

North Lanarkshire Council Report

Policy and Strategy Committee

Does this report require to be approved? Yes No

Ref DM/SL Date 13/03/25

The latest North Lanarkshire context, challenges, and next steps

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Executive Summary

The Plan for North Lanarkshire is supported by a suite of high-level Health Check Indicators that collectively provide the context for North Lanarkshire as a place.

By providing the local demographic, social, and economic profile these indicators were key to shaping the long-term vision set out in The Plan for North Lanarkshire when it was approved in 2019, and they have continued to provide a robust, consistent, and independent way of assessing progress since then. The suite of indicators has also played an important role in terms in informing the council's strategic planning process through the Programme of Work.

The latest results for each of the 28 Health Check Indicators now reflect a period after the pandemic. This has enabled a much clearer interpretation of the impact of the pandemic on what The Plan for North Lanarkshire set out to achieve when it was established. The impact can be seen in much of the data for the years 2020 and 2021 (the pandemic years) compared to 2019 (pre-pandemic) and 2022, 2023, and 2024 (the aftermath of the pandemic). Notwithstanding this, there remains significant gains when comparing the latest results available to the baseline set when The Plan for North Lanarkshire was established in 2019 - as set out in the summary in Appendix 1.

The latest results show positive trends in a number of key economic and social indicators, including:

- Gross weekly pay continues to show a positive increase for the third year in a row; wages are level with the national average. For both full-time and part-time workers, the gap in the hourly rate of pay between males and females continues to narrow and remains smaller than it is nationally.
- Following a period of decline and slow recovery, self-employed rates are now showing a marked improvement that returns this position to pre-pandemic levels.
- Economic growth continues to show a positive picture with the latest results showing an increase of almost 9% in gross value added per head.
- The number of working age people claiming employment related benefits has continued the gradual downward trend that was first experienced towards the end of 2020 and is now 8% lower than The Plan for North Lanarkshire baseline.
- School exclusion rates continue to show significant improvement for both measures in relation to all pupils and looked after children, with the latest figures now below the national average and the comparator figures for similar councils.
- The gap in educational attainment between overall results and results for pupils living in

the 20% most deprived areas shows a decline compared to recent years and is lower than the national average.

- Life expectancy for males in North Lanarkshire has shown a small gain following two data series dips in a row.
- Satisfaction levels for carers feeling supported to continue their caring role has improved in the most recent survey.
- North Lanarkshire's waste recycling rates have reached an all-time high and are now above the national average.

Further information and analysis in respect of the latest results for the 28 Health Check Indicators is set out in the deep dive in Appendix 2.

As noted in the Programme of Work achievements report on the agenda today, the suite of Health Check Indicators continue to play an important role in informing delivery of the Programme of Work to 2028 to ensure that the stubborn scale of deprivation in areas that are hardest to reach is targeted through policy developments that are focused on tackling unstable trends and improving social conditions. This is a critical aspect to ensuring the success of the place based ambition of The Plan for North Lanarkshire, as both place-based regeneration and person-based policies need to cross policy sectors and be developed and implemented in tandem - as well as integrated with wider investment and poverty reduction strategies - if transformational change is to truly make a difference.

As such a mid-term review of the Programme of Work is underway that is informed by the latest results for the 28 Health Check Indicators as well as supplementary evidence and context. A broad overview of this review is set out in Appendix 3 for information.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the Policy and Strategy Committee:

- (1) Are aware of the key role that the Health Check Indicators play in providing the place-based evidence base from which progress in delivering The Plan for North Lanarkshire can be regularly assessed, and
- (2) Take cognisance of the latest results set out in this report and accompanying appendices, and the successes and challenges summarised in paragraphs 2.4 and 2.5 respectively.

The Plan for North Lanarkshire

Priority	All priorities
Ambition statement	All ambition statements
Programme of Work	Statutory / corporate / service requirement

1. Background

1.1 Since The Plan for North Lanarkshire was established in 2019, it has been supported by a suite of 28 Health Check Indicators from the Strategic Performance Framework which aim to collectively provide the context for North Lanarkshire as a place.

1.2 This suite of measures has been used constantly to provide a robust, consistent, and independent evidence base to (a) inform strategic planning and delivery priorities, and (b) demonstrate progress in delivering the Programme of Work and achieving the vision

of inclusive growth and prosperity for all as set out in The Plan for North Lanarkshire.

1.3 In practice, these measures:

- **Are long-term measures whose role is to assess the state of a nation**, i.e. North Lanarkshire. As it can take time to see the impact that outcome focused planning has for people and communities, maintaining a consistent approach to measuring progress and reviewing and reporting the results helps to ensure the focus remains steadfast on what The Plan for North Lanarkshire aims to achieve. This approach avoids the temptation to resort to short-term measures that don't help sustain the long-term focus required to achieve the long-term vision.
- **Aim to provide a high-level impact assessment** of the work of the council and partners on North Lanarkshire's economy, its people, and its communities. It is recognised though that the long-term nature of some investments, time-lags from investment to seeing results, and the need to make assumptions of impact (comparing, for example, scenarios that consider impact if there had been no portfolio of council activity delivered at all) need to be taken into account in this assessment.
- **Comprise a small number of wider landscape measures** which focus, where possible, on outcomes rather than outputs. In doing so it is recognised that it is not easy to measure outcomes, or to separate out specific impacts on outcomes in terms of improving people's lives as there are many factors in this respect that are outside the direct control of the council.
- **Are sourced from externally produced statistics**, i.e. they are not statistics calculated by the council and, as such, they provide an external and independent verification.
- **Are available nationally** to enable a comparison of North Lanarkshire's performance against other local authorities and the national average.

1.4 This report herewith continues the practice established in 2023 with a separate report that sets out the current North Lanarkshire context. As well as demonstrating the change in performance from the baseline set at the time when The Plan for North Lanarkshire was established, this year's report comprises a deeper dive into the data and trends that sit underneath the 28 Health Check Indicators in order to ascertain the underlying factors key to informing delivery of the Programme of Work to 2028 and its priorities.

2. Latest results

2.1 The suite of 28 Health Check Indicators has been updated with the most recent data published and available; this data and the latest commentary on the North Lanarkshire context is set out in Appendix 1. Note, to aid interpretation and ensure the results are reviewed within the appropriate context, the indicators depicted in Appendix 1 are not set out sequentially, rather they are set out in clusters where there are clear linkages to consider. A contents page (with quick links) is included in Appendix 1 to provide a means by which to easily navigate through each of the indicators.

2.2 The latest results for the 28 Health Check Indicators set out in Appendix 1:

- Are presented to show the North Lanarkshire position within the relevant context, such as family group or national averages.
- Include graphs displaying a long-term time series (where available) in order to show, for example, trends over time that cover before, during, and in the aftermath of the pandemic. Note, some national data sources recalibrate their time series at every publication, where this is the case the most up to date data is reflected in the results presented in the Appendix.

- Incorporate supplementary measures, commentary, and analysis, where appropriate for added interpretation. This year's deep dive into the 28 Health Check Indicators, and the underlying measures supporting them, aims to clearly show the North Lanarkshire context in more specific detail.
- Reflect the baseline for The Plan for North Lanarkshire in the North Lanarkshire commentary. This baseline was established using the most up to date data available at the time The Plan for North Lanarkshire was approved and monitoring began. This allows for improvements to be identified over the lifespan of the council's corporate strategy.

2.3 Even with a time lag in some nationally published data, the latest results for all indicators now reflect a period after the pandemic. This has enabled a much clearer interpretation of the impact of the pandemic on what The Plan for North Lanarkshire set out to achieve when it was established. The impact can be seen in much of the data for the years 2020 and 2021 (the pandemic years) compared to 2019 (pre-pandemic) and 2022, 2023, and 2024 (the aftermath of the pandemic). Notwithstanding this, there remains significant gains when comparing the latest results available to the baseline set when The Plan for North Lanarkshire was established in 2019.

2.4 For the small number of indicators which are measured quarterly, this data continues to show a number of significant and positive trends that are encouraging. These successes are even more noteworthy given the challenging backdrop they have been achieved against. The following represents a high-level summary of key successes where new data has been available to provide an updated position in this year's report.

- The last two year's annual performance update reported that the gross weekly pay for local residents was higher than the national average, as shown in Figure 17a in Appendix 2. This position continues in the latest data which shows the gross weekly pay for North Lanarkshire's residents has reached £740.40 in 2024 compared to £740.00 nationally. This is an increase of 4.1% (£29.40 per week) in North Lanarkshire over the year compared to 4.3% (£30.60) nationally. Figures 17c and 17d show that the gap in hourly pay for full-time and part-time male and female workers has significantly narrowed over the period of The Plan for North Lanarkshire with this gap consistently being narrower than it is nationally.
- Following a period of decline of slow recovery, self-employed rates are now showing a marked improvement that returns this position to pre-pandemic levels (5.4%). The latest figures show that 7.3% of the working age population in North Lanarkshire are in self-employment (Figure 18k in Appendix 2).
- In the years prior to The Plan for North Lanarkshire baseline of 3.5% in December 2018, the number of people claiming employment related benefits had remained relatively low, increasing only to 3.8% in March 2020 (Figure 20a in Appendix 2). 2020 figures clearly showed the immediate impact of the pandemic with an increase to a high of 7.2% in August 2020 which was in line with trends nationally. After August 2020 figures started on a relatively downward trend (albeit more gradual towards the end of 2022 and into 2023), with figures as at December 2023 showing 3.3% (7,270) of the working age people now claiming one or more of the key benefits in North Lanarkshire. This improvement has continued over the last year with figures as at December 2024 showing 3.2% (7,070) of the working age people now claiming one or more of the key benefits, compared to a national average of 3.1%.
- Prior to the pandemic, North Lanarkshire had one of the strongest and fastest growing economies in Scotland, with significant growth year after year and strong business growth with an increase in the number of businesses per head of population and jobs safeguarded through support to businesses. Recent figures (Figure 16a) show the local economy continues to grow with North Lanarkshire's

growth rate increasing 9% from the previous year (Figure 16b), just below the national average of 10%. The extent of sustainable growth in North Lanarkshire can be seen by its ability for strong recovery after the pandemic - Figure 16b shows movement from a position of -3.1% during the pandemic to the latest figure of +8.9% in two years - the highest growth level over the period of The Plan for North Lanarkshire.

- School exclusion rates continue to show significant improvement for both all pupils and looked after children with the latest figures now below the national average and the comparator figure for similar councils (Figures 14a and 15a). Exclusion rates in North Lanarkshire are now the sixth lowest in Scotland for looked after children.
- The gap in educational attainment (Figure 12b) between overall results and those for pupils living in the 20% most deprived areas (12 percentage points) shows improvement for the second year in a row and is lower than the national average (16 percentage points).
- Life expectancy for males in North Lanarkshire has shown a small gain for the second year in a row, following a dip in the preceding years (Figure 23a).
- Satisfaction levels for the proportion of carers feeling supported to continue their caring role has shown an increase in the recent survey.
- North Lanarkshire's waste recycling rates have reached an all-time high (46.7%) and are now above the national average (43.5%) and the comparator figure for similar councils (40.4%).

2.5 Previous annual performance reports to the Policy and Strategy Committee (in March each year) have provided commentary which reflected on the impact of the pandemic, and the resultant social and economic effects which were considered to have affected vulnerable people and communities more intensely. As a result, it was considered there was a danger that already unacceptably high levels of deprivation and child poverty would become further exacerbated and while the residual effect in this respect does remain in some indicators, there are significant improvements to be seen. However, when the data in Appendix 2 is reviewed and considered in its entirety this shows there are also pockets of areas across North Lanarkshire that are benefiting from these improvements more so than other areas which means the position remains fragile and therefore susceptible to any wider (and uncontrollable) economical or environmental impacts on society. Challenges therefore remain:

- After a period of significant improvement in breastfeeding rates the latest figures remain unchanged from last year in that 30% of babies in North Lanarkshire are breastfed at the 6-8 week review and getting the best start in life (Figure 09a in Appendix 2). While this is an improvement from The Plan for North Lanarkshire baseline of 23.1% further analysis of other related measures show this rate is 50% at the first review point (10-14 days old) suggesting further work is required to secure sustainability in breastfeeding over time.
- While improvements had been noted in a reduction in the proportion of children in poverty over the period of The Plan for North Lanarkshire (Figure 22a in Appendix 2 shows the decrease from 25.2% to 23.2%), the latest figures show a reversal in this respect for the second year in a row with rates now reaching 26.9%. While this change in trend is in line with the national average, it remains a concern as almost one in four children in North Lanarkshire are living in poverty - higher than the national average of just over one in five children. Of particular concern is the disparity across North Lanarkshire's communities which is starting to show changes across areas over time (Figures 22c, 22d, 22e).
- Figures 18a and 18b in Appendix 2 show that the proportion of the working age population who are economically active now sits at 74.7% (compared to The Plan for North Lanarkshire baseline of 77.9%). This represents an estimated 164,100

residents who are economically active in North Lanarkshire. While this is a decrease from pre-pandemic levels (170,700 in March 2020), there has been significant fluctuation in the figures over the years since and the trend does not yet appear to have stabilised.

- While Figures 18a and 18b in Appendix 2 show that the proportion and number of the working age population who are economically active had shown intermittent encouraging signs of improvement, the deep dive in this respect shows 25.3% are economically inactive (Figures 18c and 18d). Of those recorded as being economically inactive, there remains 90.9% of the working age population (an estimated 49,500 people) who are currently recorded as not wanting a job. Fluctuations continue in the data for the reasons for this in terms of whether people are retired, students, looking after family/home, or long-term sick. Of those long-term sick (Figure 18j), the latest figures show an increase over the period of The Plan for North Lanarkshire baseline estimates from 15,800 to 27,000).
- The deep dive into the latest business survival rates in North Lanarkshire shows a varying position and an increase from 54% to 55% in previous year, albeit this trend does follow the national average (Figure 19a). The deep dive into this data shows that the early years of implementing The Plan for North Lanarkshire was impacted by the pandemic. However, this still remains a positive number of active businesses each year over the period of The Plan for North Lanarkshire, especially considering the figures clearly show an impact of the pandemic that is being stubborn to fully recover from.
- Following previous year's figures which showed the change in recorded crime in North Lanarkshire to be lower than the national average, this position has moved with local rates reaching + 4% which while higher than the national average of + 3.6%, it does follow the national trend. Notwithstanding the impact of the pandemic on the number of recorded crimes, the number of crimes in North Lanarkshire recorded by the police has not returned to pre-pandemic levels and remains lower than The Plan for North Lanarkshire baseline (Figure 06b). Figure 6c provides a breakdown of the crimes recorded by category with crimes of dishonesty remaining at the highest level over the years, albeit showing gradual reductions.

