



Demographic Profile

Methodology and Format.

The following pages detail the current picture around the threats and risks that are likely to impact on the achievement of our outcomes. Information detailing several Scottish National Performance Network (SNPF) indicators are also included as they help provide national context. Where the local context is not available, data/information has been provided which should allow for inferences to be drawn with the local context, for example, data at Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation [SIMD] level should give the same context for the same SIMD area locally.

The demographic profile for Clackmannanshire helps set the context of Clackmannanshire to the rest of Scotland and informs community planning partnership and Council planning and decisions.

Population

Clackmannanshire is one of the **smallest** mainland councils in Scotland, covering an area of 61.4 square miles, with 293 kilometers of road, and classed as semi-rural. Mid-year population estimates Clackmannanshire as having a population of 51,940 [mid-2023], a slight increase on previous year 51,750. Clackmannanshire's population comprises of slightly more females than males [51%:49%]; this ratio has changed little over the last few years. Clackmannanshire's population remains almost 1% of the Scottish population.

Seventeen per cent [17%] of Clackmannanshire's population is aged 0 to 15 years, slightly higher than the Scottish average of 16%; 21% are aged 65 years and over, again slightly higher than the Scottish average of 20%ⁱ.

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) describes Clackmannanshire as having a high dependency ratio, a low proportion of religious residents, low population growth and a high proportion of white residentsⁱⁱ.

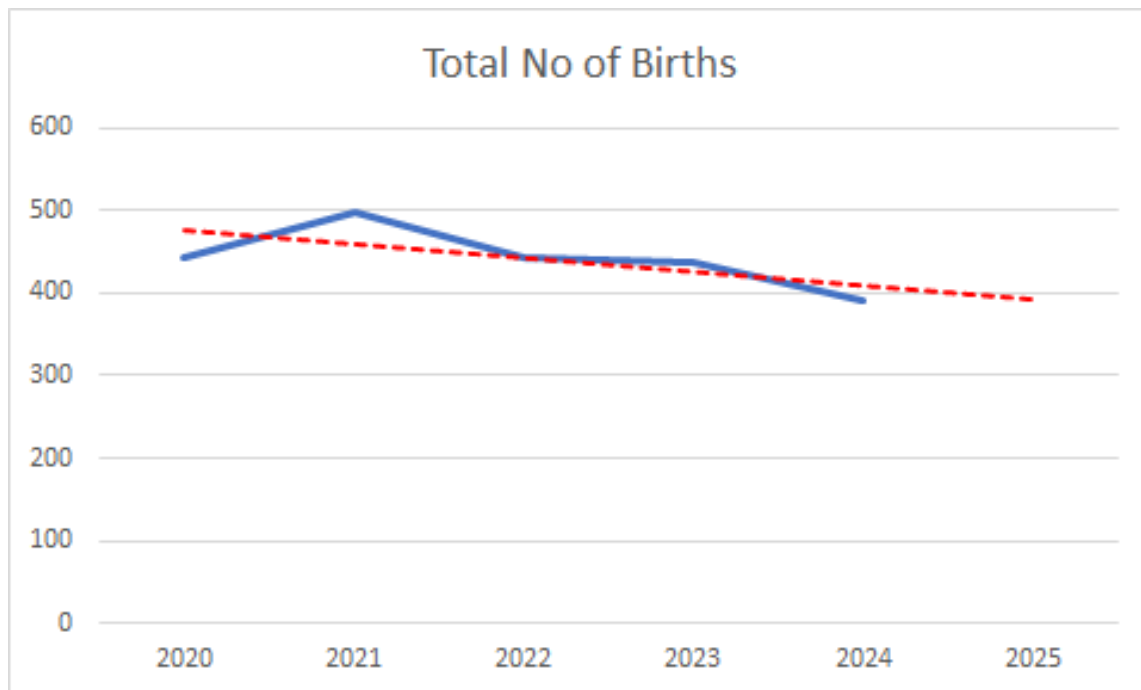
There are 5 electoral wards in Clackmannanshire: Clackmannanshire Central, Clackmannanshire East, Clackmannanshire North, Clackmannanshire South, and Clackmannanshire West. The largest population can be found in Clackmannanshire West.

Clackmannanshire has 9 main localities or neighbourhood settlements:

Alloa, Alva, Clackmannan, Dollar, Menstrie, Muckhart, Sauchie, Tullibody, and Tillicoultry.

A higher proportion of older people [61 and over] live in Clackmannanshire North, a higher proportion of 18-20 year olds and 51-55 year olds live in Clackmannanshire South.

Births: In 2024, there were 391 births across Clackmannanshire, a fall of 10% on the previous year and continuing a decreasing trend. It is predicted that the number of births will continue to fall as illustrated in Graph 1ⁱⁱⁱ.

Graph 1: Clackmannanshire, Total Number of Births 2020 – 2025 [Blue line – Clacks;

red line: trend line]

Single Parent Families: Scottish Census data (2022) reports 13% of Clackmannanshire's population as single parent families. Most of these single parents are mothers of one or more dependent children [69%]^{iv}.

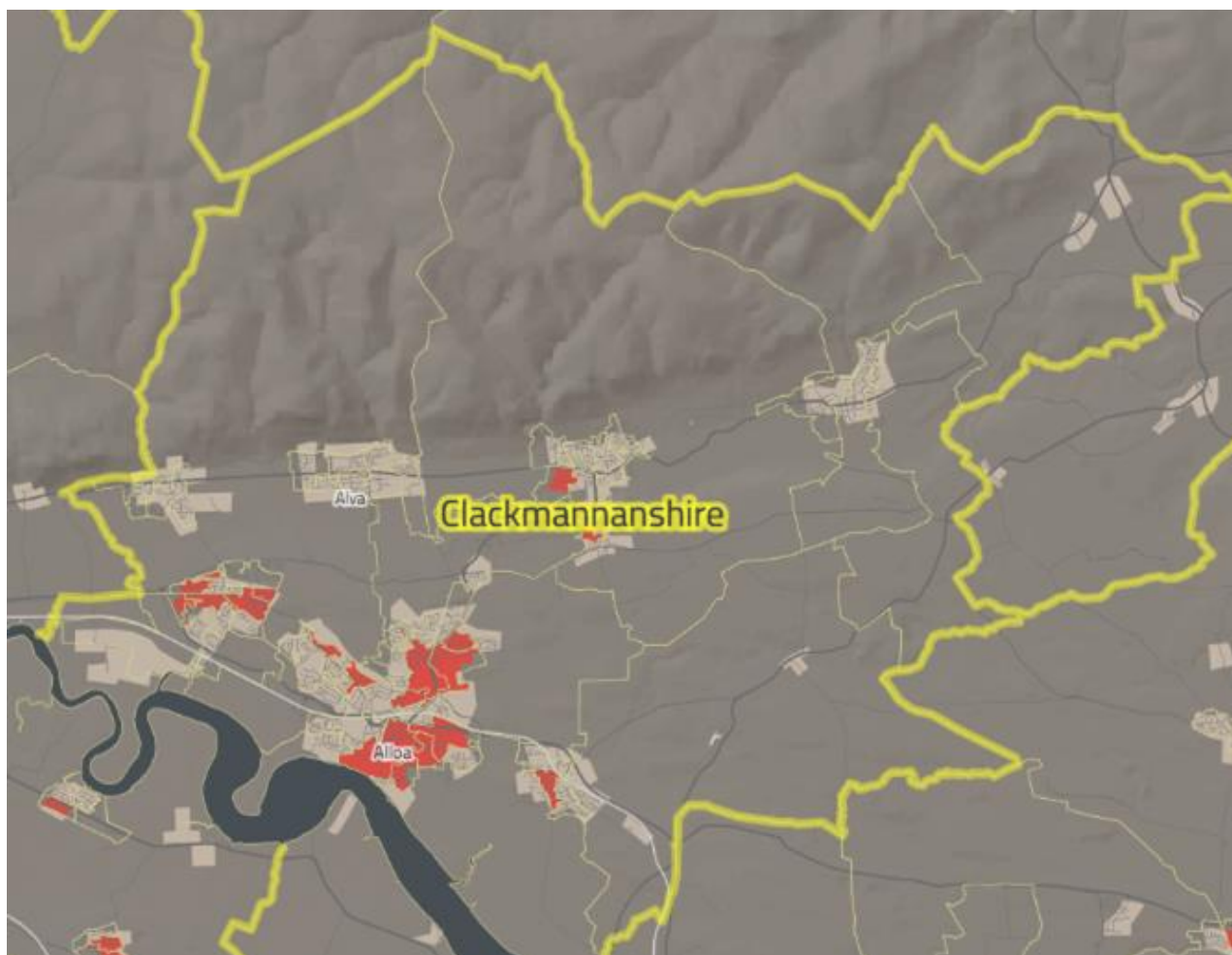
Health Condition: Scottish Household Survey [SHS], reports 62% of socially rented households [by local authority] and between 56% and 59% socially rented households respond to having a long-term physical or mental health condition.

Disability: Over a quarter of the population across Clackmannanshire reports a limitation to their day-to-day activities with almost half reporting their day to day activities are limited a lot^v. More than eighty two thousand Adult Disability payments were made in Clackmannanshire in Financial Year 2024-25 [82495], significantly more than the previous year in response to changes to disability benefits. Almost twenty five thousand Child Disability payments were made in the same financial year [24,650]^{vi}.

Deprivation

A quarter [25%] of all SIMD datazones across Clackmannanshire fall into the 20% most deprived datazones [equates to 18 datazones]. Eight [8] datazones have more than a quarter of people who are income deprived, with one datazone in the Alloa South and East area recording almost half [47%]. Other datazones include other areas in Alloa South and East, Tullibody North and Glenochil, Tullibody South and Tillicoultry.

Revised SIMD data indicates that Clackmannanshire has 10% of its population in the most deprived SIMD area; 9th highest across Scotland and only 5% of its population is in the least deprived SIMD area. The youngest age group can be found in the most deprived area^{vii}. [The areas in red on Map 1 illustrate geographically where the most deprived areas are across Clackmannanshire.]

Map 1: Clackmannanshire – Areas of Deprivation**Poverty**

The most used poverty indicator in Scotland for showing trends is *relative poverty after housing costs*. Poverty is defined at the household level. If the household income is below the poverty threshold, all people within the household are in poverty. Other poverty measures are absolute poverty, low income and material deprivation and persistent poverty.

A person is in relative poverty if their current household income is less than 60% of the current UK median^{viii}. *Scottish Government recommend reporting poverty figures using the three-year rolling average as it “reduces fluctuation due to sampling variation and shows trends and differences between groups more clearly”^{ix}.*

It is estimated that 20% of Scotland’s population [1,070,000 people each year] were living in relative poverty after housing costs in 2021-24, a fall of one percentage point on the previous three-year average. Absolute poverty rates have remained at similar levels over the last decade.

Having paid work is an effective way out of poverty; working-age adults tend to be less likely to be in poverty compared to children. *The youngest households [household heads aged 16-24] are consistently more likely to be in relative poverty compared to older households.* In 2021-24, 37% of people in households in this group were in relative poverty after housing costs. In comparison, the age groups 25-34, 35-44, 45-54 and 55-64 all had similar [and lower] poverty rates between 18% and 21%.

Most recent data indicate poverty rates are highest for single childless men [33%]. The poverty rate for single childless women and single mothers were 28% and 30% respectively.

Child Poverty

Children are more likely to be in poverty than adults. It is estimated that 23% of children [240,000 children each year] were living in relative poverty after housing costs in 2021-24; a fall of one percentage point on the previous three-year rolling average^x. [Before housing costs, it is estimated that 22% of children [220,000 children each year] were in relative poverty].

While the poverty risk is much lower for children in working households compared to those in non-working households, not all work pays enough to ensure the household is above the poverty threshold, examples being zero hours contracts, minimum wage. It is estimated that in 2021-24, 75% of children in relative poverty after housing costs were living in working households. This rate has grown over this most recent reporting period.

The Absolute poverty rate for children remains stable. It is estimated that 9% of children were living in combined low income and material deprivation after housing costs in 2023-24. [A child is classified as being in combined low income and child material deprivation if they live in a family that is lacking 4 or more items and has a household income below 70% of the median].

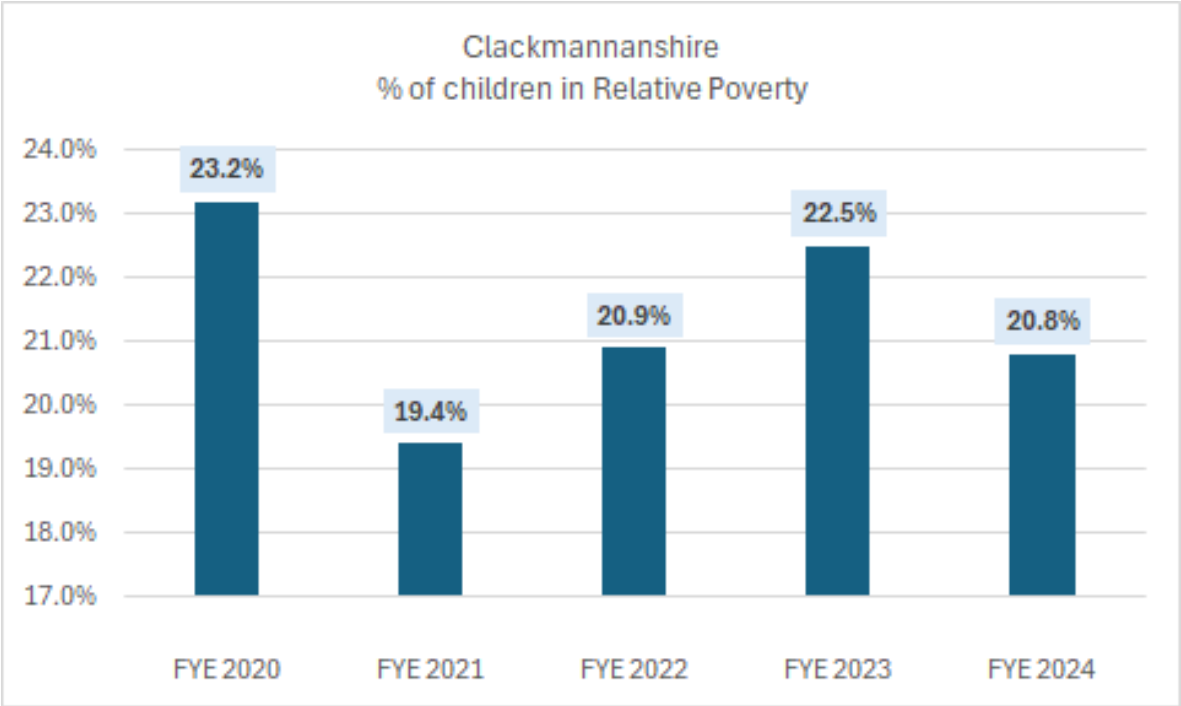
The Scottish Government has identified children in particular priority groups as having a higher risk of being in relative poverty. These groups are included in Table 1:

Table 1: Proportion of Children in Relative Poverty After Housing Costs

Priority Group	Proportion of children in Relative Poverty (after housing costs)
All Children	23%
3 or more children in the household	41%
Disabled household member(s)	27%
Youngest child in the household is under 1	35%
Minority ethnic household	37%
Single parent in the household	36%
Mother under 25 in household	No data

The main poverty data source referred to in the preceding section is from the Family Resources Survey and provides information at national level only. Department for Work and Pensions [DWP] reports the number of children living in low income families across the UK by local area. These statistics complement the official child poverty statistics and are calibrated to the 3-year average estimates for Scotland^{xi}. [The term 'low income' refers to being below the poverty threshold]. Graph 2 below illustrates the Child Poverty rate for Clackmannanshire using DWP data.

Graph 2: Percentage of Children in Relative Poverty, Clackmannanshire 2020-2024



The Improvement Service has designed a dashboard which provides a selection of data available at local authority level that can be used to monitor child poverty and its drivers locally. The indicators presented in this dashboard cannot measure child poverty directly in the same way as the indicators used for the national child poverty targets set out in the Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017.

The local poverty dashboard is illustrated as Map 2^{xii}.

