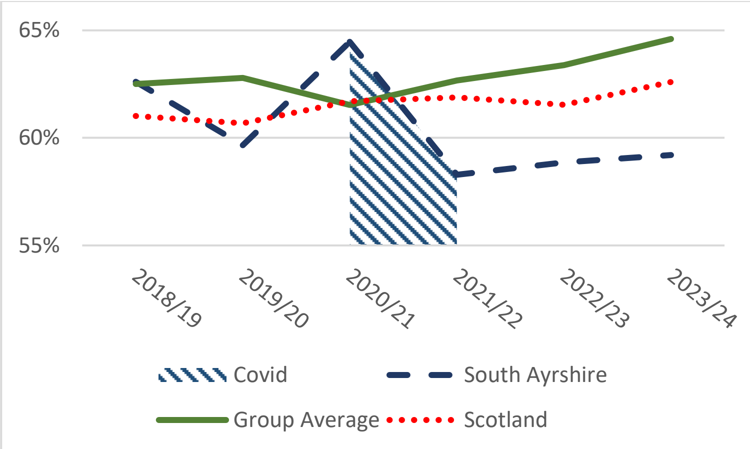
Family Group Ranking						
Date	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Clackmannanshire	8	7	8	8	7	6
Dumfries & Galloway	2	2	2	2	2	2
Falkirk	4	3	3	7	8	7
Fife	7	8	7	6	6	8
Renfrewshire	3	6	4	3	4	4
South Ayrshire	5	4	6	5	5	5
South Lanarkshire	6	5	5	4	3	3
West Lothian	1	1	1	1	1	1

Commentary

Performance has continued to improve between 2022-23 and 2023-24 with an increase in South Ayrshire from 4.3% to 4.6% in terms of SDS spend on adults as a percentage of total adult social work spend. However South Ayrshires performance is still below both the Family Group Average and the National average at 5.3% and 9.1% respectively.

Improvement work around systems, processes and practitioner development of Self-Directed Support is ongoing and the benefits of this are now emerging. Examples of this include 38 • SDS Lead Officer facilitating South Ayrshire HSCP involvement in the SDS Community of Practice group specifically working on phase 2 of the roll out of the SDS Learning and Improvement Framework. This promotes a learning-based approach to self-evaluation and improvement and relates directly to several of our SA specific pieces of SDS improvement work. • South Ayrshire HASCP were allocated 6 slots on the Social Work Scotland SDS Practitioner Roadshow. This is aimed at social work practitioners and will discuss how to use the SDS Standards to strengthen relationship-based practice and help people achieve their outcomes. It will also aid knowledge and confidence in the use of SDS as participants are required to filtrate this information back to their respective teams. We have confirmed all 6 nominations from a variety of teams across both Adult and Children's services. • In addition to the e-learning course which has been targeted across the partnership, there are three in person, 2-hour SDS information sessions booked currently for specific teams. The aim of these sessions is to raise knowledge and confidence in supporting the use of SDS and to introduce the various toolkits and materials available to different levels of practitioner. • The review of ISF contracts for use in option 2 and microenterprises. This is a Scottish government funded project specifically for SAHSCP. The aim is to both provide a more formal level of quality assurance and means that microenterprises can be further developed and will be available to individuals using option 2. Currently the contract only allows for this as an option 1 meaning that this community based, less formal, softer approach to less intense care is not available to all. The redesign of the ISF will change this. This project group is also looking at updating the option 1 Direct Payment contract as part of this work. • SDS Lead involvement in various ongoing SDS development national workstreams. These are working towards achieving the targets set out in the national SDS Improvement Plan, the SAHSCP SDS Improvement Plan also reflecting its content and improvement strategies. • SDS Operating Procedure has been completed for adult services. SDS Lead is now moving on to look at an operating procedure for children's services. • The new SDS Booklet is nearing completion and will be available as an electronic document or in printed form. This will be a helpful guide to SDS for practitioners, front line first point of contact staff and service users.

% of people aged 65 and over with long term care needs who receive personal care at home:

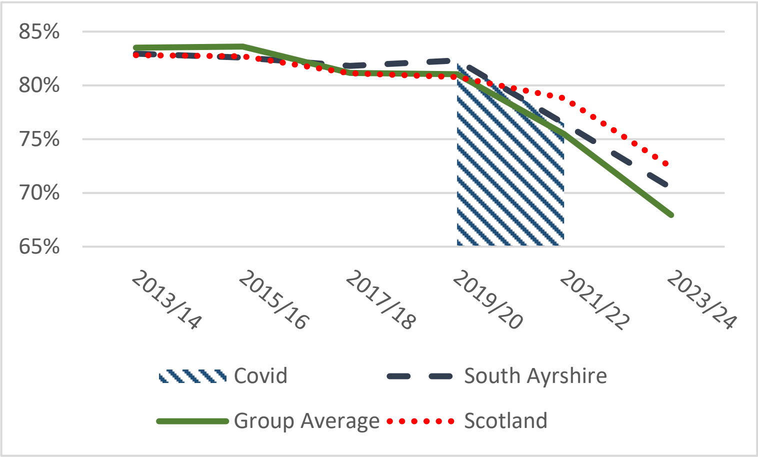


Family Group Ranking						
Date	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Clackmannanshire	1	2	1	1	1	1
Dumfries & Galloway	5	4	7	3	3	4
Falkirk	2	3	3	2	2	2
Fife	8	8	8	6	6	6
Renfrewshire	7	5	6	8	7	4
South Ayrshire	4	6	4	7	8	8
South Lanarkshire	6	7	5	5	5	7
West Lothian	3	1	2	4	4	3

Commentary

The overall figure remains largely unchanged, and we remain largely in line with the Scottish and benchmarking average in this area. Significant investment into Reablement and care at home to support more people to remain as independent as close to home as possible has been undermined by significant workforce challenges during 2021-23 which at its worst left a 30% vacancy rate for in house services. There has now been recruitment into 160 additional Council Care at Home posts and the private sector has somewhat stabilised, however demographic pressures create an annual increase demand of around 2% meaning that capacity is not keeping up with demand and the number of people waiting to receive care at home remains high.

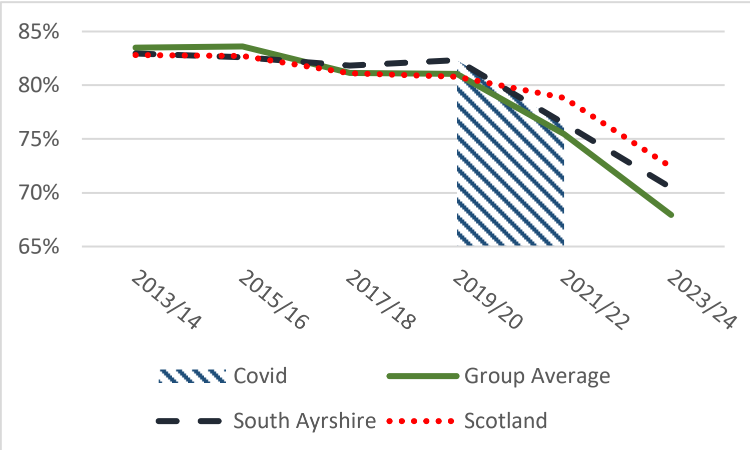
% of adults supported at home who agree that their services and support had an impact on improving or maintaining their quality of life:



Family Group Ranking						
Date	2013/14	2015/16	2017/18	2019/20	2021/22	2023/24
Clackmannanshire	2	8	8	1	1	7
Dumfries & Galloway	1	1	2	3	2	1
Falkirk	3	2	7	6	8	8
Fife	5	4	5	5	6	3
Renfrewshire	7	6	6	2	5	5
South Ayrshire	6	3	1	4	7	2
South Lanarkshire	4	5	4	7	3	6
West Lothian	8	7	3	8	4	4

Commentary
There has been a reduction in this figure across Scotland and our benchmarking partners as a result of the pandemic. The impact in South Ayrshire was greater in 2021-22 due to the significant workforce challenges, however in 2023-24 as our workforce position improved the deterioration has been less pronounced than in benchmarking partners.

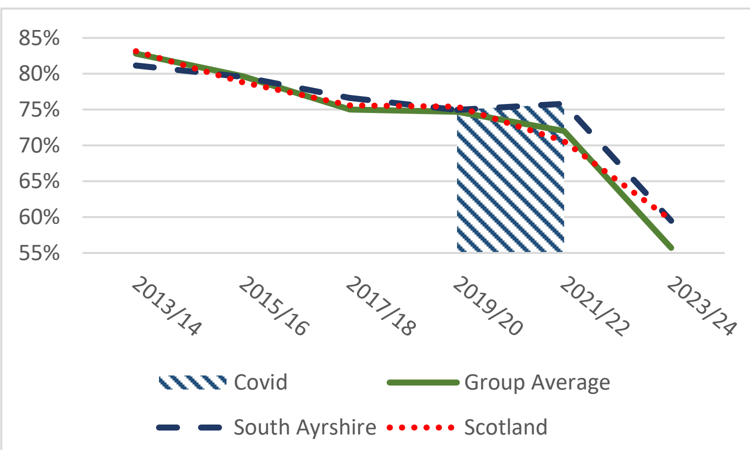
% of people aged 65 and over with long term care needs who agree that they are supported to live as independently as possible:



Date	2017/18	2019/20	2021/22	2023/24
Clackmannanshire	8	1	6	8
Dumfries & Galloway	1	4	3	1
Falkirk	2	7	7	5
Fife	3	8	2	3
Renfrewshire	7	5	5	7
South Ayrshire	4	3	4	2
South Lanarkshire	5	2	1	6
West Lothian	6	6	8	4

Commentary
The percentage of adults who responded that they agreed they are supported to live as independently as possible reduced from 76.5% in 2021/22 to 70.5% in 2023/24. There was also a similar national reduction from 78.8% to 72.4%.

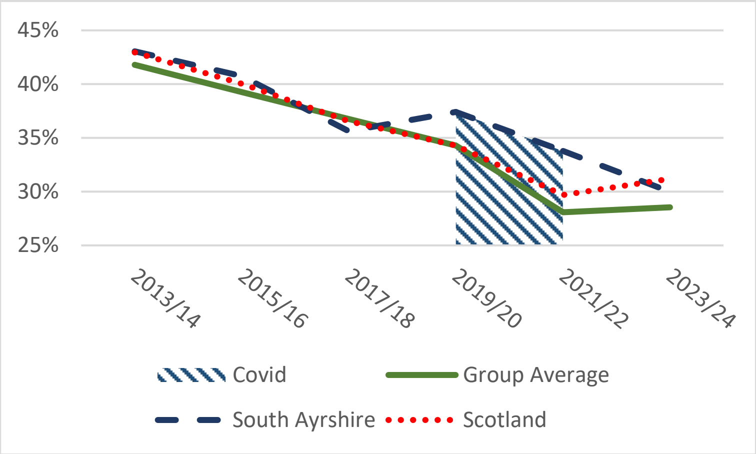
% of adults supported at home who agree that they had a say in how their help, care or support was provided:



Date	2017/18	2019/20	2021/22	2023/24
Clackmannanshire	6	3	5	7
Dumfries & Galloway	1	2	3	1
Falkirk	4	1	8	2
Fife	5	6	6	8
Renfrewshire	7	7	4	5
South Ayrshire	2	5	2	3
South Lanarkshire	8	4	7	4
West Lothian	3	8	1	6

Commentary
This measure has seen a significant deterioration locally and across benchmarking partners. This is likely to be due to the ongoing constraints on the care sector which limits the choice of supports that can be offered.

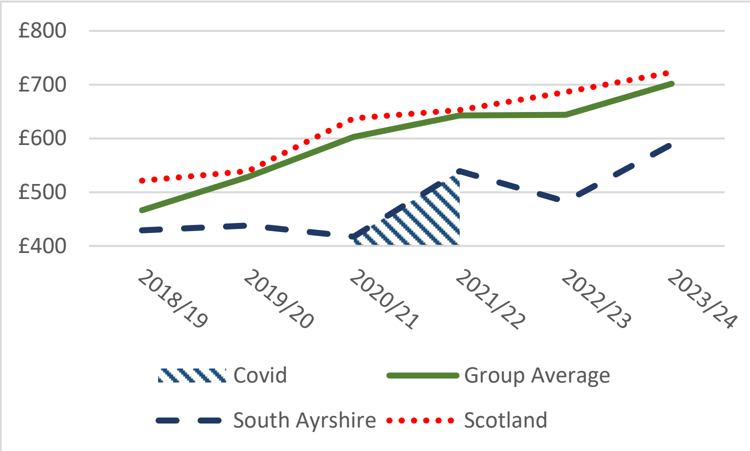
% of carers who feel supported to continue their caring role:



Date	2017/18	2019/20	2021/22	2023/24
Clackmannanshire	3	8	8	7
Dumfries & Galloway	2	4	2	4
Falkirk	4	2	4	1
Fife	7	5	5	2
Renfrewshire	5	6	6	5
South Ayrshire	5	1	1	3
South Lanarkshire	8	7	3	6
West Lothian	1	3	7	8

Commentary
The percentage of carers who report that they are supported to continue in their caring role has decreased from 33.8% in 2021/22 to 30.0% in 2023/24. Nationally performance has increased from 29.7% to 31.2%. South Ayrshire has performed above the national average over the previous two reporting periods and was ranked 5th highest in Scotland in 2021/22. South Ayrshire also performed mid-way out of all of the family group comparator partnerships. This is a national survey and the HSCP cannot access individual results and might not be in contact or provide services to the carers who have been surveyed. SAHSCP has recently reconvened the Adult Carers Strategic Group which will act as a scrutiny group reviewing, as part of its remit, performance across the locality teams as well as developing new reports containing qualitative data. Local measures will form part of this new suite of performance reports, one of which is the same as the national measure "% of Carers who are supported to continue in their caring role". This local analysis will enable remedial action to be taken to address any issues with carers at an individual level. The first iteration of this data is presented in the measure 2.3 and was presented to the last meeting of the Adult Carers Strategic Group.