Next steps

- 2.6 As noted in the accompany report on the agenda today in respect of the *Programme of Work achievements to date*, a mid-term review is underway to ensure the Programme of Work to 2028 continues to remain current, relevant, and deliverable - and takes into account the latest context available from not only the 28 Health Check Indicators, but also the recently published Census results. A broad outline of the context within which this review is being undertaken is set out in Appendix 3; this will be supplemented by a wider bank of evidence during the review to help build on the key challenges and inform the next steps looking forward. The outcome from this review is scheduled to be reported back to the Policy and Strategy Committee in cycle 4 of 2025.
- 2.7 By collectively providing the local demographic, social, and economic profile, the suite of Health Check Indicators were key to shaping the long-term vision set out in The Plan for North Lanarkshire when it was established in 2019. As such, these indicators will continue to be regularly monitored, assessed, and reported in order to provide a consistent mechanism to assess progress in delivering The Plan for North Lanarkshire through incremental short-term changes and impacts, while maintaining a focus on improving outcomes in the long-term. As such a six-monthly interim update is incorporated into Programme of Work reporting to the Policy and Strategy Committee, to complement the annual report and deep dive in cycle 1 each year.

3. Measures of success

3.1 Measures of success will be evidenced through progress being made to deliver the Programme of Work and ensure the council's portfolio of programmes, projects, plans, and activities impact positively on the North Lanarkshire context (evidenced through the 28 Health Check Indicators) and the achievement of inclusive growth and prosperity for all (as set out in The Plan for North Lanarkshire).

4. Supporting documentation

- 4.1 Appendix 1: 28 health check indicators - summary of latest results and RAG status.
Appendix 2: 28 health check indicators - deep dive into the latest results and the North Lanarkshire context.
Appendix 3: Programme of Work mid-term review - overview.



Des Murray
Chief Executive

5. Impacts

<p>5.1 Public Sector Equality Duty and Fairer Scotland Duty Does the report contain information that has an impact as a result of the Public Sector Equality Duty and/or Fairer Scotland Duty? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the impact?</p> <p>If Yes, has an assessment been carried out and published on the council's website? https://www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/your-community/equalities/equality-and-fairer-scotland-duty-impact-assessments Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>5.2 Financial impact Does the report contain any financial impacts? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If Yes, have all relevant financial impacts been discussed and agreed with Finance? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the impact?</p>
<p>5.3 HR policy impact Does the report contain any HR policy or procedure impacts? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If Yes, have all relevant HR impacts been discussed and agreed with People Resources? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the impact?</p>
<p>5.4 Legal impact Does the report contain any legal impacts (such as general legal matters, statutory considerations (including employment law considerations), or new legislation)? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> If Yes, have all relevant legal impacts been discussed and agreed with Legal and</p>

Democratic?

Yes No

If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the impact?

The Local Government Act 1992 established the role of the Statutory Direction to direct the "*publication of information as to standards of performance*".

The Local Government in Scotland Act 2003 introduced the duty of Best Value; this requires that councils "*make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in performance*".

5.5 Data protection impact

Does the report / project / practice contain or involve the processing of personal data?

Yes No

If Yes, is the processing of this personal data likely to result in a high risk to the data subject?

Yes No

If Yes, has a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) been carried out and e-mailed to dataprotection@northlan.gov.uk

Yes No

5.6 Technology / Digital impact

Does the report contain information that has an impact on either technology, digital transformation, service redesign / business change processes, data management, or connectivity / broadband / Wi-Fi?

Yes No

If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the impact?

Where the impact identifies a requirement for significant technology change, has an assessment been carried out (or is scheduled to be carried out) by the Enterprise Architecture Governance Group (EAGG)?

Yes No

5.7 Environmental / Carbon impact

Does the report / project / practice contain information that has an impact on any environmental or carbon matters?

Yes No

If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the impact?

5.8 Communications impact

Does the report contain any information that has an impact on the council's communications activities?

Yes No

If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the impact?

5.9 Risk impact

Is there a risk impact?

Yes No

If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the key risks and potential impacts, highlighting where the risk(s) are assessed and recorded (e.g. Corporate or Service or Project Risk Registers), and how they are managed?

Ensuring an evidence based approach to strategic planning, performance monitoring, and stakeholder reporting contributes towards mitigating the risks on the Corporate Risk Register for the *governance, leadership, and decision making* risk and the managing strategic change risk which has been reframed to reflect the risk in relation to *delivery of the approved programme of work*.

5.10 Armed Forces Covenant Duty

Does the report require to take due regard of the Armed Forces Covenant Duty (i.e. does it relate to healthcare, housing, or education services for in-Service or ex-Service personnel, or their families, or widow(er)s)?

Yes No

If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the provision which has been made to ensure there has been appropriate consideration of the particular needs of the Armed Forces community to make sure that they do not face disadvantage compared to other citizens in the provision of public services.

5.11 Children's rights and wellbeing impact

Does the report contain any information regarding any council activity, service delivery, policy, or plan that has an impact on children and young people up to the age of 18, or on a specific group of these?

Yes No

If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the impact and the provision that has been made to ensure there has been appropriate consideration of the relevant Articles from the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).
If Yes, has a Children's Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment (CRWIA) been carried out?

Yes No

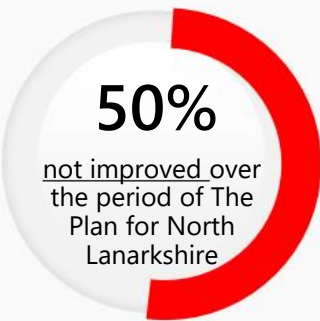
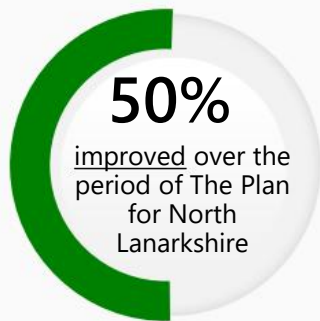
Key to diagram

Indicator title

latest results

% change from baseline

The Plan for North Lanarkshire baseline figure



The Plan for North Lanarkshire 28 health check indicators

Appendix 1

<p><u>Gross weekly pay</u></p> <p>£740.40</p> <p>+ 35.7%</p> <p>£545.70</p>	<p><u>Benefits claimants</u></p> <p>3.2%</p> <p>- 8.6%</p> <p>3.5%</p>	<p><u>Growth in GVA per head</u></p> <p>£27,131</p> <p>+ 28%</p> <p>£21,188</p>	<p><u>Employment in sustainable tourism</u></p> <p>29.4%</p> <p>+ 14.8%</p> <p>25.6%</p>	<p><u>GVA per head sustainable tourism</u></p> <p>£15,635</p> <p>+ 8.2%</p> <p>£14,449</p>	<p><u>Pupils gaining 5+ awards at level 6</u></p> <p>35%</p> <p>+ 2.9%</p> <p>34%</p>	<p><u>Pupils gaining 5+ awards at level 6 (SIMD)</u></p> <p>23%</p> <p>+ 15%</p> <p>20%</p>
<p><u>School exclusion rate, all pupils</u></p> <p>11.6 per 1,000 pupils</p> <p>- 67%</p> <p>35.1</p>	<p><u>School exclusion rate, looked after</u></p> <p>26.7 per 1,000 pupils</p> <p>- 91.6%</p> <p>317.9</p>	<p><u>Breastfeeding</u></p> <p>30%</p> <p>+ 29.9%</p> <p>23.1%</p>	<p><u>Household waste recycled</u></p> <p>46.7%</p> <p>+ 13.6%</p> <p>41.1%</p>	<p><u>Population estimates</u></p> <p>341,890</p> <p>+ 0.6%</p> <p>339,960</p>	<p><u>Est housing by tenure</u></p> <p>159,021</p> <p>+ 2.5%</p> <p>155,155</p>	<p><u>Positive destinations</u></p> <p>94.7%</p> <p>+ 3.2%</p> <p>91.8%</p>
<p><u>Net migration</u></p> <p>1.61 per 1,000 population</p> <p>- 30.6%</p> <p>2.32</p>	<p><u>No formal qualifications</u></p> <p>14.3%</p> <p>+ 5.1%</p> <p>13.6%</p>	<p><u>Supported at home to live independently</u></p> <p>67.7%</p> <p>- 10.2%</p> <p>75.4%</p>	<p><u>Supported at home to improve / maintain quality of life</u></p> <p>67.7%</p> <p>- 10.4%</p> <p>75.6%</p>	<p><u>Carers supported to continue in caring role</u></p> <p>28.5%</p> <p>- 14.2%</p> <p>33.2%</p>	<p><u>Economically active</u></p> <p>74.7%</p> <p>- 4.1%</p> <p>77.9%</p>	<p><u>Children in poverty</u></p> <p>26.9%</p> <p>+ 6.7%</p> <p>25.2%</p>
<p><u>Neighbourhood rating as place to live (SIMD)</u></p> <p>88%</p> <p>0%</p> <p>88%</p>	<p><u>Neighbourhood rating as a place to live - all</u></p> <p>93%</p> <p>- 2.1%</p> <p>95%</p>	<p><u>Life expectancy at birth - male / female</u></p> <p>74.9 / 78.7</p> <p>- 0.5% / - 0.9%</p> <p>75.3 / 79.4</p>	<p><u>Children with no concerns at 27-30 month review</u></p> <p>79.6%</p> <p>- 1.7%</p> <p>81%</p>	<p><u>Businesses 3-year survival rate</u></p> <p>55%</p> <p>- 6.3%</p> <p>58.7%</p>	<p><u>Change in recorded crime</u></p> <p>4%</p> <p>+ 21.2%</p> <p>3.3%</p>	<p><u>Population projections</u></p> <p>-0.9%</p> <p>> -100%</p> <p>+ 0.1%</p>

as at March 2025

The Plan for North Lanarkshire
Strategic Performance Framework: the North Lanarkshire context
as at March 2025



LIVE
LEARN
WORK
INVEST
VISIT

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C17: Gross weekly pay - residents (full-time employees)

Measuring this indicator will tell us if we have: Increased the earnings of people who live in NL.

What success looks like: Earnings for people who live in NL continue to grow on a par with national levels.

Figure 17a: average gross weekly pay - full-time workers

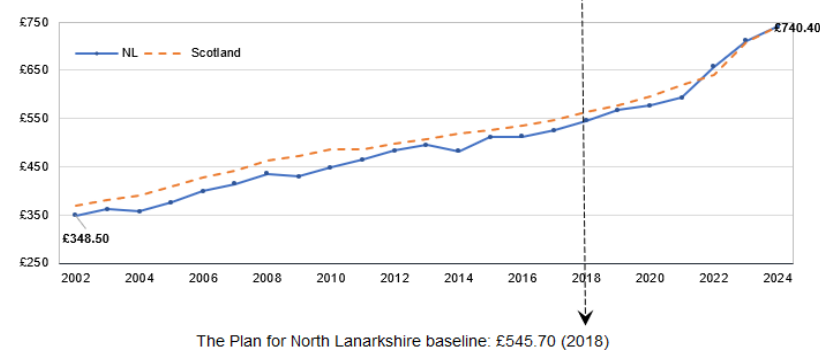


Figure 17c: gap between average hourly pay (excluding overtime) for full-time workers between males and females

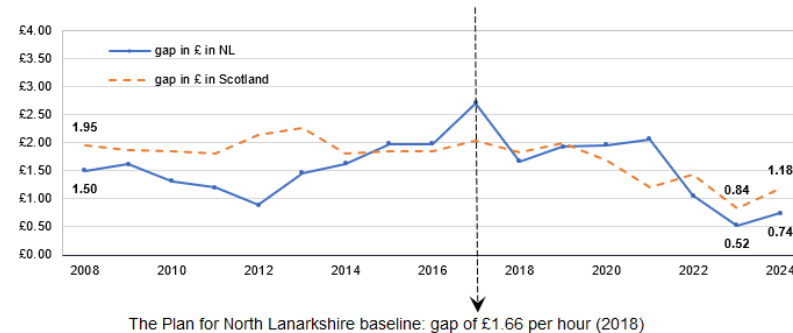


Figure 17b: average gross weekly pay - gap between NL and Scotland

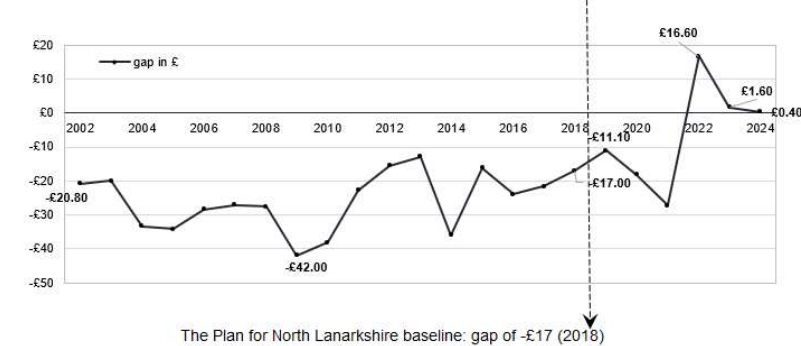
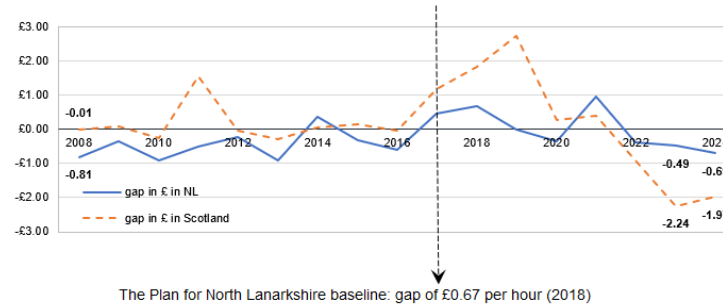


Figure 17d: gap between average hourly pay (excluding overtime) for part-time workers between males and females



Notes:

- All data above is derived from a single annual survey of hours and earnings; it therefore represents a sample of the population.

The latest North Lanarkshire commentary:

- Gross weekly pay for NLs residents became higher than the average earnings for Scotland for the first time ever in 2022; latest results shows this positive position remained into 2023 and 2024 (as shown in Figure 17a). In 2022, gross weekly earnings for NLs residents were £657.90 (compared to a national average of £641.30) - this increased to £711.00 in 2023 (compared to a national average of £709.40) and has increased again to £740.40 in 2024 (compared to a national average of £740).
- Traditionally, while wages have risen steadily for the people who live in NL, this had previously been at a lesser rate than average earnings for Scotland. The Plan for North Lanarkshire baseline set in 2018 saw gross weekly earnings to be £545.70; at the time this was £17 lower than the national average of £562.70. Prior to this the widest gap in average earnings for NL compared to Scotland was £42 in 2009 before the gap reduced to its narrowest point in 2019 (£11.10) just before the pandemic.
- Figure 17b shows the difference between the average gross weekly pay in NL compared to Scotland, which has improved over the period of The Plan for North Lanarkshire from £17 lower to £0.40 higher.