Map 2: Improvement Service: Local Poverty Dashboard

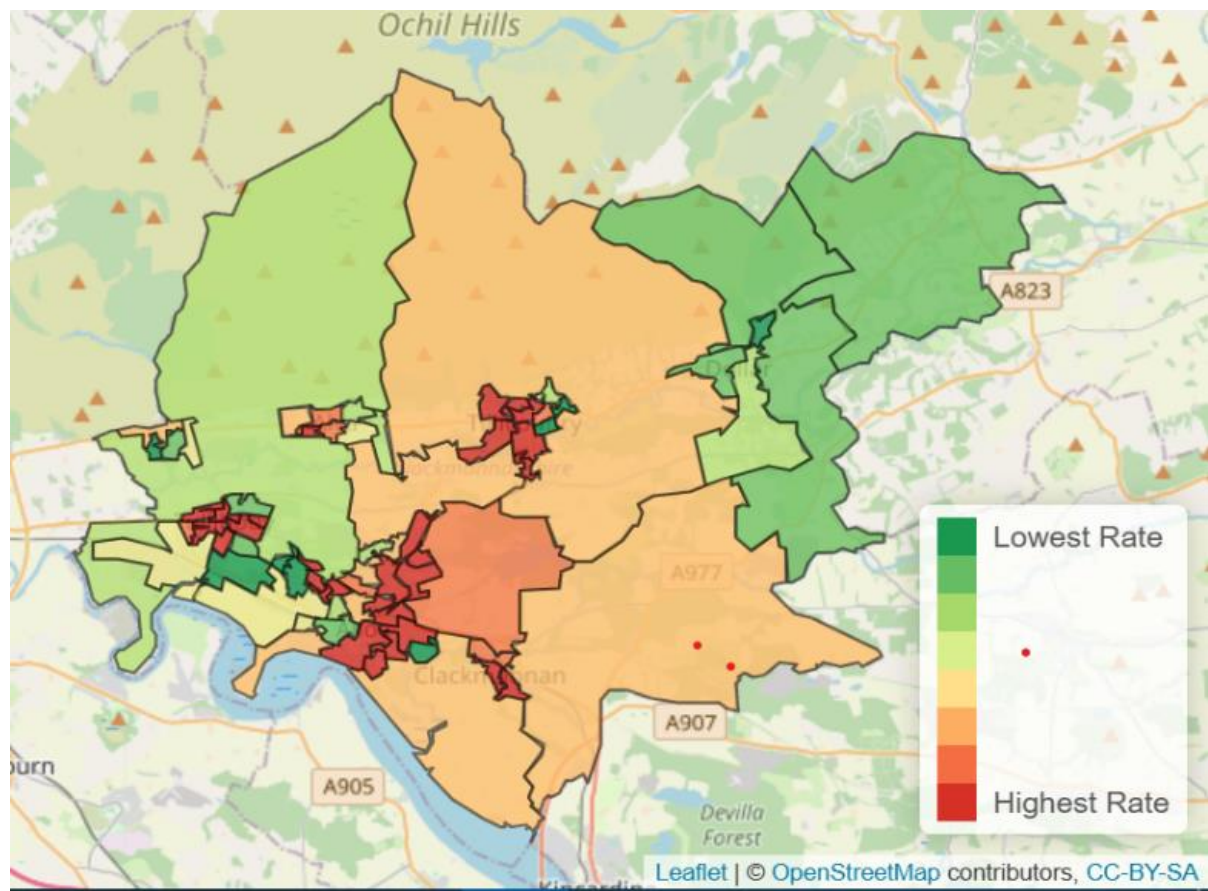


Table 2 details the top 5 areas across Clackmannanshire that have the highest percentage of children in poverty. Figures in red indicate a yearly increase.

Table 2: Top 5 areas with highest percentage of children in poverty across Clackmannanshire

DataZone	Name	% children in poverty (2022/23)
S01007464	Alloa South and East - 04	65.77
S01007434	Fishcross, Devon Village and Coalsnaughton - 03	63.04
S01007465	Alloa South and East - 05	61.03
S01007416	Tullibody North and Glenochil - 02	59.62
S01007456	Sauchie - 03	59.12



Scottish Child Payment [SCP]: 3650 children are actively benefiting from the Scottish Child Payment as of 31 March 2025 across Clackmannanshire; slightly more than half living in SIMD Q1 [51%]. In FY2024-25 there were a total of 27,675 SCP applications made across Clackmannanshire totaling £5,142,362^{xiii}. Table 3 details the number of children benefiting from SCP across Clackmannanshire by area.

Table 3: No of Children in Receipt of Scottish Child Benefits

As of March 2025 Area	No of children in receipt of SCP (aged
Alloa North	355
Alloa South and East	645
Alloa West	100
Alva	295
Clackmannan, Kennet and Forestmill	320
Dollar and Muckhart	65
Fishcross, Devon Village and Coalsnaughton	180
Menstrie	85
Sauchie	495
Tillicoultry	275
Tullibody North and Glenochil	535
Tullibody South	295

As of 2023-24, across Scotland, over 1 in 5 children [22%] were living in relative poverty, just under 1 in 5 [17%] in absolute poverty and over 1 in 12 [9%] in households unable to afford basic necessities^{xiv}.

The most recent data from 2023-24 puts the percentage of children in Clackmannanshire living in poverty after housing costs at 28.5%^{xv}. Before housing costs, the most recent data for FYE 2024 indicates a child poverty rate of 20.8% in Clackmannanshire, compared to 16.3% across Scotland as a whole^{xvi}.

Note: This data source differs from the Scottish Government figures cited above and those used for measuring progress against the statutory targets because the latter are not available at the local authority level.



Cost of Living

Understanding the Cost of Living Crisis in Scotland was published in February 2025. This report was produced by a cross Scottish Government group of analysts to provide a summary overview of evidence on the cost of living crisis and its impact on Scotland. *Low income households* were, and continue to be, particularly adversely affected by the cost of living crisis, being more financially vulnerable, often paying more for essential goods and services. Groups including women, disabled people, ethnic minorities, rural households, larger households, young people, students and carers, lone parents and single person households, households in receipt of income-related benefits, people narrowly ineligible for benefits, and people with no recourse to public funds were particularly adversely affected.

The changes to household energy bills resulted in a large increase in the percentage of households in Scotland in fuel poverty and extreme fuel poverty. Women were found to be disproportionately affected by the cost of living crisis. They are more likely to be in debt than men, more reliant on benefits, have lower savings and less access to occupational pensions. Evidence from the Third Sector found that the cost of living crisis exacerbated existing financial barriers preventing women from leaving abusive relationships with instances of financial abuse increasing^{xvii}.

Women and Girls: The cost of living crisis has also seriously affected *women's mental and physical health* with a recent YouGov Survey finding 34% of women reporting their physical health as being negatively affected [compared to 27% of men] and 48% of women reporting their mental health has been negatively affected [compared to 39% of men] by the cost of living crisis^{xviii}.

Disabled People: UK research showed that households with an adult limited a lot by disability are more likely to experience food insecurity [32%] than households with an adult not limited by disability [10%]^{xix}. People with chronic health problems or disabilities are more likely to experience destitution^{xx}. More than two thirds of people referred to food banks in the Trussell network, are disabled and research by Trussell in 2023 found that many disabled families in Scotland are going without dental treatment [32%] and medication [8%] due to lack of income^{xxi}.

Ethnic Minority Families: The Joseph Rowntree Foundation found that over half of children in minority ethnic families [53%] are in poverty. Non-white ethnic groups are at higher risk of food insecurity [32% for Black/African/Caribbean and 29% for Mixed/multiple] than white ethnic groups [13%]^{xxii}.

Larger households: Larger households have been more exposed to the increases in energy and food prices as they spend a higher proportion of their income on essentials. Research found that larger families frequently cut down on meals and resort to using food banks in response to the cost of living crisis^{xxiii}; 23% of families with 3 children experienced food insecurity, rising to 26% of families with 4 or more children^{xxiv}.

Young People, including Young Carers: There is emerging evidence that financial pressures are significantly affecting younger people's health and wellbeing. YouGov data reports that more than half [56%] of 18-34 year olds state that the cost of living has negatively impacted on their mental health compared to 24% of those aged 65+^{xxv}.



Lone parent and single person households: Single adult households with children were nearly twice as likely to be food insecure [31%] than multi adult households with children [16%]^{xxvi} and single adults living alone, not currently in paid work are much more likely to need to turn to a food bank^{xxvii}.

Food Insecurity: *A third of people in poverty* live in households that lack high food security [food security is measured at a household level]. The older the household, the more food secure it is^{xxviii}. High food insecurity levels among single parent households are driven by higher levels of financial instability and lower incomes; 35% of single adult households with children reported experiencing food insecurity in January 2024, compared with 17.6% of multi adult households with children^{xxix}.

Foodbanks: The Trussell Trust report during 2023-24 over 262,400 emergency food parcels were distributed by food banks in Scotland; 86,000 parcels for children and over 176,400 food parcels for adults. These figures represent a 21% increase in the number of parcels distributed five years ago in 2018/19, and a 20% increase in the number of parcels for children^{xxx}.

At the Gate Charity, which is local to Clackmannanshire, it reports providing 74,000 meals by the foodbank in 2024, 525 people were served at their mobile food van and 5205 children were provided with after school food^{xxxi}.

[Scottish Government definition]

- **Fuel Poverty:** a household is in fuel poverty if, in order to maintain a satisfactory heating regime, total fuel costs necessary for the home are *more than 10% of the household's adjusted net income* (after housing costs).
- **Extreme Fuel Poverty** - a household would have to spend more than 20% of its adjusted net income (after housing costs) on total fuel costs to maintain a satisfactory heating regime.
- Where a household is in fuel poverty, the **fuel poverty gap** is the annual amount (£) that would be required to move the household out of fuel poverty

Fuel Poverty

It is estimated that 34% of households in Scotland are currently living in fuel poverty, this is an *increase of 3 percentage points* since the 2022 fuel poverty rate of 31%; 19.4% of all households currently living in extreme fuel poverty, *less than one percentage point increase* since 2022 where it was 18.5%.

The cost of living crisis and spiraling energy prices have driven an increase of 38% in Scottish households living in fuel poverty since 2019. The median fuel poverty gap [adjusted for 2015 prices] for “fuel poor” households was £960. This is similar to the adjusted gap in 2022 of £1,020^{xxxii}.

Fuel poverty and extreme fuel poverty have a strong association with income, with rates increasing as annual household income decreases; 96% of households with an annual income less than £15,000 were in fuel poverty compared to 58% of households earning between £15,000 and £24,999 annually^{xxxiii}.

[The most recent local authority fuel poverty statistics are the three year average 2017-19 – 23.7% in fuel poverty and 9.2% in extreme poverty]

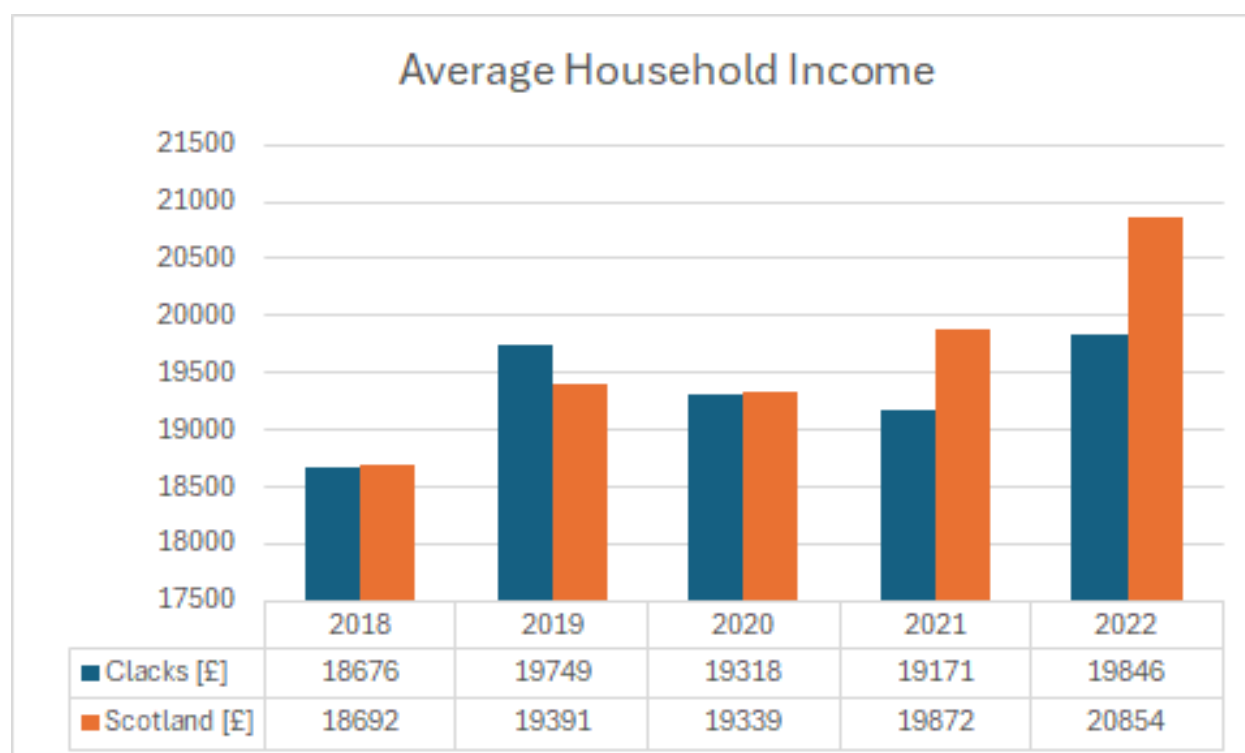
Despite not having more recent local fuel poverty statistics, the level of fuel poverty can be inferred using the annual household income across Clackmannanshire.

Table 4 details the percentage of households estimated to be in fuel poverty depending on their annual income. Graph 3 illustrates the average household income in Clackmannanshire compared to Scotland^{xxxiv}.

Table 4: Annual Household Income versus Fuel Poor Households

Annual Household Income	Fuel Poor Households (%)
< £15,000	96%
£15,000 - £24,999	58%
£25,000 - £34,999	23%
£35,000 - £44,999	9%
£45,000+	1%

Graph 3: Clackmannanshire – Average Household Income





Carers: There were 52,000 unpaid carers supported by local services across Scotland in 2023-24; 17% increase from the reported number of carers in 2022-23 [44,310]. This yearly increase is more than the year before where the increase was 5%, indicating *an increasing trend* in the number of unpaid carers across Scotland.

Almost three in five carers [58%] in the Carers Census were working age [18-64 year old] adults in 2023-24. Adults aged 65 plus made up a quarter of carers identified [26%], whilst young carers aged under 18 accounted for 16% of the carers; female carers outweigh male carers in all age groups^{xxxv}.

Carer's Support Payment replaced Carer's Allowance in Scotland from November 2024. In 2024-25 9,670 payments were made, totaling £1,077,145 to carers in Clackmannanshire. Across Scotland young carers accounted for 5% of the total number of caseloads with the older age groups accounting for the biggest share; 50% of caseloads were from carers aged 55 years and over^{xxxvi}.

Universal Credit

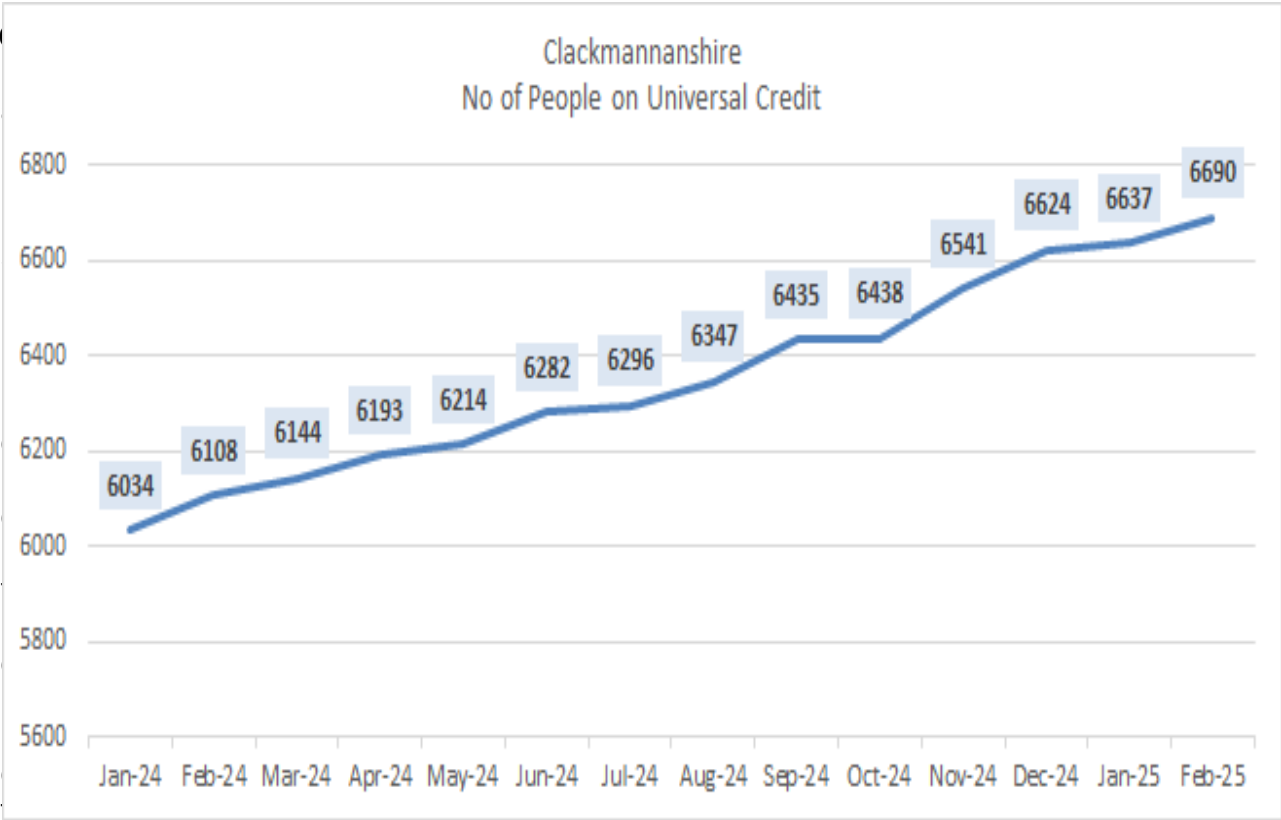
The number of people claiming Universal Credit has steadily increased over the last year with the latest figures reporting *6690 claimants*. This is illustrated in Graph 4.

More females than males are claiming Universal Credit accounting for 58% of the claimants in February 2025.

