



PLEASE NOTE VENUE OF MEETING

INVERCLYDE ALLIANCE BOARD

MONDAY 17 MARCH 2025 – 1PM

THE WATT INSTITUTION, 15 KELLY STREET, GREENOCK PA16 8JX

Please note the timings below:

12:00 - Arrival at Watt Institution – There will be a short tour of the Institution followed by lunch/refreshments.

13:00 – The Alliance meeting will commence.

Please note that this will be an in person meeting only.

BUSINESS

1. **Apologies for Absence**
2. **Minute of Previous Meeting** (copy attached)
3. **Matters Arising**
4. **Nominations for Inverclyde Alliance Board Vice Chair** (copy to follow)
Report by Ruth Binks, Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development, Inverclyde Council
5. **Inverclyde Alliance Board Action Tracker** (copy attached)
6. **Inverclyde Partnership Plan Biannual Progress Report – October 2024 to March 2025** (copy to follow)
Report by Ruth Binks, Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development, Inverclyde Council
7. **Partnership Development and Arrangements** (copy attached)
Report by Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development, Inverclyde Council
8. **Partner Presentation on Bairns Hoose by Clare Cunning, Senior Manager North Strathclyde, Bairns Hoose**
9. **Inverclyde Strategic Needs Assessment 2024** (copy attached)
Report by Ruth Binks, Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development, Inverclyde Council
10. **Community Food Growing Strategy: Year Two Progress** (copy attached)
Report by Ruth Binks, Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development, Inverclyde Council

11. **Partner updates on 2025 events and significant activities**
12. **Date of Next Meeting – Monday 16 June 2025**

Enquiries to – **Lindsay Carrick** – 01475 712114

INVERCLYDE ALLIANCE BOARD

MONDAY 2 DECEMBER 2024

RIVER CLYDE HOMES, CLYDE VIEW, 22 POTTERY STREET, GREENOCK

Present: Councillors E Robertson (Chair), G Brooks, J Clocherty, L Quinn (Inverclyde Council), Ms V Cloney (CVS), Mr A Comrie (Strathclyde Passenger Transport), Mr R Turnock and Mr S McLachlan (River Clyde Homes), Mr P Fagen (West College Scotland), Dr B Von Wissman (NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde), Mr S Frew (Scottish Enterprise) and Mr J McGowan (Office of Martin McCluskey MP).

In attendance: Mr S Jamieson, Ms R Binks, Ms M Rae, Ms R Braddick, Mr T McEwan, Mr H Scott, Mr R Scullion, Mr M Holcombe and Ms L Carrick (Inverclyde Council), Ms K Rocks, Mr J Hinds and Ms M Coyle, (Inverclyde HSCP).

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillor McCabe, with Councillor Clocherty substituting, Ms C Elliott (CVS), with Ms V Cloney substituting, Mr M McCluskey MP, with Mr J McGowan substituting, Ms S Rae (West College Scotland), with Mr P Fagen substituting, Ms L Bayston (Skills Development Scotland), Ms K Wallace (Nature Scot), Area Commander K Murphy (Scottish Fire & Rescue Service), Dr F Simpson, Ms D Macdonald (Scottish Government), Ms L Long, Mr N McIlvanney (Inverclyde Council) and Mr S McMillan MSP.

Prior to the commencement of business, the Chair conveyed her thanks and appreciation to River Clyde Homes officers for hosting the meeting.

MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minute of the meeting of 7 October 2024 was submitted and approved.

MATTERS ARISING

MARMOT PLACES SCOTLAND

Ms Binks, Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development, Inverclyde Council informed the Alliance Board that Inverclyde has not been selected as a Marmot Place. It was noted that Inverclyde, along with five other local authorities, were shortlisted with only three being successful, North Ayrshire, Argyll & Bute, and South Lanarkshire. She further advised that she is uncertain if there is a second phase and that officers intend to engage with the team, but there are potential opportunities for other types of similar work to be undertaken. The Chair conveyed her thanks to all officers involved in the work undertaken on this matter.

INVERCLYDE ALLIANCE BOARD ACTION TRACKER

There was submitted an action tracker arising from previous decisions of the Alliance Board.

Decided:

- (1) that the actions on the tracker be noted; and
- (2) that the revised action tracker be submitted to the next meeting of the Board taking account of the comments made at the meeting.

PARTNER PRESENTATION BY MIKE HOLCOMBE – CLYDE MURSHIEL REGIONAL PARK

The Board heard a presentation by Mike Holcombe, Senior Ranger, Clyde Murshiel Regional Park. The presentation provided information on the history of the park, the role of Ranger and the variety of activities available which included upcoming events, exhibitions and environmental educational activities. Thereafter, Mr Holcombe answered questions from Members. On behalf of the Alliance Board, the Chair thanked Mr Holcombe for attending the meeting and for the work undertaken in his role as Ranger as detailed in the presentation. Mr Fagen joined the meeting during this item of business.

Decided: that the presentation be noted.

INVERCLYDE PARTNERSHIP PLAN BIENNIAL PROGRESS REPORT APRIL 2024 TO SEPTEMBER 2024

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development, Inverclyde Council providing a progress report on the implementation of the Partnership Plan 2023-2033. The Board heard presentations by the Chief Social Work Officer and Head of Children & Families Criminal Justice Services, Inverclyde HSCP, the Head of Culture, Communities & Educational Resources, Inverclyde Council and the Corporate Director Education, Communities and Organisational Development providing oversight and delivery of the Partnership Plan. Thereafter Mr Hinds, Ms Binks and Mr McEwan answered a number of questions from members. The Chair conveyed her thanks to all officers involved in the work undertaken on the implementation of the Partnership Plan.

Decided: that progress made towards the implementation of the Partnership Plan be noted.

PARTNERSHIP DEVELOPMENT AND ARRANGEMENTS

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development, Inverclyde Council providing information on plans to further develop Inverclyde Alliance and its meeting and reporting arrangements

Decided: that the plans to further develop Inverclyde Alliance and its meeting and reporting arrangements as detailed in the appendices to the report be agreed.

PARTNER UPDATES ON 2025 EVENTS AND SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITIES

The Board discussed partner updates, upcoming events and significant activities occurring in 2025. The discussion focused on each of the partners providing an overview of their partnership-based work with others, recent success in Inverclyde and emerging issues. During discussion of this item, Mr Stevie McLachlan, Director of Customer Experience at River Clyde Homes informed Members of the two Chartered Institute of Housing Scotland Housing Awards recently received by River Clyde Homes. It was noted that the River Clyde Homes was honoured for its work with Inverclyde Health & Social Care Partnership to improve outcomes for homeless individuals in the area and Net Zero in Housing which recognised the organisation's commitment to sustainability and innovation in the housing sector.

INVERCLYDE ALLIANCE DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT 2023-2024

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development, Inverclyde Council providing a draft version of the Inverclyde Alliance Annual Report 2023-2024 for approval. At the conclusion of discussion on this item, the Chair extended her thanks to all officers involved for their work on the report.

Decided: that the Inverclyde Alliance Annual Report 2023-2024 be approved.

INVERCLYDE ALCOHOL AND DRUG PARTNERSHIP STRATEGY 2024-2029

There was submitted a report by Maxine Ward, Head of Service, Mental Health, Addictions and Homelessness, Inverclyde HSCP (1) presenting the Inverclyde Alcohol and Drug Partnership Strategy 2024-2029 to the Alliance Board for awareness, and (2) seeking approval of the Strategy for publication and approval.

Decided:

- (1) that the content of the Inverclyde Alcohol and Drug Partnership Strategy 2024-2029 be noted; and
- (2) that the Inverclyde Alcohol and Drug Partnership Strategy 2024-2029 be approved for publication and implementation.

INVERCLYDE COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP 2023-24 ACTIVITY UPDATE

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development, Inverclyde Council providing a progress report on the Community Safety Partnership in Inverclyde, presenting key partnership activity during 2023-24 and setting out the proposed partnership actions for the period 2024-25.

Decided: that the activity of the Inverclyde Community Safety Partnership as detailed in the annual report and action plan for 2025 appended to the report be noted.

INVERCLYDE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS (VAWG) PARTNERSHIP 2023-2024 OUTTURN REPORT

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development, Inverclyde Council providing a progress report of the Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) in Inverclyde and highlighting key activities during 2023-24. During the course of discussion on this item, it was suggested that a presentation on the profile of Scotland's first Bairns Hoose which was developed in partnership with Children 1st, the University of Edinburgh, Victim Support Scotland and local partners in the North Strathclyde area be made at a future meeting of the Alliance Board.

Decided:

- (1) that the progress and activity of the Inverclyde Violence Against Women and Girls Partnership 2023-2024 be noted; and
- (2) that a presentation on the profile of Scotland's first Bairns Hoose be made at a future meeting of the Alliance Board.

INVERCLYDE HSCP STRATEGIC OUTCOMES FRAMEWORK

There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer, Inverclyde Health & Social Care Partnership providing an update on the development of an Outcomes Framework to compliment the new Strategic Partnership Plan published in May 2024.

Decided:

- (1) that the content of the report be noted; and
- (2) that the proposed Outcomes Framework for further development and future reporting be endorsed.

TOWN CENTRE ACTION PLANS

There was submitted a report by the Director Environment & Regeneration, Inverclyde Council providing an update on the Town Centre Action Plans for Gourock, Greenock and Port Glasgow which were approved by Inverclyde Council's Environment & Regeneration Committee.

Decided: that the content of the report be noted.

TREE MANAGEMENT AND PLANTING STRATEGY

There was submitted a report by the Director Environment & Regeneration, Inverclyde Council providing an update on a Tree Management and Planting Strategy which was approved by Inverclyde Council's Environment & Regeneration Committee.

Decided: that the content of the report be noted.

TOWN BOARD UPDATE

Mr S Jamieson, Director Environment & Regeneration, Inverclyde Council provided a brief overview on the progress of the Town Board in terms of the £20m UK Government investment to support the long-term regeneration of Greenock Town Centre. He informed the Alliance Board that the UK Government is committed to the allocation of the funding. He stated that having recently met with representatives of the Scottish Office, it was confirmed that funding for Greenock remains part of the UK Government's spending plans.

PROGRAMME OF ALLIANCE BOARD MEETINGS 2025

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services requesting the Board to agree to a programme of dates for meetings of the Inverclyde Alliance Board to December 2025.

Decided: that meetings of the Alliance Board be held as follows:-

Monday 17 March 2025 – 1pm

Monday 16 June 2025 – 1pm

Monday 6 October 2025 – 1pm

Monday 1 December 2025 – 1pm

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the next meeting of the Alliance Board will take place on Monday 17 March 2025 at 1pm.



Inverclyde Alliance Board Action Tracker

Date of Meeting	Action	Progress Update
5.12.22	<p>Partner hosts Thematic workshops to be arranged, and variety of Board meeting locations and visits to be arranged</p>	<p>Inverclyde Council and the Greenock Cut Visitor Centre have offered to host the June 2025 Board.</p>
02.10.23	<p><u>University of Strathclyde Workforce Research</u> Participation in the University of Strathclyde research project as a partnership approach be progressed.</p>	<p>M Rae to provide update to March 2025 Board.</p>
17.06.24	<p><u>Results of the health and wellbeing survey</u> 27–30-month developmental concern trend data to be considered at future meeting. Results of TSI consultation on the survey to be presented at a future meeting. Results to be discussed between the chairs of the Alliance Board thematic delivery groups. Scottish Government Alliance Board representative to advise on the status of the Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ).</p>	<p>Scheduled for June 2025. The survey closed mid-October 2024. Update circulated to Alliance Board. Update to June 2025 Board. Updates and any resulting actions to be brought to the June 2025 Board. After the last Alliance Board meeting, Fiona Simpson contacted Richard Foggo in the Scottish Government to put him in touch with Louise Long to discuss the approach further, whilst noting that the lead for this is PHS. Update by L Long.</p>

Date of Meeting	Action	Progress Update
7.10.24	<p>NHS GGC Mental Health Strategy Refresh Public Engagement Updates will be provided to future meetings</p>	Partner progress update to be provided at June 2025 Board
7.10.24	<p>Developing a Population Framework for Scotland PHS presentation slides were shared at October 2024 Board. Updates to be provided to future meetings</p>	Partner progress update to be provided at June 2025 Board
2.12.2024	Inverclyde Partnership Plan Biannual Progress Report April 2024 to September 2024	Presentation slides circulated following meeting.
2.12.2024	Inverclyde Alliance Draft Annual Report 2023-2024	Final version has been circulated to the Alliance Board.
2.12.2024	Presentation on Bairns Hoose	March 2025 Board
2.12.2024	Town Centre Action Plans link to be circulated	Link to be circulated to Alliance Board



Inverclyde Alliance

AGENDA ITEM NO: 7

Report To:	Inverclyde Alliance Board	Date:	17 March 2025
Report By:	Ruth Binks, Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development, Inverclyde Council	Report	
Contact Officer:	Morna Rae, Head of Organisational Development, Policy & Communications, Inverclyde Council	Contact No:	
Subject:	Partnership Development and Arrangements		

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Alliance Board with an update on plans to further develop Inverclyde Alliance and its meeting and reporting arrangements.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 Over recent years various approaches have been taken to continue to develop the Inverclyde Alliance partnership and improve delivery and reporting arrangements.
- 2.2 To build on these a number of proposals were agreed at the December 2024 meeting and this report provides a further update.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Alliance Board notes the update and plans, and partners discuss any additional action required.

Ruth Binks
Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development

4.0 BACKGROUND

4.1 Over recent years various approaches have been taken to continue to develop the Inverclyde Alliance partnership and improve delivery and reporting arrangements. A number of specific proposals were agreed at the December 2024 Alliance meeting. The following have been implemented:

- Formats for the thematic action plans and progress reports refined in line with feedback from the delivery groups and Alliance Board,
- Meeting agendas reviewed to achieve a balance between fulfilling national scrutiny and reporting requirements and opportunities for partner discussion, and
- A forward planner for the year shared with an invite to partners to suggest future reports and presentations, external contributions and meeting venues and site visits.

4.2 Next steps include:

- Review of the Improvement Service's recently published report *National CPP Self Assessment* and consideration of related activity for Inverclyde Alliance,
- The format of the agendas and minutes will be considered to more clearly set out the relevant partnership outcomes for each item, and
- Development of an updated set of key performance indicators (KPIs) for the Alliance (see below).

4.3 Due to the strategic focus of the Alliance the main KPI reporting and scrutiny ties into the annual report on progress against the Partnership Plan outcomes. It is vital that these performance indicators reflect the joint partnership approach and so they should be drawn from across partner organisations as well as national sources. A draft updated KPI list has been developed and will be shared with Alliance partners. A related proposal will be presented to the June meeting of the Alliance.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS

Legal: None

Finance: None

Human Resources: None

Equality and Diversity: None

Alliance Partnership Plan: The progress updates within this report relate to outcomes within all five themes of the Partnership Plan.

6.0 CONSULTATIONS

6.1 None.



Report To:	Inverclyde Alliance Board	Date:	17 March 2025
Report By:	Ruth Binks, Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development, Inverclyde Council	Report	
Contact Officer:	Rhoda Braddick, Corporate Policy, Performance & Communications Manager, Inverclyde Council	Contact No:	
Subject:	Inverclyde Strategic Needs Assessment 2024		

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform the Alliance Board of the latest update to the Inverclyde Strategic Needs Assessment.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 The Inverclyde Strategic Needs Assessment (SNA) brings together a range of information on Inverclyde's population, economy, local deprivation, health and the environment. The SNA has been used to inform the development of strategic priorities within plans such as the former Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2017/23 and the current Partnership Plan 2023/33.
- 2.2 The SNA was updated towards the end of 2024 and is attached as appendix 1. It is also available on the Inverclyde Council website: [Inverclyde Partnership Plan 2023/33 - Inverclyde Council](#) . The Alliance Board will be invited to a briefing on the SNA to enable a more detailed discussion on the key issues for Inverclyde.
- 2.3 The latest data shows that there continues to be local challenges for partners across a range of issues including population, and poorer outcomes linked to inequality and deprivation. The Partnership Plan 2023/33 and its associated action plans reflect the Alliance's commitment to address these issues.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Alliance Board notes that the Inverclyde SNA has recently been updated and is available as a partner resource on the Inverclyde Council website.

Ruth Binks
Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development

4.0 BACKGROUND

4.1 A Strategic Needs Assessment (SNA), containing a range of data on Inverclyde's population, economy, local deprivation, health and the environment was initially developed to inform the priorities in the Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2017/23 and then refreshed prior to the development of the Partnership Plan 2023/33.

4.2 The purpose of the SNA is not to capture the vast amount of information on the area that exists across all partners, rather it aims to provide an insight into the main issues that impact on the overall wellbeing and resilience of Inverclyde's communities. It does not stand alone and should be considered alongside partner plans and strategies and other Needs Assessments, such as the Inverclyde Alliance Children's Services SNA and the data on Inverclyde's communities contained within the Locality Plans.

4.3 SNA 2024

4.4 The SNA, which is attached as appendix 1, was updated at the end of 2024 and includes data from Census 2022. It is also available to download on the Inverclyde Council website [Inverclyde Partnership Plan 2023/33 - Inverclyde Council](#).

4.5 Some of the key points to note since the production of the SNA in 2022 include:

- There has been an encouraging growth in levels of in-migration in recent years, however a higher number of deaths than births is driving population decline.
- Census data shows that Inverclyde has the third highest proportion of its population aged 55 years and older living alone in Scotland, which raises potential issues in relation to loneliness and the future demand for health and social care services.
- Census data also shows a sharp increase in the number of people in Inverclyde, particularly young people, reporting that they have a mental health condition.
- Inverclyde male life expectancy at birth has seen the highest 20 year gain of all council areas.

4.6 The SNA shows that the aspirations set out in the Partnership Plan 2023/33 remain appropriate. As the Partnership Plan focuses on long term goals, the SNA will be fully updated every two years to ensure that any emerging challenges or changing trends are identified by the Alliance. The next full update will be carried out following the publication of SIMD 2026 (expected late 2026). In the meantime, partners are encouraged to identify any additional areas of focus from their own perspective, which could be included in the SNA going forward.

4.7 A briefing on the SNA will be arranged to provide time for a more focused discussion on the key issues for Inverclyde. An invite will be issued to members of the Alliance Board in due course.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS

Legal: None

Finance: None

Human Resources: None

Equality and Diversity: None

Alliance Partnership Plan: The SNA provides an evidence base that the partnership work of the Alliance is addressing the key challenges for Inverclyde.

6.0 CONSULTATIONS

6.1 None.

INVERCLYDE STRATEGIC NEEDS ASSESSMENT, 2024

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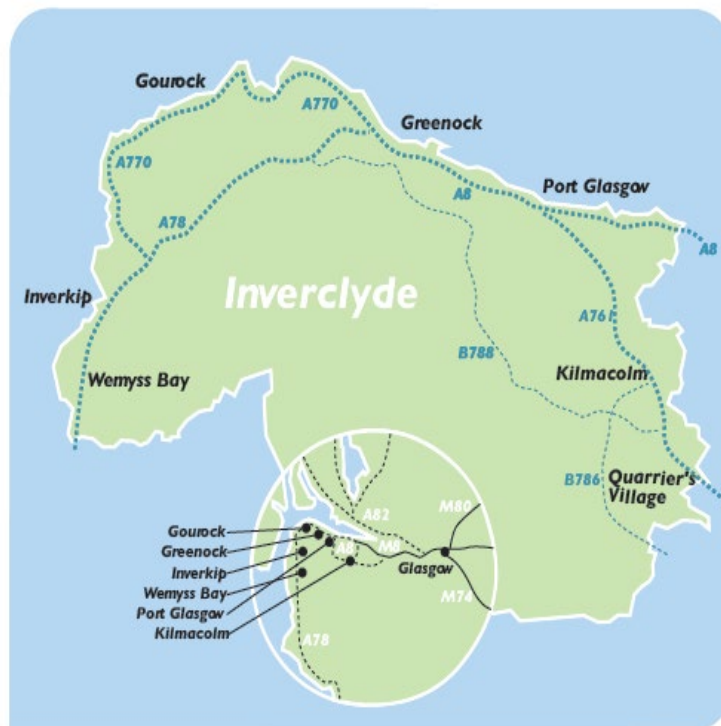
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INVERCLYDE STRATEGIC NEEDS ASSESSMENT, 2024

This Strategic Needs Assessment (SNA) has been produced to inform the development of key plans and strategies for both the Council and the Community Planning Partnership, the Inverclyde Alliance.

In common with many areas of Scotland, Inverclyde exhibits disparity in the life circumstances and quality of life of residents, with some areas of Inverclyde ranking amongst the most deprived in Scotland, whilst other areas lie at the opposite end of this scale. To assess where targeting resources will add the greatest value there must first be a clear understanding of the current and future health, social and economic needs of our population. This SNA (2024) helps to identify where the greatest inequality exists. It also shows where outcomes are not as good as other areas of Scotland, or where they are better.



A vast amount of information on Inverclyde exists across all partners and the purpose of this SNA is not to replicate all this information here. This Assessment does not stand alone and as well as partner plans and strategies, should be considered alongside the following:

- The Inverclyde Health and Social Care Partnership Strategic Needs Assessment
- The Inverclyde Alliance Children's Services Strategic Needs Assessment
- The Inverclyde Community Safety Strategic Needs Assessment
- Consultation and engagement across Inverclyde's 6 localities
- Locality Action Plans

This data within this SNA is, for the most part, presented at an Inverclyde level. More data on each of Inverclyde's six localities can be found here: <https://www.inverclyde.gov.uk/council-and-government/community-planning-partnership/localities>

POPULATION PROFILE

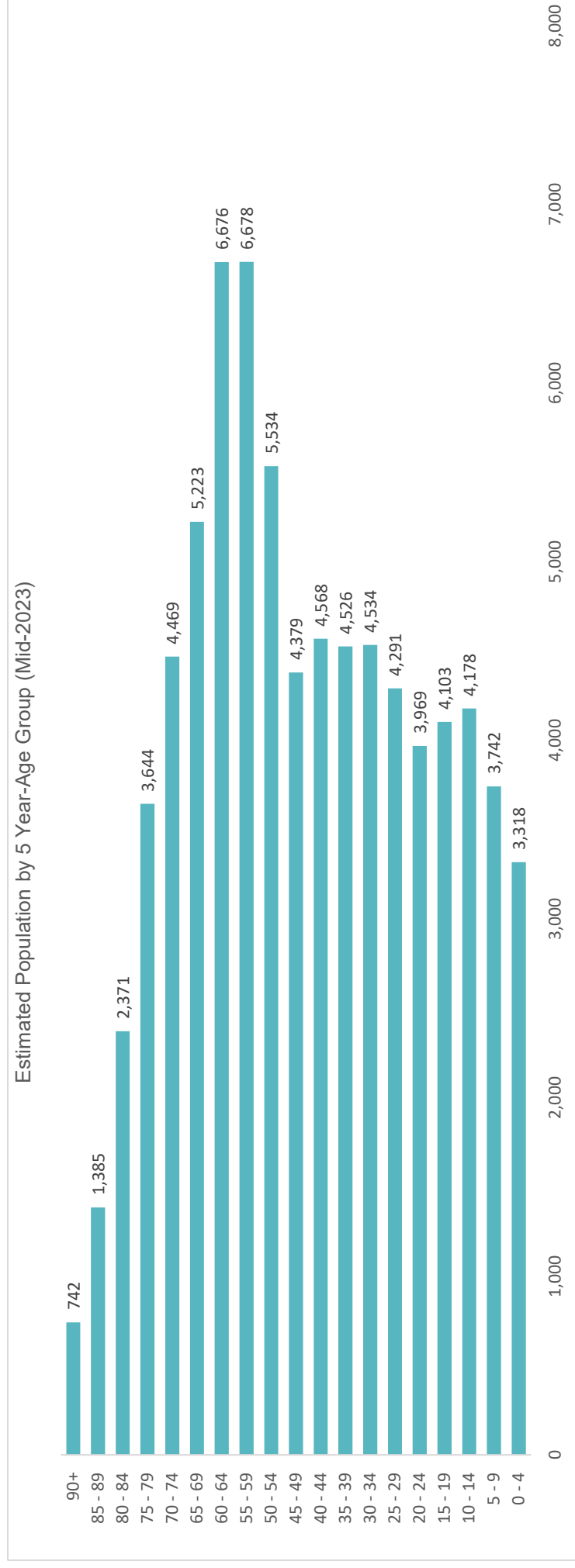
Key messages

- The decline in Inverclyde's population has been one of the greatest of all Scottish local authority areas. Whilst out-migration has been a driving factor historically, in recent years population decline is being driven by fewer births than deaths. Inverclyde's declining birth rate, coupled with an ageing population, reflects the Scottish national trend.
- The increase in the number of people moving into Inverclyde in recent years is welcome, however in-migration levels have not been sufficient in number to address the population decline due to negative natural change, with the gap between the numbers of births and deaths growing.
- Population projection data presented in this SNA is based on the 2018 mid-year population estimates and is due to be updated later in 2025, using Census 2022 data. This needs to be considered is referring to the population projection data.
- Inverclyde has the third highest proportion of its population aged 55 years and older living alone in Scotland. Research has found a link between older people living alone and increased social isolation and loneliness, which is harmful to health, wellbeing and quality of life. Appropriate support will need to be available to meet the changing needs of our older people.
- The projected decline in the numbers of young people and working age population, coupled with the substantial increase in the numbers of over 60s, will place additional pressures on those services required by an ageing population. There remains a need to encourage our young people to remain living in the area.
- More local jobs will be an influencing factor on future population growth and critical to attracting migrants and retaining young people currently living in Inverclyde.

POPULATION PROFILE

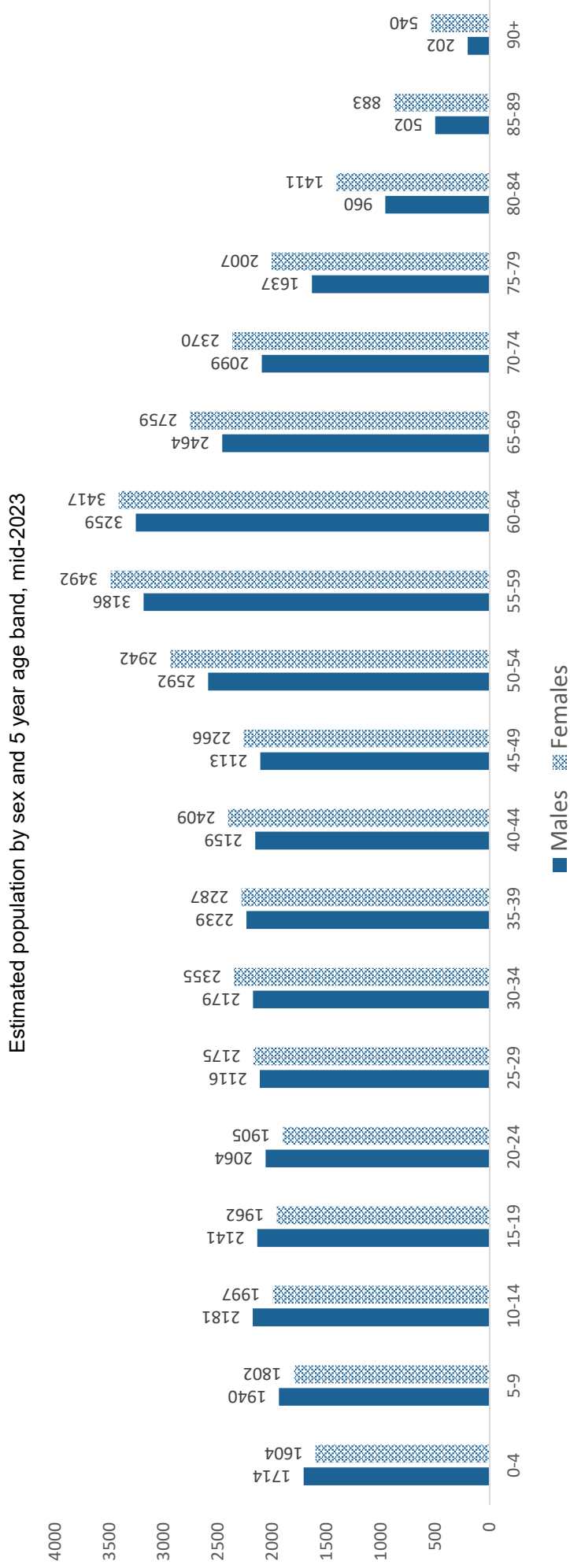
1.1 Inverclyde’s Population

Inverclyde is the 11th most densely populated local authority in Scotland, covering an area of 160 square kilometres with a population density of 488 persons per square kilometre. The estimated population of Inverclyde as at 30 June 2023 was 78,330, which is an estimated decrease of 20 from mid-2022, accounting for 1.4% of the total population of Scotland. The breakdown of the population is shown in 5-year age groupings in shown in the graph below:



Source: [Mid-2023 Population Estimates Scotland](#) | [National Records of Scotland](#)

Overall, there are more women than men in Inverclyde, 40,583 females compared to 37,747 males.

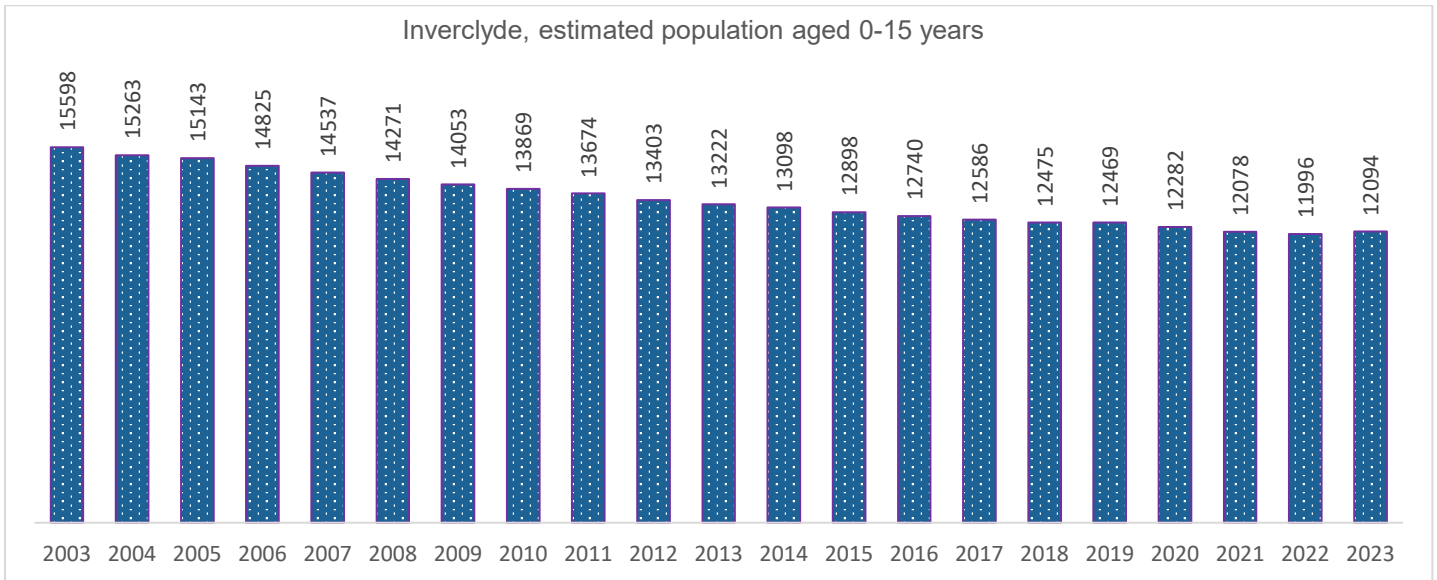


Source: [Mid-2023 Population Estimates Scotland](#) | [National Records of Scotland](#)

1.2 Population trends by broad age band

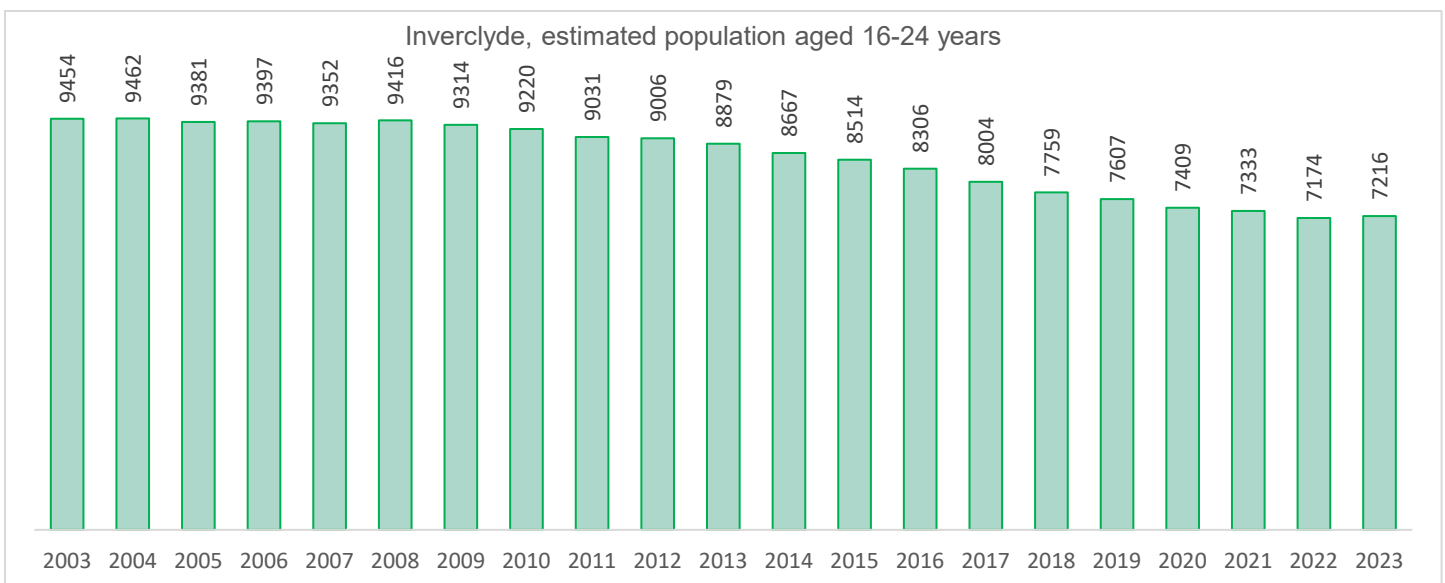
According to the latest mid-year estimates there are 19,310 people aged under 25 years old living in Inverclyde, which is just under a quarter of the total population.

Children aged between 0 – 15 make up 15.4% of the local population compared to 16.3% of the Scottish average.



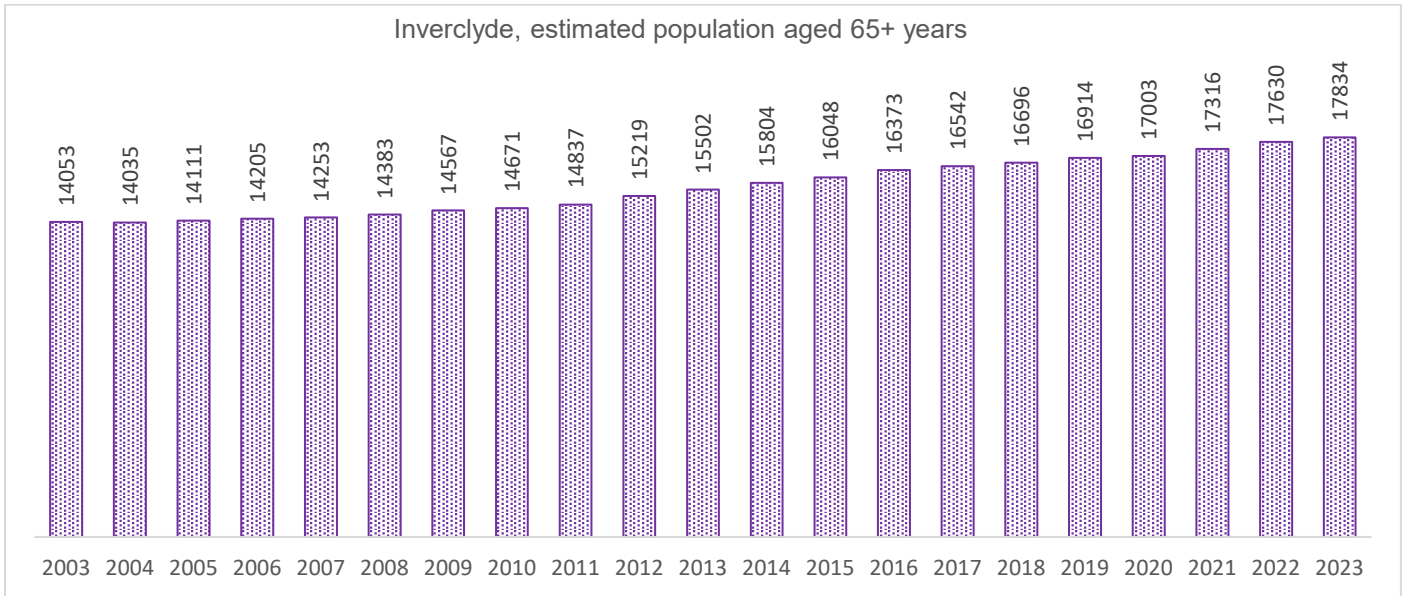
Source: [Mid-2023 population estimates - National Records of Scotland \(NRS\)](#)

The population of 16 – 24-year-olds is also declining, and in mid-2023 accounted for 9% of Inverclyde’s population.



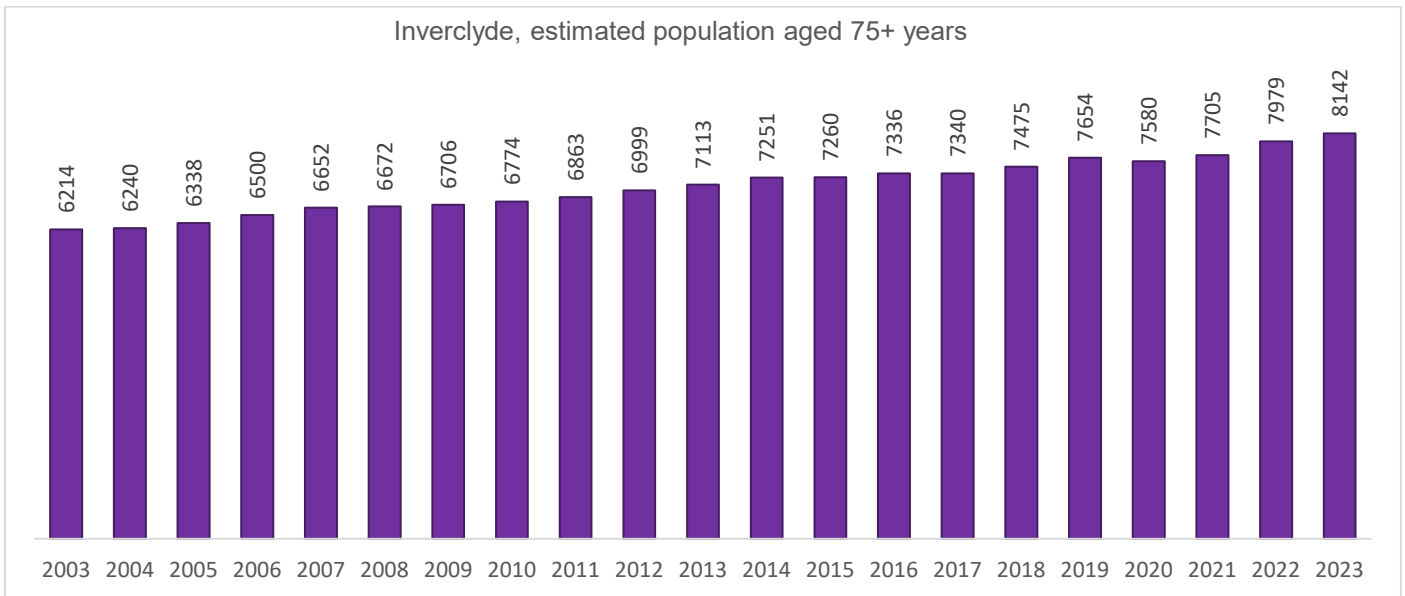
Source: [Mid-2023 population estimates - National Records of Scotland \(NRS\)](#)

The population of people over 65 years old in Inverclyde has been increasing since 2003 and in 2023 reached its highest ever level of 17,834, which is 22.8% of the population.