Average hourly pay - full-time workers

- The average hourly pay of full-time workers in NL (excluding overtime) increased £0.74 from £20.14 per hour in 2023 to £20.80 per hour in 2024. This compares to a £0.88 increase nationally from £21.19 to £22.07 per hour over the same period.
- On average the current hourly pay for full-time workers for males in NL is £21.12 compared to £20.38 for females (and compared to £22.59 and £21.41 nationally for males and females respectively).
- Figure 17c shows the gap in average hourly pay for full-time workers for males compared to females which has narrowed over the period of The Plan for North Lanarkshire from £1.66 per hour to £0.74 per hour (compared with a gap nationally from £1.83 to £1.18 over the same period). The gap between the average hourly pay for full-time workers for males and females in NL has now been smaller than it is nationally for the last three years.

Average hourly pay - part-time workers

- The average hourly pay of part-time workers in NL (excluding overtime) increased £1.52 from £12.22 per hour in 2023 to £13.74 per hour in 2024. This compares to a £1.14 increase nationally from £15.40 to £16.54 per hour over the same period.
- On average the current hourly pay for part-time workers for males in NL is £11.87 compared to £12.36 for females (and compared to £13.62 and £15.86 nationally for males and females respectively).
- Figure 17d shows the gap in average hourly pay for part-time workers for males compared to females which has narrowed over the period of The Plan for North Lanarkshire from +£0.67 per hour to -£0.69 per hour (compared with a gap nationally from +£1.83 to -£1.97 over the same period). This means that over the period of The Plan for North Lanarkshire average hourly pay for males has moved from being £0.67 above females in 2018 to £0.69 below in 2024 - this mirrors the national trend.
- The gap between the average hourly pay for part-time workers for males and females in NL has now been smaller than it is nationally for the last three years.

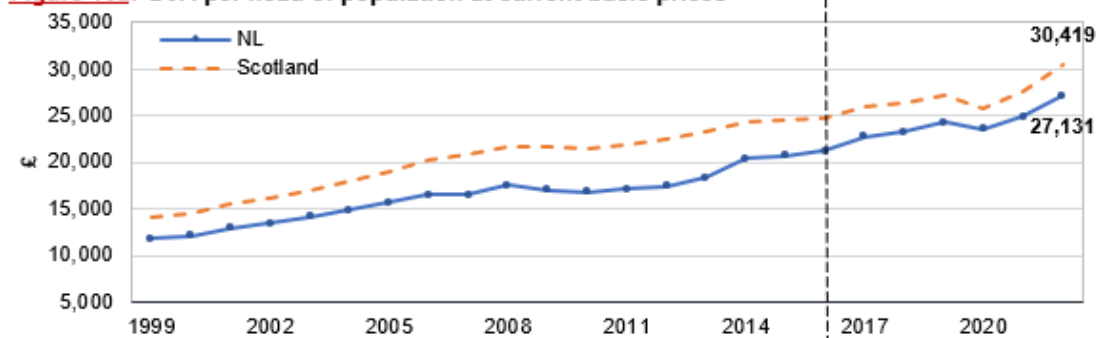
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C16: Gross Value Added - growth per head (income approach)

Measuring this indicator will tell us if we have: Increased NLs economic output.

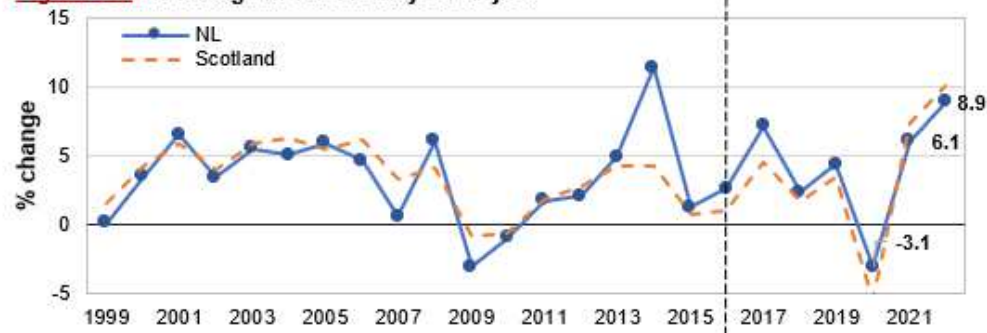
What success looks like: Continued economic growth in NL.

Figure 16a: GVA per head of population at current basic prices



The Plan for North Lanarkshire baseline: £21,188 (2016)

Figure 16b: % change in GVA from year to year



The Plan for North Lanarkshire baseline: 2.6% (2016)

The latest North Lanarkshire commentary:

- The latest data published shows that GVA growth remains positive suggesting NLs economy continues to grow, this follows a dip in 2020 which mirrored the national position (as shown in Figure 16a).
- Looking at the baseline for The Plan for North Lanarkshire, GVA per head of population at current prices shows that NL has seen a rise of 28% from £21,188 in 2016 to £27,131 in 2022, compared to an increase of 22.7% nationally over the same period.
- Figure 16b above displays the % change in economic growth from one year to the next - the historical trends for the last 10 years and beyond not only show a positive trend (which has continued over the period of The Plan for North Lanarkshire), it also shows economic growth in NL has steadily remained in line with, or above, the national average.
- The latest data shows an 8.9% increase in GVA per head in NL from 2021 to 2022 which is an improvement from 6.1% in the previous year's figures and higher than the position just before the pandemic of 4.4% (2019).
- The position nationally over the same period shows current growth of 10% which is an improvement from 7.4% in the previous year's figures and higher than the position just before the pandemic of 3.4% (2019)
- While there is a time lag in the availability of these results, the period covered by this data clearly reflects the impact of the pandemic with a dip in 2020 followed by successive years of growth.
- The extent of growth in NL shows movement from a position of -3.1% during the pandemic to the latest figure of +8.9% in two years.

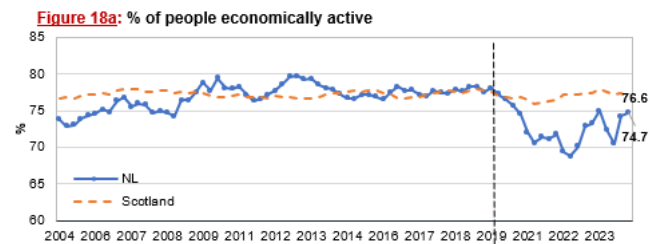
Notes:

- This measure uses the income approach which allocates income to the region in which the economic activity takes place. The data in this entire time series is rebased and recalculated each year at current basic prices when new results are produced.

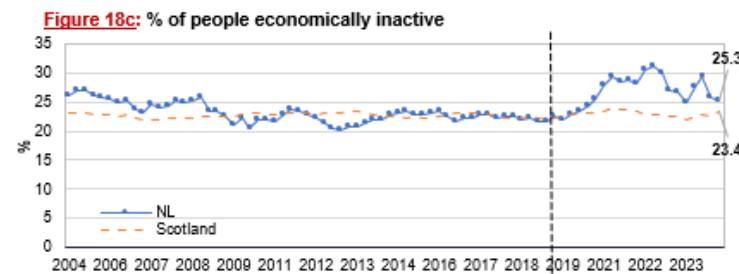
C18: Economically active - % of all people economically active (aged 16-64 years)

Measuring this indicator will tell us if we have: Increased the number of NLs residents in employment.

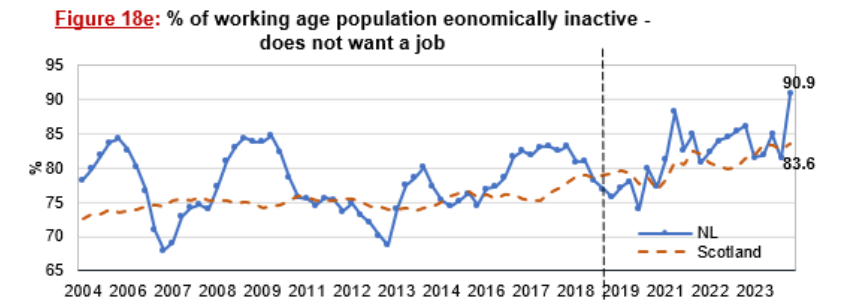
What success looks like: More people aged 16 to 64 living in NL are economically active and contributing to the local / national economy.



The Plan for North Lanarkshire baseline: 77.9% (September 2018)



The Plan for North Lanarkshire baseline: 22.1% (September 2018)



The Plan for North Lanarkshire baseline: 80.9% (September 2018)



The Plan for North Lanarkshire baseline: 175,500 (September 2018)



The Plan for North Lanarkshire baseline: 48,700 (September 2018)



The Plan for North Lanarkshire baseline: 39,400 (September 2018)

The latest North Lanarkshire commentary:

Economically active:

- Figure 18a shows not only a period of relative stability over the 10 years prior to 2020, but also that the % of people economically active in NL exceeded the national average at times. This period included the 2018 baseline for The Plan for North Lanarkshire and shows that NL figures continued to follow the national average throughout 2019 and into early 2020.
- In 2020 this indicator started to show a decline from 77.2% and remained unsteady before reaching its lowest point to date as at September 2022 (68.8%); the timing of this suggests figures were impacted by the pandemic. Small gains were recorded thereafter, with the most noticeable an increase for 4 consecutive quarters from 68.8% as at September 2022 to 75% as at September 2023. Since September 2023 figures have remained higher than the pandemic recovery period in 2021 and 2022 but have not reverted back to pre-pandemic level in 2019 (78.1%)
- The latest result as at September 2024 shows 74.7% of the working age population economically active compared to a national average of 76.6%. In NL, this equates to 164,100 residents economically active in NL (Figure 18b); this is a decrease from March 2020 (170,700) and figures have not yet returned to the pre-pandemic level in 2019 (174,000).

Economically inactive:

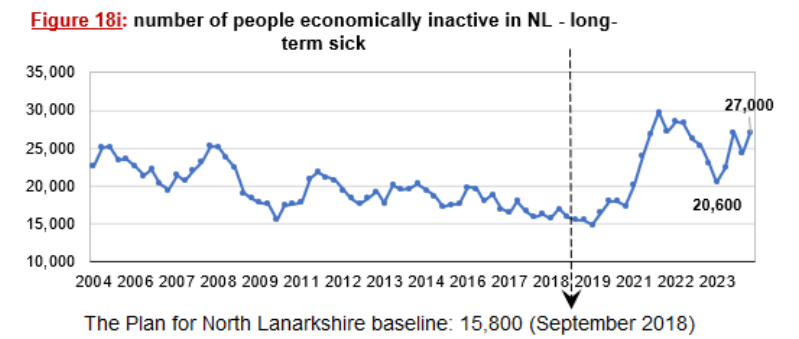
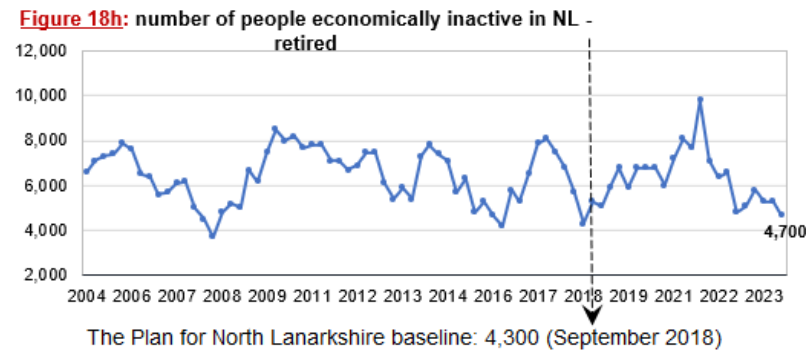
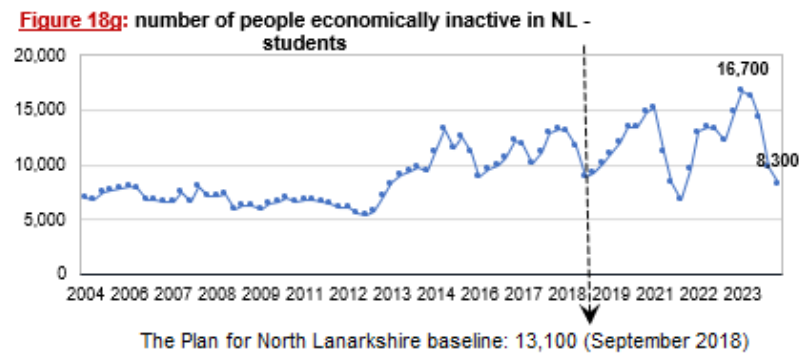
- There are many other factors which contribute to a full analysis of employment in NL, one is economic inactivity. Figure 18c shows a steady trend from 2009 to 2019, but an increase from 21.9% in 2019 to the highest to date of 31.2% as at September 2022, before dropping to 25% as at September 2023. September 2024 figures show little change at 25.3%.
- Figures 18d shows this equates to 47,700 people in 2019, increasing to 69,100 as at September 2022, and decreasing to 55,100 as at September 2023. September 2024 figures show a decrease to 54,500.
- Figure 18e shows the proportion of people economically inactive that do not want a job has increased from 80.9% to 90.9% over the period of The Plan for Lanarkshire with varying fluctuations in the data over the years in between. Figure 18f above shows that over the period of The Plan for North Lanarkshire this represented an increase from 39,400 to 49,500 people. This is an increase from 45,000 as at September 2023 to 49,500 as at September 2024.
- Figure 18e shows much greater fluctuation in the data for the % economically inactive compared to the national average which currently sits at 83.6%.

Notes

- This data comes from the Annual Population Survey (APS), the largest regular household survey in the UK. It includes data from the Labour Force Survey (LFS), plus further sample boosts. The survey includes data from a sample and, as such, are estimates which are subject to sampling variability.
- A person's economic activity is derived from their activity last week; people who are economically active are those who are either in employment or unemployed (but actively looking for work, waiting to start a new job, or available to start a new job). The trends in this indicator should be considered alongside indicator C20 for the % of working age people claiming benefits.
- Economically inactive people are those who are neither employed nor unemployed; they're not in paid work, but they're also not looking for a job or available to start work. A person might be economically inactive for a number of reasons, such as being retired, a student, or too ill to work.