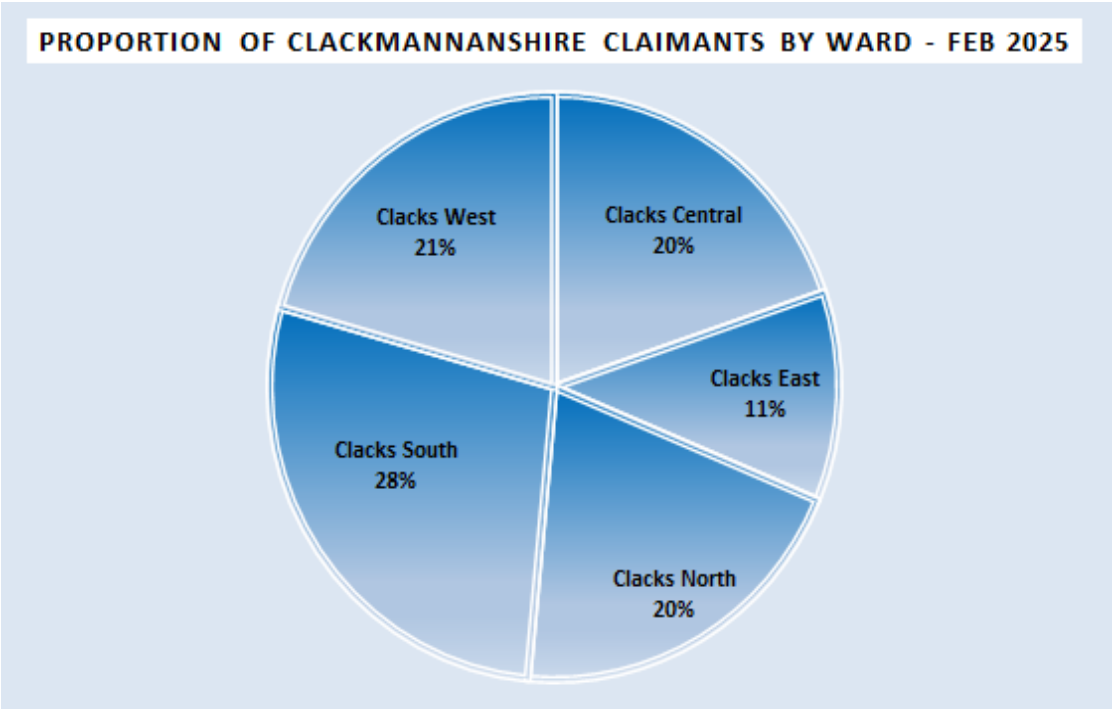
Despite the increasing trend, the proportion of Clackmannanshire's claimants in Scotland remains at 1.11% - this has fallen slightly, which would indicate that fewer people are claiming Universal Credit compared to Scotland as a whole. Graph 5 illustrates the percentage of claimants across Clackmannanshire in February 2025 by Ward level. The highest proportion is in Clackmannanshire South [Clackmannanshire South covers most of Alloa other than north-eastern parts and the modern Alloa Park development in the south-east].

There is a slight reduction in the percentage of young people aged 16-24 years claiming Universal Credit across Clackmannanshire with a fall of 4% in just over a year [14 claimants]. [The number of young people claiming Universal Credit in February 2025 was 338]^{xxxvii}.

Graph 4: No of People Claiming Universal Credit - Clackmannanshire



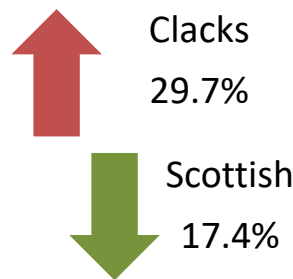
Universal Credit Claimants by Ward – Clackmannanshire



Workless Households:

In 2023 there was little change to the percentage of households that were “working households” across Clackmannanshire at 48% [was 48.2% in 2022]. This figure remains lower than the Scottish average of 57% [in 2022 it was 57.6% - slight improvement].

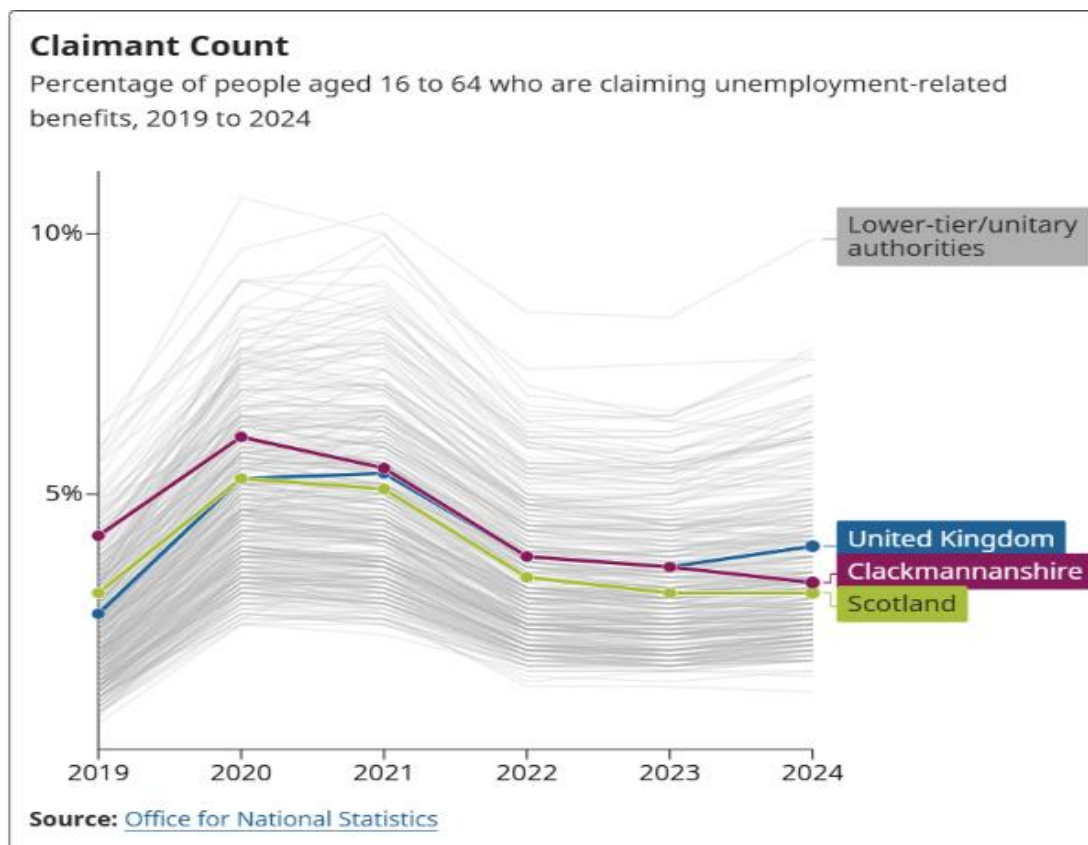
Graph 6: Percentage of Workless Households



Despite such a small change to the working households the percentage of ‘workless households’ increased by almost two percentage points to 29.7%, higher than in 2022 where it was 27.5%. This rate remains much higher than the national rate at 17.4%. The national rate fell from 29.7% to 17.4% whereas the rate across Clackmannanshire increased as illustrated in Graph 6.

Across Scotland there has been a fall in the percentage of workless households who give the reason for living in workless households as being due to ‘sick/disabled’ at 39.7%; it was 45% in 2022. Despite the fall the rate is still slightly more than the UK rate at 38%. More people are retiring earlier across Scotland though than they are across the UK^{xxxviii}.

Claimant Count: The claimant count is the percentage of people aged 16 to 64 who are claiming unemployment-related benefits. Graph 7 illustrates the claimant count in Clackmannanshire compared to Scotland and the United Kingdom.

Graph 7: Claimant Count: Clackmannanshire versus Scotland and the UK

Across Clackmannanshire the claimant count in 2024 was 3.3%, slightly more than the rate across Scotland at 3.1% but lower than the rate in 2023 where it was 3.6%. This is illustrated in Graph 7. The claimant count remained the same across Scotland in 2024 at 3.1% whereas the UK rate increased from 3.6% to 4% in 2024^{xxxix}.

Housing: In 2023, the number of households in Clackmannanshire was 24,305; 202 more than in 2022. This represents a 0.8% increase: the same as the increase nationally. Complementing the SIMD profile of Clackmannanshire, the characteristics of the dwellings by Council Tax bandings has the highest percentage in Bands A-C at 62.7%, higher than the Scottish average at 58.7% and 14th highest out of all the local authority areas.

Homelessness

Across Scotland the number of homelessness applications in 2024 [year to end September 2024] was 41,301, a 2% increase on the previous year; equates to 55,140 people and 15,823 children. Clackmannanshire reported an increase of 11% to 654 applications from 581 the year before.

More than a quarter of all homelessness applications relates to 'termination of tenancy / mortgage due to rent arrears / default on payments' [27%]. Clackmannanshire reports a 7% yearly increase in the number of live homelessness applications [September 2024]; nationally the increase was 6%.

Across Clackmannanshire, there were 148 households in temporary accommodation; 8% higher than the same period the year before, equates to 11 more households [across Scotland the increase was 6%]. There were 35 households with children or pregnant women; 5 more than the same period in 2023, 17% increase [across Scotland the increase was 4%].

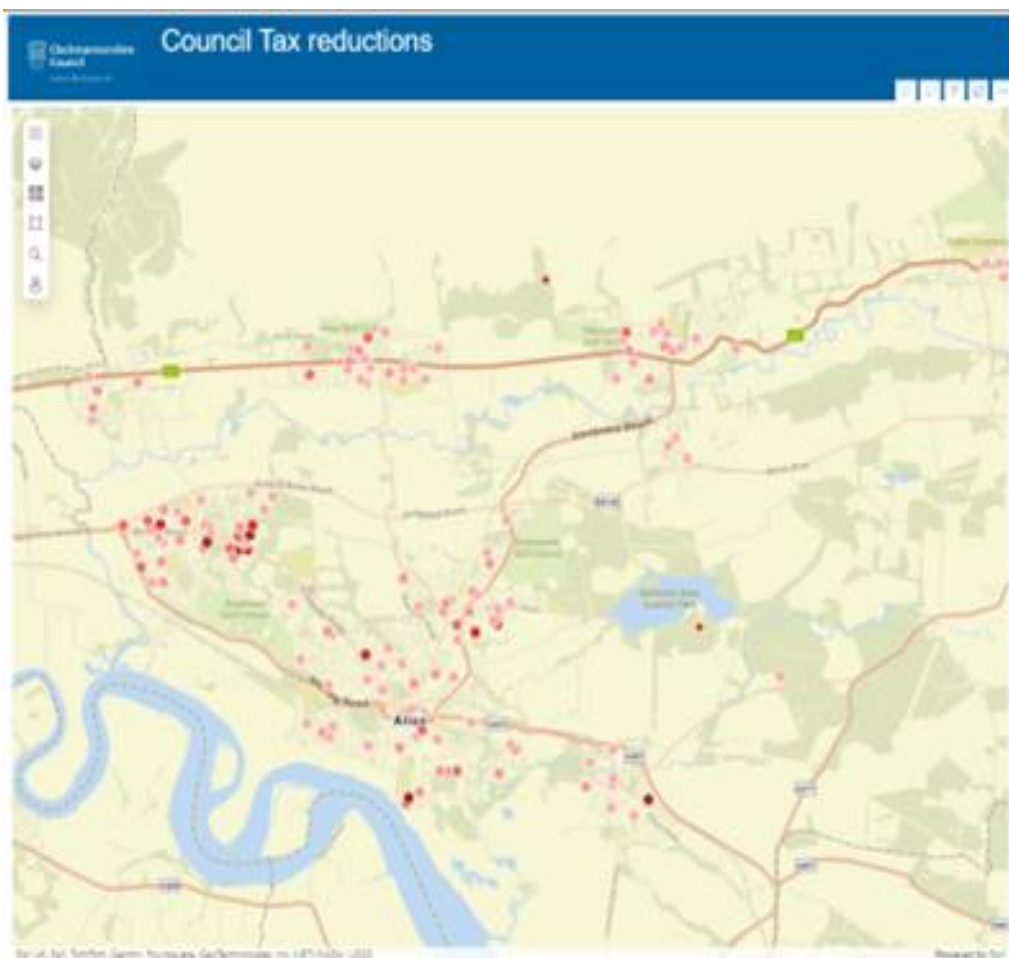
Despite this increase, the number of children living in temporary accommodation fell to 65; a fall of 13% [bucks the national trend of a 5% increase across Scotland]. The average total time spent in temporary accommodation in Clackmannanshire between April and September 2024 was 176 days; lower than the average across Scotland which was 234 days^{xi}.

Council Tax Reduction

There were 458,120 Council Tax Reduction [CTR] recipients in Scotland in March 2025, a **decrease of 0.7%** from 461,550 in March 2024. The weekly income forgone by all local authorities due to the CTR scheme was £7,583.9 million in March 2025, compared to £7,542.7 million in March 2024.

Across Scotland there was a 17% fall in the number of CTR recipients between April 2013 and March 2025; across Clackmannanshire this was a 9% fall. In March 2025 there were 5,160 recipients of Council Tax Reductions across Clackmannanshire, a slight fall compared to March 2024. Map 3 illustrates the location of households in receipt of Council Tax Reduction across Clackmannanshire^{xii}. The weekly income forgone by Clackmannanshire Council due to the CTR scheme was just over £80,000 in March 2025, slightly more than in March 2024^{xiii}.

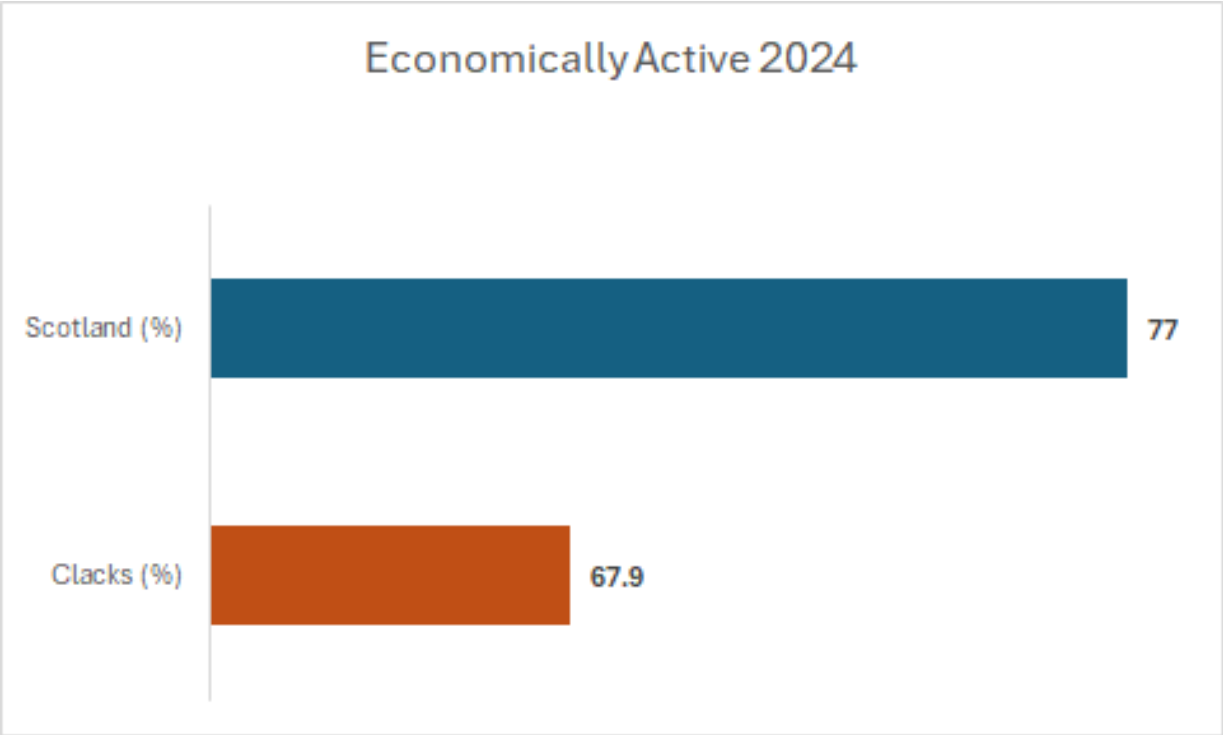
Map 3: Households with Council Tax Reduction



Employment and Unemployment Rate

Latest Office of National Statistics (ONS) reports the percentage of population across Clackmannanshire that were economically active in 2024 at 67.9% as being less than the Scottish rate of 77%; illustrated in Graph 8.

Graph 8: Percentage of Population Economically Active – Clackmannanshire versus Scotland



The biggest gap to the Scottish average in Clackmannanshire is among the male cohort with only 69.6% economically active compared to 80% across Scotland; for the female cohort, 66.3% were economically active compared to 74.1% across Scotland.

The percentage of population across Clackmannanshire “economically inactive” was 32.1%; this equates to 10,600 people, higher than the Scottish rate at 23%; with 44.4% of the figure [4,700 people] reported as “long-term sick” compared to 33.7% across Scotland.

Professional occupations across Clackmannanshire are much lower than the Scottish average with employment in less skilled occupations such as caring, leisure, sales, customer service and plant and machine operatives being higher in Clackmannanshire.

The gross weekly pay for women is lower in Clackmannanshire than across Scotland at £665.70, yet the gross pay for men is higher at £813.50^{xliii}.