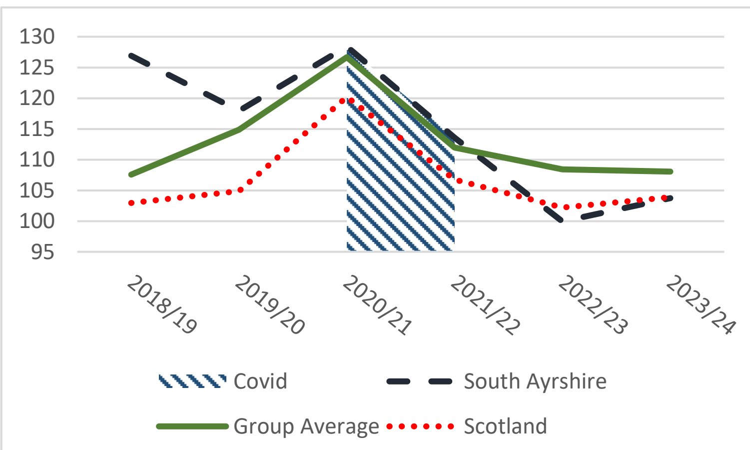
Residential costs per week per resident for people aged 65 or over:



Family Group Ranking						
Date	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Clackmannanshire	8	7	7	7	4	5
Dumfries & Galloway	1	2	1	1	1	1
Falkirk	7	4	4	4	6	4
Fife	3	8	8	8	8	8
Renfrewshire	2	1	3	2	3	2
South Ayrshire	4	3	2	3	2	3
South Lanarkshire	5	5	5	5	5	6
West Lothian	6	6	6	6	7	7

Commentary
The gross costs have increased in 23-24 due to an increase in nursing provision to 75% ,this was previously 67%. The proportion of self-funders is 40% in South Ayrshire, reflected in lower unit cost.

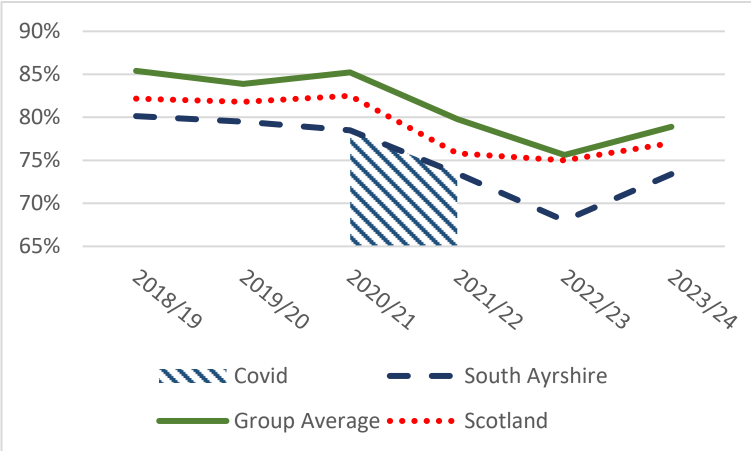
Rate of readmission to hospital within 28 days per 1,000 discharges:



Family Group Ranking						
Date	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Clackmannanshire	5	7	8	7	7	7
Dumfries & Galloway	2	2	2	2	2	3
Falkirk	7	8	7	8	8	8
Fife	6	4	4	5	6	6
Renfrewshire	1	1	1	1	1	1
South Ayrshire	8	6	6	6	5	5
South Lanarkshire	3	3	3	3	4	4
West Lothian	4	5	5	4	3	2

Commentary
Readmission rates to an Acute Hospital within 28 days of discharge reduced from a peak of 129 in 2020 to 104 in 2023. The average across Scotland also reduced from 120 to 104. There was a slight increase in the past year from 100 to 104 which is in line with the National Average. It should be noted that South Ayrshire has a very high proportion of Older People and a high dependency ratio which will have an impact on admissions to hospital due to the large numbers of people living with frailty, therefore to be in line with the National Average should be highlighted a success.

Proportion of care services graded good or better in Care Inspectorate inspections:

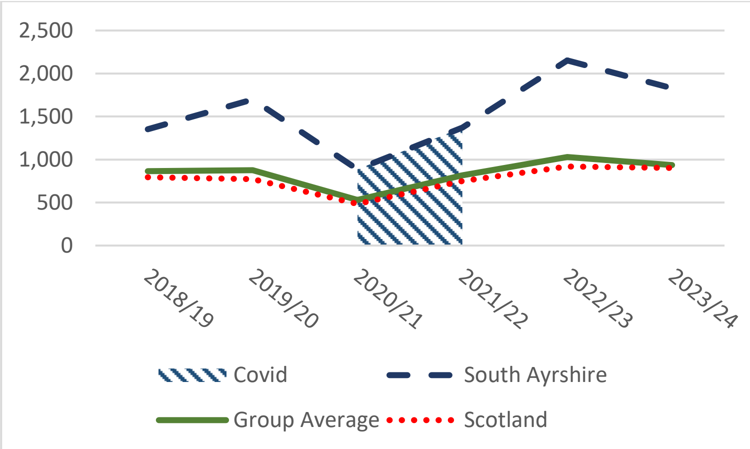


Family Group Ranking						
Date	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Clackmannanshire	1	1	1	1	1	1
Dumfries & Galloway	7	8	5	5	4	6
Falkirk	5	2	2	3	2	2
Fife	3	4	4	8	8	8
Renfrewshire	2	3	3	2	3	5
South Ayrshire	8	7	8	7	7	7
South Lanarkshire	6	6	7	6	4	4
West Lothian	4	5	6	4	6	3

Commentary

The national measure covers all registered services operating in South Ayrshire including those operated by the Health and Social Care Partnership and those commissioned from the Independent Sector (which include some services not used by South Ayrshire HSCP/Council). In 2023 South Ayrshire was ranked 26th out of all partnerships in terms of performance. South Ayrshire performance increased from 68% to 73% over the past year. The family group average for 2023-24 was 78.9%. South Ayrshire had the second lowest performance in the group with Fife having the lowest and Falkirk having the highest. However, our in-house services continue to receive extremely good inspection outcomes with 27/30 domains rated very good or excellent and the remaining 3 domains rated good.

Number of days people spend in hospital when they are ready to be discharged, per 1,000 population (75+):



Family Group Ranking						
Date	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Clackmannanshire	4	1	6	3	3	3
Dumfries & Galloway	2	4	1	4	6	7
Falkirk	6	6	7	7	7	6
Fife	3	3	5	5	4	2
Renfrewshire	1	2	3	1	1	1
South Ayrshire	8	8	8	8	8	8
South Lanarkshire	5	7	4	6	5	5
West Lothian	7	5	2	2	2	4

Commentary

There has been some improvement in this measure during 2023-24 but South Ayrshire remains well above the Scottish and Benchmarking average. There has now been recruitment into 160 additional Council Care at Home posts and the private sector has somewhat stabilised, however demographic pressures create an annual increase demand of around 2% meaning that capacity is not keeping up with demand and the number of people experiencing delays remains high. This measure has continued to improve into 2024-25 though and the team remain focussed on this measure as the number one area for improvement.

VULNERABLE CHILDREN

Title	Year on Year Performance	Performance V Base Year
The Gross Cost of 'Children Looked After' in Residential Based Services per Child per Week *(page 13)*	Declined	Declined
The Gross Cost of 'Children Looked' After in a Community Setting per Child per Week *(page 14)*	Declined	Declined
Percentage of children being looked after in the community *(page 15)*	Stable	Declined
Literacy Attainment Gap (P1,4,7 Combined) - percentage point gap between the least deprived and most deprived pupils *(page 16)*	Improved	Improved
Numeracy Attainment Gap (P1,4,7 Combined) - percentage point gap between the least deprived and most deprived pupils *(page 16)*	Stable	Improved
School attendance rate (Looked After Children) *(page 17)*	Data Not Available	Declined
School exclusion rates (per 1,000 'looked after children') *(page 18)*	Data Not Available	Improved
Percentage of child protection re-registrations within 18 months *(page 19)*	Stable	Improved
Percentage looked after children with more than 1 placement in the last year (Aug-July) *(page 19)*	Improved	Improved
Percentage of children living in poverty (After Housing Costs) *(page 20)*	Improved	Improved

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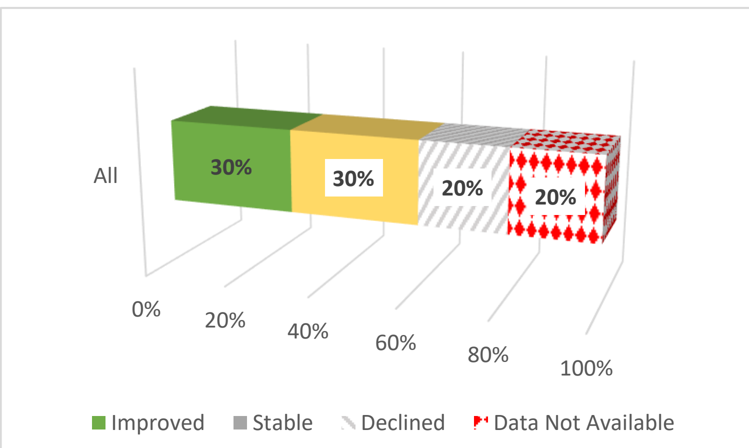
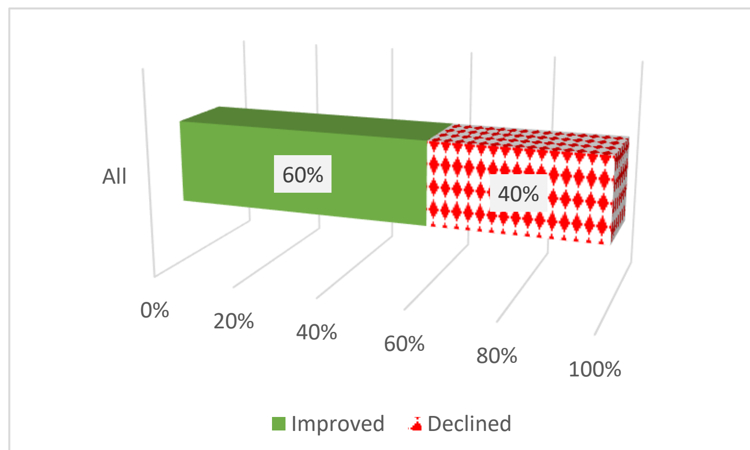
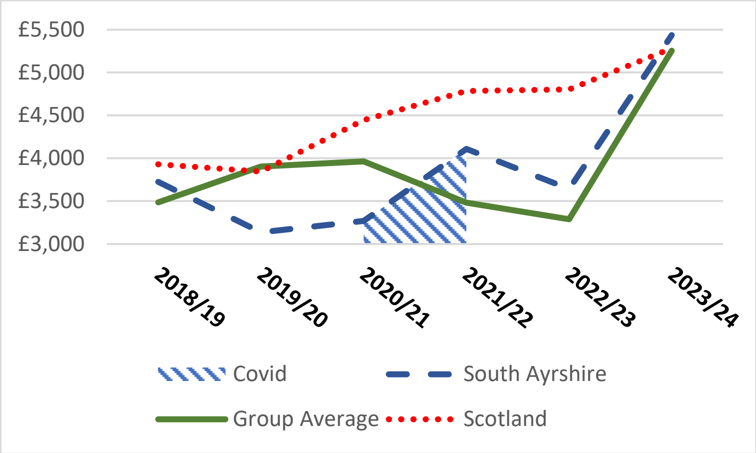
Year on Year Performance



Performance V Base Year



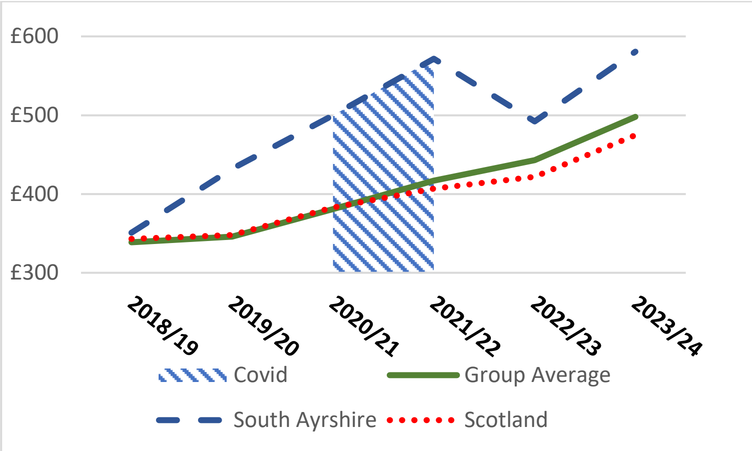
The gross cost of 'children looked after' in residential based services per child per week:



Family Group Ranking						
Date	**2018/19**	**2019/20**	**2020/21**	**2021/22**	**2022/23**	**2023/24**
Clackmannanshire	1	1	5	1	1	2
Dumfries & Galloway	7	5	6	2	2	1
Falkirk	8	4	7	8	6	6
Fife	5	8	8	4	4	4
Renfrewshire	6	7	2	6	7	8
South Ayrshire	3	3	3	7	5	7
South Lanarkshire	2	2	4	5	8	5
West Lothian	4	6	1	3	3	3

Commentary
South Ayrshire have remained committed to keeping The Promise & Children and young people in South Ayrshire and in Families or Family type care. For the past 6 years this has resulted in a reduction in the number of children who were previously in Out with Authority Residential Care by 56%. However, the figures captured for 23/24 reflect an increase in the costs associated with the use of secure accommodation use for two young people involved in the Station hotel Fire and another young person involved in a very serious offence which resulted in the need for us to place him also in Secure Care. These expensive placements have affected our figures for this year, however in general we are consistently reducing our spend in residential care.

