

REPORT TO: CITY GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE – 22 JUNE 2026

REPORT ON: FAIRNESS AND LOCAL CHILD POVERTY ACTION PLAN – ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2025/26

REPORT BY: CHIEF EXECUTIVE

REPORT NO: 140-2026

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This annual report presents the combined Fairness and Local Child Poverty Action Plan Report showing progress during 2025/26.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Committee:

- a) approves the Dundee Fairness and Local Child Poverty Action Plan Annual Report for 2025/26 which is attached as Appendix 1.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from the agreement of this report.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017) places a duty on local authorities and health boards to jointly report annually on activity they are taking, and will take, to reduce child poverty. The Local Child Poverty Action Plan Reports are required to be produced *‘as soon as reasonably practicable after the end of each reporting year.’*
- 4.2 This report satisfies the requirements for the LCPAR and includes the partnership working and planning associated with the Dundee Fairness Strategy. Community Planning partners have collaborated accordingly, and the combined report is presented in Appendix 1. As requested by the Scottish Government, this combined report sets out a statistical analysis of poverty and deprivation in the city.
- 4.3 The Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017 introduced a series of statutory targets to measure reduction in child poverty in Scotland by 2030. While these targets do not apply locally, they inform Dundee’s Fairness and Child Poverty ambitions.
- 4.4 A new method for calculating child poverty statistics (children in low-income families after housing costs) has been introduced recently and whilst the new method improves accuracy it has resulted in lower estimates meaning that figures are not directly comparable with previously reported figures. The new figure estimates that the percentage of children aged under 16 living in relative low-income families after housing costs in Dundee is 17.0% (2024/25). This is higher than the overall Scottish figure for this indicator which is estimated to be 14.8%. At present only two years of this data is available. The Department of Work and Pension (DWP) plans to publish time series data for previous years for the indicator in late summer 2026. Officers will interrogate these figures further to consider any implications for future planning and new target setting.

5. PROGRESS SUMMARY

- 5.1 The annual report tracks performance with the indicators set in the Fairness Plan, compared to the previous 3 years, and compared to the current target. It also includes progress made on each of the actions in the Plan. It shows that the Dundee Partnership continues to take extensive action to reduce poverty and mitigate the impact experienced by families, children, individuals, and communities.

- 5.2 The summary of the Fairness and Child Poverty Plan performance by priority theme shows that overall, 44% of the performance indicators in the Fairness Plan are on or within 5% of the target. It also shows that 76% of performance indicators have improved over the previous year. See Page 7 of the full report.
- 5.3 Looking across the total number of indicators in the main report, the most improved indicators and the areas for improvement are noted below at Page 8. These will be a focus during the next year to move performance closer to our targets.
- 5.4 The summary of progress on the actions in the Fairness Plan shows that all actions have made progress since the 2024/25 annual report. The chart at Page 7 shows that 8 actions (13%) were marked as being between 20% to 50% complete, 41 actions (67%) were marked as being greater than 50% complete and 12 actions (20%) were marked as being 100% complete.
- 5.5 Appendix 1 is the full report setting out our progress in detail and includes the following sections:
- key infographics (page 3);
 - an Introduction by the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executives of Dundee City Council and NHS Tayside on behalf of the Dundee Partnership (pages 4);
 - a summary of national and local targets and performance including areas for improvement (pages 5-9);
 - an annual update from the Dundee Fairness Leadership Panel (page 9);
 - a breakdown of key statistics in Understanding Poverty and Inequality in Dundee (pages 10-12); and
 - a section on each of our Fairness Themes covering priorities, performance, strategic highlights, and action progress:
 - Social Inclusion and Stigma (page 13)
 - Work and Wages (page 18)
 - Benefits and Advice (page 24)
 - Attainment and Child Poverty (page 30)
 - Health Inequalities (page 34)
 - Housing and Communities (page 42)

6. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The progress presented in this report and all actions in the Fairness Plan for Dundee will make an impact on reducing the levels of poverty experienced by people in Dundee. The Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) for previous years' reports continues to be accurate. Article VIII of the Minute of the Policy & Resources Committee on 26 June 2023 refers to the original report and IIA.

7. CONSULTATIONS

- 7.1 The Council Leadership Team, community planning partners and members of the Fairness Leadership Panel have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 8.1 None.

GREGORY COLGAN
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

DATE: 3 JUNE 2026

ANDREA CALDER
HEAD OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S SERVICE

Dundee

Fairness
and
Local Child Poverty

Action Plan 2025/26



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Summary of Key Highlights



£687,658

generated in welfare benefits in 2025/26 by 70 referrals from midwives and 87 referrals from Health Visitors.

(Source: DCC Corporate Services)

£300,000

allocated from Dundee City Council for emergency food distributed via Dundee Community Food Network (Community Larders) in 2025/26.

(Source: DCC Chief Executive's Services)

9,337

people on average accessing emergency food support each week through community larders, cafes and community cupboards/fridges (excluding Dundee & Angus Foodbank).

(Source: DCC Chief Executive's Services 2025/26)



255

volunteers supporting the Dundee Food Network, contributing around 900-920 hours every week.

2,210



Fuel Bank Fund energy grants for households on pre-payment meters applied for by Dundee Energy Efficiency Advice Project in 2025/26.

(Source: DCC Corporate Services)

£872,448



in Holiday Support Payments paid to families/carers to help with meals during holiday periods.

(Source: Corporate Services 2025/26 figure)

82.7%

of Dundee's 5-21 years population currently have a National Entitlement Card with free bus travel on it.

(Source: DCC Chief Executives Service figures as at April 2026)



96,730



number of patients in Dundee who can now access a co-located welfare rights officer in their GP Practice for help with benefits, debt and energy costs in 2025/26.

(Source: DCC Corporate Services)

118

accredited Living Wage employers headquartered in Dundee.

(Source: Living Wage Scotland 2025/26)



During 2025/26, 8 new organisations joined the Living Wage Network in Dundee. These organisations employed 137 staff and uplifted 58 workers to the Real Living Wage.

(Source: Living Wage Scotland 2025/26)

5,354

school clothing grants paid to families in 2025/26 – primary school children receive £125 and secondary age children receive £155 per academic year.

(Source: Dundee City Council, Corporate Services 2022/23)



401

secondary school pupils supported with Educational Maintenance Allowance amounting to £178K (August 25 to March 26).

(Source: DCC Corporate Services)



28.1%



of secondary school pupils registered for free school meals in Dundee City.

(Scottish Government Pupil Census 2025)

4,814

households supported with Housing Benefit to help manage rent payments.

(Source: DCC, Corporate Services 2025/26)



12,197

calls and 9,703 applications for Crisis Grants and Community Care Grants to the Scottish Welfare fund who paid out £1,948,639 in awards.

(Source: DCC, Corporate Services 2025/26)



426,312

individual period products distributed in 2025/26.

(Source: DCC, Chief Executive's Services)

16,577



households supported with Council Tax Reduction to the value of £14,798,508 to help manage their payments.

(Source: DCC Corporate Services 2025/26)

£2,637,008

claimed in welfare benefits for 693 customers suffering from cancer and their families, helped by the Council's Macmillan Welfare Benefits Service in 2025/26.

(Source: DCC Corporate Services)



£4,065,004

of Discretionary Housing Payments/Local Authority Hardship Fund Payments awarded to tenants in 2025/26.

(Source: DCC Corporate Services 2025/26)

1. INTRODUCTION

Across Dundee, people are working together to make our city a fairer place. Communities are supporting neighbours, groups are welcoming members, and services are helping clients – all to improve the quality of life for individuals and families who are trying to create a better future for themselves.

But they face challenges that can feel extreme. Statistics and day to day experiences tell us that far too many adults are struggling to make ends meet with inevitable consequences for the children in their care. The members of the Dundee Partnership are determined to reduce the number of children and families living in poverty. We have made a whole-hearted commitment to deliver on our Fairness Action Plan and its aims to reduce inequalities in income, education, and health.

This is our Fairness and Child Poverty Annual Report for the year 2025/26. It is the report that tells you what we are doing to tackle poverty, the progress we are making and whether it is making a difference that can be felt and measured. It is full of data and examples of how hard we are trying to help families to earn more money through work, to claim all the benefits they are entitled to, and to manage the escalating costs of living.

Levels of child poverty in Dundee remain consistently and stubbornly high. Because the way child poverty is calculated has changed, this report accurately shows that the number of children living in poverty in the city is believed to be lower than it was in previous years. But statistics only ever tell part of the story. Officially, there are still over 4,000 children in Dundee in poverty. No child, adult or family should have to deal with the stress and damage that living in poverty can cause, so we are more motivated than ever to reduce this number.

Earlier this year the Scottish Government published its new Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan for 2026/2031, *Bringing Hope, Building Futures*. It restates the national direction for this work and the ambitious targets we all aim to achieve by 2030. It emphasises the crucial role that community planning partners including councils and local health boards have to play in delivering this. Dundee City Council, NHS Tayside and all our partners will continue to provide the leadership the city and our people need and deserve.

Councillor Mark Flynn, Leader of Dundee City Council & Chair of the Dundee Partnership

Greg Colgan, Chief Executive, Dundee City Council,

Nicky Connor, Chief Executive, NHS Tayside

2. NATIONAL TARGETS AND LOCAL PERFORMANCE

a. Dundee Fairness and Child Poverty Approach

Since the adoption of the first Fairness Strategy for Dundee in 2012, the Dundee Partnership has taken a broad approach to reducing child poverty and improving outcomes for individuals and families in the city. Our performance indicators and action plan commitments demonstrate a coherent cross-cutting look at the range of outcomes for people experiencing socio-economic disadvantage. These are shaped by the outcomes presented below.

Social Inclusion and Stigma	Increase social and digital inclusion	Reduce stigma and discrimination of people living in poverty and people with protected characteristics	Improve resilience, aspirations, and purpose for people in poverty	
Work and Wages	Increase wage levels and Scottish Living Wage Accreditation	Increase learning, skills, and employment opportunities for people in poverty	Reduce persistent and rising levels of unemployment and underemployment	
Benefits and Advice	Maximise income from social security and benefits in kind	Reduce household costs, debt, and fuel poverty	Improve access to advice services for all households	
Attainment and Child Poverty	Reduce the poverty-related attainment gap	Reduce the number of children living in poverty	Improve engagement of priority families with support services	
Health Inequalities	Reduce health gaps caused by social inequality	Improve physical and mental health and wellbeing for people in poverty	Reduce the causes and consequences of substance misuse	
Housing and Communities	Build social capital, connectedness, and trust in disadvantaged communities	Promote safe and supportive environments at home, at work, and in the community	Ensure access to basic human necessities including food, heat, medicine, and hygiene products	

The Scottish Government's third Child Poverty Plan 'Bringing Hope, Building Futures,' underpins progress towards the statutory targets for 2030. In addition to the three previous areas of focus, it places emphasis on increased scale and pace of action through system reform, prevention, and more coordinated delivery. The primary method of delivering this will be through Whole Family Support, the local implementation of which is covered later in this report will involve coordinated commitments to employability, housing, childcare, transport, and advice services. All actions will also be backed up with better use of data for targeting support and improving services

b. Targets and Progress

Dundee set itself the ambitious goal of matching the Scottish Government's overall national target of reducing child poverty to less than 10% of children living in relative poverty by 2030. Our efforts are directed by the combined fairness and child poverty outcomes outlined above.