Source: [Mid-2023 population estimates - National Records of Scotland \(NRS\)](#)

The number of people aged 75+ in Inverclyde in mid-2023 was 8,142, 10.4% of Inverclyde's population. In the past 20 years, the number of people aged 75 and over in Inverclyde has increased by 1,928, despite a decline in overall population numbers over this period.



Source: [Mid-2023 population estimates - National Records of Scotland \(NRS\)](#)

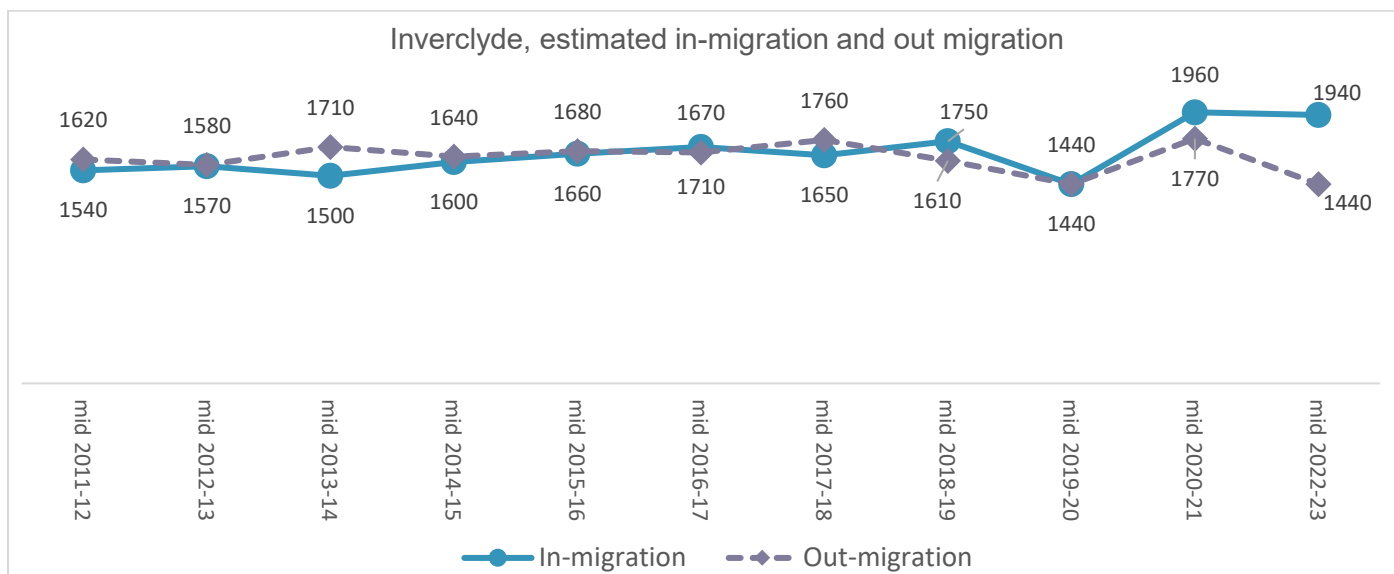
1.3 Components of population change

Population change is driven by two main components, natural change and net migration.

- Natural change is the number of births minus the number of deaths.
- Net migration is the number of people moving into an area minus the number of people leaving.

1.3 a) Migration

The most recent mid-year population data shows that there was a positive net migration in the area between mid-2022 and mid-2023 of +500. This is significantly higher than in previous years.



Source: [Mid-2023 population estimates - National Records of Scotland \(NRS\)](#)

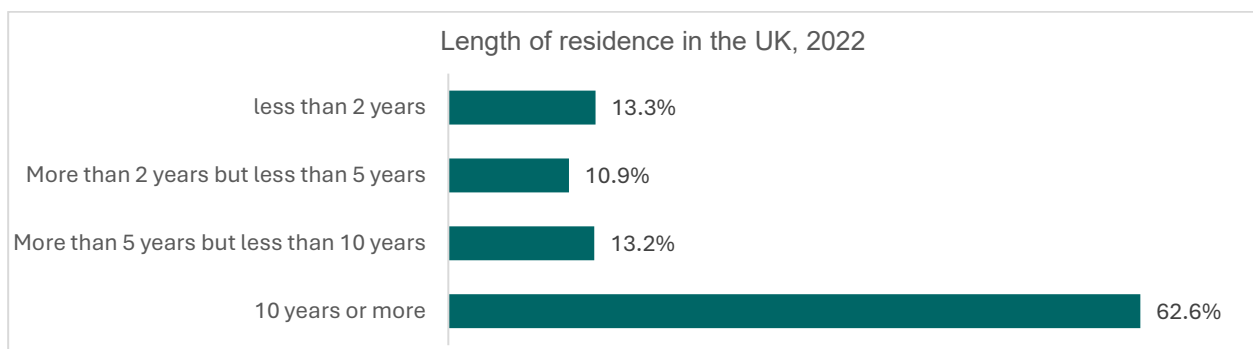
* Mid-2022 population estimates focused on population change between Census Day in March 2022 and 30th June 2022 and not the full year. For this reason, these are not included within the chart above.

1.3 b) Length of residence in the UK (Census 2022)

Census numbers only include people living in the area at the time of the Census and does not show the full flow of people moving to and from an area between these periods. It does however enable an analysis of the characteristics of people who migrated to Scotland.

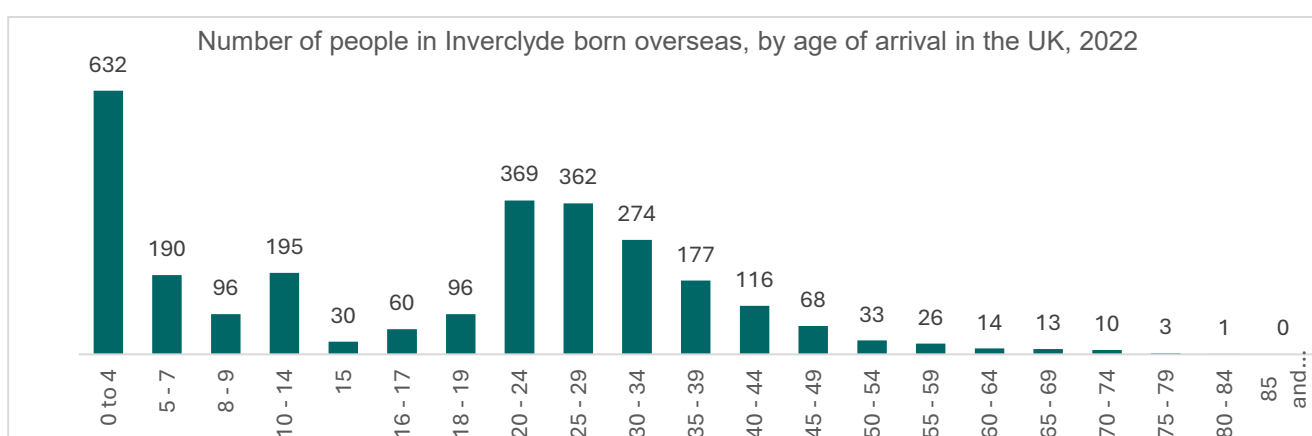
Of Inverclyde’s Census Day population (78,426), 75,665 said that there were born in the UK. This is equal to 96.5% of the Inverclyde population. 2,761 people (3.5%) were born overseas.

Of those living in Inverclyde on Census Day that were born overseas, more than 60% had been living in the UK for at least 10 years.



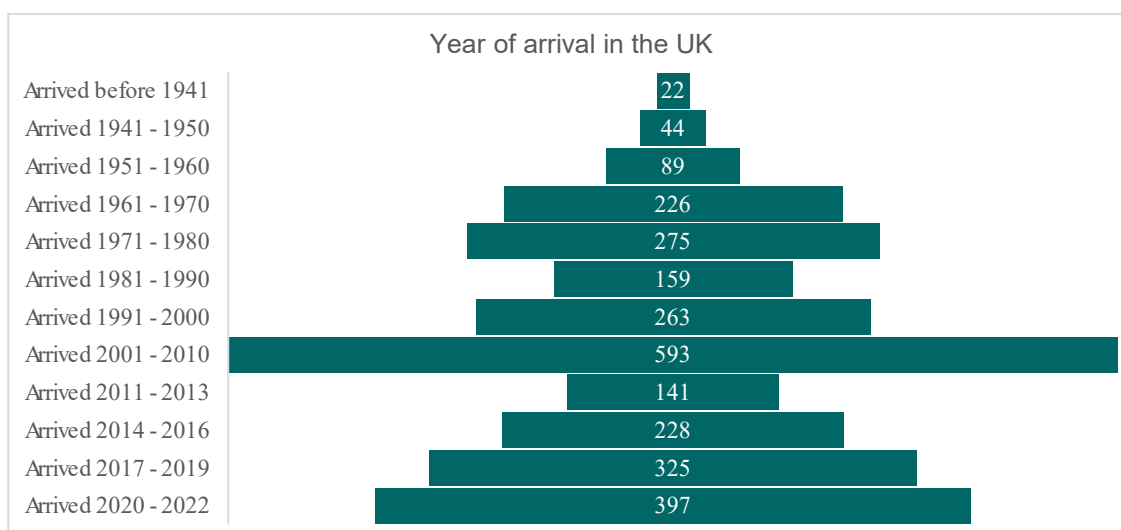
1.3c) Age of arrival in the UK (Census 2022)

1 in 3 of those born overseas arrived in the UK under the age of 10, whilst just over 1 in 4 (26%) arrived between the age of 20 - 29 years. This may be due to people moving to the UK to study or work.



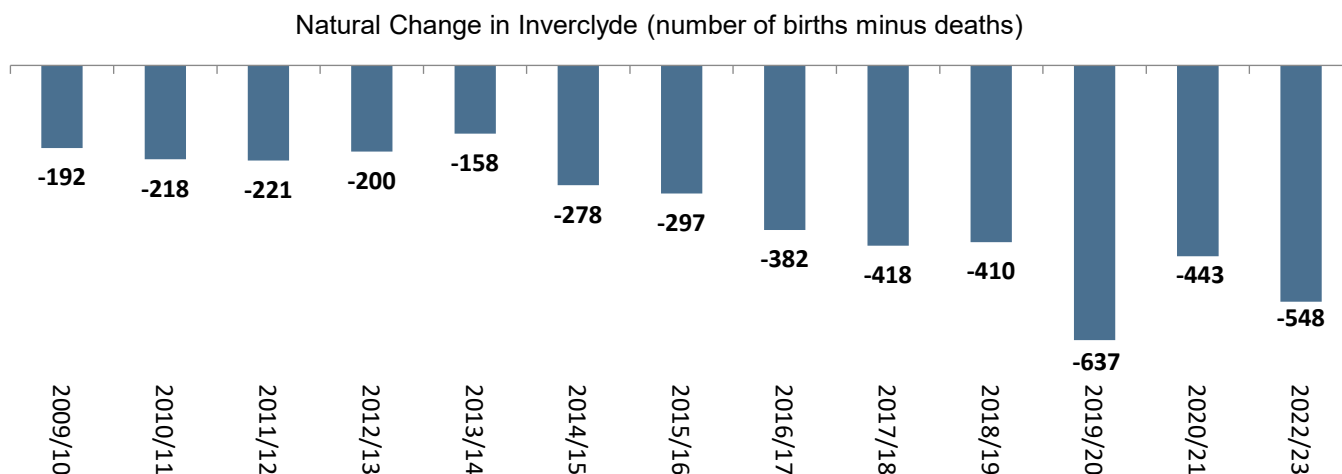
1.3 d) Year of arrival in the UK (Census 2022)

Almost 40% of everyone that said that they had moved to the UK from overseas did so between 2011 - 2022, whilst more than a quarter, 26% (722) arrived within the previous five years, 2017-2022.



3.3 e) Births and Deaths (2009 - 2023)

The number of births in Inverclyde has decreased significantly with the gap between births and deaths, with the gap markedly widening from mid-2016 onwards. Natural change accounted for a decrease of 548 in Inverclyde’s population between mid-2022 to mid-2023.



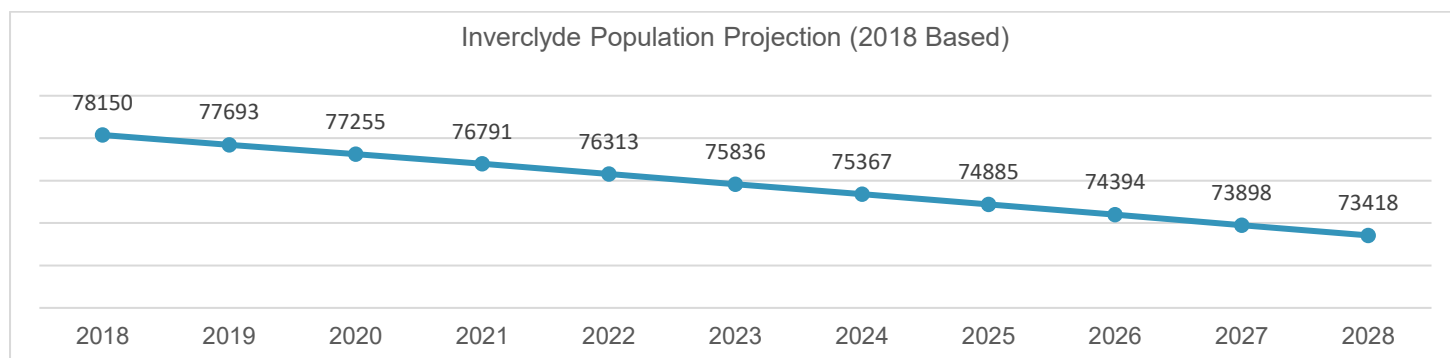
* Mid-2022 population estimates focused on population change between Census Day in March 2022 and 30th June 2022 and not mid 2021-mid 2022. These have not been included within the chart above.

Source: [Population Estimates Time Series Data | National Records of Scotland](#)

1.4 Population Projections

The NRS population projections (2018 based) forecast a decrease in Inverclyde’s population due to anticipated net-migration and negative natural change. There is a projected -6.1% decrease in Inverclyde’s population by 2028 based on the estimated population in 2018.

New, 2022-based population projections are due to be published in summer 2025.



Source: www.nrscotland.gov.uk/statistics-and-data/statistics/statistics-by-theme/population/population-projections/sub-national-population-projections/2018-based

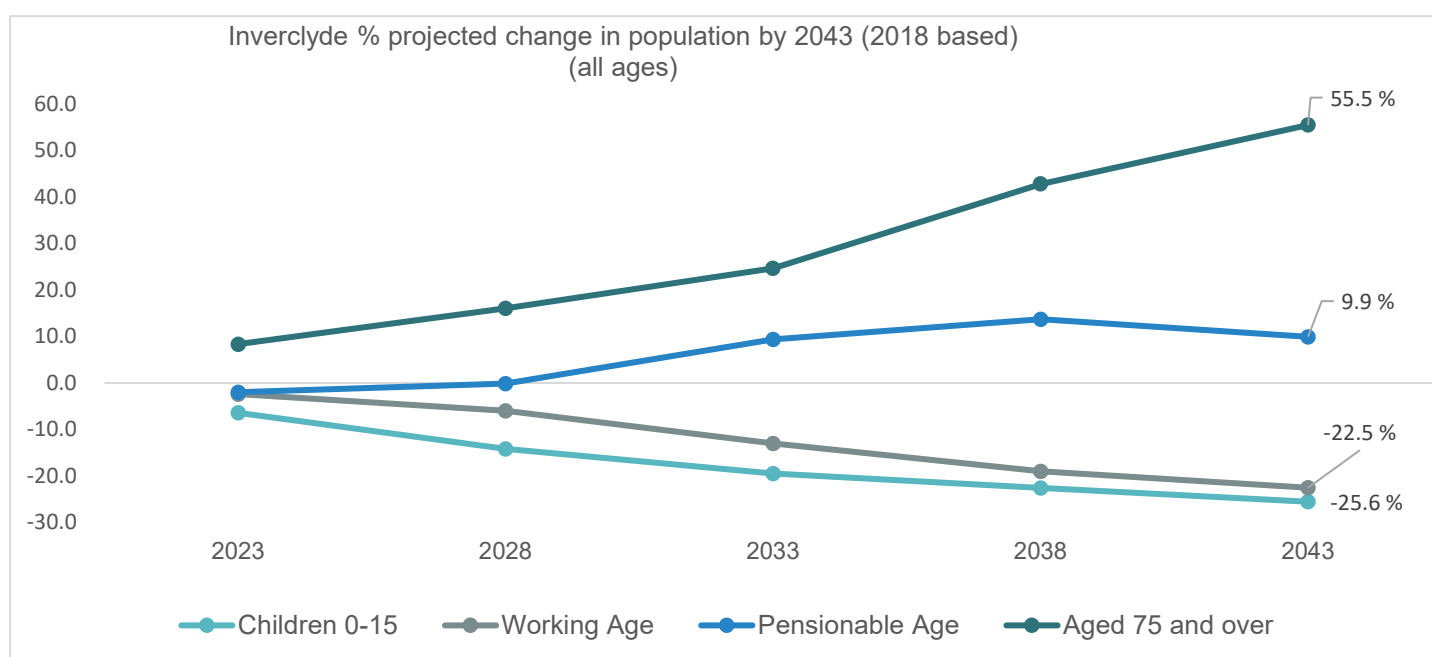
	Population mid 2018	Natural Change	Natural Change		Net Migration	Net Migration		Other Changes	Population mid 2028	% Change
			Births	Deaths		To & from Scotland	Internal & overseas migration			
Inverclyde	78,150	-3,976	6,385	10,361	-615	1,136	-1,751	-141	73,418	-6.1%

Population decline is not uniform across all ranges as shown in below. By 2028 it is projected that:

- The percentage of the population that are aged 0 to 15 years is projected to fall by -14.2%, compared to -6% in Scotland
- The percentage of working age population is projected to fall by -6%, compared to a +3.3% growth in Scotland
- The percentage of the population that is pensionable age and over is projected to decrease by -0.1%, compared to a +3.7% growth in Scotland
- The percentage of the population that is aged 75 and over is projected to increase by +16%, compared to +25.4% in Scotland

The projected increase in the number of individuals that are of a non-working age as a proportion of those of a working age will impact upon the services required locally, the numbers of unpaid and family carers and on the local economy. In particular, a growing elderly population will impact on the provision of public services, particularly health and social care as an elderly population will most likely require more intensive support.

NRS 25-year population projections to 2043 (2018 based) predict more extreme changes in the age structure of Inverclyde’s population, as shown in the graph below.



Source: www.nrscotland.gov.uk/statistics-and-data/statistics/statistics-by-theme/population/population-projections/sub-national-population-projections/2018-based

1.5 Households

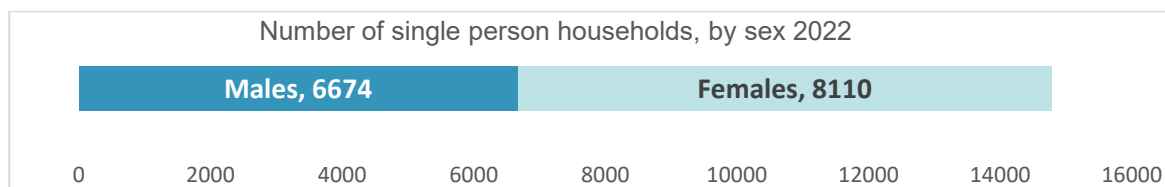
The Census 2022 provided information on the number of households in Inverclyde.

The number of households in Inverclyde on Census Day 2022 was slightly lower than at the time of the Census 2011. In 2022, there were 37,405 households compared to 37,434 in 2011. At a national level the number of households increased at a higher rate (5.8%) than the general population increase (2.7%).

1.5 a) One person households

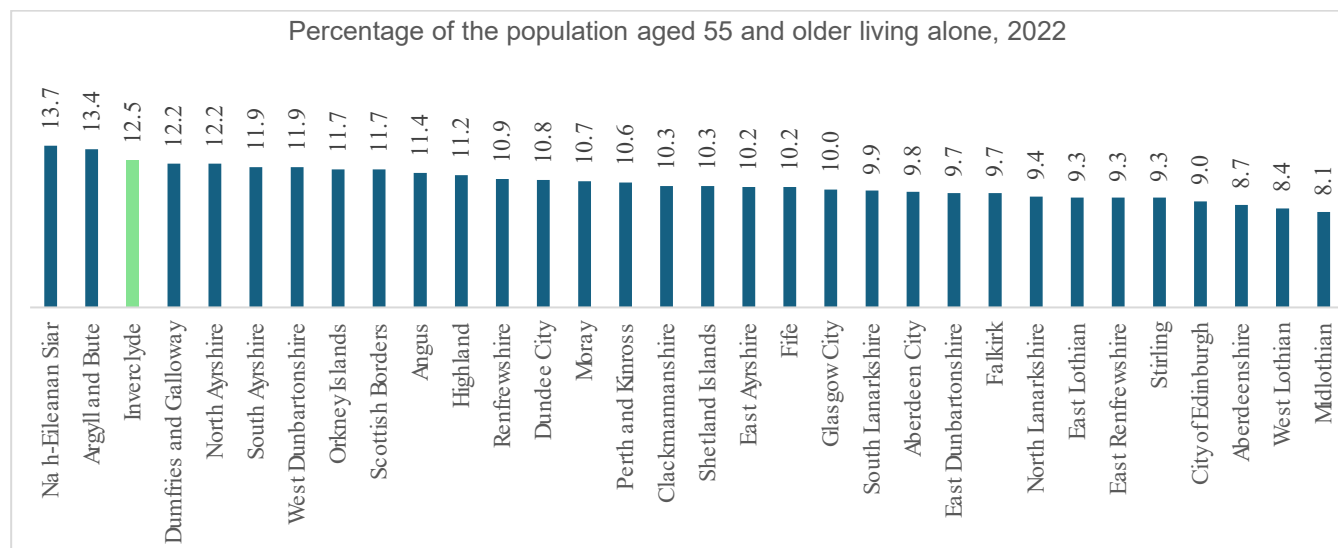
The number of one person households has increased from 14,394 in 2011 to 14,784 in 2022. One person households account for 39.5% of all household types, which is slightly more than in 2011 when 38.4% of all households were one person. In Scotland, 37.1% of households were single person.

The proportion of female one person households in Inverclyde is 10% higher than male one person households – 55% (8,110) one person household were female compared to 45% (6,674) male one person households. This reflects the fact that in Inverclyde females have higher life expectancy than males.



Source: [2022 results | Scotland's Census](#)

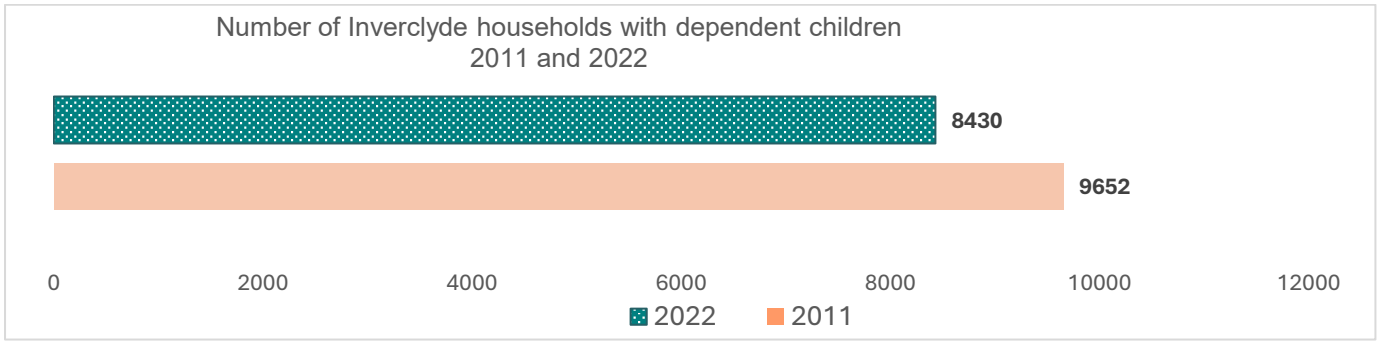
In Inverclyde in 2022, 9,817 people aged 55 and older were living alone. This is the third highest percentage of the population aged over 55 and living alone in Scotland (12.5%).



Source: [2022 results | Scotland's Census](#)

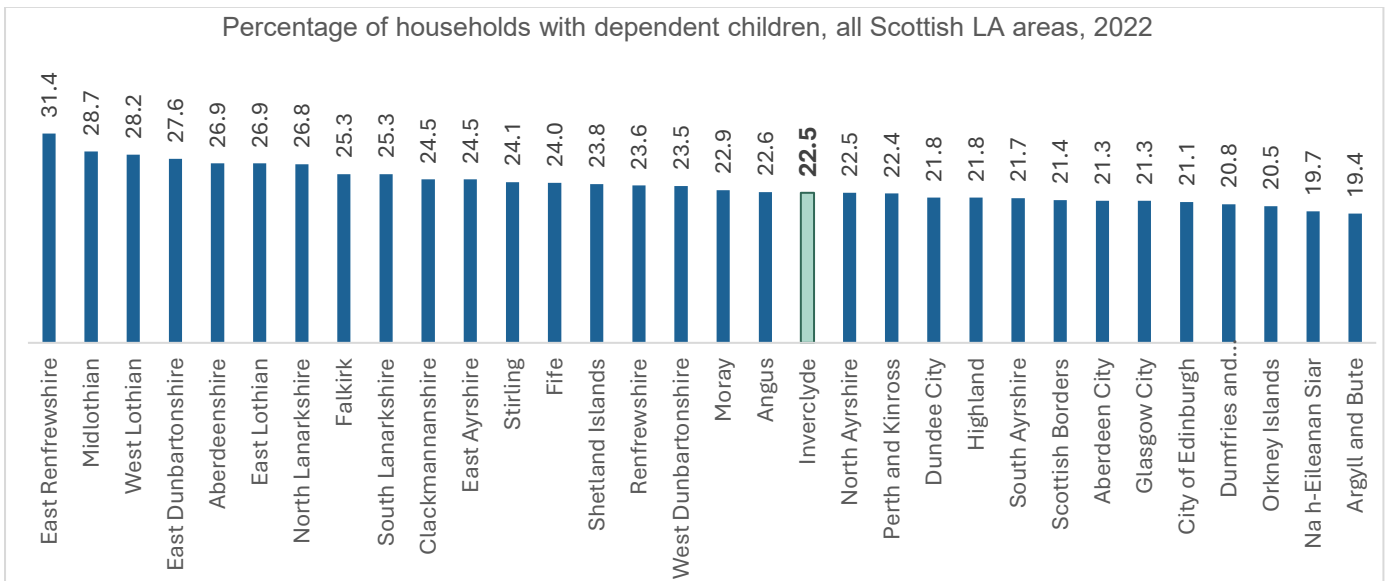
1.5 b) Dependent children

In 2022, there were 8,430 households in Inverclyde with at least one dependent child, equivalent to 22.5% of all households. This is a 12.7% decrease since 2011 and reflects a decrease in the number of children aged under 16 over the same period, falling from 13,732 to 12,014 at the time of Census 2022.



Source: [2022 results | Scotland's Census](#)

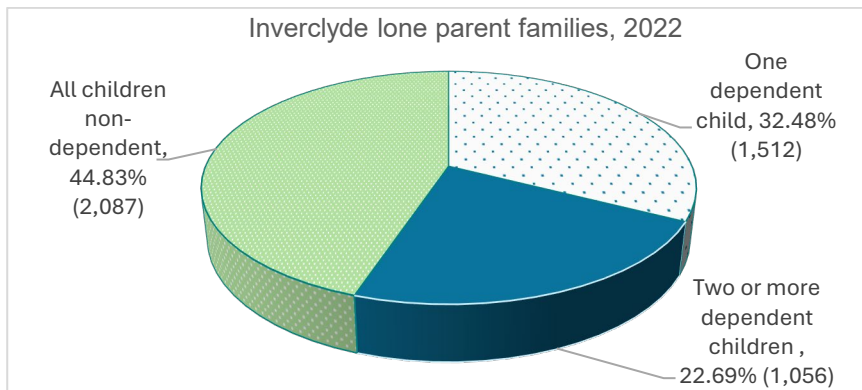
The chart below shows how the percentage of households with dependent children in Inverclyde compares to other Scottish local authorities.



Source: [2022 results | Scotland's Census](#)

1.5 c) Lone Parent Families

In 2022, there were 4,655 lone parent family households in Inverclyde. Of those, more than half have at least one dependent child. A 'dependent child' is one that is living with their parent(s) and aged under 16, or aged 16 to 18 in full-time education. Children aged 16 to 18 who have a spouse, partner or child living in the household are not included.

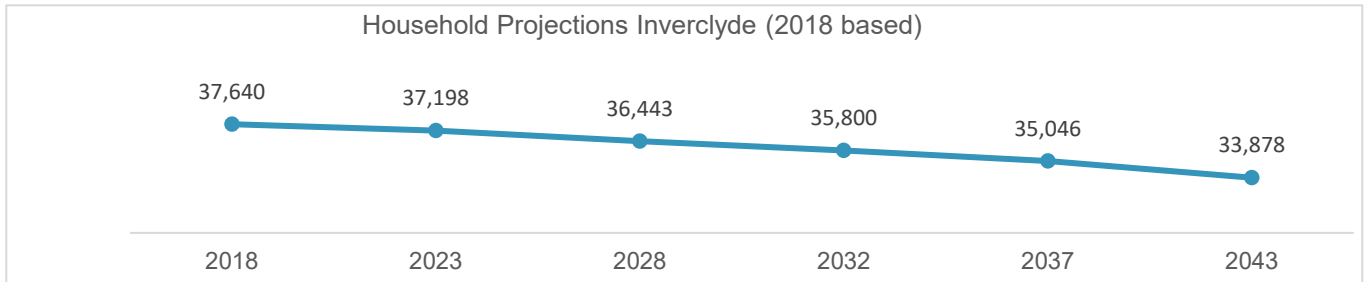


Source: [2022 results | Scotland's Census](#)

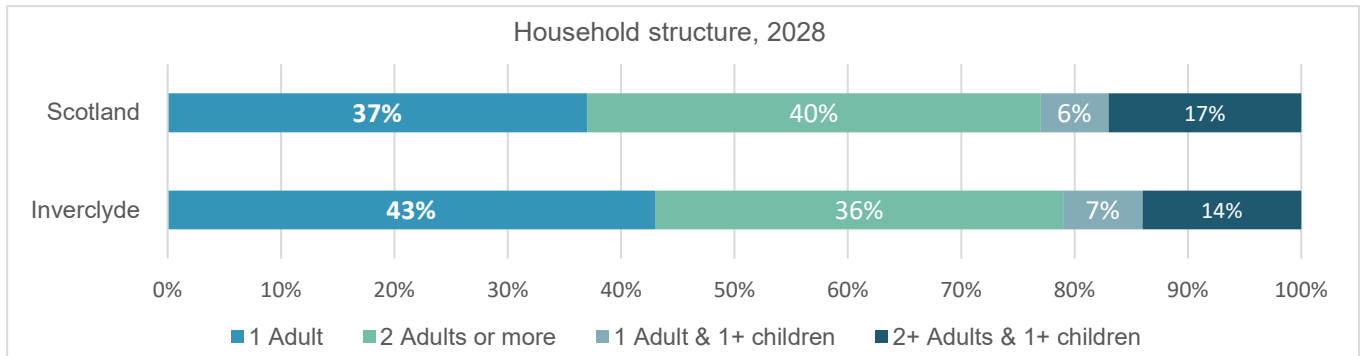
1.5 d) Household Projections

Household projections are mainly used for informing decisions about future housing need and service provision. New household projections for Scotland (2022 based) are not due to be published until September 2025. The most recent data available is 2018 based.

Inverclyde is one of six council areas in Scotland projected to have a fall in household numbers by 2043 (-10%). The projected decrease in Inverclyde's household numbers is the second largest in Scotland. The average household size in Inverclyde is also smaller than the Scottish average.

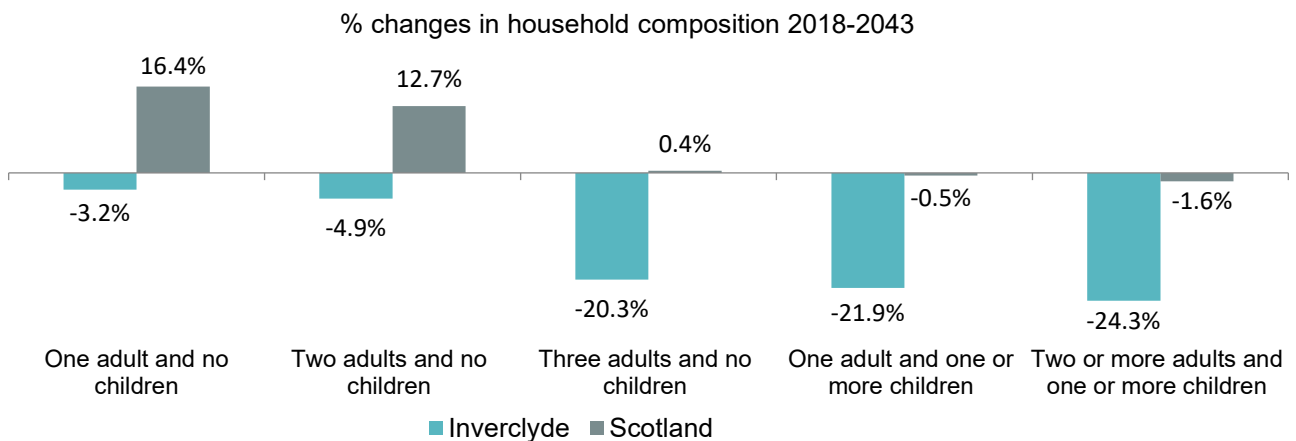


Ten year projections (2018 based) show that by 2028 Inverclyde will have a higher proportion of 1 adult households and a lower proportion of households with children than the Scottish average.



1.5e) Percentage change in households 2018-43

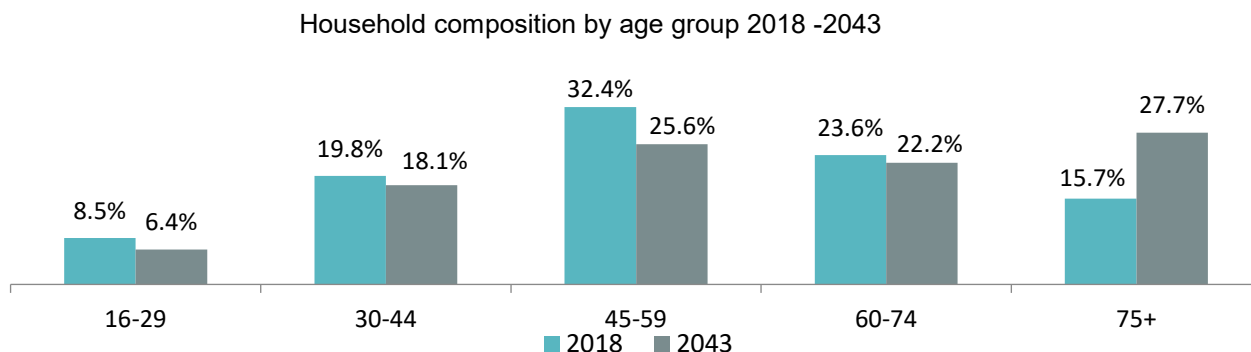
The table below shows the projected percentage change in households in Inverclyde between 2018 and 2043 and how this compares with Scotland. All household types in Inverclyde are projected to decrease by 2043.



Source: [Household Projections for Scotland, 2018-based | National Records of Scotland \(nrscotland.gov.uk\)](https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/publications/household-projections-for-scotland-2018-based)

1.5f) Household by age group, comparison between 2018 and 2043

The graph below shows that by 2043 it is projected that more than a quarter (27.7%) of all households in Inverclyde will be headed by someone aged 75 and over.



Source: [List of Data Tables | National Records of Scotland \(nrscotland.gov.uk\)](https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/publications/list-of-data-tables)

1.6 Ethnicity

At the time of the Census 2022, the majority of Inverclyde’s population (91%) said that their ethnicity was ‘White Scottish’.

Inverclyde, 2022	% of the population	Number, Census Day 2022
White Scottish	90.9%	71,362
White – other British	4.5%	3,501
White Irish	0.7%	587
White Polish	0.2%	189
White Gypsy / Traveller	0.009%	7
Other white	0.9%	698
Asian, Asian Scottish or Asian British	1.1%	839
African	0.2%	186
Mixed or multiple ethnic group	0.7%	535
Caribbean or black	0.1%	79
Other ethnic groups	0.5%	393

Source: [2022 results | Scotland's Census](https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/publications/2022-results-scotland-census)

Between 2011 and 2022 there was an increase in the number of people in Inverclyde that said they belonged to one of the following ethnic groups:

- The percentage of respondents that described themselves as ‘mixed or multiple ethnic groups’ increased from 0.2% (179) to 0.7% (535)
- The percentage of respondents that classed their ethnic group as Asian, Asian Scottish or Asian British increased from 0.9% (748) in 2011 to 1.1% respondents (893) in 2022

- The percentage of respondents that classed their ethnic group as African increased slightly from 0.1% in 2011 (90) to 0.2% (186) in 2022
- The percentage of respondents that classed their ethnic group as Caribbean or Black increased from 43 in 2011 (0.05%) to 0.1% (79) in 2022.
- The percentage of respondents that said that they were of an 'other ethnic group' increased from 49 (0.06%) to 0.5% (393).

ECONOMY PROFILE

Key messages

- Employment forecasts (by industry) predict that in 2034, the largest key employment sector in Inverclyde will be Social Care, which may reflect the increased demand that will come with an ageing population.
- The forecasted changes in the employment market should be considered in any planned / future training and upskilling opportunities to ensure residents have the best possible chance of gaining employment locally.
- Following a growth in business numbers between 2013 and 2017, numbers have fallen year on year since, although they have remained higher than their 2013 level. Growing small businesses is one route to employment growth.
- Inverclyde's employment base remains heavily reliant on the public sector. With public sector budgets reducing resulting in a shrinking workforce in this sector, this will put additional pressure on the local employment market.
- Inverclyde suffers from higher levels of economic inactivity than the Scottish and GB averages, with unemployment levels of the population aged 16-64 years old also higher than the Scottish and GB averages. Tackling entrenched rates of benefit dependency remains a challenge to support those furthest from the labour market.
- The proportion of Inverclyde's population with a degree level qualification or higher is the fifth lowest in Scotland, at almost a quarter of the population whilst the Scottish average is almost a third. The Office of National Statistics report that areas with a less qualified workforce may have fewer opportunities for highly qualified people, struggle to train, attract and keep qualified workers, and may have a poorer local economy.

ECONOMY PROFILE

2.1 Employment

Total employment in all industries in 2023 was estimated to be 24,000. Total employment change between 2015 and 2023 is estimated at -17%, compared to +4% in Scotland. SDS obtain this data from the Business Register and Employment Survey.

