

## Child Poverty and Education Attainment

- **Child poverty**

More than one in five (220,000) of Scotland's children are officially recognised as living in poverty. In Dundee city this figure is one in four or 6,900 children.

- **What is child poverty?**

- Child poverty means growing up in families without the resources to obtain the type of diet, participate in the activities and have the living conditions and amenities which are the norm in 21st century Scotland.
- Children are considered as living in poverty if they live in households with less than 60% of median household income. This is the key measure used by the Scottish government. Using this measure the latest official data shows; a lone parent family with two children (aged 5 and 14) is living in poverty if they are living on less than £269 per week (after housing costs have been deducted).
- A two parent family with two children (aged 5 and 14) is living in poverty if they are living on less than £364 a week (after housing costs have been deducted).

- **What are the effects of child poverty?**

The Child Poverty Action Group states that the effects of child poverty should not be underestimated and experiencing child poverty can undermine the health, wellbeing and educational attainment of children. For example:

- By the age of five, children in poverty lag between 10 and 13 months behind their more affluent peers in terms of school readiness and attainment.
- Three year olds in households with incomes below £10,000 are two and a half times more likely to suffer chronic illness than children in households with incomes above £52,000.
- Children living in low-income households are also nearly three times more likely to suffer mental health problems than their more affluent peers.

- **What causes child poverty in Scotland?**

Child poverty is caused by a range of factors which work together and result in inadequate household resources. Factors which contribute to insufficient income

include:

- **Low wages and underemployment:** In 2013, 59 per cent of children in poverty were living in households with at least one adult in employment, confirming that employment is by no means a guaranteed route out of poverty. While rates of employment in Scotland are growing, changes to the quality and nature of work are driving up in-work poverty.
- **Worklessness:** Households in which no-one is in paid employment are at highest risk of experiencing poverty. Common barriers to work include a lack of suitable employment opportunities, a lack of suitable child care, caring responsibilities, ill health/disability and employer discrimination.
- **Inadequate welfare benefits:** Despite being intended as a safety net against poverty, many families in receipt of welfare benefits are living below the poverty line. Around two thirds of households with children in which no-one works experience poverty. Furthermore, ongoing welfare reforms are a major contributing factor to the dramatic increase in child poverty which is projected for Scotland.

## • Child poverty in Scotland

14 per cent of children in Scotland were living in relative poverty before housing costs in 2013/14, this equates to 140,000 children. After housing costs 22 per cent of children in Scotland were living in relative poverty, this equates to 220,000 children.

In 2013/14, before housing costs 13 per cent of children were living in combined low income and material deprivation, an increase from 11 per cent the previous year. This equates to 130,000 children living in material deprivation, 20,000 more than the previous year.

## • Child poverty in Dundee

Figure 1 shows that 28% of children in Dundee are classed as living in poverty, the second highest percentage of children living in poverty in Scotland. This equates to one in four children.

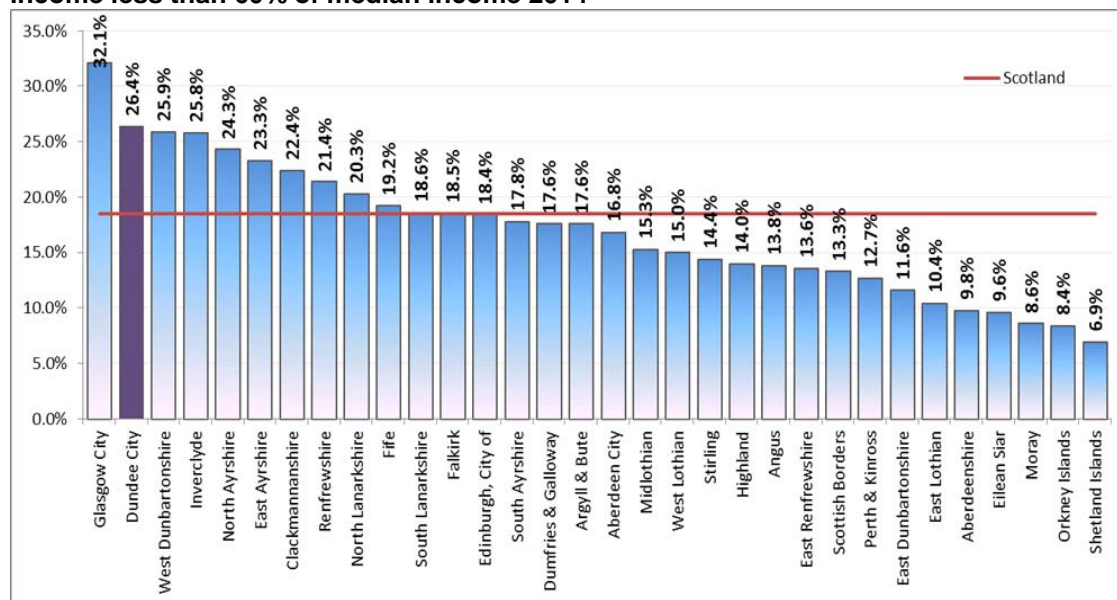
### Figure 1: % of children in poverty (after housing costs)

Source: Child Poverty Map October 2014

Figure 2 below shows the proportion of children living in families in receipt of out of work benefits or tax credits where their reported income is less than 60 per cent of the median income for the year 2014. The proportion of children in poverty is

calculated as the number of children in families in receipt of either out of work benefits, or tax credits where their reported income is less than 60% median income divided by the total number of children in the area. The data shows that in Dundee there are approximately 6,900 children living in poverty as defined above.

**Figure 2: Children living in families in receipt of out of work benefits or tax credits, with an income less than 60% of median income 2014**



Source: HMRC - <http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/statistics/child-poverty-stats.htm#>

Further analysis of the data shows the number of children living in poverty by family type, number of children in the family and by age. Figures 3, 4 and 5 below show that:

- over three quarters of all Dundee children living in poverty are from lone parent households
- two thirds of all Dundee children living in poverty live in one or two child families.
- 65% of children living in poverty are in the 0 to 10 age group