In previous years statistics produced by End Child Poverty were used by local authorities to measure the percentage of children in poverty after housing costs. However, End Child Poverty have now stopped producing these figures and the Department for Work and Pensions have begun to produce improved statistics on the number of children under 16 in relative low-income families after housing costs.

The DWP statistics are calculated using an improved methodology and are therefore not comparable with the previous End Child Poverty statistics. Currently DWP have only produced statistics for the periods 2023/24 and 2024/25 but they are planning to release backdated time series data in late summer 2026. More information on these changes can be found on page 8 of this report. Tables showing the data released by End Child Poverty and DWP are shown in the tables below:

End Child Poverty Statistics – Children in Poverty After Housing Costs

2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
25.0%	26.4%	27.0%	26.2%	26.8%	22.5%	27.1%	28.2%	26.1%

Source: End Child Poverty- Child Poverty in your area 2014/15-2023/24 (Published June 2025)

Due to changes in methodology caution should be taken when looking at changes over time.

New DWP Statistics – Children Under 16 Living in Relative Low-Income Families After Housing Costs

2023/24	2024/25
17.7%	17.0%

Source: DWP Children in Low Income Families (Published March 2026)

c. Dundee Performance

The Dundee Partnership supports the Scottish Government's aspiration to make Scotland the best place for children to grow up, and tackling poverty will contribute a large part of achieving this. Local Authorities and Health Boards have a duty to publish a joint annual report on activities undertaken at a local level to contribute to meeting the child poverty targets shown above.

The latest data on the Fairness Plan is summarised below for each priority theme. This shows an overall total for each priority shown in the table below. 76% of performance indicators across the priority theme scorecards in the plan have improved when comparing the latest figures to the previous year.

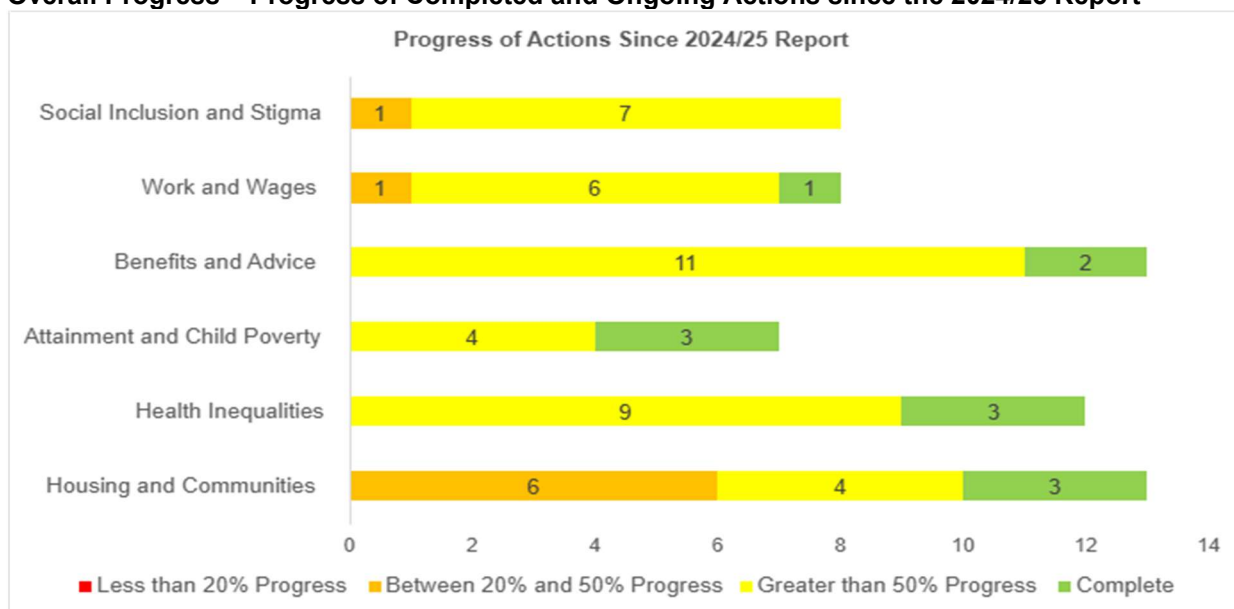
Theme	Within 5% of target	Improved over previous year	Total Indicators
Social Inclusion and Stigma	2 (67%)	3 (100%)	3
Work and Wages	3 (60%)	4 (80%)	5
Benefits and Advice	2 (67%)	2 (67%)	3
Attainment and Child Poverty	2 (33%) *	4 (67%)	6
Health Inequalities	0 (0%) **	2 (67%)	3
Housing and Communities	2 (40%)	4 (80%)	5
TOTAL	11 (44%)	19 (76%)	25

*One of the six indicators in the attainment and child poverty theme has been revised using a new method and dataset. Historical trend data is not yet available, so no target can currently be set. Revised trend data to support a realistic target is expected in late summer 2026.

**Two of the three Health Inequalities indicators are data-only, so no targets are set.

The chart below shows how Dundee is progressing on its actions to reduce child poverty and poverty related socio-economic impacts on vulnerable groups.

Overall Progress – Progress of Completed and Ongoing Actions since the 2024/25 Report



The NHS action “Support Whole Systems approaches that will focus on child health inequalities and child poverty” has been removed from the plan as it no longer aligns with NHS Tayside’s current priority to focus on embedding an income maximisation pathway.

Fairness Theme Progress

As stated in last year’s report the timescale for the current Dundee Fairness and Child Poverty Plan has been extended to March 2027 to accommodate the Scottish Government’s new delivery plan, Bringing Hope, Building Futures, which was published in March 2026, and align with the next Dundee City Plan. Monitoring will continue to be as open and rigorous as ever and this report includes updates from partners on the actual work carried out over the last year to implement the actions we have published.

The following legend explains the icons and progress percentages within the action tables.

Legend	
	Unassigned – The action has been created on the system, but hasn’t yet had the required relevant officers assigned to it.
	In Progress - Action is progressing well, on target for achieving all objections set in the initiation phase. 20% - The task is defined and agreed by relevant partners/stakeholders 40% - Necessary tasks planned and implementation in early stages 60% - Number of key actions achieved/agreed process or improvement taking shape or in place or underway 80% - Majority of actions achieved/ agreed process or improvement largely in place or underway leading to confidence that the overall action will be delivered in full/on schedule
	Overdue – Action is still progressing; however, it has exceeded its due date.
	Completed - Action has been completed, and objectives have been achieved.
	Alternative Action Identified - When the action will not reach its due date or/and an alternative has been initiated

d. Areas for Improvement

While the Partnership continues to develop and implement actions to mitigate the impacts of poverty in Dundee, we acknowledge that there are still areas where greater progress is needed and must be pursued. The following table shows the performance indicators which were highlighted as areas for improvement in the 2024/25 Local Child Poverty Action Plan Annual Report. The latest figures available are shown in the table below:

Actions in Response to Areas for Improvement Identified in the 2024/25 Report

Performance Indicator	Latest Position
Number of workless households in Dundee	Latest data taken from the 2024 Annual Population Survey reported that there were 12,000 workless households in Dundee City. This has decreased from 14,300 households reported in the 2023 survey. Reducing the number of workless households in the city is a key priority for the Discover Work Employability Service. This is done through addressing the employability needs of individuals and adopting a whole family approach where appropriate and where resources allow. The latest figure shows a 16% decrease in the number of workless households. Please note the Scottish Government's Chief Statistician has highlighted concerns about the reliability of economic data from the Annual Population Survey, citing issues such as reduced sample sizes, especially since the pandemic. Whilst the data remains usable, caution is advised when interpreting the results.
Number of applications assessed as homeless or threatened with homelessness	There was a 9% decrease in the number of applications assessed as homeless or threatened with homelessness from 1,378 applications in 2024/25 to a provisional figure of 1,256 in 2025/26. This correlates with the reduction in homeless applications. The reduction during 2025/2026 is a result of focused preventative work and early intervention, but overall homelessness remains at a higher level than anticipated following a significant increase during 2024/2025. Please note the above figures are provisional and are awaiting verification from the Scottish Government.
Percentage of Primary 1 children classified as at risk of obesity or overweight combined	Latest figures show that the percentage of primary 1 children at risk of obesity or being overweight combined has increased from 25.1% in 2023/24 to 27% in 2024/25. This increasing trend has also been experienced nationally with the Scottish proportion increasing from 22.2% in 2023/24 to 24.4% in 2024/25. The Children and Families Service are leading a multi-agency working group to develop a Food and Health Policy for all early years, primary and secondary school settings. The Early Years policy is complete, and a first draft Food and Health Policy is being developed. The next step is to create and implement a plan to effectively consult and engage with children, young people, and families. This performance indicator has been highlighted again as an area for improvement in this year's report. During preparation of the new Children's Services Partnership Plan 2026-29 a commitment has been made to: • implement the Tayside Child Healthy Weight Strategy • increase the number of children participating in Active Schools activities (including retention rates for target groups)

Action on Areas for Improvement in the 2026/27 Report

Based on an analysis of performance against targets set in the Dundee action plan, the following performance indicators are the furthest away from target, with no improvement on the year before. The relevant Dundee Partnership strategic leadership group will be charged with investigating the reasons for this and taking action to address and close these gaps. The action taken and the results will be reported in next year's report.

- Percentage of Primary 1 Children classified as at risk of obesity or overweight combined.
- Percentage of employees in Dundee earning less than the real living wage
- Percentage gap in attainment – average scores between school leavers in SIMD 1 areas and SIMD 5 areas

e. Dundee Fairness Leadership Panel

The Dundee Fairness Leadership Panel is a collective response to poverty and inequality in Dundee. It brings together people with lived experience and representatives from local organisations to work together to ensure that those who are vulnerable and facing disadvantage in our city have a voice.

During 2025/26, the Panel presented their most recent recommendations regarding the three areas it investigated in 2024: Mental Health and Isolation; Pressures on Third Sector Projects Tackling Poverty; and Fair Housing. Their recommendations were presented to the Dundee Partnership and to Dundee City Council's City Governance Committee. These were all endorsed and added to Dundee's Fairness Action Plan.

Panel members undertook a photo project reflecting experiences and perspectives on poverty, and these were exhibited in Central Library as a feature of Challenge Poverty Week in October 2025 and then at the annual Fairness conference held in November.

The conference theme was *Where Next for Fairness in Dundee?* and featured a keynote presentation from Jack Evans, Senior Policy Advisor at the Joseph Rowntree Foundation. Workshops focused on advice and benefits, employability, families with disabilities and carers and vulnerable families. Participants heard an update on the implementation of the Fairness Plan in Dundee and discussed strengths and areas for improvement.

In the coming year, the Panel will focus on stigma and how to better communicate the way Dundee is trying to talk about poverty and what we can do to reduce it through changing public perceptions and conversations. Members will also participate in a review considering how the voices of those with lived experience can influence the direction and priorities of the Dundee Partnership.

3. UNDERSTANDING POVERTY AND INEQUALITIES IN DUNDEE

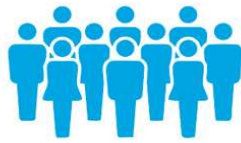
a. Measuring Inequality in Dundee

The long-term trend of poverty levels in Dundee remains stubbornly consistent over time. As the prices of everyday essentials continue to increase, it is important that all available evidence continues to be monitored. This will allow us to identify the highest priority groups, local issues, and monitor progress towards our child poverty targets.

The following summary shows the extent and range of poverty challenges which families and communities in Dundee face. A full and detailed [Poverty Profile](#) for Dundee can be found on the Dundee City Council Website.