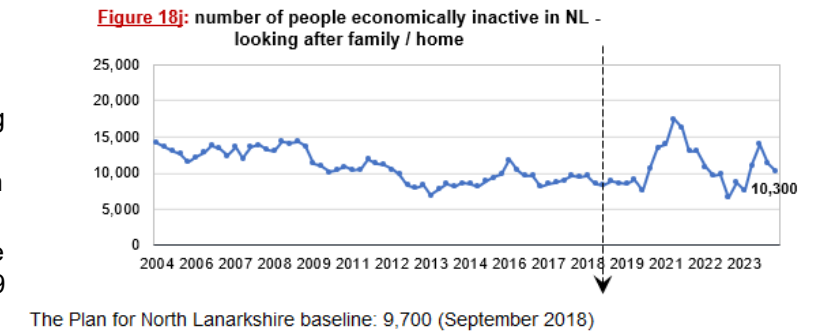
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The latest North Lanarkshire commentary:

- The latest figures show that of those **economically inactive**, 9% are retired, 19% are looking after home/family, 15% are students, 50% are long-term sick, with the remainder classed as *other*. Of those recorded as economically inactive, 90.9% don't want a job - this is mainly down to the aforementioned reasons. Trends are summarised below.
 - For students (Figure 18g), the trend has been varied increasing from 11,000 people in 2019 to 15,200 as at March 2021 before decreasing to 9,600 as at March 2022 and then an almost continual upward trend to 16,700 as at September 2023. Over the last year figures have decreased to 8,300 as at September 2024. Over the period of The Plan for North Lanarkshire the number of students has decreased from 13,100 to 8,300, with significant fluctuations over that time.
 - For those retired (Figure 18h), there was an increase from 5,900 people in 2019 to the highest point of 9,800 as at December 2021, before this has seen an almost continual downward trend to 5,300 as at September 2023, before a gradual increase over the last year to 4,700 as at September 2024. Over the period of The Plan for North Lanarkshire the number of people retired has increased from 4,300 to 4,700, with some fluctuations over that time.
 - For long-term sick (Figure 18i), there was an increase from 14,900 people in 2019 to the highest point of 29,800 as at December 2021, before this has seen an almost continual downward trend to 20,600 as at September 2023, before a gradual increase over the last year to 27,000 as at September 2024. Over the period of The Plan for North Lanarkshire the number of people long-term sick has increased from 15,800 to 27,000, with some fluctuations over that time.
 - For looking after family / home (Figure 18j), there was an increase from 8,500 people in 2019 to the highest point of 17,500 as at June 2021, before this has seen an almost continual downward trend to 7,600 as at September 2023, before a gradual increase over the last year to 10,300 as at September 2024. Over the period of The Plan for North Lanarkshire the number of people looking after family / home has increased from 9,700 to 10,300, with some fluctuations over that time.

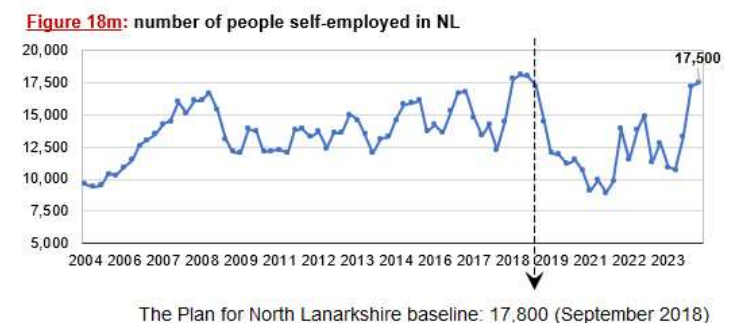
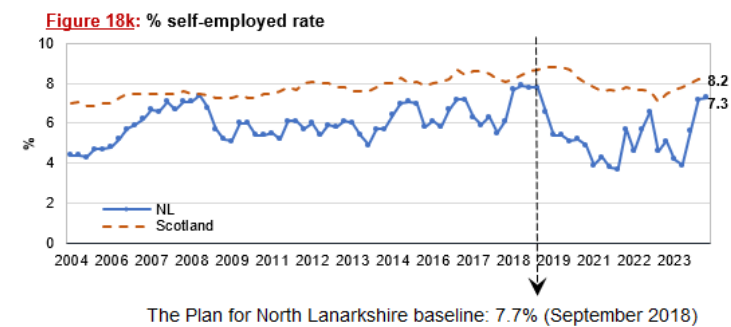


Notes:

- People who are economically inactive are those not in employment and who do not meet the criteria for unemployment; this group includes those who want a job but who have not been seeking work in the last 4 weeks, those who want a job and are seeking work but not available to start, those who do not want a job, and those in retirement.

Self-employed

- Figure 18k shows that the number of people who are self-employed in NL as a proportion of the working age population was 7.8% in 2019, prior to the pandemic.
- Self-employed rates then experienced an almost continual downward trend to 3.7% as at December 2021.
- Since December 2021 figures have fluctuated, reaching a high of 6.6% as at December 2022 before dropping to 4.2% as at September 2023 and 3.9% as at December 2023 (compared to 7.8% nationally). These rates account for 18,000 people in 2019 dropping to 9,800 as at December 2021. This fluctuation continued with 14,900 people self-employed as at December 2022, before dropping to 10,900 as at September 2023 and 10,700 as at December 2023.
- The latest figures as at September 2024 show a marked increase for two consecutive quarters to 7.3% (compared to 8.2% nationally)
- The latest rates account for 17,500 people self-employed as at September 2024 - a significant increase that returns self-employment levels in NL to pre-pandemic figures.
- As shown in Figure 18m, over the period of The Plan for North Lanarkshire the number of people self-employed has decreased slightly from 17,800 to 17,500, with significant fluctuations over that time.



Notes:

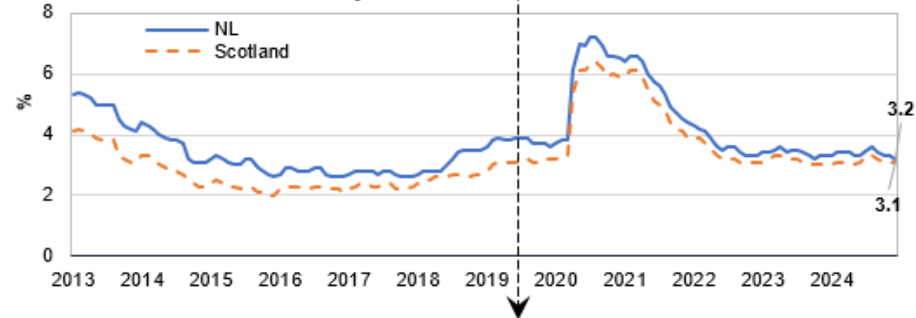
- Self-employed are those people who regard themselves as self-employed, i.e. where is their main employment, whether or not they have employees.

C20: Benefits - % of working age people (aged 16-64 years) claiming one or more of the key benefits

Measuring this indicator will tell us if we have: Reduced the number of residents reliant on employment related benefits.

What success looks like: All of NLs residents capable of working are sustaining employment.

Figure 20a: % of working age people claiming one or more of the key benefits

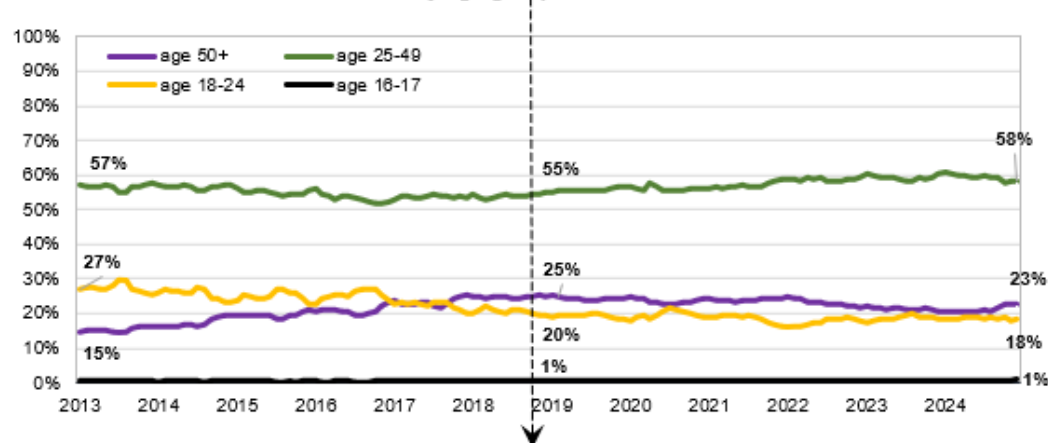


The Plan for North Lanarkshire baseline: 3.5% (December 2018)

Figure 20b: number of working age people in NL claiming one or more key benefits



Figure 20c: proportion of working age people claiming one or more of the key benefits by age group



The Plan for North Lanarkshire baselines: (December 2018)

The latest North Lanarkshire commentary:

Overall claimant count

- In the years prior to The Plan for North Lanarkshire baseline of 3.5% in December 2018, claimant count for NL had remained relatively low, increasing only to 3.8% in March 2020. April 2020 figures clearly showed the immediate impact of the pandemic with a rise to 6.1% in NL compared to 5.4% nationally. At this time, figures continued to increase to a high of 7.2% in August 2020 which was in line with trends nationally.
- After August 2020 figures started on a relatively downward trend (albeit more gradual towards the end of 2022 and into 2023), with figures as at December 2023 showing 3.3% of the working age people now claiming one or more of the key benefits in NL, compared to a national average of 3%.
- This improvement has continued over the last year with figures as at December 2024 showing 3.2% of the working age people now claiming one or more of the key benefits in NL, compared to a national average of 3.1%.
- The latest claimant count rate for NL (3.2%) is now lower than The Plan for North Lanarkshire baseline of 3.5%, with the number of people now claiming one or more of the key benefits 7,070 compared to the baseline of 7,675.
- The figures as at December 2023 equate to 7,270 people claiming work related benefits in NL - this has decreased over the last year with figures as at December 2024 showing 7,070 - the lowest figure recorded since mid 2018.

Claimant count by age

- Figure 20c shows claimant count by age group, with those aged 25-49 accounting for over half of the claimants in NL, and this proportion increasing from 55% to 58% over the period of The Plan for North Lanarkshire.
- Those age 16-17 account for the lowest proportion with less than 1% across the time series and the period of The Plan for North Lanarkshire.
- Those aged 50+ currently represent 23% of claimants (a decrease from 25% over the period of The Plan for North Lanarkshire).
- Those aged 18-24 currently represent 18% of claimants (a decrease from 20% over the period of The Plan for North Lanarkshire).

Notes:

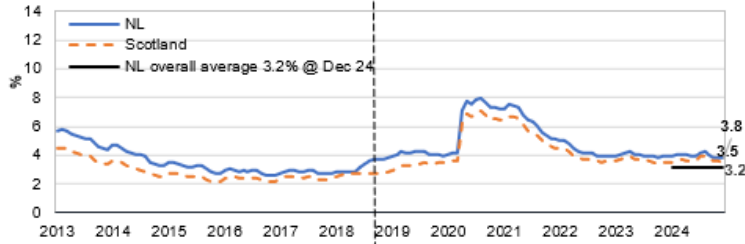
- The Claimant Count is the number of people claiming benefit principally for the reason of being unemployed. This is measured by combining the number of people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) and National Insurance credits with the number of people receiving Universal Credit principally for the reason of being unemployed. Claimants declare that they are out of work, capable of, available for and actively seeking work during the week in which the claim is made.
- The trends in this indicator should be considered alongside indicator C18 for the % of all people economically active.

This analysis continues on the next page / ...

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25 to 49

Figure 20d: % of working age people (age 25 to 49) claiming one or more of the key benefits



The Plan for North Lanarkshire baseline: 3.8% (December 2018)

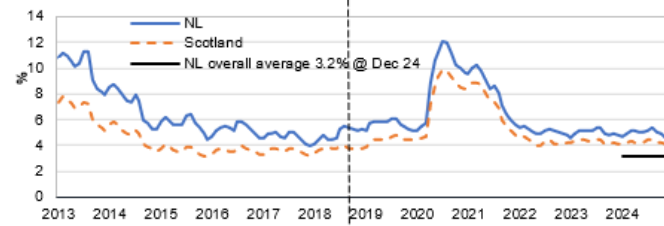
Figure 20e: number of working age people (age 25 to 49) in NL claiming one or more key benefits



The Plan for North Lanarkshire baseline: 4,205 (December 2018)

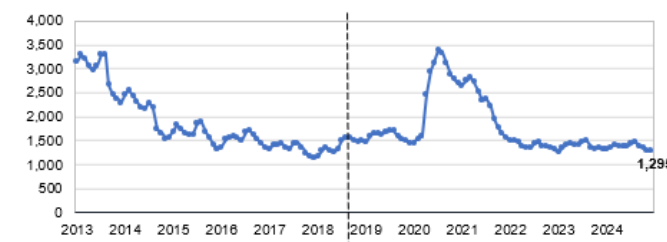
18 to 24

Figure 20f: % of working age people (age 18 to 24) claiming one or more of the key benefits



The Plan for North Lanarkshire baseline: 5.3% (December 2018)

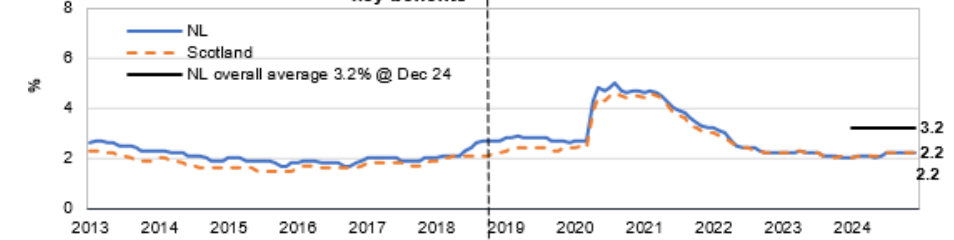
Figure 20g: number of working age people (age 18 to 24) in NL claiming one or more key benefits



The Plan for North Lanarkshire baseline: 1,505 (December 2018)

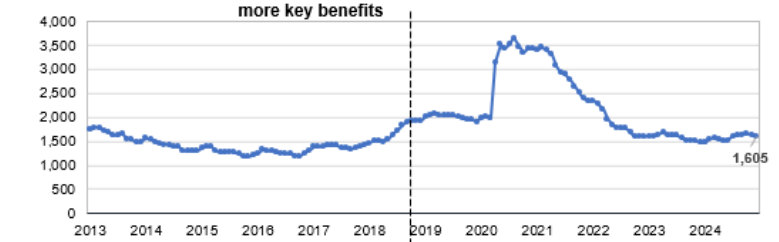
50+

Figure 20h: % of working age people (age 50+) claiming one or more of the key benefits



The Plan for North Lanarkshire baseline: 2.7% (December 2018)

Figure 20i: number of working age people (age 50+) in NL claiming one or more key benefits



The Plan for North Lanarkshire baseline: 1,915 (December 2018)

Claimant count by age

- Over the period of The Plan for North Lanarkshire:

Aged 25-49

- The number of people aged 25-49 claiming benefits had seen an increase from 4,205 in December 2018 to 4,460 in December 2019 followed by a steady incline to 8,790 in August 2020.
- After that, the trend shows a continual decline to a low of 4,400 in December 2023 and then further to a low of 4,110 in December 2024 (as shown in Figure 20e). This trend was in line with the national average
- However, there are currently 3.8% of the working age population in NL who are aged 25-49 and claiming benefits - the same as The Plan for North Lanarkshire baseline of 3.8% but higher than the national average of 3.5% for this age group (as shown in Figure 20d). This age group is also higher than the overall NL claimant rate of 3.2% (as shown in Figure 20a on the previous page).