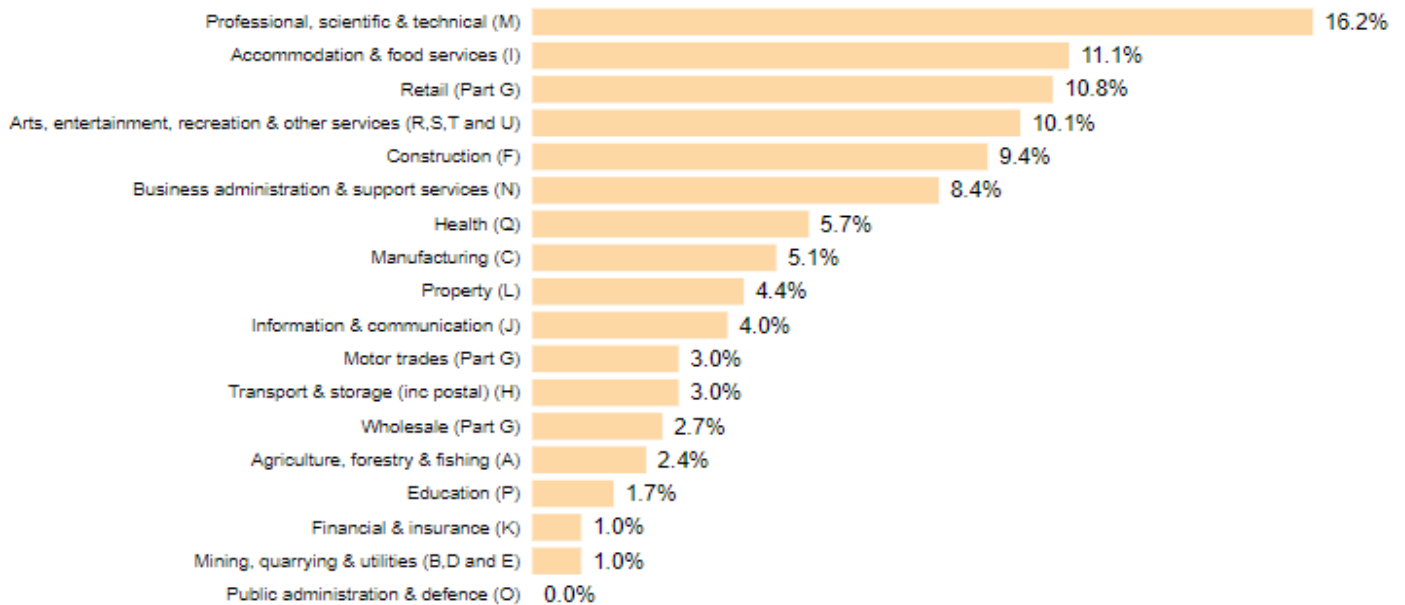
Source: [Data Matrix - Skills Development Scotland](#)

2.1 a) Business by Industry

The chart below, published by SDS, shows the businesses by industry in Inverclyde (2024).

Businesses by Industry, 2024

● Inverclyde

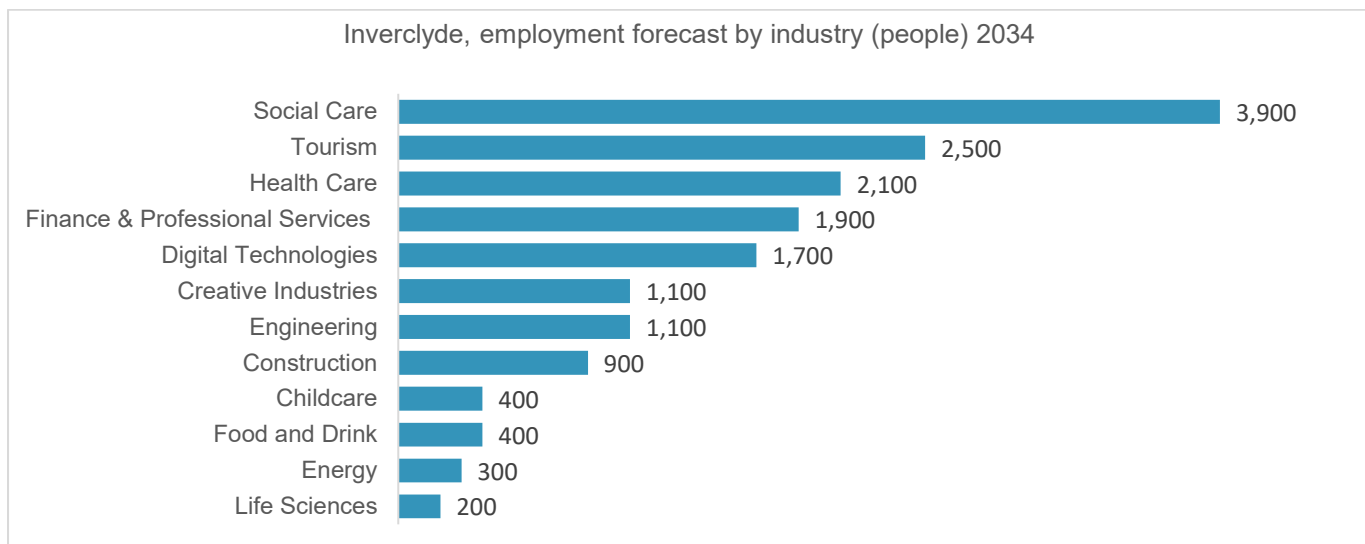


Source: [Data Matrix - Skills Development Scotland](#)

2.1 b) Employment Forecast

An SDS employment forecast by industry predicts by 2034, that the largest key employment sector in Inverclyde will be Social Care, followed by Tourism.

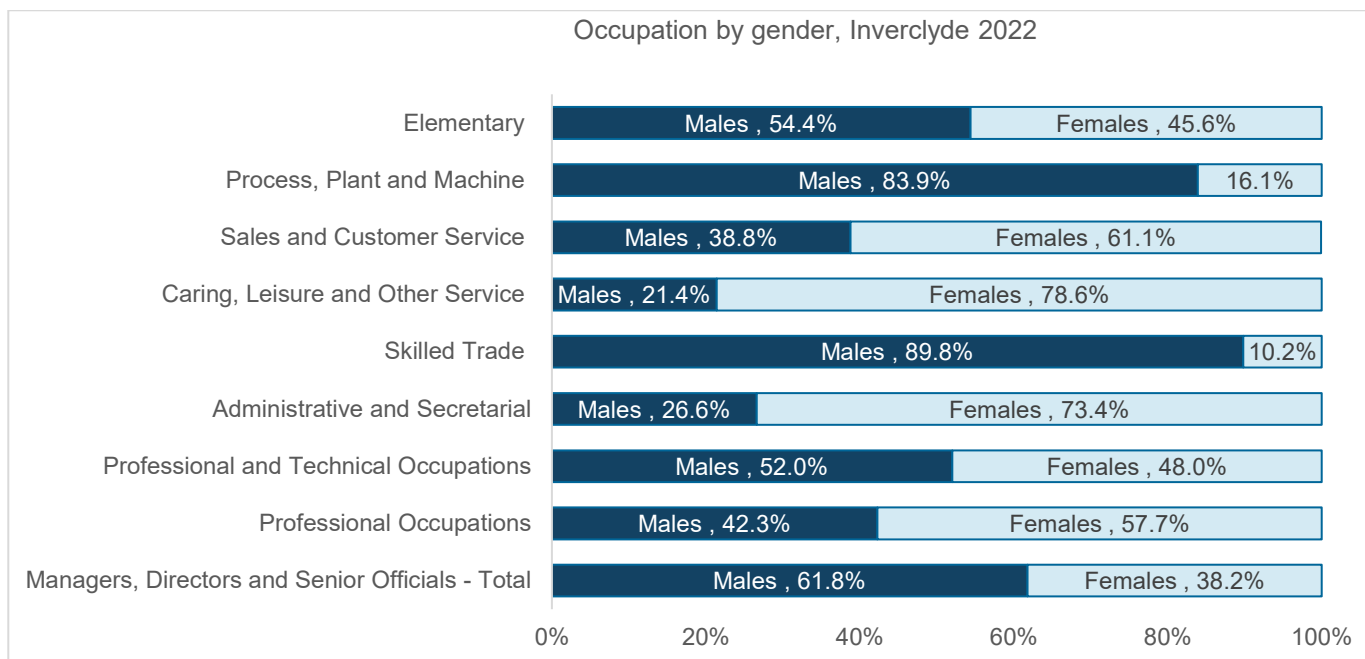
N.B Employment forecast data should viewed as the direction of travel, and not considered as fact.



Source: [Data Matrix - Skills Development Scotland](#)

2.1c) Occupations by gender

Census 2022 data provides an indication of the gender split across a range of occupations.



Source: [Search | Scotland's Census - Search by topic - Topic selection](#)

2.1 d) Employment by Occupation (Oct 2023 – September 2024)

The highest percentage of jobs were in Professional Occupations at 25%, followed by Associate Professional and Technical occupations, 18%.

% all in employment who are:	Inverclyde (Numbers)	Inverclyde (%)	Scotland (%)	Great Britain (%)
Major Group 1-3	17,100	53.7	49.1	53.4
1 Managers, Directors and Senior Officials	3,200	10.2	8.5	11.1
2 Professional Occupations	8,100	25.4	25.5	26.8
3 Associate Professional & Technical	5,800	18.2	15.0	15.4
Major Group 4-5	4,700	14.8	19.6	17.9
4 Administrative & Secretarial	3,000	9.3	9.8	9.3
5 Skilled Trades Occupations	1,800	5.5	9.7	8.7
Major Group 6-7	6,800	21.2	16.0	14.4
6 Caring, Leisure and Other Service Occupations	3,900	12.3	9.7	8.3
7 Sales and Customer Service Occs	2,800	8.9	6.3	6.1
Major Group 8-9	3,300	10.3	15.3	14.3
8 Process Plant & Machine Operatives	#	#	5.8	5.5
9 Elementary Occupations	2,400	7.6	9.4	8.8

sample size too small for reliable estimate

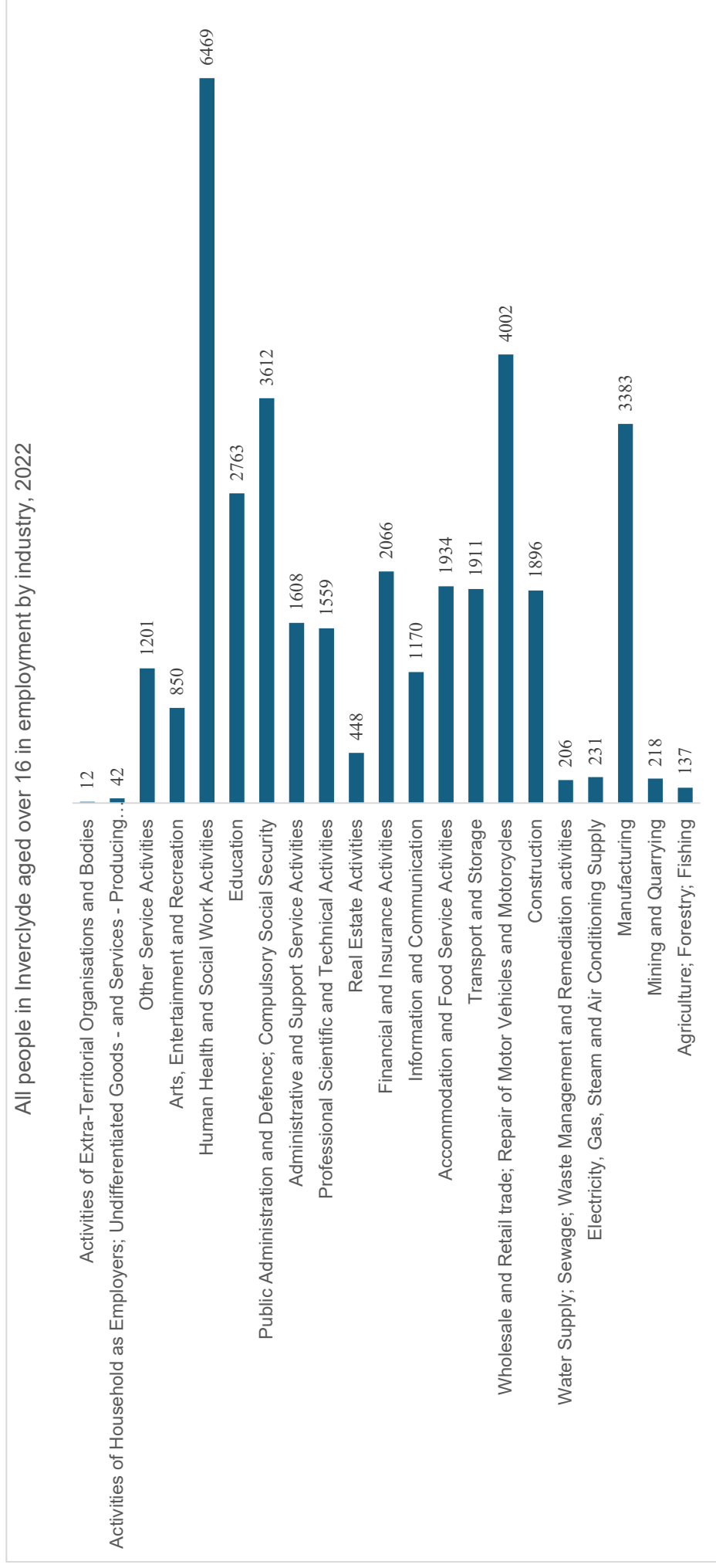
Numbers and % are for those age 16+

% is a proportion of all persons in employment

Source: Nomis [Labour Market Profile](#) - [Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics](#)

2.1e) Employment by Industry (Census 2022)

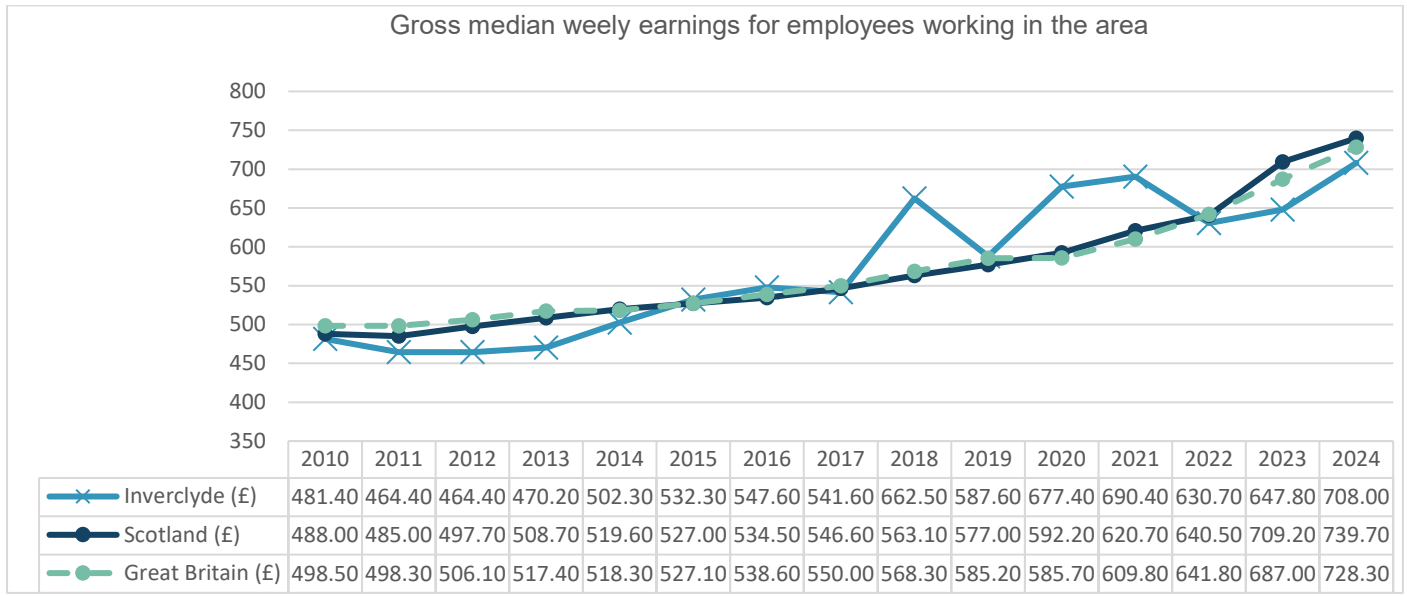
35,709 people in Inverclyde were in employment the week before Census Day 2022. The table below shows the number of people in employment grouped by industry (n.b. Census data is perturbed and will not add up exactly to the total). The largest proportion of people were employed in field of Human Health and Social Work.



2.2 Earnings

4.2 a) Weekly Earnings by place of work (median earnings in £ for employees working in the area and who are on adult rates)

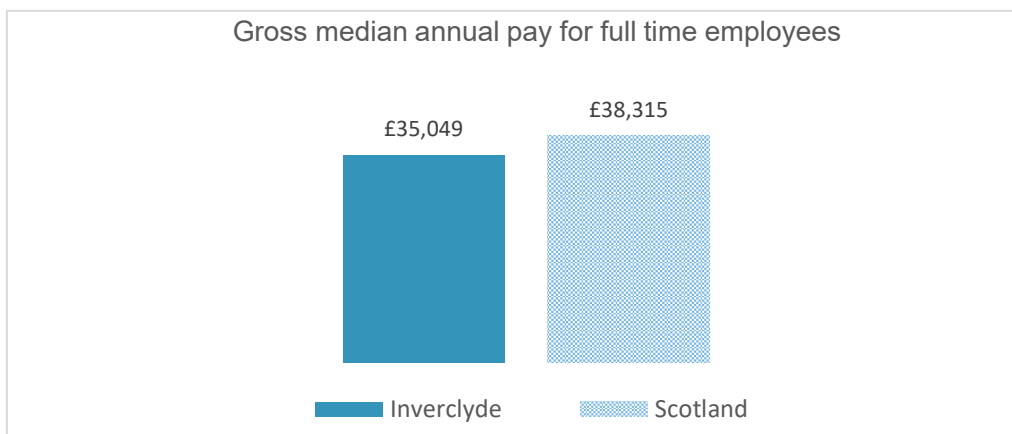
Historically, there has been a large gap between the gross weekly pay for employees living in Inverclyde compared to the average in Scotland and Great Britain. Following a period spanning 2018-2021, when gross weekly workplace earnings in Inverclyde was above the Scottish and UK national average, earnings dropped again in 2022.



Source: [NOMIS Earnings by Workplace](#)

2.2 b) Place of Work Employee Annual Earnings, 2024 (**provisional**)

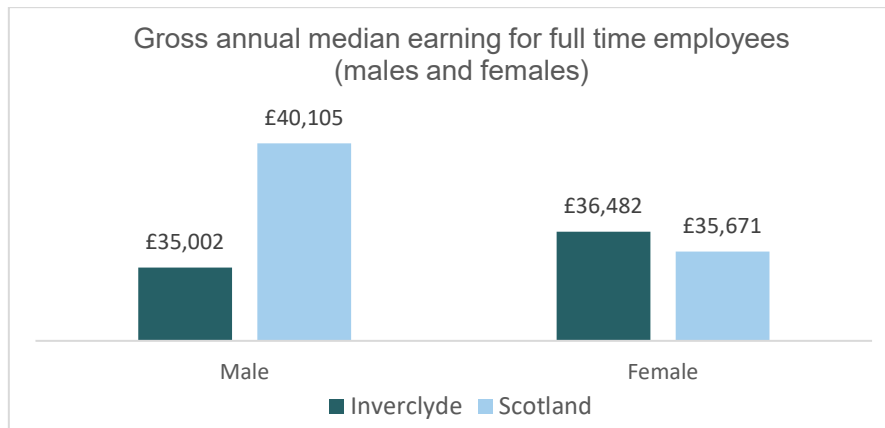
Provisional data published by the Office of National Statistics shows that gross median annual earnings in April 2024 for Inverclyde full-time employees was around 7% lower than the Scottish average.



Source: [Employee earnings in the UK - Office for National Statistics](#) (table 7.7a)

2.2 c) Place of Residence Annual earnings, males and females 2024 (provisional)

Historically males in Inverclyde have had higher earnings than females, however the most recent provisional data shows that this has reversed. Full-time earnings for males in Inverclyde are well below the Scottish average whilst females' earnings are slightly higher.



Source:

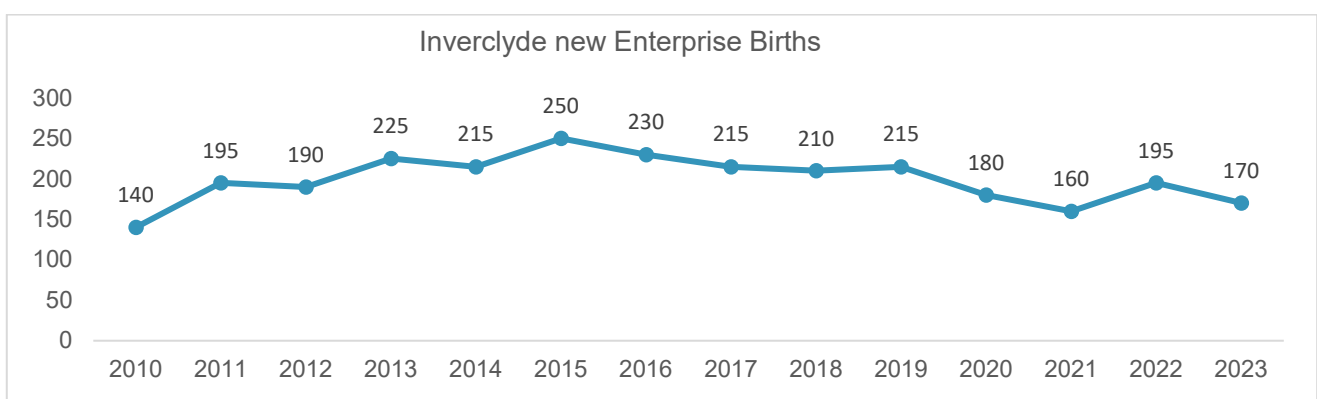
<https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peopleinwork/earningsandworkinghours/datasets/placeofresidencebylocalauthorityashetable8>

2.3 Businesses

The following data has been extracted from the website of the Office of National Statistics which publishes data on births, deaths and the survival of businesses in the UK. The latest data was published by ONS in November 2024.

2.3 a) New Enterprise Births

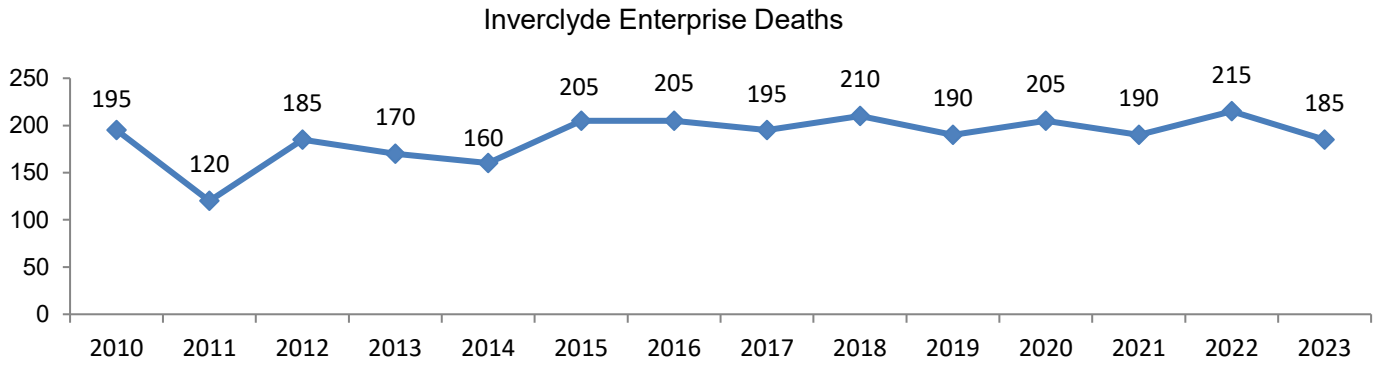
Following a significant increase in the number of new enterprise births between 2010 and 2015 in Inverclyde, the number of new enterprise births started to decline. The 2023 figure sits at 170, which is a decrease from the previous year.



Source: [Business demography, UK - Office for National Statistics](#)

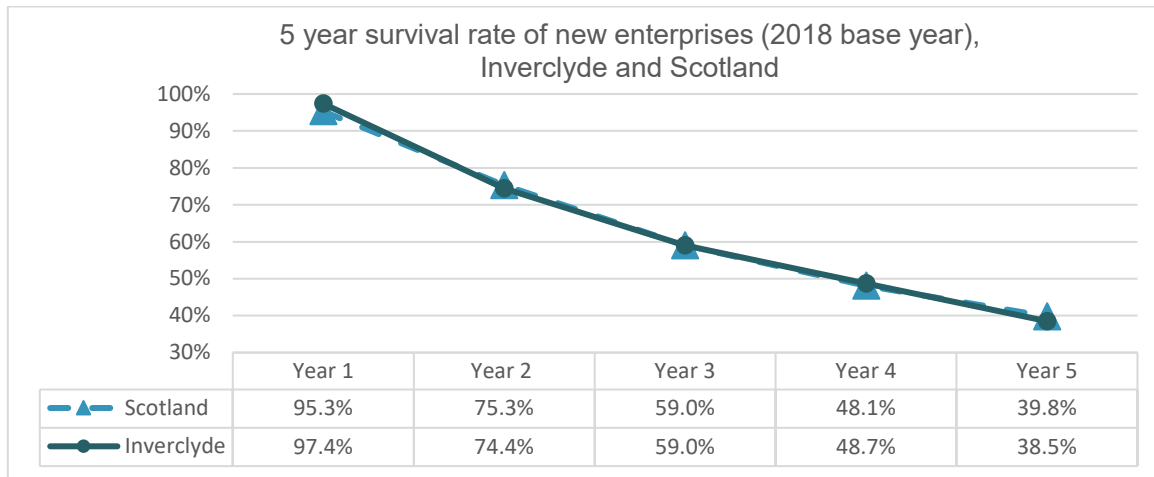
2.3 b) Enterprise Deaths

The number of enterprise deaths in Inverclyde fluctuates from year to year, with a small decrease between 2022 and 2023.



2.3 c) Five-year survival rate of newly born enterprises (new enterprises born in 2018)

The table below shows the five-year survival rate of newly born enterprises as a percentage of enterprise births in 2018. Survival rates in Inverclyde in the first year are just above the Scottish average and fall just below it by year 5.



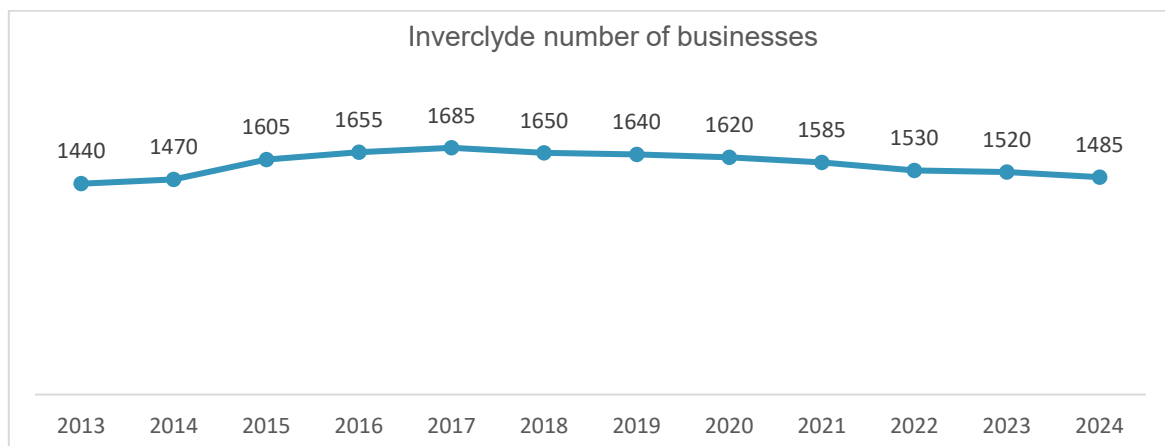
Source: The information for all the above tables has been sourced from ONS.

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/businessindustryandtrade/business/activitysizeandlocation/datasets/businessdemographyreferencetable/current>

2.3 d) Business Numbers

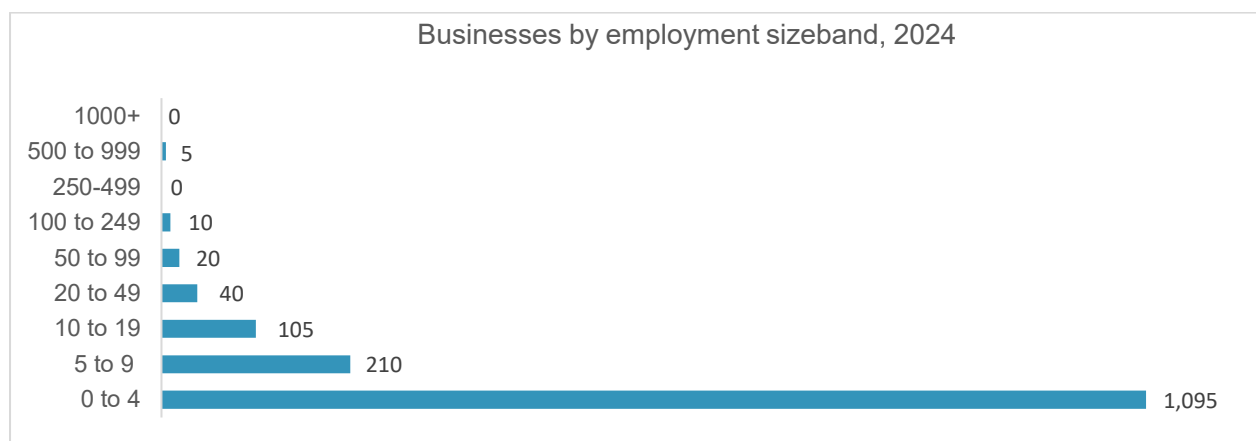
The number of businesses in Inverclyde fell in 2024 for the seventh year in a row as shown below.

Source: www.skillsdevelopmentscotland.co.uk/what-we-do/skills-planning/regional-skills-assessments/



2.3 e) Number of Businesses by Employment Size Band, 2024

87.9% of businesses in Inverclyde have 0-9 employees, similar to the national average, 87.4% (2024).



Source: www.skillsdevelopmentscotland.co.uk/what-we-do/skills-planning/regional-skills-assessments/

2.4 Economic Activity

Data relating to economic activity suggest that levels of economic deprivation are higher in Inverclyde than the Scottish average.

2.4 a) Employment and Unemployment (October 2023 – September 2024)

Economically Active

70% of Inverclyde’s population aged 16-64 years old was classed as economically active over the period October 2023 – September 2024, which is below the Scottish and British average. 4.2% of the economically active population in Inverclyde was unemployed compared to 3.3% in Scotland.

	Inverclyde (Numbers)	Inverclyde (%)	Scotland (%)	Great Britain (%)
All People				
Economically Active†	33,900	70.0	76.6	78.4
In Employment†	31,900	65.8	74.0	75.5
Employees†	29,900	62.0	65.5	66.0
Self Employed†	2,100	#	8.2	9.2
Unemployed (Model-Based)§	1,400	4.2	3.3	3.7

Source: [NOMIS Labour Market Profile Inverclyde](#)

Source: ONS annual population survey

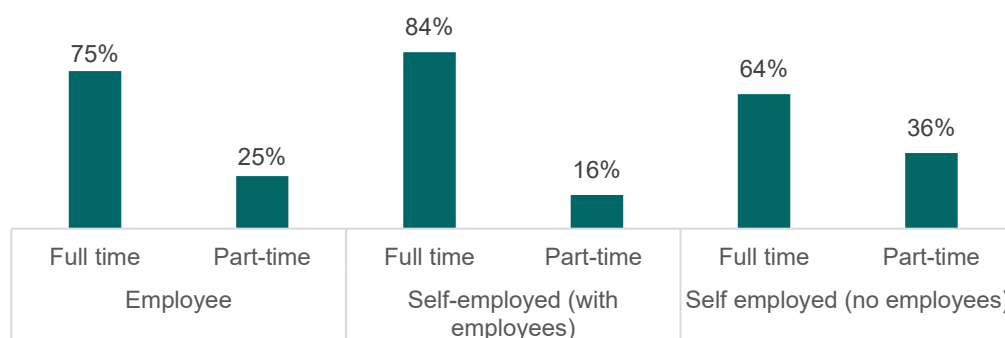
† - numbers are for those aged 16 and over, % are for those aged 16-64

§ - numbers and % are for those aged 16 and over. % is a proportion of economically active

2.4 b) Working pattern (Census 2022)

Data from the Census 2022 results provides an insight into the working patterns of those living in Inverclyde.

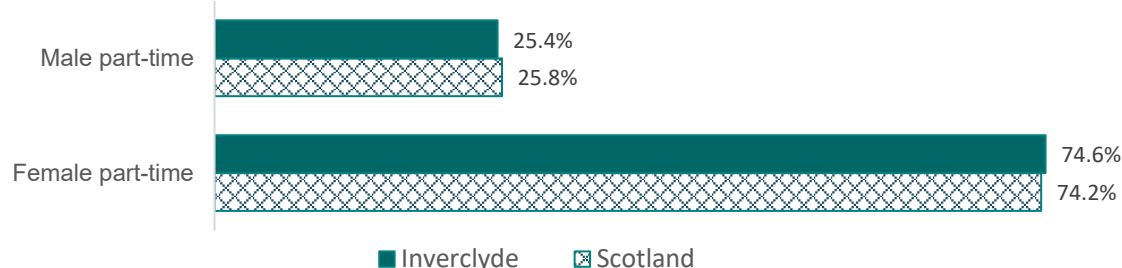
Economically active (excl. students) full time or part time employment, Inverclyde 2022



n.b. the above data excludes full time students.

Of Inverclyde’s economically active population on Census Day (excluding full time students) that worked part-time, 74.6% were female compared to males, 25.4%. This is similar in ratio to the Scottish average, 74.2%.

Part-time employees by gender, Inverclyde and Scotland, 2022



2.4 c) Economic Inactivity

Over the period October 2023 – September 2024, it is estimated that 30% of the Inverclyde’s population (16-64 years old) was economically inactive.

	Inverclyde (Level)	Inverclyde (%)	Scotland (%)	Great Britain (%)
All People				
Total	14,100	30.0	23.4	21.6
Student	4,200	29.9	24.0	26.8
Looking After Family/Home	#	#	16.5	18.6
Temporary Sick	!	!	2.6	2.0
Long-Term Sick	4,700	33.1	33.5	28.2
Discouraged	!	!	0.5	0.4
Retired	1,500	10.8	14.4	12.9
Other	#	#	8.5	11.0
Wants A Job	#	#	16.4	18.3
Does Not Want a Job	13,000	92.4	83.6	81.9

Source: [NOMIS Labour Market Profile Inverclyde](#)

Sample size too small for reliable estimate! Estimate is not available since sample size is disclosive
 Numbers are for those aged 16-64. % is a proportion of those economically inactive, except total, which is a proportion of those aged 16-64

2.4d) Claimant Count by Age

The claimant count for everyone aged 16+ in Inverclyde is higher than the national average, 3.4% compared to 3.1%. It should be noted that this data is updated by ONS monthly, the data provided below relates to December 2024 and should therefore be viewed as a snapshot.

Claimant count by age - not seasonally adjusted (December 2024)

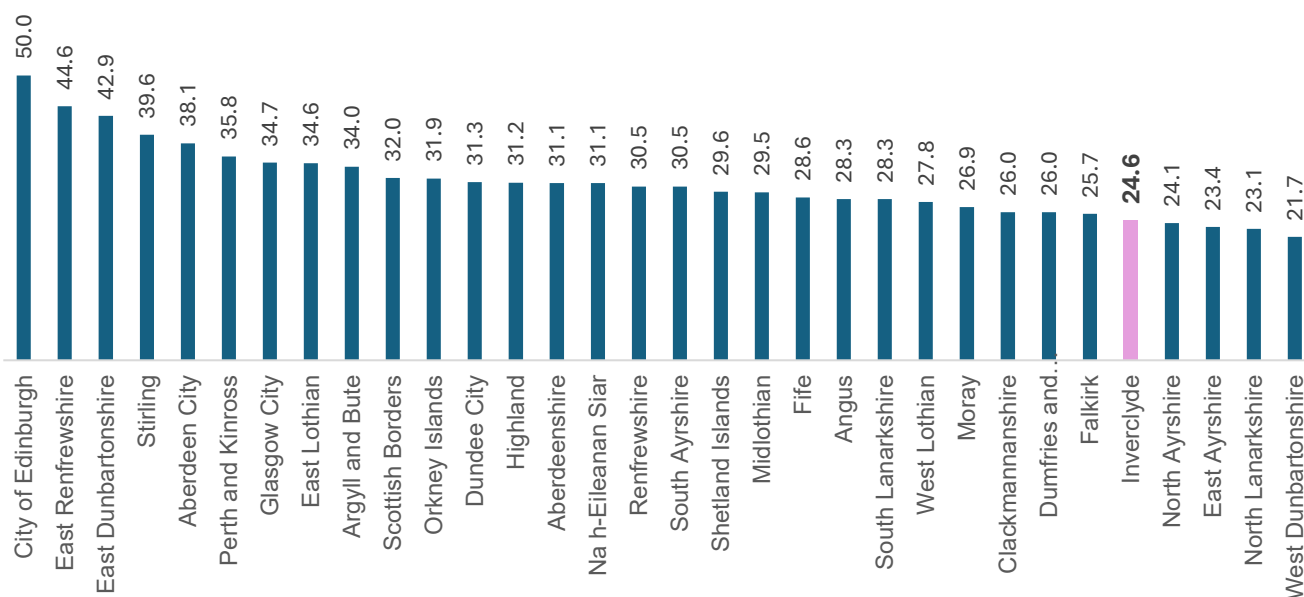
	Inverclyde	Scotland	Great Britain
	(%)	(%)	(%)
Aged 16+	3.4	3.1	4.1
Aged 16 To 17	0.6	0.7	0.2
Aged 18 To 24	6.0	4.2	5.4
- Aged 18 To 21	6.7	4.6	5.9
Aged 25 To 49	4.3	3.5	4.7
Aged 50+	1.9	2.2	3.1

Source: [NOMIS Labour Market Profile Inverclyde](#)

2.5 Qualifications (Census, 2022)

In 2022, 16,335 adults in Inverclyde (24.6%) had degree level qualifications or above compared to almost a third at a Scotland level. The chart below shows how Inverclyde compares to all Scottish Council areas.

Percentage of people aged 16 and over with degree level qualifications or above, 2022, all Council areas in Scotland



More females (9,307) than males (7,028) in Inverclyde had a degree level qualification or above (57% / 43%).

2.6 Travel to Work

34,413 people aged 16 and over in Inverclyde were in employment the week before the Census. Of this, 10,751 people, 31.2%, said that they mainly worked from home, compared to 9.7% in 2011. In Scotland in 2022, 31.6% of people mainly worked from home.

DEPRIVATION PROFILE

Key messages

- New SIMD data is not due to be released until the end of 2026, therefore SIMD 2020 remains the most recent data available. It is worth noting that the SIMD 2020 was published before the start of the cost-of-living crisis.
- SIMD 2020 showed that income and employment deprivation is a significant issue for many people living in Inverclyde. There is a need to ensure that those living in our most deprived areas maximise their incomes and that appropriate training and support is available to those that find it most difficult to move into the employment.
- The Scottish Household Survey (SHS) (2023) shows that a higher percentage of households in Inverclyde said that they are 'managing well' compared to the Scottish average. When considering SHS results, it should be remembered that the results are based on a fairly small sample size, typically 200-250 respondents.
- More than 1 in 4 children in Inverclyde (2022/23) are estimated to be living in poverty after housing costs. When compared to other local authorities, Inverclyde has the thirteenth highest percentage of children living in child poverty in Scotland.
- Attainment data used as a measure of the deprivation gap shows that pupils in Inverclyde pupils living 20% most deprived areas in Scotland, continue to perform strongly when compared to other areas in Scotland. Closing the attainment gap remains a priority for partners.
- Although the overall percentage of young people aged 16-19 years participating in education, training or employment was higher in Inverclyde than the Scottish average, there remains significant differences in participation levels when the data is considered at ward level.

DEPRIVATION

3.1 Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2020

It is anticipated that the next update to the SIMD will be in the latter part of 2026, in order to incorporate data using the 2022 Census data zones.

The most recent data from the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation statistics was published in January 2020. For the purposes of reporting on levels of multiple deprivation, Inverclyde is split into 114 data zones, which is 1.6% of all data zones nationally.