Population

149,880



Population of Dundee City.

(Source: National Records of Scotland 2024 mid-year population estimates)

24,197



Child population of Dundee City (those aged 0-15 years).

(Source: National Records of Scotland 2024 mid-year population estimates)

6.1%

of households in Dundee City were lone parent households with dependent children

(Scottish Census 2022)



16.6%

minority ethnic groups.

(Source: Scottish Census 2022 – this includes White Irish, White Gypsy/Traveller, White Polish, Other White, Mixed or Multiple Ethnic Groups, Asian, African, Caribbean or Black or Other Ethnic Group.)



37.5%

of people in Dundee City live in a data zone ranked within the 20% most deprived.

(Source: SIMD 2020 most deprived data zones and National Records of Scotland Mid 2024 Small Area Population Estimates)

7

of the eight Wards in Dundee City contain data zones ranked in the 20% most deprived.

(Source: SIMD 2020)



East End (72.6%) and Coldsides (62.6%) are the Wards within Dundee City which have the greatest proportion of their respective populations living in data zones ranked in the 20% most deprived

(Source: SIMD 2020 – 20% most deprived data zones and National Records of Scotland – Mid 2024 Small Area Population Estimates)

b. Recent Changes to Child Poverty Data

In previous years, local authority data on the levels of child poverty were sourced from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) and End Child Poverty. On an annual basis DWP would produce statistics on the number and percentage of children (aged 0-15) living in relative low income families before housing costs (BHC) and then End Child Poverty would use this data along with other data sources to provide statistics on the number and percentage of children living in poverty after housing costs (AHC).

Going forward from this year the DWP have published statistics on the number and percentage of children (0-15 years) living in relative low-income families for both before housing costs (BHC) and after housing costs (AHC). This means that the statistics previously produced by End Child Poverty will be replaced with the new statistics produced by DWP. As a result, the number and percentage of children identified as living in low-income households differ from previous reports, so old and new poverty rates are not directly comparable. Data from the most recent Department for Work and Pensions publication is shown below.

c. Children Under 16 in Low Income Families (Before Housing Costs)

In financial year 2024/25 Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) reported that 3,279 children or 13.6% of children aged under 16 years in Dundee City were living in relative low-income families (before housing costs). This has increased slightly from 13.4% reported in 2023/24. At a Scottish level it was estimated that 12.3% of children aged under 16 years were living in low-income families (before housing costs) in 2024/25.

Area	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Dundee City (Number)	3,928	3,907	3,242	3,279
Dundee City (Percentage)	16.7%	16.6%	13.4%	13.6%
Scotland (Number)	135,088	131,700	108,895	109,931
Scotland (Percentage)	15.1%	14.8%	12.1%	12.3%

Source: DWP Children in Low Income Families – Local Area Statistics 2022-2025

Statistical disclosure controls have been applied which guards against the identification of an individual claimant – totals may not sum due to rounding and disclosure control. Percentages have been rounded to 1 decimal place.

d. Children Under 16 in Low Income Families (After Housing Costs)

As DWP have only recently started to publish these statistics, data is only available for years 2023/24 and 2024/25. During the period 2024/25 in Dundee City 4,106 (17.0%) children aged under 16 were living in relative low-income families (After Housing Costs). This was higher than the overall Scottish proportion which stood at 14.8% during the same period.

Area	2023/24		2024/25	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Dundee City	4,271	17.7%	4,106	17.0%
Scotland	136,704	15.2%	132,484	14.8%

Source: DWP Children in Low Income Families – Local Area Statistics 2022-2025

Statistical disclosure controls have been applied which guards against the identification of an individual claimant – totals may not sum due to rounding and disclosure control. Percentages have been rounded to 1 decimal place.

e. Households in receipt of Universal Credit

The number of households receiving Universal Credit provides an insight into priority families in relative poverty. The table below shows the number and proportion of households in Dundee City receiving Universal Credit. Whilst the number of households in receipt of Universal Credit in Dundee has increased overall, the number of those households with children has decreased between February 2025 and February 2026.

Universal Credit Households	2025 %	2026 %
Total households in receipt of Universal Credit (UC)	18,114	21,170
% of all Dundee households in receipt of Universal Credit (UC)	26%	30%
UC Households with children aged 1 and under*	6%	5%
UC Households - Single with children*	31%	27%
UC Households - Couple with children*	11%	9%
Total UC Households with Children*	42%	36%
UC Households with 3 or more children*	8%	7%
UC Households with a disabled child element*	9%	8%
UC Households without children	58%	64%

Source: Household Estimates – National Records of Scotland – Households and Dwellings in Scotland 2024

Households on Universal Credit – DWP Stat Xplore figures as of February 2025 and 2026 (provisional figures)

*% of all households in receipt of Universal Credit

5. OUR FAIRNESS THEMES

5.1 Social Inclusion and Stigma

Social Inclusion and Stigma

72%

of Dundee City respondents in the 2024 Scottish Household Survey stated that they felt very or fairly strongly when asked about their strength of feeling of belonging to the community.

(Source: Scottish Household Survey 2024)



29%

of Dundee City respondents in the 2024 Scottish Household Survey stated that they felt lonely some of the time or all or almost all of the time the week before the survey was undertaken.

(Source: Scottish Household Survey 2024)



52%

of Dundee City respondents in the 2024 Scottish Household Survey strongly agreed or tended to agree with the statement "There are welcoming places and opportunities to meet new people" when asked about their neighbourhood strengths.

(Source: Scottish Household Survey 2024)



8%

of respondents in the Dundee Planet Youth Survey strongly agreed or agreed with the statement "I can't do activities because my parents/carers can't afford them".

(Source: Dundee Planet Youth Survey 2025)



13%

of Dundee City respondents in the Scottish Health Survey reported that in the previous 12 months they were worried that they would run out of food because of lack of money or other resources.

(Source: ScotPho Population Health Profile – Scottish Health Survey 2019-2023 data)



Strategic Highlights and Progress (2025/26)

- The Fairness Leadership Panel's recommendations were endorsed across the Partnership and added to the Fairness Action Plan
- The number of pupils participating in Active Schools extracurricular activities has increased dramatically.
- The work of the Linlathen Local Fairness Initiative was recognised by winning a COSLA Excellence Award
- Plans are in place for an innovative Public Diner developed in partnership with Nourish Scotland

Performance Scorecard

Indicator	-3 Years	-2 Years	-1 Year	Latest Figure	Current Target	Short Term Trend	Long Term Trend
Number of food vouchers issued from Dundee and Angus Foodbanks (Source: Dundee and Angus Foodbank)	8,655 (2022)	8,261 (2023)	7,295 (2024)	6,389 (2025)	5,984	↑	↑
Children fed via Dundee and Angus Foodbank	5,961 (2022)	5,111 (2023)	4,515 (2024)	3,534 (2025)	4,469	↑	↑

Indicator	-3 Years	-2 Years	-1 Year	Latest Figure	Current Target	Short Term Trend	Long Term Trend
(Source: Dundee and Angus Foodbank)							
Employment rate for those with a disability (Source: ONS Annual Population Survey) *	45.8% (2021/22)	56.3% (2022/23)	39.4% (2023/24)	51.1% (2024/25)	53.6%		

When looking at the short-term trend and long-term trend: dash means maintaining, upwards arrow means improving trend and downwards arrow means deteriorating trend.

*The Scottish Government's Chief Statistician highlighted concerns about the reliability of economic data from the Annual Population Survey, citing issues such as reduced sample sizes, especially since the pandemic. While the data remains usable, caution is advised when interpreting the statistics.

Progress of Actions

Status	Action Title	Progress	Due Date	Latest Update
	Expand and scale up the Making Recovery Real Network approach in localities	95%	31-Mar-2027	Over the past year, two sessions of Creating Hope through Peer Support were delivered to a total of 24 participants. This is an introductory programme with a focus on suicide prevention. A local peer support framework is anticipated to be completed by August 2026. The peer network has been relaunched, and now has 57 members, regularly attracting over 20 attendees per meeting. In addition, a monthly informal coffee morning for peer workers is hosted. Peer-to-peer training delivery has been paused while the Scottish Recovery Network reviews and relaunches an updated version.
	Implement actions for positive destinations for young carers who are particularly vulnerable	90%	31-Mar-2027	Key actions taken in past year include strengthened early identification and transitions planning for young carers in the senior phase, with a particular focus on those at risk of disengagement or facing multiple disadvantages. Enhanced use of data and better information-sharing among schools, Dundee & Angus College, Skills Development Scotland partners, the Carers Centre has improved post-school support for young carers. https://carersofdundee.org/carers/young-carers/ Tailored transition and employability support has been embedded through joint working with Dundee & Angus College, including dedicated carer link workers, student support services, and carer ambassadors to help young carers sustain participation in further education. Actions have also focused on recognising and translating caring skills into positive outcomes through access to attributes programmes, Adult Achievement Awards, and exploration of clearer pathways into employment. Additional targeted support has been prioritised for young carers who are particularly vulnerable, through access to specialist Carers Centre support, mentoring pathways, wellbeing and health checks, and flexible supports to reduce barriers related to caring responsibilities.
	Increase opportunities for positive destinations for young people with Additional Support Needs (ASN), including complex needs, through transition planning and skills enhancement	90%	30-Jun-2027	Targeted interventions are being delivered through weekly Child Inclusion Group (CIG) meetings, where multi-agency teams identify and support individuals at risk of negative destinations. Tailored sessions focus on employability, self-management, and communication skills. Partnerships with organisations such as Enable, Barnardo's, Helm, and Dundee and Angus College provide bespoke transition planning, supported college links, and real-world experiences including volunteering, enterprise, and work placements. Kingspark and St John's have embedded social enterprise models and community interest companies to offer supported work environments and post-school engagement.