**Figure 3**

**Figure 4**

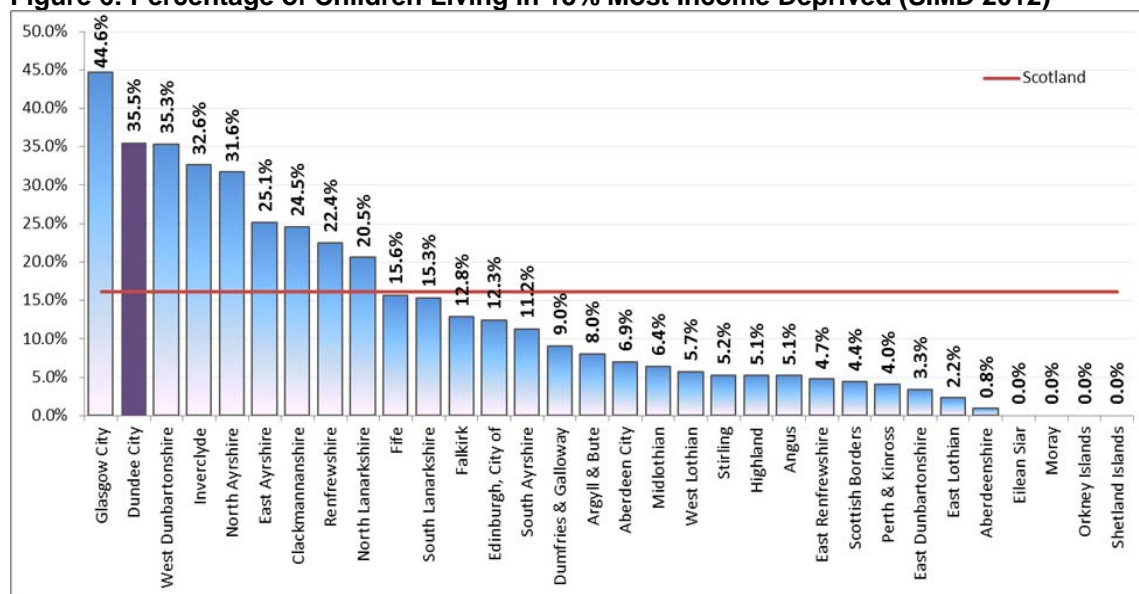
Source: HMRC

**Figure 5**

Source: HMRC

Figure 6 below shows for each local authority, the percentage of children that are estimated to live in the data zones ranked within the 15% most income deprived according to the SIMD 2012. Dundee City with 35.5% is the Local Authority with the second highest percentage of its children living in areas within the 15% most income deprived in Scotland.

**Figure 6: Percentage of Children Living in 15% Most Income Deprived (SIMD 2012)**



Source: Scottish Government, Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2012

- **Child Poverty by ward**

Table 1 shows the electoral ward with the highest amount of child poverty (after housing costs) in Dundee is the East End with 35% of children living in poverty. Lochee, Strathmartine, Coldside, Maryfield and the North East all have higher percentage figures than the overall Dundee figure of 28%. The West End and the Ferry all had lower figures of 23% and 13% respectively.

**Table 1: Children in poverty by Ward**

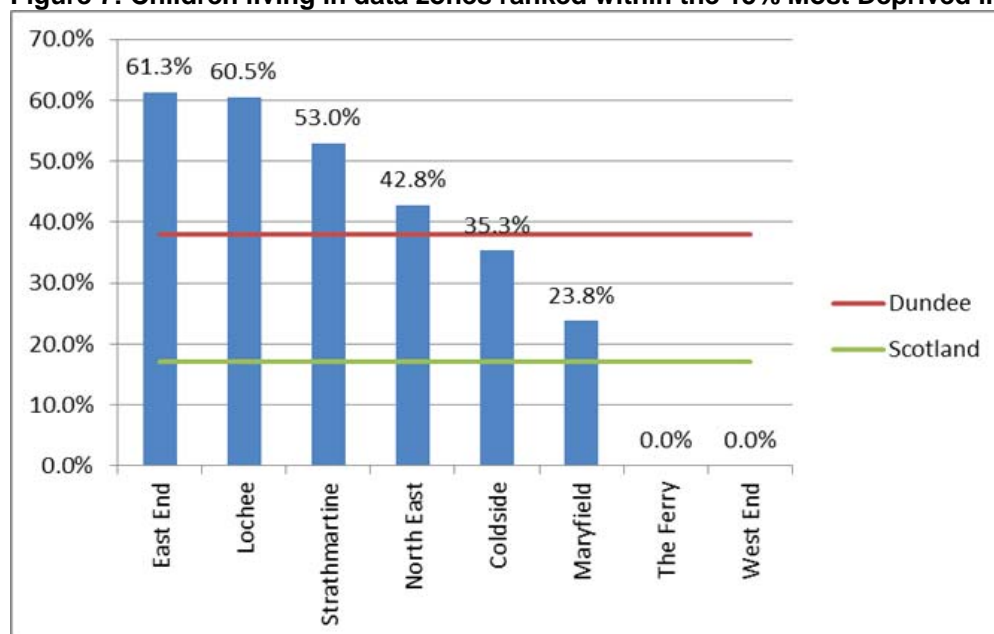
Area	Before Housing Costs	After Housing Costs
<b>Dundee</b>	<b>17.58%</b>	<b>27.91%</b>
Strathmartine	17.59%	28.11%
Lochee	18.01%	28.70%
West End	14.72%	23.30%
Coldside	20.87%	32.57%
Maryfield	20.43%	31.85%
East End	22.46%	35.25%
The Ferry	7.91%	12.75%
North East	17.90%	28.56%

Source: Child Poverty Map 2013

Figure 7 shows that the East End ward has almost two thirds of children (61.3%) living in data zones ranked within the 15% most deprived in Scotland. Lochee has the second highest percentage (60.5%). Strathmartine has over half (53%) of its

children living within the 15% most deprived data zones.

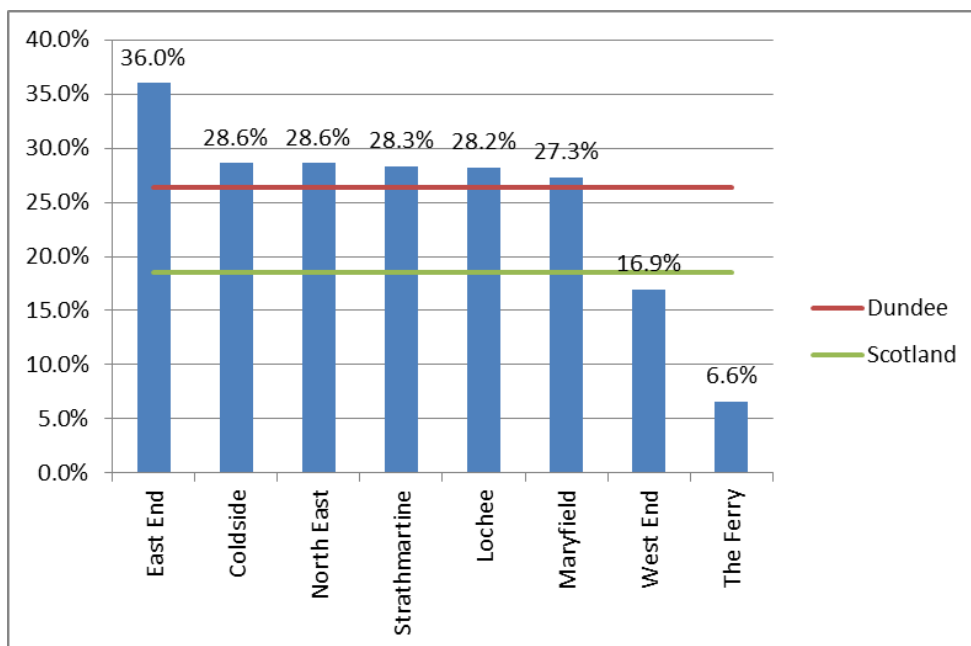
**Figure 7: Children living in data zones ranked within the 15% Most Deprived in Scotland**



Source: SIMD 2012

Figure 8 shows the percentage of children living in low income families (those that are dependent on out of work benefits and Child Tax Credit). For tax credit and benefit purposes a 'child' is a person aged 0-15 years inclusive plus those aged 16-19 inclusive in full-time non-advanced education. In 2013 six wards were greater than the national average. In the East End ward over a third of all children are in low income households. Coldside, North East, Strathmartine, Lochee and Maryfield all had over a quarter of all children from low income households.