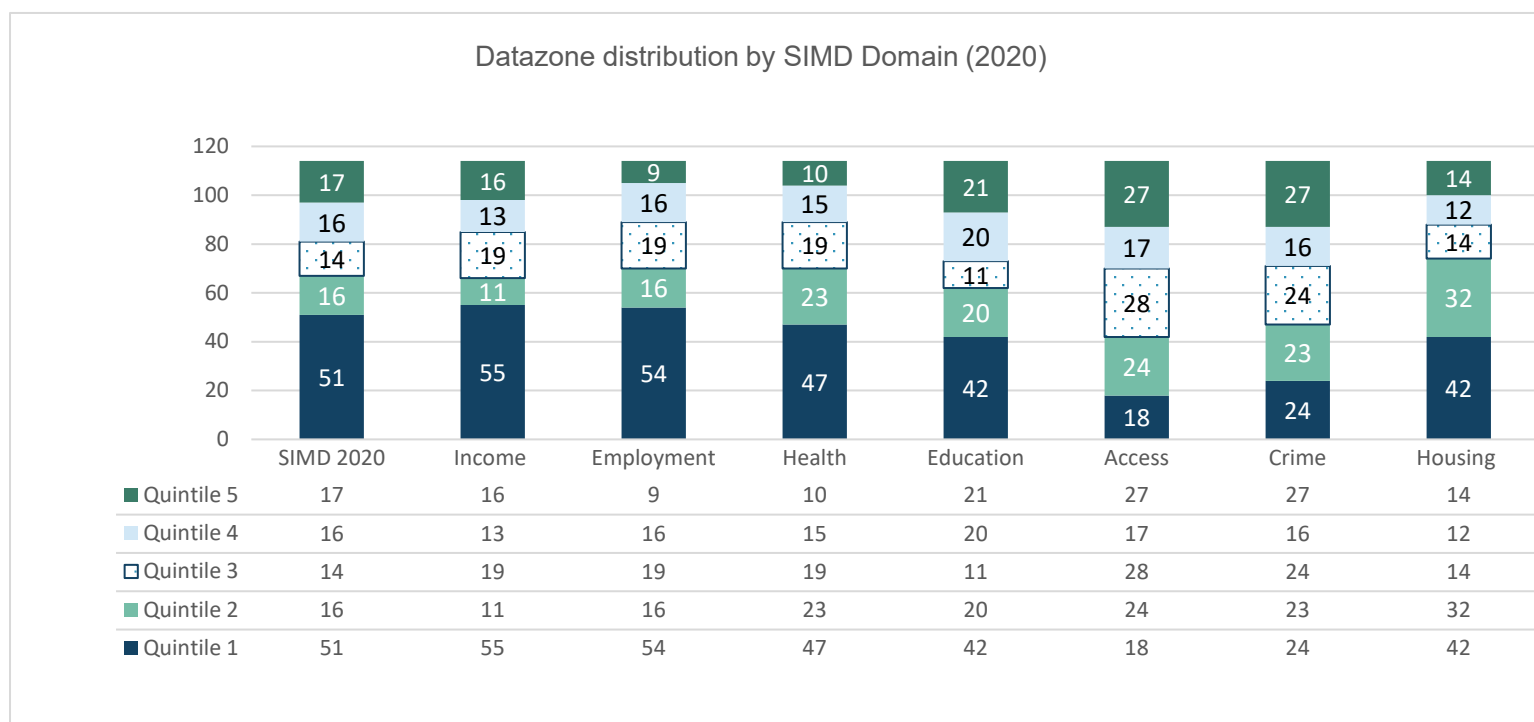
Local share of most deprived data zones

- In SIMD 2020, 21 (18) of Inverclyde’s 114 data zones are in the 5% most deprived data zones in Scotland.
- In SIMD 2020, 51 (45%) of Inverclyde’s 114 data zones are in the 20% most deprived data zones in Scotland.

National share of most deprived data zones

- In SIMD 2020, of the 348 data zones in the 5% most deprived data zones in Scotland, 22 (6%) of these are located in Inverclyde.
- In SIMD 2020, of the 1,396 data zones in the 20% most deprived data zones in Scotland, 51 (3.7%) of these are located in Inverclyde.

The chart below shows Inverclyde’s local share of deprivation quintiles for the overall SIMD ranking as well as the seven individual domain rankings that make up the SIMD. The income, employment and health domains are all particularly high in terms of the number of data zones that fall into the most deprived 20% category.



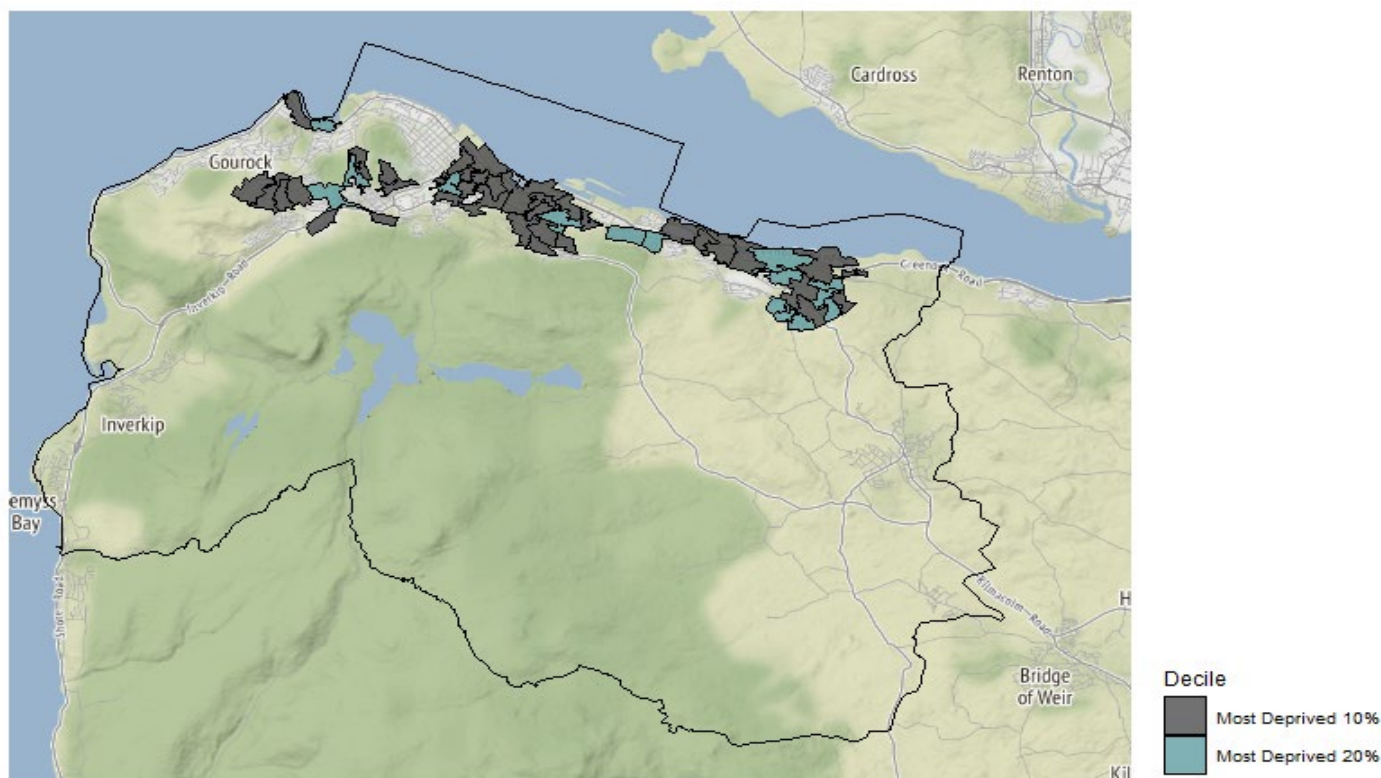
Source: [SIMD16 Analysis Inverclyde](#)

The SIMD map on the following page shows that levels of deprivation vary significantly across Inverclyde. The highest levels of deprivation (i.e. most deprived 20%) are mainly concentrated in Greenock East and Central, Greenock South West and Port Glasgow. The most deprived data zone in Inverclyde is in Greenock Town Centre and East Central with a ranking of 1, which means that it is the most multiply deprived data zone in Scotland.

Of the 21 data zones in Inverclyde that fall into the 5% most deprived in Scotland:

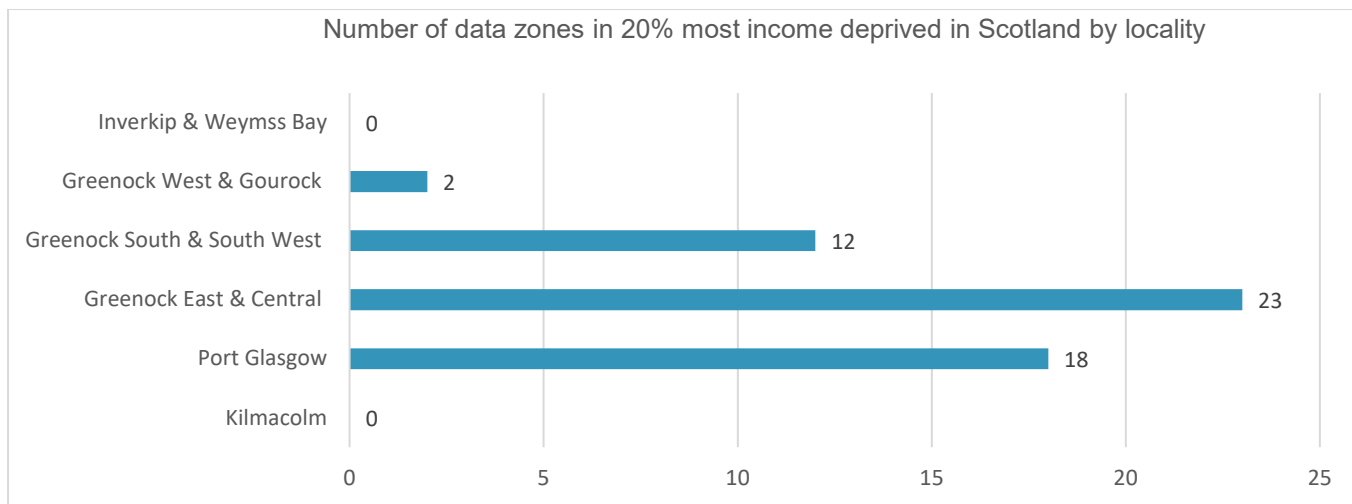
- 7 of these are in Greenock Town Centre and East Central
- 4 are in Greenock East
- 3 are in Greenock Upper Central
- 1 are in Port Glasgow Mid, East and Central
- 3 are in Port Glasgow Upper, West and Central
- 1 data zone is in Greenock West and Central
- 1 data zone is in Lower Bow, Larkfield and Fancy Farm and
- 1 data zone is in Bow Farm, Barrs Cottage, Cowdenknowes and Overton

The areas with least deprivation are mostly situated in Wemyss Bay, Inverkip, Gourock and Kilmacolm. It is important to note however that not everyone living in a deprived area will be deprived and that not everyone living in our least deprived areas will be affluent.



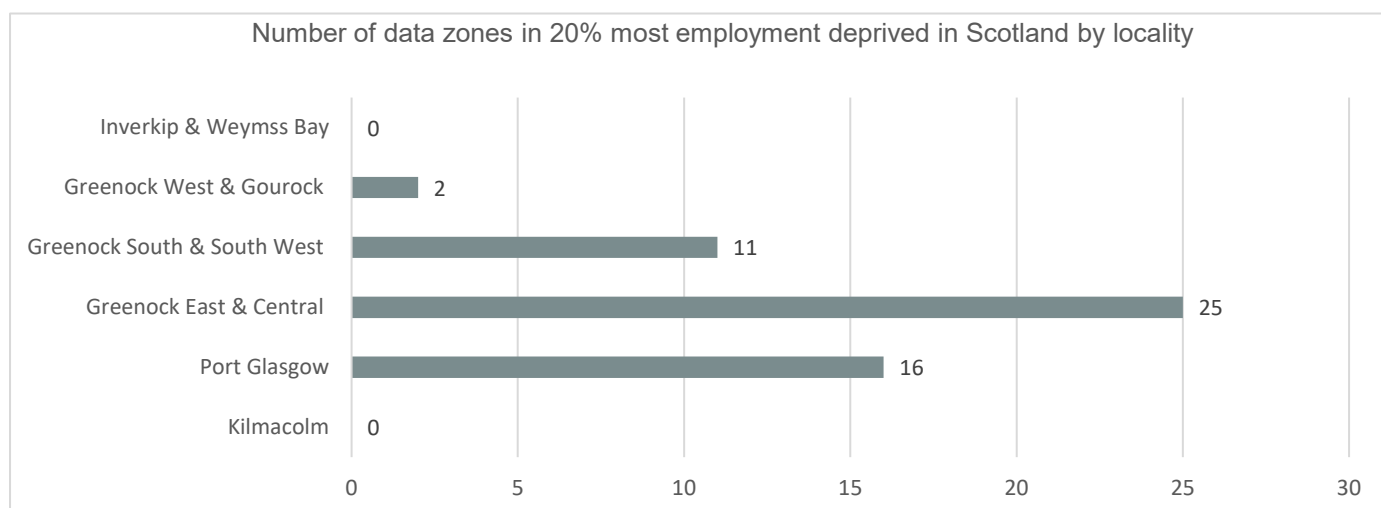
3.1b) Income Deprivation

55 (48%) of Inverclyde's 114 data zones fall within the 20% most income deprived in Scotland. The chart below shows the distribution of these data zones across Inverclyde's 6 localities. Greenock East and Central has the highest number of data zones in the 20% most income deprived, 21 of the 53 most income deprived data zones can be found in this locality.



3.1c) Employment Deprivation

54 (47%) of Inverclyde’s 114 data zones fall into the 20% most employment deprived in Scotland. The chart below shows the distribution of these data zones across Inverclyde’s 6 localities. Once again, Greenock East and Central has the highest number of data zones in the 20% most employment deprived, 25 of the 54 most employment deprived data zones can be found in this locality.



3.2 Household Poverty

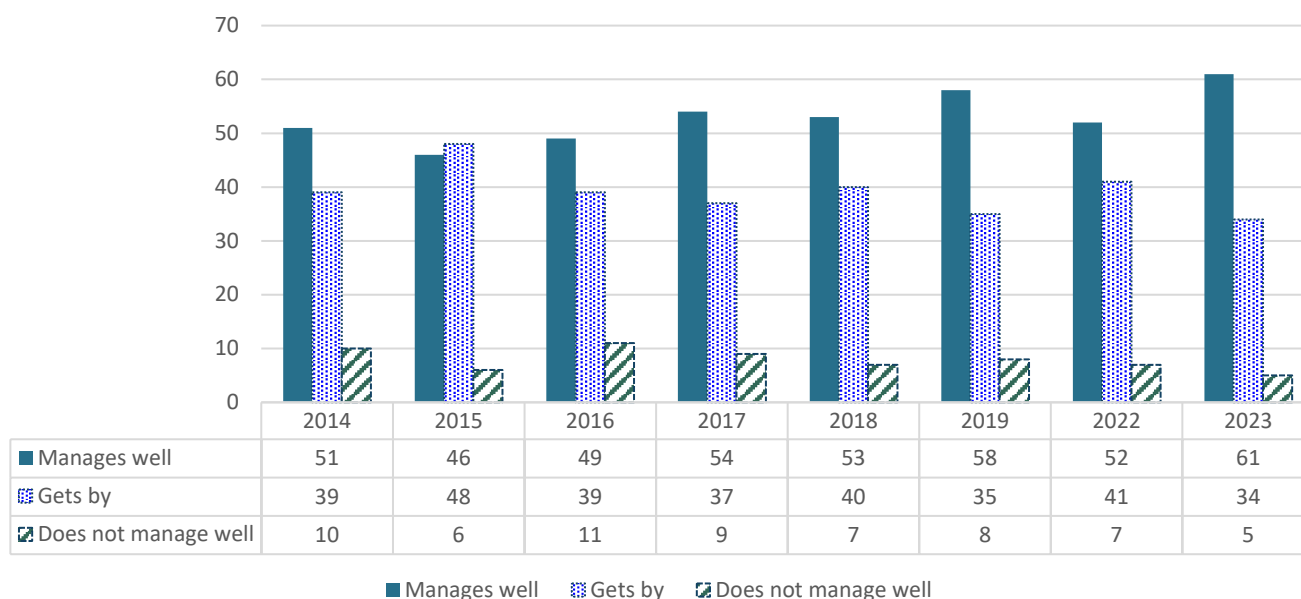
The Scottish Household Survey asks respondents how well they are managing financially.

The graph below shows Inverclyde respondent answers over the period 2014 to 2023.

- In 2023, the percentage of people who said that they are ‘managing well’ was 9% higher than in 2022.
- In 2023, the percentage of people who said that they ‘Get By’ was 7% lower than in 2022.
- In 2023, the percentage of people who said that they ‘don’t manage very well’ was 2% lower than in 2022.

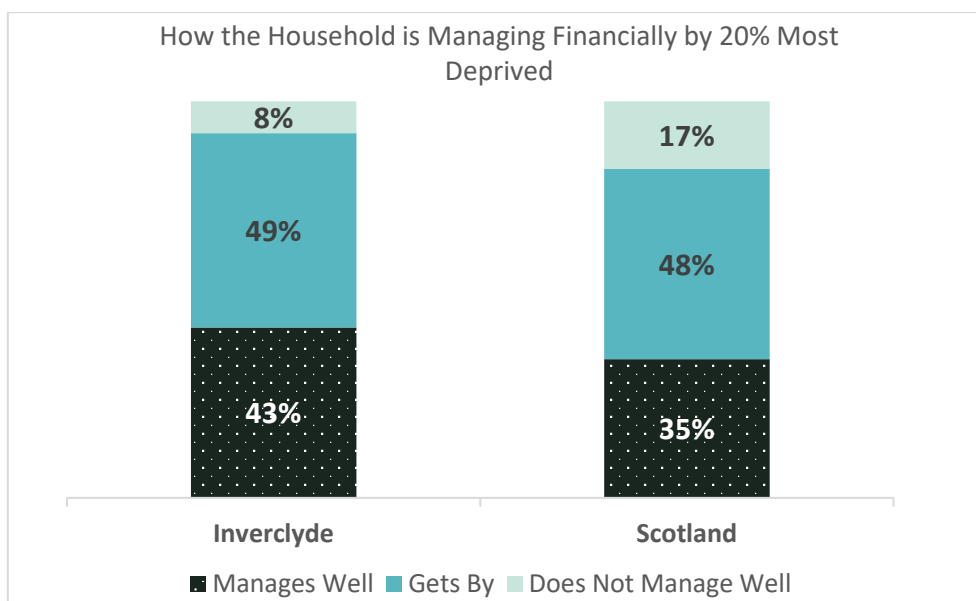
Source: <https://scotland.shinyapps.io/sg-scottish-household-survey-data-explorer/>

How households are managing financially (%)



Source: <https://scotland.shinyapps.io/sq-scottish-household-survey-data-explorer/>

In Inverclyde, 43% of Scottish Household Survey (2023) respondents living in the 20% most deprived areas said that they were managing well, compared to 35% in Scotland. A slightly larger proportion of Inverclyde residents felt that they are ‘getting by’ compared to the Scottish average, whilst 14% of Inverclyde households in the most deprived 20% feel that they are not managing well, compared to 16% in Scotland.



Source: Scottish Household Survey 2022 <https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-household-survey-2022-key-findings/documents/>

3.3b) Private Rented Sector

According to the Census 2022, just over 10% of households in Inverclyde are in the private rented sector. Households in the private rented sector tend to face higher housing costs with a higher proportion of their income devoted to their rent. The Scottish Government estimates that the average private sector renter spends 27% of their income on housing compared to 24% of a social renters’ income and 8% for owner

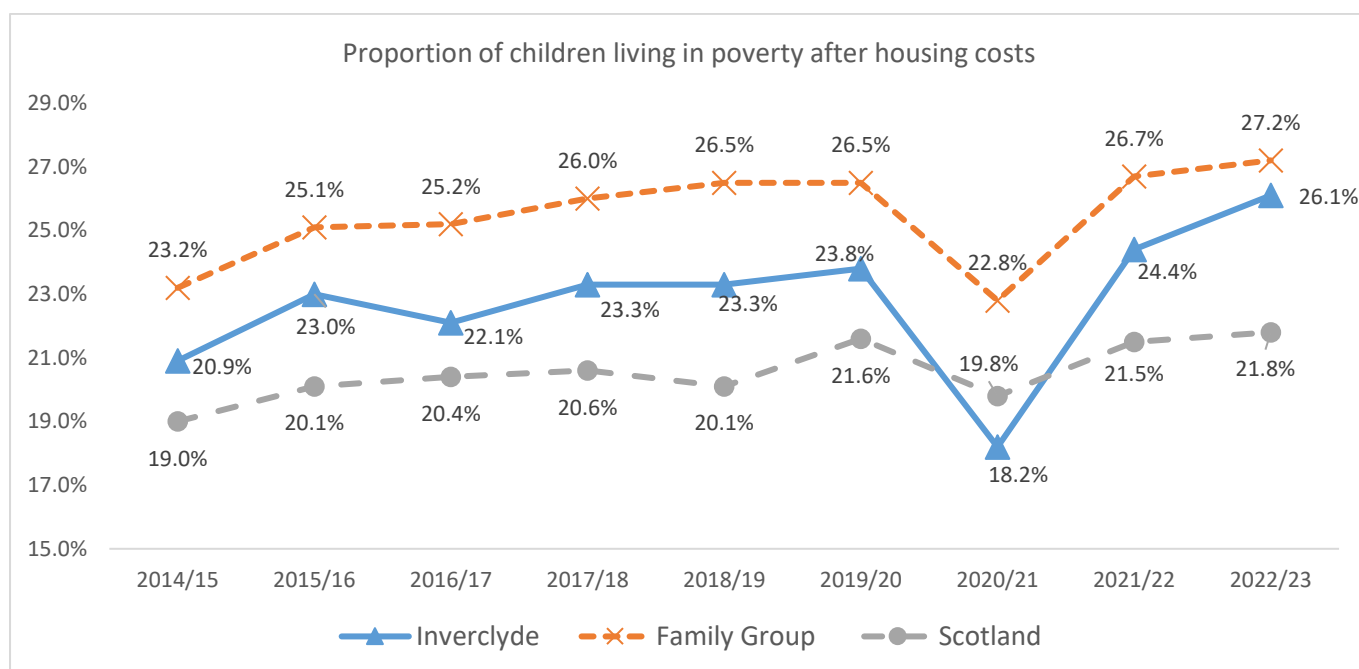
occupiers with a mortgage. High housing costs are a far greater direct cause of poverty in the private rented sector than in other housing tenures.

Whilst there is no local data to allow us to assess the prevalence of poverty in the private sector, given the prevalence of deprivation in the other housing sectors in Inverclyde it is reasonable to assume poverty in the private rented sector locally, particularly for young adults, is also a growing issue.

3.3 Child Poverty

Research has shown that working households and children in working households make up the majority of Scottish children in poverty. According to the End Child Poverty Campaign, in 2022/23 26.1% of children in Inverclyde were living in poverty in Inverclyde after housing costs.

This data is also reported via the Local Government Benchmarking Framework, which also provides benchmarking data for Inverclyde’s family group and the Scottish average. The graph below shows that, since the base year 2014/15, there has been a greater increase in the child poverty (after housing costs) in Inverclyde compared to the family group and Scottish average over the same period. The graph also shows that child poverty in Inverclyde has accelerated at a greater rate than its comparators, since the pandemic.

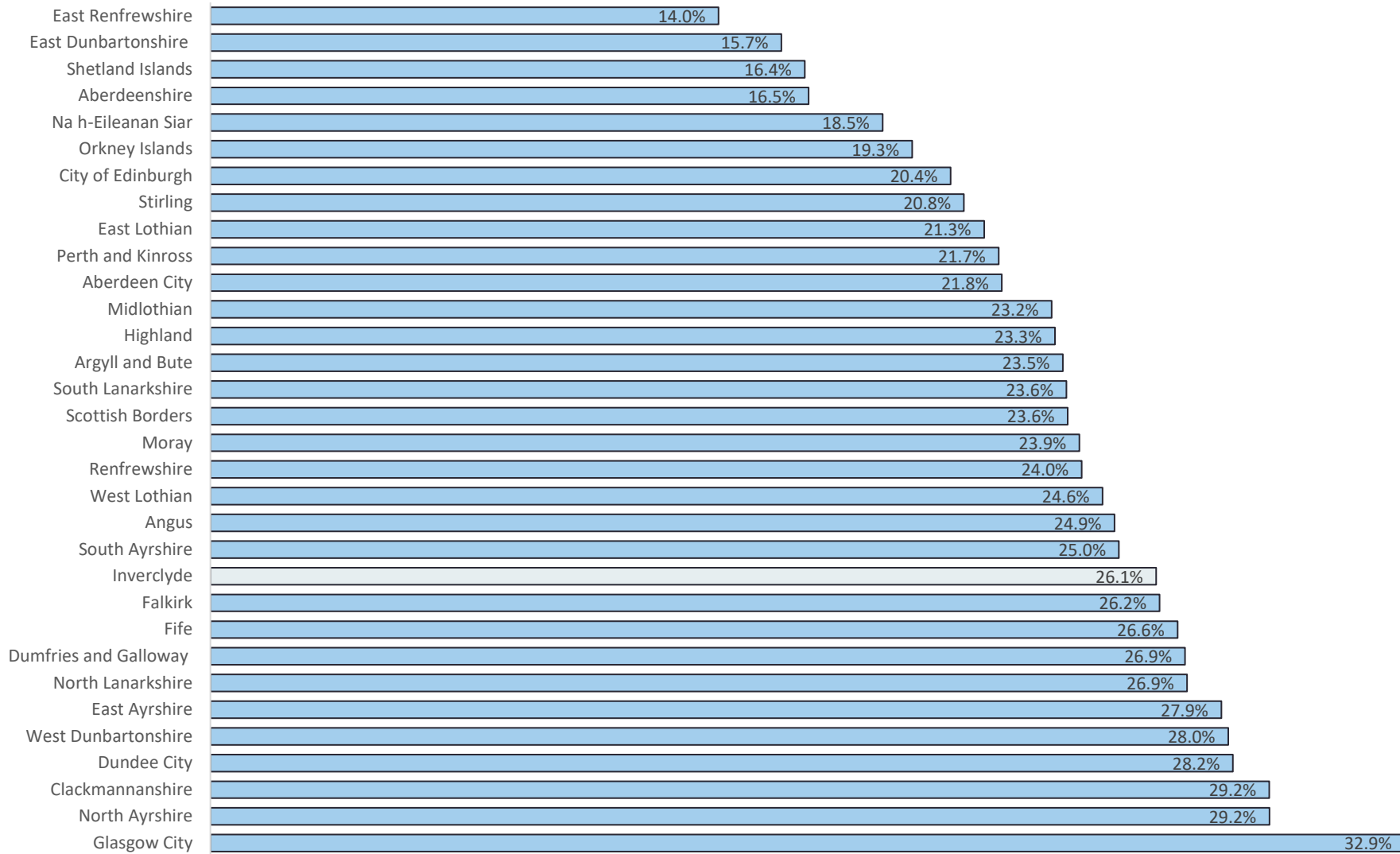


	% Change	
	Since base year	Since 2021/22
Inverclyde	5.2%	1.7%
FG average	4.0%	0.5%
Scotland	2.8%	0.3%

(Inverclyde’s family group consists of: Dundee City, East Ayrshire, Eilean Siar, Glasgow City, North Ayrshire, North Lanarkshire and West Dunbartonshire and Inverclyde).

The chart on the following page shows how child poverty after housing costs in Inverclyde compares with other local authorities in Scotland.

% of children in poverty after housing costs 2022/23



Source: [End Child Poverty](#)

3.4 Attainment v Deprivation

The table below present information on the percentage of P1, P4 and P7 pupils combined that achieved Curriculum for Excellence levels in English and Numeracy in 2023/24.

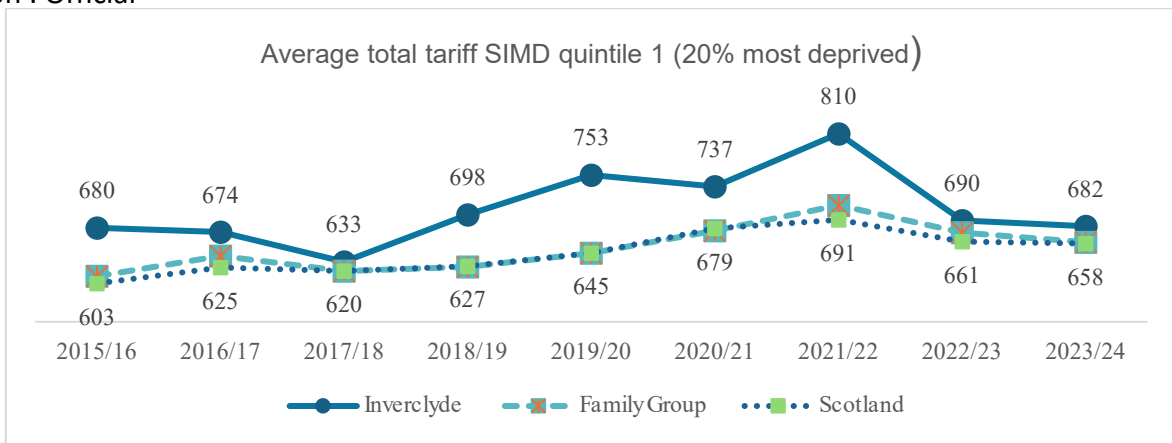
A higher proportion of pupils in Inverclyde living in the 20% most deprived areas achieved expected levels in English reading, writing, listening and talking, literacy and numeracy that the Scottish average. The overall totals for each subject area were also higher than the Scottish average.

	English Reading	English Writing	English Listening & Talking	English Literacy	Numeracy
Inverclyde SIMD Quintile 1	78%	72%	88%	70%	76%
Scotland SIMD Quintile 1	72%	67%	81%	64%	72%
Inverclyde SIMD Quintile 2	83%	77%	91%	76%	81%
Scotland SIMD Quintile 2	77%	73%	85%	70%	77%
Inverclyde SIMD Quintile 3	90%	86%	96%	84%	90%
Scotland SIMD Quintile 3	81%	76%	88%	74%	81%
Inverclyde SIMD Quintile 4	90%	83%	94%	83%	86%
Scotland SIMD Quintile 4	85%	81%	91%	79%	85%
Inverclyde SIMD Quintile 5	94%	90%	97%	89%	92%
Scotland SIMD Quintile 5	89%	86%	94%	85%	89%
Inverclyde Total	84%	78%	91%	76%	82%
Scotland Total	80%	76%	87%	74%	80%

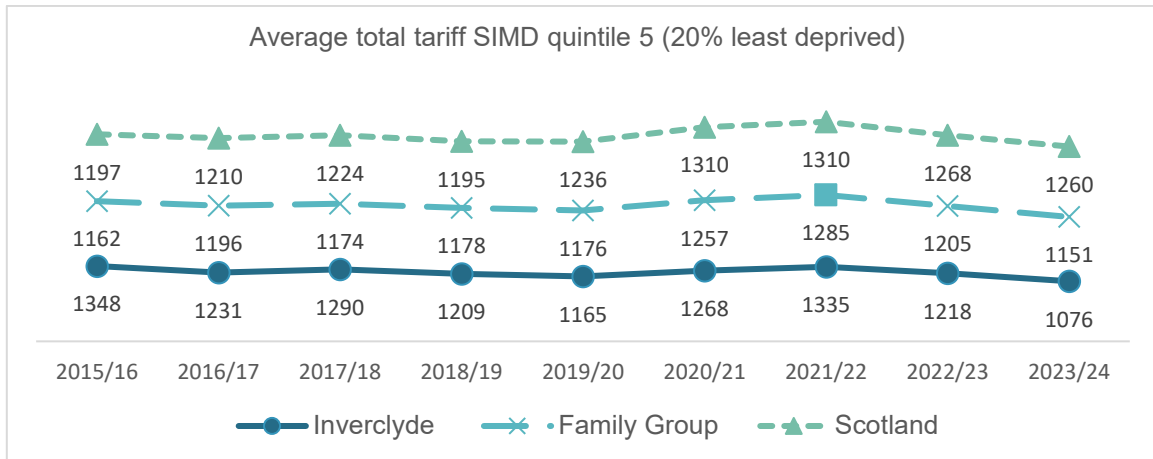
Source: [School education statistics - gov.scot](https://www.gov.scot/Topics/education/schools/education-statistics)

The Local Government Benchmarking Framework provides data on the average tariff score for pupils in the Senior Phase, for all pupils. Tariff points for each unit or course are calculated based on the SCQF level for the award and the grade achieved. Tariff points are accumulated by individual pupils for all eligible qualifications that are the latest and best in a subject.

The average total tariff in SIMD quintile 1 (20% most deprived in Scotland) has been consistently above the family group and Scottish average over the period shown, however performance falls below the family group and Scottish average when compared to the average tariff score in quintile 5 (20% least deprived in Scotland).

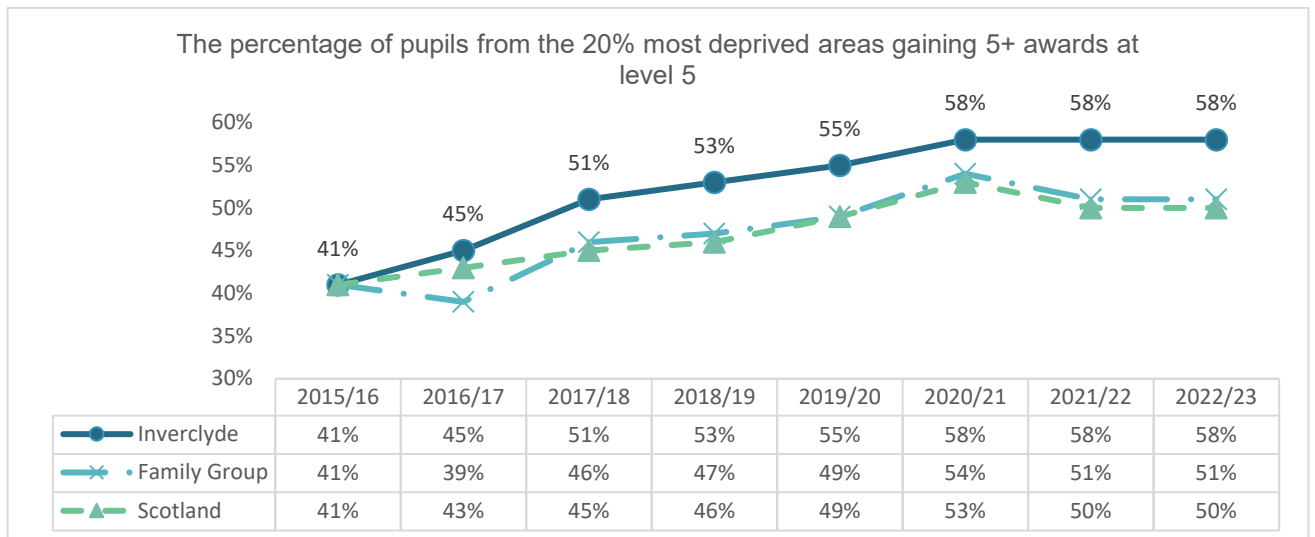


Source: [Explore the data | Benchmarking](#)

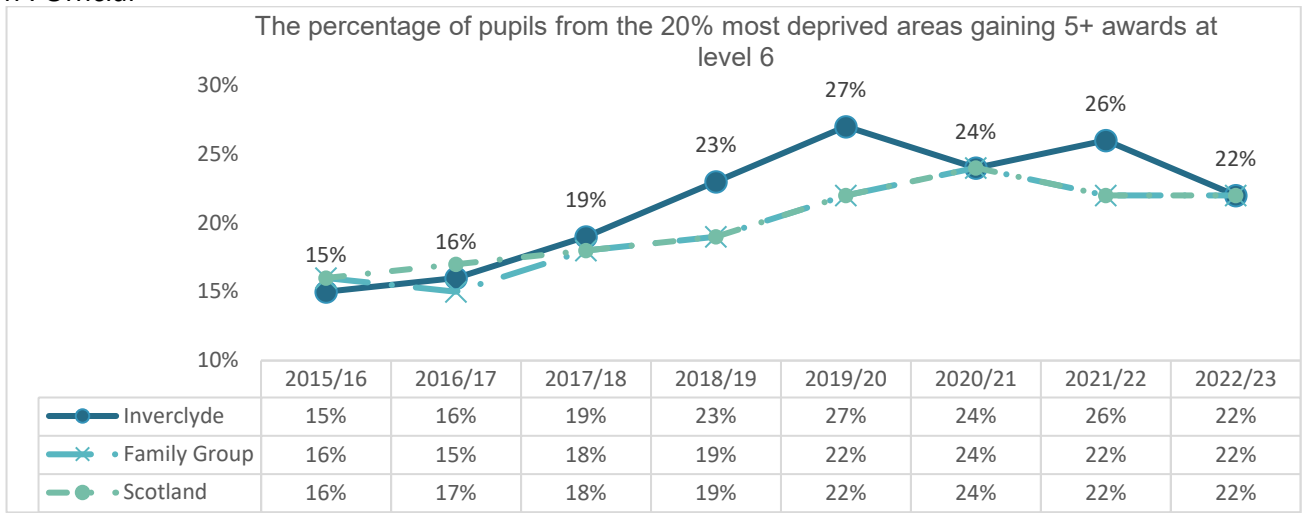


Source: [Explore the data | Benchmarking](#)

The percentage of pupils from the 20% most deprived areas gaining 5+ awards at level 5 in Inverclyde has been consistently better than both the family group and the national average.



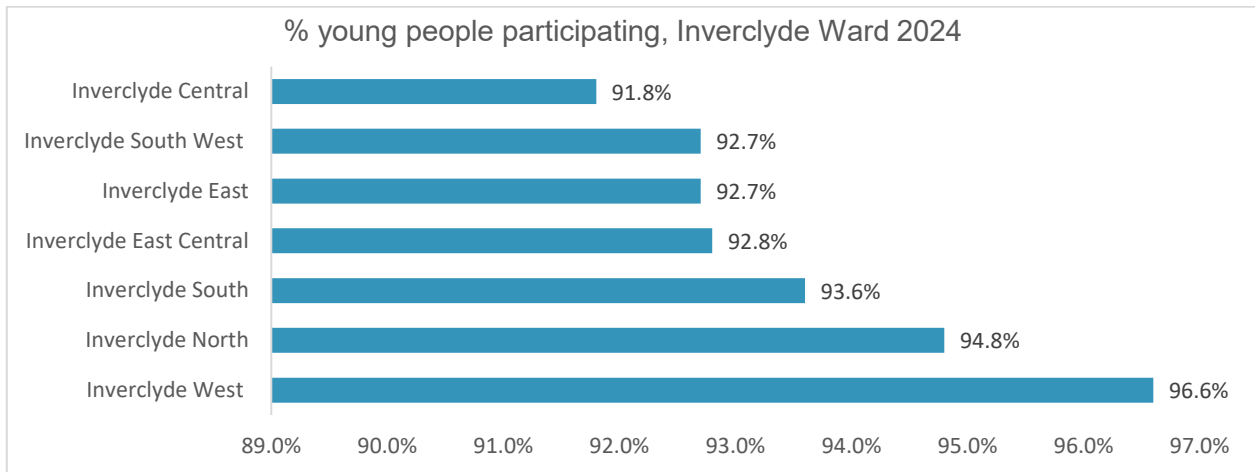
The percentage of pupils from the 20% most deprived areas gaining 5+ awards at level 6 in Inverclyde was the same as both the family group and the national average in 2022/23 (22%). Despite a drop in performance in 2022/23, there has been an improvement from the 2015/16 baseline when performance was lower than both the family group and Scottish average.



3.5 Annual Participation Measure, 2024

The annual participation measure takes account of each status from 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024 for all 16–19-year-olds. All statuses are combined to calculate the participation headline classification and the status grouping, figures published in 2024 are provided below:

- The proportion of 16–19-year-olds participating in education, training or employment in Inverclyde was 93.5% compared to 92.7% in Scotland.
- The proportion of 16–19-year-olds reported as “not participating” for Inverclyde was 4.2% compared to 3.7% in Scotland.
- The proportion of 16–19-year-olds reported as unconfirmed for Inverclyde was 2.3% compared to 3.6% in Scotland.