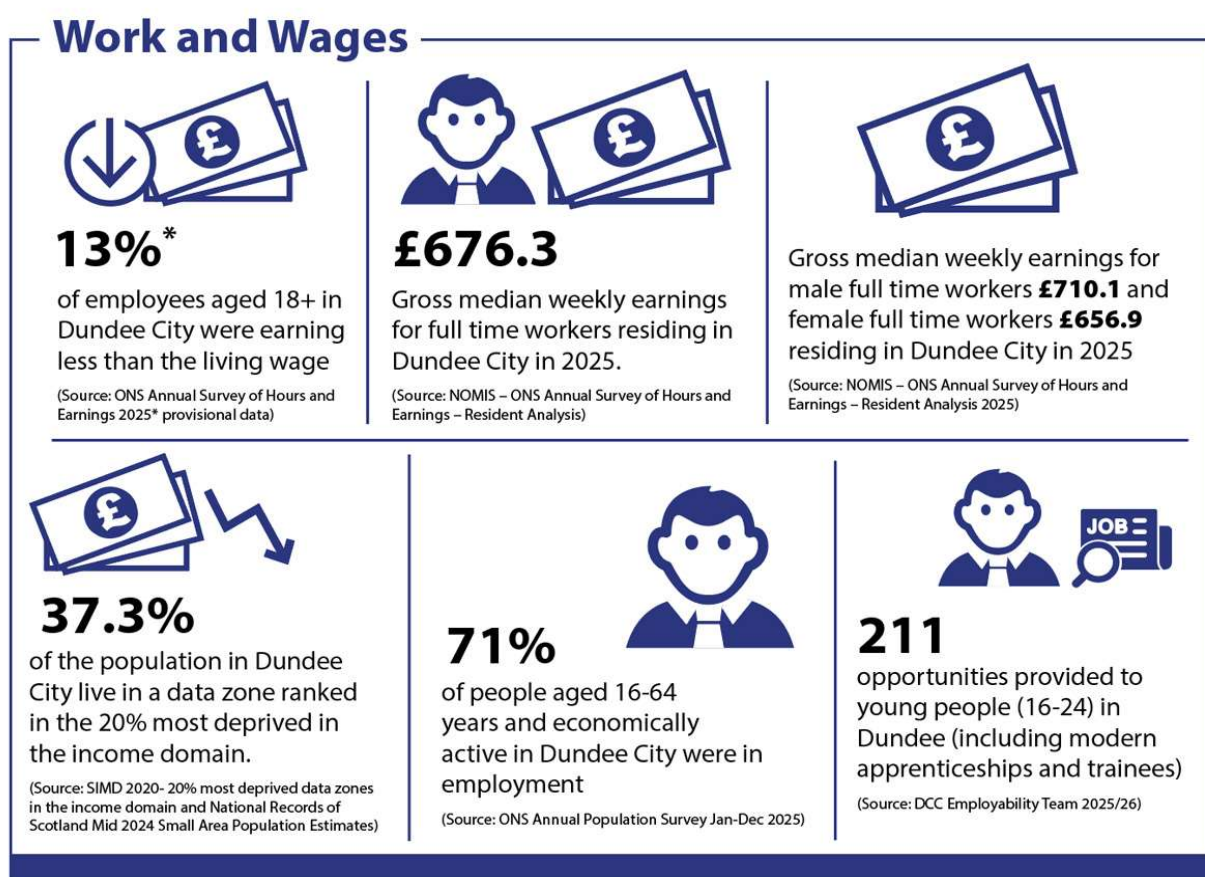
Status	Action Title	Progress	Due Date	Latest Update
				Strategic tracking up to age 20 ensures continued support for those not yet ready to engage due to health or personal circumstances. The integration of career guidance, coaching, and early identification ensures that young people with ASN are equipped with the skills, confidence, and pathways needed for successful transitions into adulthood.
	Undertake research to understand the stigma and challenges experienced by people struggling against in-work poverty	90%	31-Mar-2027	The Fairness Leadership Panel has agreed to focus on stigma for its next phase from March 2026. It will base its work on new research on communicating poverty issues in an effective and stigma-free way, which has recently been launched by Save the Children and the Joseph Rowntree Foundation. The New Story of Child Poverty in Scotland includes guidance on how to campaign and improve policies.
	Improve the offering from Active Schools Programme targeting children and young people from families on low incomes	90%	31-Mar-2027	Active Schools has significantly increased participation in extracurricular clubs with a 75% rise in the number of school pupil visits compared to the previous year. This data reflects a year-on-year comparison across Term 1 and Term 2. Encouragingly, the percentage of pupils from SIMD 1–2 areas taking part in extracurricular clubs has also increased, rising from 57% in 2024/25 to 60% of overall participation in 2025/26.
	Expand delivery of Dignity and Right to Food awareness sessions for providers who work with clients facing food insecurity	80%	31-Mar-2027	Dignity and Right to Food continues to be embedded across all Community Guider and frontline service training delivered by Faith in Community Dundee. Between April 2025 and March 2026, six sessions / workshops were delivered, reaching 38 staff and volunteers across six different organisations. Faith in Community Dundee and The Maxwell Centre have been approached by Nourish Scotland to co-design and deliver an interactive Dignity and Right to Food workshop in 2026/7 aligned with the Scottish Government's intention to reintroduce a Human Rights Bill that would incorporate the right to food into Scots law, and the direction set by the Cash-First: Towards Ending the Need for Food Banks plan.
	Reduce the barriers to education, employability, and volunteering for those with convictions by increasing referrals to Dundee employability, education, support services, and volunteering agencies from community justice partners	80%	31-Mar-2027	New ways to use 'Other Activity' up to the legal maximum of 30% of hours continue to be investigated. This includes a number of on-line training courses run by the Open University that can be considered as unpaid work. Employability partners are working with the Dundee Adult Learning Partnership to provide bespoke training and qualification opportunities to service users as part of their 'Other Activity' within Community Payback Orders.

Status	Action Title	Progress	Due Date	Latest Update
	Prioritise and protect local community projects that provide early interventions to improve people's wellbeing, mitigating the negative impacts of the cost-of-living crisis and isolation	50%	31-Mar-2027	Among actions that focus on community-based approaches, the Local Fairness Initiative targets areas of highest need and brings services together locally to improve access to coordinated support. The initiative delivers place-based, multi-agency drop-ins, making services easier to navigate and more responsive around poverty, employability, income maximisation, housing, and wellbeing. This approach has been delivered in Linlathen and extended to Stobswell West, reflecting where focused support can have the greatest impact. Alongside this there has been an increasing emphasis on whole-family support, building on earlier learning to strengthen a preventative focus while continuing to respond where families are already experiencing crisis. Another example is the work of the Community Food Network supported by Faith in Community Dundee which continues to make the purchase of food more affordable.

Case Studies

- Reducing Social Isolation for New Parents through Community-Based Early Years Support (Early Years)
- Building Confidence and Leadership Through Community Connection (WM2U, CLD)
- Reducing Stigma Through Accessible, Dignified Community Food Support (Lochee Community Larder, Dundee Community Food Network)

5.2 Work and Wages



Strategic Highlights and Progress (2025/26)

- Whole-family, place-based employability delivery has expanded through Local Fairness Initiatives and multi-agency advice hubs including Stobswell Connect, supporting parents facing combined childcare, health, and financial pressures.
- Targeted employability support was directed towards parents and the six priority family groups, with flexible and family-friendly pathways.
- There are 118 Living Wage accredited employers based in Dundee; six have extended their commitment to Living Hours and one to Living Pensions.
- The NHS Tayside Discover Together initiative has been introduced, offering paid placements for parents who are progressing towards employment.

Performance Scorecard

Indicator	-3 Years	-2 Years	-1 Year	Latest Figure	Current Target	Short Term Trend	Long Term Trend
% of employees in Dundee earning less than the real living wage (Source: ONS Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings) *	7.2% (2022)	9.8% (2023)	12% (2024)	13%* (2025)	10.3%	↓	↓
Gross Weekly Pay for full time employees living in the area.	£586.70 (2022)	£624.80 (2023)	£663.20 (2024)	£676.30 (2025)	£665.63	↑	↑

Indicator	-3 Years	-2 Years	-1 Year	Latest Figure	Current Target	Short Term Trend	Long Term Trend
(Source: ONS Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings – Resident Analysis) *							
Number of workless households in Dundee (Source: ONS Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings Resident Analysis) *	10,500 (2021)	10,300 (2022)	14,300 (2023)	12,000 (2024)	8,145	↑	↑
% of young people 16 to 24 who are unemployed (Source: ONS Annual Population Survey) *	21.7% (2022)	31.7% (2023)	28.9% (2024)	16.9% (2025)	18.7%	↑	↑
The total number of opportunities provided to young people (e.g. modern apprenticeships. Trainees) (Source: DCC Corporate Services)	117 (2022/23)	199 (2023/24)	181 (2024/25)	211 (2025/26)	181	↑	↑

When looking at the short-term trend and long-term trend: dash means maintaining, upwards arrow means improving trend and downwards arrow means deteriorating trend.

*The Scottish Government's Chief Statistician highlighted concerns about the reliability of economic data from the Annual Population Survey, citing issues such as reduced sample sizes, especially since the pandemic. While the data remains, usable caution is advised when interpreting the statistics.

Progress of Actions

Status	Action Title	Progress	Due Date	Latest Update
	Continue to work in partnership with the Fairness Leadership Panel and Dundee Fighting for Fairness to ensure Employability Providers uphold commitments to new principles for Discover Work and respond fully to pre-existing Fairness Commission Recommendations	100%	31-Mar-2027	Dundee Fighting for Fairness (DFFF) and Fairness Leadership Panel (FLP) recommendations have been implemented, including co-commissioning of the employability pathway, refreshed Discover Work principles and completion of the DCC Employability Review. Discover Work will now work with DFFF, or successor arrangements, to establish lived-experience mechanisms to monitor participant experience within the employability pathway.
	Facilitate and resource "Discover Together" an initiative where NHS Tayside is to provide family-friendly employment opportunities for parents belonging to BSBF Priority Family Groups	90%	31-Mar-2027	Discover Together continued to deliver six-month paid placements for parents, designed to be flexible and family-friendly. The programme supported parents to build skills, confidence, and work experience, with positive progression into employment achieved. Further detail and outcomes are captured in the Discover Together case study.
	Support the Local Fairness Initiatives through the provision of employability services delivered alongside others in any place-based approaches	85%	31-Mar-2027	Discover Work partners continue to support the Local Fairness Initiatives in Linlathen and Stobswell West through targeted, place based and multi-agency approaches. This includes advice hub models delivered through the Linlathen drop in at Brooksbank and the Stobswell drop in at Arthursstone Library. Activity has also been delivered through local secondary schools, including whole family employability drop ins at Drumgeith Community Campus. Between June 2025 and 31 March 2026, 29 new customers were registered on the Employability Pathway through drop in engagement. Twenty were parents, with eight entering a positive destination (six parents). Between 1 April 2024 and 31 March 2026: • 21% of customers lived in the 5% most deprived areas (SIMD 2020) • 58% of customers and 61% of parents lived in a priority ward. • 3% lived in Linlathen and 2% in Stobswell West
	Maximise the use of Child Poverty Employability Funding to support Priority Family Groups	80%	31-Mar-2027	Between 1st April 2024 and 31st March 2026, 583 parents were supported through the Employability Pathway. Of these, 67% were female, 33% male, 31% had a long-term physical

Status	Action Title	Progress	Due Date	Latest Update
	and other families/ communities based on local need			health condition, and 30% a mental health condition. 21% lived in the 5% most deprived areas in Scotland (SIMD 2020). Parents supported reflected the Scottish Government's six priority family groups: - 53% were lone parents - 48% were from a minority ethnic background - 9% were under the age of 25 - 21% had 3 or more children - 23% had a disability and 12% had a disabled child - 7% had a youngest child under one *Some parents are included in more than one category. Ongoing support for the Local Fairness Initiative in Stobswell West, reported in the dedicated action above, shows increased reach and engagement of parents, particularly mothers from minority ethnic backgrounds
	Implement the new Employability Pathway Programme for 2024-29 once the Corporate Employability Review has concluded	75%	31-Mar-2027	Between 1 April 2024 and 31 March 2026, 583 parents were supported through the new Employability Pathway. Parents supported reflected the Scottish Government priority family groups with 277 parents (47%) having entered a positive destination.
	Facilitate a Local Childminder Recruitment Programme in partnership with the Scottish Childminding Association. Parents belonging to BSBF Priority Family Groups who can feasibly become a childminder will be provided the opportunity to do so	70%	31-Mar-2027	The Scottish Childminding Association's (SCMA) childminding recruitment programme, Programme for Scotland's Childminding Futures, was launched in Dundee in April 2025. This programme supports new childminders through a programme of training, support, and provides a business start-up grant. Discover Work partnered with SCMA to support this programme with referral routes, enhanced employability and in-work support, and support for new childminders to connect with families requiring childcare through the Childcare Connector support delivered by One Parent Families Scotland. To date, five parents have registered and started their training to become childminders in Dundee. Of these, three have completed their training and are in the process of registering with the Care Inspectorate. The programme will continue into 2026/27 with a fresh marketing campaign. Further delivery detail and lived-experience examples are provided in the Case Studies Supplement.
	Develop a single gateway/directory to better inform parents and their children	60%	31-Mar-2027	A directory of employability and wider support options was developed in summer 2025, identifying 34 offers across 27 organisations. This complements Adult Learning mapping undertaken by Community Learning and Development and has been shared with key

Status	Action Title	Progress	Due Date	Latest Update
	of their options for attainment, participation, progression, and employment			partners working with young people and families. Work is ongoing to maintain the directory and host it on the Discover Work public website.
	Support activity through the role of Employability Development Officer (Child Poverty) through Partnership work with NHS Tayside and Public Health Scotland, Community Development and Learning and Education	50%	31-Mar-2027	During 2025/26, the role has focused on supporting Local Fairness Initiatives, strengthening delivery of the Employability Pathway and workforce development across partners. This has included partnership working with NHS Tayside, Public Health Scotland, Community Learning and Development and Education to improve awareness of health inequalities, poverty sensitivity, and mental health, helping to embed more inclusive employability practice. The role has also supported key pilot initiatives, including Discover Together paid placements for parents and Earn & Learn opportunities for young people, in line with the aims of A Step Change in Positive Destinations for Young Dundonians.