**Figure 8: Percentage of children living in low income families (those that are dependent on out of work benefits and Child Tax Credit) 2013**



Source: HMRC

- **Children living in out of work benefit claimant households**

Latest data available shows that there were 6,080 or one in four children aged under 16 living in out of work benefit claimant households in Dundee City. It also shows that there were 6,790 young people aged 0 to 18 years living in 3,950 out of work benefit claimant households. Dundee proportions are higher than proportions for the whole of Scotland as shown in tables 2 and 3.

**Table 2 Number of Children living in out of work benefit claimant households in Dundee City in May from 2010 to 2013**

Year	Age 0 - 4	Age 5 - 10	Age 11 - 15	Age 16 - 18	Age 0-15	Age 0 - 18	No of households
2013	2,230	2,250	1,600	710	6,080	6,790	3,950
% of age group	27.0%	26.5%	22.8%	12.7%	25.6%	23.1%	
2012	2,310	2,330	1,750	620	6,380	7,000	4,030
2011	2,300	2,360	1,830	610	6,490	7,090	4,030
2010	2,280	2,400	1,850	640	6,530	7,170	4,040

Source: HRMC

**Table 3: Number of Children living in out of work benefit claimant households in Scotland in May from 2010 to 2013**

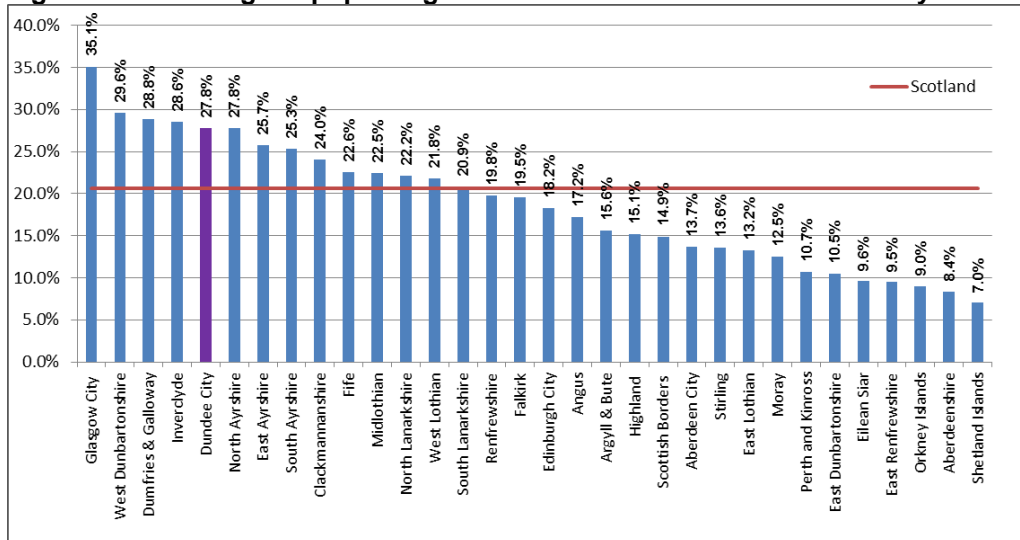
Year	Age 0-4	Age 5-10	Age 11-15	Age 16-18	Age 0-15	Age 0-18	No of households
2013	59,810	58,800	45,400	18,660	163,970	182,690	105,840
% of age group	20.3%	17.5%	16.1%	9.9%	18.0%	16.6%	
2012	62,040	62,260	49,400	18,120	173,690	191,800	111,240

<b>2011</b>	62,080	63,160	51,280	18,900	176,600	195,470	112,950
<b>2010</b>	62,050	64,900	53,680	19,420	180,630	200,040	115,170

Source: HRMC

Figures 9 and 10 show the percentage of primary and secondary school pupils registered in 2014 with local authorities for free school meals. Dundee City has the fifth highest percentage of primary and secondary pupils registered for free school meals when compared to the other local authorities in Scotland.

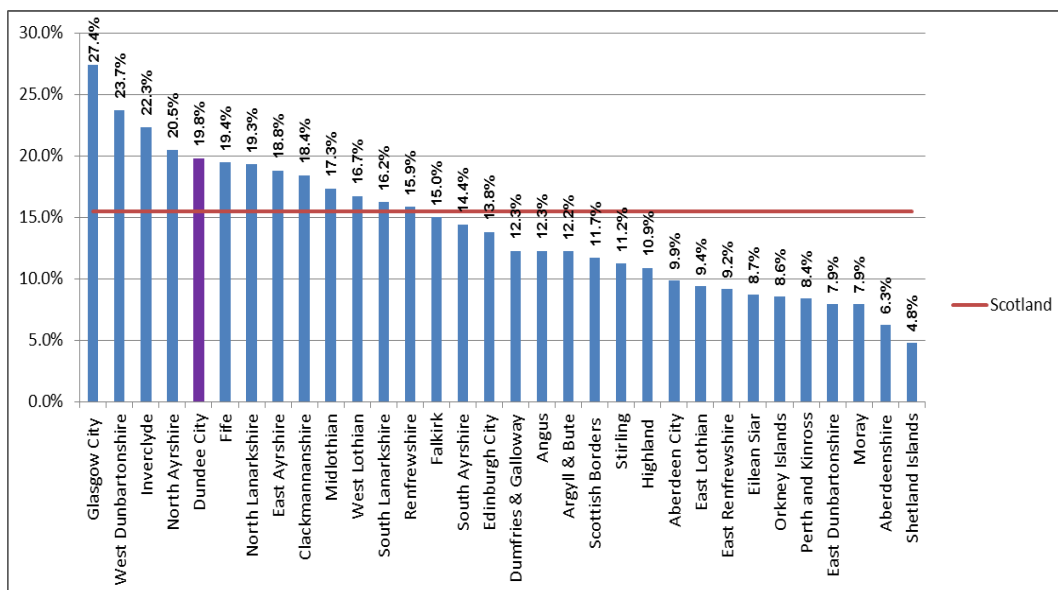
**Figure 9: Percentage of pupils registered for free school meals – Primary Schools 2014**



Source: Scottish Government, School Meals Supplementary Dataset 2014, Table 8 – Percentage of primary school pupils registered for free school meals 2014

It is important to note that some local authorities implement local initiatives for free school meals for primary school children.