Child Protection

Across Scotland 2,129 children were on the Child Protection Register, an increase of 3% on 2023 [2,077 children] but a fall of 26% on 2014 [as of July 2024]. During 2023-24, 3,167 children were registered onto the Child Protection Register, a fall of 2% on 2022-23 [3,234 children] and a fall of 31% on 2013/14.



Around half [48%] of children added to the child protection register in 2023-24 lived in one of the 20% most deprived areas in Scotland. This compares to 3% in the 20% least deprived areas in Scotland.

The most common concerns identified at Case Conferences remain domestic abuse [45%], neglect [42%], parental substance use [39%], parental mental health problems [37%], and emotional abuse [33%].

Of those children on the child protection register, 49% were male, 47% were female, and 4% of children were not yet born. The proportion of children on the register under the age of 5 years was 47%, equal to the proportion in 2023, but lower than 53% in 2014. The proportion of children on the register in 2024 aged 5 years and over was 53%, equal to the proportion in 2023 but up from 47% in 2014.

The number of children on the Child Protection Register across Clackmannanshire on 31st July 2024 was 24, a rate of 2.4 per 1000 children. The national rate across Scotland was 2.1 per 1000 children.

Almost two thirds [65%] of children added to the child protection register in 2023-24 lived in one of the 20% most deprived areas in Clackmannanshire, higher than the Scottish average of 48%. This compares to 2% in the 20% least deprived areas in Clackmannanshire.

Across Clackmannanshire the main concern identified is linked to neglect followed by parental mental ill health and emotional abuse. This differs from the year before when the main concern was linked to domestic abuse. In the year 2023-24, 55 children were registered with the main concerns identified at case conferences being domestic abuse [56%], emotional abuse [55%], parental mental ill health [45%], parental substance use [40%] and neglect [40%]^{xliv}. Note – more than one concern can be reported at each case.

Referrals to the Children's Reporter

In 2023-24, 10,197 children and young people in Scotland were referred to the Children's Reporter: 1.1% of all children and young people in Scotland; a slight fall compared to the previous year. Most children and young people [8,196] were referred due to concerns about them [care and protection grounds].

Lack of parental care remains the most common reason assigned by Reporters when a child or young person is referred. The most common ages for children and young people to be referred to the Reporter has not changed at 14 and 15 years. The number of children and young people with Child Protection Orders in 2023-24 was 478. Proportionately, more Child Protection Orders are granted for very young children (especially new-born babies), than any other age, reflecting their high risk and vulnerability and requirement for immediate protection^{xlv}.

Across Clackmannanshire 123 children were referred to the Children's Reporter in 2022-23, an increase of 4% compared to last year [equates to 5 children]. The most common reason for referral remains '[he]/[she] is likely to suffer unnecessarily, or [his]/[her] health or development is likely to be seriously impaired, due to a lack of parental care'; just over half of all referrals for 2023-24^{xlvi}.



Local Crime Rate

Across Scotland there was an increase in the number of crimes reported [299,780], an overall increase of 4%. Crimes of dishonesty remain the highest yearly increase [same as last year] although the percentage increase is less at 7%.

Cyber crime is an increasing threat: in 2023-24, an estimated 16,890 cyber-crimes were recorded by the police in Scotland. This was an increase of 2,000 crimes [or 13%] when compared to the estimated volume for 2022-23 [14,890]. Cyber-crimes accounted for an estimated 30% of Sexual crimes in 2023-24, 9% of Crimes of dishonesty and 4% of Non-sexual crimes of violence.

Across Clackmannanshire, in 2023-24, the number of crimes and offences *increased by 7%* to 2873; higher than the overall increase across Scotland of 4%. Crimes of violence continue to fall at 3%, however crimes of dishonesty increased by 20% with *shoplifting accounting for the highest increase*; sexual crimes increased by 10% with the highest proportion relating to 'Causing to view sexual activity or images' and drug supply offences increased by 38%.

In 2023-24 the clear up rate [detection rate] across Scotland was 54.1%, up from 53.3% in 2022-23. crimes against society [91.4%], non-sexual crimes of violence [68%] and Sexual crime [57.2%] continued to have higher clear up rates in 2023-24 than crimes of dishonesty [33.1%] and damage and reckless behaviour [29.6%]^{xlvii}.

Domestic Abuse

The police recorded 63,867 incidents of domestic abuse in 2023-24, an increase of 3% compared to the previous year. This is the first year this figure has shown an increase since 2020-21. In 2023-24, 38% of domestic abuse incidents recorded by the police in Scotland included the recording of at least one crime or offence.

The type of crime or offence that was most frequently recorded as part of a domestic abuse incident in 2023-24 was common assault, accounting for 31% of all crimes and offences recorded. This was followed by crimes against public justice and Threatening and abusive behaviour, each accounting for 20% of crimes and offences.

Crimes recorded under the Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018 accounted for 5% of crimes and offences recorded as part of a domestic abuse incident in 2023-24.

Where gender information was recorded, just over four-in-five [81%] incidents of domestic abuse in 2023-24 involved a female victim and a male suspected perpetrator; this was the same as in 2021-22 and 2022-23.

In 2023-24, 15% of domestic abuse incidents involved a male victim and a female suspected perpetrator [where gender information was recorded]; this decreased slightly from 16% in 2022-23.

In 2023-24, the 31 to 35 years old age group had the highest incident rate for both victims [267 incidents recorded per 10,000 population] and suspected perpetrators [233 incidents recorded per 10,000 population].

Just under a third of incidents [31%] occurred at the weekend in 2023-24; this was a slight decrease from 32% in 2022-23.

In 2023-24, nine-in-ten [90%] of all domestic abuse incidents occurred in a home or dwelling.

Across Clackmannanshire the number of domestic abuse incidents recorded in 2023-24 was 732, *an increase of 12%*, higher than the average across Scotland [3% increase].

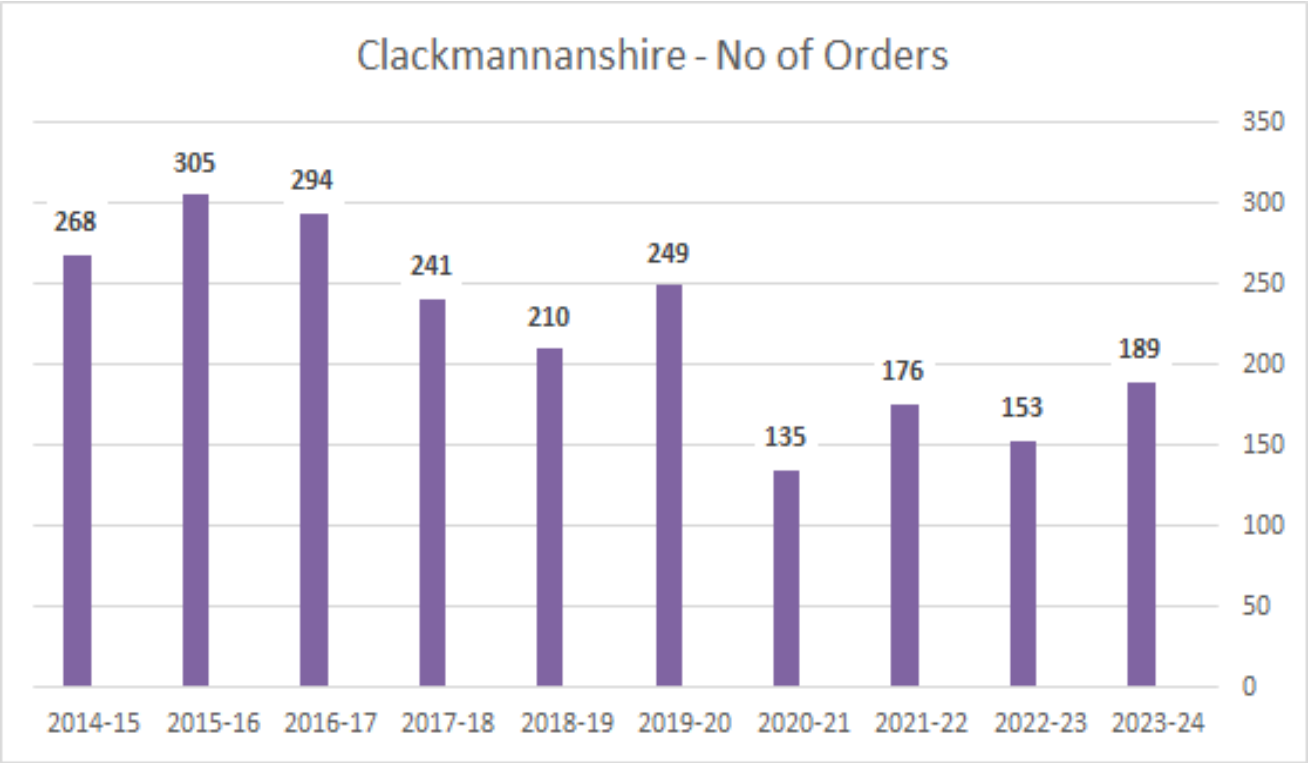
Until 2023-24 Clackmannanshire was reporting a decreasing trend in domestic abuse incidents; 37% resulted in the recording of a crime or offence.

The rate of domestic abuse increased to *141 incidents per 10K population*, higher than the Scottish average at 116: *4th highest* in Scotland^{xlviii}.

Community Sentences

There were 189 Community Payback Orders [CPOs] commenced in 2023-24 across Clackmannanshire involving 176 individuals. This equates to a rate of 48.8 individuals per 1000 population, *much higher than the Scottish rate* at 33.8. This is an increase on the year before when a fall was reported; an increase was also reported across Scotland. Graph 9 illustrates the number of CPOs. Prior to the pandemic the number of CPOs was much higher.

Graph 9: Number of Community Payback Orders – Clackmannanshire 2014-15 to



2023-24

A small number of CPOs involved young people aged under 20 years; accounts for 6% of the total CPOs, slightly less than across Scotland where it was 8%. The age group 31-40 years continues to contain the largest proportion of CPOs commenced since 2016-17, roughly about a third of all CPOs are in this age group^{xlix}.

Prison Population

The average daily prison population in Scotland was 7,860 in 2023-24. This is an increase of almost 6% from 2022-23 and is primarily driven by an increase in the sentenced population [+8%]. The overall average daily remand population remained stable between 2022-23 and 2023-24, falling by just 0.5% to 1,796.

The average daily population of women in prison increased by almost 13% in 2023-24 [from 282 in 2022-23 to 318]. This is a greater rate of increase than the overall average daily prison population, although women still comprised just 4% of the prison population in 2023-24. The proportion of women held on remand on the average day in 2023-24 was 32% [fall of 1 percentage point from 2022-23].

For the first time since 2009-10 the average daily population of young people [under 21 years] rose slightly in 2023-24 [from 160 to 168]. The increase in the average daily population of young people [under 21 years] in prison in 2023-24 occurred entirely among 18 to 20 year olds [an increase of 13 from 2022-23]. The average daily population of under-18s in custody fell in 2023-24 from 9 in 2022-23 to 5.

The number of offenders who entered the prison system [arrivals] from the Clackmannanshire area in 2023-24 increased to 3.6 per 1000 population [184 individuals]; this is the *second highest rate* across Scotland with only arrivals from Dundee being higher [the rate across Scotland was 2 per 1000 population]¹.

Youth Employment

Table 5: Youth Employment Rate – Comparison January - December 2024 to January – December 2023

Across Scotland, in January to December 2024:	Across Scotland, in January to December 2023:
the estimated employment rate for 16 to 24 year olds was 55.0%	the employment rate for 16 to 24 year olds decreased by 1.0 pp
the estimated unemployment rate for 16 to 24 year olds was 10.4%	the unemployment rate for 16 to 24 year olds increased by 0.5 pp
the estimated economic inactivity rate for 16 to 24 year olds was 38.6 %	the inactivity rate for 16 to 24 year olds increased by 0.7 ppli

Participation Measure

The data set used to produce the APM is managed by Skills Development Scotland (SDS) and combines data from a range of data sharing partners including local authorities, colleges, the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) and SAAS, to help identify what young adults between the ages of 16-19 are ‘participating’ in during the reporting period.

The Annual Participation Measure [APM] reports on the education and employment activity of 16-19 year olds in Scotland and is the source of the Scottish Government’s National Performance indicator “Percentage of young adults [16-19 year olds] participating in education, training, or employment”. In 2024, participation was highest amongst 16 year olds [99.1%] and lowest amongst 19 year olds [85.3%]. This mirrors all previous years.



In 2024, this national indicator stood at 92.7%, the highest percentage using the current methodology. This is an increase of 0.1 percentage points [pp] compared to 2023 [92.6%].

The APM in 2024 in Clackmannanshire *is second lowest in Scotland* at 90.3% with the highest “not participating rate” across Scotland at 7.5%. Clackmannanshire has the lowest percentage participating in education at 63.4% with the Scottish average being 71.2%; but is above the Scottish average for participating in employment at 24.3% [Scottish average was 19.6%].

The gender participation gap [the difference between the APM for men and women] for young people grew to 1.8pp with young women continuing to participate more than young men. The Scottish average was 0.9pp.

The participation gap between those who live in the 20% most deprived areas [Q1] and those in the 20% least deprived areas [Q5] in 2024 was 10.9pp. Despite being the fifth largest gap across Scotland, this gap has narrowed since 2023 where it was 13.2pp^{lii}.

Health Risk Behaviours

This National Performance Framework [NPF] indicator measures the proportion of adults [aged 16+] with two or more health risk behaviours [current smoker, harmful or hazardous drinker, low physical activity and obesity].

Smoking and Vaping

Smoking: The most recent 5-year rolling average of smoking rates in Clackmannanshire for people aged 18 and over is 17.3%; higher than the Scottish rate of 14.7%. This is the *fifth highest* across all the other Scottish local authorities [North Lanarkshire, West Lothian, Glasgow City and West Dunbartonshire are higher].

People aged 25 to 34 years of age continue to have the highest smoking prevalence rate^{liii}.

Vaping: Action on Smoking and Health (UK)[ASH] found that there are more smokers [6.2 million] than vapers [5.6 million] across the UK^{liv}. [ASH Smokefree GB Youth Surveys, 2013-2024]

- 11% of adults currently vape
- Rise has been steady over the past decade
- More than half [53%] of current vapers are ex-smokers
- Nearly four in ten [39%] of current vapers also smoke
- 8.0% of people who vape have never smoked
- Young People – in the age range 11 to 17 years:
 - 7.6% currently vape compared to 5.5% currently smoke cigarettes
 - 4.5% regularly vape [more than once a week]- slight increase

From 1st June 2025 it became illegal to sell single-use vapes; the aim being to cut down the number of young people vaping [evidence of single use vapes being found discarded in school playgrounds and surrounding areas].



Alcohol

In 2023 alcohol specific deaths remained stable with an increase of one death across Scotland, giving a total of 1277 deaths; 861 were male, 416 were female.

Across Scotland, the age profile of alcohol-specific deaths has become older over time, with the average age at death increasing from 56 to 60 years in the last decade. In 2023, the alcohol-specific mortality rates for those aged 65 to 74, and 75+ were at their highest since the series began in 1994.

Male deaths continue to account for around two thirds of all alcohol-specific deaths. The gap between alcohol specific mortality rates in the most and least deprived areas has narrowed over time. However, alcohol specific deaths continue to be more common in more deprived areas^{lv}.

Across Clackmannanshire there were 18 deaths, **an increase of 5 deaths** on the year before. The 5 year average is 67 deaths, 10 more than the previous 5 year average. The latest five year average-standardised mortality rates in Clackmannanshire is now higher than the Scottish average at 23, compared to 21.5^{lvi}.

Drug Use

In 2023, there were 1,172 drug misuse deaths registered in Scotland, an increase of 12% [121 deaths] compared with 2022. Whilst drug misuse deaths in Scotland have generally been increasing over the last two decades, this is the second lowest number in the last six years.

Males were twice as likely to have a drug misuse death as females. Most of the increase in the past year was due to male deaths. Since 2000, the average age of drug misuse deaths has increased from 32 to 45 years.

People in the most deprived areas of Scotland are more than 15 times as likely to die from drug misuse compared to people in the least deprived areas. The association of deprivation with drug misuse deaths is much greater than with other causes of death.

The most common type of drugs implicated in drug misuse deaths in 2023 were opiates/opioids which were implicated in 80% of all deaths. The majority [88%] of drug misuse deaths were classified as accidental poisoning, with only 7% classed as intentional self-poisonings^{lvii}.

Across Clackmannanshire there were 11 drug related deaths in 2023, one more than in 2022; 7 deaths were male whilst the remaining 4 were by females. All 11 deaths were classified as accidental poisonings with evidence of polydrug use with no deaths by young people aged under 24 years. The highest risk age group is in the older age range of 35 to 54 years.

Despite the number of deaths, the 5 year average age standardised death rate was eighth highest in Scotland at 26.2 and higher than the Scottish average of 23.6.

Police Scotland produces quarterly figures with the latest figures reporting a fall in the number of drug related deaths. Taking the yearly total, there were **43 drug related deaths** in C Division [covers Clackmannanshire] in 2024 compared to 47 in 2023; **a fall of 12%**, nationally the fall was 11%. Drug related deaths among the male 45 to 54 year age range continues to be the highest risk category^{lviii}.



Life Expectancy

This National Performance Framework [NPF] indicator estimates the average number of years a person spends in good health. Healthy life expectancy is analysed at birth and at 65 years.