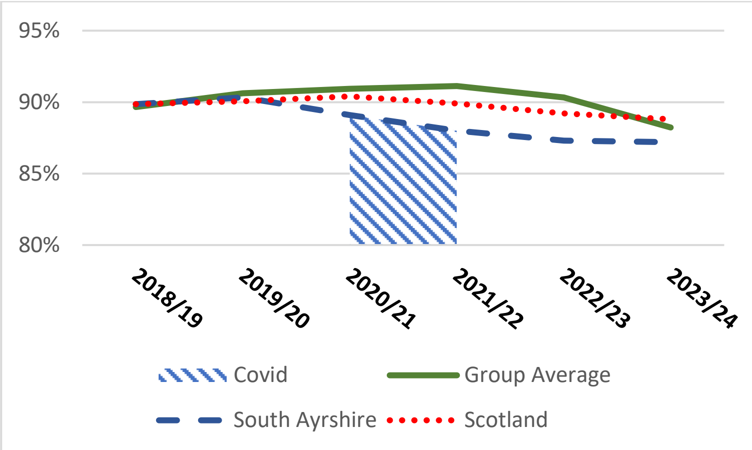
The gross cost of 'children looked after' in a community setting per child per week:



Family Group Ranking						
Date	**2018/19**	**2019/20**	**2020/21**	**2021/22**	**2022/23**	**2023/24**
Clackmannanshire	6	4	3	4	5	5
Dumfries & Galloway	1	3	3	5	4	4
Falkirk	4	5	2	2	3	3
Fife	8	8	8	7	8	8
Renfrewshire	7	6	5	3	1	1
South Ayrshire	5	7	7	8	6	6
South Lanarkshire	2	2	1	1	2	2
West Lothian	3	1	6	6	7	7

Commentary
In keeping the Promise and reducing the number of children in residential care, as described above. There has been a clear intent to support our children and young people within their community, this has resulted in investment to grow Foster Care and Kinship care provision. South Ayrshire's investment in this area has cost us more "gross costs", but this is intentional and part of our ambition to keep children in Families and in South Ayrshire.

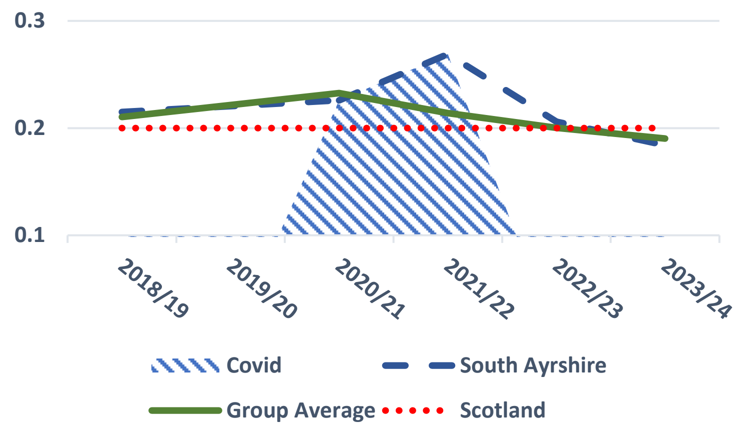
<u>Percentage of children being looked after in the Community</u>:



Family Group Ranking						
Date	**2018/19**	**2019/20**	**2020/21**	**2021/22**	**2022/23**	**2023/24**
Clackmannanshire	2	3	2	1	1	2
Dumfries & Galloway	1	2	5	3	3	3
Falkirk	8	8	8	8	8	8
Fife	7	7	1	1	2	7
Renfrewshire	3	1	4	4	4	1
South Ayrshire	6	6	7	7	7	5
South Lanarkshire	4	5	6	5	6	4
West Lothian	4	4	3	6	5	6

Commentary
South Ayrshire have done much to work to keep the Promise and works within the “No Order principle” which means that we have more children cared for in their community, but NOT on Supervision Orders and therefore not counted for LGBF. This data does not reflect that 81% of our caseloads are worked out with of statutory intervention through the Children’s Hearing. This is done on an Early Intervention and Preventative basis, using the Signs of Safety framework which again reflects the culture change in South Ayrshire and aligning with the Children services Planning, GIRFEC, The Promise and UNCRC

Literacy Attainment Gap (P1,4,7 Combined) - percentage point gap between the least deprived and most deprived pupils:

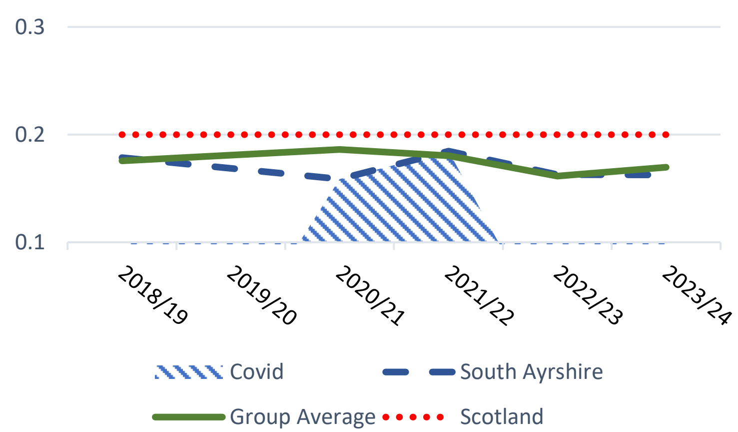


Family Group Ranking						
Date	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Clackmannanshire	6	DNA	1	2	2	2
Dumfries & Galloway	1	DNA	3	1	1	1
Falkirk	8	DNA	7	8	3	3
Fife	2	DNA	6	5	7	7
Renfrewshire	4	DNA	8	4	8	8
South Ayrshire	5	DNA	4	7	4	5
South Lanarkshire	3	DNA	5	6	6	6
West Lothian	7	DNA	2	3	5	4

Commentary

The gap between the most and least deprived pupils in literacy continues to decline. This now sits slightly below the family group average at 18pp. School pupil equity funding, local authority strategic equity funding and improvements in tracking and monitoring are ensuring a continued focus on this work.

Numeracy Attainment Gap (P1,4,7 Combined) - percentage point gap between the least deprived and most deprived pupils:

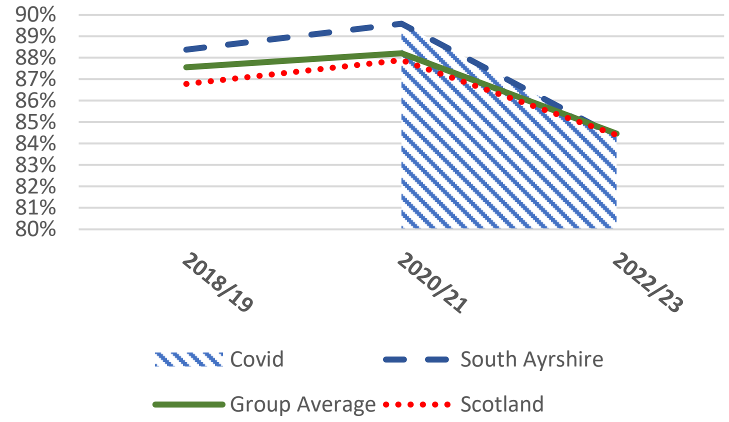


Family Group Ranking						
Date	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Clackmannanshire	4	DNA	1	2	4	4
Dumfries & Galloway	7	DNA	3	1	1	2
Falkirk	6	DNA	6	8	3	1
Fife	2	DNA	7	7	8	8
Renfrewshire	3	DNA	8	6	7	7
South Ayrshire	5	DNA	2	4	2	3
South Lanarkshire	1	DNA	5	5	6	6
West Lothian	8	DNA	4	3	5	5

Commentary

The gap between the most and least deprived in numeracy at P1,4&7 combined remains static. In 2023/24 this sits slightly below the family group average at 16pp. A focus on school attendance, pupil equity funding, local authority strategic equity funding and improvements in tracking and monitoring are ensuring a continued focus on this work. Overall, attainment for all has improved. This has resulted in improvements for the least and most deprived ensuring the gap remains similar to previous years.

School Attendance Rates for Looked After Children (per 100 Looked After Children):



Date	2018/19	2020/21	2022/23
Clackmannanshire	2	1	3
Dumfries & Galloway	4	5	8
Falkirk	8	6	1
Fife	1	2	2
Renfrewshire	5	7	7
South Ayrshire	3	3	4
South Lanarkshire	7	8	5
West Lothian	6	4	6

Commentary

Attendance over a three-year period can be further broken down as follows:

Primary

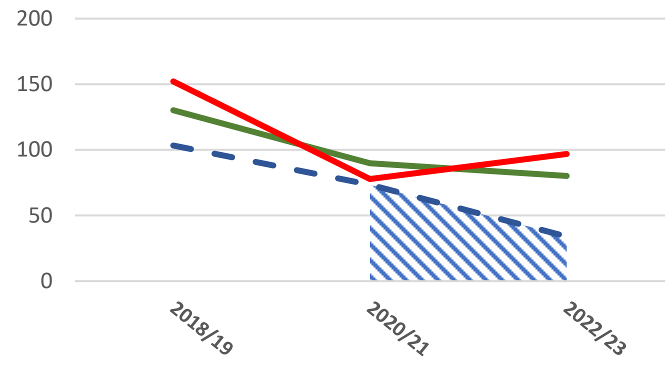
	20-21	21-22	22-23
Looked after at home	92	91	82
Looked after Away	97	95	95
Previously Looked after	89	89	89

Secondary

	20-21	21-22	22-23
Looked after at home	82	71	54
Looked after Away	93	89	87
Previously Looked after	84	78	75

In both tables those young people who are looked after at home have a significantly lower attendance rate than their peers. Attendance at secondary school is significantly lower than primary school. Attendance is a national priority, with attendance rates falling nationally since the return to school after the pandemic. This is a South Ayrshire priority. Schools are supported to monitor and track attendance. Attendance continues to be a feature of designated manager meetings. Care Experience leads within South Ayrshire secondary schools have worked closely with the Virtual School Head Teacher to ensure they are able to access support from with the virtual school's team. Monthly tracking of care experienced young people is collated and discussed with the virtual head teacher where concerns are raised. South Ayrshire Family First initiative has a strong focus on attendance. The small steps to wellbeing team work in conjunction with education and other services to support school attendance.

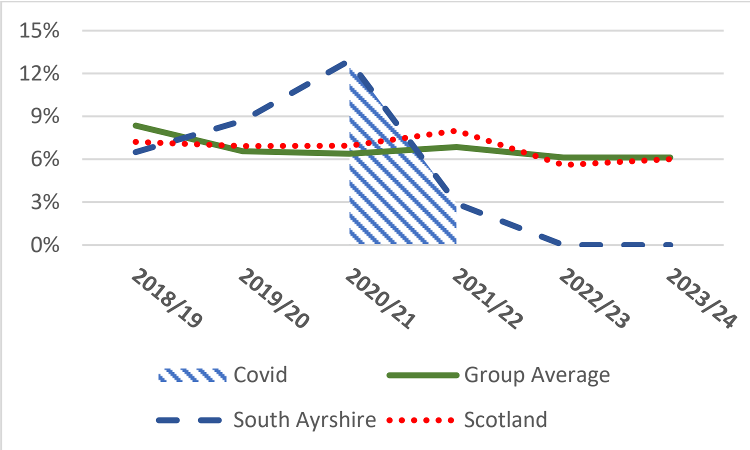
School Exclusion Rates for Looked After Children (per 1000 looked after children):



Family Group Ranking			
Date	2018/19	2020/21	2022/23
Clackmannanshire	DNA	DNA	2
Dumfries & Galloway	7	6	6
Falkirk	1	1	1
Fife	4	2	5
Renfrewshire	6	7	8
South Ayrshire	3	4	3
South Lanarkshire	5	5	7
West Lothian	2	3	4

Commentary
Incidents of exclusion of care experienced young people show a declining trend across this period, with a slight rise in 22/23 within the secondary sector. All schools must discuss the potential exclusion of a care experienced young person with their Quality Improvement Manager. Schools have worked in conjunction with the virtual school's team and with the inclusion team to consider alternatives to exclusion. Family First also has a clear focus on supporting young people at risk of exclusion. This has helped schools to share good practice in the area.

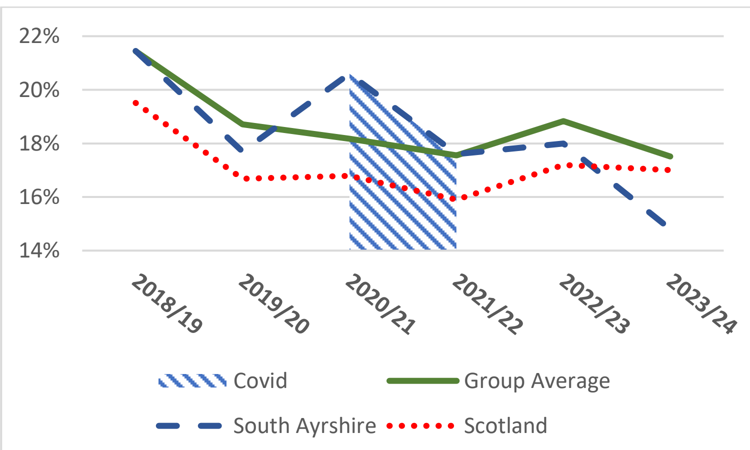
Percentage of Child Protection Re-Registrations within 18 months:



Family Group Ranking						
Date	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Clackmannanshire	8	8	5	8	8	8
Dumfries & Galloway	3	3	1	1	1	3
Falkirk	2	4	2	5	7	5
Fife	6	1	6	6	6	4
Renfrewshire	7	6	7	7	3	7
South Ayrshire	5	7	8	2	1	1
South Lanarkshire	4	4	4	4	5	6
West Lothian	1	2	3	3	4	1

Commentary
This remains an area of strength for us in South Ayrshire, the Signs of Safety model of practice along with the implementation of the Promise, means that when we place Children in the Register and then work with the family. The intervention to keep Children safe from Significant harm, "sticks" reducing the need to be reregistered.