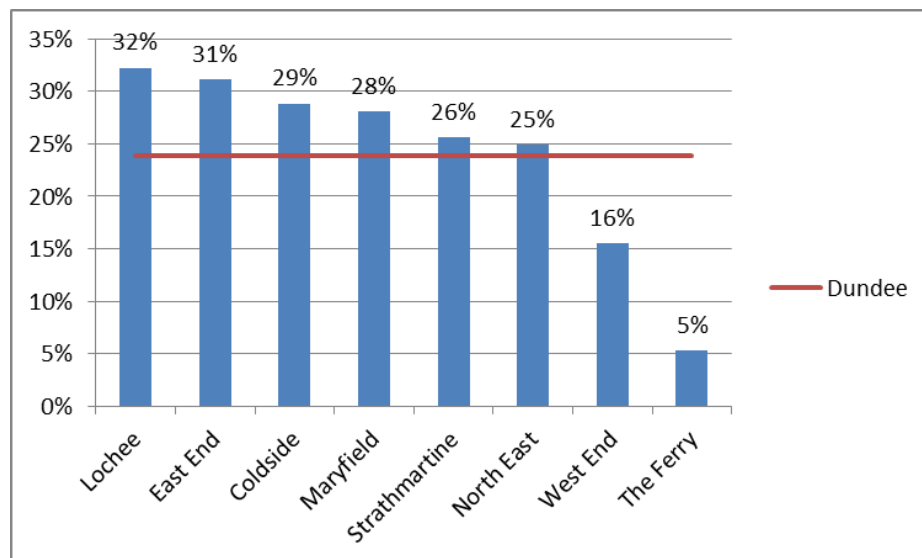
**Figure 10: Percentage of pupils registered for free school meals – Secondary Schools 2014**



Source: Scottish Government, School Meals Supplementary Dataset 2014, Table14 – Percentage of secondary school pupils registered for free school meals 2014

Figure 11 shows that over a third of all primary pupils in the East End and Lochee wards are eligible for free school meals. Excluding The Ferry and West End, the remaining wards all have more than a quarter of primary school pupils eligible.

Figure 11: Percentage of pupils eligible for free school meals by ward 2013



Source: DCC Education Department

## • EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

A research paper 'Closing the Attainment Gap in Scottish Education' by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, claims that by the age of 5 the gap in attainment between children in low-income and high-income households is equivalent to a 10-13 month age difference. By age 12-14, pupils from better-off areas are more than twice as likely as those from the most deprived areas to do well in literacy and numeracy. The report also found that children from deprived households leave school earlier and that low attainment is strongly linked to destinations after school, with long-term effects on job prospects.

An Audit Scotland report "School Education" highlights that there is a lack of information on overall pupil performance at both a local and national level. Current measures focus on attainment of secondary pupils at S4-S6 level. There are no comparable measures of wider achievement or the performance of pupils in P1-S3 available at both a council and national level. There is a proposal by the Improvement Service to develop a measure for this for the local benchmarking



forum.

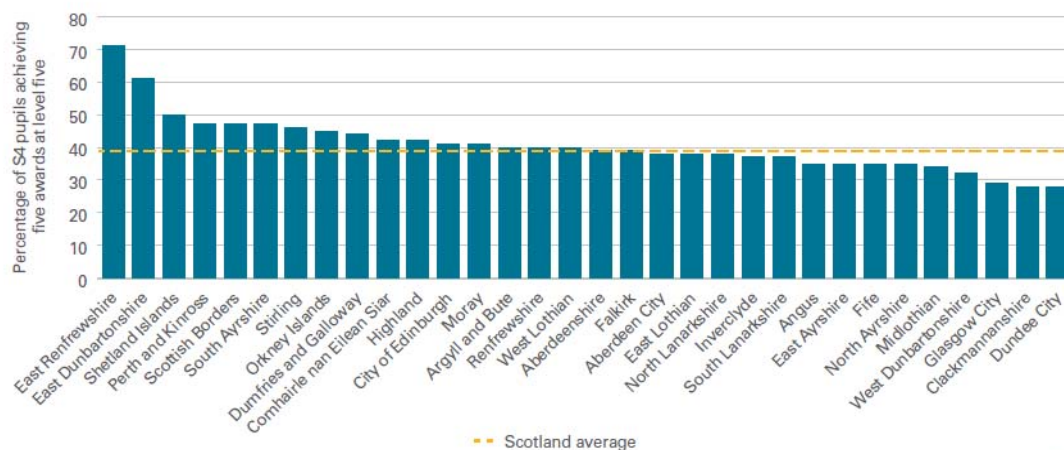
The Audit Scotland report also states that attainment in S4-S6 has improved over the last decade. However, it is not clear whether these improvements are greater or less than expected, due to a lack of national targets. There is significant variation in attainment between individual councils, schools and groups of pupils.

Deprivation continues to have a large influence on attainment. There are significant differences in attainment between pupils from deprived areas and those from more affluent areas. However, some schools have achieved better attainment results than their levels of deprivation would indicate, suggesting that the gap between the lowest and highest performing schools cannot be wholly attributed to different levels of deprivation. Closing the gap between schools is likely to be critical to improving overall attainment levels.

### • Attainment differences across Scotland

There are wide differences in attainment levels between councils in Scotland across almost all of the ten measures used by Audit Scotland. Seven of the measures had a gap between the highest and lowest performing councils of 30 percentage points or more. The widest performance gap was in the percentage of S4 pupils achieving five awards at SCQF level five, with a gap of 43 percentage points in 2013. Figure 12 shows that in 2013, 28 per cent of S4 pupils in Dundee City and Clackmannanshire achieved five or more awards at SCQF level five, compared to 71 per cent in East Renfrewshire

Figure 12: Percentage of S4 pupils achieving five or more awards at SCQF level five in 2013 by



**council** Source: Audit Scotland, using data from Scottish Government Education Analytical Services Division



Attainment levels also vary significantly between schools in the same council area.

Figure 13 below shows the range and spread of performance across schools in each council using the percentage of S4 pupils achieving five plus awards at SCQF level five in 2013. There is similar variation within councils using two other commonly reported attainment measures: the percentage of S5 pupils achieving three awards at level six; and the percentage of S6 pupils achieving five awards at level six.