In 2021-2023, life expectancy in Scotland was 80.8 years for females and 76.8 years for males; it has increased by almost 5 weeks for females and 13 weeks for males since 2020-2022 although remains lower than before the pandemic. Scotland continues to have the lowest life expectancy of other UK countries^{lix}.

- Female life expectancy in the most deprived areas of Scotland was 10.5 years lower than in the least deprived areas in 2021-2023
- Male life expectancy in the most deprived areas of Scotland was 13.2 years lower than in the least deprived areas in 2021-2023

According to the latest ScotPHO data, the healthy life expectancy for females in Clackmannanshire is similar to the Scottish average at **80 years** however the healthy life expectancy for males in Clackmannanshire is one year lower at **75.8 years** [2021-2023, 3 year aggregate data]^{lx}.

Mental Wellbeing

Poor mental health is an important public health challenge and significant mental health inequalities exist in Scotland. *Improving the mental health and wellbeing of the population is a national priority.*

Mental health is defined by the World Health Organisation as a state of well-being in which every individual realises their own potential, can cope with the stresses of life, can work productively, and is able to contribute to their community^{lxi}. Approximately **one in four people** in Scotland will face a mental health problem during their lifetime^{lxii}.

- **Loneliness** can contribute to the onset and continuation of poor mental health, and which is likely to be exacerbated by increases in the cost of living and the ability of some individuals to maintain connections with others.
- **Employment status** also has repercussions for mental health; being unemployed or economically inactive is linked to higher rates of common mental health problems.

Table 6 details the difference in the percentage of loneliness by area of deprivation with adults living in the most deprived areas more than double experience loneliness compared to adults living in the least deprived areas^{lxiii}.

**Table 6:** Loneliness of Adults By SIMD

Adult (aged 16+) loneliness (age-standardised), 2023, by area deprivation and sex					
How often felt lonely in last week?					
Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation	5th (Least deprived) %	4th %	3rd %	2nd %	1st (Most deprived) %
Males					
Most/all of the time	5	9	6	12	14
Some of the time	22	22	30	27	27
None/almost none of the time	73	68	64	61	58
Females					
Most/all of the time	5	9	8	10	14
Some of the time	29	23	33	31	31
None/almost none of the time	65	68	59	59	55
All adults					
Most/all of the time	5	9	7	11	14
Some of the time	26	22	31	29	29
None/almost none of the time	69	68	61	60	57

Suicide

‘About one in four of all deaths among young people is caused by suicide’

In 2023, there were **792 probable suicide deaths** in Scotland, an increase of 30 [4%] on the previous year. Male suicides increased by 34 to 590 deaths in 2023, while female suicide deaths decreased by 4 to 202 deaths in the latest year.

The rate of suicide mortality in males was 3.2 times as high as the rate for females. Rates have been consistently higher for males.

The rate of suicide mortality in the most deprived areas in Scotland was 2.5 times as high as in the least deprived areas in Scotland. This is higher than the deprivation gap of 1.8 times for all causes of death.

Over half of all probable suicide deaths in 2023 were due to hangings, strangulations or suffocations. Almost 1 in every 4 probable suicides were due to poisoning.

The overall number of suicides across Clackmannanshire has remained the same for the last two reporting years at **7** [both in 2022 and 2023]. The rate of deaths from suicide has **fallen to 15.7 per 100,000 population**, slightly higher than the Scottish rate at 14.6 [2019- 2023 5 year aggregate]^{lxiv}.

Teenage Pregnancies

Across Scotland, the teenage pregnancy rate rose for the first time in over ten years, increasing from 23.2 per 1,000 women in 2021 to 27.1 per 1,000 women in 2022. This is equivalent to 535 more pregnancies [3,756 compared to 3,221]. This increase was mostly driven by pregnancies in those aged between 17 and 19 years.



Teenage pregnancy rate increases were reported across all levels of deprivation in 2022. However, increases were greater in less deprived areas [SIMD 2 to 5] than in the most deprived [SIMD 1].

Despite this, *teenage pregnancy rates were more than three times higher for those living in the most deprived areas compared to the least deprived areas* in 2022.

Across Clackmannanshire, the rate of teenage pregnancies [under 20 years] increased from 30.5 per 1,000 women to *33.6 per 1,000 women* in 2022, this rate remains higher than the Scottish average and is fourth highest across all local authorities [no change from 2021]^{lxv}.

- Pregnancy rates for 16 and under rose from 2.3 per 1,000 women to 2.7 per 1,000 women [average 2020/2022] - 7 women
- Pregnancy rates for under 18 years fell to 14.4 per 1,000 women from 18.6 per 1,000 women [average 2020/2022] – 36 women

Breastfeeding

Supporting breastfeeding is an important public health activity, with strong evidence that breastfeeding protects the health of children and mothers and reduces inequalities in health.

More than two thirds [68%] of babies reviewed in Scotland in 2023-24 were breastfed for at least some time after their birth. Of babies reviewed at 6-8 weeks, 33% were exclusively breastfed, 16% mixed breast and formula fed and 51% formula fed.

Over the past 10 years the proportion of babies receiving some breastfeeding has increased at both First Visit [59%] and 6-8 week reviews [49%]. There have been increases both in the proportion of babies receiving mixed formula and breastfeeding and in those being exclusively breastfed.

Across Clackmannanshire this figure is lower than the Scottish average at *53.8%*, also lower than the year before [56%]; *28.2% were exclusively breastfed*, again lower than the Scottish average^{lxvi}.

Healthy Start

The National Performance Framework uses the indicator “the perinatal Mortality Rate per 1,000 births [the rate of stillbirths and deaths of babies in the first week of life] as a measure for children and young people having a “healthy start”. Scotland’s perinatal mortality rate increased in 2023 to *5.7 per 1,000 births* [from 5.3 per 1,000 births in 2022]. In Clackmannanshire this rate was lower at 2.3 per 1,000 births in 2023.

The rate of infant deaths was higher than the Scottish average in 2023 at 4.6 per 1,000 births [equates to 2 deaths]^{lxvii}.

Early Years

Early child development is influenced by both biological factors [being born premature] and environmental factors. Problems with early child development are important as they are strongly associated with long-term health, educational, and wider social difficulties. The pre-school development indicator is “the percentage of children with a developmental concern at their 27– 30 month child health review”.

In 2023-24, 16.7% of children at 27-30 month review had a concern noted about at least one area of their development; these findings represent a small decrease in the percentage of children with a concern noted about at least one area of development; it was 17.9% in 2022-23.

There are marked and persistent socioeconomic inequalities in the percentage of children recorded as having a concern about their development at these reviews. The gap between those living in the most and least deprived areas is greatest at the 27-30 month review [16 percentage points].

Across Clackmannanshire, the percentage of children with a concern about any developmental concern at 27–30 month review is *continuing a decreasing trend*. In 2023-24, 17.6% were reported to have a concern, slightly more than the Scottish average.

There are persistent inequalities in the proportion of children who are found to have a developmental concern. At 27-30 months, this proportion is 2.5 times higher among children living in the most deprived areas [25.5%] than those in the least deprived [9.9%], although the gap narrowed in 2023-24.

Four in ten children [40.1%] who are Care Experienced [Looked After] are found to have a developmental concern at the 27-30 month review. This is much higher than the Scottish average^{lxviii}.

Childhood Obesity

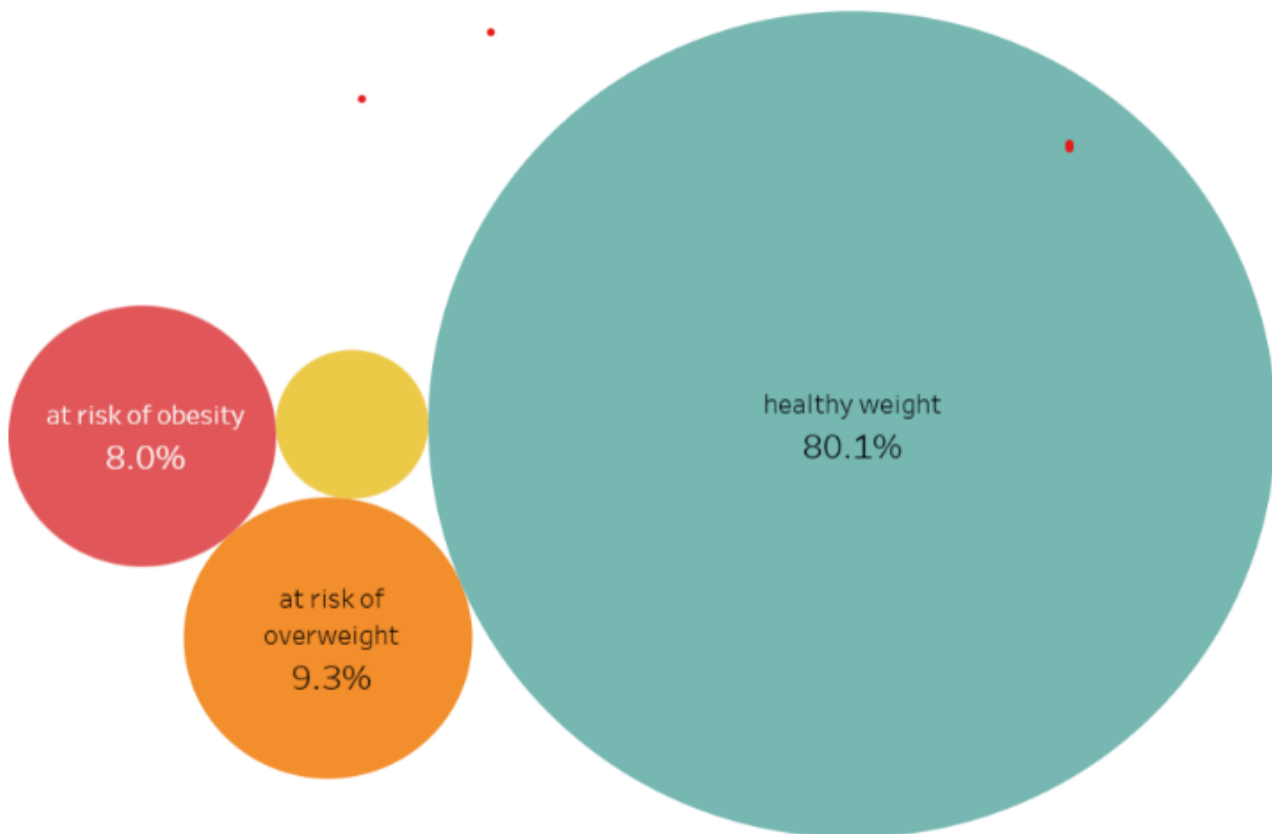
A child's Body Mass Index [BMI] is calculated by dividing their weight by their height squared. Children are then allocated to a healthy or unhealthy weight category by comparing their BMI to the range of BMIs seen among a reference group of children of the same age and sex.

Across Scotland in the school year 2023-24, 76.5% of Primary 1 children measured had a healthy weight, 22.3% were at risk of being overweight or obesity and 1.2% were at risk of underweight.

Marked socioeconomic inequalities in child healthy weight persist, particularly in the percentage of children at risk of obesity. In 2023-24, 14.0% of children living in the most deprived areas were in this category, compared with 6.4% of those living in the least deprived areas.

Boys in Primary 1 remain slightly less likely than girls to have a healthy weight, but a similar proportion of boys [22.3%] and girls [22.2%] were at risk of being overweight and obesity.

Across Clackmannanshire, in school year 2023-24, 80.1% of Primary 1 children measured had a healthy weight, **17.3% were at risk of overweight or obesity** and 2.6% were at risk of underweight. This is illustrated in Graph 10. Overweight or obesity rates are lower than the Scottish average however **the percentage of young people at risk of underweight is increasing**^{lxix}.



Graph 10: Obesity Rates - Clackmannanshire

Young Carers

Young Carer Grants are a payment that can be applied for annually by young carers aged 16, 17, and 18 who care for someone normally paid a qualifying disability benefit.

In the 2024-25 financial year:

- 6,380 applications were received,
- 6,240 applications have been processed, of which 67% were authorised,
- 33% were denied and less than 1% were withdrawn.
- 4,135 Young Carer Grant payments were made, highest number of payments in a financial year since launch
- *More applicants are younger:* of the applications received from launch, 36% were for an applicant aged 16 years, 37% for aged 17 years, and 25% for aged 18 years.
- Around 98% of all applications received were for applicants *caring for one person*.
- Less than 1% of applications were for applicants caring for two or three people.

The Carers Census for 2023–24 reported *52,000 unpaid carers* were supported by local services across Scotland, marking a *17% increase* from the 44,310 carers supported in 2022–23.



Almost three in five carers [58%] in the Carers Census were working age [18-64 year old] adults in 2023-24. Adults aged 65 plus made up a quarter of carers identified [26%], whilst young carers aged under 18 accounted for 16% of the carers.

Around three-quarters of carers in the 2023-24 Carers Census were female [73%], similar to the previous year. In 2023-24, 15% of young carers lived in areas within the most deprived Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation [SIMD] decile, while 5% lived in areas within the least deprived SIMD decile^{lxx}.

According to SEEMiS [education system] there are currently **131 young carers** across Clackmannanshire schools. This number has steadily increased over the last few years due to increased awareness and confidence of young people to identify as being a young carer and the introduction of The Promise recognising young carers as children and young people who need extra support.

Care Experienced Children and Young People

Across Scotland, there were 11,844 children looked after on 31 July 2024, a fall of 240 children [2%] compared to July 2023. The rate of children looked after per 1,000 children was 11.7 in 2024. This is the lowest rate since 2005.

A total of 2,313 looked after children were looked after at home on 31 July 2024. This is down 5% on 31 July 2023 and down 44% on 2013-14. This accounts for 20% of looked after children.

On 31 July 2024, the most common placements away from home were kinship care [35%], foster care [32%], and residential accommodation [11%].

According to Children's Social Work Statistics, across Clackmannanshire, there were **221 children looked after** on 31 July 2024: 4 less than in July 2023; equates to 4% of the overall population; higher than the Scottish rate which is 2%. The number of looked after children in Clackmannanshire has fallen from further to 217 in 2024-25. This is representative of 21.9 per 1000 (0-17 years) of local population.

More males continue to be looked after than females with a split of 56% to 44% across Clackmannanshire. There continues to be an increase in the number of children looked after under 5 years in Clackmannanshire, higher than the Scottish average.

It continues to be the case that the highest proportion of looked after are with friends/relatives, 39% in 2023-24 and 35% in 2024-25; as is the case across Scotland, although the proportion in Clackmannanshire is higher than the average across Scotland. A greater increase in the number of children looked after at home is attributed to the small reduction in kinship care in 2024-25.

Care Leavers

Across Clackmannanshire there were 31 care leavers during the year [2024] with only 39% with a Pathway Plan [much lower than the Scottish average of 74%], and over half had a Pathway Coordinator. This continues to be a focused area of improvement.

In 2025 100% of young people in continuing care have a pathway plan and pathway coordinator [7]. 100% of young people under 19 eligible for aftercare have an allocated pathways coordinator [27], 55% have a pathway plan with the remaining either underway or declined.



There are 12 young people in receipt of discretionary aftercare between ages of 19-25. 100% have a pathway plan and pathway coordinator. 39 young people between the ages of 19-25 are eligible for a service, these young people do not have a named pathways coordinator however are open to the team and receive support on a duty basis as well as access to the Care Experience Hub.

Of the 45% receiving continuing care, **60% were in employment, education, or training**; higher than the Scottish rate of 55%.

During the year 2023-24, 80 children and young people were ceased as being looked after with more than half [57.5%] returning to biological parents, more than the Scottish average [45%]. A tenth ceased to be looked after due to adoption orders being granted with adoptive parents, almost double the average across Scotland.

Education

Clackmannanshire has 18 publicly funded primary schools, 3 publicly funded secondary schools, 2 ASL Schools [Secondary School Support Service and Lochies], 4 Specialist Provisions [Alloa Academy [EASN], Alva Academy [ASD], Alva PS [ASD] and Primary School Support Service] and 4 standalone extended year Early Learning and Childcare [ELC] establishments.

School Roll: across Clackmannanshire, there were 6483 pupils registered in 2024 [3,621 primary school pupils, 2,755 secondary school pupils and 87 pupils who attend our Specialist Provisions], continuing a decreasing trend^{lxxi}.

At the latest annual school staff survey, Clackmannanshire is reporting 560 teachers [excluding ELC]. The overall pupil teacher ratio changed very little at 11.6, lower than the Scottish average of 13.3. The average class size for primary schools across Clackmannanshire in 2024 was 21.7 pupils, smaller than the Scottish average of 23.3^{lxxii}.

Early Years Education

In 2024, there were **132 parents** who were on qualifying benefits for their two year olds to have a free place in an ELC Establishment in Clackmannanshire. There was a total of 137 two year-olds, 265 three year-olds, and 474 four year olds across Clackmannanshire's ELC establishments.

A smaller percentage of all ELC registrations were assessed as having Additional Support Needs in 2024 at **14%**; 7 percentage points lower than in 2023.

Free School Meals [FSM]

All pupils in primary one to five in Scotland, and all children in specialist schools, currently receive free school meals, reporting to save families who take up the offer an average of £400 per child per year. From 3 March 2025, pupils in Primary 6 and 7 whose parent or carer receives Scottish Child Payment are now also eligible for free school meals.

According to SEEMiS records, 27.4% of primary school pupils were entitled to FSM in 2023-24 [not including the automatic inclusions for FSM]; this is a fall compared to the previous year, but the overall trend is increasing. Scottish Government published statistics on free school meals is taken from the School Living Healthy Survey and it reports across Clackmannanshire, the uptake for free school meals for primary school pupils was 76.7% 2024, slightly more than the Scottish average of 72.1% and more than the year before where the uptake was 64.1%^{lxxiii}.