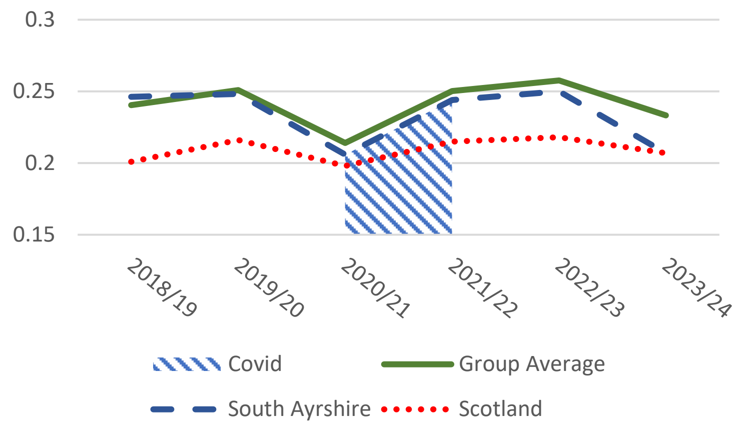
Percentage of Looked After Children with more than one placement within the last year (Aug-July):



Family Group Ranking						
Date	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Clackmannanshire	7	8	3	2	4	5
Dumfries & Galloway	2	4	7	5	7	7
Falkirk	8	5	7	6	1	6
Fife	5	7	4	8	8	8
Renfrewshire	3	2	2	1	3	2
South Ayrshire	6	3	6	4	6	3
South Lanarkshire	1	1	1	3	2	4
West Lothian	4	6	5	7	5	1

Commentary
This is the lowest rate we have recorded in six years. There has been further investment in Trauma supports and services, with Play Therapy and Calm Chameleon added to our support services along with the implementation of the Promise and our Family First and whole family wellbeing support, we believe have contributed to a reduction in Child Placement break down.

Percentage of children living in poverty (after housing costs):



Date	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Clackmannanshire	8	8	8	8	8	8
Dumfries & Galloway	6	7	7	6	7	4
Falkirk	4	4	5	5	5	7
Fife	7	6	6	7	6	6
Renfrewshire	1	2	1	2	2	3
South Ayrshire	5	5	3	4	4	2
South Lanarkshire	2	1	2	1	1	1
West Lothian	3	3	4	3	3	5

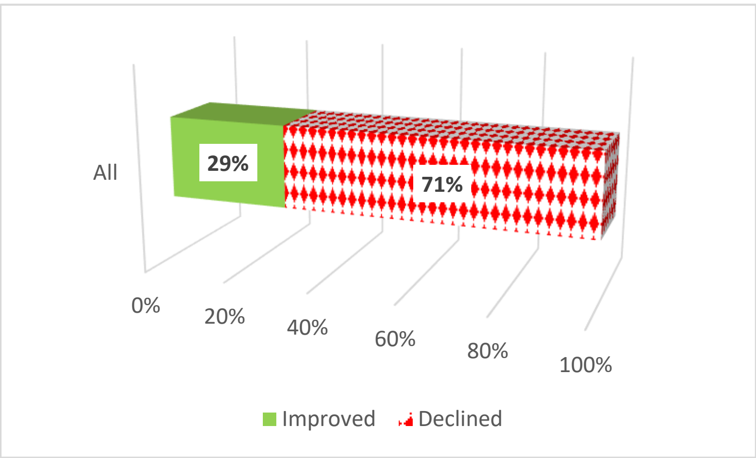
Commentary

Child poverty is heavily influenced by the national benefits system and the primary focus of the local authority is on mitigating the impact of child poverty through income maximisation work, tackling fuel and food poverty, focusing on the cost of the school day, working on digital inclusion. Wider work by employability and skills and via the inclusive growth work strand of the Ayrshire Growth Deal and community wealth building may ameliorate child poverty levels in the longer term. A new National Child Poverty Plan was published in mid-April and that is being used to shape and refresh a local child poverty plan.

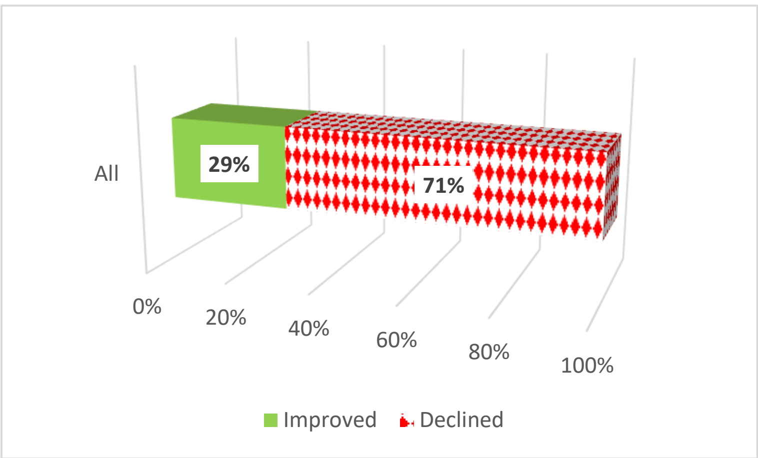
BROAD GENERAL EDUCATION

Title	Year on Year Performance	Performance V Base Year
Cost Per Primary School Pupil (page 22)	Declined	Declined
Cost per Pre-School Education Registration (page 23)	Declined	Declined
Percentage of Adults Satisfied with Local Schools (Scottish Household Survey) (page 24)	Declined	Declined
Percentage of P1, P4 and P7 pupils combined achieving expected Curriculum for Excellence (CFE) Level in Literacy *(page 25)*	Improved	Improved
Percentage of P1, P4 and P7 pupils combined achieving expected CFE Level in Numeracy *(page 26)*	Improved	Improved
Percentage of children meeting developmental milestones *(page 27)*	Declined	Declined
Percentage of funded early years provision which is graded good/better *(page 28)*	Declined	Declined

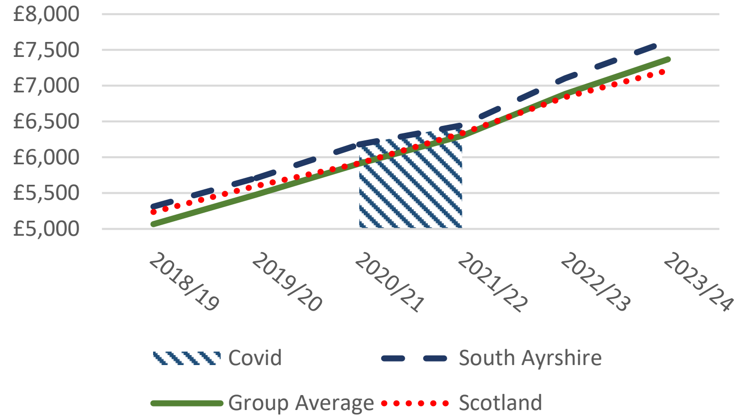
Year on Year Performance



Performance V Base Year



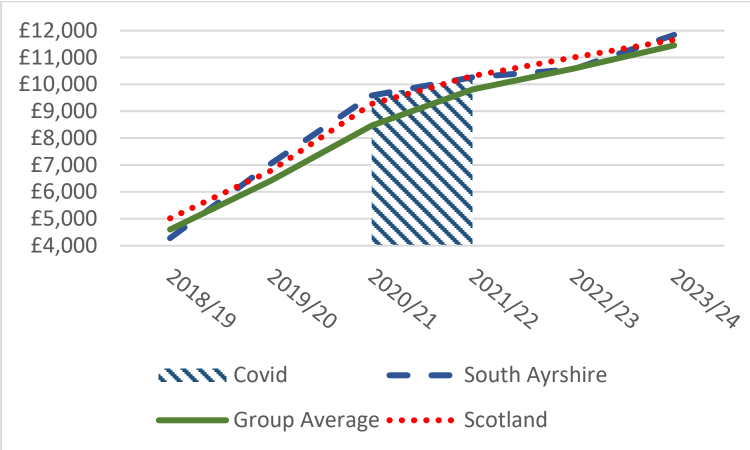
<u>Cost Per Primary School Pupil</u>:



Family Group Ranking						
Date	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Clackmannanshire	4	4	6	8	6	8
Dumfries & Galloway	5	5	7	5	4	7
Falkirk	1	1	1	1	1	2
Fife	3	2	2	3	2	3
Renfrewshire	2	3	3	2	3	1
South Ayrshire	6	8	8	6	7	6
South Lanarkshire	7	7	4	4	5	4
West Lothian	8	6	5	7	8	5

Commentary
The cost per primary school pupil has continued to increase. This is impacted by external factors outwith the control of the Council. This primarily includes the SG commitment to protect teacher numbers and the falling primary school roll. Maintaining teacher numbers in line with this policy increases the costs associated in delivering education to primary and secondary pupils. Other factors include the number of rural schools and investment in additional support for learning staff in schools.

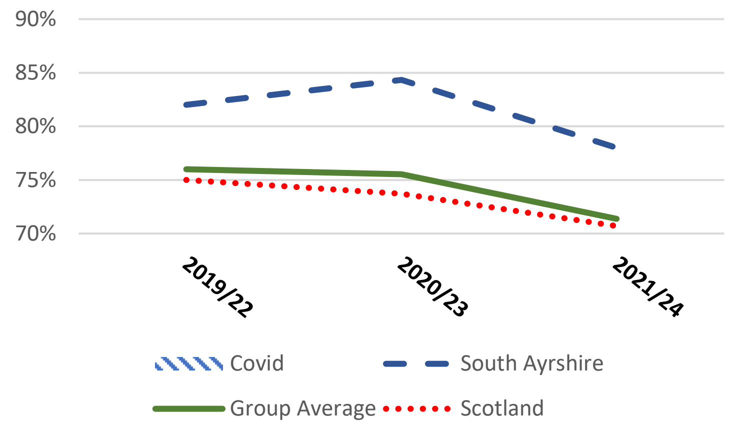
Cost per Pre-School Education Registration:



Family Group Ranking						
Date	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Clackmannanshire	8	8	8	7	8	7
Dumfries & Galloway	6	1	2	1	2	2
Falkirk	7	6	6	8	7	8
Fife	5	2	3	3	4	3
Renfrewshire	2	4	4	4	3	5
South Ayrshire	3	7	7	6	5	6
South Lanarkshire	4	5	5	5	6	4
West Lothian	1	3	1	2	1	1

Commentary
The increased costs reflect the increase in the number of hours offered for each place. Additional staffing costs in delivering the entitlement, increasing food costs along with recent pay awards are drivers for increased spend. The recent changes to reduce the number of centres open 52 weeks a year should reduce costs over the coming year.

Percentage of adults satisfied with local schools (Scottish Household Survey):

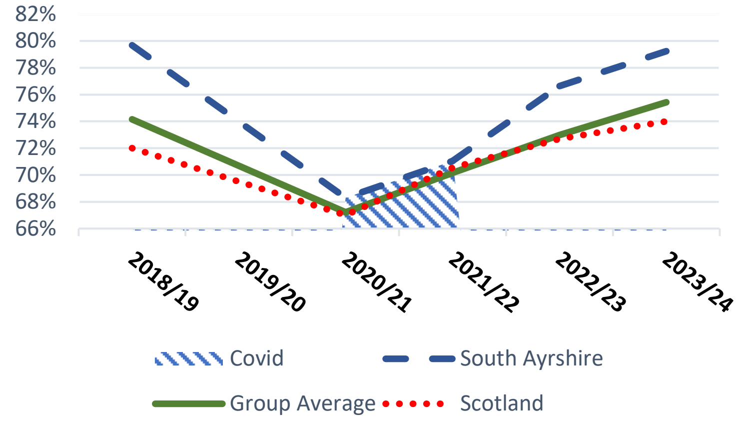


Family Group Ranking			
Date	2019/22	2020/23	2021/24
Clackmannanshire	4	4	1
Dumfries & Galloway	8	8	8
Falkirk	3	3	3
Fife	6	5	6
Renfrewshire	7	7	7
South Ayrshire	1	1	1
South Lanarkshire	5	6	5
West Lothian	2	2	4

Commentary

Whilst there is a decline of 6.3pp between 2022/23 and 2023/24 South Ayrshire remains significantly above the family group average. South Ayrshire is ranked first out of eight LAs in our family group. Further work is planned to reinstate engagement with stakeholders in gathering their views to support improvement work across schools and the directorate. Surveys will be reinstated for the first time since pre pandemic alongside continued engagement with chairs of parent councils and other pupil groups.

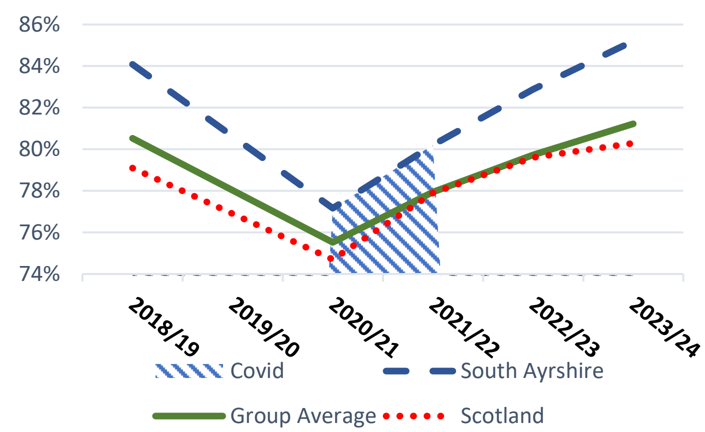
Percentage of P1, P4 and P7 pupils combined achieving expected CFE Level in Literacy:



Family Group Ranking						
Date	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	**2023/24**
Clackmannanshire	7	#N/A	7	7	7	6
Dumfries & Galloway	8	#N/A	8	8	8	8
Falkirk	5	#N/A	3	2	3	3
Fife	4	#N/A	6	6	6	7
Renfrewshire	3	#N/A	4	3	4	4
South Ayrshire	1	#N/A	5	5	2	2
South Lanarkshire	6	#N/A	2	4	5	5
West Lothian	2	#N/A	1	1	1	1

Commentary
There has been a significant focus on the promotion of reading and improving reading attainment since the pandemic. South Ayrshire has invested Strategic Equity Funding into the development of professional learning in this area. The South Ayrshire Reads initiative was initially focused on areas deprivation with the rollout to all schools over phases in place or planned. Improvements in attainment has continued each year since 2020/21 and have been consistently above the family group average. 2023/24 attainment is 0.8pp below pre-pandemic levels. A focus on writing attainment moving following, alongside the reading professional learning offer, will continue to support this positive trend. The significant increase in additional support needs, in line with the national trend, is a contributing factor that may impact on future attainment. This will be monitored closely alongside appropriate staff training, interventions, and engagement with families.