Aberdeen City and Glasgow City had the widest gap between schools at 74 percentage points. Dundee City had a difference of 40 percentage points between its best and worst performing schools. Across all secondary schools in Scotland, the percentage of S4 pupils achieving five awards at level five ranged from no pupils achieving this level in the lowest-performing school in the City of Edinburgh in 2013, to 81 per cent of pupils achieving this level in the highest-performing school in East Renfrewshire.

**Figure 13; Range and spread of performance between schools in each Council in terms of percentage of S4 pupils achieving five awards at level five.**

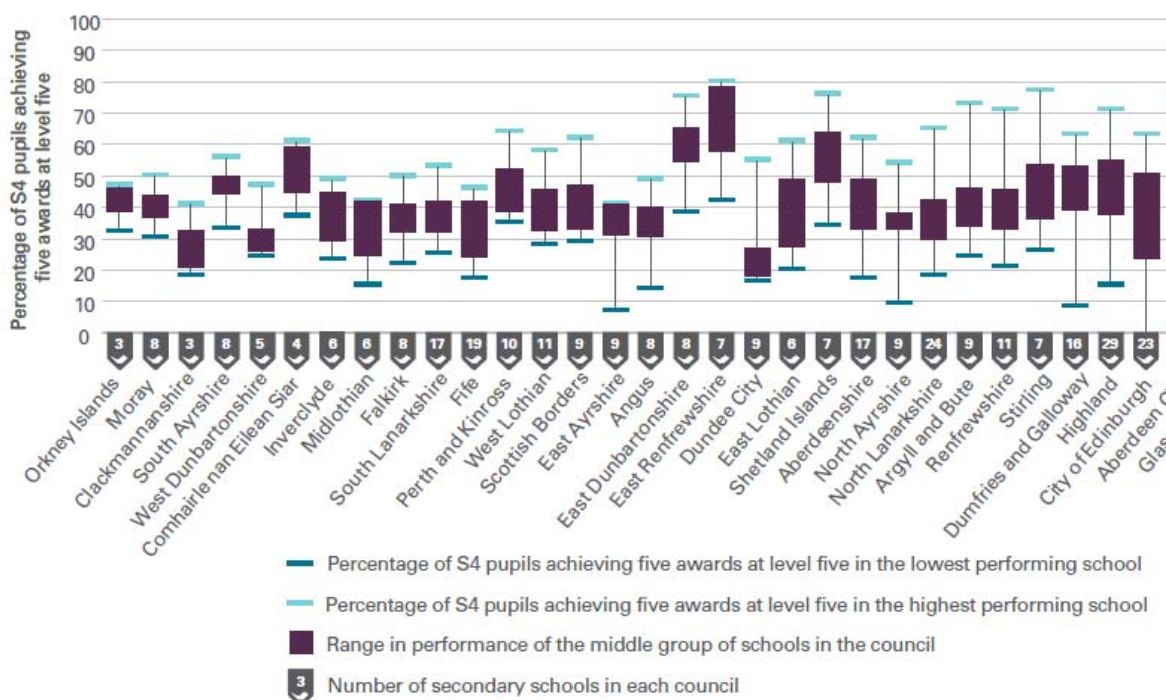


Figure 13 also shows that the spread of school performance in individual councils

varies across the country. For example, the middle-performing group of schools in Dundee City were within 10 percentage points of each other. In contrast, in the middle-performing group of schools in East Lothian, the percentage of S4 pupils achieving five awards at level five in 2013 differed by 21 percentage points.

- **Insight**

The Curriculum for Excellence was introduced to Scottish schools in 2010. This led to the introduction of a new Senior Phase in 2014 to cover stages S4, S5 and S6 along with a new set of National exams in the 2014 exam diet to replace standard grades. The National 4 and 5 exams were designed to be studied over one year and the recommended number of subjects to study was reduced from 8 to 6. In addition, schools were given much greater flexibility over the curriculum model they wished to use in the Senior Phase. So, for instance, a pupil might not take any exams in S4 and work towards Highers in S5.

This change led the Scottish Government to develop a new senior phase benchmarking tool, Insight. This replaced the previous reporting tool Standard Tables and Charts (STACs) published by ScotXed.

Insight publishes four national benchmarking measures:

- Percentage of Leavers Attaining Literacy and Numeracy
- Percentage of School Leavers in a Positive Destination
- Average Total Tariff Score
- Attainment versus Deprivation

Perhaps the most important change to measuring attainment is the move to measuring at the point of leaving school rather than particular stage results. Old measures such as the percentage of S4 pupils achieving five or more awards at SCQF level 5 are important for gauging historical performance but going forward the Insight measures will be used to assess performance within the senior phase of the Curriculum for Excellence.

A radical addition to the Insight tool is the Virtual Comparator. The virtual comparator is made up of pupils from schools in other local authorities who have similar characteristics to the pupils in the school in question. It allows one to see how the performance of pupils compares to a similar group of pupils from across Scotland to help undertake self-evaluation and improvement activities.

For each pupil in the cohort of interest, 10 matching pupils are randomly selected from other local authorities based on the following characteristics:

- Gender
- Additional support needs
- Latest stage
- Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation vigintile.

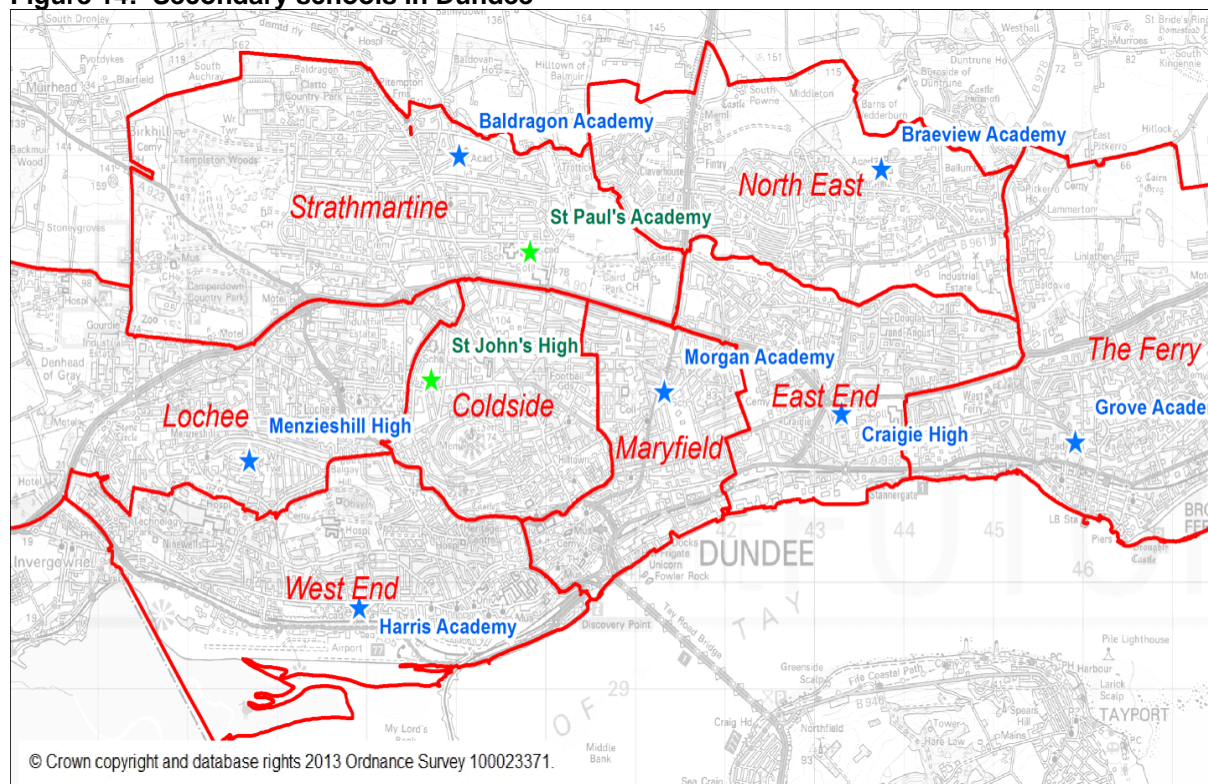
This allows virtual comparators to be produced for the target cohort of interest. So, if school A has 20 school leavers all of whom have the same characteristics, 200