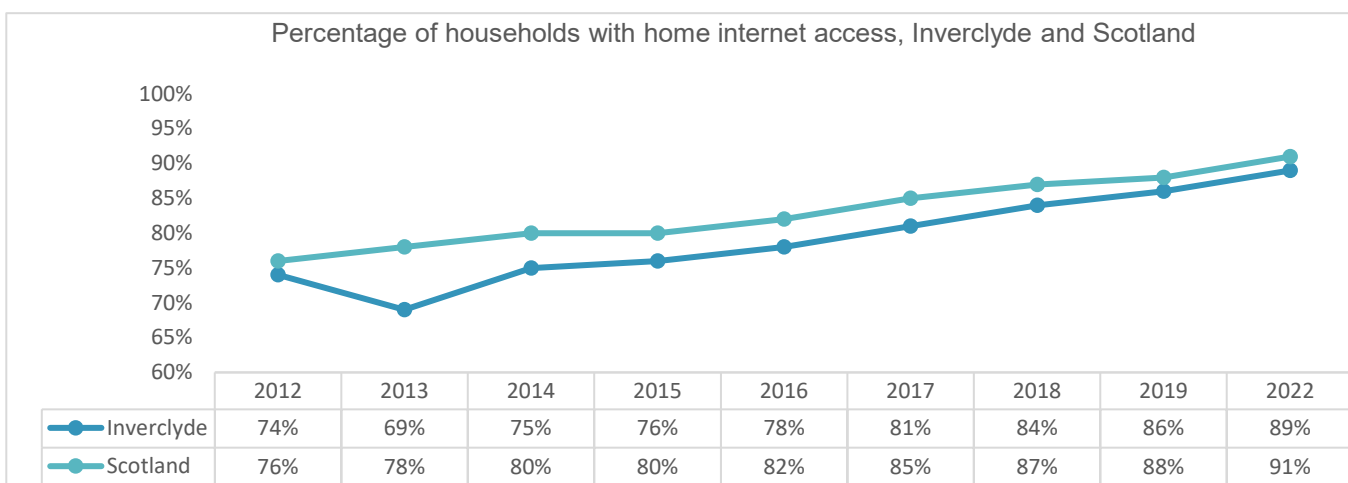


Source: [Annual Participation Measure - Skills Development Scotland](#)

Electoral ward data has been extracted from Supplementary tables

3.6 Internet Access

Having access to the internet is increasingly important in order to be able to access a wide range of information for example in relation to education, jobs and welfare benefits. Low-income households without internet access have limited access to lower cost financial products and services, online savings accounts and better deals such as energy packages. The Scottish Household Survey, 2022 found that a slightly lower percentage of households in Inverclyde had home internet access compared to the Scottish average.



Source: [Supporting documents - Scottish Household Survey 2022: Key Findings - gov.scot](https://www.gov.scot/publications/supporting-documents-2022-2023/pages/supporting-documents-2022-2023-key-findings.aspx)

HEALTH PROFILE

Key messages

- The most recent data shows an increase in life expectancy for both Inverclyde males and females, however both remain below the national life expectancy average. Over the past twenty-years, female life expectancy has increased by 1.9% and male life expectancy by 5.3%. In 2001/03, Inverclyde males had the second lowest life expectancy in Scotland, however recent data shows they have seen the highest 20 year gain in life expectancy of all council areas.
- The leading cause of death in 2023 for males and females differed. For males, the leading cause of death was ischaemic heart disease and for females it was Dementia and Alzheimer's Disease.
- Obesity is a growing issue both nationally and locally. Children in Inverclyde are at a slightly higher risk of weight problems compared to the national average and this has potentially serious implications for their health later in life.
- Stark health inequalities continue to exist in life expectancy and other health outcomes across communities in Inverclyde. Alcohol and drug misuse continues to be far higher than the national levels although there are indications of a narrowing in the gap between Inverclyde and the Scottish average.
- Census 2022 data shows that the number of people in Inverclyde who said that they had a mental health condition has doubled from Census 2011. This has been driven by a sharp increase in the number of young people reporting that they have a mental health condition, particularly young females.
- Inverclyde has the fifth highest percentage of people supported by LA funded social care services in Scotland (as a rate per 1,000 population). Based on current trends, an ageing population will result in an increased demand for home care services placing an even greater demand at a time of reduced budgets.
- The Census 2022 shows that a higher proportion of Inverclyde's population has a general health problem or disability that impacts their day-to-day activities either a little or a lot, almost 30% of Inverclyde's population said that they were affected, compared to a Scottish average of 24%.

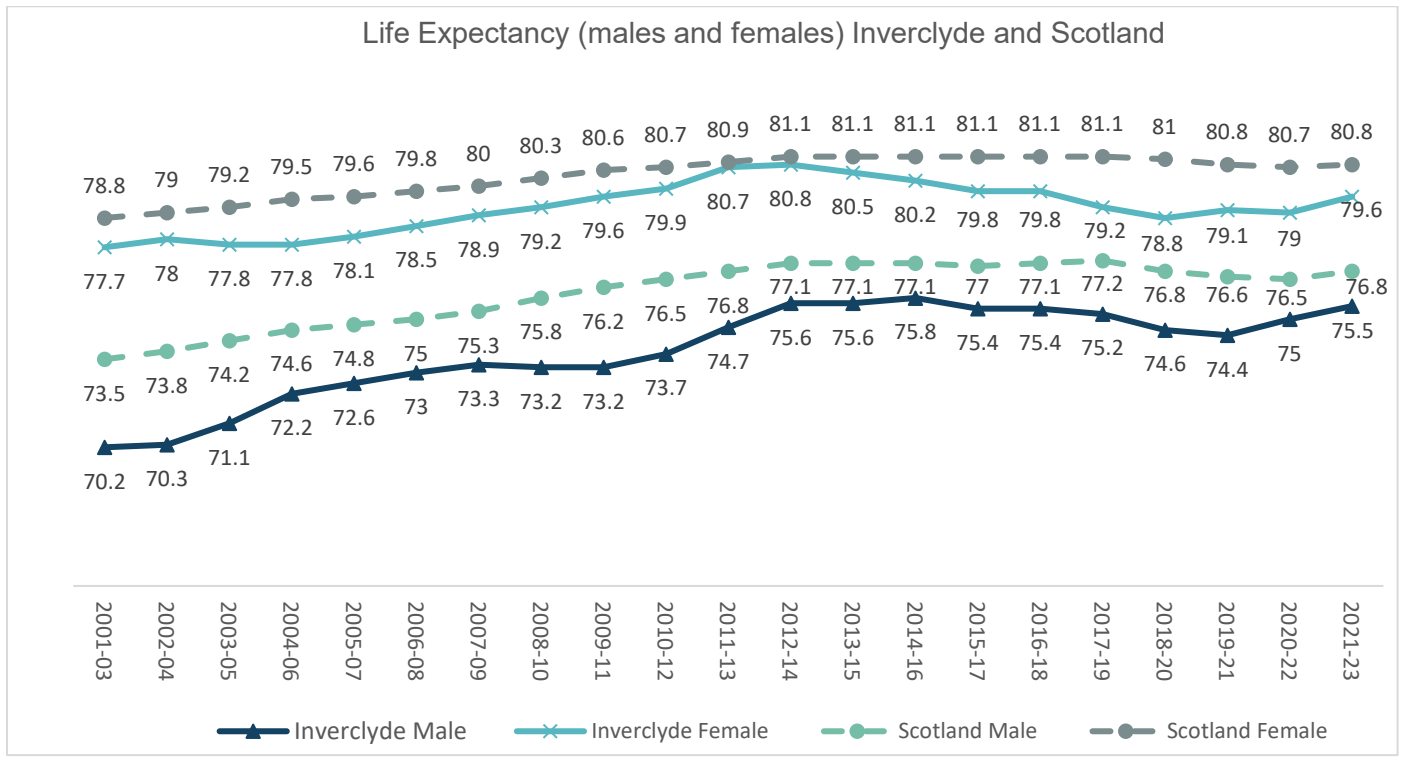
HEALTH

This section provides an overview of the health needs of Inverclyde’s population. If you would like more local health related information, please refer to the Inverclyde Health and Social Care Partnership Strategic Needs Assessment which you can find here: <https://www.inverclyde.gov.uk/health-and-social-care/strategies-policies-and-plans>

4.1 Life Expectancy

Life expectancy for both Inverclyde males and females improved in the latest reporting year (three-year period 2021/23) but are still below the Scottish average. Both females and males in Inverclyde had the 7th lowest life expectancy in Scotland. Glasgow City had the lowest life expectancy for both males and females.

Over the twenty-year period shown in the graph below, female life expectancy increased by 1.9% and male life expectancy by 5.3%. In 2001/03, Inverclyde males had the second lowest life expectancy in Scotland, but have seen the highest 20 year gain in male life expectancy of all council areas.



Source: [Life Expectancy | National Records of Scotland \(nrscotland.gov.uk\)](https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk)

Longer lives do not necessarily mean healthier lives. Healthy life expectancy is an estimate of how many years a person might live in a ‘healthy’ state. Healthy life expectancy in Inverclyde is lower than that of Scotland as a whole. This has implications for services, particularly with a growth in those of pensionable age, which is not being matched by a growth in the working age population.

Healthy Life Expectancy at Birth	Inverclyde		Scotland	
	Male	Female	Male	Female

2018-20	54.4 years	59.4 years	60.9 years	61.8 years
2019-21	57.7 years	59.3 years	60.4 years	61.1 years

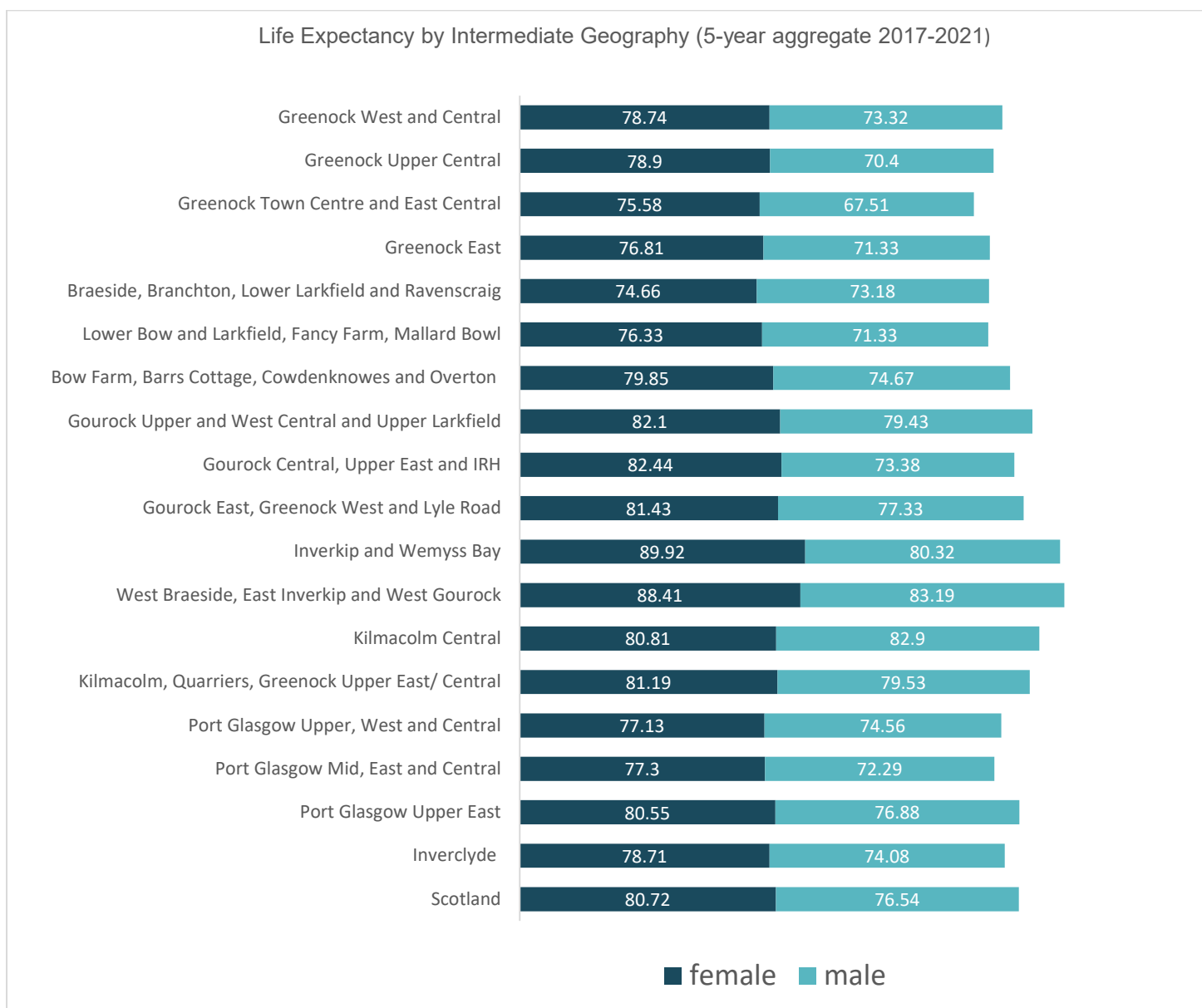
(2019/21 is the most recent data available at the time of writing)

Source: [Life Expectancy | National Records of Scotland \(nrscotland.gov.uk\)](https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk)

4.1b) Life Expectancy by Intermediate Geography (5-year aggregate 2017-2021)

Despite Inverclyde being a relatively small area, life expectancy can vary significantly depending on where you live with life expectancy being at its lowest in the most deprived areas. The chart below shows the difference in life expectancy across intermediate geographies in Inverclyde.

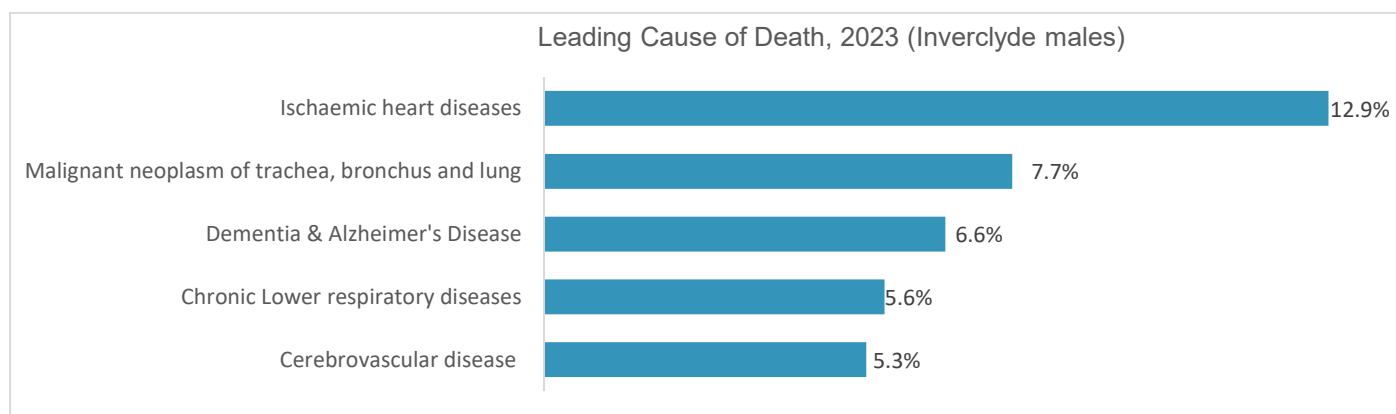
Source: <http://www.scotpho.org.uk/comparative-health/profiles/online-profiles-tool>



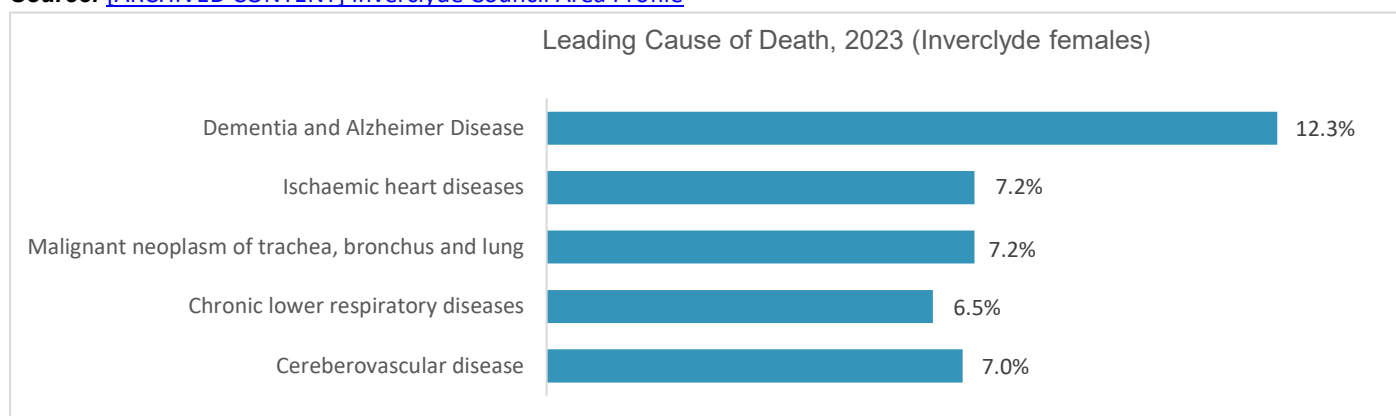
4.2 Leading Causes of Death, 2023

In Inverclyde, the leading cause of death for males in 2023 was ischaemic heart diseases (12.9% of all male deaths), followed by lung cancer (7.7%). In Scotland overall, the leading cause of death for males was also ischaemic heart diseases (13.8%), followed by Dementia and Alzheimer’s disease (7.1%).

In Inverclyde, the leading cause of death for females in 2023 was Dementia and Alzheimer’s disease (12.3% of all female deaths), followed by ischaemic heart diseases and lung cancer (both 7.2%). In Scotland overall, the leading cause of death for females was also dementia and Alzheimer’s disease (13.4%), followed by ischaemic heart diseases (8.2%).



Source: [\[ARCHIVED CONTENT\] Inverclyde Council Area Profile](#)



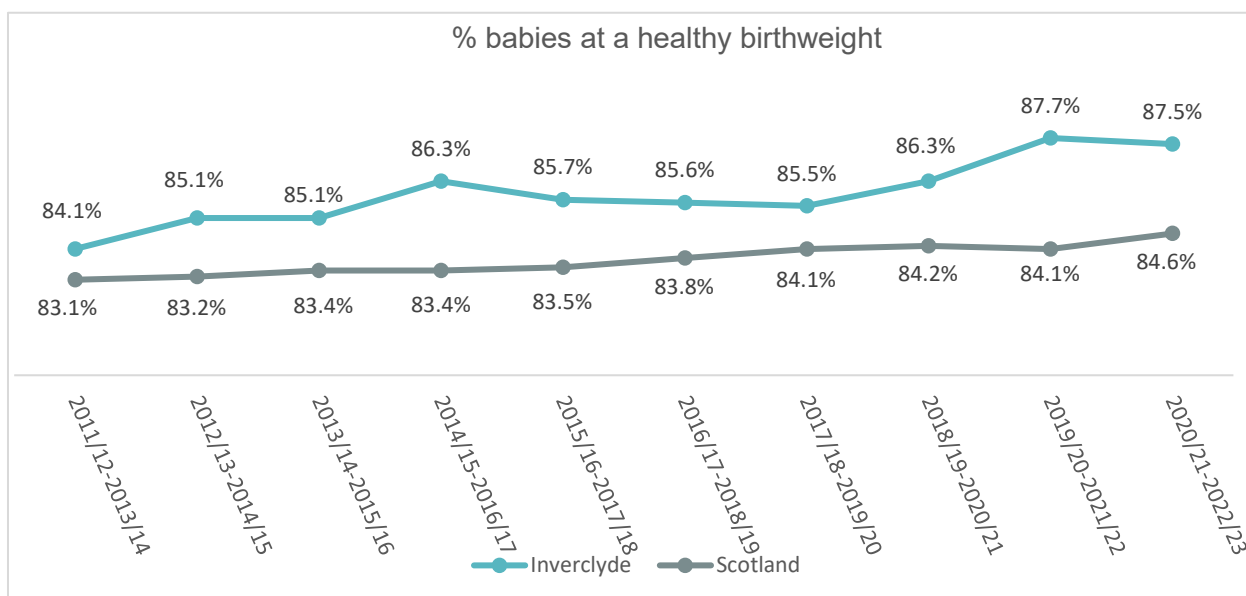
Source: [\[ARCHIVED CONTENT\] Inverclyde Council Area Profile](#)

4.3 Birth Weight

Birth weight is an important indicator of foetal and neonatal health. Maternal smoking and obesity are particularly important influences on birth weight, respectively increasing the risk that babies are born small for gestational age or large for gestational age.

Birth weight that is not within normal ranges also has a strong association with poor health outcomes in infancy, childhood and across the whole life course, including long term conditions such as diabetes and coronary heart disease. Low birth weight babies are defined as those which weigh less than 2,500 grams at birth. This can be further subdivided into very low birth weight babies and extremely low birth weight babies.

The graph below shows that the percentage of babies born at a healthy birth weight in Inverclyde has been consistently above the Scottish average.

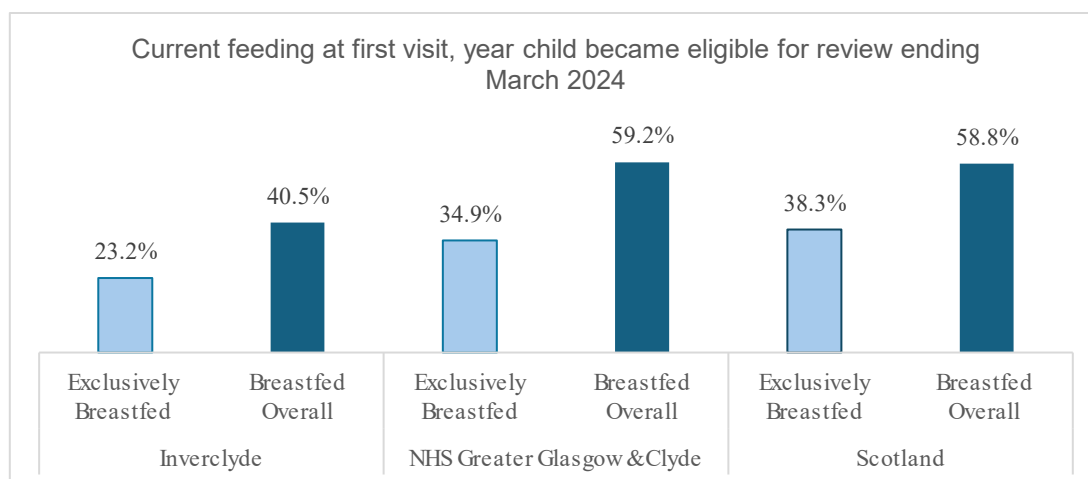


Source: [ScotPHO profiles](#)

4.4 Breastfeeding

Breastfeeding promotes health, prevents disease and can help to reduce health inequalities. Research has found both short and long-term health benefits of breastfeeding for both mothers and infants, including a reduced risk of infection and childhood obesity.

The percentage of babies in Inverclyde breastfed at the first visit (either exclusively or breastfed overall) is lower than both the Scottish and NHS Greater Glasgow Clyde average.



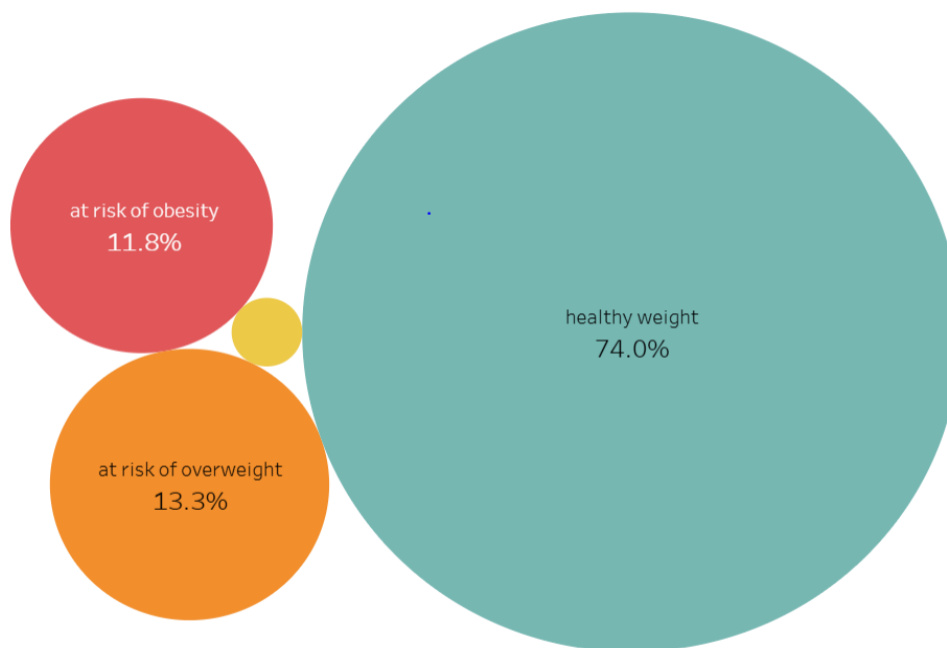
Source: [Infant feeding statistics - Financial year 2023 to 2024 - Infant feeding statistics - Publications - Public Health Scotland](#)

4.5 Child Weight, school year 2023/24

Child weight and growth can be used as a marker of their general nutritional and physical health. Children in Inverclyde are at a slightly higher risk of weight problems compared to the national average. In Inverclyde:

- 74% of children are a healthy weight compared to 76.5% in Scotland
- 13.3% of children are at risk of being overweight compared to 11.7% in Scotland
- 11.8% of children are at risk of obesity compared to 10.5% in Scotland

Primary 1 Body Mass Index in [Inverclyde](#)
School Year: [2023/24](#)

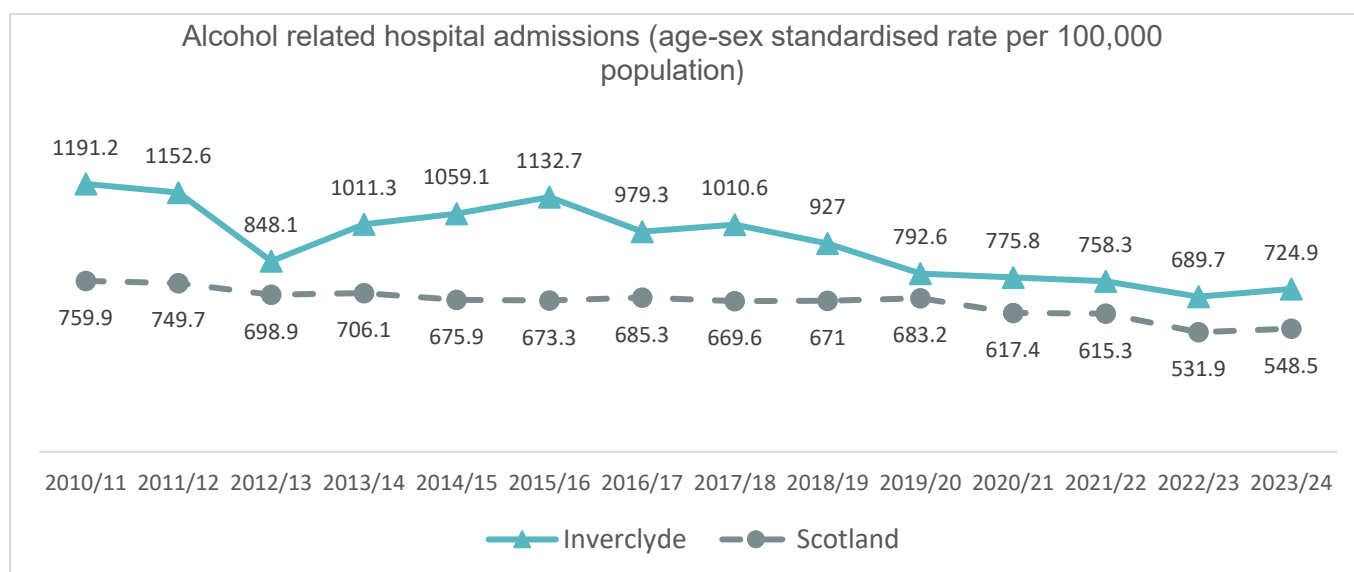


Source: <https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/publichealthscotland/viz/Primary1BMI/Primary1BMI>

4.6 Alcohol Misuse

In 2023/24, the rate for alcohol related hospital stays (age-standardised rate per 100,000) in Inverclyde was almost a third higher than the overall Scottish rate.

Over the period shown in the chart below, the rate of alcohol related hospital admissions in Inverclyde has fluctuated, however there are signs of an improving trend over the longer term. The gap between Inverclyde and Scotland however slightly widened in 2023/24.



Source: [ScotPHO profiles \(shinyapps.io\)](https://shinyapps.io/ScotPHO_profiles/)

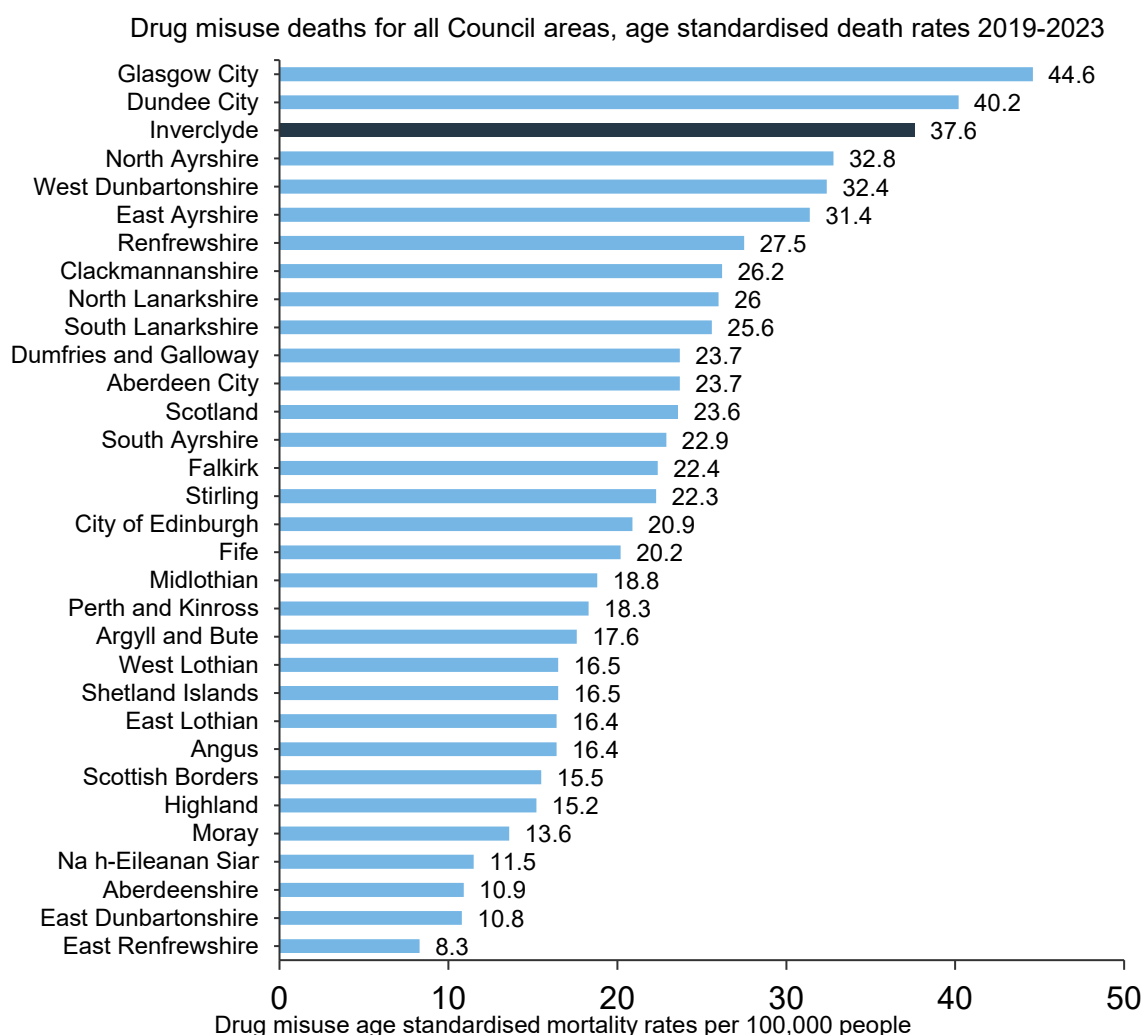
When analysed over a 5-year aggregate period, alcohol related deaths in Inverclyde are shown to be considerably higher than the rate for Scotland, at 35.2 per 100,000 population in Inverclyde, compared to 21.8 per 100,000 population in Scotland (2019/23).

Inverclyde	Inverclyde alcohol related deaths rate per 100,000	Scotland alcohol related deaths rate per 100,000
2010/14	32.1	20.6
2011/15	30.8	19.9
2012/16	29.9	19.7
2013/17	30.4	20.1
2014/18	31.2	20.5
2015/19	31.4	20.3
2016/20	31.8	20.7
2017/21	31.6	21
2018/22	32.8	21.4
2019/23	35.2	21.8

Source: [ScotPHO profiles \(shinyapps.io\)](https://shinyapps.io/ScotPHO_profiles/)

4.7 Drug Related Deaths, 2023

In 2023 there were 26 drug-related deaths in Inverclyde compared to 29 the previous year. Inverclyde had the third highest drug related death rate (standardised per 100,000 population) in Scotland, over the period 2019-2023.



Source: [Drug-related deaths in Scotland in 2023 - National Records of Scotland \(NRS\)](#)

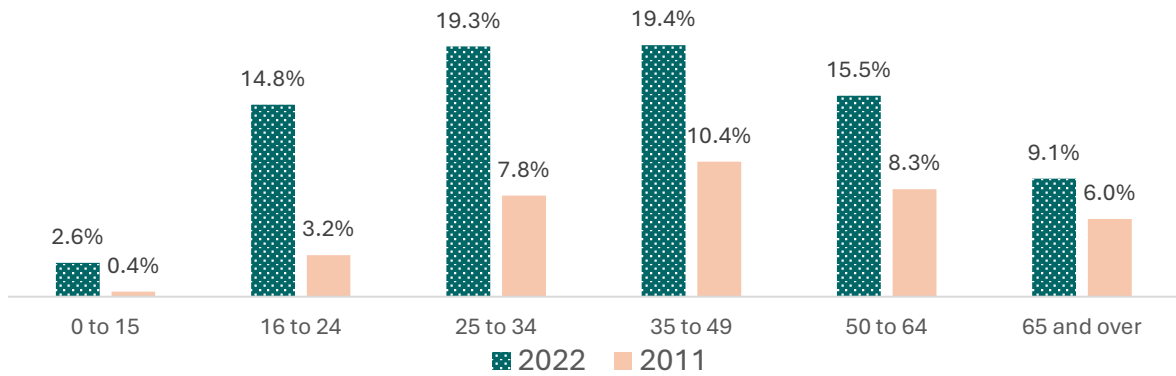
4.8 Mental Health

4.8a) Changes in population with a mental health condition (2011 and 2022)

The number of people in Inverclyde who said that they had a mental health condition increased from 5,205 (6.4% of the population) at the time of Census 2011, to 10,312 (13.1% of Inverclyde’s population) at Census, 2022. In Scotland, the percentage of the population reporting a mental health condition also increased, in 2011 it was 4.4%, rising to 11.3% in 2022.

The increase in the number of people reporting a mental health condition in Inverclyde was driven by a large increase among younger people. In 2022 younger people were more likely to report a mental health condition than older people. In 2011 the reverse was true.

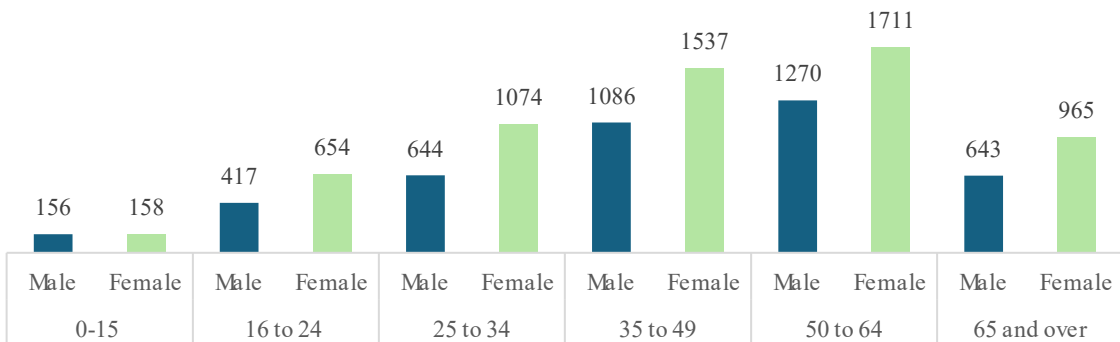
% of people who reported a mental health condition by age, Inverclyde 2022 and 2011



4.8b) Mental Health Condition (gender breakdown)

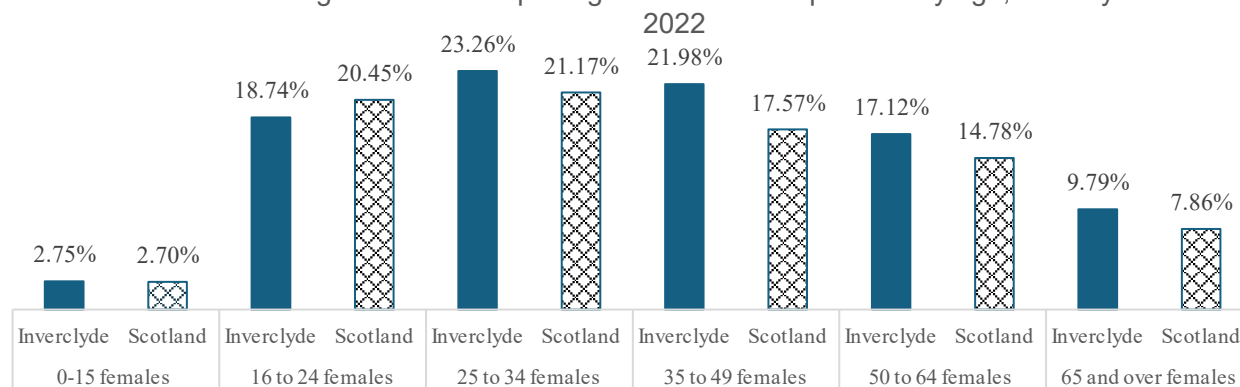
The Census showed a higher percentage of females in Inverclyde reported a mental health condition across all age groups in 2022 compared to Inverclyde males. This pattern was also reflected at a Scotland level.

Number of people reporting a mental health problem, by sex and age, Inverclyde 2022



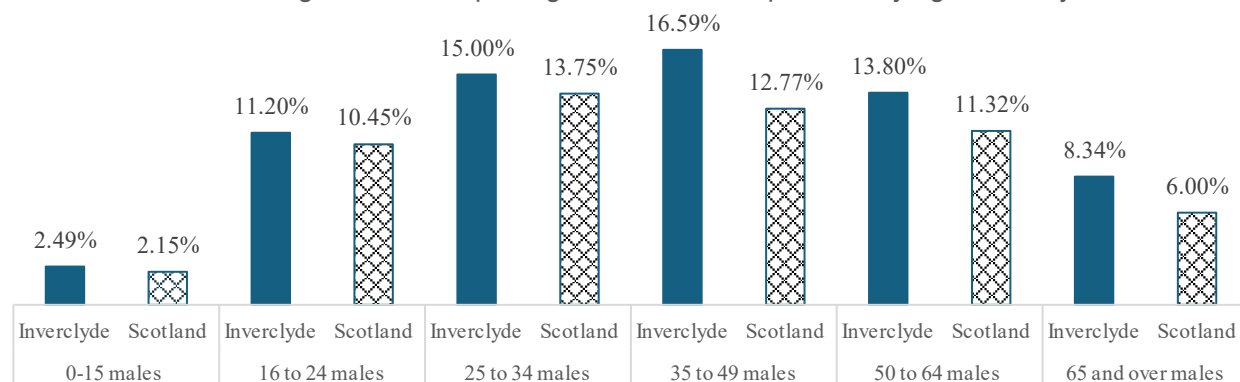
The percentage of females in Inverclyde reporting a mental health condition as a proportion of the population was higher than the Scottish average in all age bands, except for 16-to 24-year-olds.

Percentage of females reporting a mental health problem by age, Inverclyde



The percentage of males in Inverclyde reporting a mental health condition as a proportion of the population was higher than the national average in all age bands.