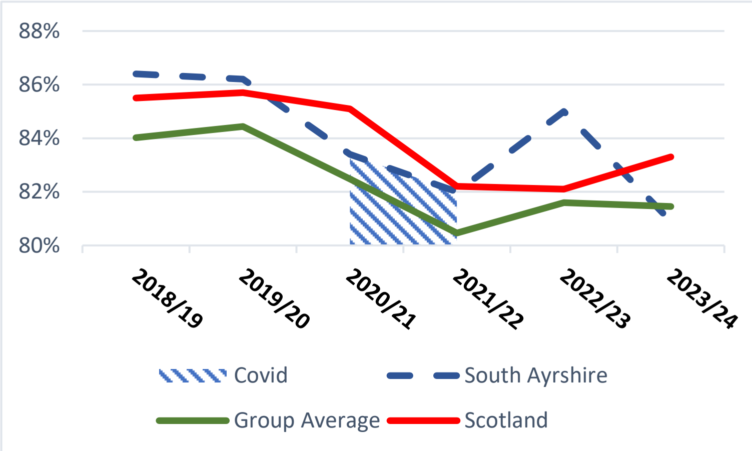
% of P1, P4 and P7 pupils combined achieving expected CFE Level in Numeracy:



Family Group Ranking						
Date	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	**2023/24**
Clackmannanshire	8	#N/A	8	8	8	6
Dumfries & Galloway	7	#N/A	7	7	7	8
Falkirk	5	#N/A	4	3	4	4
Fife	4	#N/A	6	6	6	7
Renfrewshire	3	#N/A	2	2	3	3
South Ayrshire	2	#N/A	5	4	2	1
South Lanarkshire	6	#N/A	3	5	5	5
West Lothian	1	#N/A	1	1	1	2

Commentary
Numeracy attainment continues to be consistently above the family group average and now exceeds pre-pandemic (2018/19) levels. Factors that may impact on this improving trend moving forward are linked to the increases in children and young people being identified as having additional support needs. Staff, local authority officers and Head Teachers will continue to closely monitor the progress of individual learners, cohorts, and schools. Staff are increasingly making effective use of all assessment information available to them to ensure high quality learning experiences are planned and leading to improving outcomes for children at P1, P4 and P7 in numeracy.

Percentage of children meeting developmental milestones at their 27–30-month review:



Family Group Ranking						
Date	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Clackmannanshire	2	2	8	6	3	4
Dumfries & Galloway	4	4	3	7	7	8
Falkirk	6	1	2	2	2	7
Fife	3	5	1	4	5	1
Renfrewshire	8	8	7	8	8	6
South Ayrshire	1	2	4	1	1	5
South Lanarkshire	7	7	5	5	4	2
West Lothian	5	6	6	3	6	2

Commentary

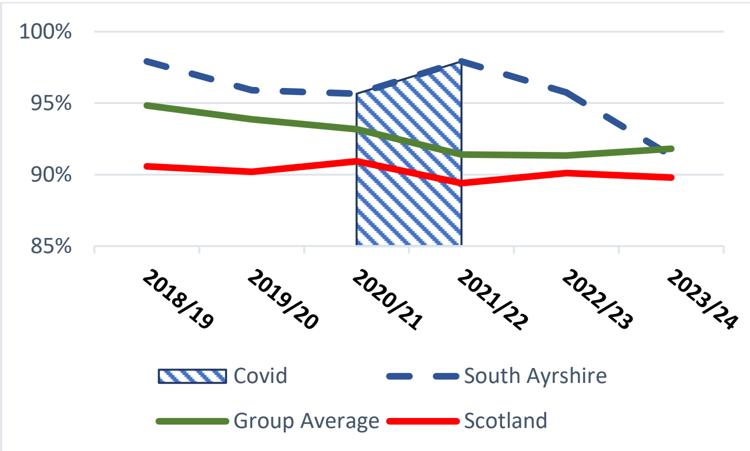
In 2023/24, 81.0% of children in South Ayrshire had no developmental concerns recorded at their 27–30-month review. This figure includes both fully completed assessments and those with no concerns but some incomplete domains, in line with national reporting guidance.

Although this represents a slight decline from 85.0% in 2022/23, South Ayrshire continues to perform above both North Ayrshire (77.5%) and East Ayrshire (77.3%), and only marginally below the Scotland average of 83.3%. However, our family group ranking fell to 5th place in 2023/24, following two consecutive years ranked 1st.

The introduction of a new domain in the 27–30-month review has contributed to an increase in incomplete returns across Scotland, which may be reflected in the change in rankings and percentage totals.

Despite this, South Ayrshire remains a strong performer in early child development. Continued focus will be placed on improving data quality, supporting consistent review completion, and ensuring staff are well-equipped to assess and record across all developmental domains. Improvement work continues in areas such as speech, language and communication, and personal/social skills. This work remains central to our ambition to give every child the best possible start in life.

Percentage of funded Early Years Provision which is graded good or better:



Family Group Ranking						
Date	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Clackmannanshire	5	1	4	6	8	6
Dumfries & Galloway	8	7	8	8	5	8
Falkirk	1	5	5	5	2	4
Fife	6	2	1	2	3	2
Renfrewshire	3	6	3	4	6	7
South Ayrshire	2	3	2	1	1	5
South Lanarkshire	7	8	7	7	7	3
West Lothian	4	4	6	3	4	1

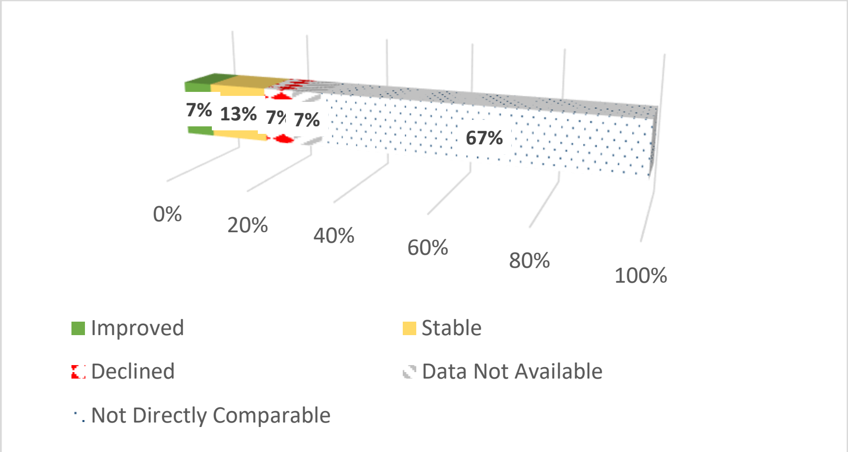
Commentary

The proportion of funded early years provision which is graded good or better remains in line with family group average at 91.3%. Locally and nationally the expansion of ELC and the significant increase in staffing has impacted on staff skills and confidence. There is an increased focus on ensuring staff have access to very good range of training, coaching and mentoring programmes to support staff and continue to provide high quality ELC across South Ayrshire.

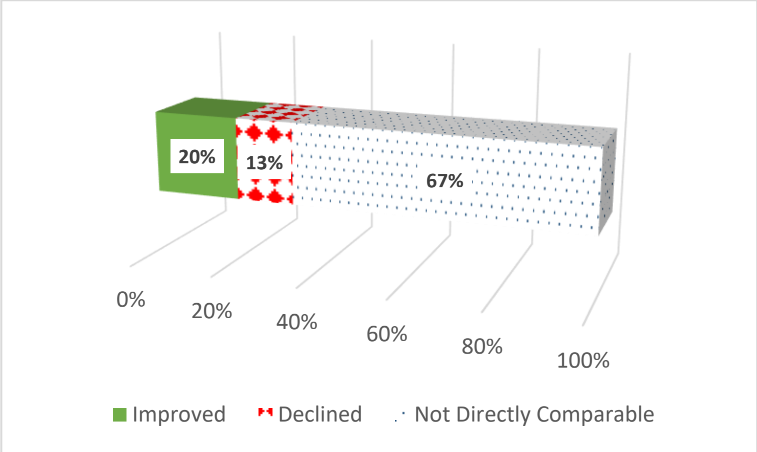
SENIOR PHASE EDUCATION

Title	Year on Year Performance	Performance V Base Year
Cost per Secondary School Pupil *(page 30)*	Declined	Declined
% of Pupils Gaining 5+ Awards at Level 5	Not Directly Comparable	Not Directly Comparable
% of Pupils Gaining 5+ Awards at Level 6	Not Directly Comparable	Not Directly Comparable
% of Pupils from Deprived Areas Gaining 5+ Awards at Level 5 (SIMD)	Not Directly Comparable	Not Directly Comparable
% of Pupils from Deprived Areas Gaining 5+ Awards at Level 6 (SIMD)	Not Directly Comparable	Not Directly Comparable
Proportion of Pupils Entering Positive Destinations *(page 30)*	Stable	Improved
Overall Average Total Tariff	Not Directly Comparable	Not Directly Comparable
Average Total Tariff Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) quintile 1	Not Directly Comparable	Not Directly Comparable
Average total tariff SIMD quintile 2	Not Directly Comparable	Not Directly Comparable
Average total tariff SIMD quintile 3	Not Directly Comparable	Not Directly Comparable
Average total tariff SIMD quintile 4	Not Directly Comparable	Not Directly Comparable
Average total tariff SIMD quintile 5	Not Directly Comparable	Not Directly Comparable
School attendance rate *(page 31)*	Improved	Declined
School exclusion rates (per 1,000 pupils) *(page 32)*	Data Not Available	Improved
Participation rate for 16–19-year-olds (per 100) *(page 33)*	Stable	Improved

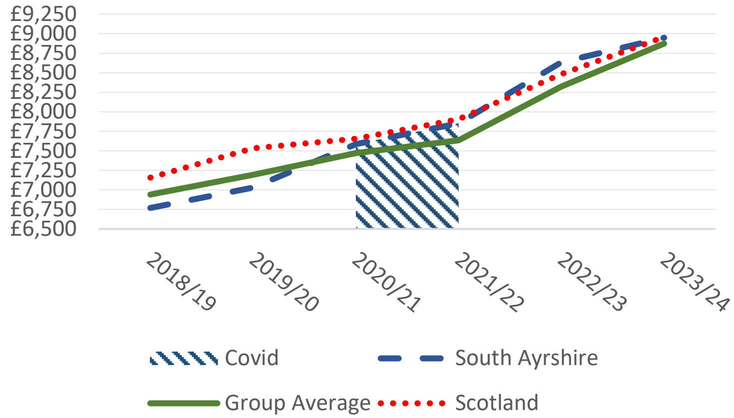
Year on Year Performance



Performance V Base Year



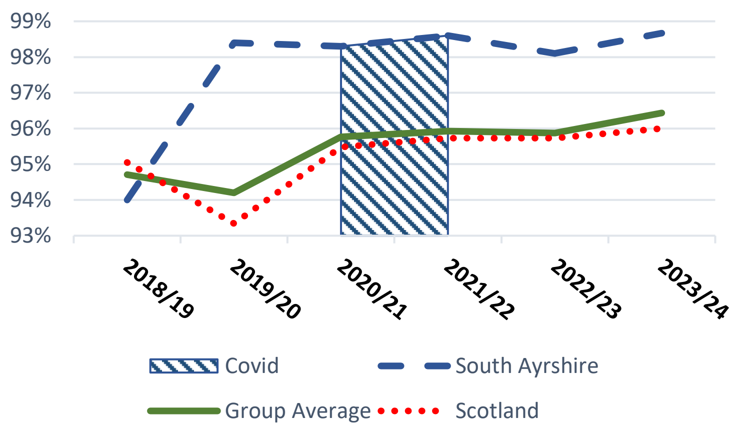
Cost per secondary school pupil:



Family Group Ranking						
Date	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Clackmannanshire	8	8	8	8	8	8
Dumfries & Galloway	7	7	7	6	6	7
Falkirk	6	4	3	3	3	3
Fife	1	1	2	2	2	1
Renfrewshire	2	2	1	1	1	2
South Ayrshire	4	5	6	7	7	5
South Lanarkshire	3	6	4	5	5	4
West Lothian	5	3	5	4	4	6

Commentary
The cost per secondary school pupil has continued to increase. This is impacted by external factors out with the control of the Council. This primarily includes the SG commitment to protect teacher numbers and the falling primary school roll. Maintaining teacher numbers in line with this policy increases the costs associated in delivering education to primary and secondary pupils. Other factors include the number of small schools and investment in additional support for learning staff in schools.