Additional Support Needs [ASN]

Scotland has an inclusive educational system which focuses on overcoming barriers to learning and “Getting it Right for Every Child” [GIRFEC]. Some children and young people need additional support to benefit fully from their education. Additional support needs can arise, in the short or long term, from a variety of circumstances including the learning environment, family circumstances, health or disability needs, social and emotional factors.

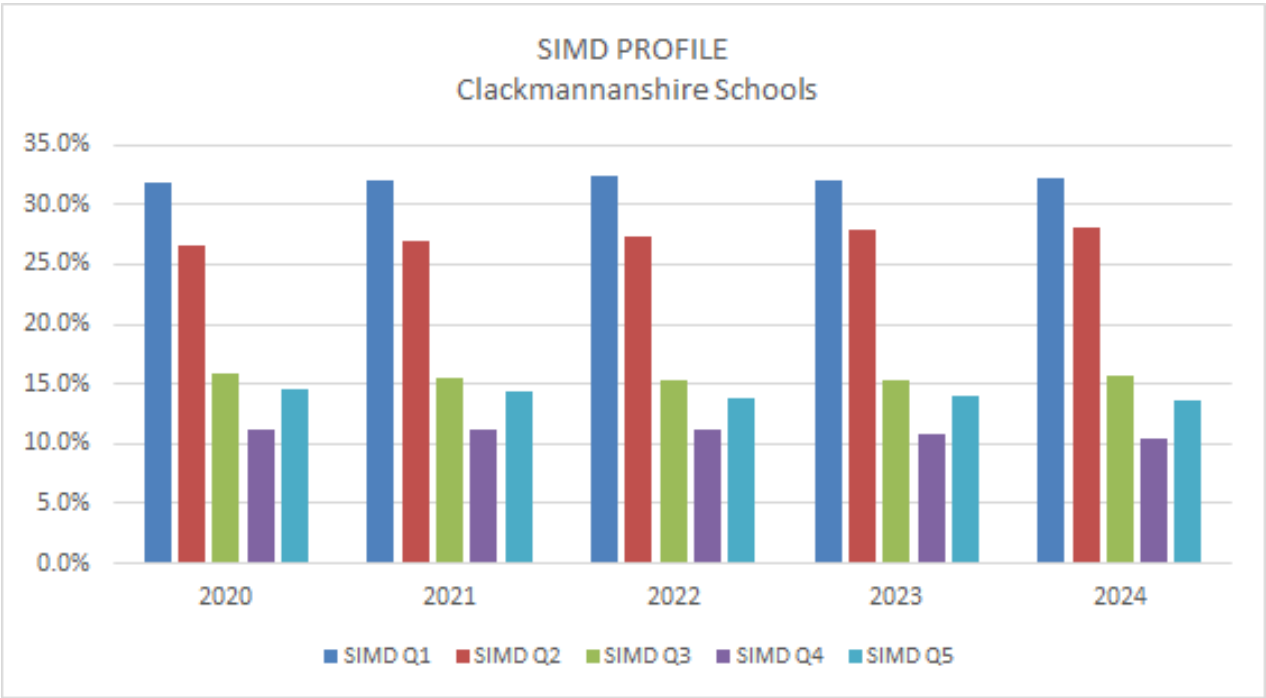
There continues to be an increase in the percentage of primary school children recorded as having an Additional Support Need [ASN]. Across Clackmannanshire, in 2024, 34.6% of pupils were recorded as having an ASN, up from 30.1% in 2023. Secondary school pupils are reporting higher rates of ASN, in 2024, 43.1% of secondary school pupils in Clackmannanshire reported to have ASN; although lower than the Scottish average at 46.1%.

The most recorded reason for support for ASN at primary school is “social, emotional and behavioural difficulty” [29%]. The most recorded reason for support for ASN at secondary school is dyslexia with more than a quarter [27%] of secondary school pupils followed by “social, emotional and behavioural difficulty” [23.3%].

Deprivation Profile – Educational Establishments

Across Scottish schools, 22.3% of pupils live in the most deprived areas [Q1] and 19.1% live in the least deprived areas [Q5]. The deprivation profile for primary and secondary schools has changed little over the last five years as illustrated in Graph 11. Across Clackmannanshire, 32.2% of pupils live in our most deprived areas [Q1] and 13.7% live in our least deprived areas [Q5] in 2024^{lxxiv}.

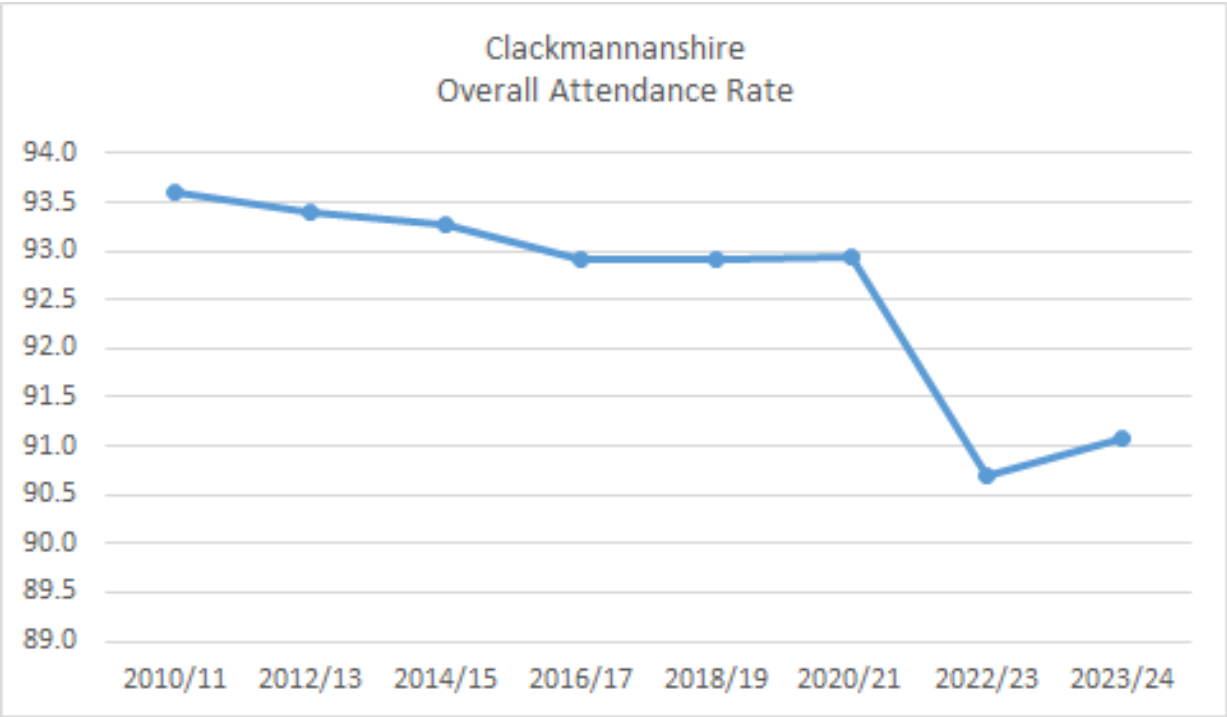
Graph 11: SIMD Profile – Clackmannanshire Schools



School Attendance

In 2023-24, the overall attendance rate across Scotland was 90.3%, similar to the rate in 2022-23. Across Clackmannanshire the overall attendance rate recovered slightly after the dip in attendance linked to the pandemic to 91.1%. This is illustrated in Graph 12.

Graph 12: Overall Attendance Rate - Clackmannanshire





The attendance rate for primary school pupils was 92.4%, not far off the Scottish average at 92.5% and for secondary schools, it was 89.2%, higher than the Scottish average at 87.6%.

Figures in brackets are the Scottish attendance rates

- Attendance by gender: Female 90.8% [90.2%]; Male 91.4% [90.5%]
- Primary School: Female 92.5% [92.6%]; Male 92.3% [92.4%]
- Secondary School: Female 88.5% [87.1%]; Male 90.0% [88.1%]
- ASN: Yes 88.9% [87.4%]; No 92.3% [92%]
- SIMD Q1: 88.8% [86.9%]; SIMD Q5 94.1% [90.4%]; GAP 5.3pp [3.5pp]

Exclusions: Since the introduction of a new exclusion policy across the authority, there continues to be no exclusions reported. The last reported exclusion was in 2020-21^{lxxv}.

Attainment – Curriculum for Excellence [CfE]

Scotland vs Clackmannanshire

Scotland: The percentages of primary school pupils achieving the expected CfE levels in 2023-24 increased across all stages and organisers compared to 2022-23. For primary pupils combined, the proportion achieving expected levels in literacy [74%] and numeracy [80%] were the highest on record.

Clackmannanshire: The percentages of primary school pupils in Clackmannanshire achieving the expected CfE levels in 2023-24 increased across all stages and organisers compared to 2022-23. This is detailed in tables 7 and 8.

Table 7: Literacy Achievement Levels [%]

PRIMARY 1, 4 & 7 COMBINED LITERACY						
	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
OVERALL	72.1%	71.2%	59.6%	63.3%	69.6%	74.0%
NATIONAL	71.4%	72.3%	66.9%	70.5%	72.7%	74.0%

Table 8: Numeracy Achievement Levels [%]

PRIMARY 1, 4 & 7 COMBINED NUMERACY						
	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
OVERALL	77.0%	76.8%	68.6%	71.7%	72.4%	77.3%
NATIONAL	78.4%	79.1%	74.7%	77.9%	79.6%	80.3%

For primary pupils combined, the proportion achieving expected levels in literacy and numeracy *increased* although the numeracy level remains lower than the national.

Scotland: The attainment gap among primary pupils combined was at its lowest ever level for literacy. As attainment among the most deprived has improved more than the least deprived in the past year, *the attainment gap has narrowed* slightly from 20.5pp in 2022-23 to 20.2pp in 2023-24.



The attainment gap in numeracy increased from 17pp in 2022-23 to 17.4pp in 2023-24. This is slightly wider than it was in 2017-18 and 2018-19. Attainment for pupils from the least deprived areas increased by 0.5pp; attainments for pupils from the most deprived areas did not change.

Clackmannanshire: The attainment gap for combined literacy among primary pupils in 2023-24 is smaller than the national gap at 15.6pp and *narrowed slightly* from the year before.

The attainment gap combined in numeracy *narrowed* to 16.4pp from 17.1 pp in 2022-23; the gap is also smaller than the national gap

Scotland: For S3 pupils, the proportions achieving third level or better in literacy [88%] and numeracy [90%] are at their *highest ever level*. The proportions of S3 pupils achieving fourth level were at their highest ever across all organisers and were markedly higher over the last two years.

For S3, the most deprived group has seen an increase in the proportion of pupils achieving the expected level for literacy to the highest since records began in 2016-17. As attainment among the least deprived pupils has remained stable, the S3 pupils' *attainment gap in literacy has narrowed* from 13.7pp in 2022-23 to 12.7pp in 2023-24. This is the lowest on record.

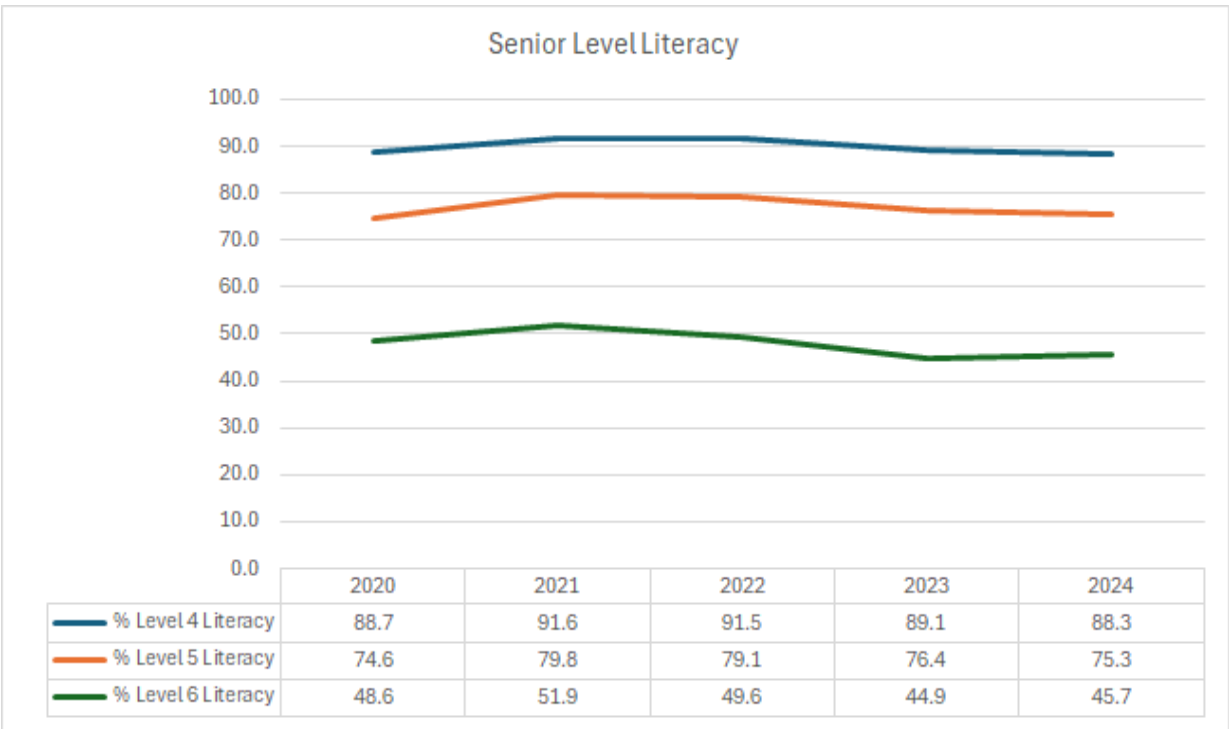
The proportion of S3 pupils achieving third level or better in numeracy in the least deprived areas has remained stable over the last three years. Over the same period attainment has improved in the most deprived areas, leading to a narrowing of the attainment gap to 12pp, representing the lowest level ever recorded.

Clackmannanshire: For S3 pupils, the proportions achieving third level or better in literacy [91%] and numeracy [94%] are also at their *highest ever level*. The proportion of S3 pupils in Clackmannanshire achieving fourth level was higher in numeracy [72.2%] however a slight fall was reported in literacy [51%].

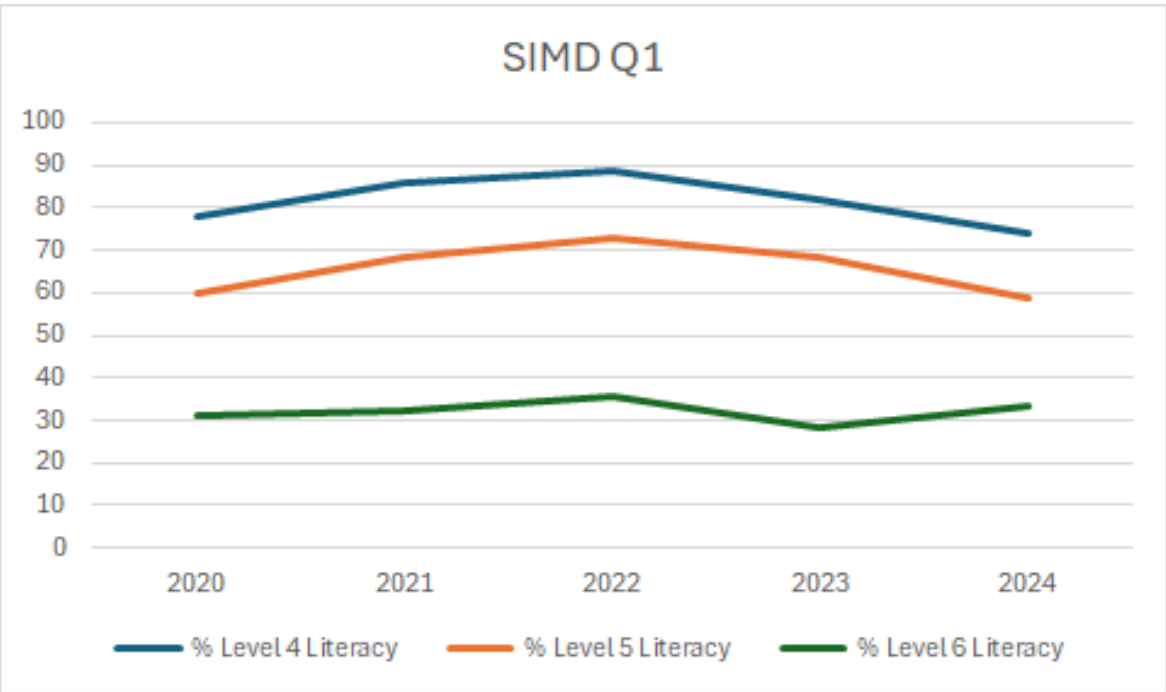
Due to the small Q5 cohort size, the attainment gap cannot be calculated^{lxxvi}.