different pupils with these same characteristics from schools in the other 31 local authorities will be selected to compare them to.

- **Electoral Ward Attainment**

Ward level data is calculated based on the physical location of schools. This gives an approximation as not all children attending a school will necessarily live in the same Ward.

**Figure 14: Secondary schools in Dundee**



Results for three Insight National Benchmarking measures are shown below (The Attainment v Deprivation does not lend itself to summary as one figure):

**Table 4: Insight National Benchmarking Measures, Academic year 2013/14.**

		Percentage of Leavers Attaining Literacy and Numeracy		Percentage of School Leavers in a Positive Destination	Average Total Tariff Score		
		at SCQF level 4 or above	at SCQF level 5 or above		lowest attaining 20%	middle attaining 60%	highest attaining 20%
National		81.3%	55.7%	92.6%	163	805	1817
Dundee		78.9%	46.2%	91.1%	120	671	1761
Virtual Comparator		78.8%	51.4%	91.6%	142	716	1747
Ward							
	Coldside	76.8%	48.2%	91.5%	81	678	1727
	East End	74.2%	36.1%	89.0%	85	511	1443
	Lochee	76.9%	44.0%	92.3%	123	632	1685

Maryfield	80.5%	51.6%	90.6%	121	672	1730
North East	67.7%	38.2%	91.2%	81	449	1264
Strathmartine	71.8%	33.6%	87.3%	94	513	1374
The Ferry	89.3%	69.9%	95.7%	315	1218	2068
West End	92.4%	50.6%	94.2%	260	817	1928

Source: Insight

As can be seen above there is wide variation across Dundee in all measures. Figure 15 shows that for those attaining literacy and numeracy at SCQF level 4 or above, the lowest percentage figure is in the North East at 67% and the highest in the West End at 92%.

For those attaining literacy and numeracy at level 5 or above, figures range from 33% in Strathmartine to 69% in The Ferry.

**Figure 15: Percentage leavers attaining Literacy and Numeracy SCQF Level 4 and above**

Figure 16 shows the percentage of school leavers in a positive destinations at 2013/2014 was 91% for Dundee overall, slightly lower than the Scottish figure of 92%. At ward level the figures range from 87% in Strathmartine to 95% in The Ferry.

**Figure 16: Percentage of school leavers in positive destinations**

Source: Insight

The average total tariff score varies widely between all wards and the overall Dundee and Scotland figures. Figure 17 shows that the average total tariff score in the lowest attaining 20% was 120 in Dundee and 163 in Scotland, across the different Ward areas Coldside, East End, North East and Strathmartine all had figures below the Dundee and National averages.

**Figure 17: Average Total Tariff Score – lowest attaining 20%**

Source: Insight

In the highest attaining 20%, shown in Figure 18, the average total tariff score for Scotland was 1,817, compared to 1,761 in Dundee. The West End and The Ferry both have figures above the Dundee and National average scores.

**Figure 18: Average Total Tariff Score – highest attaining 20%**

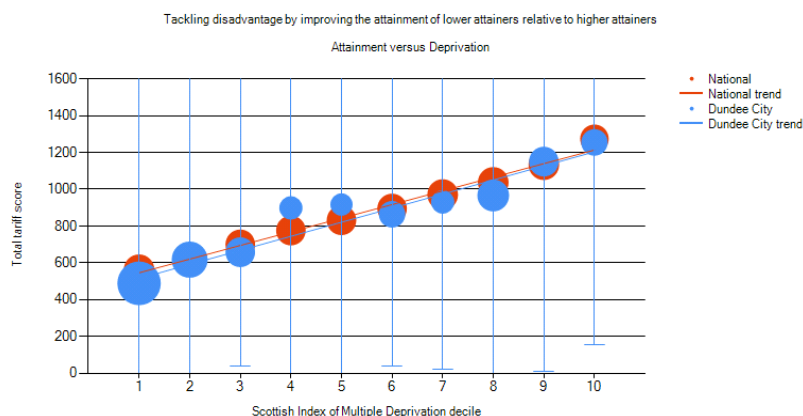
- **The Attainment Gap**

The fourth Insight National Benchmarking measure, Attainment versus Deprivation, is not easily summarised in a table due to its graphical nature. Figures 19a and 19b below show the correlation between deprivation and education attainment. The blue circles represent Dundee’s children; the orange circles represent the national picture. The relative size of the circles indicates the proportion of children living in each decile. Nationally, children are evenly distributed between the deciles. In Dundee however there are a greater proportion of children living in the 3 most deprived deciles. The vertical axis shows the average tariff score for children in each decile.

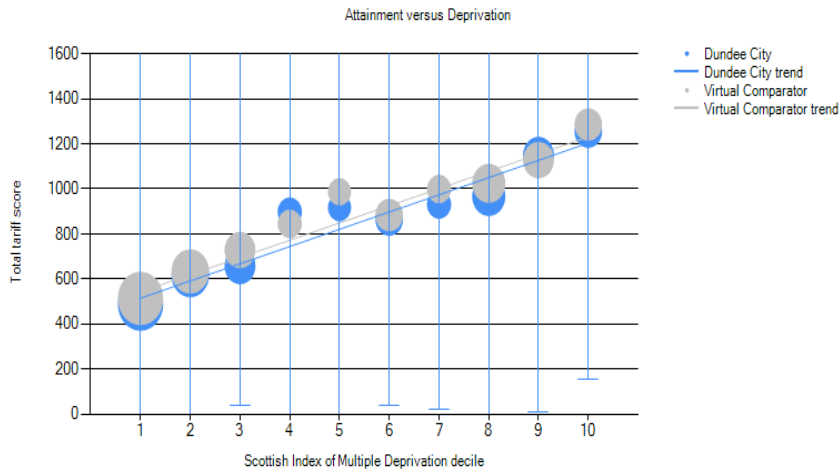
Figure 19b shows the same data for Dundee benchmarked against our Virtual Comparator. In this chart grey circles represent the Virtual comparator and blue circles, Dundee.