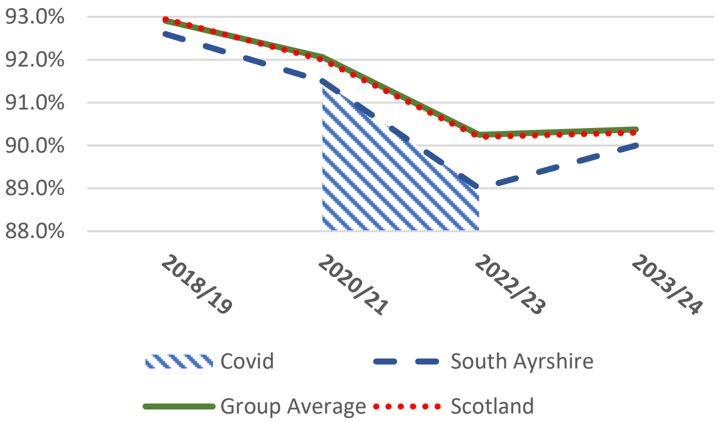
Percentage of school leavers going into positive and sustained destinations (Initial survey):



Family Group Ranking						
Date	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Clackmannanshire	7	2	4	3	7	5
Dumfries & Galloway	5	6	7	5	4	8
Falkirk	3	7	5	8	5	4
Fife	6	8	8	6	6	7
Renfrewshire	2	4	2	2	3	2
South Ayrshire	8	1	1	1	1	1
South Lanarkshire	1	3	3	4	2	3
West Lothian	4	5	6	7	8	6

Commentary
The percentage of young people leaving school and moving into a positive destination remains very high and South Ayrshire is 1st in both its family group and nationally.

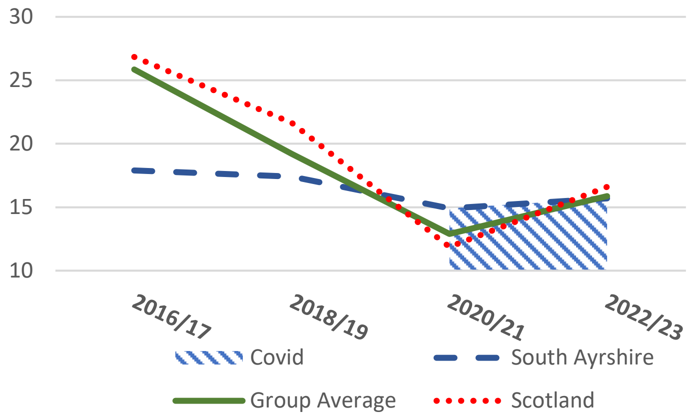
School Attendance Rates (per 100 pupils):



Family Group Ranking				
Date	2018/19	2020/21	2022/23	2023/24*
Clackmannanshire	4	2	1	1
Dumfries & Galloway	1	1	1	4
Falkirk	3	4	1	1
Fife	8	8	4	4
Renfrewshire	2	5	4	4
South Ayrshire	7	7	8	4
South Lanarkshire	5	6	4	1
West Lothian	6	3	4	4

Commentary
There have been significant improvements in this measure over the past 2 years. Since 2022/23 South Ayrshire has risen from eighth out of eighth in this measure to fourth in our family group. The “Every Learner, Every Day” campaign, funded by Strategic Equity Funding, has raised the profile of school attendance, and changing attitudes to this post pandemic. A renewed focus on tracking and monitoring pupil attendance and developing more early intervention strategies is leading to improvements. Whilst remaining 0.4pp under the family group average there is a positive trend, and it is anticipated that this ongoing priority will lead to further improvements in 2024/25. ***NB This indicator was previously published biannually but from 2024 is now available annually.**

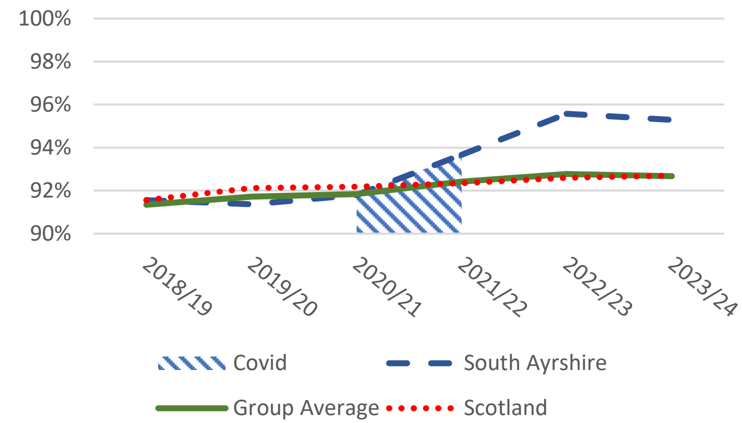
School exclusion rates (per 1,000 pupils):



Family Group Ranking				
Date	2016/17	2018/19	2020/21	2022/23
Clackmannanshire	7	1	1	1
Dumfries & Galloway	3	6	6	7
Falkirk	2	2	2	2
Fife	5	4	4	6
Renfrewshire	4	8	8	8
South Ayrshire	1	3	5	4
South Lanarkshire	6	5	3	5
West Lothian	8	7	7	3

Commentary
School exclusion rates per 1000 pupils have declined since pre pandemic levels and remain below the family group average. The South Ayrshire Family First model continues to bring services together to coordinate supports for children and young people at risk of exclusion. This is leading to earlier, proactive approaches, to address concerns and provide support.

Participation rate for 16–19-year-olds (per 100):



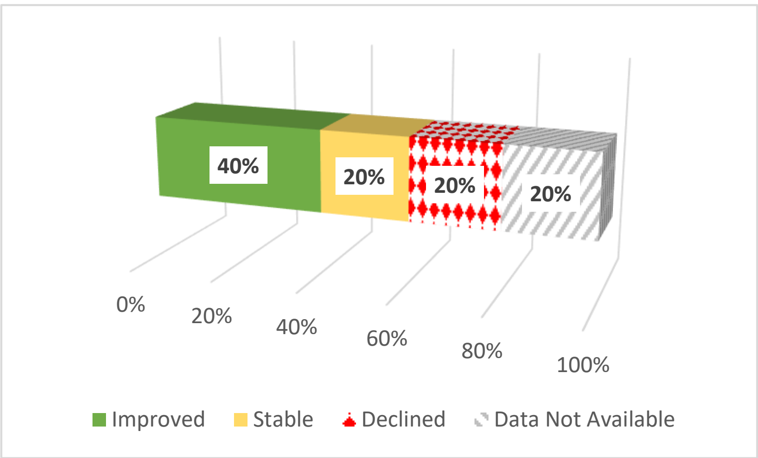
Family Group Ranking						
Date	**2018/19**	**2019/20**	**2020/21**	**2021/22**	**2022/23**	**2023/24**
Clackmannanshire	8	8	8	8	8	8
Dumfries & Galloway	5	5	1	3	2	2
Falkirk	2	4	4	6	6	6
Fife	6	6	7	7	7	7
Renfrewshire	3	3	2	4	5	5
South Ayrshire	4	7	5	1	1	1
South Lanarkshire	1	1	3	5	4	3
West Lothian	7	2	6	2	3	4

Commentary
The participation rate for South Ayrshire continues to rise. South Ayrshires Participation rate was 95.3% (5th place in Scotland) with Scottish average 92.7 %. This stat equate to 95.3% of a cohort of 4632 young people.
The participation rate continues to be a focus for Thriving Communities, and this demonstrates that people are not only leaving school to a positive destination, but they are also remaining in education, training and employment. Thriving Communities continue to work closely with partners to identify and support young people who are not in a positive destination.

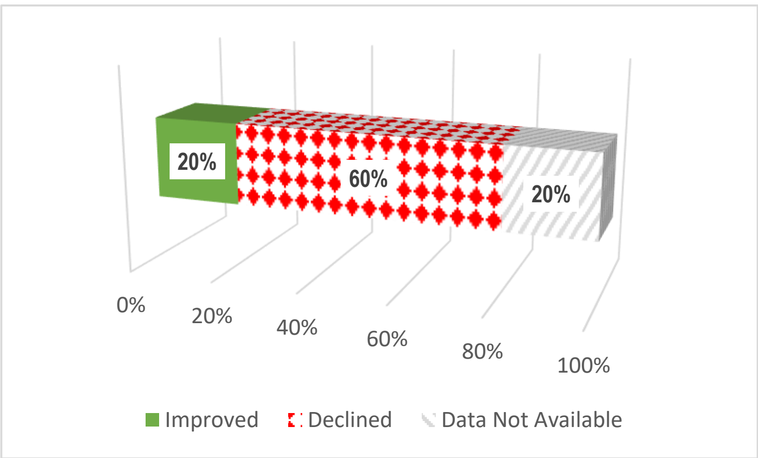
HOUSING

Title	Year on Year Performance	Performance V Base Year
Gross rent arrears (all tenants) as at 31 March each year as a percentage of rent due for the reporting year *(page 35)*	Declined	Declined
Proportion of rent due in the year that was lost due to voids *(page 36)*	Improved	Declined
Proportion of council dwellings meeting Scottish Housing Standards *(page 37)*	Stable	Declined
Average number of days taken to complete non-emergency repairs *(page 38)*	Improved	Improved
% of council dwellings that are energy efficient	Data Not Available	Data Not Available

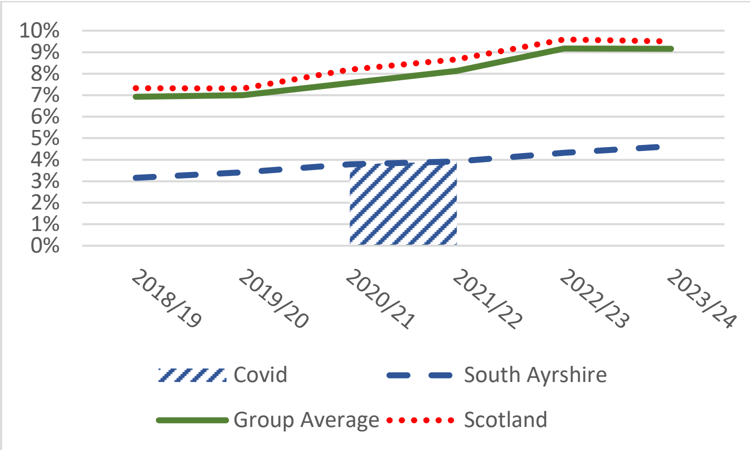
Year on Year Performance



Performance V Base Year



Gross rent arrears (all tenants) as at 31 March each year as a percentage of rent due for the reporting year:



Family Group Ranking						
Date	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Clackmannanshire	6	7	6	6	6	6
Dumfries & Galloway	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A
Falkirk	5	6	7	7	7	7
Fife	7	5	3	2	2	3
Renfrewshire	2	2	2	3	3	4
South Ayrshire	1	1	1	1	1	1
South Lanarkshire	4	4	5	5	4	2
West Lothian	3	3	4	4	5	5

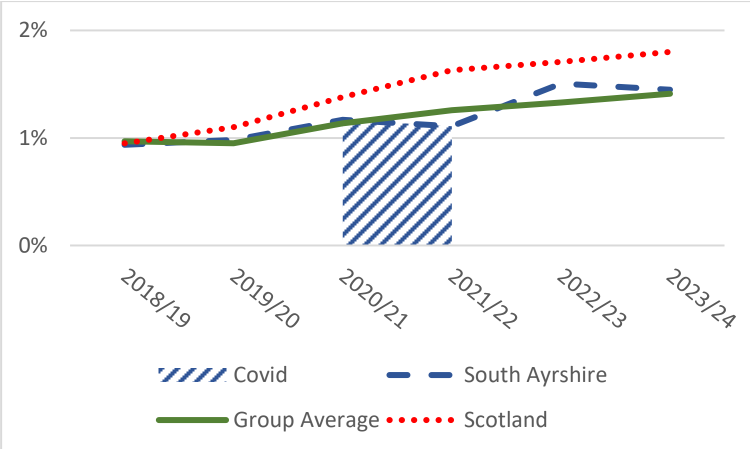
Commentary

In 2023/24, the Council continued to provide an increased focus on supporting households and providing advice and information to mitigate the financial impact and hardship experienced by households following the impacts of Covid-19 and taking account of the cost-of-living challenges. Our Revenue, Arrears and Support Team actively reached out to tenants, ensuring early intervention and the provision of support to tenants in arrears and tenants requesting advice. Our staff team continued to provide budgeting advice and assisted tenants to apply for discretionary housing payments where appropriate or to receive support from the tenant hardship fund. If additional advice or support was required, referrals continued to be made to the Council's Advice and Information Hub, for Money Advice or Benefits Advice and we referred tenants to our contracted housing support providers where ongoing support needs were identified.

During 2023/24, the team also managed the increased number of tenants applying for Universal Credit (UC), verifying housing costs and supporting tenants to make claims. As at 31st March 2024, 3258 current tenants were known to the Council to be in receipt of Universal Credit. Where appropriate and in accordance with the DWP criteria, the Team continues to actively apply for Alternative Payment Arrangements (APA's) where vulnerability triggers exist, or where the tenant has arrears or difficulty making their housing cost payments from their UC entitlement. APA's were in place for housing costs to be paid direct to the Council for 2439 current tenants as at 31st March 2024.

The continued challenges in income collection, the cost-of living-pressures and the increased roll out of Universal Credit have continued to be significant influencing factors on performance. Despite these challenges, the Team have managed to maximise and maintain comparable collection rates, this was supported by receiving an increased level of direct housing payments paid to the Council as a landlord. A range of mitigations and actions to manage rent arrears were put in place, these have successfully minimised the impact of the increase in gross rent arrears. In 2023/24, the service continued to utilise the remaining grant provision approved by Council to support tenants in hardship to sustain their tenancy and prevent homelessness. A total of 32 tenants were assisted with awards totalling £0.034 million. The gross rent arrears as a percentage of the rent due in 2023/24 was 4.6% up slightly on 4.3% in 2022/23, this takes account of payments received for cases where an agreement existed to pay their rent by "UC - Managed Payments" slightly later than the normal rent cycle. There were two evictions carried out by the Council in 2023/24 relating to rent arrears. Historically, the Council has consistently performed well in managing rent arrears, and despite the slight increase in gross rent arrears, South Ayrshire Council remained the best performing local authority in Scotland in 2023/24, for the second year running. The gross rent arrears levels at 4.6% of rent due for the reporting year, is significantly better than the average of 9.5% reported as the LGBF family group average and the overall Scottish Local Authority national average reported by Scotland's Housing Network.