Senior Level Attainment [School leavers] – Literacy and Numeracy

Graph 11: Senior Phase [S3] Literacy Achievement Levels

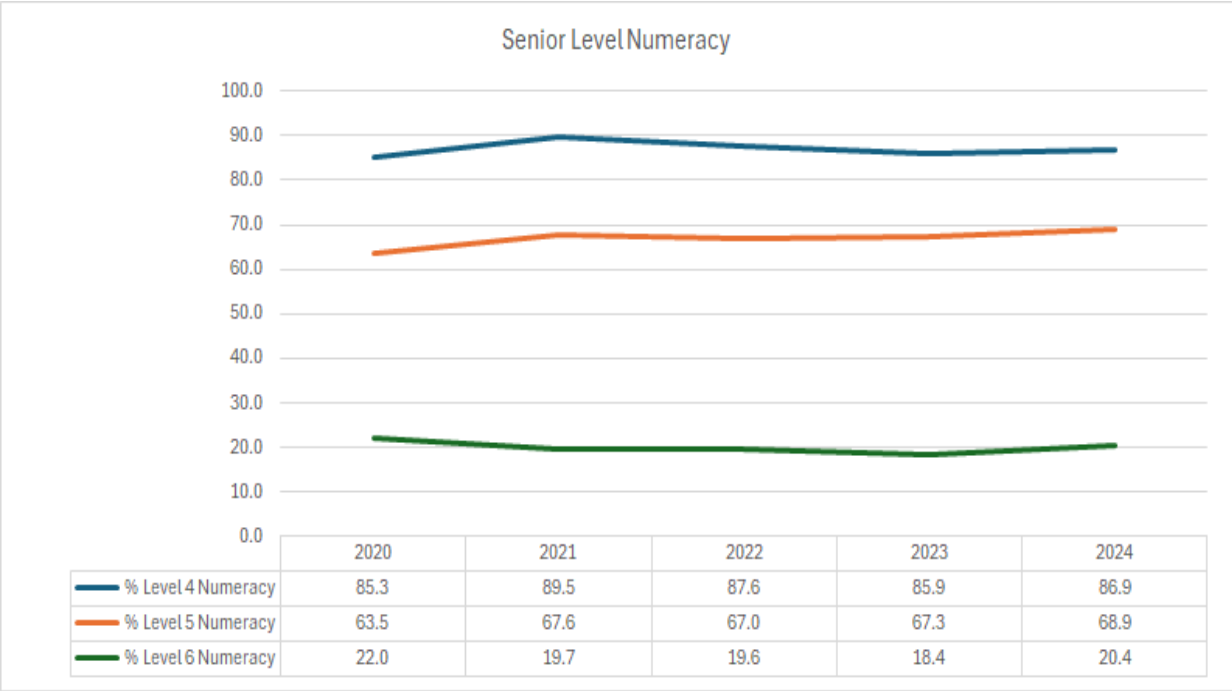


Graph 12: Senior Phase [S3] Literacy Achievement Levels – Most Deprived

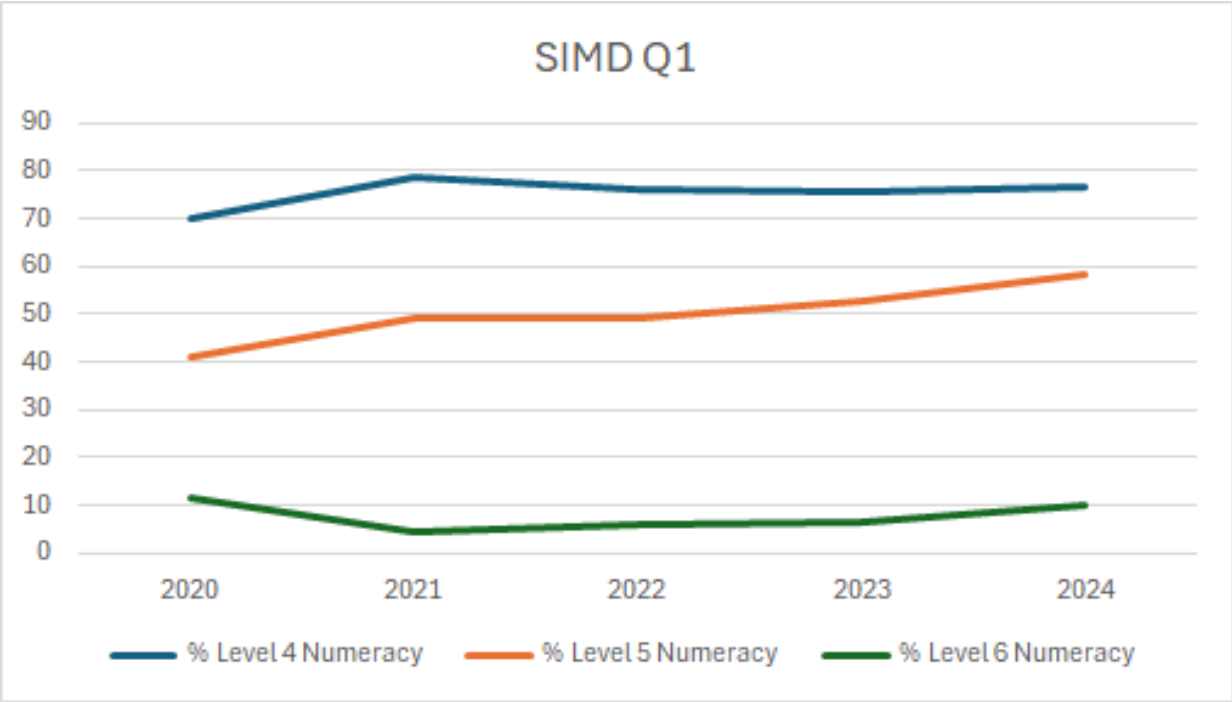


- Slight fall in the attainment rate for Level 4 and Level 5 Literacy in 2024
- Yearly increase in the attainment rate for Level 6 Literacy
- Lower attainment rate across all three levels for school leavers from most deprived area [Q1]

Graph 13: Senior Phase [S3] Numeracy Achievement Levels



Graph 14: Senior Phase [S3] Numeracy Achievement Levels – Most Deprived



- Rise in the attainment rate for all 3 Levels in Numeracy in 2024
- Despite a lower attainment rate in Numeracy across all three levels for school leavers from most deprived area [Q1], the rate is also increasing in 2024



School Leaver's Attainment

The following Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework [SCQF] level qualifications provide three of the key measures used by the Scottish Government in its National Improvement Framework to measure progress over time in closing the poverty related attainment gap.

Across Scotland:

- 87.4% left with one pass or more at SCQF Level 5 or better in 2023-24: more than in 2022-23 [84.8%]
- 66.5% left with one pass or more at SCQF Level 6 or better in 2023-24: more than in 2022-23 [57.9 %]

Across Clackmannanshire:

- 89.8% left with one pass or more at SCQF Level 4 or better in 2023-24: fewer than in 2022-23 [91.6 %]
- 77.8% left with one pass or more at SCQF Level 5 or better in 2023-24: fewer than in 2022-23 [81.3 %]
- 48.5% left with one pass or more at SCQF Level 6 or better in 2023-24: fewer than in 2022-23 [49 %]

All the above attainment rates are lower than the Scottish average and in 2022-23.

Attainment Gap:

Across Scotland, the gap between the most deprived and least deprived areas in 2023-24 for leavers attaining 1 pass or more under the National Qualifications measure [total attainment] at:

- SCQF Level 4 or better is 6.4pp [gap has grown]
- SCQF Level 5 or better is 18.1pp [gap has narrowed]
- SCQF Level 6 or better is 31.8pp [gap has narrowed]

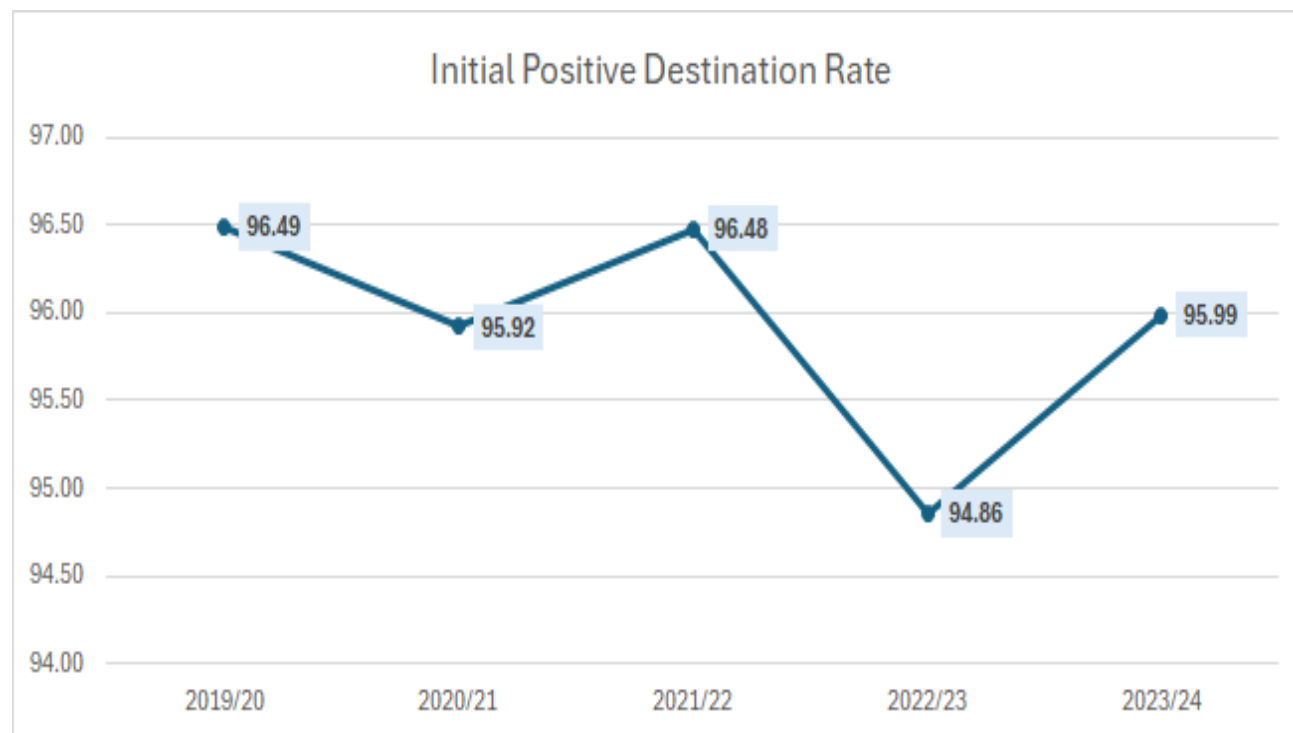
Across Clackmannanshire, the gap between the most deprived and least deprived areas in 2023-24 is difficult to calculate as the SIMD Q5 cohort is so small; hence the attainment of leavers from the most deprived areas [SIMD Q1] is compared:

- 85.1% SCQF Level 4 or better in 2023-24; lower than in 2022-23 [85.8%]
- 75.2% SCQF Level 5 or better in 2023-24; lower than in 2022-23 [78.7%]
- 41.6% SCQF Level 6 or better in 2023-24; higher than in 2022-23 [33.7%]

Initial Positive Destinations

Across Clackmannanshire, **96%** of all young people entered an initial positive destination in 2023-24; an increase on the year before where it was 94.9%.

Graph 15: Initial Positive Destination Rate - Clackmannanshire



- **32.7%** of young people moved on to higher education in 2023-24, an increase of 6.2pp [26.5%] compared to 2022-23
- 24.5% of young people moved on to further education in 2023-24, a fall of 3.9pp compared to 2022-23
- 23.9% of young people entered employment, a fall of 4.5pp compared to 2022-23 [28.4%]
- 2.2% of young people were “unemployed seeking”, a fall compared to 2022-23 where it was 3.1%

The overall destination rate is *higher than the Scottish average*; however, a lower percentage of school leavers from Clackmannanshire are moving on to either higher or further education compared to the Scottish average.

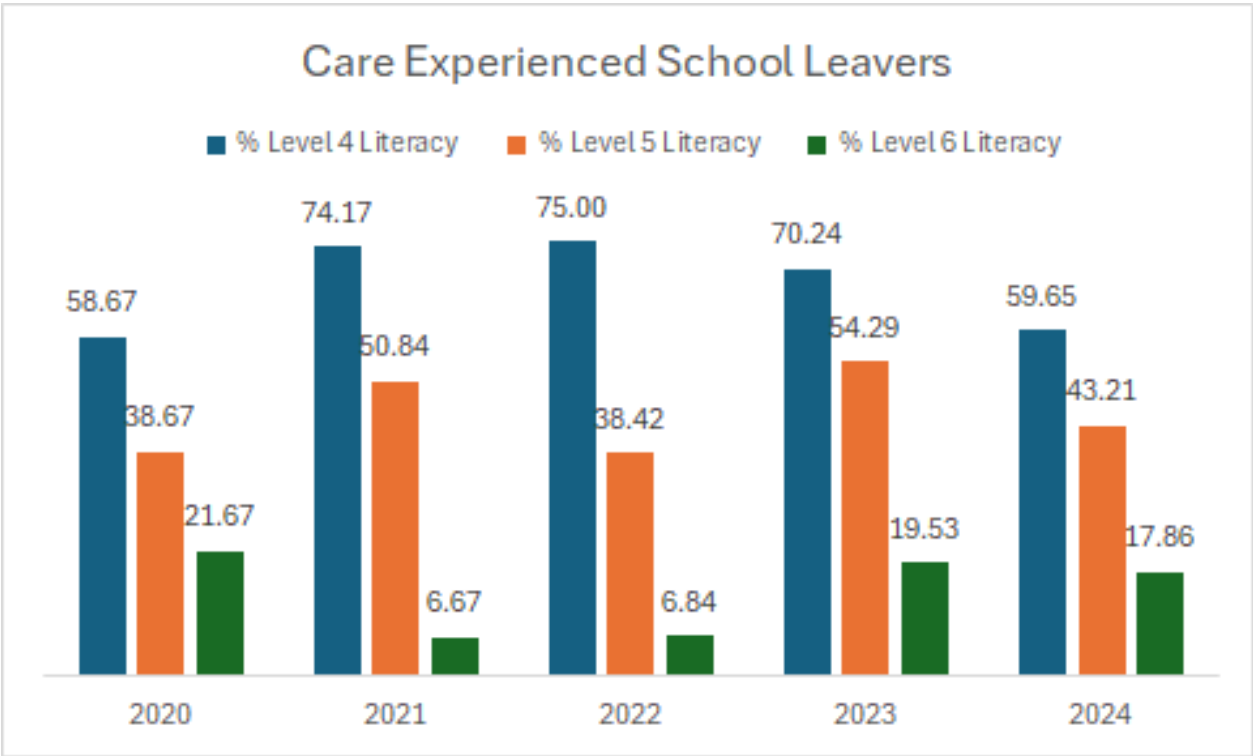
Care Experienced Attainment, Attendance & Destination Rate

Attainment

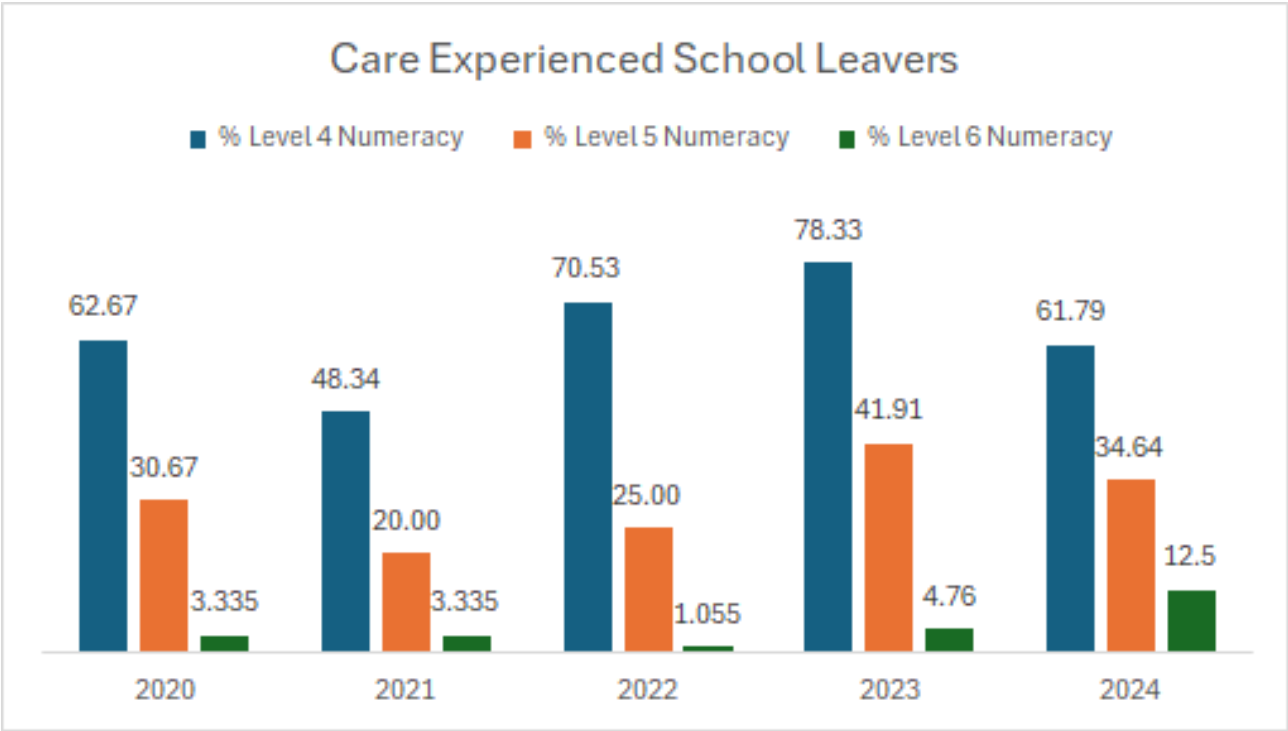
Yearly comparisons for attainment for Care Experienced school leavers can be influenced by the size of the cohorts as this cohort tends to be small.