Aged 18-24

- The number of people aged 18-24 claiming benefits had seen an increase from 1,505 in December 2018 to 1,460 in December 2019 followed by a steady incline to 3,340 in August 2020.
- After that, the trend shows a continual decline to a low of 1,330 in December 2023 and then further to a low of 1,295 in December 2024 (as shown in Figure 20g above). This trend was in line with the national average
- While there are 4.7% of the working age population in NL who are aged 18-24 and claiming benefits (lower than The Plan for North Lanarkshire baseline of 5.3%) this is still above national average of 4.2% for this age group (as shown in Figure 20f) and higher than the overall NL claimant rate of 3.2%.

Aged 50+

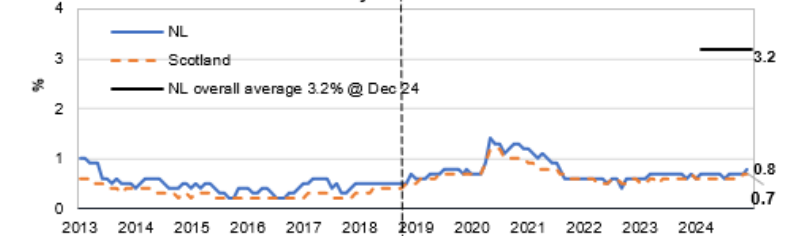
- The number of people aged 50+ claiming benefits had seen a small decrease from 1,915 in December 2018 to 1,910 in December 2019 followed by a steady incline to 3,650 in August 2020. After that, the trend shows a continual decline to 1,480 in December 2023 (as shown in Figure 20i above) before increasing gradually over 2024 to 1,605 in December 2024.
- While there are 2.2% of the working age population in NL who are aged 50+ and claiming benefits, this is in line with the trend nationally (2.2%) and lower than the overall claimant rate of 3.2% (as shown in Figure 20h). Latest figures are lower than The Plan for North Lanarkshire baseline of 2.7%.

Aged 16-17

- The number of people aged 16-17 had seen a slight increase from 50 in December 2018 to 60 in December 2019 followed by a steady incline to a high of 105 in October 2020 (as shown in Figure 20k).
- After that, the trend shows a continual decline to a low of 55 in December 2023 before increasing to 65 in December 2024. This is in line with the national trend and the latest rates in NL are less than 1% (as shown in Figure 20j) and equal to the national average.

16-17

Figure 20j: % of working age people (age 16-17) claiming one or more of the key benefits



The Plan for North Lanarkshire baseline: 0.7% (December 2018)

Figure 20k: number of working age people (age 16-17) in NL claiming one or more key benefits



The Plan for North Lanarkshire baseline: 50 (December 2018)

C19: Businesses - % of the VAT / PAYE registered businesses that survive for at least three years

Measuring this indicator will tell us if we have: Increased and sustained new businesses in NL.

What success looks like: More locally generated and incoming businesses being created, surviving, and sustaining in the longer-term.

Figure 19a: % of VAT / PAYE registered businesses surviving for at least three years

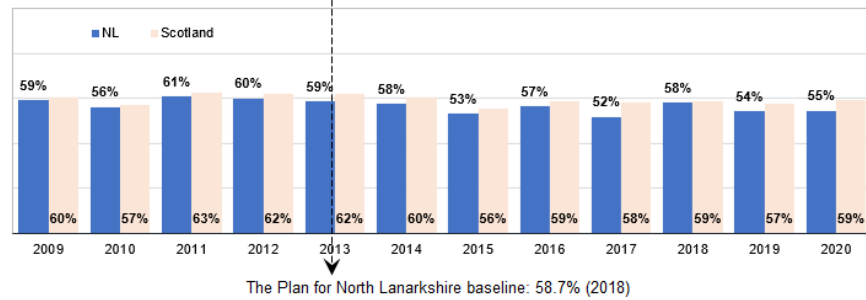
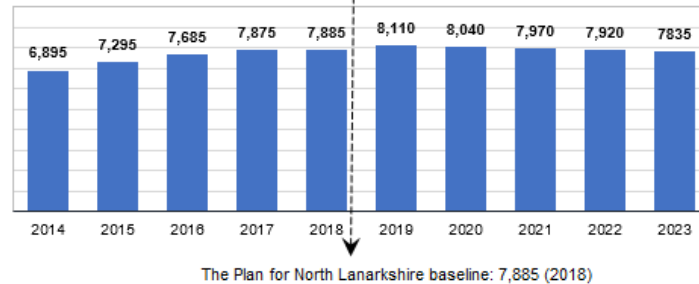


Figure 19b: number of active VAT / PAYE registered businesses in NL each year



The latest North Lanarkshire commentary:

- The latest business survival rates in NL show a varying position. For business registered and surviving for at least three years Figure 19a shows that the latest result in this respect is 55%, a slight increase from the previous year of 54%. This latest trend follows an increase in the national average, although to a lesser extent.
- To review this in more context Figure 19b shows the number of active NL businesses each year, as at 2023 this shows there were 7,835 businesses, a decrease from a pre-pandemic high of 8,110 in 2019. However, this still remains a positive number of active businesses each year over the period of The Plan for North Lanarkshire, especially considering the figures clearly show an impact of the pandemic that is being stubborn to fully recover from.
- Figure 19c shows the number of new NL businesses registered each year which are used in the survival assessment; over the period of The Plan for North Lanarkshire this has increased from 1,090 to 1,140. The dip in 2020 to 980 businesses again shows the impact of the pandemic.
- Figure 19d allows for a wider overview of business survival, i.e. the rate of survival after 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 years. Again, this shows a varying picture, but the most significant point is the reducing survival rate as the years progress, for example 94.9% of businesses registered in 2018 survived for 1 year (i.e. to 2019), 74% for 2 years (i.e. to 2020), 58.1% for 3 years (i.e. to 2021), 48.4% for 4 years (i.e. 2022), and 44.7% for 5 years (i.e. to 2023).

Figure 19c: number of new NL VAT / PAYE businesses registered each year

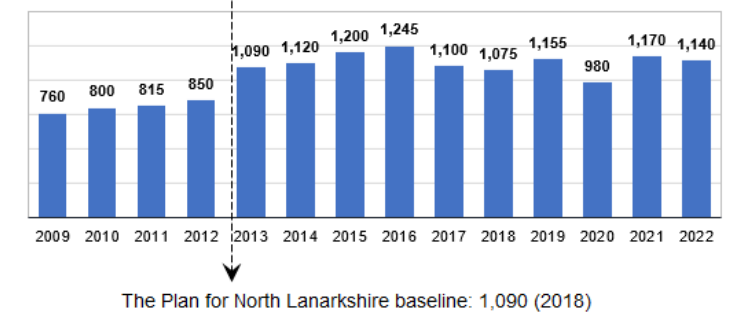
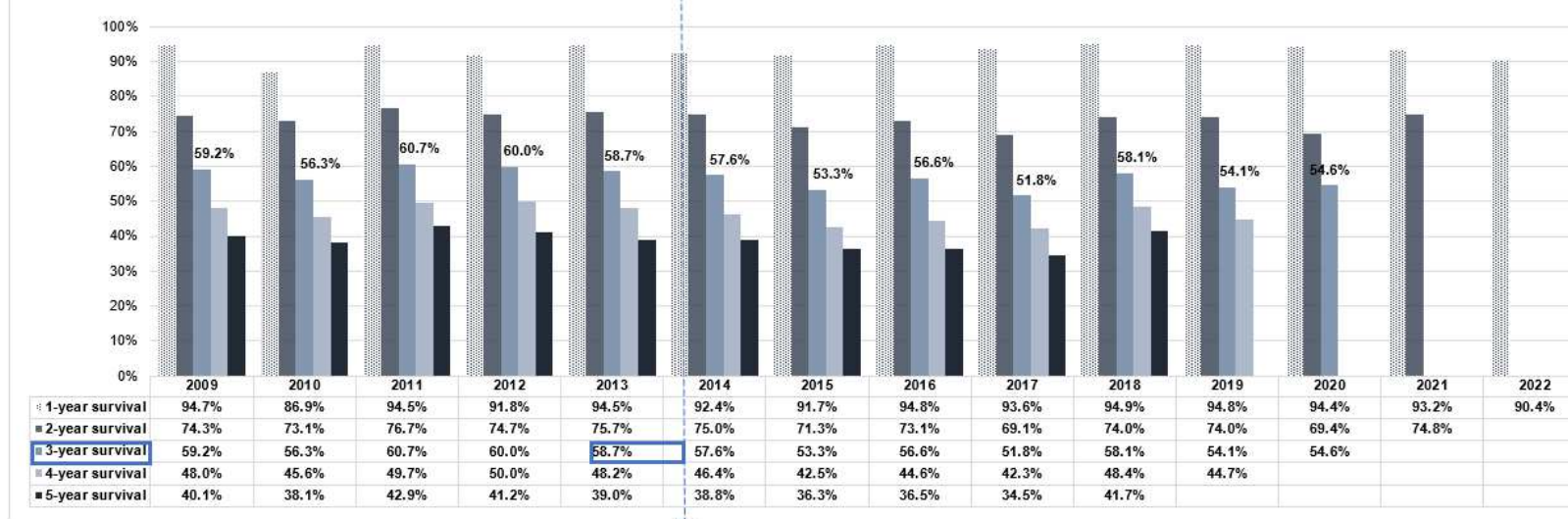


Figure 19d: % of VAT / PAYE registered businesses surviving for at least three years



The Plan for North Lanarkshire baseline: % businesses registered in 2013 and surviving for 3 years to 2016 = 58.7% (published 2018)

Notes:

- Business sustainability data comes from the Businesses Demography 2023 publication (published in November 2024) and produced by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) using data from the Inter-Departmental Business Register (IDBR). The main administrative sources for the IDBR are VAT trader and PAYE employer information passed to the ONS by HM Revenue and Customs under the Value Added Tax Act 1994. For VAT traders and the Finance Act 1969 for PAYE employers, details of incorporated businesses are also passed to ONS by Companies House.
- It is worth noting the time lag in the business sustainability data, with 2022 being the latest data available.

C27: Employment - total employment in sustainable tourism as % of growth sector employment

C28: Gross Value Added - per head in sustainable tourism (employment)

Measuring these 2 indicators will tell us if we have: Increased benefit from tourism in NL.

What success looks like: Continued economic growth in this sector.

Figure 27a: employment in NL across all six growth sectors

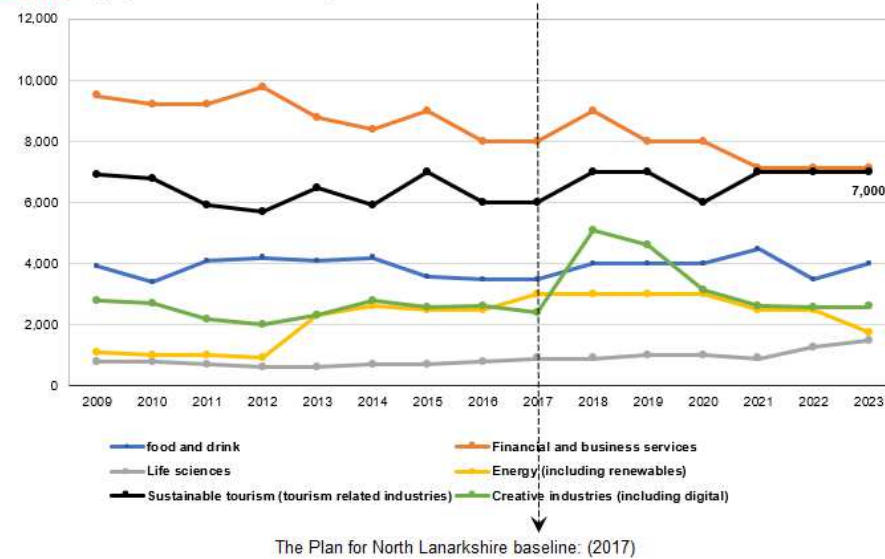


Figure 28a: GVA (£) per head in sustainable tourism employment

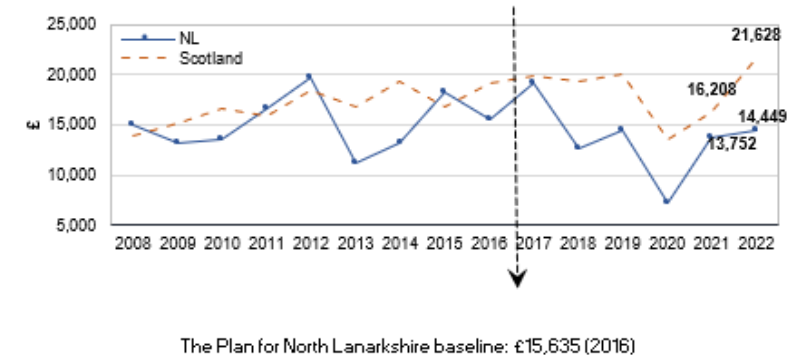


Figure 28b: % change year to year in GVA per head in sustainable tourism (employment)

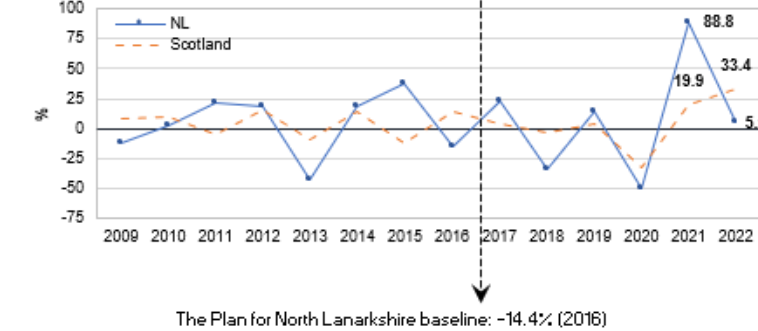
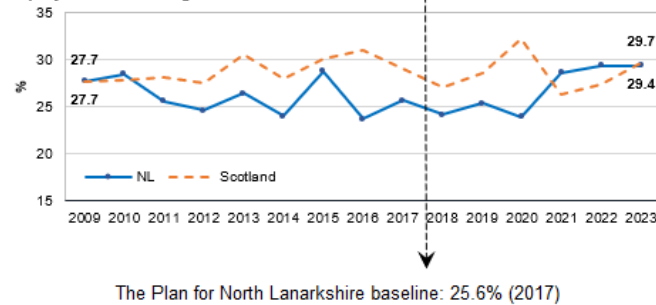


Figure 27b: total employment in sustainable tourism as % of employment in all six growth sectors



The latest North Lanarkshire commentary:

- Sustainable tourism is one of 6 sectors used to assess growth in employment. Figure 27a above reflects employment in NL in each of the 6 growth sectors.
- As shown in Figure 27b above, employment in sustainable tourism sector in NL as a proportion of employment in all 6 sectors combined has remained at a relatively steady level over the years and the trend has generally followed the national average.
- Figures for the growth rate in NL in 2021 showed a positive increase to 28.6% when growth was higher than the national average. This positive growth has continued with a further increase to 29.4% in both 2022 (above the national average) and 2023 (slightly lower than the national average). Latest figures still represent an increase from The Plan for North Lanarkshire baseline (25.2% in 2017).