As can be seen those living in the more deprived areas have, on average, lower attainment scores than those living in less deprived areas. The pattern in Dundee is inline with national trends. When benchmarked against the Virtual Comparator the correlation is also close. None of the slight differences between Dundee, National and Virtual Comparator were flagged as statistically significant. In summary the attainment gap in Dundee is what would be expected given the high levels of deprivation in the city.

**Figure 19a/19b Attainment versus Deprivation. 19a Dundee and National. 19b Dundee and Virtual Comparator**  
 [Source: Insight]



Tackling disadvantage by improving the attainment of lower attainers relative to higher attainers



The Insight tool includes filters that allow results for subgroups of pupils to be produced. For deprivation the Insight filters allow results to be shown for pupils who live in Scotland's 30% most deprived, 40% middle and 30% least deprived data zones. The results for Dundee are shown below:

**Table 5: Insight National Benchmarking Measures, Academic year 2013/14.**

**Pupils living in Dundee's share of Scotland's 30% most deprived data zones.**

		Percentage of Leavers Attaining Literacy and Numeracy		Percentage of School Leavers in a Positive Destination	Average Total Tariff Score		
		at SCQF level 4 or above	at SCQF level 5 or above		lowest attaining 20%	middle attaining 60%	highest attaining 20%
National		70.5%	39.8%	88.8%	101	520	1472
Dundee		69.7%	32.2%	87.2%	74	459	1347
Virtual Comparator		69.5%	37.9%	88.5%	100	484	1412
Ward							
	Coldside	67.9%	37.0%	85.2%	32	454	1406
	East End	70.4%	31.5%	87.0%	68	426	1351
	Lochee	59.0%	23.1%	84.6%	35	351	1110
	Maryfield	78.8%	46.5%	90.9%	116	574	1636
	North East	67.9%	38.1%	89.3%	73	455	1224
	Strathmartine	63.8%	23.3%	84.1%	76	406	1179
	The Ferry	80.0%	45.0%	95.0%	120	809	1761
West End	83.0%	26.4%	90.6%	190	472	1154	

For children living in the 30% most deprived data zones, Dundee's figures for the Insight National Benchmarking measures are lower than the 30% most deprived data zones in the rest of Scotland. The differences are generally small except for the percentage of leavers attaining literacy and numeracy at SCQF level 5 or above as shown in figure 20.

**Figure 20: Percentage of leavers (living in the 30% most deprived) attaining Literacy and**

## Numeracy SCQF level 5

Source: Insight

Until 2013 national performance measures looked at the percentage of pupils gaining English and Maths at SCQF level 3 or better. This performance measure was at 95% in 2013. With the introduction of the new National awards and Insight, focus has shifted nationally to measuring literacy and numeracy achievement at SCQF levels 4 and 5.

**Table 6: Insight National Benchmarking Measures, Academic year 2013/14.**

**Pupils living in Dundee's share of Scotland's 40% middle deprived data zones.**

		Percentage of Leavers Attaining Literacy and Numeracy		Percentage of School Leavers in a Positive Destination	Average Total Tariff Score		
		at SCQF level 4 or above	at SCQF level 5 or above		lowest attaining 20%	middle attaining 60%	highest attaining 20%
National		82.6%	56.0%	92.8%	175	797	1786
Dundee		87.6%	53.1%	95.3%	194	822	1834
Virtual Comparator		85.8%	58.8%	93.4%	198	865	1813
Ward	Coldside	84.8%	52.2%	100.0%	191	781	1818
	East End	76.7%	33.3%	90.0%	115	587	1499
	Lochee	85.7%	47.6%	100.0%	190	798	1796
	Maryfield	84.4%	53.1%	93.8%	157	740	1700
	North East	68.8%	37.5%	100.0%	132	383	1431
	Strathmartine	90.8%	52.8%	92.7%	218	756	1602
	The Ferry	96.0%	76.0%	96.0%	401	1242	1976
	West End	98.0%	62.0%	94.0%	287	1012	1996

For children in the middle 40% deprived data zones Dundee has attained slightly higher on most measures than Scotland. There are noticeable achievements in positive destinations and literacy and numeracy at SCQF level 4. Again attainment in literacy and numeracy at SCQF level 5 lags below the Scottish figure. The Children's and Families' Service is working with schools to improve performance at SCQF level 5.

**Figure 21: Percentage of school leavers (living in the 40% middle deprived data zones) in a positive destination**

**Table 7: Insight National Benchmarking Measures, Academic year 2013/14. Pupils living in Dundee's share of Scotland's 30% least deprived data zones.**

		Percentage of Leavers Attaining Literacy and Numeracy	Percentage of School Leavers in	Average Total Tariff Score
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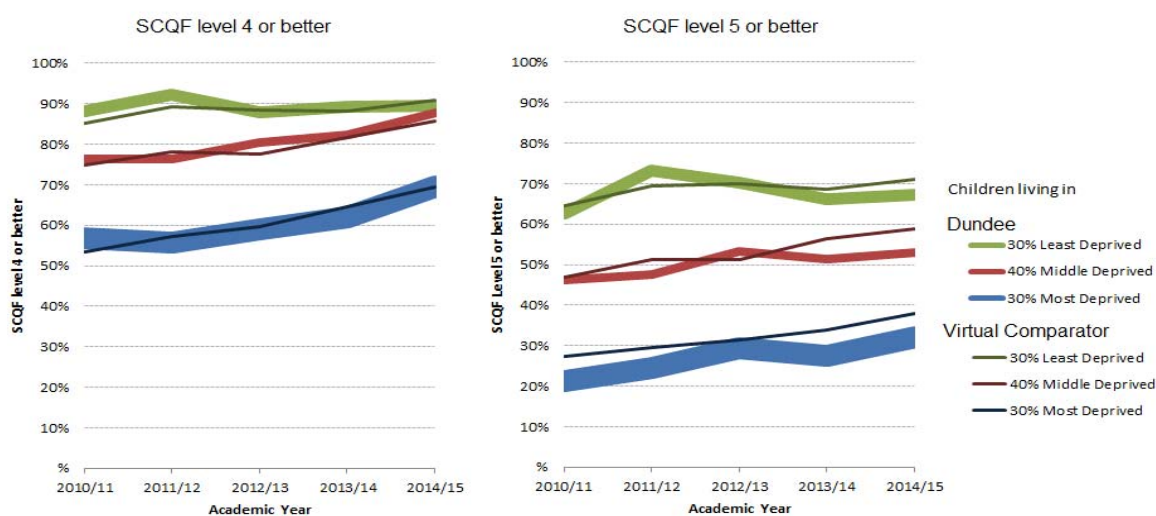
		at SCQF level 4 or above	at SCQF level 5 or above		lowest attaining 20%	middle attaining 60%	highest attaining 20%
National		90.3%	71.2%	96.0%	301	1142	1986
Dundee		89.6%	67.2%	95.4%	279	1071	1997
Virtual Comparator		90.9%	71.0%	95.9%	298	1119	1972
Ward	Coldside	86.5%	67.6%	94.6%	224	1048	1859
	East End	94.1%	70.6%	100.0%	456	788	1627
	Lochee	93.6%	67.7%	96.8%	395	943	1733
	Maryfield	82.1%	67.9%	85.7%	92	915	1892
	North East	no pupils in the 30% least deprived data zones					
	Strathmartine	85.3%	58.5%	95.1%	197	762	1358
	The Ferry	89.4%	72.3%	95.7%	345	1271	2111
	West End	95.7%	60.9%	97.1%	318	1072	2032