Case Studies

- Supporting Parents into Sustainable Employment – Discover Together (DCC and NHS Tayside Partnership)
- Targeted Parental Employability Support (OPFS / Barnardo's Works)
- Whole-Family Employability in Practice – Drumgeith / Greenfield
- Childcare, Caring Responsibilities and Barriers to Employment (Early Years)
- Scaling Up Employability Services (DCC, All in Dundee)

5.3 Benefits and Advice



Strategic Highlights and Progress (2025/26)

- Uptake of key financial supports has increased, including continued growth in free school meal registration and over 80% of Dundee's 5–21-year-olds now holding a National Entitlement Card (NEC) for free bus travel.
- Income maximisation activity has been strengthened through health pathways, with increased referrals from the Family Nurse Partnership, including 140 young women supported through the Warm Home Prescription pilot, alongside ongoing support for young parents into positive destinations.
- Referrals to the Hospital Advice Centre have increased, with a growing proportion coming directly from medical staff, improving access to financial and welfare advice within healthcare settings.
- The Older People Uptake Campaign has delivered over £1.5 million in financial gains for clients and will continue as part of core service delivery.

Performance Scorecard

Indicator	-3 Years	-2 Years	-1 Year	Latest Figure	Current Target	Short Term Trend	Long Term Trend
% Children aged under 16 living in relative low-income families (before housing costs) (Source: DWP Children in Low Income Families) *	16.7% (2021/22)	16.6% (2022/23)	13.4% (2023/24)	13.6% (2024/25)	14.3%	↓	↑
% Children aged under 16 in relative low-income families (before housing costs) and within lone parent families (Source: DWP Stat Xplore –	45.8% (2021/22)	47.1% (2022/23)	46.1% (2023/24)	45.8% (2024/25)	39.3%	↑	↑

Indicator	-3 Years	-2 Years	-1 Year	Latest Figure	Current Target	Short Term Trend	Long Term Trend
Children in low-income families dataset)							
The % take up of free school meals (P6-S6) (Source: DCC Children and Families Service)	48.4% (2022/23)	52.5% (2023/24)	58.6% (2024/25)	59.5% (2025/26)	54%		

When looking at the short-term and long-term trend: dash means maintaining, upward arrows means improving trend and downwards arrow means deteriorating trend.

*Department for Work and Pensions have changed the methodology used to report on the number of children in low-income families (before housing cost). As a result of this change historical data has been revised and targets for these performance indicators have been recalculated using the new baseline figures

Progress of Actions

Status	Action Title	Progress	Due Date	Latest Update
	Target efforts to increase uptake of pensioner benefits	100%	31-Mar-2027	The Older People Uptake Campaign, run in partnership with Dundee Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) and supported by the Council's Communications Team, launched in February 2024. To date, the campaign has delivered £5,104,442 in client financial gains, engaging 802 older people, with 450 households receiving an average annual Pension Credit gain of £4,805. Given its impressive performance, the campaign will continue as part of core service delivery, with ongoing targeted activity.
	Work in partnership with the Scottish Prison Service (SPD) and Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) to ensure prisoners have access to their appropriate benefits on release	100%	31-Mar-2027	Prison Link Centres remain open to visiting agencies to support preparation for release. Short-term prisoners are offered voluntary throughcare support from the Community Justice Service (CJS) and the National Throughcare Service (Upside), while long-term prisoners receive pre-release support through the Integrated Case Management (ICM) process. All individuals are offered a same-day appointment with CJS on release. Positive Steps provides support throughout custody, including pre-release and day-of-liberation assistance to ensure access to appropriate benefits.
	Prioritise current year interventions aiming to tackle fuel poverty	90%	31-Mar-2027	Fuel poverty support through voucher schemes continues, alongside promotion of Warm Home Discount schemes ahead of Autumn 2026. Practice improvements with Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) and SCARF are ongoing.
	Expand outreach of advice provision in the community through co-location within health service, schools, and grass roots partner organisations	90%	31-Mar-2027	The Connect Service is now operating successfully across multiple community venues in Dundee. Access to advice in schools has been expanded to include Drumgeith Community Campus. Welfare rights advice co-located within Dundee Women's Aid began in November 2025, exceeding its annual target within five months.
	Agree a detailed business plan with all advice agencies to allow new Advice Strategy to be implemented across all partners	85%	31-Mar-2027	A business plan is in place supported by regular bi-monthly Advice Workers Forum meetings. These help identify emerging trends and inform take-up campaign activity. Advice contracts for 2026/27 with the Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) and Brooksbank have been issued, with additional key performance indicators (KPIs) to be introduced during the year.
	Embed financial inclusion pathways and routes to sustained positive destinations with Care Experienced Young People's Services (CEYPS)	80%	31-Mar-2027	Digital migration to the Morse IT system was completed in May 2025. The Care Experienced Young People's Service (CEYPS) continues to support access to financial advice through partnership working, while Public Health will review how the Fast Online Referral Tracking (FORT) referral system can better support referrals, outcome tracking, and access to income maximisation services in 2026/27.

Status	Action Title	Progress	Due Date	Latest Update
				FORT is used across School Nursing, the Family Nurse Partnership, and Health Visiting. Further early intervention support is expected through the new Young Person's Hub. NHS Tayside continues to strengthen employability pathways for care experienced young people through closer working with secondary schools.
	Increase in-patient referrals to money maximisation	80%	31-Mar-2027	NHS Tayside's Directorate of Public Health and Dundee Citizens Advice Bureau continue to work in partnership to strengthen financial wellbeing and income maximisation support within healthcare settings. Training for frontline staff has embedded awareness of money, fuel, and food insecurity as part of routine care, including delivery of Making Every Contact Count (MECC) approaches. Referrals to the Ninewells Hospital Advice Centre have increased to around 65 callers per week, with a growing proportion from clinical staff. Macmillan Welfare Rights and Dundee CAB remain co-located within the Advice Centre, supporting onward referral to hospital-based and specialist services. The Warm Home Prescription partnership has supported 202 households across Tayside, providing energy advice and income-maximisation support. Relocation of the Advice Centre to a more visible site within Ninewells Hospital is planned for May 2026 to further improve access.
	Focus on take up of Free School Meals, Free Transport and Free After-School activities as a means of reducing the cost of living and adopt city wider communication approach about these cost saving initiatives	80%	31-Mar-2027	Primary free school meal uptake increased slightly from 65.01% in 2024/25 to 66.05% in 2025/26, while secondary uptake decreased marginally from 49.24% to 48.4%. Free bus travel is now well embedded, with 82.7% of Dundee's 5–21-year-olds holding a National Entitlement Card. Participation in Active Schools reached 37.7% of the total school roll in 2024/25, with higher engagement among children living in SIMD 1–2 areas. Early figures for 2025/26 show a 17% increase in secondary school participation, reflecting a shared focus on improving engagement among older pupils.
	Co-produce actions to mitigate child poverty across the Women, Children and Families (WCF)	70%	31-Mar-2027	The Infant Food Insecurity Pathway was updated following staff feedback, with ongoing training delivered to Family Nurses, Health Visitors, Midwives, and the Connect Team to increase awareness of preventative income-maximisation pathways linked to food and financial insecurity. Further training for Social Work teams, including Foster and Kinship Carers, is planned for 2026/27, with learning continuing to be shared nationally. A multi-agency maternity inequalities group continues to apply a "Nothing About Us Without Us" approach. A 'no surprises' pathway is being developed to improve communication and access to advice and support for pregnant women, alongside exploration of reduced-cost or free transport to improve appointment attendance.

Status	Action Title	Progress	Due Date	Latest Update
	Deliver training to Support Workers in partnership with Welfare Rights to provide advice within their teams	70%	31-Mar-2027	There is ongoing engagement with Welfare Rights to extend training to children's services support workers. Moving forward this will be built into our Whole Family Approach work through the Whole Family Support Programme Manager.
	Utilise Fuel Well data to target those most in need of support	65%	31-Mar-2027	Following the completion of Fuel Well 3, ward-level data analysis will continue. Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping will be used to identify where fuel-poverty support is currently being delivered across the city and to inform more targeted future activity.
	Work with partners to devise a fuel poverty strategy for the city	65%	31-Mar-2027	Work is ongoing to map Dundee Energy Efficiency Advice Project (DEEAP) activity to identify the most effective fuel-cost mitigation measures and how they complement income-maximisation support. A draft fuel poverty strategy has been developed and will be circulated to advice-sector partners for feedback.
	Increase referrals of "priority groups" who are at higher risk of poverty to money maximisation and parental employability service across maternity, health visiting, family nurse partnership, and paediatrics	60%	31-Mar-2027	A new Child Health Strategy Group now coordinates work across The Promise, United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and Getting It Right for Every Child (GIRFEC), strengthening action on child poverty within women and children's services. Test-of-change work in paediatric inpatient settings identified challenges in raising money worries and limitations in out-of-hours crisis support. Learning from this work is being used to adapt practice and improve support for families. Income-maximisation referrals across Maternity Services, Family Nurse Partnership and Health Visiting are now embedded as core practice. The Family Nurse Partnership also referred 140 young women to the Warm Home Prescription pilot and continues to support young parents into positive destinations.

Case Studies

- Building Financial Resilience in a Kinship Care Family (Kinship Care Team, Welfare Rights Service)
- Early intervention to address infant food insecurity for families facing financial and immigration barriers (NHS Health Visitor, Connect Team)
- Co-located advice services supporting families to maximise income, improve housing stability and wellbeing (NHS Advice Centre – Ninewells Hospital, CAB)

5.4 Attainment and Child Poverty

Attainment and Child Poverty

17%

of children (aged under 16) living in relative low income families after housing costs in Dundee City

(Source: DWP – Children in Low Income Families local area statistics 2024/25 data)



406

care experienced young people in Dundee City, this represents 1% of the 0-17 years population

(Source: Scottish Government – Children's Social Work Statistics 2024/25 – figure as at 31st July 2025)



10,718

children (aged 0-15 years) live in the 20% most deprived data zones, this accounts for 44.3% of children in that age group in Dundee City overall.