Notes:

- Scotland's Economic Strategy (2015) identified sectors where Scotland has a distinct comparative advantage: food and drink (including agriculture and fisheries), creative industries (including digital), sustainable tourism, energy (including renewables), financial and business services, and life sciences. Growth sector definitions are based on Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) Codes 2007.
- The Sustainable Tourism sector relates to: Hotels and similar accommodation, Holiday and other short-stay accommodation, Camping grounds, recreational vehicle parks and trailer parks, Restaurants and mobile food service activities, Beverage serving activities, Tour operator activities, Other reservation service and related activities, Museum activities, Operation of historical sites and buildings and similar visitor attractions, Botanical and zoological gardens and nature reserve activities, Operation of sports facilities, Other sports activities (not including activities of racehorse owners), Activities of amusement parks and theme parks, and Other amusement and recreation activities.

The latest North Lanarkshire commentary:

- GVA (£) per head in sustainable tourism has fluctuated in NL over the period of the reported data and from The Plan for North Lanarkshire baseline (as depicted in Figure 28a above and also reflected in Figure 28b above which shows the percentage year to year change in GVA per head).
- NLs trend has followed the national trend, albeit with a greater degree of fluctuation.
- The effects of the pandemic can be seen in the 2020 figures with a 33% decrease in sustainable tourism employment in the national average compared to a 50% decrease in North Lanarkshire.
- In 2021, North Lanarkshire's recovery of +£6,468 per head amounts to an 88.8% increase on the previous year, compared to a national average of +£2,692 (+19.9%). The latest figures for 2022 show a 5.1% increase from 2021 in North Lanarkshire compared to a 33.4% increase nationally.

[link to contents page](#)

C11: Educational attainment - % of pupils gaining 5+ awards at level 6

Measuring this indicator will tell us if we have: Improved the outcomes for NLs young people.

What success looks like: Every child leaving a NL school achieves a basic qualification as a minimum, or qualifications that support their chosen pathway.

Figure 11a: % of pupils gaining 5+ awards at level 6

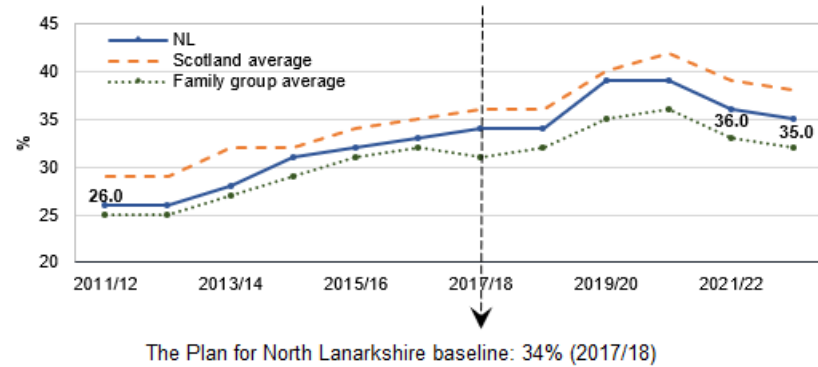


Figure 11b: % of pupils gaining no passes at SCQF level 3 or better

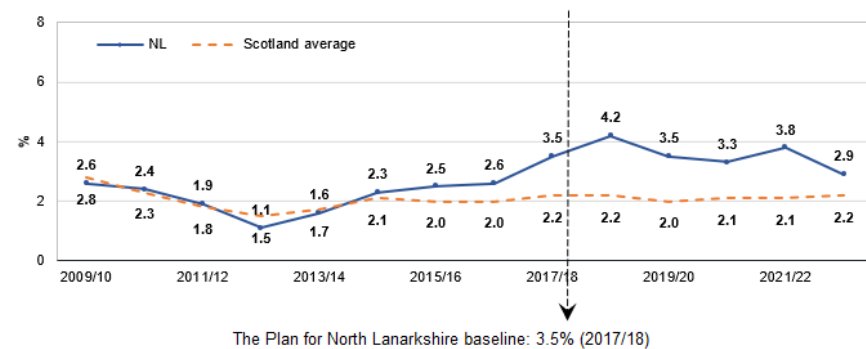


Figure 11c: looked after children achieving 1+ awards at SCQF level 3

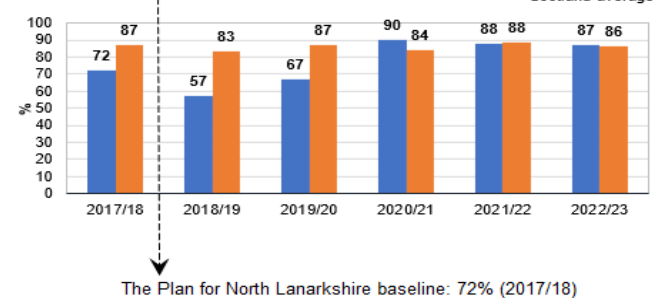
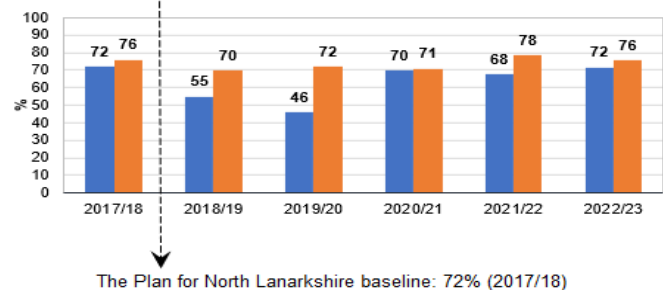


Figure 11d: looked after children achieving 1+ awards at SCQF level 4



The latest North Lanarkshire commentary:

Educational attainment awards at Level 6

- Educational attainment at this level in NL shows the trend for the last three years to be in line with the national and family group averages.
- All have experienced a slight decrease - with NL decreasing from 36% in 2021-22 to 35% in 2022-23 compared to a decrease of 39% to 38% over the same period nationally. NLs latest figures remain higher than the family group (32%).
- The latest figures in Figure 11a (35% in 2022/23) show an improvement from The Plan for North Lanarkshire baseline (34% in 2017/18).

Educational attainment awards at Level 3

- While SCQF Level 6 provides a measure for those achieving at the highest level in school, it does not provide a picture of those who have chosen other pathways. For example, latest results show that 97.1% of all pupils in NL achieved 1 or more awards as SCQF level 3 or above compared to a national average of 97.8%. This means, as shown in Figure 11b (the converse), that 2.9% of all pupils in NL achieved no passes at this level compared to a national average of 2.2%.
- The latest figures in Figure 11b (2.9% in 2022/23) show an improvement from The Plan for North Lanarkshire baseline (3.5% in 2017/18).

Educational attainment - looked after children

1+ awards at SCQF Level 3

- Latest figures in Figure 11c show 87% of looked after children in NL achieved one or more awards at SCQF level 3 compared to the national average (86%).
- The latest figures in Figure 11c (87% in 2022/23) show an improvement from The Plan for North Lanarkshire baseline (72% in 2017/18), but as can be seen in Figure 11c there has been fluctuation in the figures over the years.

1+ awards at SCQF Level 4

- Latest figures in Figures 11d show 72% of looked after children in NL achieved one or more awards at SCQF level 4 compared to the national average (76%).
- The latest figures in Figure 11d (72% in 2022/23) remains the same as The Plan for North Lanarkshire baseline (72% in 2017/18), but as can be seen in Figure 11d there has been significant fluctuation in the figures over the years.

Notes:

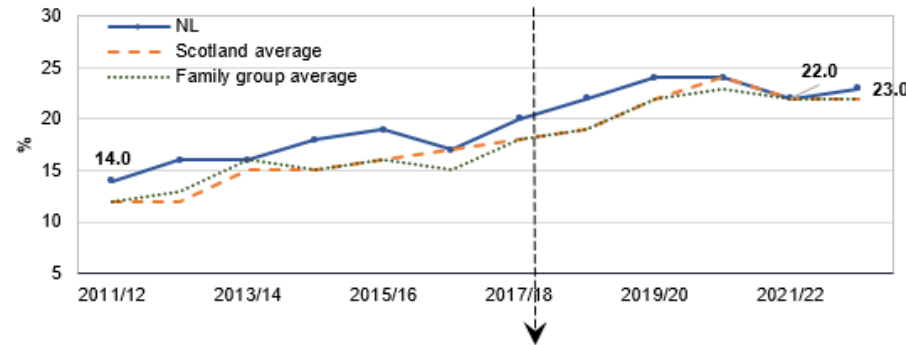
- Due to the pandemic, the time period covered by the data reflects four distinct approaches to assessment and certification of SQA attainment. This includes a longstanding use of exams and externally assessed coursework (pre-pandemic), the use of estimates as a basis for awards in 2020, an Alternative Certification model in 2021, and the return of formal exams in 2022 with adjustments in place to mitigate the ongoing effects of the pandemic.
- The different circumstances and awarding processes of 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2022 do not therefore allow for a wholly accurate comparison across the years and therefore this context needs to be taken into account when reviewing the data and trends for indicators C11 and C12.

C12: Educational attainment - % of pupils living in 20% most deprived areas (as defined by the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation) gaining 5+ awards at Level 6

Measuring this indicator will tell us if we have: Improved the outcomes for the young people living in NLs most disadvantaged communities.

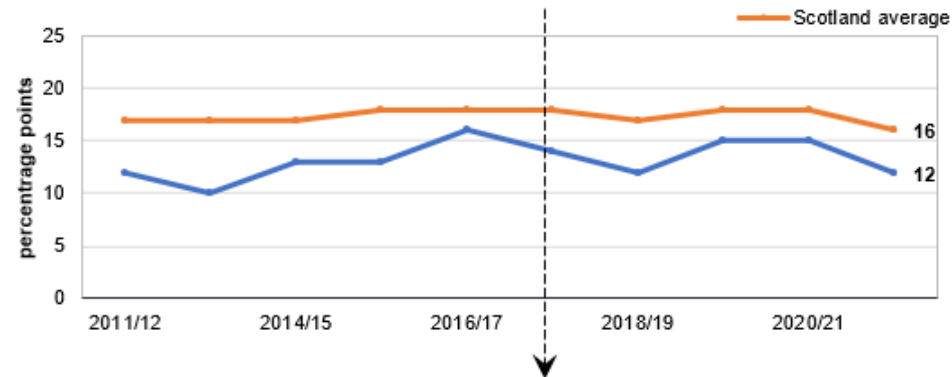
What success looks like: Having no gap in attainment levels across all of NL.

Figure 12a: % of pupils living in 20% most deprived areas (as per SIMD) gaining 5+ awards at Level 6



The Plan for North Lanarkshire baseline: 20% (2017/18)

Figure 12b: gap between C11 and C12



The Plan for North Lanarkshire baseline: 14 percentage points (2017/18)

The latest North Lanarkshire commentary:

- Educational attainment for pupils living in the 20% most deprived areas continues to improve from The Plan for North Lanarkshire baseline as shown in Figure 12a (20% in 2017/18 to 23% in 2022/23) and is higher than the national and family group averages (both 22%).
- There is however still a marked difference in attainment at this level for those pupils living in the 20% most deprived areas, compared to the overall student population (indicator C11).
- Between the overall figure (C11), and that for those living in the most deprived areas (C12), the gap in NL is smaller than it is nationally. There remains a 12 percentage points difference in attainment at SCQF level 6 or above in 2022/23 in NL compared to a 16 percentage point gap nationally.
- The gap in NL has decreased over the period of The Plan for North Lanarkshire (as shown in Figure 12b) from 14 percentage points on 2017/18 to 12 percentage points in 2022/23.

Notes:

- Due to the pandemic, the time period covered by the data reflects four distinct approaches to assessment and certification of SQA attainment. This includes a longstanding use of exams and externally assessed coursework (pre-pandemic), the use of estimates as a basis for awards in 2020, an Alternative Certification model in 2021, and the return of formal exams in 2022 with adjustments in place to mitigate the ongoing effects of the pandemic.
- The different circumstances and awarding processes of 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2022 do not therefore allow for a wholly accurate comparison across the years and therefore this context needs to be taken into account when reviewing the data and trends for indicators C11 and C12.

C13: Post school destinations - % of pupils entering positive destinations

Measuring this indicator will tell us if we have: Improved the further education and employment prospects for NLs young people.

What success looks like: Every child leaving a NL school is able to share equally in the improving economic picture and achieve the pathway they wish to.

Figure 13a: % of pupils entering positive destinations

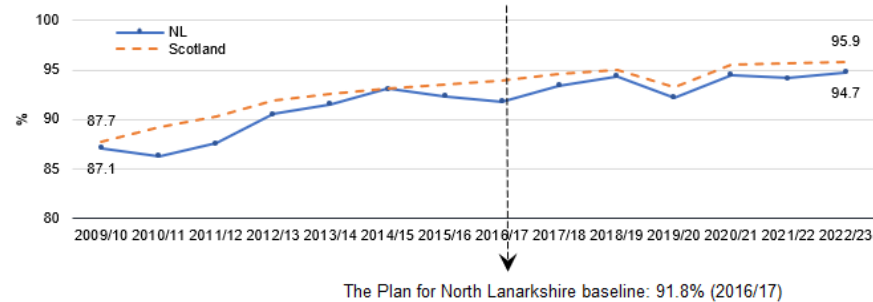
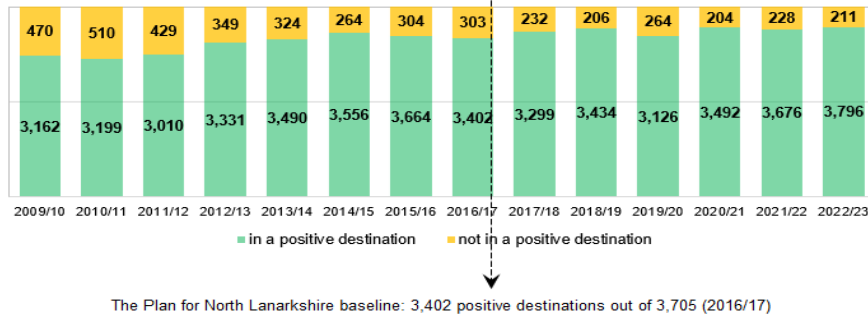


Figure 13b: number of pupils in NL achieving a positive destination / not achieving a positive destination



The latest North Lanarkshire commentary:

- The proportion of pupils leaving school in NL and entering a positive destination reached its highest level to date in 2022/23 with 94.7% which is an improvement from The Plan for North Lanarkshire baseline of 91.8% (in 2016/17) as shown in Figure 13a.
- The latest result of 94.7% equates to 3,796 leavers achieving a positive destination out of 4,007 meaning 211 leavers did not achieve a positive destination (as reflected in Figure 13b).
- Reviewing the % result for this indicator does not necessarily show the full position in terms of the number of leavers achieving a positive destination. A more meaningful result is the number of pupils not achieving a positive destination over the years. As shown in Figure 13b this has remained above 200 for the last six years, although as can be seen from the graph this is a significant reduction from the years prior to that.
- However, the number of pupils not entering a positive destination has improved by around 92 leavers over the period of The Plan for North Lanarkshire.