Children living in Dundee's least deprived areas are again very close to the National picture on Insight's Benchmarking Measures. The gap between literacy and numeracy attainment at SCQF level 5 between Dundee and Scotland is still the largest of the measures as per the other two deprivation groups above. Whilst there is the need to close the gap between more and less deprived children within Dundee there is also a need to close the gap between all of Dundee's children and national attainment levels.

Data within Insight has been retrospectively calculated for five years. Using the filters available this allows attainment gap data to be calculated for a graphical time series to examine headway made in closing the gap. For benchmarking the Virtual Comparator is used.

Figure 22 shows the gaps in Dundee between different SIMD groups for attainment in literacy and numeracy. The thickness of the lines for Dundee represents the proportion of children living within each decile group; approximately half of Dundee's school leavers live within Scotland's 30% most deprived data zones.

**Figure 22: Percentage of school leavers achieving literacy and numeracy, Dundee and its Virtual Comparator. [source Insight]**



At SCQF level 4 Dundee is performing very similarly to its Virtual Comparator. The gap between the different deprivation groups is closing. Figure 16 shows that at its worst in 2011/12 the gap in Dundee between the most deprived and least deprived groups in Dundee was 37 percentage points. By 2015 this has reduced to 20 percentage points. Leavers in the middle deprived areas have nearly closed the gap with those in the least deprived.

The picture of literacy and numeracy at SCQF level 5 is not quite as good. The gap in Dundee is closing. Again at its worst in 2011/12 the gap between least deprived and most deprived leaver groups in Dundee was 49 percentage points. This has now reduced to 35 points. Unfortunately some of this reduction has been at the expense of attainment by those in the least deprived areas. The rate of closure in Dundee between SIMD groups is similar to that of the Virtual Comparator. Of concern at SCQF level 5 is the gap between Dundee and its Virtual Comparator shown in all three SIMD groups in the last two years. There is a need to close the gap between Dundee and its Virtual Comparator as well as the gaps between different SIMD groups within Dundee.

Insight does not lend itself well to comparison between all Local Authorities nor indeed between schools within an authority. At present it is primarily designed as a tool for individual schools and staff within those schools to review their performance. Development work is ongoing by the Scottish Government to expand Insight for use at Local Authority as a comparative tool.

- **Exclusions**

Exclusions are rarer in the primary sector than the secondary. Dundee's primary schools have reduced exclusions and are close to matching the Scottish average. Overall Dundee's Secondary schools have the highest rate of exclusions amongst Scottish Local Authorities.

Table 8 shows that in 2014/15 the secondary exclusion rate in Dundee is 0.16%, twice the latest available figure for Scotland overall at 0.08% (2012/13).

Exclusion rates are measured as the percentage of openings lost to exclusion. An opening represents a morning or an afternoon at school, so two openings equals one school day.

**Table 8: Percentage of openings lost to exclusion**

	Scotland	Dundee	
	2012/13	2012/13	2014/15
Primary	0.015%	0.035%	0.023%
Secondary	0.08%	0.22%	0.16%

Source: DCC Education Department

**Table 9: Primary school, percentage of openings lost to exclusion**

Ward	2012/13	2014/15
Coldside	0.020%	0.003%
East End	0.104%	0.037%
Lochee	0.029%	0.038%
Maryfield	0.019%	0.036%
North East	0.043%	0.026%
Strathmartine	0.033%	0.027%
The Ferry	0.000%	0.002%
West End	0.016%	0.001%

Table 10 shows that, in 2014/15, the East End, Maryfield and Strathmartine all have higher percentages of openings lost to exclusion in the secondary sector than the overall Dundee figure. It also shows that Coldside, The Ferry and the West End all have figures lower in 2014/15 than the overall Scotland figure in 2012/13, for the secondary sector.

**Table 10: Secondary school, percentage of openings lost to exclusion**

Ward	2012/13	2014/15
Coldside	0.15%	0.07%
East End	0.48%	0.34%
Lochee	0.10%	0.16%
Maryfield	0.24%	0.21%
North East	0.26%	0.12%
Strathmartine	0.36%	0.25%
The Ferry	0.03%	0.05%
West End	0.12%	0.07%

## • Attendance

Below tables 11, 12 and 13 outline average number of days absent in schools. In Scotland the average secondary school pupil misses 3 weeks of school per year; in Dundee this figure is nearer 4. A secondary pupil in the lowest attending ward, North

East, misses nearly 5 weeks of school per year on average.

**Table 11: Average days absent**

	Scotland	Dundee	
	2012/13	2012/13	2014/15
Primary	10	11	11
Secondary	15	18	19

Source: DCC Education Department

At primary school level, table 12 shows that Coldside, East End and Maryfield all have slightly higher average number of days absent than the overall Dundee figure.

**Table 12: Primary school, percentage average days absent by ward**

Ward	2012/13	2014/15
Coldside	13	12
East End	13	12
Lochee	12	11
Maryfield	13	13
North East	13	11
Strathmartine	11	11
The Ferry	7	7
West End	11	11

Source: DCC Education Department

At secondary school level the East End, Lochee, Maryfield and Strathmartine all have lower attendance figures than the overall average figure for secondary schools in Dundee, as shown in Table 13 below.

**Table 13: Secondary school, percentage average days absent by ward**

Ward	2012/13	2014/15
Coldside	19	19
East End	23	22
Lochee	18	20
Maryfield	17	21
North East	24	24
Strathmartine	20	20
The Ferry	12	14
West End	16	16

Source: DCC Education Department