(Source: SIMD 2020 20% Most Deprived Data Zones and National Records of Scotland 2024 Small Area Population Estimates)



The majority of Children (0-15 years) who live in East End (79.7%), Coldsides (70.6%) and Lochee (49.6%) live in a data zone ranked in the 20% most deprived.

(Source: SIMD 2020 20% Most Deprived Data Zone and National Records of Scotland 2024 Small Area Population Estimates)



563

average score for school leavers living in most deprived SIMD area.

(Source: Local Government Benchmarking Framework (2024/25))

1,141

average score for school leavers living in least deprived SIMD area

3.7%

difference in school attendance between children living in most deprived SIMD areas and the average for those living in less deprived SIMD areas.

(Source: Dundee City Council, Children and Families Service 2025/26)



Strategic Highlights and Progress (2025/26)

- Deputy Head Teachers from each school cluster are participating in a Leadership for Equity pilot, focused on addressing the impact of poverty on attainment and improving outcomes for disadvantaged pupils.
- Attainment levels for children and young people from more disadvantaged communities have shown improvement, reflecting the continued focus on reducing the poverty-related attainment gap.
- The programme to address neglect and enhance wellbeing has been completed and integrated into Dundee's multi-agency approach, strengthening early intervention and coordinated support for children and families.
- All Dundee schools are implementing Cost of the School Day action plans, helping to reduce the financial barriers to education.

Performance Scorecard

Indicator	-3 Years	-2 Years	-1 Year	Latest Figure	Current Target	Short Term Trend	Long Term Trend
Percentage of children (aged under 16) living in relative low-income families after housing costs (Source: DWP Children in low-income families)*	N/A	N/A	17.7% (2023/24)	17.0% (2024/25)	N/A	↑	N/A
Children who live within the 20% most deprived data zones (Source: SIMD 2020 and NRS Small Area Population Estimates (SAPE))	43.6% (SIMD 2020 and SAPE 2021)	43.4% (SIMD 2020 and SAPE 2022)	44.2% (SIMD 2020 and SAPE 2023)	44.3% (SIMD 2020 and SAPE 2024)	37.6%	↓	↓
Percentage gap in attainment – Average scores between school leavers living in SIMD 1 areas and SIMD 5 areas (Source: DCC Children and Families Service)	48% (2021/22)	49% (2022/23)	45% (2023/24)	51% (2024/25)	43%	↓	↓
Percentage point gap in literacy in P1-7 between pupils living in SIMD 1 areas and SIMD 5 areas (Source: DCC Children and Families Service)	19.9% (2021/22)	19.9% (2022/23)	16.6% (2023/24)	13.9% (2024/25)	14.3%	↑	↑
Percentage point gap in numeracy in P1-7 between pupils living in SIMD 1 areas and SIMD 5 areas (Source: DCC Children and Families Service)	13.6% (2021/22)	16.3% (2022/23)	14.3% (2023/24)	9.6% (2024/25)	13%	↑	↑
Percentage point difference attendance gap between children living in SIMD 1 areas and the average for SIMD 2-5 (Source: DCC Children and Families Service)	4.3 (2022/23)	4.3 (2023/24)	4.2 (2024/25)	3.7 (2025/26)	3.1	↑	↑

When looking at the short-term trend and long-term trend: dash means maintaining, upwards arrow means improving trend and downwards arrow means a deteriorating trend

*Department for Work and Pensions have released these statistics for the first time in their most recent publication. At the time of drafting this report only two years' worth of data has been published which means that there is not enough trend data available to produce a target or monitor the long-term trend. DWP are scheduled to publish historical data for this indicator late summer 2026.

Progress of Actions

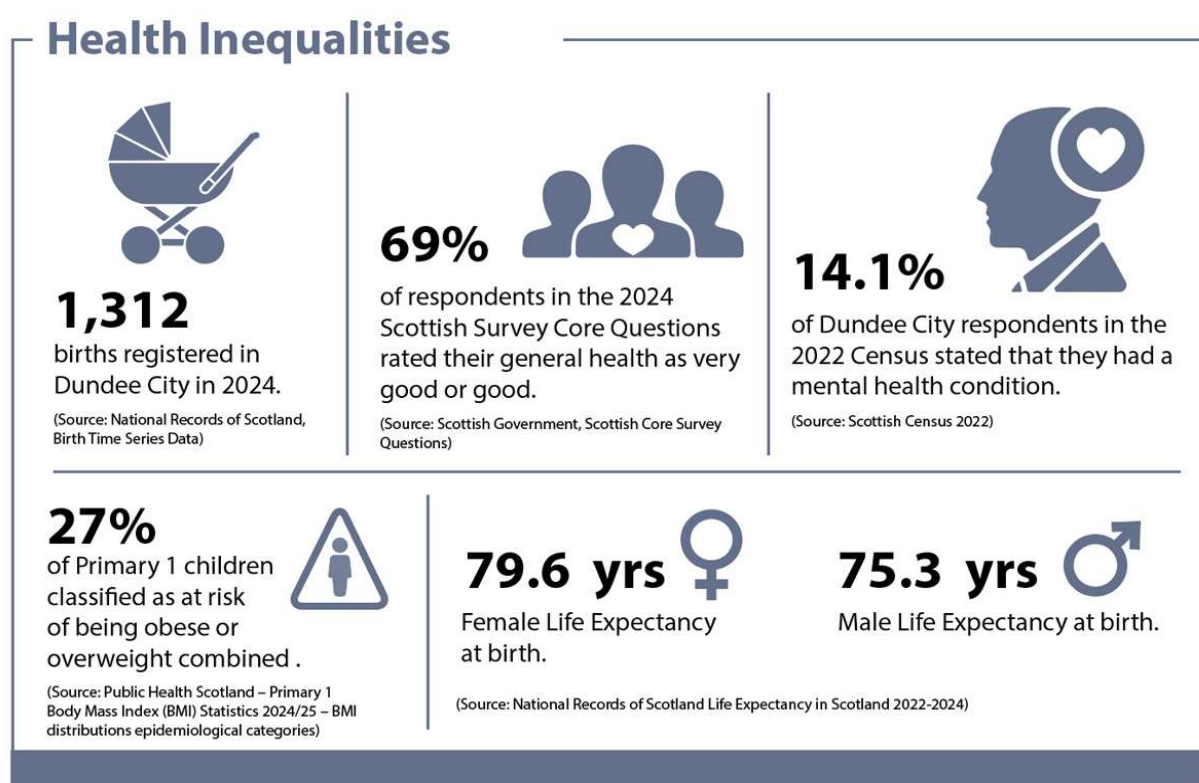
Status	Action Title	Progress	Due Date	Latest Update
	Kirkton Community Hub Trial	100%	30-Jun-2025	The Kirkton Governance Group stepped down in 2025 having completed the Kirkton Hubs work. The move of all services was completed with Kirkton Community Centre closed to all service users from 28 April 2025. The building is in the process of being demolished. All Local Management Group activities are using interim or final locations and the remaining finalised locations for all Local Management Group (LMG) activities are in place. DCC has supported Kirkton Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) towards their ambitions of building a standalone community run facility as part of the Kirkton Hub locations.
	Increase uptake of Continuing Care by care experienced Young People	100%	31-Mar-2027	Provision of continuing care has increased and will continue to increase in accordance with emerging legislation. Ongoing monitoring is in place through fortnightly data. The increase can be demonstrated by the following figures: By end of April 2026, there were 44 young people in continuing care: 7 in residential care (3 in Dundee and 4 externally), 18 in foster care (6 internal and 12 external) 8 in kinship care and 11 in supported accommodation.
	Implement CELCIS (Centre for Excellence for Children's Care and Protection) Programme addressing neglect and enhancing wellbeing	100%	31-Mar-2027	The pilot has been completed, and learning has been integrated into Dundee's multi-agency Getting It Right For Every Child (GIRFEC) approach to addressing neglect and enhancing wellbeing.
	Refresh Cost of a School Day commitment for all schools	95%	31-Mar-2027	All Dundee schools have an active Cost of the School Day (CotSD) action plan, underpinned by city-wide commitments including ensuring no child starts school without breakfast, no child misses a P7 residential due to cost, and access to affordable school uniforms. Actions continue at school level to reduce the cost of education, including breakfast provision, support with uniforms, subsidised or fully funded trips, access to food through school-based provision or partnerships, and financial assistance for learning activities and essential items. CotSD action plans are reviewed annually and embedded within school improvement planning. A Leadership for Equity professional learning pilot is underway, involving Depute Head Teachers from each school cluster and is delivered in partnership with Education Scotland. This programme supports school leaders to take action to address poverty within their settings. Further discussion is planned on how the local authority can support schools to strengthen this work in the next school session.

Status	Action Title	Progress	Due Date	Latest Update
	Reduce levels of exclusion across primary and secondary sector	80%	31-Mar-2027	The exclusion rate has increased slightly in Primary Schools from 5.3 to 6.8 incidents per 1,000 pupils, while Secondary School exclusions have reduced from 40.4 to 31.3 per 1,000 pupils over the same period. A range of approaches are in place to reduce exclusions, including alternatives to exclusion, amended timetables and bespoke curriculum offers. Exclusion trends are monitored regularly, supported by a multiagency working group involving schools, Educational Psychology, Trade Unions, and other partners to address issues such as violence and aggression. All exclusions involving care experienced children and young people are subject to additional management oversight. Every exclusion results in a meeting with the young person and their parent or carer, with a clear plan for return and strategies to address the underlying issues.
	Improved pupil attendance within primary and secondary sector	75%	31-Mar-2027	Attendance levels are similar to last year in Primary Schools and continue to improve in Secondary Schools. Primary attendance currently stands at 92.8%, the same level as 2024/25. Secondary attendance currently stands at 86.7%, up 0.5 percentage points on 2024/25.
	Accelerated closure of the poverty attainment gap	70%	31-Mar-2027	The Insight data refresh for February 2026 added leavers' data for session 2024/25. This showed that the percentage of school leavers from SIMD quintile 1 with five or more awards at SCQF Level 5 or better increased from 45% in 2023/24 to 46%. The percentage of school leavers from SIMD quintile 1 with five or more awards at SCQF Level 6 or better also increased from 19% in 2023/24 to 20%. On both measures Dundee's SIMD quintile 1 leavers are ahead of their virtual comparator.

Case Studies

- Supporting Parents into Sustainable Employment – Discover Together (DCC and NHS Tayside Partnership)
- Targeted Parental Employability Support (OPFS / Barnardo's Works)
- Whole-Family Employability in Practice – Drumgeith / Greenfield
- Childcare, Caring Responsibilities and Barriers to Employment (Early Years)
- Scaling Up Employability Services (DCC, All in Dundee)

5.5 Health Inequalities



Strategic Highlights and Progress (2025/26)

- Hope Point has supported 1,355 individuals, providing early intervention, crisis support and referral pathways to improve mental health and wellbeing.
- Over 300 frontline staff across Dundee have received Mental Health Awareness training, strengthening early identification and response to mental health needs within communities and services.
- The Recovery Network has been established, led by Dundee Volunteer and Voluntary Action (DVVA), expanding access to peer support and strengthening community-based recovery pathways.
- The Dundee Healthy Weight partnership group has been re-established, supporting coordinated action to address childhood health inequalities, including obesity.
- Targeted support has been introduced to improve attendance at dental and hospital appointments for children.