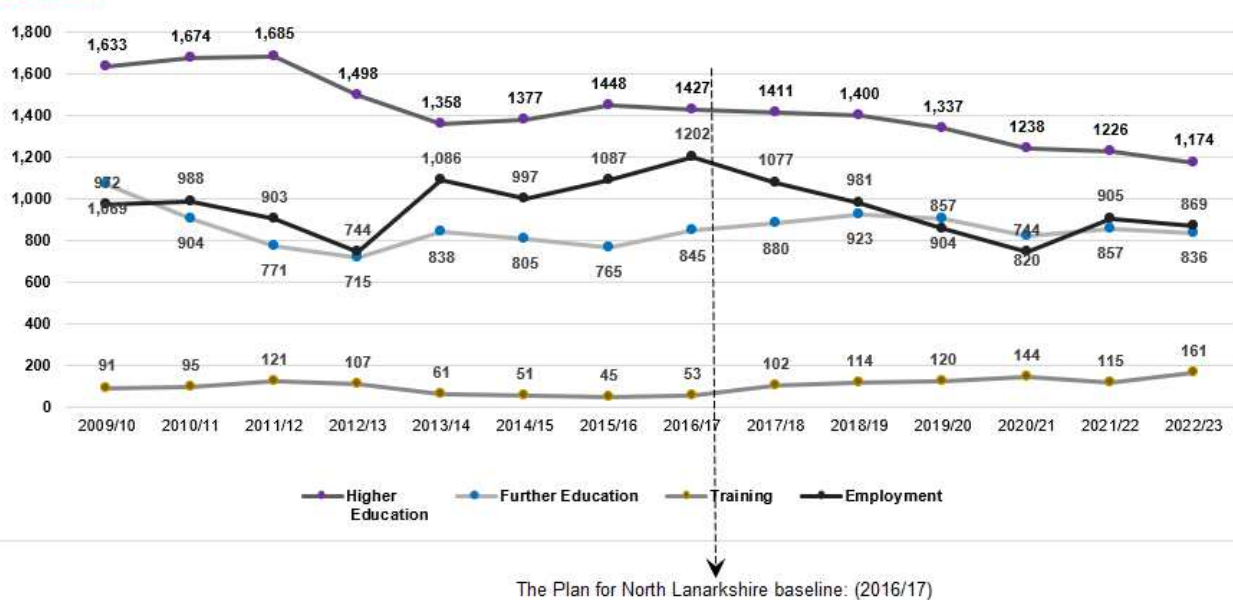
Positive destinations

- Figure 13c shows the main destinations for leavers (higher education, further education, employment, and training) where the data reflects a decline in numbers over the period of The Plan for North Lanarkshire for all except training.
- Notes: Figure 13c only reflects the 4 main positive destinations so figures will not add up to the totals in Figure 13b

Notes:

- This measure counts school leavers from publicly funded mainstream schools and reports initial destinations for school leavers approximately three months after the end of the school year.

Figure 13c: number positive destinations for pupils in NL for the 4 main destinations

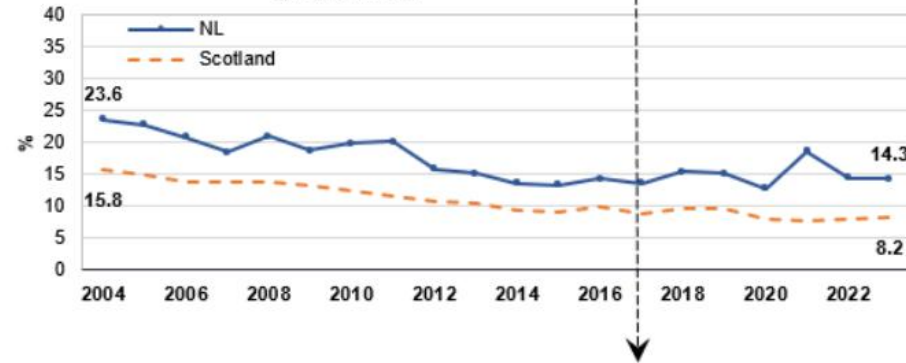


C21: Qualifications - % of the working age population (aged 16-64 years) that have no formal qualifications

Measuring this indicator will tell us if we have: Increased the qualification levels of NLs workforce.

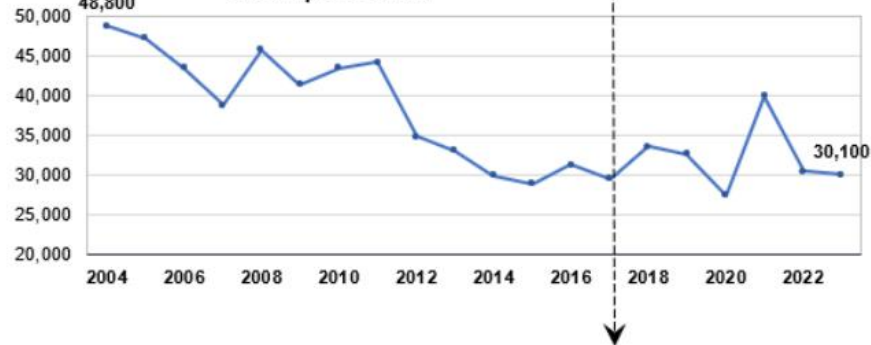
What success looks like: An increase in formal qualifications are important for the working age population in order to increase skills and flexibility within the workforce.

Figure 21a: % of the working age population that have no formal qualifications



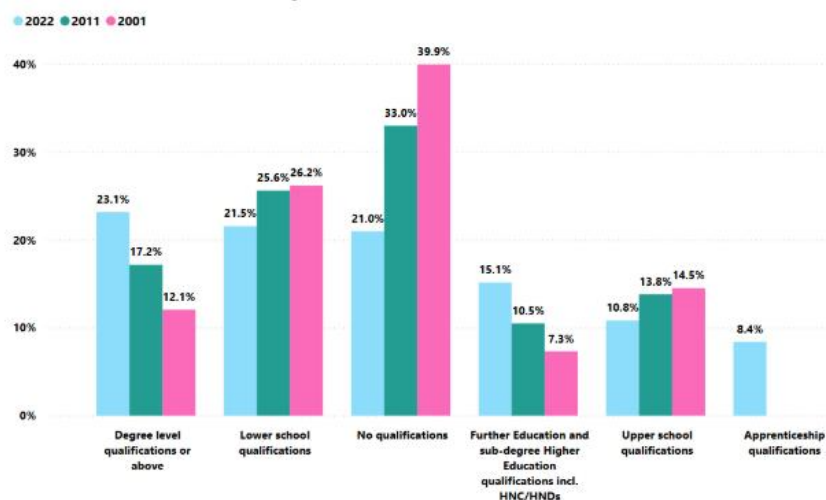
The Plan for North Lanarkshire baseline: 13.6% (2017)

Figure 21b: number of the working age population that have no formal qualifications



The Plan for North Lanarkshire baseline: 29,600 (2017)

Figure 21c: % of the working age population by highest level of qualifications



The latest North Lanarkshire commentary:

Data sourced from the Annual Population Survey

- Figure 21a shows a general downward trend over the years to 12.8% in 2020 which shows ongoing improvement in terms of the proportion of NLs working age population that have no formal qualifications.
- Latest results in 2021 show an increase to 18.6% before a decrease to 14.4% in 2022 and 14.3% in 2023. Figures over this period show greater fluctuation in NL than in the overall national position which has increased from 7.7% in 2021, to 8% in 2022, and to 8.2% in 2023. These figures however should be viewed with caution - see *Notes* below.
- Figure 21b shows that in 2020 there were 27,500 of NLs working age population with no formal qualifications. This restricts their ability to access current or developing employment opportunities. This has fluctuated since with the latest figure showing as 30,100. These figures however should be viewed with caution - see *Notes* below.

Data sourced from the Census

- Given the undernoted caveat regarding the data for this measure, some additional context can be provided through the recent Census results for which data has been captured in respect of the percentage of the population with the highest level of qualifications, although it should be noted that Census data is only available every 10 years, and it reflects a moment in time.
- Figure 21c shows the proportion of NLs population with no formal qualifications as at the 2022 Census was 21.0% - a decrease from 33% in 2011 and 39.9% in 2001.

Notes:

Since the significant change in the NL figures in 2021, the data has been queried with the Office of National Statistics (ONS) and following an announcement in October 2024 the following should be noted:

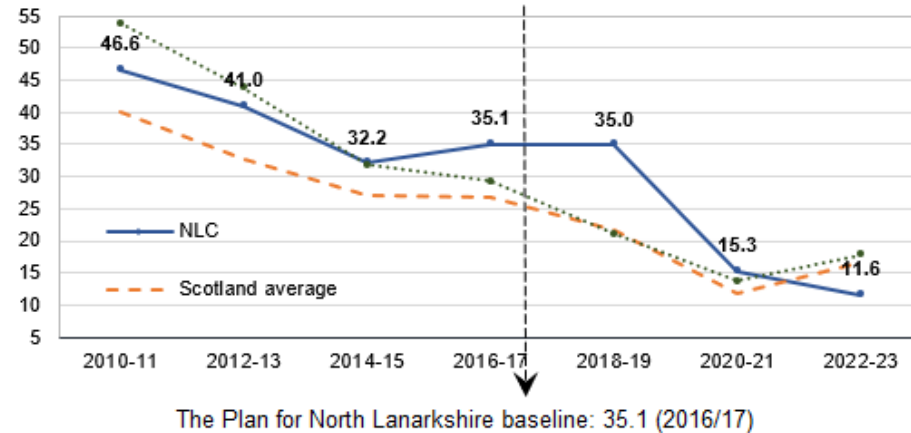
- Following recent challenges in operating the Annual Population Survey (from which this qualifications measure is derived), the ONS have carried out an assessment of the quality of the survey. While they consider the quality of the Annual Population Survey to be robust for national and headline regional estimates, there are concerns with the quality of estimates for smaller segments of the population, such as local authority geographies. In addition, a review and update is needed for the weighting approach used in the Annual Population Survey which has not been updated in line with Labour Force survey and is therefore less representative of the current population.
- At present therefore ONS outputs produced using Annual Population Survey data should be viewed with caution as they are officially labelled as *statistics in development*.

C14: School exclusion rate per 1,000 pupils - all children

Measuring this indicator will tell us if we have: Reduced the number of children not in education.

What success looks like: No child in NL is excluded from education.

Figure 14a: school exclusion rate per 1,000 pupils - all children



The latest North Lanarkshire commentary:

- NL schools have seen a positive decrease in exclusion rates over the period of the reported data from 46.6 per 1,000 pupils in 2010-11 to 11.6 per 1,000 pupils in 2022-23.
- The latest figures reflect the lowest rate for NL over the reported data and are lower than both the national average (16.6) and family group average (17.9).
- Over the period of The Plan for North Lanarkshire overall exclusion rates have improved in NL by 67% from 35.1 per 1,000 pupils in 2016-17 to 11.6 in 2022-23.
- This is a significant improvement in NL compared to lower improvements over this same period in both the national average (38%) and the family group average (39%).

Notes:

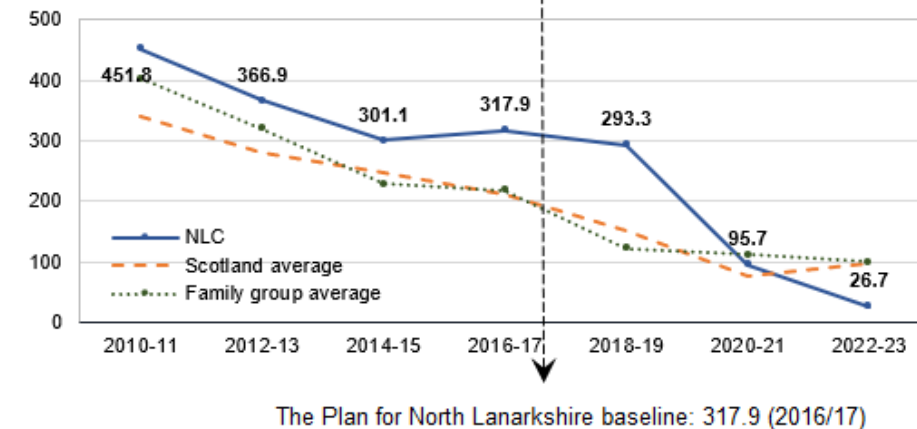
- This measures the number of exclusion cases per 1,000 pupils, this includes both primary and secondary school pupils. It is the number of exclusion cases that is measured - as pupils can be excluded more than once per year which means a single pupil may be counted more than once in the figures. Exclusions include both temporary exclusions and pupils removed from the register.
- The school year covered by 2020/21 exclusion statistics was impacted by the pandemic and at source it is therefore reported that some of the decrease from 2018/19 to 2020/21 can be attributed to the pandemic.
- This data is only published every two years.

C15: School exclusion rate per 1,000 pupils - looked after children

Measuring this indicator will tell us if we have: Reduced the number of NLs most vulnerable children and young people not in education.

What success looks like: No child looked after in NL is excluded from education.

Figure 15a: school exclusion rate per 1,000 pupils - looked after children



The latest North Lanarkshire commentary:

- NL schools have seen a positive decrease in exclusion rates for looked after children over the period of the reported data from 451.8 per 1,000 pupils in 2010-11 to 26.7 per 1,000 pupils in 2022-23.
- The latest figures reflect the lowest rate for NL over the reported data and are lower than both the national average (96.9) and the family group average (100.2).
- Over the period of The Plan for North Lanarkshire exclusion rates for looked after children have improved by almost 92% from 317.9 per 1,000 pupils in 2016-17 to 26.7 in 2022-23.
- This is a significant improvement in NL compared to lower improvements over the same period in both the national average (54%) and the family group average (54%).
- Exclusion rates for looked after children in are now the 6th lowest of all 32 local authorities in Scotland.