Proportion of rent due in the year that was lost due to voids:

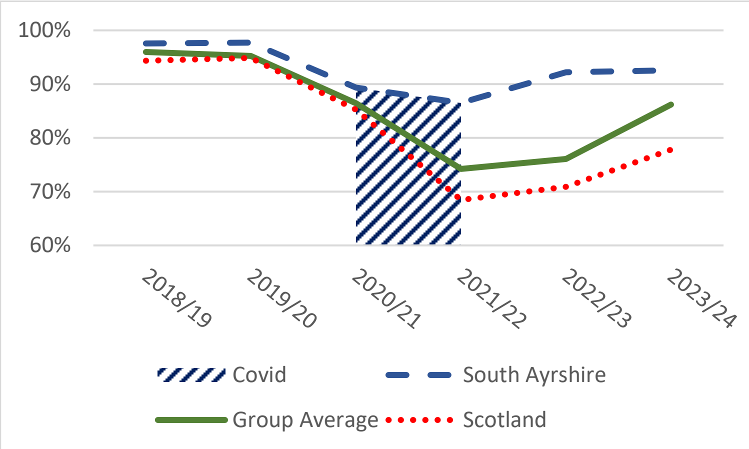


Family Group Ranking						
Date	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Clackmannanshire	6	1	3	2	2	2
Dumfries & Galloway	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A
Falkirk	5	6	6	7	7	7
Fife	4	5	5	5	4	3
Renfrewshire	7	7	7	6	6	5
South Ayrshire	3	4	4	4	5	4
South Lanarkshire	1	2	1	1	1	1
West Lothian	2	3	2	3	3	6

Commentary

In 2023/24, a total of 715 properties were relet, and the average relet time was 50 days, this is an improvement on the 692 properties relet and the average relet time of 58 days in 2022/23. Voids performance is continually monitored and where necessary working practices by both Housing Services and Property Maintenance are adapted to achieve ways to reduce relet times. Work is ongoing to manage the pressures on the housing management teams and the Property Maintenance Service. Factors continuing to impact on average relet times were:- the poorer condition of properties received following termination and the need for an increased level of repairs to bring the property up to the relet standard, issues and delays negotiating with utility providers to resolve utility issues to allow essential safety checks and compliance work to be completed and to ensure power is restored or available for new tenants before relet, managing the offers and refusals relating to vacant properties, and the time taken to prepare and set up properties for households being assisted and accommodated by the Council through resettlement schemes. The Council also successfully relet some longer-term void properties in the reporting year. As a result of the reduced average relet time during 2023/24, the percentage of void rent loss reduced to 1.45% (£0.478m) from 1.5% (0.486m) in 2022/23. The level of rent lost due to the property being empty at 1.45%, is slightly above the LGBF family group average of 1.4% and the national average of 1.4% reported by the Scottish Housing Regulator. The relet of empty properties remains a joint priority for both Housing Services and Property Maintenance.

Proportion of council dwellings meeting Scottish Housing Standards:



Family Group Ranking						
Date	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Clackmannanshire	2	3	7	5	7	2
Dumfries & Galloway	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A
Falkirk	3	1	2	6	5	6
Fife	6	7	5	2	3	4
Renfrewshire	5	4	6	7	6	7
South Ayrshire	4	2	3	3	2	3
South Lanarkshire	7	6	1	4	4	5
West Lothian	1	5	4	1	1	1

Commentary
The Council continues to work to improve performance in this area. In 2023/24, there were a total of 8126 properties within the scope of the Scottish Housing Quality Standard (SHQS). Overall, 7520 properties (92.5%) of the Council's housing stock met the SHQS, which was an improvement on 92.1% in the 2022/23 reporting year.
Of the remaining 606 properties that did not meet the SHQS:-

- 334 properties were exempt from SHQS - 332 where it is too costly to undertake work to pass the Energy Efficiency Standards for Social Housing (EESSH), and 2 are earmarked for disposal by the Council.

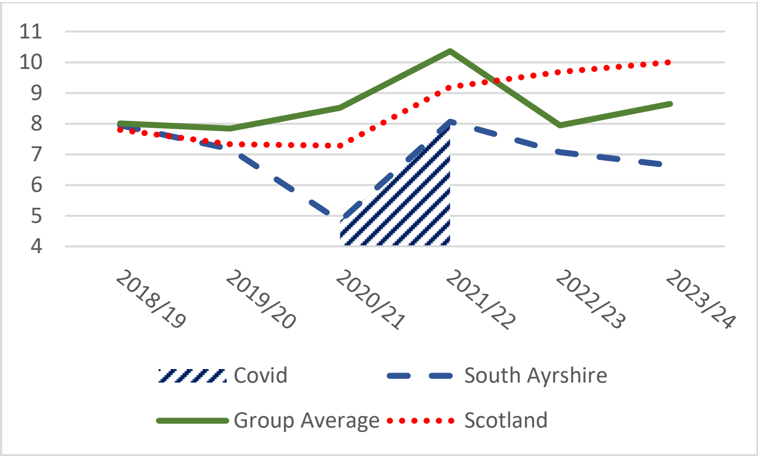
- 69 properties were in abeyance from SHQS, this is an improvement on 101 properties in abeyance in 2022/23. The 69 properties in abeyance comprised of:- (42 properties where the Council is in minority ownership and has been unable to engage owners to secure majority consent to install or replace door entry systems. The Council will continue to engage co-owners within mixed tenure blocks without controlled door entry systems. (6 properties were vacant and major work is underway prior to relet – 4 of which were recent buy backs by the Council) and; (8 properties were in abeyance because tenants have refused planned improvement work due to personal or medical reasons or have failed to provide access to the Contractor), (10 properties were 'hard no access' (a reduction from 34 last year) and despite attempts by the Council, access has not been achieved to complete work on certification of safe electrics. 3 final abeyances were for technical reasons where the utility supplier (Electric) required to undertake enabling works prior to the Council being able to complete an EICR.

- 203 properties in total were failing SHQS, 186 were failing on one criterion (148 – EESSH only, 20 for serious disrepair and 18 for properties where it was determined that lead piping is present) and; - 17 properties were failing SHQS on 2 or more criteria – 13 of these properties are within an area where the Council is considering the feasibility of future investment and 11 of them are currently void, 2 properties were failing due to the EESSH and where lead piping is present and the remaining 2 properties were in the process of assessment and repair to deal with their SHQS fail items, and the affected tenants of both properties have been decanted to enable this. There were no SHQS failures in tenanted properties this reporting year in respect of the smoke, heat and carbon monoxide alarm standard.

In 2023/24, the Council reported an improved position in relation to successfully completing Electrical Installation Condition Reports (EICR) compliance works. This improvement was achieved by successfully arranging and managing access to tenanted homes. As at 31st March 2024, Electrical Installation Condition Report (EICR) requirements were met for 8087 (99.5%) of the overall 8126 Council properties - an improvement on 99.2% in 2022/23. Of the remaining 39 properties, 17 related to 'hard no access, 19 related to vacant properties (the certification of which will be completed prior to any relet), and the remaining 3 related to Utility supplier works required to allow the EICR testing to be concluded. In 2023/24, 119 of the properties which were tested exceeded their five-year anniversary deadline – a significant improvement on 664 in 2022/23. Of the 119 properties exceeding the 5-year anniversary deadline, 38 were abeyances carried forward from 2022/23, which were subsequently addressed in 2023/24 (33 'hard no access/social reasons', 4 Utility supplier works required to enable EICR testing, and 1 long term void property successfully relet). For the remaining 81 properties exceeding the 5-year deadline in 2023/24, 62 related to 'hard no access/social reasons', 3 where EICR testing of the property was unavoidably delayed due to the requirement of Utility supplier works, and the remaining 16 properties had their EICR delivered after the expiry date due to work scheduling/planning delays, (an improvement on 325 properties in the 2022/23 reporting year). General improvement in this compliance function in 2023/24 has been because of the successful introduction of revised work scheduling practices by the Housing Asset Management and Property Maintenance teams.

The overall SHQS compliance rate of 92.5% in 2023/24 was significantly above the family group average of 86.2% and above the national average of 84.4% reported by the Scottish Housing Regulator.

Average number of days taken to complete non-emergency repairs:



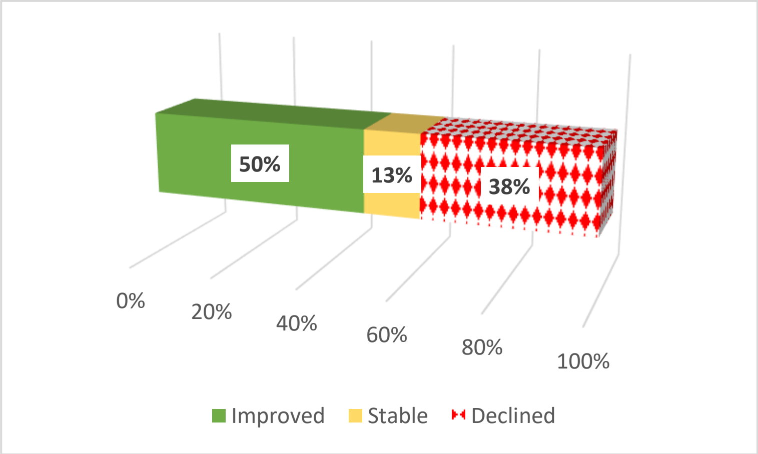
Family Group Ranking						
Date	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Clackmannanshire	2	4	1	1	1	1
Dumfries & Galloway	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A
Falkirk	3	1	7	7	6	6
Fife	1	2	3	2	3	2
Renfrewshire	4	6	5	6	2	4
South Ayrshire	6	5	2	3	4	3
South Lanarkshire	7	7	6	5	7	7
West Lothian	5	3	4	4	5	5

Commentary
In 2023/24, 14,588 non-emergency repairs were completed, and the average time taken was 6.6 working days. This was an improvement on 2022/23 when 15,748 non-emergency repairs were completed, and the average time taken was 7.1 working days.
During the 2023/24, due to repairs budget pressures within the Housing Revenue Account, necessary management action was taken, and some routine works were deferred and were completed in the first quarter of the 2024/25 reporting year, the impact of this will be reported as part of the 2024/25 performance.
The overall performance of 6.6 working days in 2023/24 was better than the family group average of 8.6 working days and was better than the national average of 9.0 working days reported by the Scottish Housing Regulator.

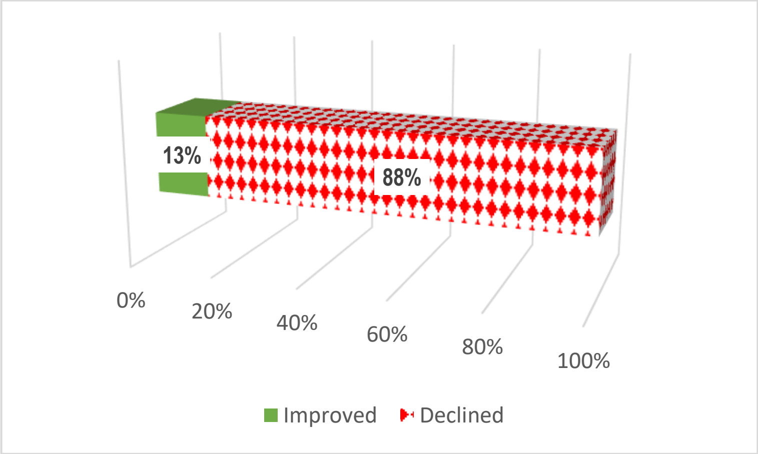
CULTURE & LEISURE

Title	Year on Year Performance	Performance V Base Year
Cost per attendance at sports facilities *(page 40)*	Improved	Declined
Cost per library visit *(page 41)*	Improved	Declined
Cost of museums per visit *(page 41)*	Improved	Improved
Cost of parks & open spaces per 1,000 population *(page 42)*	Declined	Declined
% of adults satisfied with libraries *(page 42)*	Improved	Declined
% of adults satisfied with parks and open spaces *(page 43)*	Declined	Declined
% of adults satisfied with museums and galleries *(page 44)*	Stable	Declined
% of adults satisfied with leisure facilities *(page 45)*	Declined	Declined

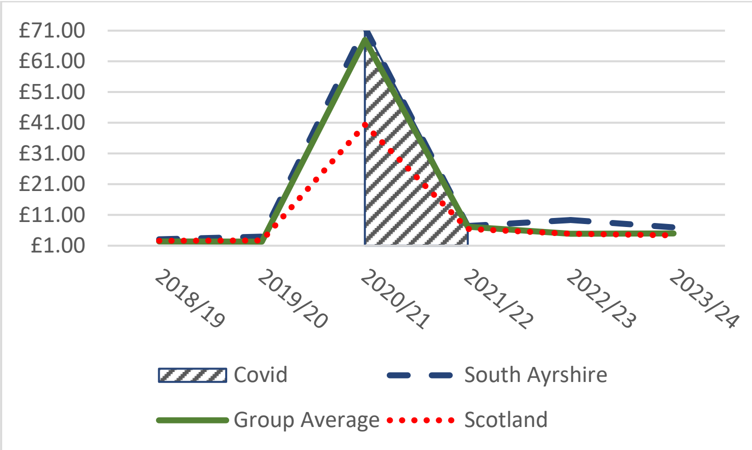
Year on Year Performance



Performance V Base Year



Cost per attendance at sports facilities:

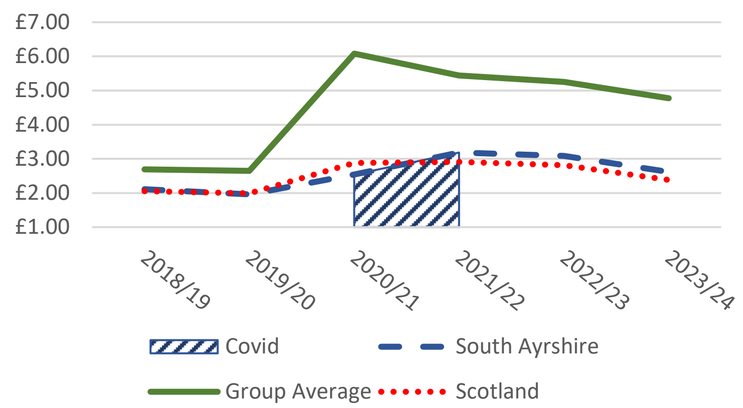


Family Group Ranking						
Date	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
East Ayrshire	1	2	1	1	1	1
East Lothian	7	6	3	4	5	5
Fife	4	5	4	3	3	3
Moray	3	1	2	2	2	2
North Ayrshire	2	3	5	7	7	8
Perth & Kinross	8	7	7	6	6	6
South Ayrshire	6	8	6	5	8	7
Stirling	5	4	8	8	4	4

Commentary
Provision of and demand for services has remained at or above pre-Covid levels throughout 2023–24. The corresponding 2019–20 (pre-Covid) expenditure was £7.1 million, which continues to be significantly higher than the 2021–22 comparator previously used.
Key additional or exceptional expenditure items during 2023–24 included:
- Write-off of aborted new leisure centre costs: £1.0 million
- Operational costs for the new Riverside Sports Arena: £235,000
- Increased energy costs: £252,000
- Covid-related legacy project: £98,000

These figures reflect ongoing pressures from inflation and energy markets, as well as strategic investment in new infrastructure.
Sport Facilities – Income (2023–24)
Service provision and user demand have stabilised at pre-pandemic levels. The corresponding 2019–20 income was £3.9 million. After applying cumulative inflationary adjustments, the 2023–24 income is broadly comparable in real terms, indicating a full recovery in service uptake and pricing alignment.