Graphs 16 and 17 illustrate the attainment for our Care Experienced school leaver cohorts in Literacy and Numeracy.

Graph 16: CE School Leavers – Literacy Achievement



Graph 17: CE School Leavers – Numeracy Achievement



It is difficult to draw too many comparisons as the size of the cohort influences the percentage rate, as detailed in table 9.

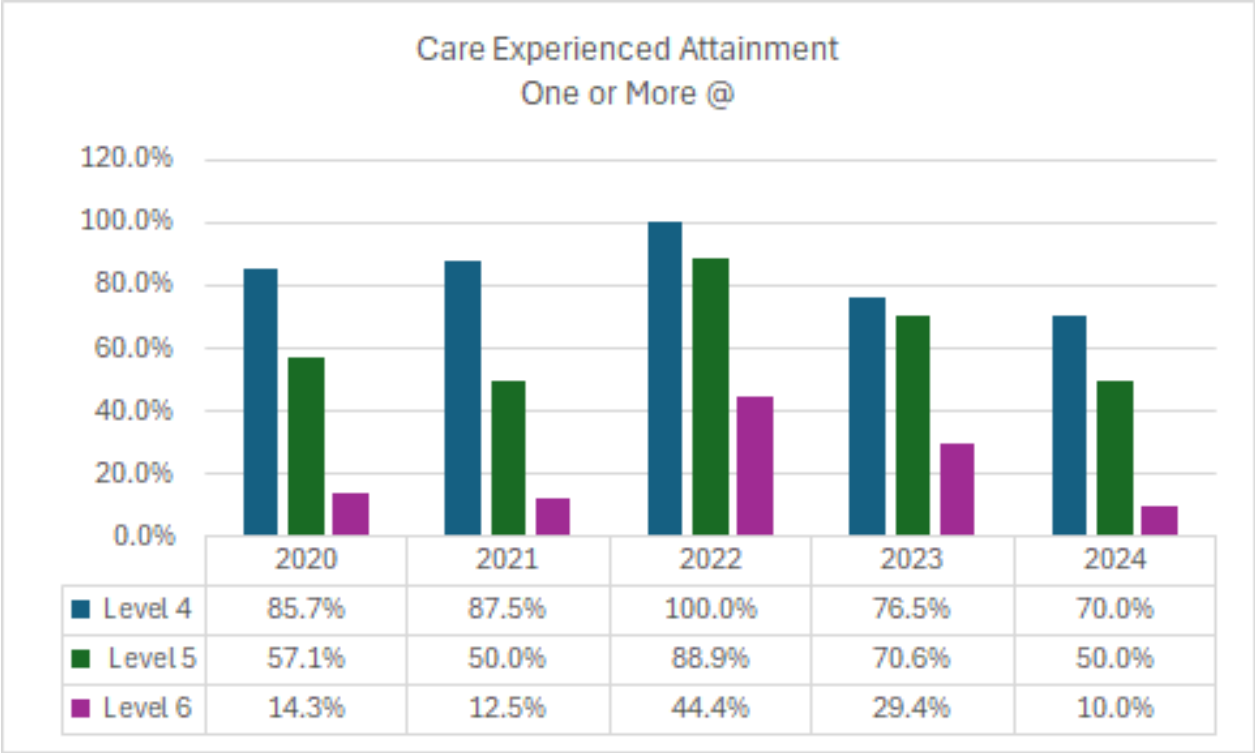
Table 9: Cohort Size – Care Experience Number of school leavers

Year	Number in Cohort
2024	14
2023	21
2022	19
2021	6
2020	15

The cohort size is included for each year, which may explain the difference in attainment rates.

Graph 18 illustrates the attainment rate of Care Experienced School Leavers whom, upon leaving school, achieve at least one SCQF qualification – Level 4, Level 5 and/or Level 6. This chart must be considered alongside the table where it details the different cohort sizes across the last 5 years.

Graph 18: Attainment Rate – Care Experienced School Leavers

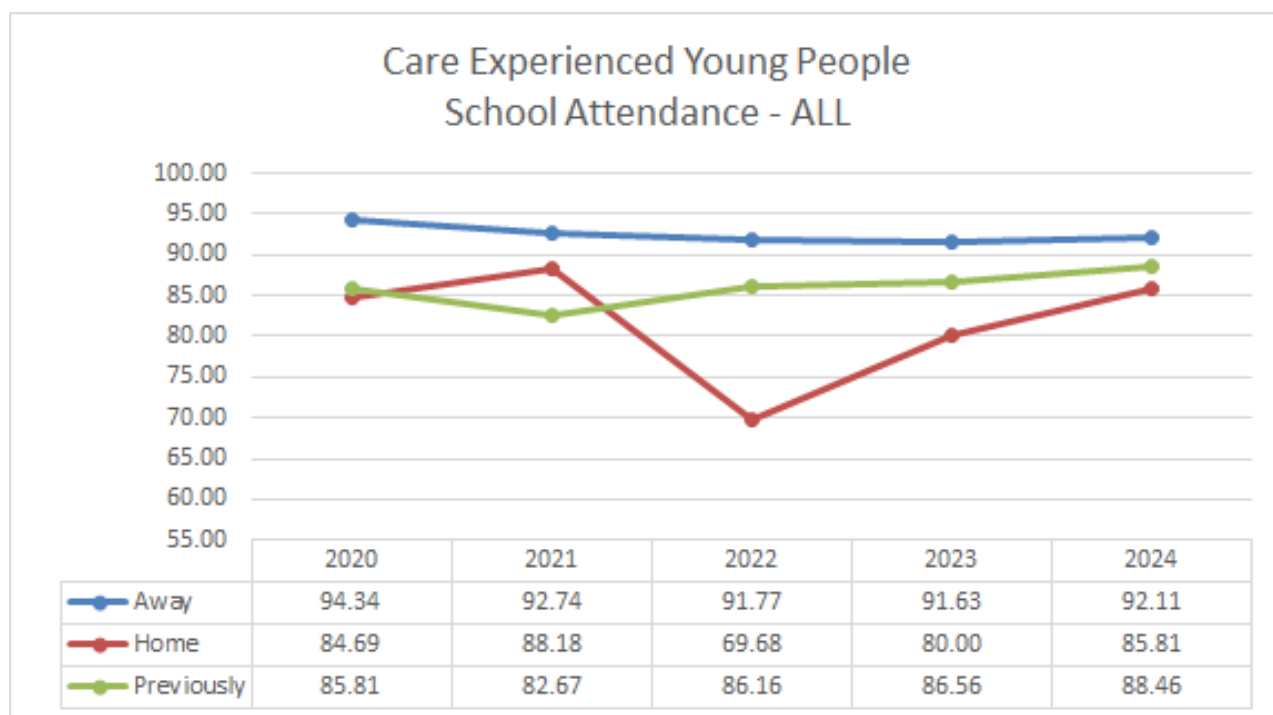


The leaver cohort in 2020 is almost the same size as in 2024. However, before making any comparisons it's worth noting that the year 2020 was during the pandemic. Location of the cohorts too can have an impact as they may be split across the three secondary schools or may be more in number in one school over another and this may affect attainment.

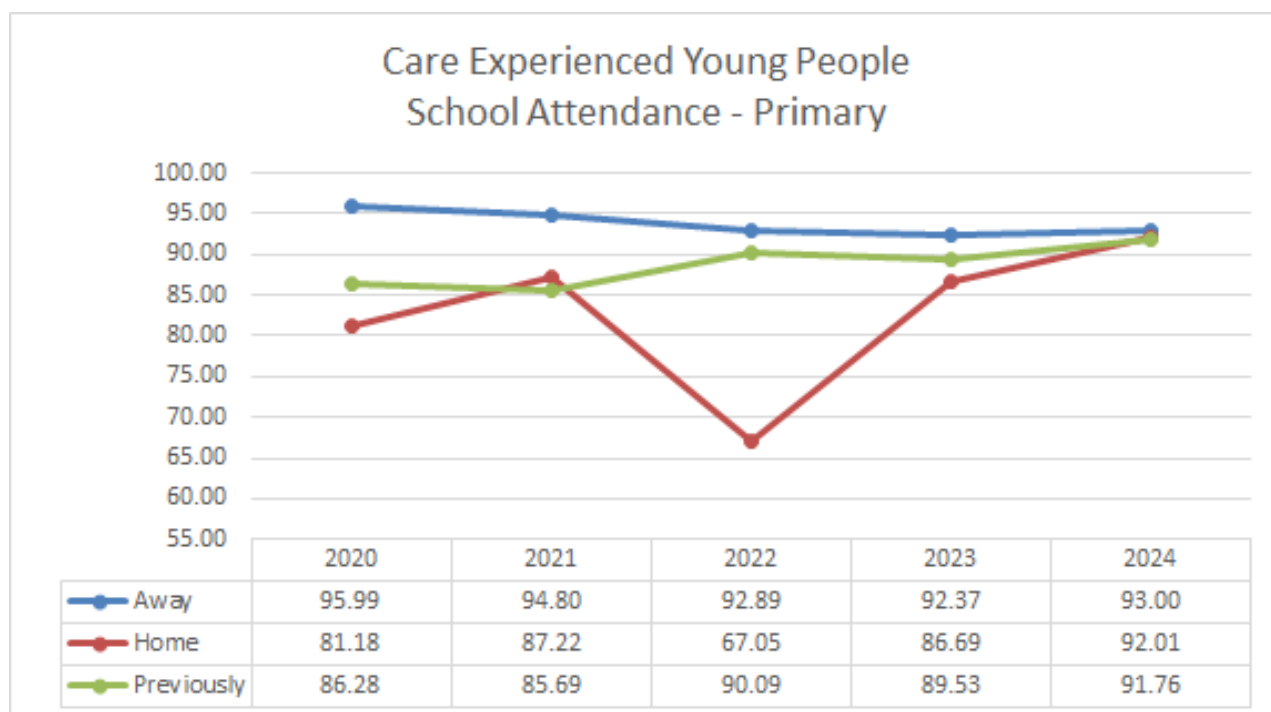
Graphs 19, 20 and 21 illustrate the attendance for Care Experienced young people in Clackmannanshire who are described as Care Experienced – Looked After Home

[LAC Home], Looked After Away [LAC Away] or Previously Looked After [Previously LAC]– as per the descriptor field in SEEMiS

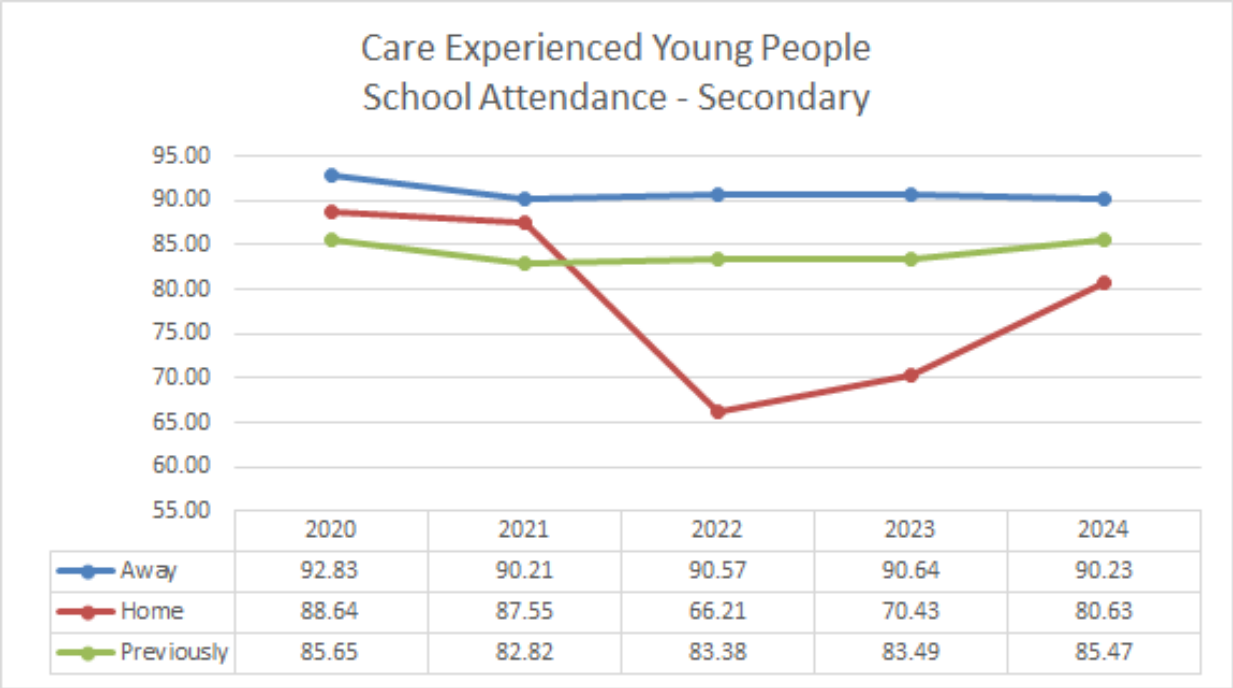
Graph 19 – Attendance – All CE Young People



Graph 20: - Attendance – Primary CE Young People



Graph 21: - Attendance –Secondary CE Young People



All three charts are illustrating *an increasing trend* in both LAC Home and Previously LAC.

Destinations

Graph 22 illustrates the initial positive destination rate for Care Experienced School Leavers. The rate is influenced by the size of the cohort which is detailed as Table 10 alongside the initial destination of the school leavers.

Graph 22: CE School Leaver Destination Rate 2019/20 – 2023/24

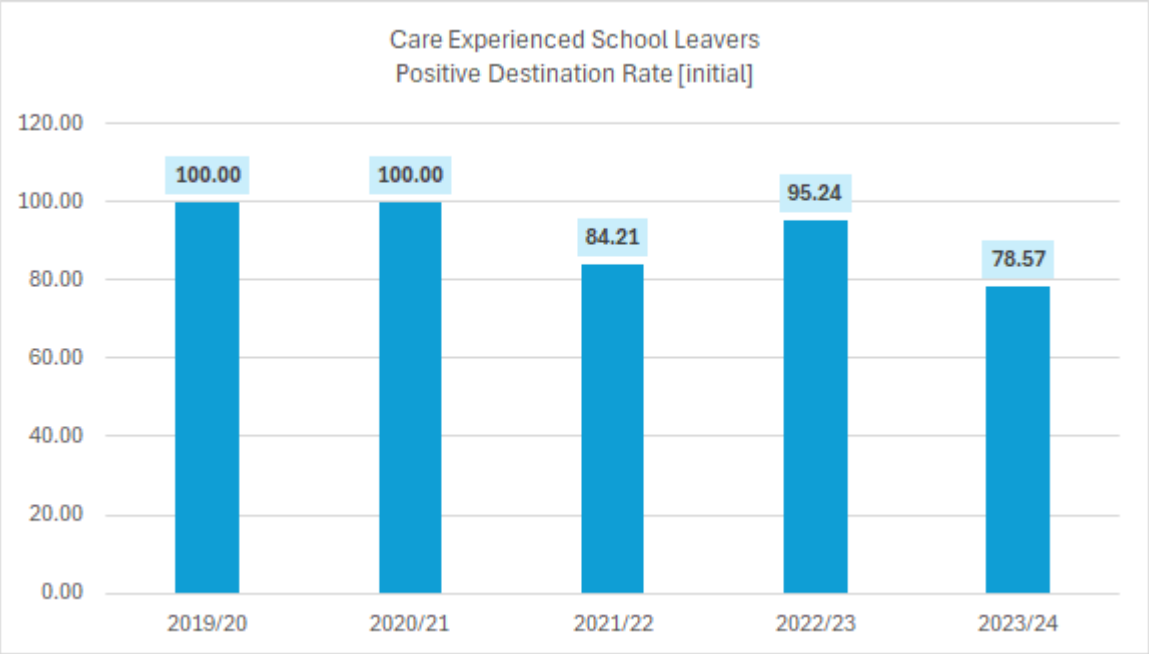




Table 10 details the initial destination of CE school leavers. The size of the cohort influences the rate.

Year	Number in Cohort	% Employed	% Further Education	% Higher Education	% Not known	% Personal Skills Development	% Training	% Unemployed Not Seeking	% Unemployed Seeking	% Voluntary Work
2023/24	14		35.71	14.29	7.14		14.29	14.29		14.29
2022/23	21	33.33	38.1	4.76		4.76	9.52	4.76		4.76
2021/22	19	21.05	52.63				10.53	10.53	5.26	
2020/21	6		16.67				83.33			
2019/20	15		53.33	6.67		6.67	33.33			

Pathways for Care Experienced Young People

An interim report on the Scottish Mentoring and Leadership Programme which supports disadvantaged youths through MCR Pathways found that it was reaching young people in schools who would benefit most although was challenging to reach those care experienced young people who are most disengaged from school.

Aspects of implementation working particularly well included increased confidence particularly in relation to having increased social confidence and having more belief in their own abilities; increased academic confidence, increased attainment/achievement and confidence in doing well at a job in future. The most recent Impact Report [May 2024], 5109 young people were supported by MCR Pathways across Scotland.



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