Percentage of males reporting a mental health problem by age, Inverclyde 2022

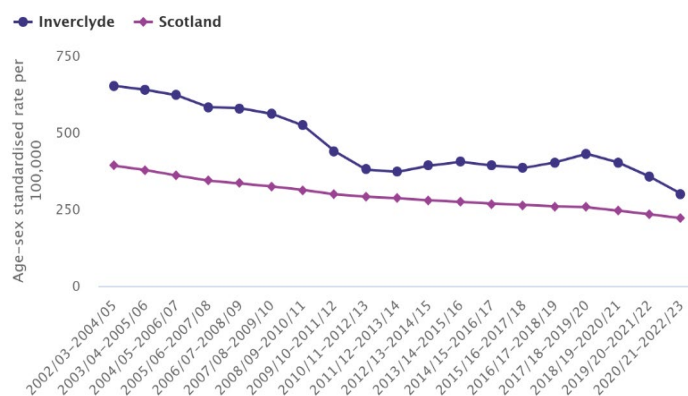


4.8c) Psychiatric Hospitalisations

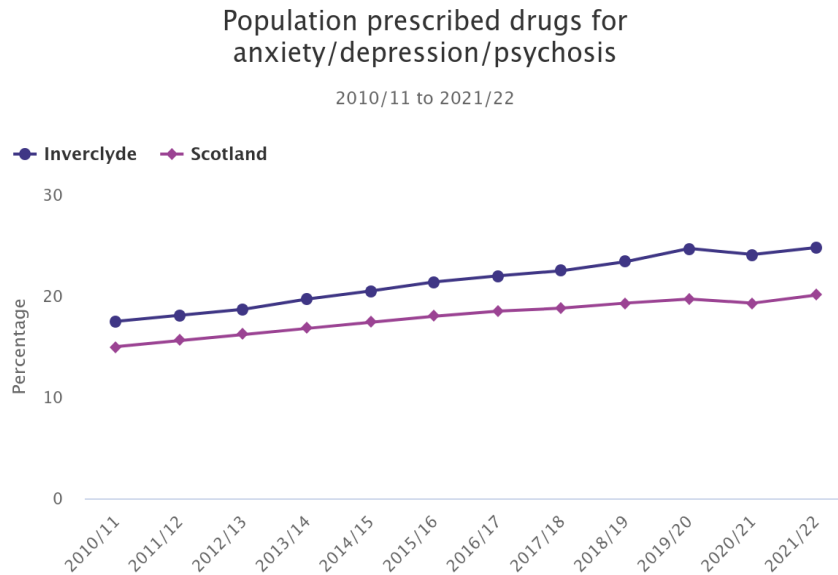
Scotpho publishes data on psychiatric hospitalisation over a three-year aggregate period. In 2020/23, the rate of patients with a psychiatric hospitalisation was higher in Inverclyde than the national average; 300.1 in Inverclyde compared to 220.9 in Scotland. The rate in Inverclyde is more than half that in 2002/05 when it was 652.4. The gap between Inverclyde and Scotland has narrowed over the same period.

Psychiatric patient hospitalisations

2002/03–2004/05 to 2020/21–2022/23



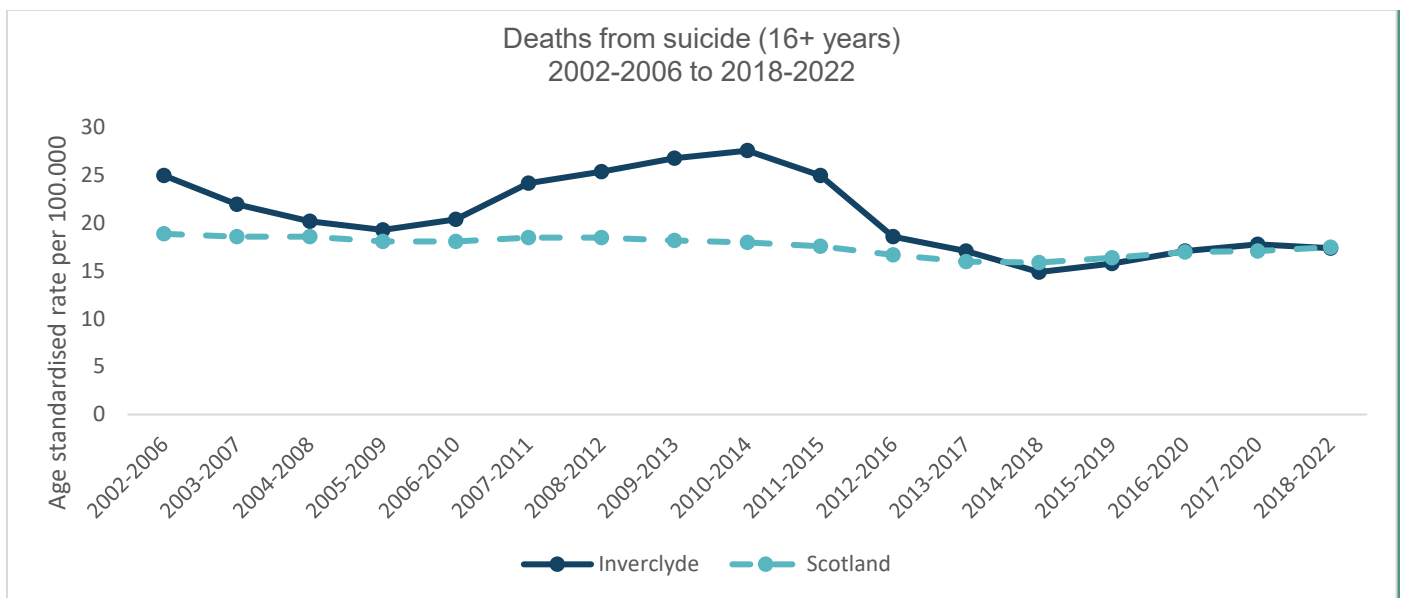
The percentage of the population prescribed drugs for anxiety/depression/psychosis was higher than the national average in 2021/22; 24% of Inverclyde’s population compared to 20.14% of the whole Scottish population. The chart below shows how the percentage of the population prescribed drugs for anxiety depression / psychosis compares over the period 2010/11 to 2021/22 in both Inverclyde and Scotland. There is an increasing trend at both an Inverclyde and Scotland level.



Source: www.scotpho.org.uk/comparative-health/profiles/online-profiles-tool

4.8d) Deaths from suicide

The chart below shows the rate of death by intentional self-harm and by undetermined intent ('probable suicides'), per 100,000 adults. Deaths by intentional self-harm and by undetermined intent are termed 'probable suicides'. Following a decreasing trend between 2011/15 to 2014/18, the rate of deaths due to suicide in Inverclyde increased again in 2015/19 and is close to the rate for Scotland as a whole.



Source: www.scotpho.org.uk/comparative-health/profiles/online-profiles-tool

4.9 Dementia

As Inverclyde’s population ages, more people are at risk of developing dementia with women being at more likely than men to develop dementia in their lifetimes, partly because of their longer life expectancy. Dementia presents a significant challenge to individuals, carers and health and social care services across Scotland.

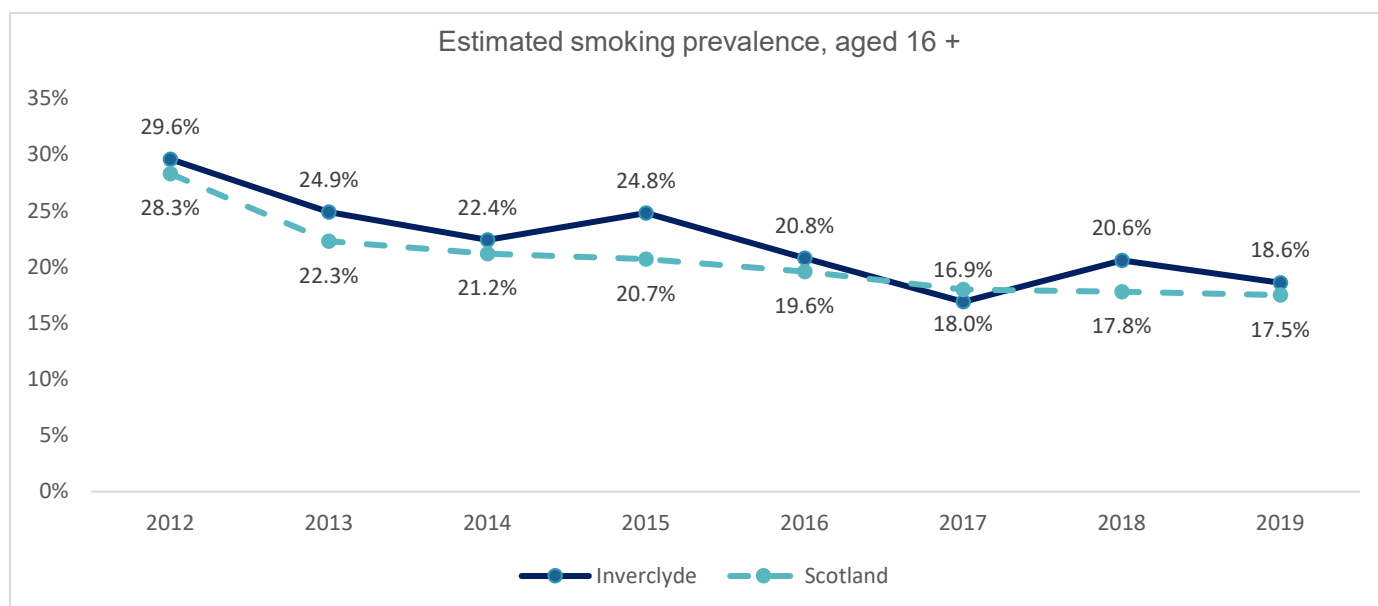
Alzheimer’s Research UK publish data by parliamentary constituency. It is estimate that 1,389 people in Inverclyde are living with dementia, approximately 1.5% of Inverclyde’s population.

https://visualisation.polimapper.co.uk/?dataSetKey=dementia-prevalence-by-uk-constituency-2024&client=alzheimersresearch#con_over=Inverclyde%20and%20Renfrewshire%20West

4.10 Smoking

4.10a) Smoking prevalence

Smoking related illnesses can affect an individual’s health and socio-economic outcomes. There is a slightly higher percentage of adults who smoke in Inverclyde compared to Scotland as a whole. The chart below shows an overall decrease over time in both Inverclyde and Scotland, although more recently there has been an increase in Inverclyde.



Source: [ScotPHO profiles](#)

6.10b) Smoking during pregnancy

Smoking in pregnancy is related to other health issues, particularly the low birth weight of babies and child health. Smoking rates are highest in the most deprived quintile (20% most deprived) as shown below, however the Inverclyde rate falls below the Scottish average in all quintiles.

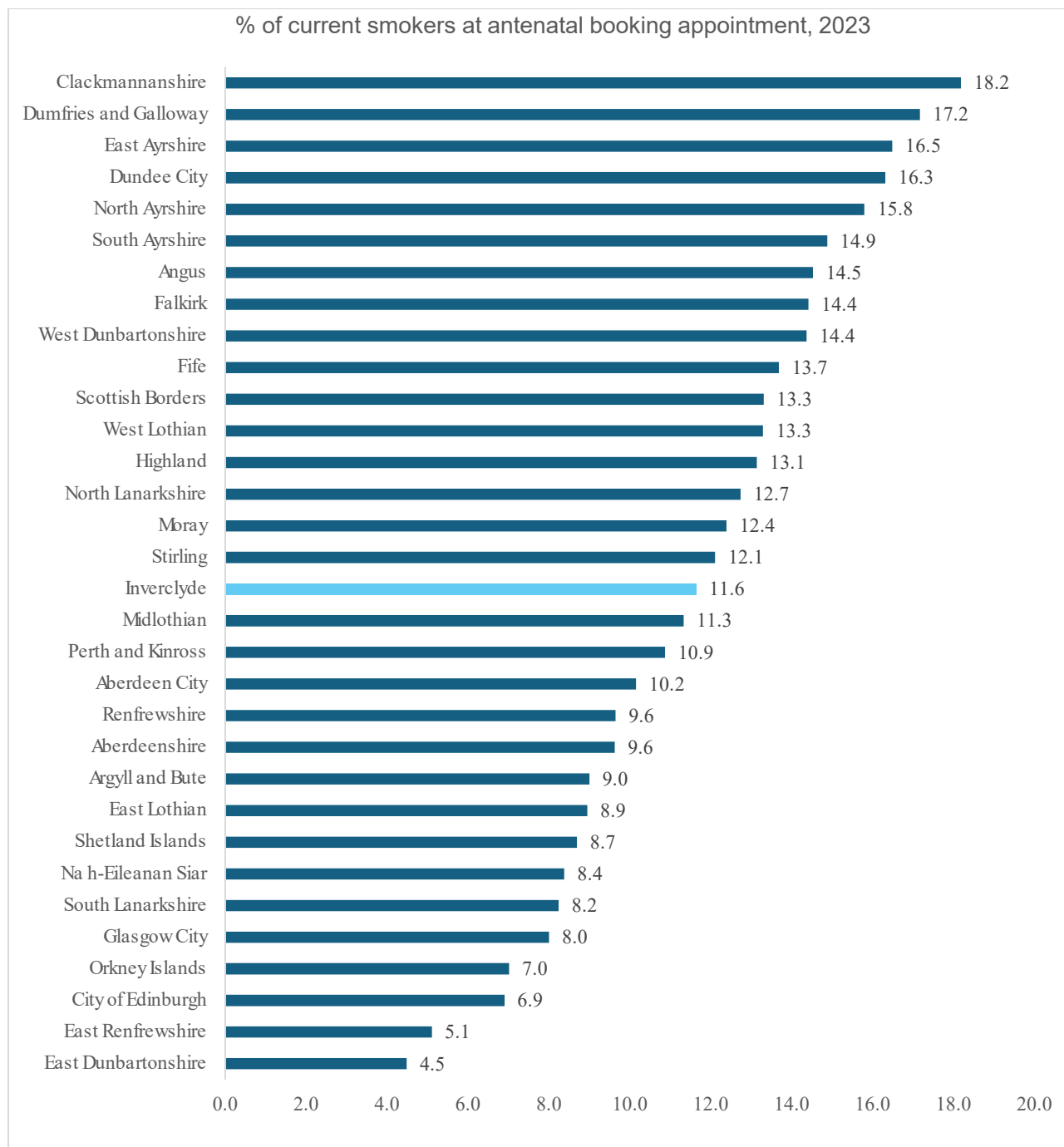
Smoking during pregnancy 2019/20 – 2020/21

Smoking during pregnancy (% of women)	Inverclyde	Scotland
Quintile 1 (Most Deprived)	21.7	24.3

Quintile 2	11.8	17
Quintile 3	5.4	10.4
Quintile 4	2.6	5.9
Quintile 5 (Least Deprived)	1.1	2.5

Source: [Online Profiles Tool - ScotPHO](#)

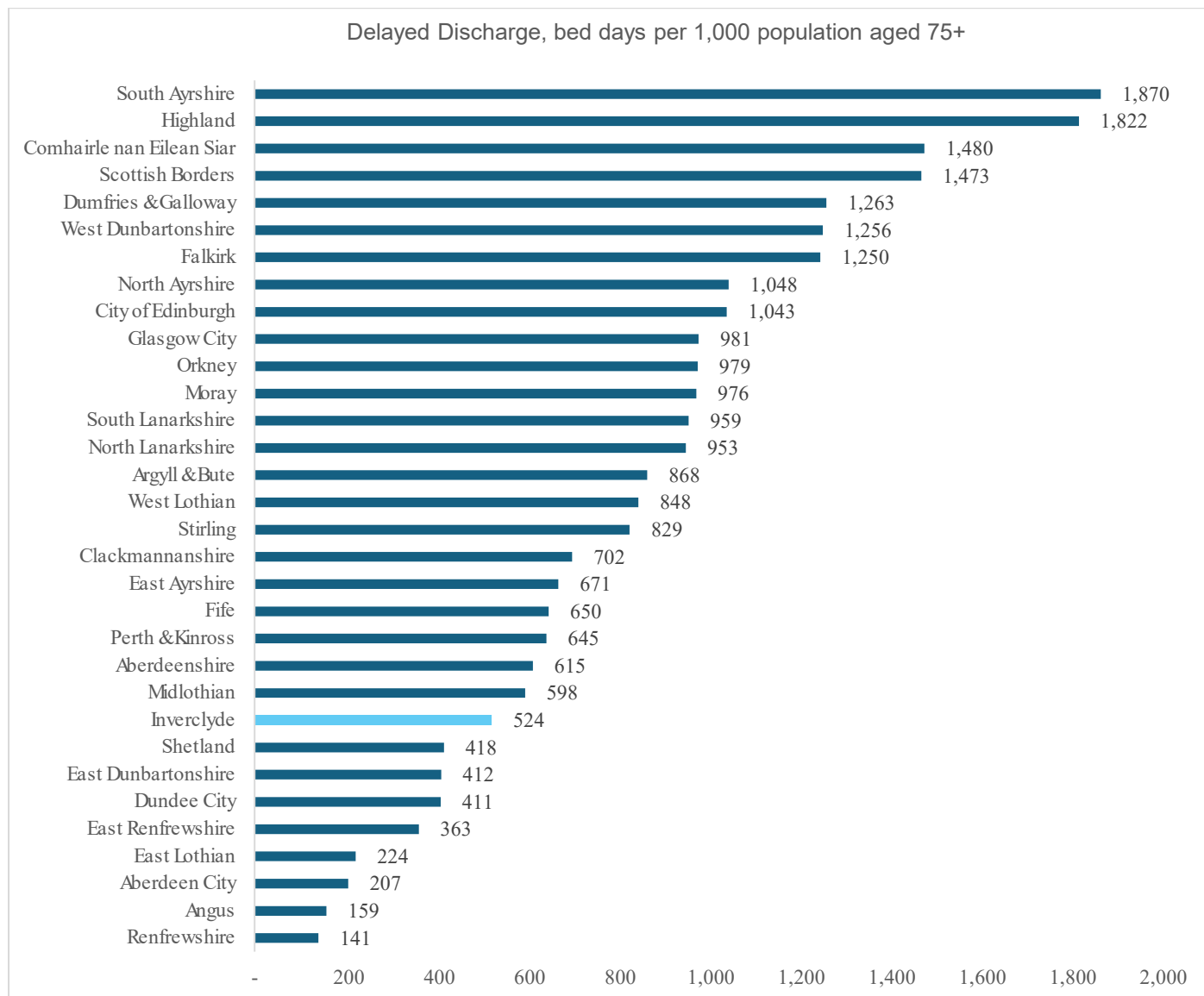
In 2023, 11.6% of woman at the time of their antenatal appointment were current smokers. The Scotland figure is 11%. Inverclyde ranks at the mid-point of all Scottish local authorities.



Source: [Antenatal booking in Scotland - Calendar year ending 31 December 2023 - Antenatal booking in Scotland - Publications - Public Health Scotland](#)

4.11 Delayed Discharge from Hospital

In 2023/24, Inverclyde had the ninth lowest rate in Scotland for bed days occupied by delayed discharge patients aged 75 years and older as illustrated in the following graph.

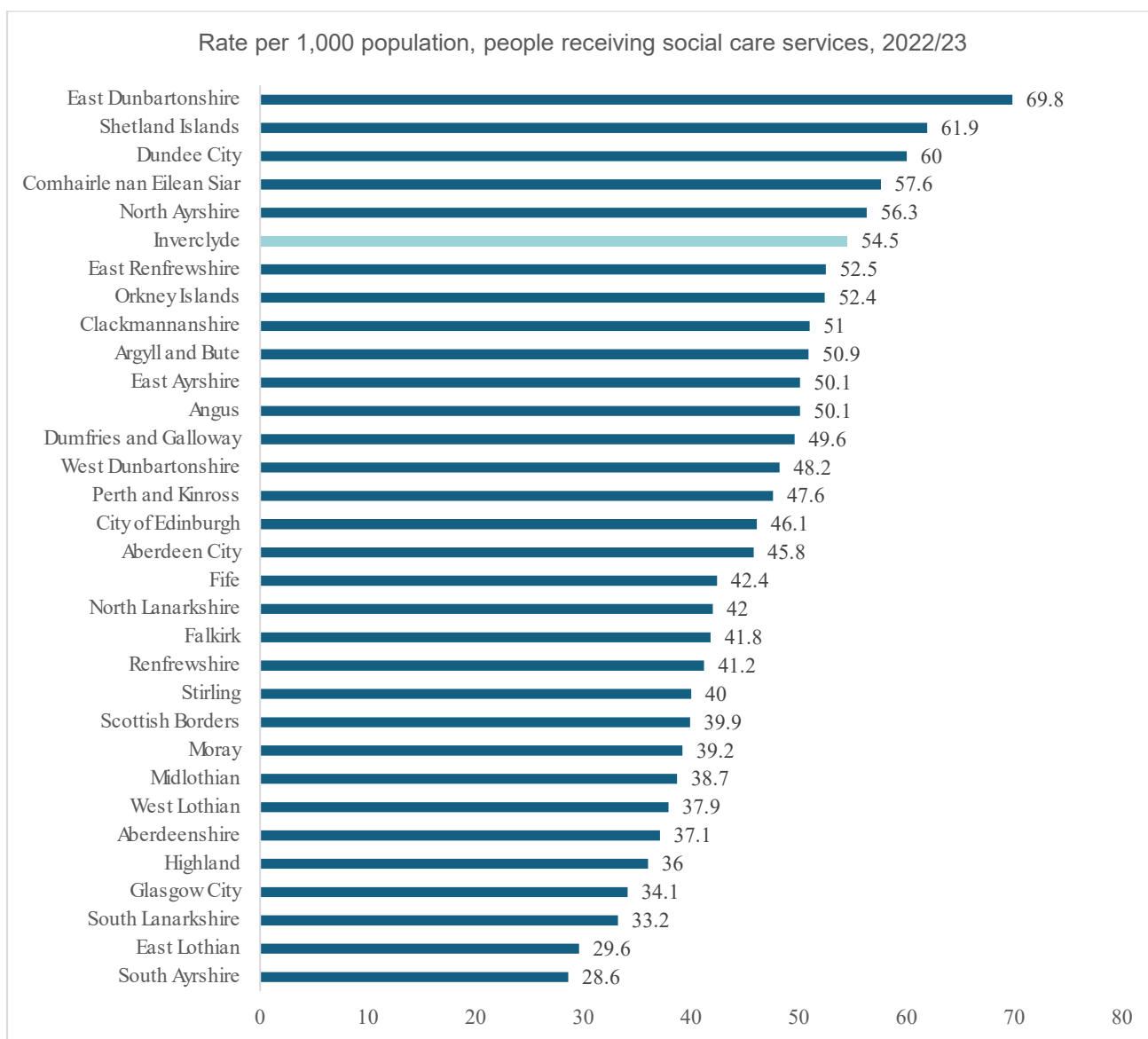


Source: <https://beta.isdscotland.org/find-publications-and-data/health-and-social-care/delayed-discharges/delayed-discharges-in-nhsscotland-annual/>

4.12 People supported by Social Care Services

4.12a) Residents supported by Health and Social Care Partnership

The chart below presents information on the rate per 1,000 population of people who received social care services or support in Scotland by Council area, during 2022/23 and by the Health and Social Care Partnership providing this support. These services and support include home care, care home, meals, community alarm/telecare, housing support, social worker and day care. People involved in choosing and controlling their support through self-directed support options are also included.



4.12b) Balance of Care 2013 - 2023

The table below provides a breakdown of the balance of care for in Inverclyde for those with long term needs. The data relates to Census week, which is usually the last week in March.

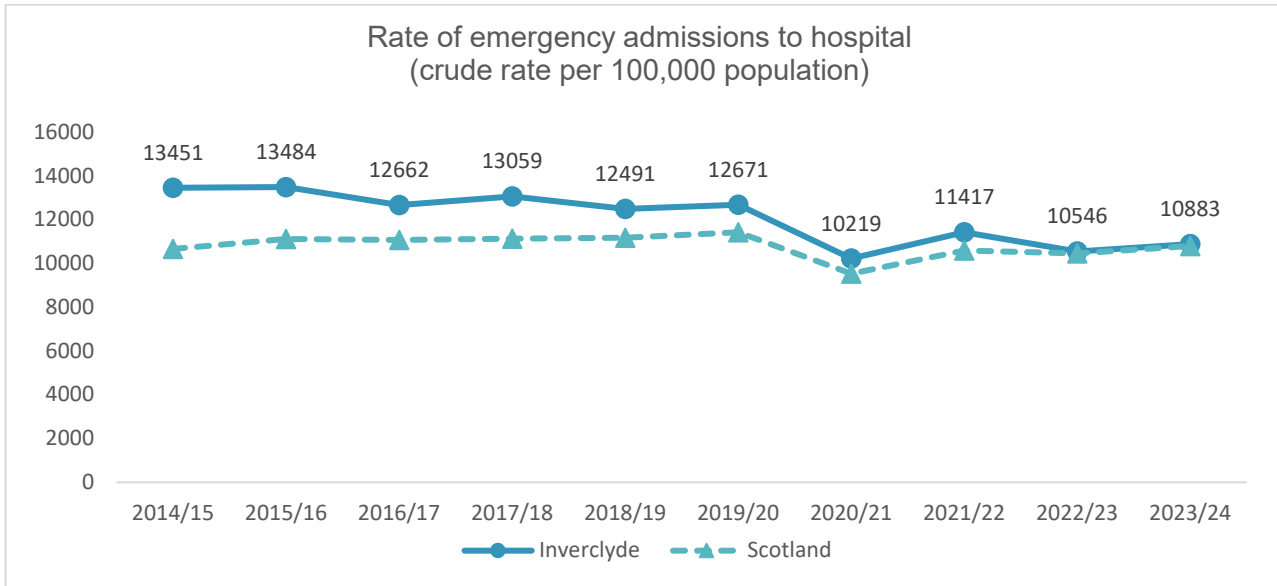
Type of care	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Personal Care at home	1,290	1,305	1,215	1,295	1,295	1,235	1,200	1,265
Long stay care home residents	595	700	750	695	675	615	600	585
Continuing care census / HBCCC	55	60	60	50	50	25	40	40
% receiving personal care at home	66.5%	63.2%	60.0%	63.5%	64.1%	65.9%	65.2%	66.9%

Type of care	2021	2022	2023
Personal Care at home	1,265	1,245	1,135
Long stay care home residents	535	535	505
Continuing care census / HBCCC	40	40	40
% receiving personal care at home	69.5%	68.4%	67.4%

[People supported through Social Care Services; Support provided or funded by health and social care partnerships in Scotland 2022/23 - People supported through Social Care Services - Publications - Public Health Scotland](#)

4.13 Emergency Hospital Admissions (episodes crude rate per 100,000 population)

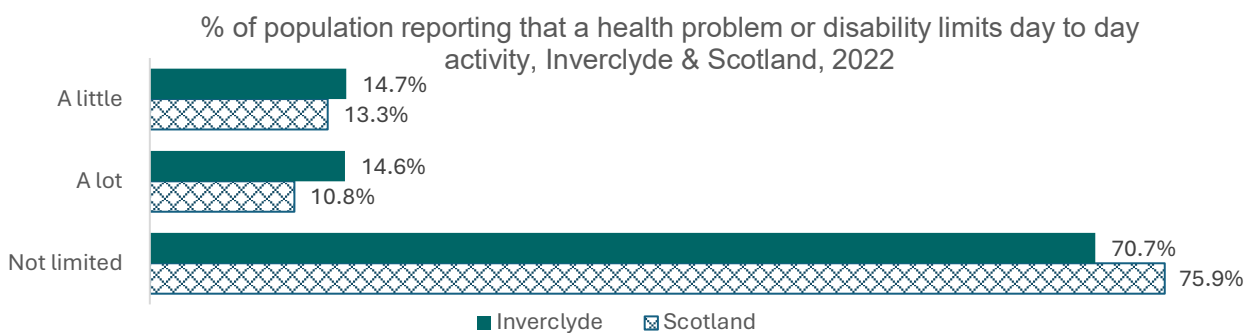
Whilst the rate of emergency admissions (per 100,000 people) to hospital in Inverclyde has been higher than the Scotland rate, in recent years it has become closer to the Scottish level.



4.14 Long term health problem or disability

The Census asked respondents if they had a long-term health problem or disability that limits their day-to-day activity, and has lasted, or is expected to last, at least 12 months. This included problems that are related to old age. People were asked to assess whether their daily activities were limited a lot, or a little, by such a health problem, or whether their daily activities were not limited at all.

11,434 people (14.5%) in Inverclyde reported that they had a health problem or disability that limited their day-to-day activities **a lot**. 11,543 people (14.7%) reported that they had a health problem or disability that limited their day-to-day activities **a little**.



Of the total number of people in Inverclyde who said that their health or disability limits their day-to-day activities a little or a lot, 55% were female and 45% male.

Physical disability

9,985 (12.7%) of Inverclyde's population said that they had a physical disability. The proportion of those with a physical disability increases as people age.

Age	Male	Female	Total	% of people with a physical disability as a % of total population	% of people with a physical disability as a % of that age group
0-15	98	63	161	0.2%	1.3%
16-24	69	92	160	0.2%	2.2%
25-34	133	184	317	0.4%	3.6%
35-49	423	610	1033	1.3%	7.6%
50-64	1322	1735	3054	3.9%	15.9%
65 and older	2139	3121	5260	6.7%	29.9%

Source: 2022 Census

ENVIRONMENT PROFILE

Key messages

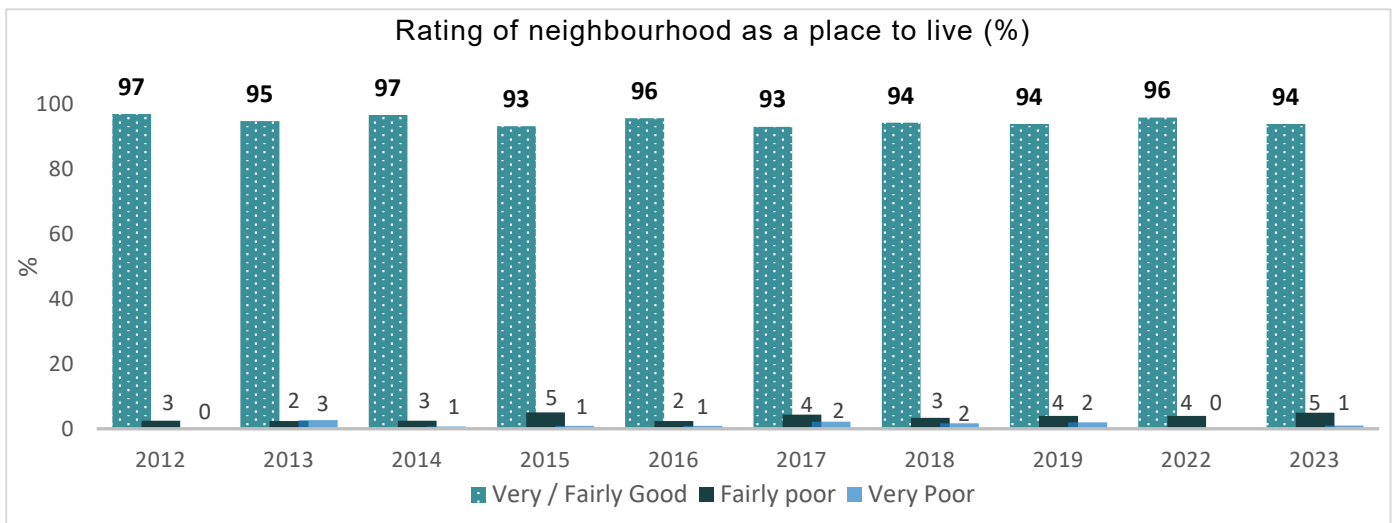
- A high proportion of Inverclyde respondents to the Scottish Household Survey rate their neighbourhood as a good place to live which is encouraging.
- Good progress has been made in reducing its CO₂ emissions within the scope of influence of the local authority, with emissions being consistently reduced year on year.
- Home ownership, either with a mortgage or owned outright is the largest household tenure in Inverclyde, with 63% of households falling into this category. More than 70% of owner-occupied homes in Inverclyde are owned by someone aged over 50.
- Whilst there has been an increase in recorded crime between 2022/23 and 2023/24, there has been a significant overall decrease between 2014/15 and 2023/24.
- Fire call outs in Inverclyde continue to be the highest in Scotland and deliberate fire raising is a significant issue in certain area of Inverclyde.

ENVIRONMENT

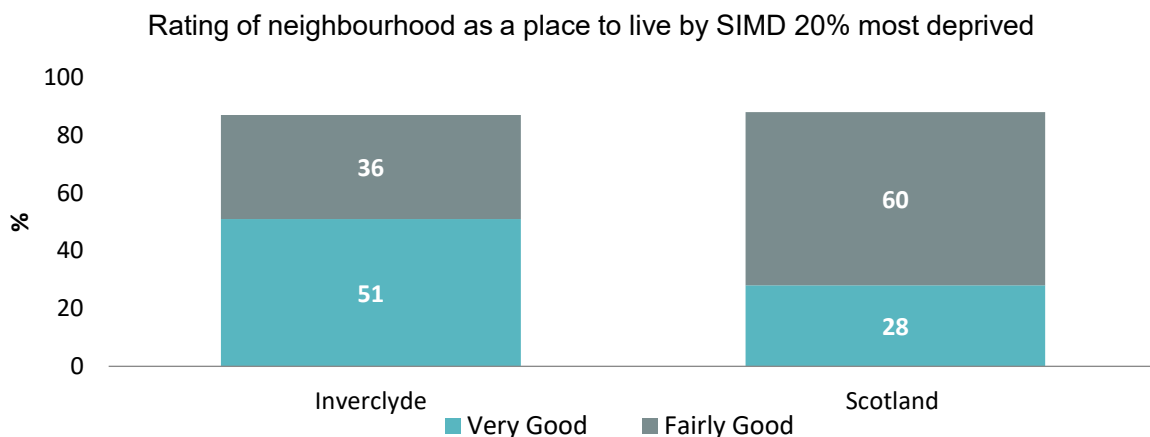
5.1 Living environment

Physical and social environments that nurture good health can help to reduce health inequalities and improve mental health and wellbeing. Those living in deprived areas are more likely to be exposed to environmental factors that have a negative impact on their overall health.

The Scottish Household Survey provides information on the composition, characteristics and behaviour of Scottish households at a national and local authority level. The chart below shows that the vast majority of Inverclyde respondents of Inverclyde, 94%, rated their neighbourhood as either very or fairly good to live.



When compared to the Scottish average, a significantly greater proportion of people living in the 20% most deprived communities in Inverclyde rated their neighbourhood as a very good place to live, 51%, compared to 28% in Scotland. Overall, 87% of those in the 20% most deprived area in Inverclyde said that their neighbourhood was a very or fairly good place to live, compared to 88% in Scotland, which is not statistically different.



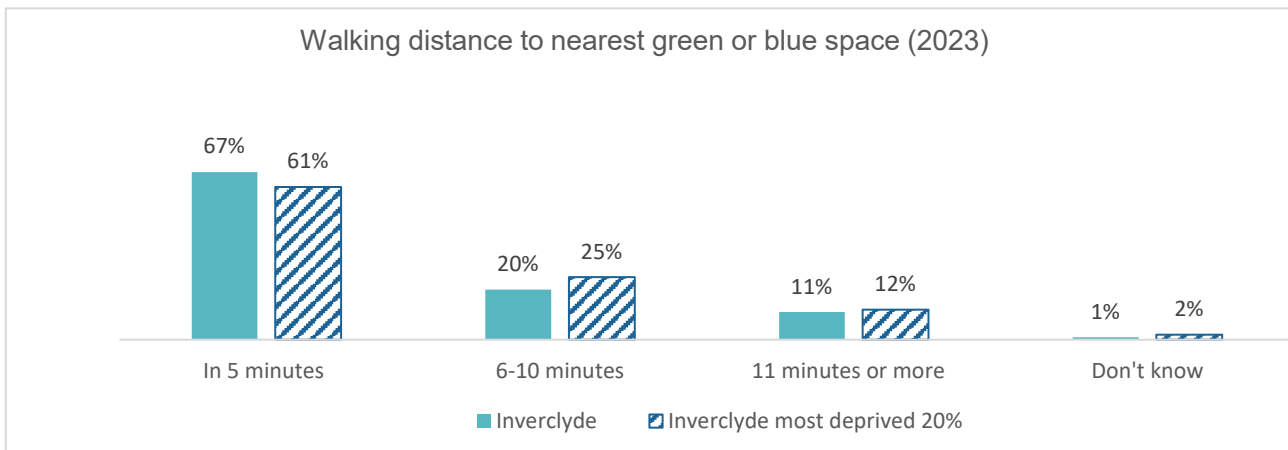
Source: [SHS Data Explorer](#)

5.2 Open Space

5.2a) Access to Open Space

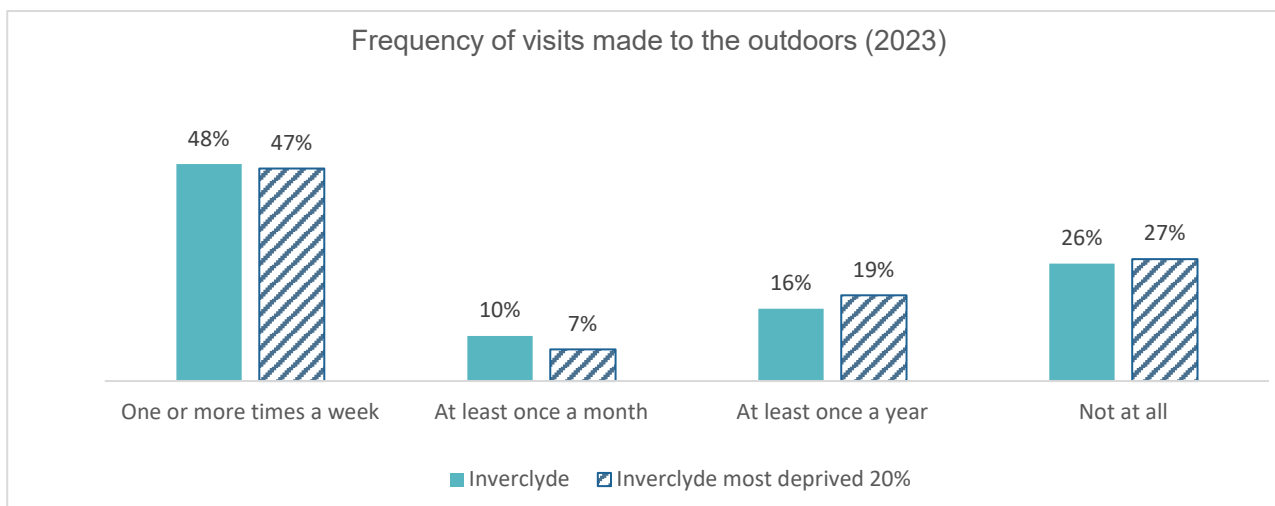
The Covid-19 pandemic led to an increased focus on the value of good quality outdoor space and the benefits that this can bring.

67% of Inverclyde respondents to the Scottish Household Survey 2023 said that they live within 5 minutes walking distance to their nearest green or blue space. The percentage decreases slightly for those Inverclyde respondents living in the 20% most deprived communities. Overall, 87% of Inverclyde respondents said that they live within 10 minutes walking distance to the nearest greenspace. Walking distance to the nearest green or blue space for those living in the 20% most deprived areas in Inverclyde is not statistically different to the overall figures for Inverclyde.