Performance Scorecard

Indicator	-3 Years	-2 Years	-1 Year	Latest Figure	Current Target	Short Term Trend	Long Term Trend
Life Expectancy at Birth (Males) (Source: National Record of Scotland Life Expectancy in Scotland)	73.5yrs (2019-2021)	74.0yrs (2020-2022)	74.6yrs (2021-2023)	75.3yrs (2022-2024)	N/A	↑	↑
Life Expectancy at Birth (Females)	79.1yrs (2019-2021)	79.0yrs (2020-2022)	79.2 (2021-2023)	79.6yrs (2022-2024)	N/A	↑	↑

Indicator	-3 Years	-2 Years	-1 Year	Latest Figure	Current Target	Short Term Trend	Long Term Trend
(Source: National Record of Scotland Life Expectancy in Scotland)							
Percentage of Primary 1 Children classified as at risk of overweight or obese combined. (Source: Public Health Scotland – Primary 1 BMI Publication)	26.6% (2021/22)	23.8% (2022/23)	25.1% (2023/24)	27.0% (2024/25)	21.2%	↓	↓

When looking at the short-term and long-term trend: dash means maintaining, upward arrow means improving trend and downwards arrow means deteriorating trend.

Progress of Actions

Status	Action Title	Progress	Due Date	Latest Update
	Increase Crisis and Suicide prevention training to front-line staff and communities	100%	31-Mar-2027	Suicide prevention training is now embedded within Dundee's Protecting People training programme and is available on an ongoing basis to staff, volunteers, and wider community partners. This ensures continued access to consistent, preventative training aligned with local priorities.
	NHS Tayside: Set out Community Wealth Building approach, governance and partnership arrangements to progress Anchor activity, use the Anchors Framework to develop clear baselines in relation to workforce, procurement and land and assets pillars	100%	31-Mar-2027	NHS Tayside published its Anchor Strategy in October 2023 and continues to deliver its anchor ambitions in line with Scottish Government metrics, with progress reported through established governance and delivery planning arrangements. Progress during 2025/26 includes the continued delivery of targeted employability programmes such as Discover Together, Health Care and Administration Academies, and supported employment pathways, alongside increased engagement with local suppliers and application of community benefit and Fair Work principles. Work is also progressing to maximise the community benefit of NHS land and buildings, alongside continued delivery of climate and sustainability commitments through established governance structures.
	NHS: Deliver Community Wealth Building through the NHS Community Benefit Gateway (CBG)	100%	31-Mar-2027	The NHS Community Benefit Gateway (CBG) continues to connect NHS suppliers with third sector organisations to deliver local community benefits that support social, economic, and environmental wellbeing. During 2025/26, CBG activity in Dundee supported community organisations through supplier led contributions, alongside strengthened partnership working via a Tayside-wide Community Benefit Platform Group.
	Improve harm reduction service and responses to non-fatal overdoses	90%	31-Mar-2027	Through the Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) standards harm reduction continues to be offered at a high standard, with clear expansion of Naloxone distribution and Injecting Equipment Provision. The Non-Fatal Overdose (NFOD) pathway continues to operate; however, the Tayside coordinator post is no longer funded impacting recording of outcomes and future stability of the pathway. Positive Steps are currently supporting the pathway as an interim solution.
	Improve access to mutual-aid and peer-support recovery groups to help people avoid relapse	90%	31-Mar-2027	Dundee Volunteer & Voluntary Action (DVVA) continue to lead the work on mutual aid and peer support. The Recovery Network has been established. This also includes direct feedback from those receiving Medication Assisted Treatment and the development of the experiential data program which is complete. The Authentic Voice Project is supporting the new Protecting People Participation and Engagement sub-group to develop a Protecting People Engagement Framework to support

Status	Action Title	Progress	Due Date	Latest Update
				ongoing inclusion of voice in strategic decision making. SMART recovery licence continues to be funded by the Alcohol and Drug Partnership (ADP).
	Re-model mental health and wellbeing community services by developing early intervention services and crisis care models, including services delivered from GP Practice and 'peer navigation' services within acute hospital and accident and emergency settings	90%	31-Mar-2027	Community Mental Health redesign is progressing with a Tayside-wide Model of Care project group being mobilised. A unified Mental Health and Learning Disability clinical governance approach is under development to strengthen assurance and support safe, sustainable service delivery. Service demand for the Community Mental Health Team care and treatment continues to exceed capacity. During the financial year 2025/26, Hope Point supported 1,355 unique individuals with a total of 5,540 supports carried out via drop-in, phone, and text. This included an average of 264 new individuals per quarter. The pathway with Police Scotland for individuals they encounter was used 54 times this year. The mutual pathway with the NHS Mental Health Assessment (Crisis) Team, for those who need clinical assessment following their contact with Hope Point was used 38 times this year. The feedback continues to be overwhelmingly positive, with supported people identifying the drop in nature of support, the 24/7 access, and the Peer Support element as key areas of satisfaction. The Bereaved by Suicide Support Service was also launched providing support to those who have lost a loved one to suicide. This service is peer led by those who have experienced this type of bereavement, and early feedback has been very positive.
	Deliver a range of Mental Health Awareness Training including Mentally Healthy Workplace, Resilience and Wellbeing and Scottish Mental Health First Aid	90%	31-Mar-2027	For the period of April 1, 2025, to March 31, 2026, 95% of the mental health improvement training target was achieved. A total of 35 training courses were delivered, through which 323 frontline workers received training across a range of mental health topics. The average number of participants per session was 9.2. Four new courses were added to the training portfolio covering: Positive Risk-taking in Mental Health; Stress Awareness and Management for Managers; Cocaine Brief Intervention; and Stigma and Discrimination in Substance Use
	Extend the AIM (Anxiety in Motion) programme within all secondary schools to support attainment of targeted S1/S2 young people with mental health and wellbeing needs	80%	31-Mar-2027	This support is delivered either through in-school provision or community-based programmes. AIM has supported the implementation of these provisions in several schools across the city. AIM offers the following support to schools upon request: • Career-long professional learning focused on emotional-based school avoidance. • Assessment to identify the underlying causes of school avoidance and to support the implementation of appropriate interventions for pupils. Now based within Rockwell Learning Centre, AIM continues to provide full-time support to S1/S2 pupils within a small, structured classroom environment. This includes participation

Status	Action Title	Progress	Due Date	Latest Update
				in community-based projects, which support the development of independence and resilience, enabling pupils to engage more confidently with their local community. AIM delivers a bespoke package tailored to the needs of each pupil, focusing on the development of the whole child. This includes targeted support for social and emotional wellbeing, delivered in partnership with CAMHS and support staff, alongside the identification and addressing of gaps in learning. The aim is to support pupils in progressing towards a level where they can begin working towards National Qualifications. the
	Co-create all Mental Health and Wellbeing developments in the city with people with lived experience of poverty and mental health challenges identification and addressing of gaps in learning. The aim is to support pupils in progressing towards a level where they can begin working towards National Qualifications. to ensure that people know about developments, they are accessible and they meet the needs of the community	80%	31-Mar-2027	Co-production is embedded within the Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategic Plan and approach, ensuring services are informed by lived experience. Dundee Volunteer and Voluntary Action's Mental Health and Substance Use Team Leads engagement across community programmes, third sector networks and targeted workshops, directly informing service design, communication, and access. A total of 472 people contributed to development of the Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategic Plan, including individuals from SIMD areas, Dundee Fighting for Fairness, and community organisations. Engagement recognises poverty as an inequality and takes an inclusive, intersectional approach, focused on reducing barriers to participation. The Community Health Advisory Forum plays a key role in this approach, bringing together local people with lived experience who actively contribute to shaping services and tackling health inequalities. Over the past year, members have influenced suicide prevention training for parents and carers, contributed to mental health nursing curriculum development at Abertay University, participated in the Wellbeing Dundee website development and shared local practice at national level through the Community Health Exchange (CHEx) Conference. Co-production is further supported through third sector partnerships. The Mental Health Forum and widely circulated newsletter create opportunities to share learning, promote involvement, and demonstrate how feedback informs change. GP participation in the forum, alongside third sector involvement in GP protected learning events, strengthens collaboration and shared learning. Wider engagement, including joint Health and Wellbeing Network sessions, has also informed strategic priorities, particularly around self-care and earlier access to support. Practical examples, such as the Mindful Meals programme, demonstrate co-production in action. Delivered in partnership between the Community Health Team and mental health services, this initiative has supported individuals nearing discharge to build confidence, independent living skills, and social connections, while reducing barriers to engaging in community-based support.

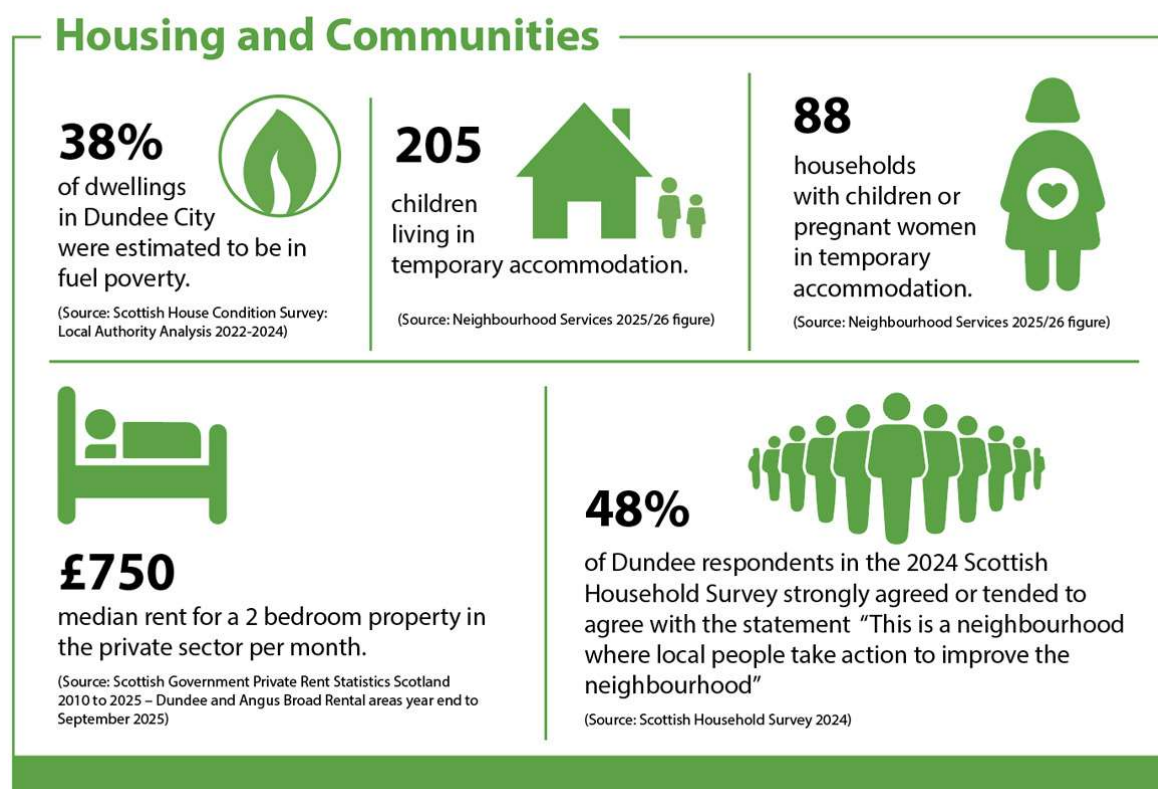
Status	Action Title	Progress	Due Date	Latest Update
	Target and support groups of young people at risk from early initiation into alcohol/drug use	75%	31-Mar-2027	STRIVE, a partnership between the Corner and Hillcrest, continues to support young people at risk of substance use. STRIVE supports the Implementation of the Alcohol and Drug Evidence based Prevention Framework. During 2025/26, 365 young people were reached through STRIVE specific outreach work. This outreach work occurred in various locations throughout Dundee including the Lily Walker Centre, Dundee & Angus College, PACE/Rise Off site education, Action for Children, Job Centre, and Maxwell Centre. Most of the outreach work consisted of a one-off substance use awareness session. A tailored 4–6-week programme providing targeted intervention was undertaken at Pace/Rise and Rockwell offsite education. 'Know Your Stuff' sessions were also delivered to professionals during 2025/26. Feedback young people and professionals attending outreach sessions was positive with attendees stating that the sessions were informative, useful, and insightful. Planet Youth continued to operate during 2025/26 and was expanded to all schools. Tayside Council on Alcohol (TCA) continues to support young people at risk through group-based activities and mentoring.
	Inform and support third sector and community projects about services and resources that can help address poor mental health and its causes so that projects can signpost people in need to relevant support	70%	31-Mar-2027	Support for third sector and community organisations has strengthened, improving capacity to respond to mental health needs and underlying causes. The DVVA-led Third Sector Mental Health Forum is a key coordination mechanism with consistent multi-agency engagement. The value of this work was recognised during the recent inspection activity, which noted that “Among other supports, Dundee Volunteer and Voluntary Action’s Mental Health Team facilitated a service provider mental health forum which met six weekly. Service providers were extremely positive about the support they got from DVVA.” Information sharing has improved through a resource platform and sector-wide newsletter, increasing awareness of services, referral pathways, training, and funding. This is strengthening frontline confidence to signpost effectively. Engagement structures, including the Community Health Advisory Forum and Health and Wellbeing Networks, enable two-way communication and have informed development of the Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategic Plan. Work is progressing to improve early identification and access through staff and volunteer training, clearer service directories, and enhanced digital and community information, including the Wellbeing Dundee website. Multi-disciplinary teams linked to GP practices continue to improve access to support. Development of the Wellbeing Dundee website will further support this by offering a single, accessible source of services, resources, and self-help information for both practitioners and the public.