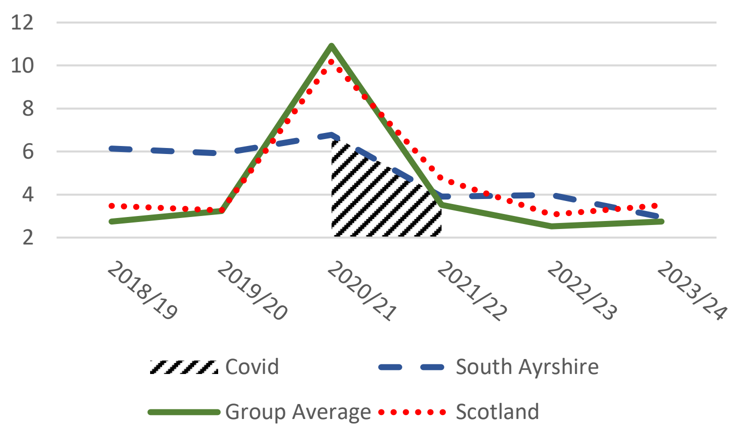
Cost per library visit:



Family Group Ranking						
Date	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
East Ayrshire	8	8	8	8	8	7
East Lothian	2	4	7	6	3	3
Fife	7	7	6	4	4	5
Moray	1	1	3	2	6	6
North Ayrshire	5	6	5	7	7	8
Perth & Kinross	3	2	1	1	1	1
South Ayrshire	4	3	2	3	2	2
Stirling	6	5	4	5	5	4

Commentary
We have developed a stronger digital offering, and we are seeing people engage with us through different platforms. It is challenging to return to pre-covid in-person footfall levels - but this is in line with the rest of the family group.

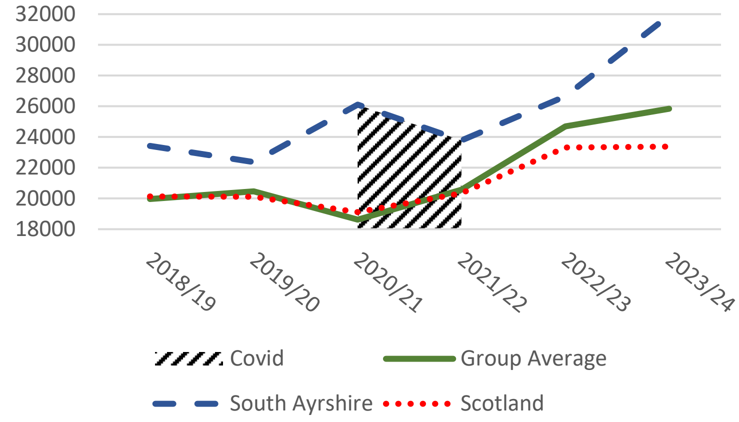
Cost of museums per visit:



Family Group Ranking						
Date	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
East Ayrshire	2	2	2	2	3	2
East Lothian	3	3	4	3	5	6
Fife	4	5	3	7	4	5
Moray	5	4	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A
North Ayrshire	1	1	1	1	2	1
Perth & Kinross	7	6	6	5	6	7
South Ayrshire	8	7	5	6	7	4
Stirling	6	8	7	4	1	3

Commentary
Lower than the National Average of 23-24 of £3.50 and with increasing footfall regarding seasonal offer.

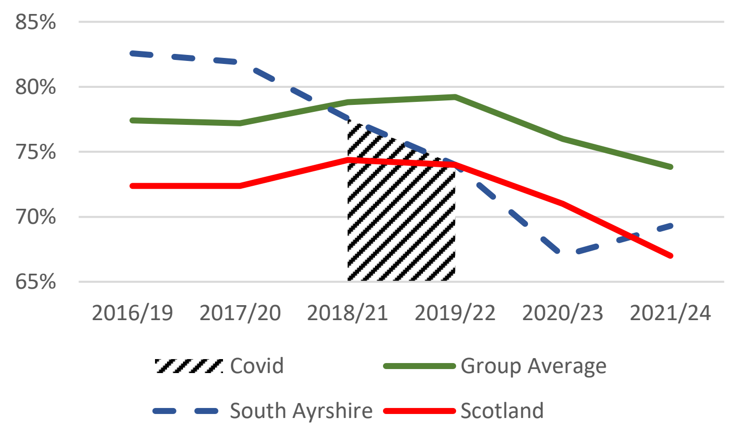
Cost of parks & open spaces per 1,000 population:



Family Group Ranking						
Date	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
East Ayrshire	1	1	1	1	1	1
East Lothian	7	7	6	7	7	7
Fife	4	6	3	4	4	4
Moray	2	2	2	2	2	2
North Ayrshire	3	5	4	3	3	3
Perth & Kinross	8	8	8	8	8	8
South Ayrshire	5	4	7	5	5	6
Stirling	6	3	5	6	6	5

Commentary
In 2023/24 we saw a significant increase in employee and transport costs. It should be noted that not all authorities manage the replacement of fleet and machinery in the same way. In South Ayrshire we lease vehicles and larger machinery which allows us to have a younger fleet. Whereas some authorities capitalise their fleet and retain vehicles and machinery longer South Ayrshire invests more in our parks and public open space, and this is seen in the Customer Satisfaction and the awards gained for our parks and beaches.

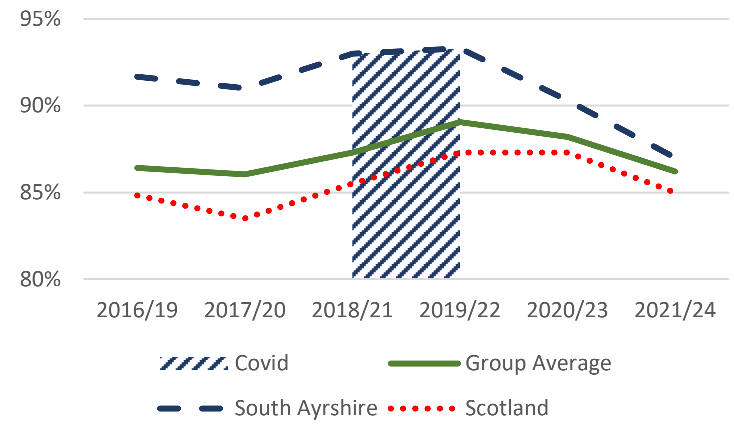
% of adults satisfied with libraries:



Family Group Ranking						
Date	2016/19	2017/20	2018/21	2019/22	2020/23	2021/24
East Ayrshire	6	7	8	8	8	8
East Lothian	7	6	4	1	1	2
Fife	8	8	7	5	6	6
Moray	5	5	3	4	4	3
North Ayrshire	1	1	1	3	3	3
Perth & Kinross	4	4	6	6	5	5
South Ayrshire	3	3	5	7	7	7
Stirling	2	2	2	2	2	1

Commentary
Above National Average of 21-24 of 67%, and increasing via a consistently high-quality, diverse, and improving range of in-person activities at branches, digital services, and a review of mobile library route.

% of adults satisfied with parks and open spaces:

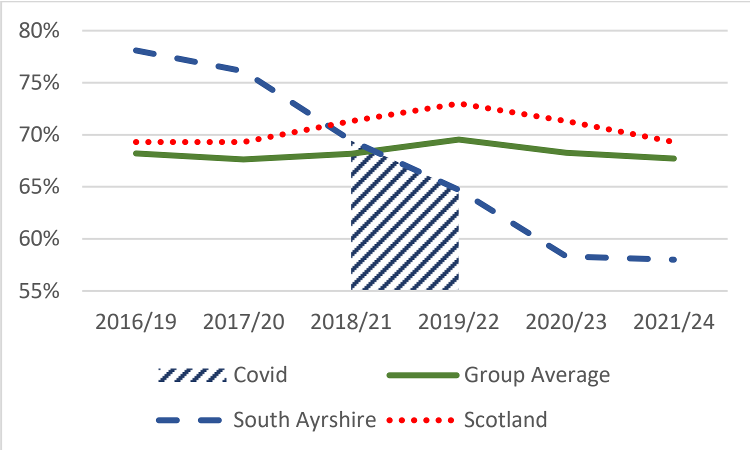


Family Group Ranking						
Date	2016/19	2017/20	2018/21	2019/22	2020/23	2023/24
East Ayrshire	5	7	8	8	7	7
East Lothian	6	3	3	3	2	2
Fife	3	5	4	4	5	6
Moray	7	8	4	6	6	5
North Ayrshire	8	6	4	7	8	8
Perth & Kinross	2	2	3	4	3	1
South Ayrshire	1	1	1	2	4	4
Stirling	4	4	1	1	1	2

Commentary

While it is disappointing to see a decrease in customer satisfaction this appears to reflect the national trend. However, we do remain higher than the family group average and sit in the top 3 of our family group. The Authority has invested significantly in fixed play equipment and continue to provide well maintained public open spaces. The Service provides spaces that people can enjoy in a range of different ways - sport, play, sitting, walking, cycling etc. People use open spaces to improve their physical and mental wellbeing. Our positive management of our Parks and Open Spaces is reflected in the fact that a number of our Parks have gained Green Flag Awards which have consistently been retained. Additionally, our beaches have gained and retained Beach Award Flags for our amenity beaches.

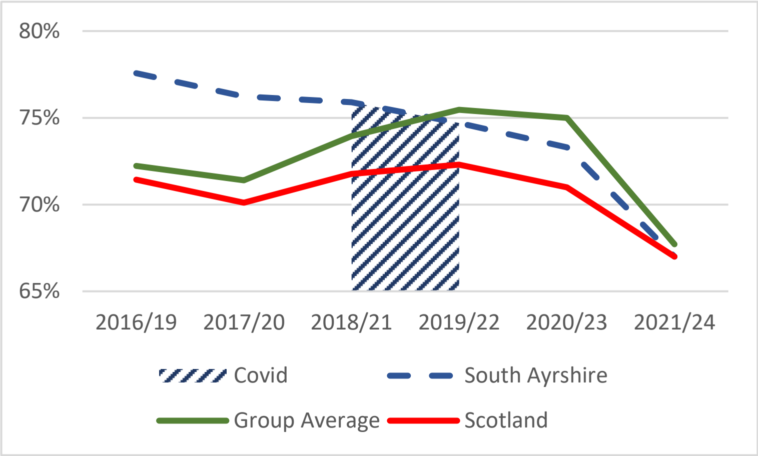
% of adults satisfied with museums and galleries:



Family Group Ranking						
Date	2016/19	2017/20	2018/21	2019/22	2020/23	2021/24
East Ayrshire	3	4	5	5	5	3
East Lothian	7	5	3	1	1	2
Fife	6	6	6	3	2	4
Moray	8	7	7	8	7	8
North Ayrshire	5	8	8	7	6	6
Perth & Kinross	2	2	1	2	3	5
South Ayrshire	1	1	4	6	7	7
Stirling	4	3	2	4	4	1

Commentary
Below the National Average of 21-24 of 69% but this differs from surveys undertaken at venues, where feedback is on the whole extremely positive with regard to venues, programmes, and other events on offer. This especially comes from diversifying the offer for families/young audiences via the appointment of an Engagement Assistant, and targeted seasonal, free events at Halloween and Christmas.

% of adults satisfied with leisure facilities:



Family Group Ranking						
Date	2016/19	2017/20	2018/21	2019/22	2020/23	2023/24
East Ayrshire	5	6	7	7	7	3
East Lothian	6	5	1	1	1	2
Fife	4	4	4	2	3	4
Moray	8	7	6	3	6	8
North Ayrshire	7	8	8	8	8	6
Perth & Kinross	3	3	5	6	4	5
South Ayrshire	2	2	3	3	4	7
Stirling	1	1	2	5	2	1

Commentary

Despite challenges, South Ayrshire Council has consistently demonstrated above-average performance in adult satisfaction within our leisure facilities:

From 2018/19 to 2022/23, South Ayrshire outperformed the family group average every year, often by a margin of 3–5 percentage points, reflecting strong service delivery and community engagement.

The 2023/24 dip aligns with a broader trend across the sector, as seen in the convergence of satisfaction levels with the family group average. This suggests that external factors—such as cost-of-living pressures, energy costs, and post-pandemic behavioural shifts—have had a sector-wide impact, not unique to South Ayrshire.

Importantly, South Ayrshire's historical strength in this area provides a solid foundation for recovery and future improvement, especially with the recent and future capital investment like the Riverside Sports Arena and ongoing community sport initiatives.

This performance underscores the Council's long-standing commitment to quality leisure provision, even in the face of evolving challenges.