Source: Scottish Household Survey - [SHS Data Explorer](#)

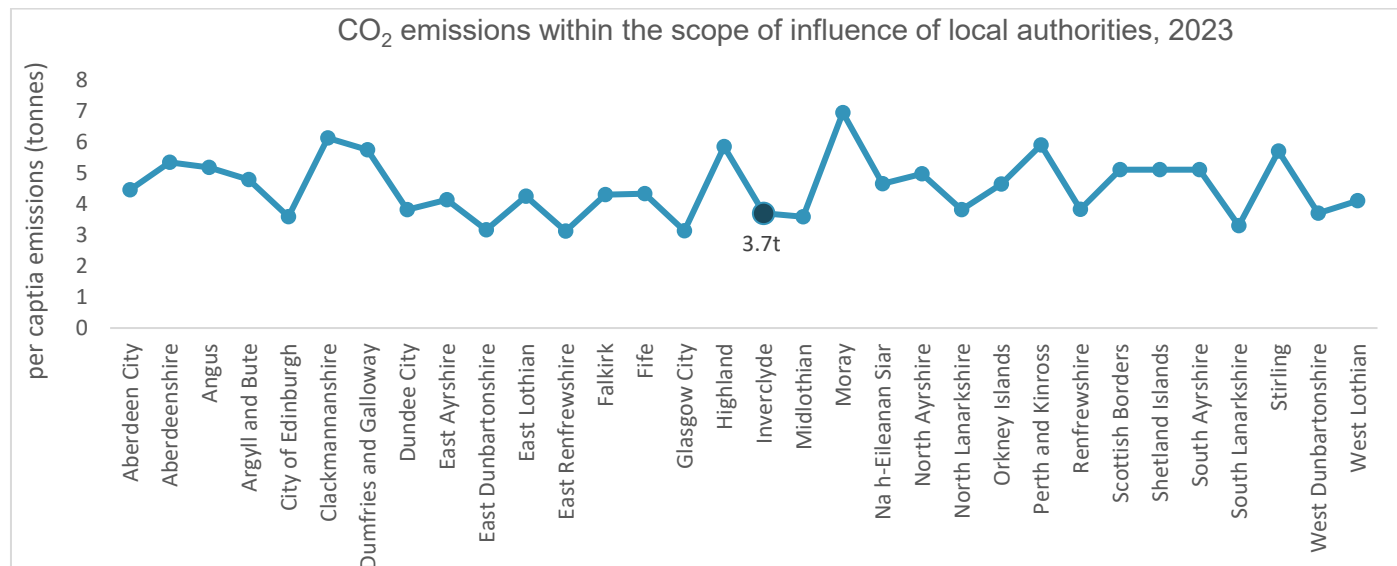
When comparing frequency of visits to the outdoors there is a slight difference between the overall percentage for Inverclyde and those living in the 20% most deprived, however the difference is not statistically different.



Source: [SHS Data Explorer](#)

5.3 Emissions

CO₂ emissions within the scope of influence of the local authority have decreased in Inverclyde from 6.9 tonnes per capita in 2006 to 3.7 tonnes per capita in 2022. The chart below shows how CO₂ emissions in Inverclyde compared with other local authorities in Scotland in 2022. Inverclyde has the joint seventh lowest emissions of all Scottish Councils.



Source: [UK local authority and regional greenhouse gas emissions statistics, 2005 to 2022 - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-local-authority-and-regional-greenhouse-gas-emissions-statistics-2005-to-2022)

5.4 Vacant and Derelict Land in Inverclyde, 2024

There was 147.54ha (86 sites) of vacant and derelict land in Inverclyde as at 31 March 2024.

Of the land area, 78.95% was vacant land, 0.17% vacant land and buildings, and 20.88% derelict

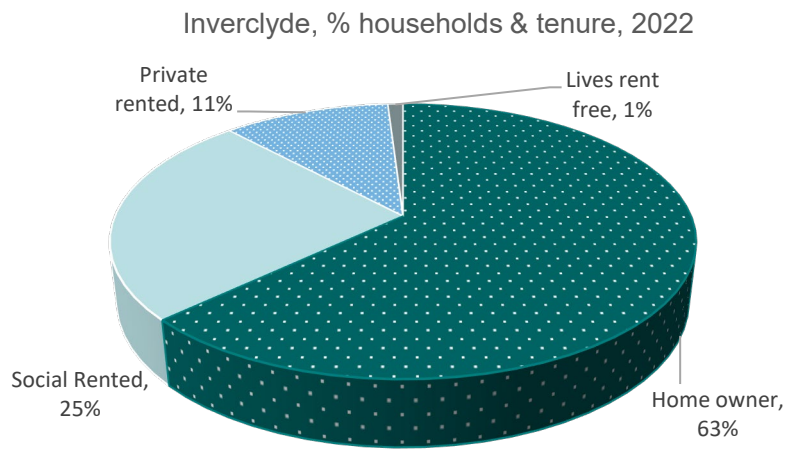
Source: <https://www.inverclyde.gov.uk/planning-and-the-environment/planning-policy/land-surveys>

5.5 Housing

5.5a) Household Tenure

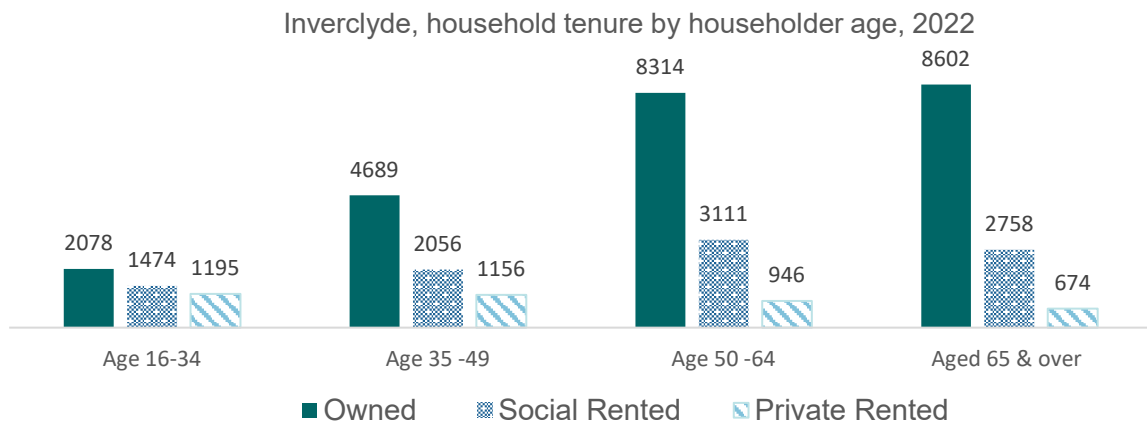
Census data on tenure describes whether a household rents or owns the accommodation they live in. Of Inverclyde's 37,405 recorded households:

- 23,687 households in Inverclyde said that they owned their own home (either outright or with a mortgage), this equates to 63% of all Inverclyde households, the same as the national average and is 1% higher than in 2011.
- 9,399 households in Inverclyde lived in social rented housing, at 25% this is 2% below 2011 level.
- The percentage of households renting privately remained relatively steady between 2011 and 2022, with a small increase in numbers from 3,942 households to 3,971 households, remaining at just above 10%.
- 344 households (1%) in Inverclyde were living rent free compared to 235 households in 2011 (0.6%).



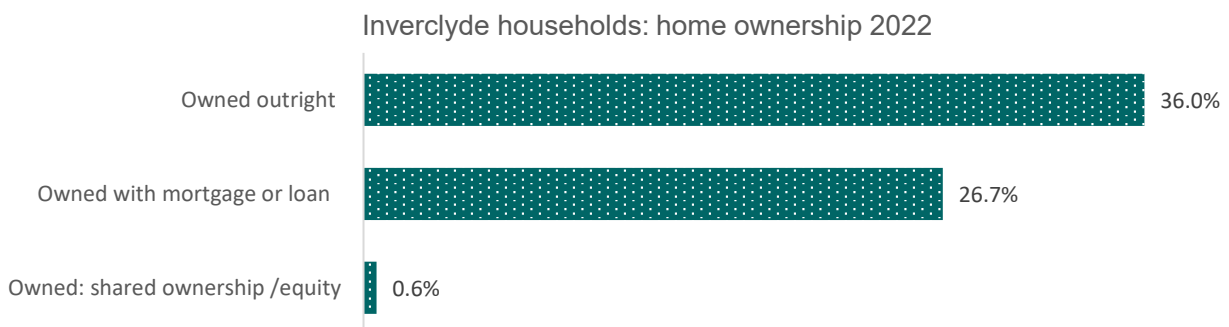
5.5b) Tenure by age of household reference person (householder)

The chart below presents a breakdown of Inverclyde’s population aged 16 and over by tenure and age of household reference person. More than 70% of owner-occupied homes in Inverclyde are owned by someone aged over 50 whilst almost 60% of those living in the private rented sector are aged under 50.



5.5c) Home ownership, 2022

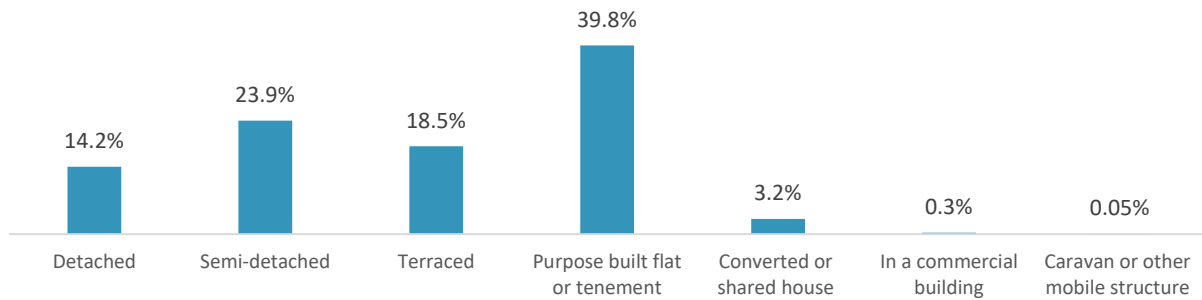
13,478 (36%) of households in Inverclyde own their home outright, compared to 34% in Scotland.



5.5d) Households and accommodation

Of Inverclyde’s 37,405 households, almost 40% lived in a purpose built flat or tenement accommodation. Almost 57% lived in a house (combined detached, semi-detached or terraced).

Inverclyde households by type of accommodation, 2022



5.5e) Scottish Housing Quality Standard

As of 31 March 2022, 62% of Registered Social landlord (RSL) housing stock in Inverclyde met the Scottish Housing Quality Standard (SHQS) which is substantially lower than the Scottish average of 91%.

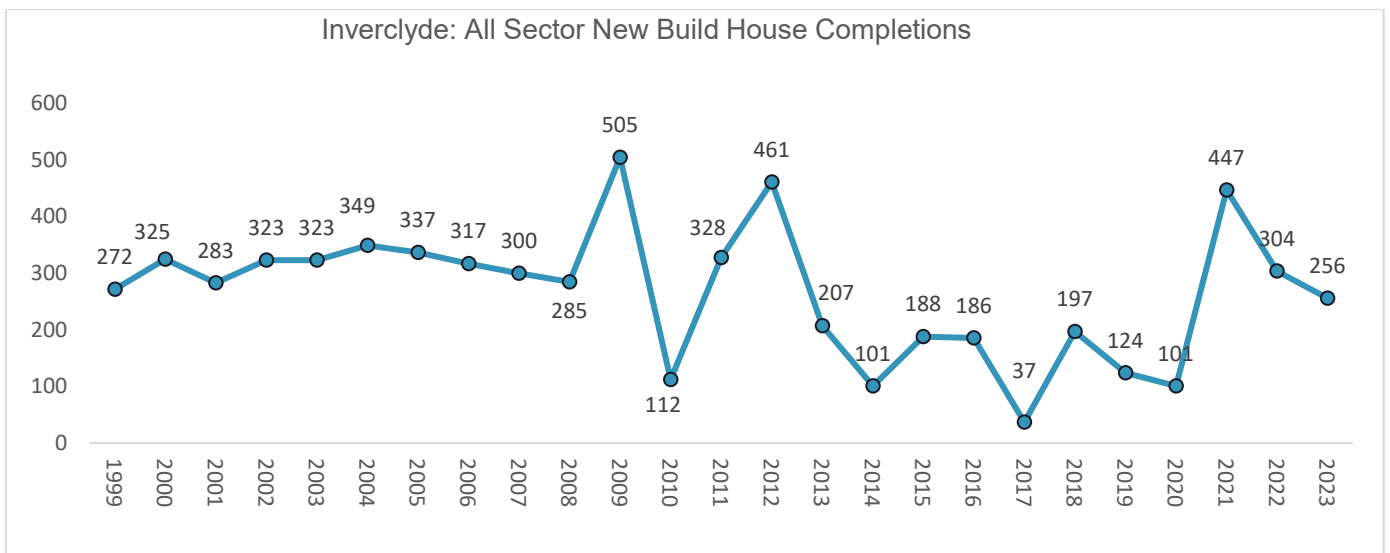
The proportion of stock meeting the SHQS in 2021/22 ranged across the four main RSLs from 34% to 74%.

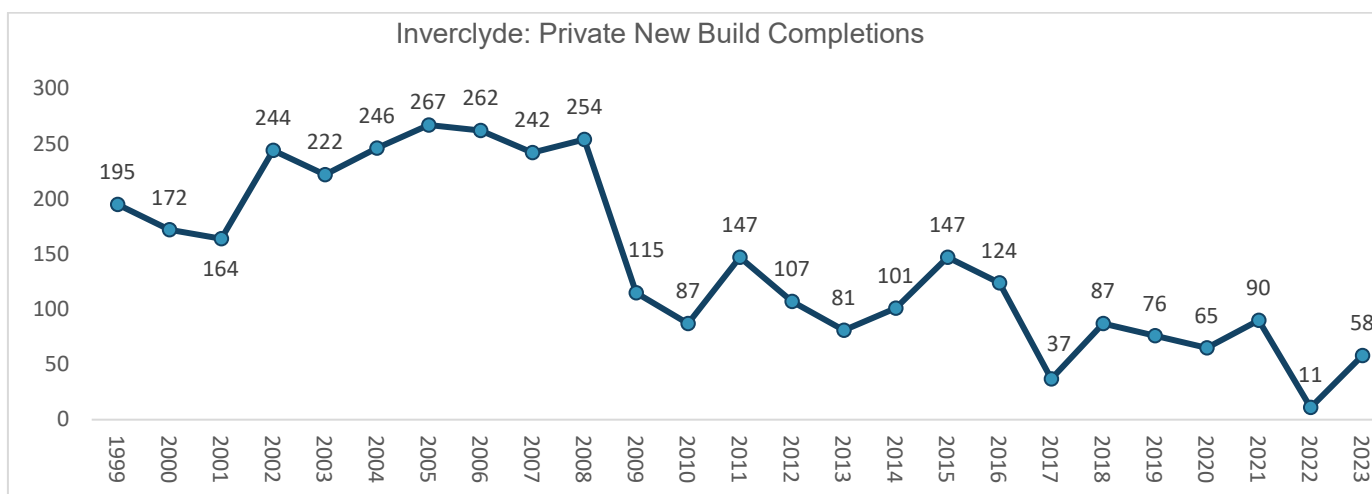
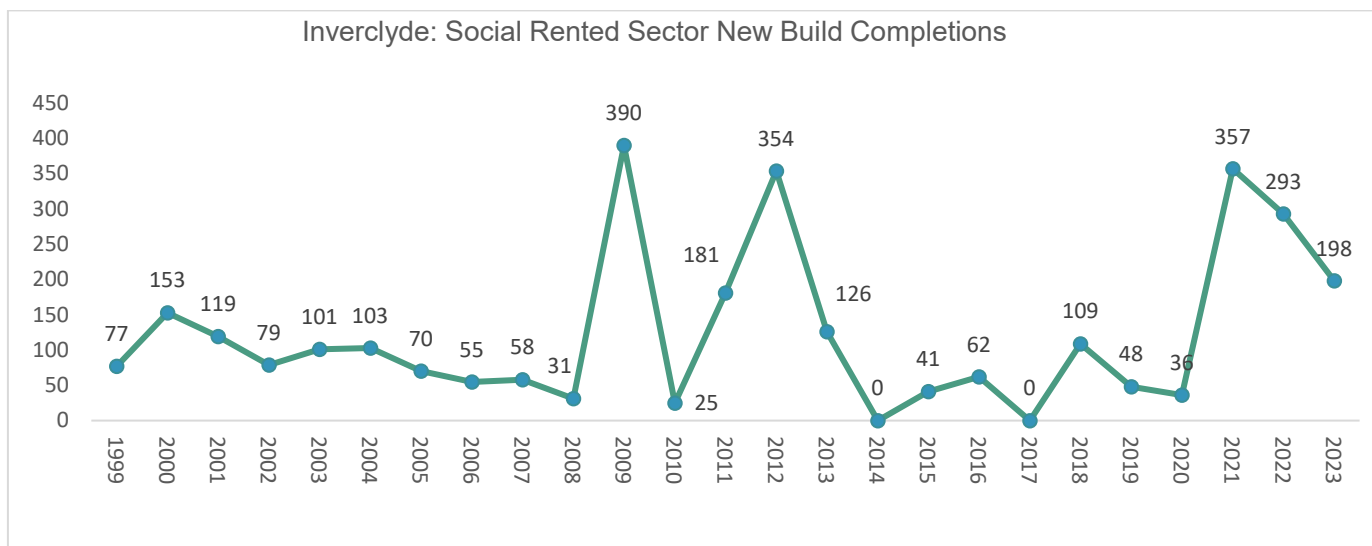
Compliance with the standard has dropped in recent years due to the publication of technical standards on EESSH.

Source: Inverclyde Local Housing Strategy 2023/28

7.5f) Housing Completions 1999-2023

The charts below show the trend in new house building completions in Inverclyde in all sectors; the social rented sector; and the private rented sector over the period 1999-2023. The highest number of completions in any one year was 505 in 2009 and the lowest was 38 in 2017.





Source: Scottish Government Housing Statistics: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/housing-statistics-for-scotland-new-house-building/>

5.6 Culture and Local Heritage

There are a total of 248 listed buildings in Inverclyde which are of special architectural or historical importance. Buildings are categorised according to their relative importance and the table below shows the number of listed buildings Inverclyde has in each category.

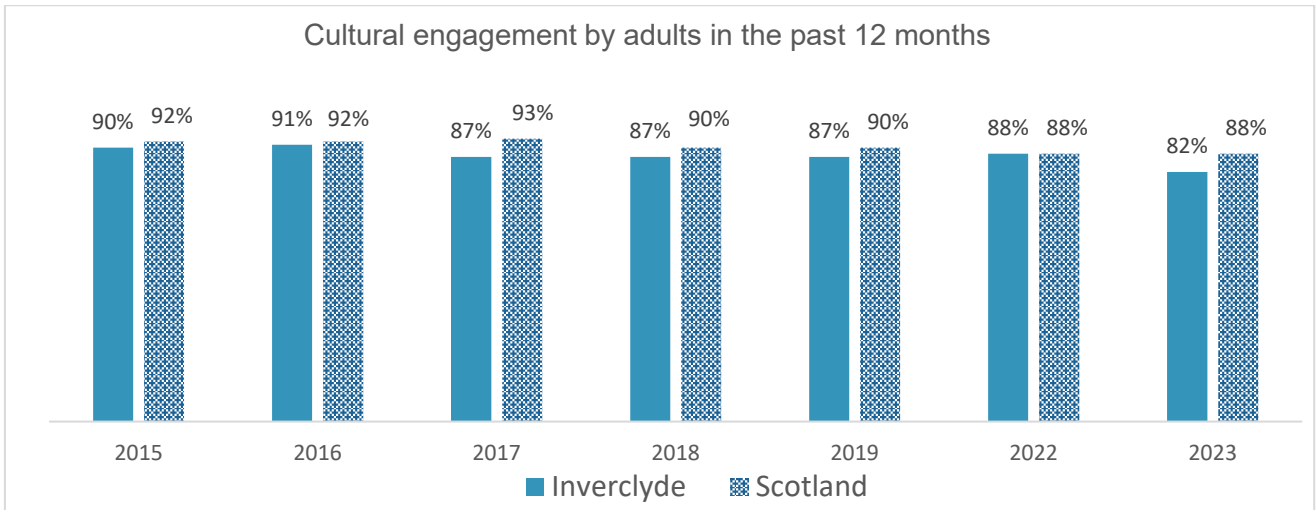
Category	Number of Buildings
A – Buildings of national or international importance.	25
B – Buildings of regional or more than local importance.	129
C – Buildings of local importance.	94

Source: Inverclyde Council

5.6a) Cultural Engagement

The Scottish Household Survey includes questions on cultural engagement. Cultural engagement is defined as those adults who have either attended at least one type of cultural place or who have participated in a cultural activity in the previous 12 months.

Cultural engagement by Inverclyde adults in the past 12 months dropped between 2022 and 2023, whilst remaining unchanged for Scotland.

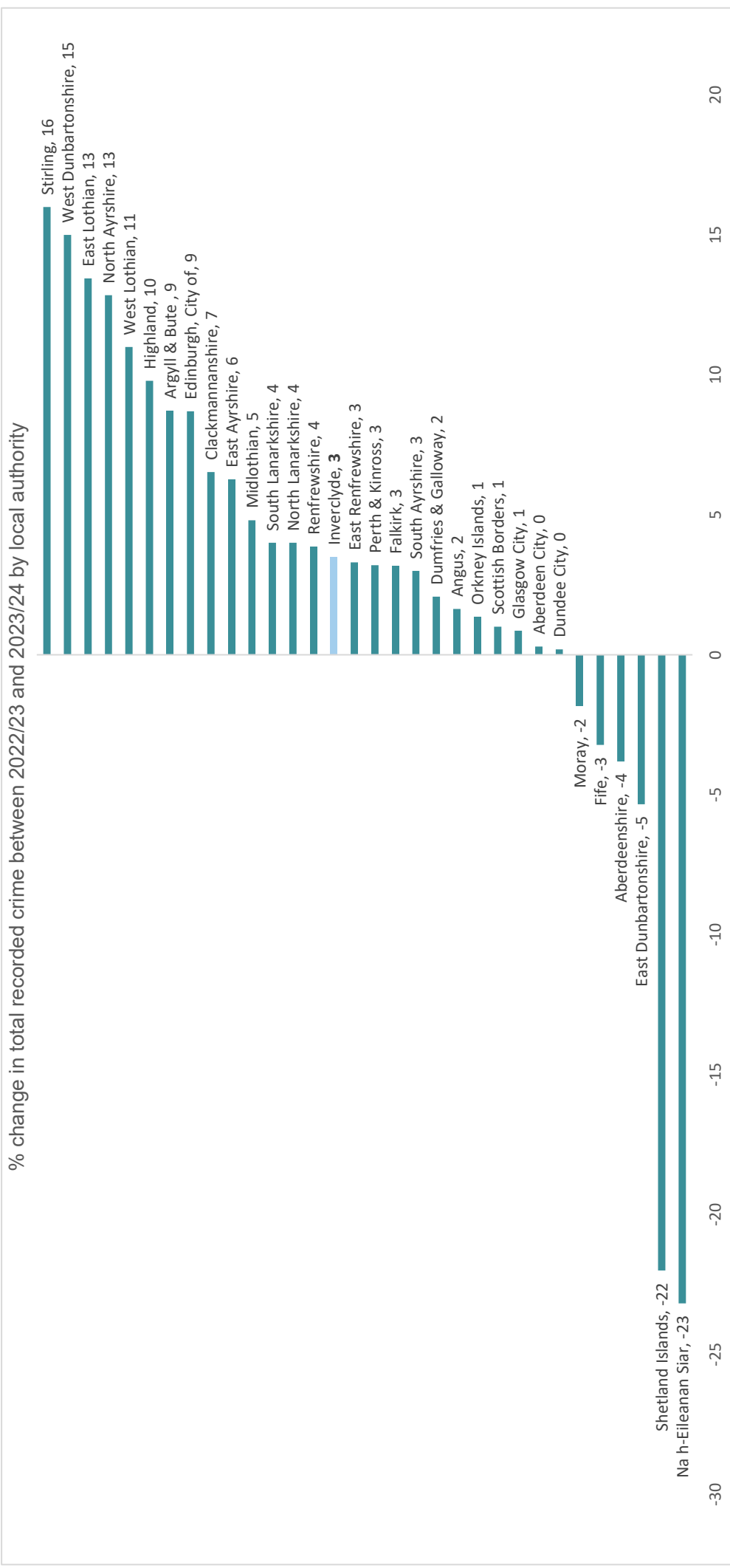


Figures from 2018 onwards are not directly comparable with previous years due to changes in the wording of the cultural attendance and participation questions in 2018.

Source: <https://scotland.shinyapps.io/sq-scottish-household-survey-data-explorer/>

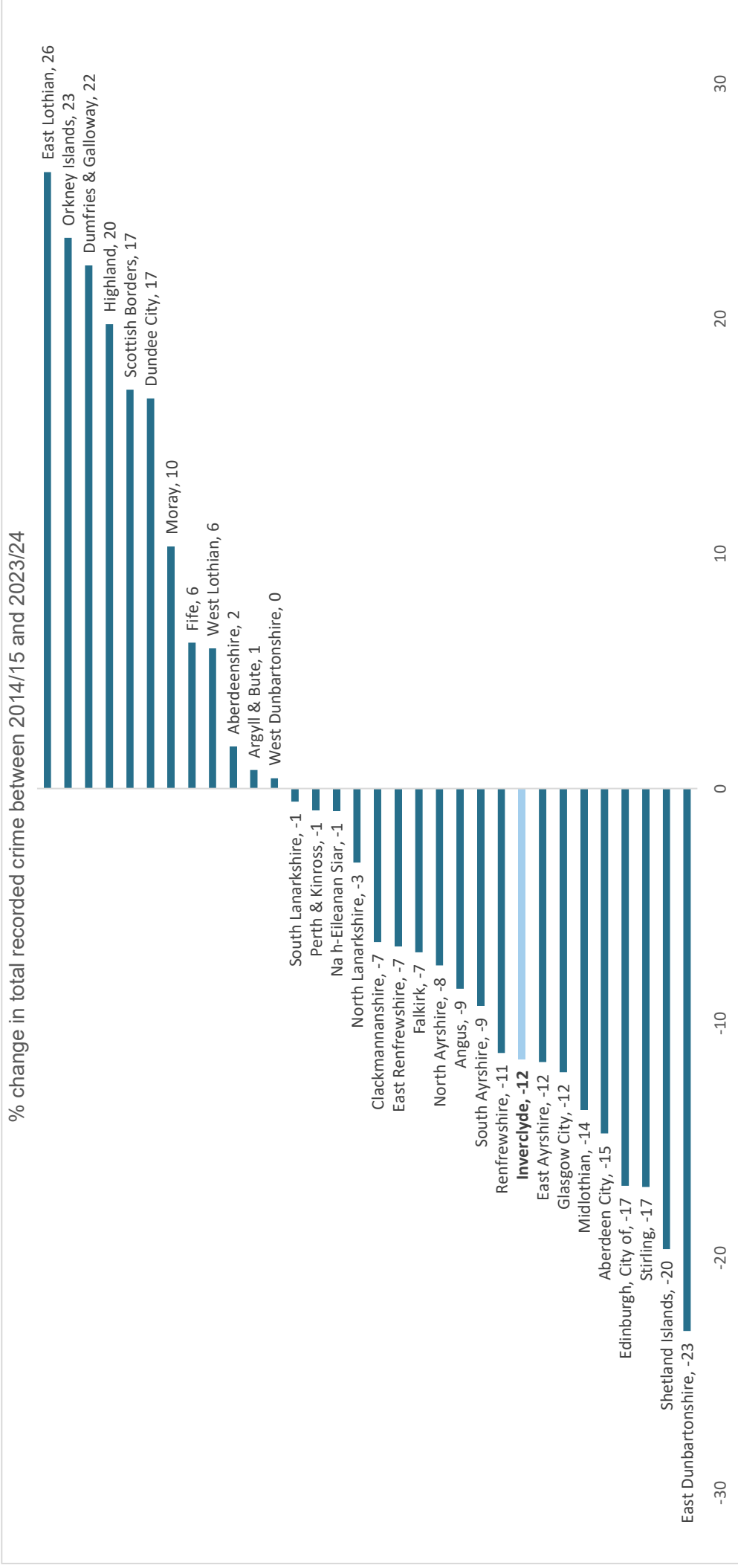
5.7 Community Safety

This section provides a snapshot of some Inverclyde statistics relating to community safety. Inverclyde recorded a 3% increase in crime between 2022/23 and 2023/24.



Source: [Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2023-24 - gov.scot](https://www.gov.scot/reCORD/Recorded-Crime-in-Scotland-2023-24)

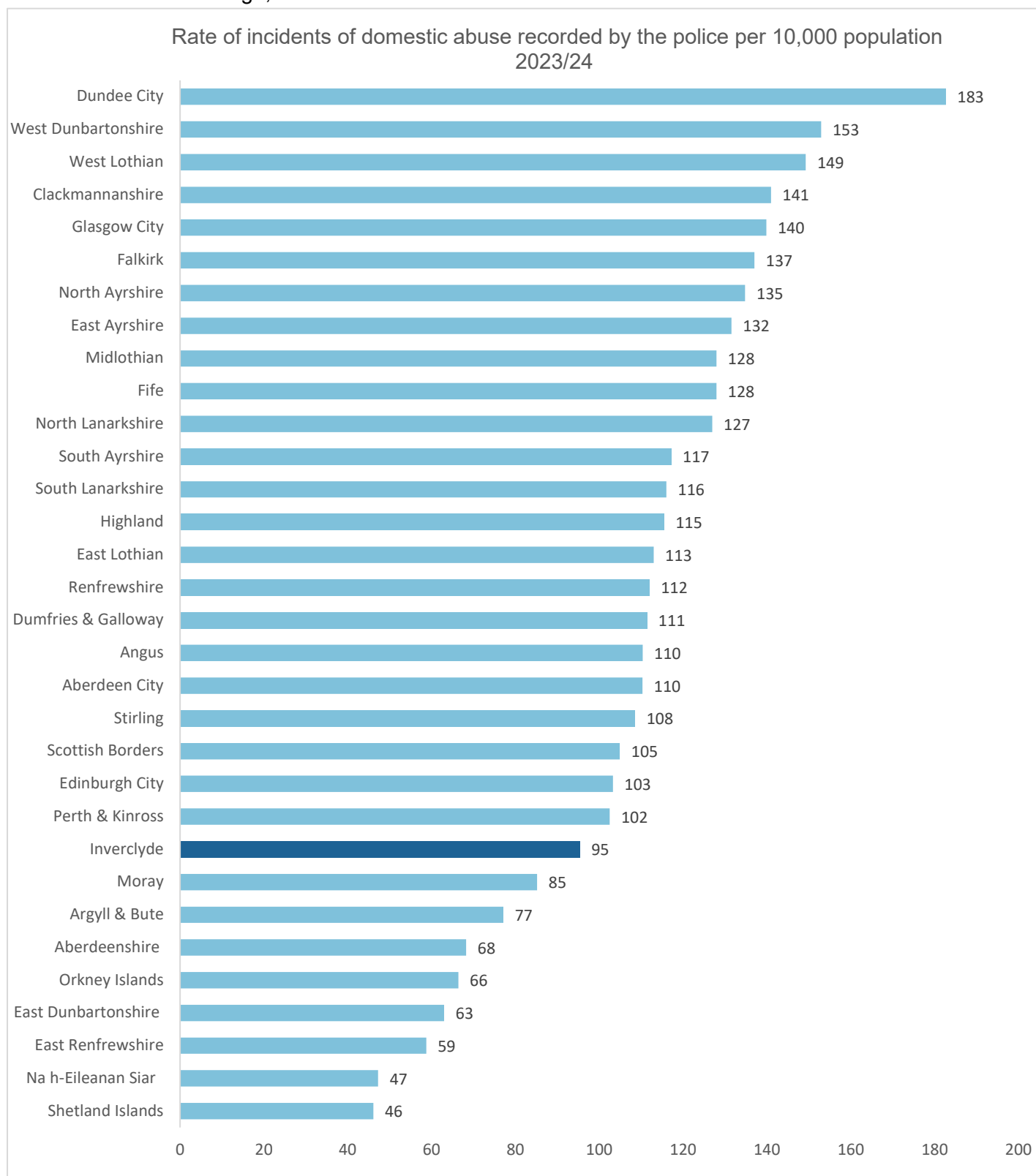
Over the longer period, 2014/15 to 2023/24, Inverclyde had the joint 7th largest drop in total recorded crime in Scotland.



Source: [Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2023-24 - gov.scot](https://www.gov.scot/Recorded-Crime-in-Scotland-2023-24)

Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police per 10,000 population, by local authority, 2023/24

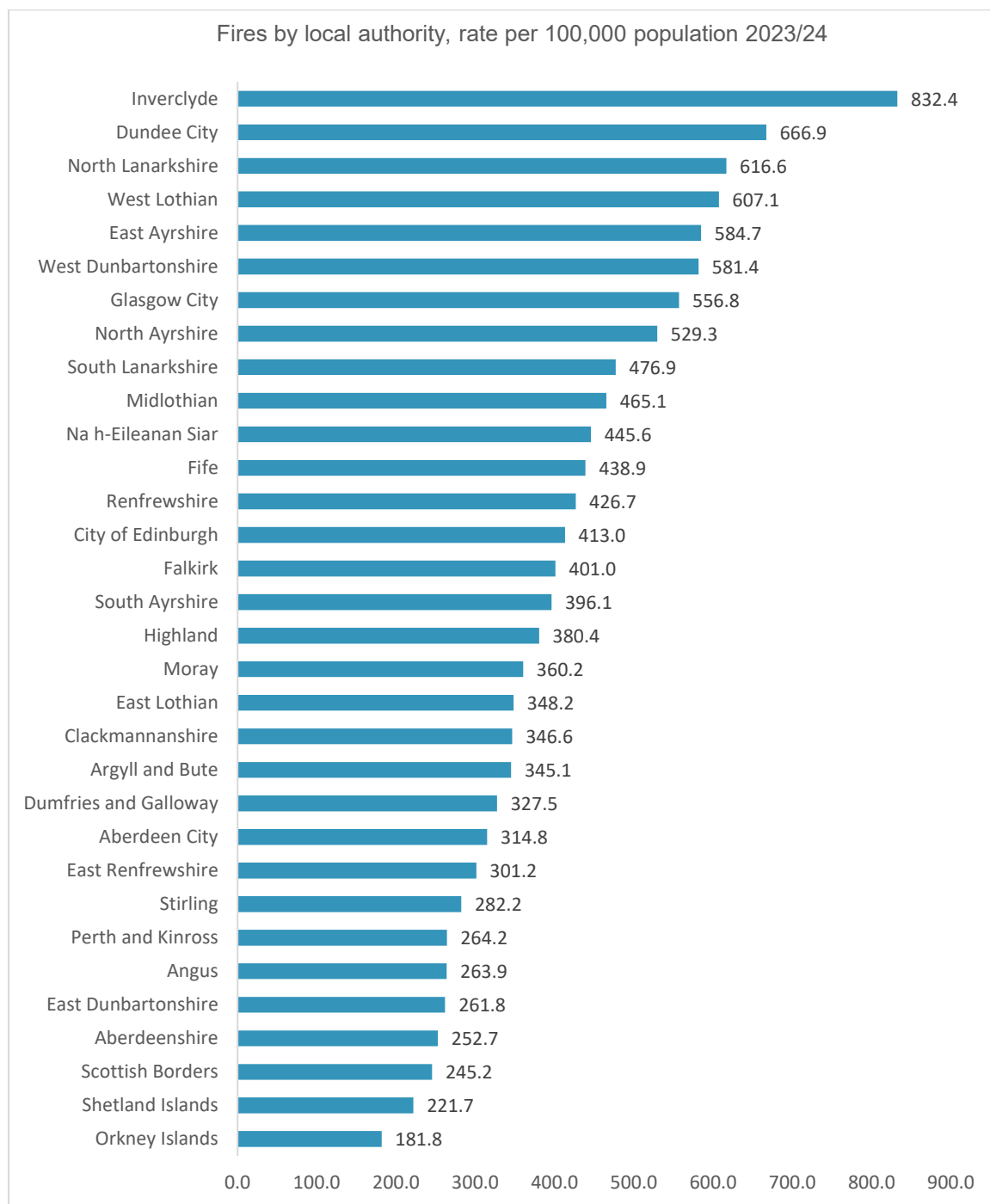
In 2023/24, the rate of domestic abuse incidents per 10,000 population in Inverclyde was 95, which was below the Scottish average, 116. Rates for all Council areas are shown below.



Source: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/domestic-abuse-recorded-police-scotland-2020-21/documents/>

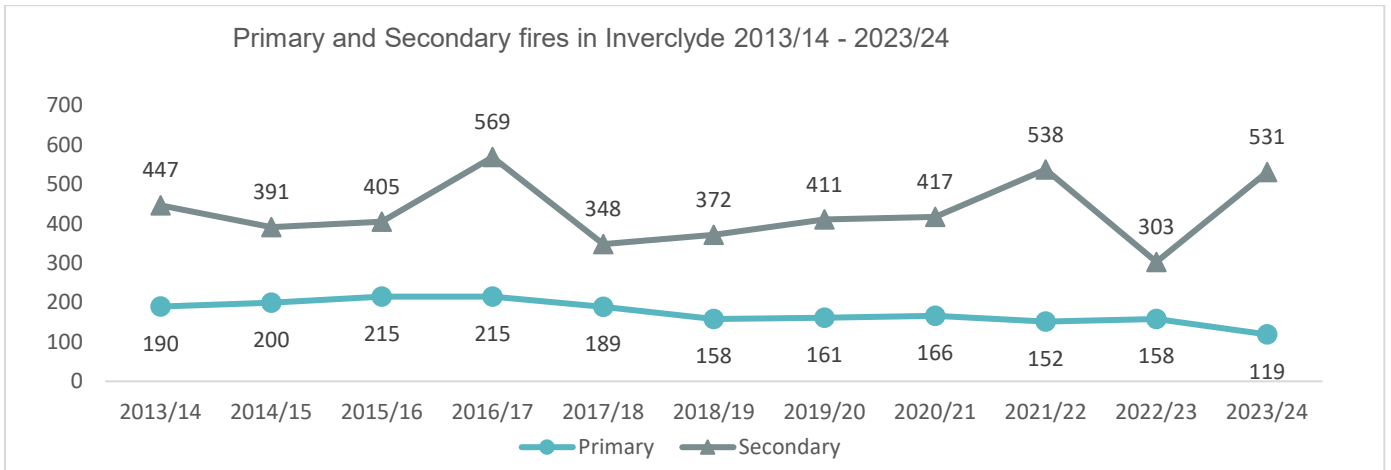
5.8 Fire Safety

In 2023/24 Inverclyde had the highest rate per 100,000 population for the total number of fires in Scotland. Inverclyde also had the highest rate of fires per 100,000 population in 2021/22 and 2020/21.



Source: [Fire and Rescue Incident Statistics, 2023-2024, Tables and Charts | Scottish Fire and Rescue Service](#)

The chart below illustrates that the number of primary and secondary fires in Inverclyde increased again in 2023/24. The overall total number of fires in Inverclyde in 2023/24 was 652, which is an increase of 187 on the number of fires in 2022/23 (465). Total fires include primary, secondary and chimney fires.



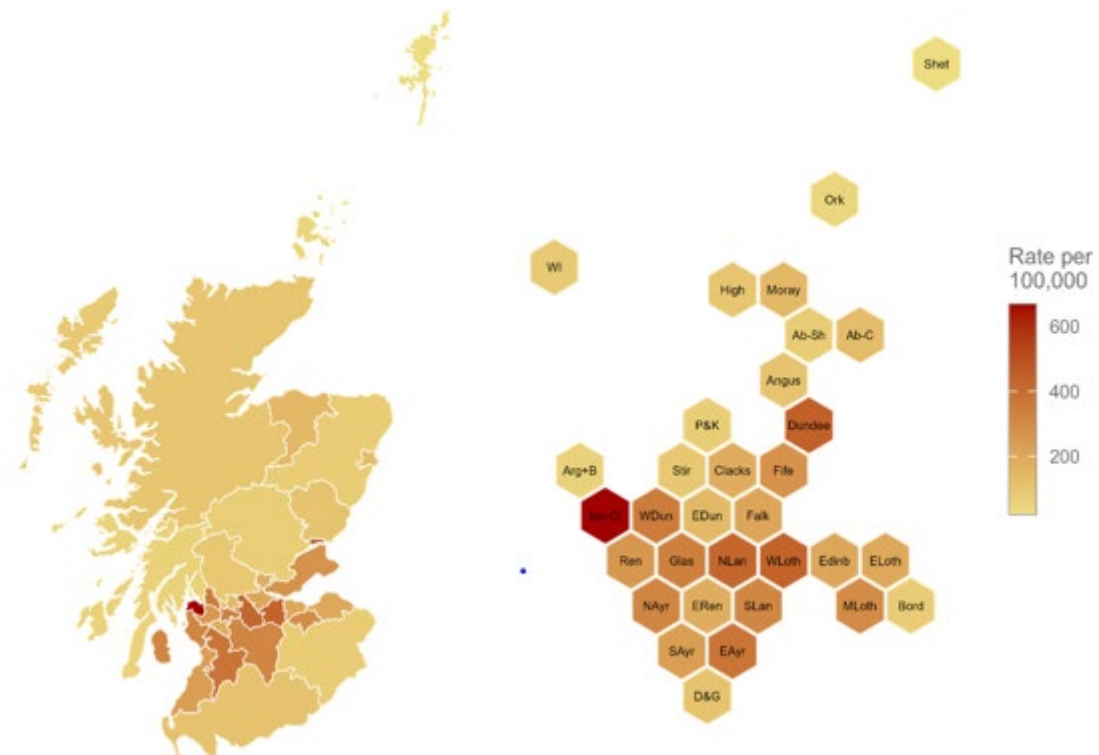
Source: Scottish Fire and Rescue Statistics: [Fire and Rescue Incident Statistics, 2023-2024, Tables and Charts | Scottish Fire and Rescue Service](#)

In addition to the primary and secondary fires shown above there was also an additional 2 chimney fires.