Status	Action Title	Progress	Due Date	Latest Update
	Reduce teenage pregnancy and implement a Pregnancy and Parenthood in Young People Strategy	60%	31-Mar-2027	The Tayside Relationships, Sexual Health and Parenthood (RSHP) Alliance has undergone a recent review and will relaunch in March 2026 with a renewed focus on working in and with communities around providing education and support. This work is led by Public Health colleagues. The Scottish Government have recently issued new guidance for schools regarding Relationship, Sexual Health, and Parenthood (RSHP) education. This guidance has been shared with schools along with information on a new website (The Chat) to provide support for parents in relation to conversations about relationships and sexual health.

Case Studies

- Whole Family Mental Health and Wellbeing Support for Lone Parents and ASN Children (EAC / Together to Thrive)
- Community Safety Roadshow (Planet Youth)
- Reducing transport poverty to improve access to children's oral healthcare (NHS Oral Health Team)

5.6 Housing and Communities



Strategic Highlights and Progress (2025/26)

- Energy efficiency improvements are being delivered in council homes in Linlathen, supporting reduced energy costs for tenants and contributing to efforts to tackle fuel poverty.
- A Housing Emergency was formally declared in March 2026, enabling a focused, coordinated response to rising homelessness pressures and increasing demand for social housing.
- A coordinated Tenants’ Rights communication approach has been developed in partnership with third sector organisations and local services.
- The What Matters to You (WM2U) initiative have invested over £1 million in community led projects and activities across Dundee, including delivery through the Make It Happen Fund, strengthening community voice, participation, and local decision-making.

Performance Scorecard

Indicator	-3 Years	-2 Years	-1 Year	Latest Figure	Current Target	Short Term Trend	Long Term Trend
Number of applications assessed as homeless or threatened with homelessness. (Source: DCC Neighbourhood Services)	1,100 (2022/23)	1,106 (2023/24)	1,378 (2024/25)	1,256* (2025/26)	922	↑	↓
Number of children living in temporary accommodation (Source: DCC Neighbourhood Services)	229 (2022/23)	262 (2023/24)	227 (2024/25)	205 (2025/26)	196	↑	↑

Indicator	-3 Years	-2 Years	-1 Year	Latest Figure	Current Target	Short Term Trend	Long Term Trend
Households with children or pregnant women in temporary accommodation (Source: DCC Neighbourhood Services)	92 (2022/23)	109 (2023/24)	97 (2024/25)	88 (2025/26)	82	↑	↑
Number of council and registered social landlord housing completions (Source: DCC Neighbourhood Services)	101 (2022/23)	264 (2023/24)	341 (2024/25)	227 (2025/26)	200	↓	↓
Percentage of council dwellings that are energy efficient (EESH) (Source: DCC Neighbourhood Services)	90.7% (2022/23)	89.8% (2023/24)	86.4% (2024/25)	89.38% (2025/26)	100%	↑	↑

When looking at the short-term and long-term trend – dash means maintaining, upward arrow means improving trend and downward arrow means deteriorating trend.

*Figures are provisional awaiting Scottish Government verification

Progress of Actions

Status	Action Title	Progress	Due Date	Latest Update
	Create a secure drop-off point in Dundee City Council's West Office in Lochee for tenants to leave keys, letters, forms etc	100%	30-Sep-2025	A secure key drop-off point was put in place in the West Office in Lochee by mid-September 2025.
	Undertake the data gathering over the next year on homelessness to allow better targeting of resources	100%	31-Mar-2027	Data gathering complete to inform a review of services and temporary accommodation provision. The Housing Department and Health & Social Care Partnership cross referenced datasets to gain insights into the support needs of applicants with a history of repeat homelessness. This analysis will be used alongside other data to review supported temporary accommodation provision.
	Expand access to housing advice in the community	100%	31-Aug-2025	Housing Options, Lettings, and Tenancy & Estates services have officers attending drop-in sessions throughout the city. Many of these sessions are well attended and have led to genuine and effective engagement with the community on a range of housing issues. Analysis of sessions is now required to ensure that opportunities for providing housing advice and homelessness prevention are maximised. Funding applications are being progressed for the Scottish Government's Ask and Act fund to enable prevention activities from other relevant bodies.
	Implement learning from "What Matters to you"	90%	31-Mar-2026	An update report was taken to City Governance in January 2026 where members endorsed the achievements and exit strategy. The partnership with What Matters to You (WM2U) has delivered significant achievements in strengthening voice-led family and community empowerment across Dundee. WM2U has invested over £1million, supporting values-based leadership, place-based café conversations, and increased community participation in Local Community Planning Partnerships. The Make it Happen Fund has enabled small, community led groups to access funding through decision-making panels made up entirely of community members, strengthening local leadership and responsiveness. Early learning shows increased confidence, connection, and influence among participants, with learning shared locally and nationally. Dundee's approach has received national recognition, including a COSLA Excellence Award. The exit strategy focuses on sustaining and embedding this approach beyond June 2026. Community teams will continue to support community led grant decision making, with discussions ongoing with independent funders to extend the Make it Happen Fund. Voice-led family empowerment will be mainstreamed within council and partnership activity, with

Status	Action Title	Progress	Due Date	Latest Update
				strategic oversight sitting with the Child Poverty and Income, Attainment and Health Inequalities Strategic Leadership Group.
	Deliver a Dundee-Wide publicity campaign using different communication methods to make private tenants aware of their rights and to raise awareness of tenants and landlord responsibilities	80%	31-Oct-2025	A leaflet has been developed collectively by Dundee Law Centre, Citizen's Advice Bureau, Shelter, and DCC Housing, Advice and Customer Services teams that highlights the rights held by private tenants. This has been circulated to libraries and community centres across Dundee and become available digitally in GP surgeries via information screens mid-2026. These avenues will be added to over the course of 2026 including through the Dundee Partnership's bi-monthly E-Bulletin and other communications channels.
	Increase the number of accredited private sector landlords by 5%	80%	31-Mar-2027	There is just over 30% of relevant properties that are managed by Accredited Landlords / Agents. Dundee Landlord Accreditation is a voluntary scheme therefore we have no ability to require Landlords / Letting Agents to join. The Private Sector Services Unit (PSSU) have not been able to promote the scheme as there is currently no Private Landlord Support Officer in post.
	Deliver a personal housing support plan for all new Dundee City Council tenants to ensure awareness and understanding of their full circumstances which will contribute to tenancy sustainment	75%	31-Mar-2027	The Housing Options and Tenancy & Estates Services are both piloting Personal Housing Plans (PHPs) and system testing on the CX in house IT Client Records Management Housing system.
	Develop low and zero emission heat networks (district heating and communal heating systems) in areas deemed suitable.	50%	01-Jan-2030	Further funding was secured for additional feasibility work to explore the Tay as an additional heat source. This would strengthen the business case by broadening technical options and increasing competitive pressure. This phase also begins defining commercial, financial and delivery needs, requiring detailed insight into each heat off-taker's systems, plans, load profiles, and cost expectations. This study is scheduled for completion in April 2026, and its findings will be incorporated into a Heat Network Vision document.
	Target identified buildings in Stobswell West to increase number of secure door entry installations in properties	50%	31-Mar-2027	Inspection of all privately owned blocks in the area has been fully completed. Information will be collated into a report to inform next steps.
	Increase tenant engagement in design / development and review of	50%	31-Mar-2027	A new Tenant Participation Strategy is being developed by Housing and Communities with input from tenants and Tenant's Groups. This will inform ongoing engagement with tenants in the design and development of housing services.

Status	Action Title	Progress	Due Date	Latest Update
	social housing services (For example, further tenant involvement in the development of the Dundee City Council Tenants Portal)			
	Develop a 'Dundee Standard' of damp / condensation guidance for social housing providers, ensuring a consistent approach to quality advice and information to all tenants	50%	31-Mar-2027	A dampness and mould guidance leaflet has been produced for tenants and is available for all new and existing tenants. A review of information on Registered Social Landlord websites has also been conducted to ensure consistent advice is available to all tenants of social landlords. Further development will be conducted in preparation of new duties relating to dampness and mould.
	Develop a "Dundee Standard" of training for front line staff (phone and in person) for social housing providers taking on board some of the principles of trauma informed practice, mental health approaches, and diversity/inclusion (For example, training on the use of the language line)	25%	31-Mar-2027	All housing staff have access to the Housing Options Toolkit developed by Scotland's Housing Network. This is a comprehensive training package which covers all relevant housing issues and standards for housing advice. A training plan will be developed to ensure that all staff complete relevant modules, and consideration will be given to rolling the programme out to partners in preparation of 'Ask and Act' duties contained within the Housing (Scotland) Act 2025.
	Create a single place for housing information on the Dundee City Council website that uses understandable language, is easy to 'search' and involve tenants in this process	20%	31-Mar-2027	A working group is to be created to review all website content relating to housing information and advice held on the Dundee City Council website. A Tenant Portal is also being developed which will hold relevant information and provide digital access to tenancy services such as logging repairs.

Case Studies

- Inclusive Community Support for Families with Disabled Children (The Yard)
- Community based crisis prevention and whole family support for a family with NRPF (Stobswell West LFI, Dundee International Women's Centre)
- Creating Supportive Community Spaces Through Partnership (Relationships Scotland)
- Housing-Led Community Engagement in Charleston (WM2U, Housing)