Deliberate Fires

The map below, which has been sourced from the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Fire and Incidents Statistics, shows that Inverclyde has a far higher rate of deliberate fire raising per 100,000 than many other areas of Scotland. 523 fires in Inverclyde in 2023/24 were classed as deliberate compared to 129 accidental fires.

Deliberate fires in Scotland 2023/24 – rates per 100,000 population



FURTHER INFORMATION

This document has been produced by the Corporate Policy Team, Inverclyde Council using the most up to date information at the time of writing (December 2024).

If you would like further information, please contact: corporate.policy@inverclyde.gov.uk or telephone (01475) 712146



Report To:	Inverclyde Alliance Board	Date:	17 March 2025
Report By:	Ruth Binks Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development, Inverclyde Council	Report No:	
Contact Officer:	Hugh Scott Service Manager, Community Learning & Development, Community Safety & Resilience and Sport, Inverclyde Council	Contact No:	01475 715450
Subject:	Community Food Growing Strategy: Year Two Progress		

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Alliance Board on progress made in relation to the year two actions contained within the Inverclyde Community Food Growing Strategy.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 requires each local authority to prepare a food growing strategy for its area, to identify land that may be used as allotment sites, identify other areas of land that could be used for community growing, and describe how the authority intends to increase provision for community growing, in particular in areas which experience socio-economic disadvantage.
- 2.2 The Community Food Growing Strategy outlines the vision for food growing in Inverclyde, which is to increase opportunities for communities to grow their own food and contribute towards a reduction in food poverty. This vision will be achieved by:
- Building capacity within communities to ensure they have the skills and knowledge to take part in food growing.
 - Creating strong partnership working between communities, the Council and housing associations.
 - Ensuring communities have the resources they need to be able to take part in food growing.
 - Contributing towards a reduction in poverty through strong partnership working.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Alliance Board notes the progress made during year two of the Inverclyde Community Food Growing Strategy.

Ruth Binks
Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development

4.0 BACKGROUND

4.1 The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act (2015) requires each local authority to prepare a food growing strategy for its area, to identify land that may be used as allotment sites, identify other areas of land that could be used for community growing, and describe how the authority intends to increase provision for community growing, in particular in areas which experience socio-economic disadvantage.

4.2 A draft Food Growing Plan was developed in June 2020 and was intended to be a holding statement. The statement set out the Council's intention to produce a Community Food Growing Strategy for Inverclyde that would meet the requirements of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 and contained details of:

- the legislative requirements;
- how food growing contributes to the Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) 2017-22;
- links to key Council policies;
- information in relation to allotments; and
- how community groups can access assistance.

4.3 A fully developed Community Food Growing Strategy was approved by the Alliance board on the 13th March 2023 with the vision:

“to increase opportunities in Inverclyde for communities to grow their own food and contribute towards a reduction in food poverty. We want these opportunities to be well used by communities and for it to result in more local residents growing and using the food they grow.”

4.4 To achieve this vision, the Food Network identified the following four priorities:

- Priority 1: Build capacity within communities to ensure they have the skills and knowledge to take part in food growing;
- Priority 2: Create strong partnership working between communities, the Council and housing associations;
- Priority 3: Ensure communities have the resources they need to be able to take part in food growing; and
- Priority 4: Contribute towards a reduction in poverty through strong partnership working.

4.5 At the Alliance board meeting on the 18th March 2024 an update on the progress for year one was presented, in which positive feedback was provided in relation to the progress made. The paper can be accessed via the following link: <https://www.inverclyde.gov.uk/assets/attach/16975/10-AB-Food-Growing-Strategy.pdf>

4.6 The Inverclyde Community Food Strategy, attached as appendix 1 to this report provides an update on the progress that has been made in achieving the four priorities during year two. The report provides information on the progress made under each action and the status of the action. Highlights include:

- the allocation of £46,000 to support community growers via the Invergrow fund;
- both Inverclyde Pantry projects experiencing significant growth since opening with a strong membership base at both John Wood Street (JWS) and Grieve Road locations. JWS has 885 members, while Grieve Road has 1,221 members.
- the various events hosted by ICFN;
- Inverclyde Shed being the UK Wide Winners of the 2024 RHS / Keep Scotland Beautiful Community Engagement Awards;
- the development of growing sites such as Walled Gardens in Gourock and Larkfield Gardens; and
- the role of volunteers supporting growing spaces and food provisions, for example for Parklea; in the reporting period (April – October 25) 3280 volunteer hours (137 hours per week) were recorded. Broomhill Community Hub have 12 regular attendees, which equates to an average of 150/160 hours a week if they all attend

4.7 The following governance arrangements will ensure the successful development, implementation and monitoring of the strategy:

- The development of the Community Food Growing Strategy is led by the Council's Communities Service;
- The Food Strategy group will be responsible for the implementation and monitoring of the strategy;
- Progress will be reported to the Thriving Communities Alliance Board thematic group; and
- An annual progress report will be submitted to the Alliance Board.

4.8 Over the next 12 months, the key focus will be:

- the gathering data to update actions for year 3 of the strategy; and
- initiating the development of a new strategy that encompasses the needs, ambitions, and capacities of groups involved in growing and food provision.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Legal: none at present
Finance: none at present
Human Resources: none at present
Equality and Diversity: An equality impact assessment of the Community Food Strategy is being carried out.
Population: The Community Food Growing Strategy will contribute to the achievement of the Population priority.
Inequalities: The Community Food Growing Strategy will contribute to the achievement of the Inequalities priority.

6.0 CONSULTATIONS

6.1 Ongoing consultation and engagement with both communities and partner organisations has taken place out to inform the development of the Community Food Growing Strategy.

7.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

7.1 <https://www.inverclyde.gov.uk/assets/attach/16975/10-AB-Food-Growing-Strategy.pdf>
The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015.

Inverclyde's Community Food Growing Strategy



‘Growing Inverclyde Together’

Moving Forward Together



Inverclyde Alliance



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FOREWORD

Councillor Elizabeth Robertson, Chair of Inverclyde Alliance

As Chair of the Inverclyde Alliance, the Inverclyde Community Planning Partnership, I am delighted to introduce Inverclyde's Community Food Growing Strategy. The strategy sets out how Inverclyde Council and its community planning partners will support community food growing across Inverclyde.

In the 2023-33 Inverclyde Alliance Partnership Plan our outcomes include:

- Development of strong community-based services that respond to local need;
- Communities can have their voice heard, and influence the places and services that affect them;
- Gaps in outcomes linked to poverty are reduced; and
- Easy access to attractive and safe public spaces, and high quality arts and cultural opportunities.

The Community Food Growing Strategy will help us to achieve these. There is community support for local food growing as evidenced through the consultation on the Strategy and the Inverclyde Community Food Network has shaped the vision and actions within the plan. Our approach aims to use community food growing to help address poverty in our communities, and reduce the barriers to people accessing low cost and nutritious food. It will help establish more spaces and places for food growing.

Community food growing enables people to get involved in their local community, meet new people, enjoy the outdoors and take part in growing. It is the combination of these elements that makes it so appealing. Indeed, there has been an increase in the number of people who are keen to participate in outdoor activities such as gardening and food growing. This is partly due to the Covid-19 pandemic and also the many benefits of food growing. The Community Food Growing Strategy will help us to provide more opportunities for local people to get involved in food growing and enjoy the benefits that it has to offer.

Inverclyde has a network of green spaces, community gardens and allotments, as well as a Food Network which brings together all partner organisations that are involved in food growing. This, combined with a strong voluntary sector with knowledge and expertise in food growing and an abundance of local people who are keen to get involved, means that we have the foundations upon which to build a successful approach to community food growing.

Inverclyde Alliance is committed to providing local communities with more opportunities to get involved in food growing and the Community Food Growing Strategy will help us to achieve that.

WHY ARE WE DEVELOPING A FOOD GROWING STRATEGY?

A Community Food Growing Strategy for Inverclyde has been developed to meet the requirements of national policy and legislation, contribute towards the achievement of local priorities and ensure that Inverclyde benefits from a wide range of benefits associated with food growing.

National Policy

The Scottish Government has set out a vision that by 2025 Scotland will be "a Good Food Nation, where people from every walk of life take pride and pleasure in, and benefit from, the food they produce, buy, cook, serve, and eat each day."

The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act (2015) requires each local authority to prepare a food growing strategy for its area, to identify land that may be used as allotment sites, identify other areas of land that could be used for community growing, and describe how the authority intends to increase provision for community growing, in particular in areas which experience socio-economic disadvantage.

Local Policy

The Community Food Growing Strategy has a key role to play in helping Inverclyde Alliance, the area's Community Planning Partnership, to achieve its vision and priorities for Inverclyde. The development of the Community Food Growing Strategy has therefore been informed by the 2023-33 Inverclyde Alliance Partnership Plan.

The Community Food Growing Strategy will make a significant contribution to the achievement of all four outcomes in the 2023-33 Inverclyde Alliance Community Plan:

- Development of strong community-based services that respond to local need;
- Communities can have their voice heard, and influence the places and services that affect them;
- Gaps in outcomes linked to poverty are reduced; and
- Easy access to attractive and safe public spaces, and high quality arts and cultural opportunities.

Benefits of Community Food Growing

The Scottish Government has identified a wide range of benefits associated with community food growing. For example:

Food – Food growing provides communities with access to environmentally sound, healthy and locally sourced food. It also offers monetary savings in comparison to buying produce from retail outlets.

Health & Wellbeing – There are many health and well-being benefits to food growing. Not only do people who grow their own food tend to eat more healthily but



Figure 1 Variety of fruits and vegetables grown at Shore Street Garden. (cc) Inverclyde Shed

gardening activities can provide low-impact exercise and help to improve physical health. Community growing can lower stress levels, offer mental health benefits and a supportive social environment. Creating green space in built up areas improves air quality and provides recreational opportunities that encourage socialising, decreases isolation and leads to improved confidence and self-esteem.



Figure 2 Group from Belville Street Community Garden visiting Muirshiel Gardens

Community – Food growing can help to improve the quality of life of local residents by bringing vacant or derelict land back into use. Participation in food growing also helps to foster a sense of community as it brings communities together and provides volunteering opportunities. Food growing can also help to reduce social isolation and loneliness amongst older people and more vulnerable groups who are socially isolated.

Biodiversity - Community growing spaces can improve biodiversity as well as create important green corridors for wildlife. The Community Food Growing

Strategy will help to meet the objectives of the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy and Local Biodiversity Action Plans, as well as the Pollinator Strategy for Scotland.

Climate Change - Community growing sites can help to alleviate climate change through good soil management and appropriate ground cover management via healthy and appropriate plant cover. Community food growing spaces contribute to mitigating and adapting to the effects of climate change through carbon reduction and sustainable design. Other sustainability benefits can be considerable, such as reduction in air miles, reduction in carbon emissions and improvements to air quality through locally grown food.

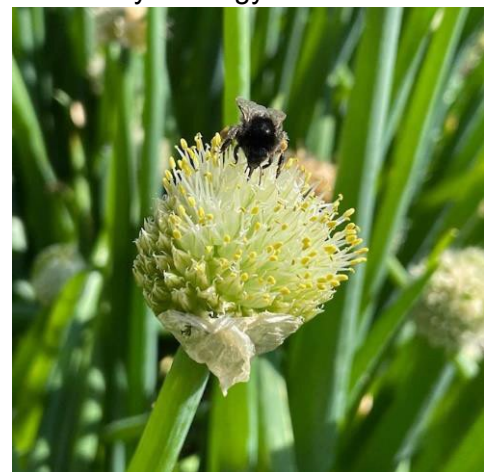


Figure 3 Bee pollenating flower at Shore Street Garden. (cc) Inverclyde She

Recycling & Food Waste - Community growing can

lead to a reduction in food waste through composting and reduced food packaging. People are also less likely to waste the food that they grow, and are more likely to put grow-your-own waste into the compost, thereby returning nutrients to the soil. Community food growing spaces can also make positive contributions to sustainable drainage through the permeable surfaces of food growing spaces and the harvesting of rainwater.



Figure 4 Composting at Shore Street Gardens. (cc) Inverclyde Shed

Soil Management - An organic approach to community growing can help to reverse soil degradation. Reversing this trend will help to address the loss of organic matter from the soil, reduce soil compaction and erosion, and help to reverse the trend in mineral decline in vegetables.



Figure 6 Weekly tasks delivered by Parklea Association Branching Out

Education & Training - Food growing spaces provide a learning environment, where young and old can learn about a wide range of topics, including: biodiversity; skills to grow-your-own; botany; climatology; cookery; geography; recycling/upcycling. Food growing programmes in schools can have positive impacts on pupil nutrition and attitudes towards healthy eating, specifically related to the willingness to try new foods; and allows pupils to learn about their natural environment, how to grow and harvest food, and to be less wasteful of natural resources. Taking part in community growing activities can develop 'soft' skills such as communication skills, problem solving, and team working etc. that help to increase employability.

Local Economy - Community growing can contribute to the local economy and encourage enterprising activity. For example, from selling produce such as fruits and vegetables and jams and chutneys, providing training and contributing to personal development opportunities.



Figure 5 Inverclyde Shed produce stall at Walled Gardens pop-up market. (c) Inverclyde Shed



FOOD GROWING IN INVERCLYDE

Community food growing is already well established in Inverclyde and the area possess a number of assets that we will utilise to help us increase the opportunities that are available for local communities to participate. These assets are detailed below.

Inverclyde Community Food Network - is a group of local partner organisations and volunteers who support and encourage food growing and food sharing across Inverclyde by:

- Encouraging and supporting local people to get involved in food growing activities;
- Raising awareness of what support services are available around food insecurity and food waste;
- Enabling communities to access food and surplus food, and
- Reducing food waste.

Some of the group's achievements so far include:

- 50 local people have been trained in community cooking;
- Running events such as a moveable feast to which new Scots were invited;
- Belville Community Garden set up "soup and a bleather" which runs every week;
- The distribution of excess food from supermarkets;
- The establishment of community fridges; and
- The delivery of food boxes during the pandemic, as well as gardening boxes and the establishment of soup sheds.

The Community Food Network was widely consulted during the development of the Community Food Growing strategy and will play a key role in its implementation.

Community Gardens – Inverclyde has a number of community gardens and allotments where local people can participate in community food growing. The community gardens are all very welcoming and offer a great way to make friends, improve physical and mental health and enjoy the outdoors. There are regular clubs and more informal drop-ins and events, details of which can be found at www.icfn.org.uk

Parklea Branching Out

Parklea Playing Fields, Greenock Road, Port Glasgow PA14 6TR. Telephone: 01475 744516 Email: admin@parkleaassociation.org.uk Informal garden drop-in usually Tuesdays and Fridays. Please call for more information.

Belville Community Garden

53 - 57 Belville St, Greenock, PA15 4UN Telephone: - 01475 726034 Email: info@belvillecommunitygarden.org.uk Gardening Club Mondays 1.00-3.00 Come along or call for more information. Raised bed allotments including disabled access beds available at small annual cost

Branchton Community Centre

78 Branchton Rd, Greenock, PA16 0XX Telephone: 01475 638481 Email: branchtonmanager@gmail.com Gardening club Tuesday mornings. Please call for more information.

Shore Street Garden –

Shore Street, Gourock Email: contact@inverclydeshed.co.uk Gardening club Mondays 10.00-12.00 weather dependent. Please call for more information

Muirshiel Lane Market Garden

Muirshiel Ln, Port Glasgow PA14 5XS Email: contact@inverclydeshed.co.uk Informal volunteering. Please get in touch for more information.

The Drying Green Garden

South West Library - 159 Inverkip Rd, Greenock PA16 9HG Telephone: 01475 715667. Informal volunteering, with a view to regular garden club. Please get in touch/check social media for more information.

Blooming Inverkip

Kip Park Main Street, Greenock PA16 0FZ Telephone: 01475 520740. Informal volunteering on Saturday mornings with a view to regular gardening club in 2023. Please call for more information.

Wellington Allotments

Wellington Street, Greenock Telephone: 0785 1454042 Email: alison.duncan@ntlworld.com Allotments available on waiting list basis.



Inverclyde Food Map – Inverclyde Community Food Network has produced a food map of Inverclyde which provides details of where communities can access the following:

- Community food growing sites;
- Food banks, cafes and pantries;
- Excess food donations;
- School gardens;
- Allotments; and
- Cooking sessions.

The food map can be accessed via the Inverclyde Community Food Network website at www.icfn.org.uk/food-map

What land is available in Inverclyde for food growing?

Allotments - Inverclyde Council has one official allotment site located in Wellington Street, Greenock. The allotment has 35 plots ranging from full size, half quarter and raised beds. The allotments are managed by an elected committee.

Other land - In terms of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015, Inverclyde Council is required to publish a register of all land which, to the best of the Council's knowledge and belief, is owned or leased by the Council. Below is a link to the Land Register. Please note that this list has not yet been finalised and therefore may change.

<https://www.inverclyde.gov.uk/council-and-government/asset-transfer-requests/register-of-land>

What local organisations are involved in community food growing?



The Inverclyde Shed create places for people to meet, make, grow and share. Their primary aim is to tackle poor mental & physical health, addressing loneliness and particularly but not exclusively amongst older men, often a hard-to-reach group. Their spaces include an established community garden in Gourrock, a new fruit orchard space in Port Glasgow and a network of school / nursery 'small growing spaces'.



Parklea 'Branching Out' is a voluntary organisation established in 1997 to help develop local individuals with support needs so that they can reach their potential. Parklea use horticulture as a vehicle to provide a variety of different training, work experience, supported employment, recreational and social facilities for a variety of clients including adults and children with learning and/or physical disabilities, those with mental health problems, school leavers, young and long term unemployed, elderly groups and community groups. Parklea also provide training to SVQ level in horticulture and employability programmes.



Belville Community Garden Trust is a registered Scottish charity formed in 2014 by local people to bring community groups and individuals together in the east end of Greenock. Belville promotes a safer, stronger community around improving lifestyles and health primarily through gardening, horticulture and healthy eating. Since opening in 2014, Belville Community Garden have developed a status within the community as a central food growing hub, organising and co-ordinating community groups and schools in growing projects.



Inverclyde's Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP) plays a key role in co-ordinating the work of the Food Network. It also supports all aspects of food, including food poverty, supporting Fairshare distribution and organises accredited training to train local people to delivery cookery classes. The HSCP also provides small amounts of money to purchase food for the cooking classes and further training.



Branchton Community Centre is an important community hub serving the Greenock South West area. Its main priorities are to provide classes, courses, services and activities to tackle social exclusion and all kinds of poverty. Over the last 2 years the Community Centre has added food growing and food distribution to its list of services. It has a community garden beside the Centre and has taken ownership from the Council of a plot of land near the Centre to expand its growing activities. This is supported by a strong volunteer growing group. Food distribution is also an important element of the work of the Centre and it collects and hands out food donated by local supermarkets to reduce food waste. The Centre also has a charity shop to hand out food and household goods.



Community Learning and Development (CLD) are responsible for the development of the Food Growing Strategy and work in partnership with West College Scotland to run local horticulture classes which helps to both grow interest in horticulture and develop skills within the community.



Bluebird Family Centre Organisation works in partnership with various local organisations to introduce food growing with staff and the children. Members of the community build planters and areas for planting to take place.



Consultation and Community Engagement

Extensive consultation and engagement with both communities and partner organisations was carried out to inform the development of the Community Food Growing Strategy.

Engagement with Communities

Feedback was gathered from local residents who either have an interest in or are involved in community gardening / growing and below is what they told us:

- Community food growing enables people to get involved in their local community, meet new people, enjoy the outdoors and take part in growing. It is the combination of these elements that makes it so appealing.
- The social aspect of food growing is one of the main reasons why people choose to take part.
- There is a lack of awareness of the food growing opportunities that are available across Inverclyde.
- There are a lot of older people who would like to take part but see their age as a barrier and perceive food growing to be labour intensive.
- There is a lack of knowledge of how to use the produce grown. To address this issue, local people would like to attend cookery classes to learn how best to use the produce grown.

Engagement with partners

The Food Network was consulted throughout the development of the strategy and below is the feedback they provided:

- A lack of skills and knowledge is one of the key barriers that prevents local communities from taking part in community food growing. The first step is to increase the capacity of individuals to grow their own food before looking at increasing the amount of land that is available for food growing.
- There is a lack of awareness amongst the public of the food growing sites that are available in Inverclyde.
- Communities find it difficult to access information about community asset transfer and find the process to be complicated. This is a barrier that prevents communities from accessing land for community food growing.
- Access to funding, tools and equipment, seeds and compost are barriers that prevent communities from taking part in food growing.



- Access to compost is one of the biggest problems and communities need access to a car to be able to access and transport it.
- There is a gap around how excess food is shared and distributed.
- It is important that the strategy contributes to addressing food poverty.
- Inverclyde does not currently have a grow your own facility.
- Work with schools and pre-5 establishments is an important element of providing access to food growing, increasing knowledge and skills and addressing food poverty.



OUR VISION AND PRIORITIES

Our vision for community food growing in Inverclyde is:

To increase opportunities in Inverclyde for communities to grow their own food and contribute towards a reduction in food poverty. We want these opportunities to be well used by communities and for it to result in more local residents growing and using the food they grow.

We have identified four priorities that will help us to achieve this vision. The identification of these priorities has been informed by extensive consultation with communities and organisations who are involved in food growing locally.

Priority 1: Build capacity within communities to ensure they have the skills and knowledge to take part in food growing.

Priority 2: Create strong partnership working between communities, the Council and housing associations.

Priority 3: Ensure communities have the resources they need to be able to take part in food growing.

Priority 4: Contribute towards a reduction in poverty through strong partnership working.



Priority 1: Build capacity within communities to ensure they have the skills and knowledge to take part in community food growing.

Why is this a priority?

This is a priority because one of the main barriers that prevents local communities from taking part in community food growing is a lack of skills and knowledge. Building capacity within communities through training and skills development is therefore vital in enabling communities to be able to grow their own food.

Provide training to increase the capacity of individuals to grow their own food.

- Invergowrie Project Officer and ICFN worker attended various community events to promote the various growing spaces and support, such as the Highland games, Gourrock Garden party etc.
- Blooming Inverkip and Wellington Allotments both held a 'Keep Scotland Beautiful' event on the 4th of June 2024, this event allowed ICFN to share practice with other community gardens.
- Branchton Community Centre held a Garden open day / event on the 18th of August 2024. This event was to show people how to grow and harvest produce.
- Drying Green held an open day on the 13th of August 2024, to show locals how to grow and harvest what was already grown.
- The Invergowrie officer attended a Sow and Grow event on the 30th of January 2024 at South West Library, to get information on sowing seeds.
- Branchton Community Centre and Gardening club have been promoting and hosting a gardening West College Scotland course with and without Invergowrie funding.
- Parklea Branching Out have used Invergowrie funding to keep the ICFN polytunnel stocked. • Parklea Branching Out have used Invergowrie funding to keep the ICFN polytunnel stocked and provided propagation and growing facilities/resources to support ICFN partners growing projects/activities
- Community event held at Parklea in August to help establish a new community orchard, with over 40 apple trees planted.
- A St. Stephen's pupil has created a 'how to guide' that informs readers how to create their own raised garden bed from old pallets.
- The Drying Green used Invergowrie funding to host a herbal butter making class on the 12th November 2024.

Mentor Network includes active knowledge & skills sharing via:

- ICFN monthly meetings
- Inverclyde Community Garden Group face to face meetings & What's App Group



Classification : Official

- Kidron Community Garden What's App Group – Craigend & Lyle Gateway
- Parklea Volunteers What's App Group
- Food Share What's App Group
- Presentations to local groups, i.e. Kilmacolm and Gourrock Horticulture Societies

Training 2024

WCS Horticultural Training sessions

- WCS have delivered 6 courses at Parklea Branching Out and Branchton Community Centre

ICFN attended the following RIG Arts @ The Drying Green cascade learning sessions

- Angela Smith (RHS)– Community Gardens in Inverclyde
- Kitty (Dunoon) Fermentation talk
- Grow Food Course info session
- Growing Calendar / seed sharing Feb 2024

Belville Community Garden –

- Outdoor Cooking and Hygiene Course
- First Aid Course (alongside a number of community chefs)

ICFN assisted raised bed gardening sessions @

- Belville Community Gardens
- The Drying Green
- Muirsheil

ICFN facilitated / Growing / Planting / Harvesting sessions @

- Craigend
- Lyle Gateway
- Barnardos (
- Parklea Branching Out

ICFN input into:

- Expert Forager - Herbal Medicine Workshop @ PBO (8 participants)
- ICFN foraging session for medicinal herbs @PBO (4 participants)
- ICFN Medicinal balms workshop @ PBO (4 participants)

ICFN attended and contributed to:

- Coorie In @ Glasgow Botanic Gardens with Eden Project Communities (50+ practitioners/volunteers)
- Glasgow Community Food Network (50+ practitioners/volunteers)
- WASH House Garden Glasgow (10 ICFN Network practitioners)

Belville & ICFN - RBS Mortgage Centre

- 8 person team assisted Belville growing spaces

Parkea Branching Out

- 10 CVS Staff Team volunteered at PBO, celebrating Volunteer Week Feedback : Thank you, they all really enjoyed themselves so much. Thank you for helping to set this up. They said they wished they could do it every day. Tony Volunteer Engagement Manager
- 6 Insight Travel staff team
- 12 Riverclyde Homes Team – as part of their “Working in Neighbourhoods” initiative, assisting with grounds and garden maintenance as well as tidy-up tasks at our growing project.
- In the reporting period (April – October 25) 3280 volunteer hours (137 hours per week) were recorded. We are seeing an increase in our volunteers through promoting our work and new opportunities are being provided through our growing projects and partnerships.

ICFN facilitated POTS OF LOVE

- Belville – Valentines Day Mothers Day (12 participants) – Pay it forward to Jericho (Men’s & Ladies House) 12th February 2024
- Auchmountain (Book Bugs) (15 participants) – Mothers Day / International Women’s Day
- Wellpark Nursery–(12 participants)
- Aileymill Nursery x 2 sessions (18 children and caregivers each session) – Pay it forward to John Galt House & Rainbow Garden

Engage with children and families to find out how best to go about providing access to growing opportunities.

- Auchmountain collaborated with the Inverclyde Shed using Invergrow funding to establish a new growing space with the local playscheme.



Classification : Official

- Blooming Inverkip and the Inverclyde Shed used Invergrow funding and pupils to assist with a growing project at Inverclyde Academy that created 2 new large growing spaces for all pupils to access.
- Weekly leaflet drops in attempt to increase knowledge of growing opportunities within Inverclyde for all ages.
- (Project In progress with Inverclyde Shed that will include a network of schools piloting a community garden / school collaboration).
- The Invergrow Project Officer attended Belville Community Garden Will o' the Wild events early 2024 to engage with families and young persons to shape their introduction to growing.
- The Invergrow Project Officer collaborated with Craigmartloch, Port Glasgow High School, and St Stephen's pupils by showing them when and how to plant bulbs in the CLD raised garden beds.
- Parklea Branching Out welcomed the yearly Transit Group from Port Glasgow High School. The pupils took part in planting activities and harvested potatoes and vegetables to take home.
- Kilmacolin Primary School visited Parklea to see our growing space and to select plants for the school grounds

Inverclyde Shed

- Setup a No Dig Garden & Orchard at Lomond View Academy who were supported by Invergrow
- Setup a No Dig Garden & Orchard at Oronsay Avenue for local neighbour group / foster carer.
- Setup a No Dig Garden & Orchard at Youth Connections, Larkfield
- Setup a No Dig Gardens & Orchard at St Andrews & Aileymill Primary Schools in Larkfield.
- Setup a No Dig Garden & Orchard at Lady Alice Primary School

Create a section for food growing on the online learning platform Moodle.

- On the 29th August 2024, educational materials provided by Gary Rankin (West College Scotland Lecturer) were uploaded to Invergrow Moodle section.
- The Inverclyde Shed and Blooming Inverkip continue to upload educational videos of the work they do to increase capacity of growing within Inverclyde
- Branchton Community Centre and Parklea Branching Out are still continuously running a West College Scotland gardening course.

Priority 2: Create strong partnership working between communities, the Council and housing associations

Why is this a priority?



Classification : Official

This is a priority because a successful approach to community food growing is dependent on communities, the Council and housing associations working together to ensure that communities are aware of how they can get involved in community growing and the food growing sites that are available across Inverclyde.

Further develop the Food Network's map of Inverclyde to include all sites available for food growing and community assets.

- The current ICFN map is still on the ICFN website, and this is highlighted on the Invergrow webpage on the council website.
- ICFN are still continuously updating the map.

Develop a promotional campaign to promote the opportunities available within Inverclyde for growing food.

- Harvest events have been held by the network.
- Greenock Telegraph and Inverclyde council have promoted the new raised beds at John Gault House, Stewart House, and Elliott Court conducted by unpaid work and the Invergrow Project Officer.
- All ICFN events / projects are promoted through Inverclyde Council social media.
- The Invergrow Project Officer visited all localities in Inverclyde and delivered over 100+ leaflets through doors at each locality.
- The Invergrow Project Officer has assisted Larkfield Guerilla Garden with their constitution and business plan throughout 2024.
- The Invergrow Project Officer has attended the job centre volunteering event on the 23rd October 2024, promoting all growing spaces and informing attendees of the work experience available.
- The Invergrow Project Officer has attended the CVS Beacon event promoting the ICFN network and all growing spaces available.
- The Practitioners Forum was held to promote ICFN and all growing spaces within Inverclyde 21st November 2024
- The Invergrow project officer has created a Food Strategy Reporting Template in 2024, this is to collate progress of each growing space and identify areas of improvement and to share positive ideas to each member of the network. (Missing feedback from Blooming Inverkip, Branchton Community Centre, and Parklea Branching Out.

Develop and share a calendar of food events taking place across all partner organisations.

- The initial conversations have led to regular updates sent to all members within ICFN network.

Develop guidance and support for communities to help them with the asset transfer process.

- Revised guidance to be uploaded to the IC webpage along with the interactive asset map

Priority 3: Ensure communities have the resources they need to be able to take part in food growing.



Why is this a priority?

This is a priority because access to funding, equipment, tools and compost is currently a barrier that makes it difficult for community groups to take part in food growing.

Establish 6 pop up sites and 10 new food growing sites across Inverclyde.

- Auchmountain have established a new growing space and planted new orchards with the local playscheme.
- Broomhill Gardens and Community Hub have created 8 new sleeper beds, and this will massively increase their growing capacity.
- CLD have placed 2 raised growing beds outside their office to implement a new growing space on site.
- Caddlehill Community Green Space have installed a raised bed to support Ardgowan Primary, this was installed by unpaid work and funded by Invergrow.
- St Stephen's High School are using Invergrow funding to rejuvenate 2 large growing beds for the shared campus.
- The Invergrow project with the help of unpaid work have placed 6 new raised growing beds in River Clyde Home sheltered accommodation. There are 3 in John Gault House, 2 in Elliott Court, and 1 in Stewart House.
- Blooming Inverkip and the Inverclyde Shed using Invergrow funding have established a new growing space at Lomond View, this includes new barrel planters, a 'no dig' site, and new orchards.
- Blooming Inverkip and the Inverclyde shed collaborated using Invergrow funding to establish new growing sites and orchards at Inverkip Primary and Inverclyde Academy.
- Broadstone Gardens have received 4 bags of soil from Invergrow funding to continue growing fruit and other plants on site. This was purchased and delivered by the Invergrow Project Officer on the 25th July 2024.
- (In progress) rejuvenating the back of the Port Glasgow iZone, the unpaid work supervisor has visited the site on 14th Jan 25 and will be looking to clear this space for growing with the next month or two.
- Wellington Park Bowling Club have used Invergrow funding on a piece of unused wasteland at the club to clear the site and build 4 raised beds with the assistance from The Inverclyde Shed.
- The Drying Green used Invergrow funding to purchase a polytunnel to further enhance seasonal growing, this was constructed by the Invergrow Project Officer, Success Wealth Staff, and volunteers.
- Parklea Branching Out welcomed the yearly Transit Group from Port Glasgow High School. The pupils took part in planting activities and harvested potatoes and vegetables to take home.
- Kilmacolm Primary School visited Parklea to see our growing space and to select plants for the school grounds

Inverclyde Shed



Classification : Official

- Continue to successfully operate our Shore Street Community garden and Muirshiel Market Garden & Orchard with harvests going to shed members and local community.
- Setup and expanded Bee Apiary in Port Glasgow, now seven colonies and trained ten bee keepers.
- Setup large new publicly accessible growing space & orchard at The Walled Garden, Gourrock involving four local schools, over 120 children visiting and engaging.
- Setup 20 new community orchards across Inverclyde at Schools, Churches and other Community groups.
- Setup an edible trail in Gourrock consisting of ten sites of herbs, fruit and an apple orchard
- Setup a large new orchard of 100 tree's at St Laurence
- Built a Polycarb Greenhouse for Belville Community Garden who were supported by Invergrow
- Setup a No Dig Garden & Orchard at Wellington Bowling Club
- Setup an Aeroponics Cell at Inverclyde Shed's workshop, potential for 400 plants.
- Held various events including popup stalls, open days and social events at our various growing spaces including an annual Words Festival.
- Supported other groups with advice and practical growing help.

This activity has been supported by grants from TNLCommunity Fund, Robertson Trust, Inverclyde Community Fund, Coop Community, Tree Council, The Orchard Project, RBS Regenerate, Community Land Scotland, B&Q Foundation, Calmac Community Fund and the Mental Health & Wellbeing Fund and the work of our volunteers from all over Inverclyde.

Develop a food growing library that will provide community groups with access to tools, seeds and book/websites.

- Inverclyde's first seed library has been expanded and it includes instructions of how the system works and how to keep it running sustainably.
 - There are plans to implement a seed library in Port Glasgow.
 - ICFN booklets and other learning materials are on their website.
 - Invergrow Moodle materials on website and are accessible for all.
- Actively explore options to enable community groups to access a starter fund.

- This project with ICFN is ongoing

Investigate the possibility of local businesses providing sponsorship / in kind support.



Classification : Official

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The project at Inverclyde Academy involved employees from The Royal Bank of Scotland to assist with building the sleeper beds and other labour.• Unpaid work and River Clyde Homes collaborated with the Invergrow Project to create new raised growing beds and place them in sheltered housing complexes within Inverclyde.
<p>Establish links with the Council's apprenticeship programme to investigate the possibility of apprentices providing assistance at growing sites.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• As part of Inverclyde Council apprentice program, apprentices were recruited to support various growing space such as Parklea Branching out. 12 are in year 2 and 6 in year 1.• There was support from council apprentices at Belville Gardens and other various growing sites across Inverclyde.
<p>Priority 4: Contribute towards a reduction in food poverty through strong partnership working.</p>
<p>Why is this a priority?</p> <p>Providing communities with opportunities to grow and cook their own food and distributing food that would otherwise go to waste are two ways in which we can contribute towards a reduction in food poverty.</p>
<p>Actively explore the possibility of establishing a local grow your own facility in Inverclyde</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The establishment of the seed library at Southwest Library hives Inverclyde the opportunity to grow their own and give back by providing seeds to the library.• The Invergrow Moodle page provides Inverclyde with the materials to regrow from scraps to help promote further sustainability.• The ICFN Food Map / Food Access Map provides an overview of Inverclyde to promote the gardens that can encourage residents to grow their own.• The ICFN website has established growing booklets to assist locals to grow their own.• The Invergrow fund has allowed Belville Community Gardens to purchase a 'Polycrub' this was constructed by The Inverclyde Shed, this now provides the opportunity for Belville to grow all season long.• The Invergrow funding has provided a positive impact to Wellington Park Bowling club as the harvest from growing was distributed to club members and they are hoping to continue doing this.
<p>Work with schools and pre-5 establishments to create an orchard and / or growing space within each school / pre-5 establishment.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The ICFN members have established growing spaces and orchards across numerous nurseries and schools within Inverclyde to promote growing within schools.



Classification : Official

- The Inverclyde Shed and Belville Gardens have created growing spaces for St Andrews Primary School. ICFN will continue to engage with pr-5 establishments

Work with partners to help the Food Network distribute food that would otherwise go to waste.

- The ICFN members have established cooking classes that will make use of the surplus food that would normally be wasted. This prevents future waste. This encourages locals to grow their own and use the produce they grow for their own use.
- Community centres and groups receive donations from local supermarkets on a regular basis. The information in shared across social media and a dedicated Whats App group.
- The Inverclyde Pantry membership continues to and access to the Pantries is promoted by the various partners.
- Belville Community Gardens have a variety of recipes hosted on their webpage, there are also recipes available on the ICFN webpage.
- Initial conversations have taken place with HSCP unpaid work in relation to distributing surplus food, further development of this is required.

Multiply provision

- 49 learners have accessed cooking classes via the multiply project. 6 short course community based sessions have been delivered, and been attended by learners from the following partners, Jericho Male and Female houses, IFIT (Inverclyde Faith in Throughcare), Inverclyde residents, ESOL learners
- 1 community based course was offered to both native and non-native speakers of English, to give opportunity to practice language in the contextualised setting of cooking
- 2 sessions with embedded numeracy was delivered in partnership with Belville Gardens
- 2 taster sessions delivered to Women's Aid and DWP – (learners from the taster sessions opted to attend a full community based course)
- The sessions offer the opportunity to engage in practical cooking skills, look at compare and contrast for ingredients, cook once eat 4 times, and budgeting skills. To date 16 learners have successfully submitted their portfolios and achieved numeracy core skills accreditation, with a further 7 learners currently working on their portfolios.

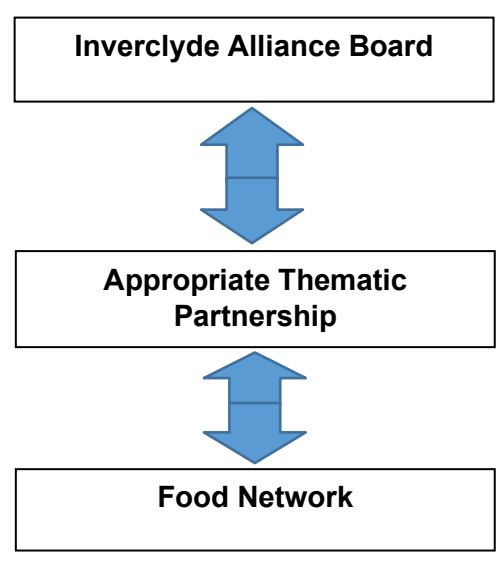
Undertake a campaign to change the rules around food "Use By" Dates.

- Branchton Community Centre are leading on this



GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

The governance structure for the delivery of the Community Food Growing Strategy is set out in the diagram below. Please note that community planning governance structures will be under review in 2023 and therefore the governance arrangements may change.



Role of Inverclyde Alliance Board

The Alliance Board is Inverclyde’s Community Planning partnership (CPP). It has overall responsibility for the implementation of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act (2015), including the development and implementation of a Community Food Growing Strategy. A report on progress made on the actions contained within the plan will be submitted to Inverclyde Alliance Board on an annual basis to enable the Community Planning Partnership to scrutinise performance.

Role of the appropriate Thematic Group

Following a review of the Alliance delivery structures in line with the new 2023-33 Partnership Plan, the governance of the Food Growing Strategy will be allocated to the appropriate thematic group. The appropriate thematic group will have the Food Growing Strategy as an action within their delivery plan and will report on progress with the implementation of the strategy to the Alliance in their quarterly progress report.

Role of the Food Network

Responsibility for the delivery of the Community Food Growing Strategy will lie with the Food Network. The Food Network brings together all partner organisations that are involved in either growing food, distributing food, food poverty or cookery classes. This strong partnership approach will enable the Food Network to co-ordinate food growing across Inverclyde and to report progress to the Environment Partnership and the Alliance Board.