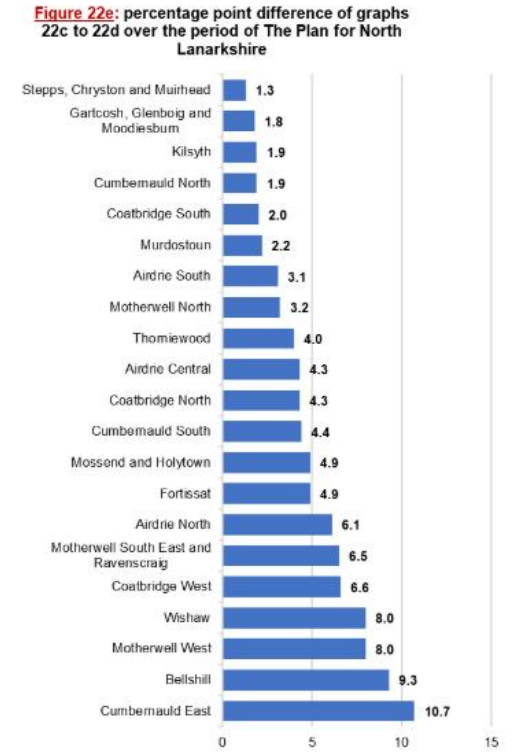
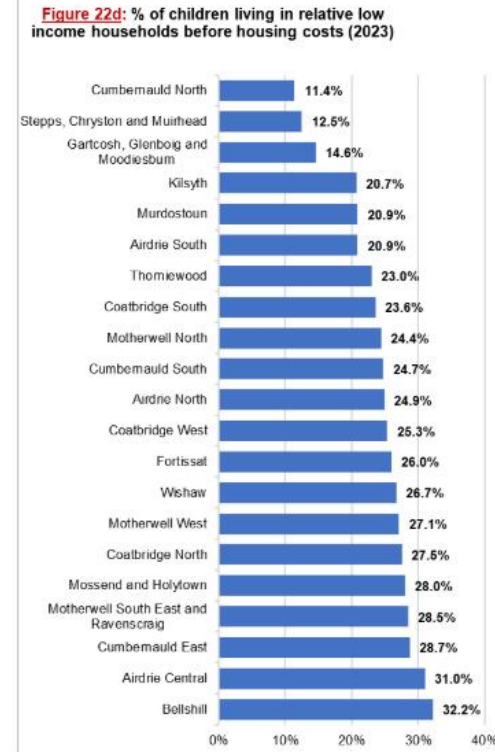
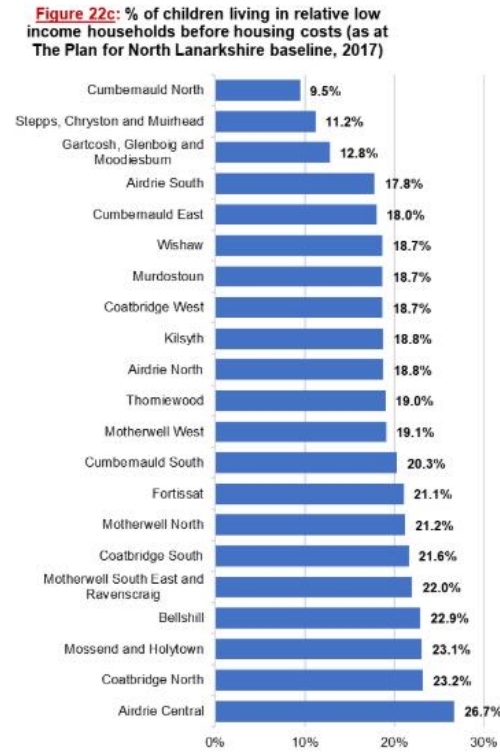
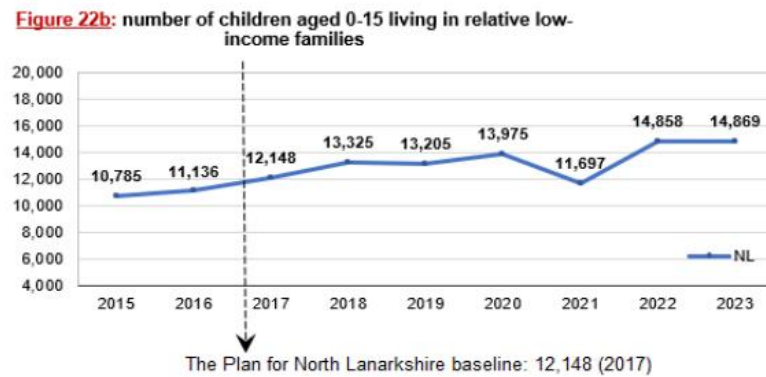
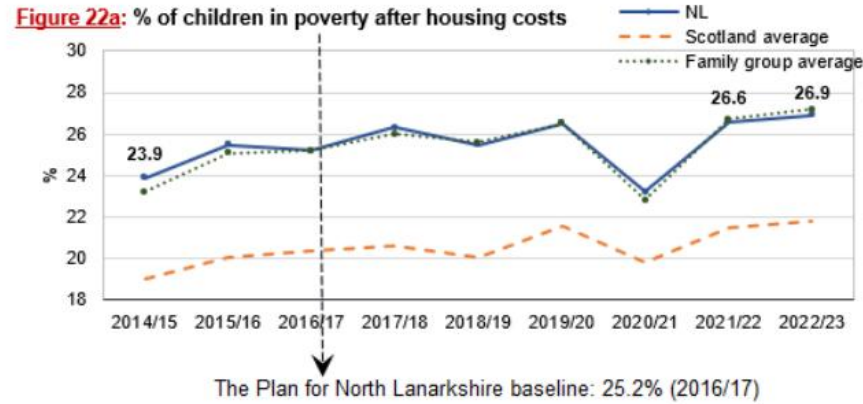
Notes:

- This measures the number of exclusion cases per 1,000 pupils who are looked after at a publicly-funded or grant-aided mainstream schools. It does not include grant-aided special schools or independent schools. It is the number of exclusion cases is measured - as pupils can be excluded more than once per year which means a single pupil may be counted more than once in the figures.
- The calculation for this indicator has changed in previous years and all figures have been re-baselined; this means it is now comparable with overall exclusion rates (i.e. indicator C14).
- This data is only published every two years.

C22: Poverty - % of children in poverty after housing costs

Measuring this indicator will tell us if we have: Reduced the number of NLs children and their families living in poverty.

What success looks like: No child in NL experiences disadvantages because of poverty.



The latest North Lanarkshire commentary:

% of children in poverty after housing costs

- With the vision of inclusive growth and prosperity for all in The Plan for North Lanarkshire, this indicator is of particular relevance to ensure that all of NLs children get the best start in life.
- Significant improvements were noted in the proportion of children in poverty over the initial period of The Plan for North Lanarkshire - from a baseline of 25.2% in 2016/17 to 23.2% in 2020/21 (Figure 22a). Following the pandemic, figures increased to 26.6% in 2021/22 and to 26.9% in 2022/23; the trend in NL in this respect followed both the national and family group trends.
- This means there remains almost one in four children in NL living in poverty - higher than the national average of just over one in five children.

% of children living in relative low income households before housing costs

- There are a broad range of factors contributing to child poverty locally and of concern is the disparity across wards in NL. According to HMRC data (see Figure 22b) the number of children aged 0 -15 in NL living in relative low-income families has increased from 12,148 to 14,768 over the period of The Plan for North Lanarkshire.
- Figure 22c shows the range across North Lanarkshire as at The Plan for North Lanarkshire baseline, with Figure 22d showing the latest position and Figure 22e the percentage point difference between the data in Figure 22c compared to Figure 22d.
- Figure 22e shows the biggest change over time in Cumbernauld East, Bellshill, Motherwell West, and Wishaw.

Notes:

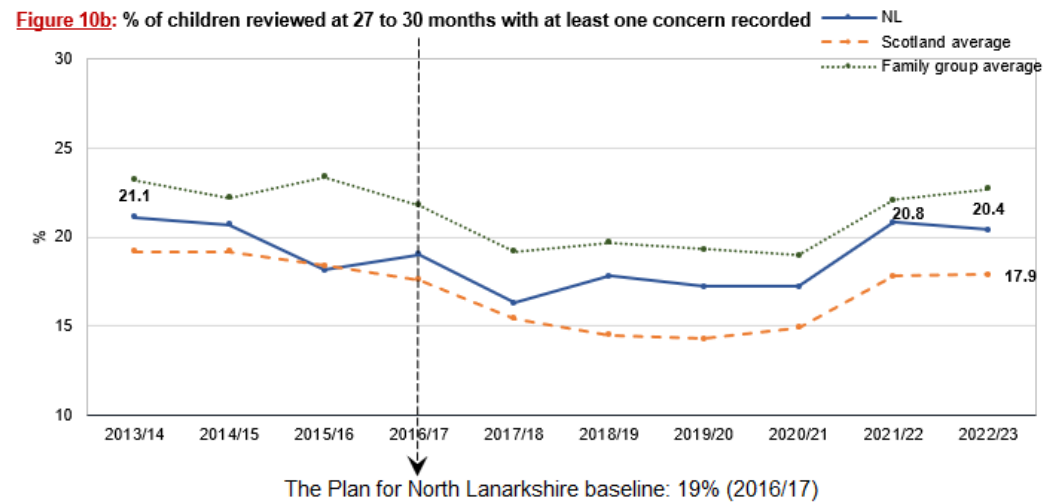
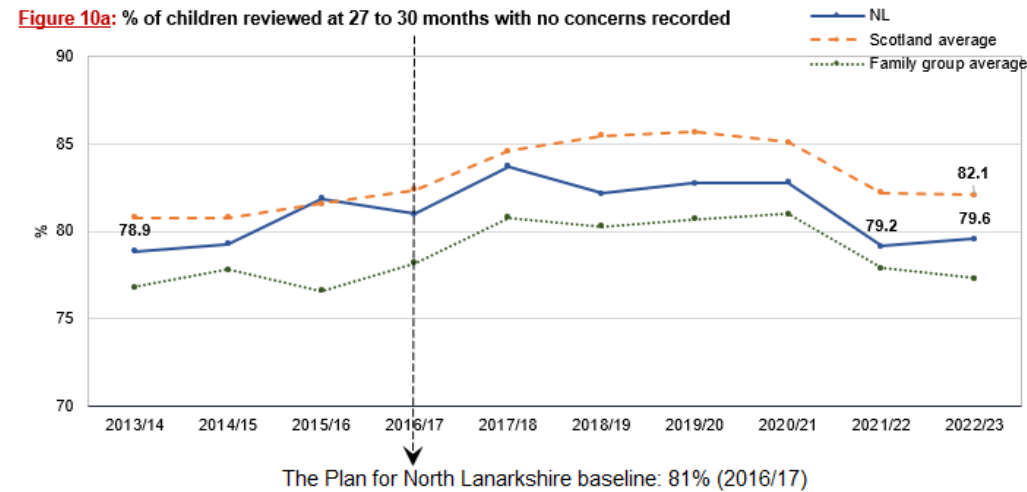
- The data in Figure 22a which looks at poverty levels after housing costs is not available at a level below North Lanarkshire, therefore the data depicted in Figures 22b, 22c, 22d, 22e is obtained from a different source and looks at children living in relative low-income households before housing costs.
- A family must have claimed child benefit and at least one other household benefit at any point in the year to be classed as low income using the data in Figure 22b.

[link to contents page](#)

C10: Child wellbeing - % of children reviewed at 27 to 30 months with no concerns recorded

Measuring this indicator will tell us if we have: Improved the wellbeing of NLs youngest children.

What success looks like: The majority of NLs babies get the best start in life and where issues occur, they are addressed at the earliest opportunity.



The latest North Lanarkshire commentary:

- Figure 10a shows there are 79.6% of children in NL who have no concerns in any domain at their 27-30 month review. This is a slight increase in the proportion with no concerns from 79.2% in the previous year.
- The latest figure for NL is lower than the national average (82.1%).
- The pattern for children with no concerns in any domain remains less than the highest level recorded in 2017/18 (83.7%), and lower than The Plan for North Lanarkshire baseline of 81% (2016/17).
- Along with the slight increase in the proportion of no concerns recorded from 2021/22 to 2022/23 which is a positive improvement, there is a slight decrease in the proportion where one or more concerns have been recorded which is also a positive improvement.
- Figure 10b shows where one or more concerns have been recorded which has decreased from 20.8% to 20.4% in NL; latterly this trend does not follow the national picture where this has increased from 17.8% to 17.9%.

Notes:

- This indicator records the average number of concerns identified at the case conferences / planning meetings of children who are on the child protection register. The pandemic led to changes in how reviews were delivered as well as the circumstances of daily life for many children in 2020/21 and 2021/22. It is possible that both factors relating to assessment and recording, and genuine changes in the occurrence of developmental problems, have contributed to the increase in the data in 2021/22.
- Early identification of developmental issues is crucial to ensuring that children reach their full potential.

C09: Breastfeeding - % of babies breastfed at 6-8 week review (overall rate)

Measuring this indicator will tell us if we have: Improved the wellbeing of our youngest children

What success looks like: The majority of NLs babies get the best start in life and where issues occur, they are addressed at the earliest opportunity

Figure 09a: % of babies breastfed at 6-8 week review (overall rate)

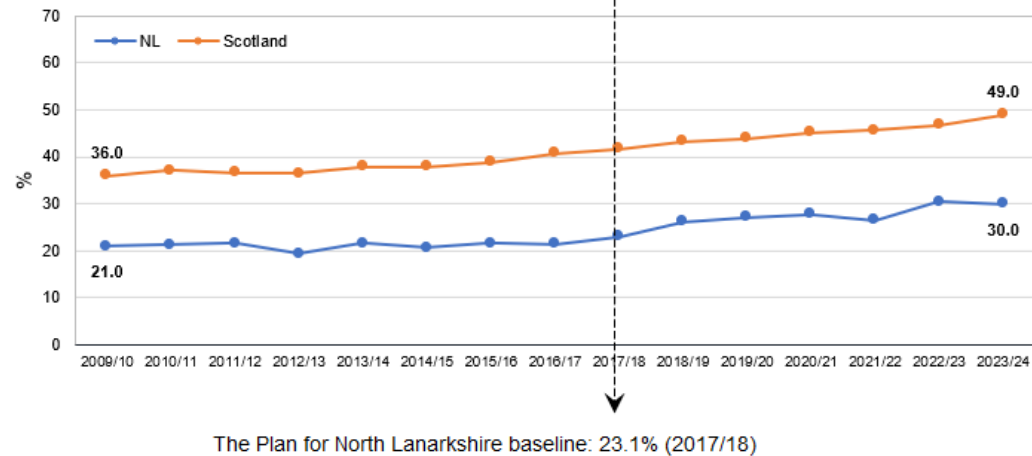


Figure 09b: % of babies breastfed at the first review (around 10-14 days old)

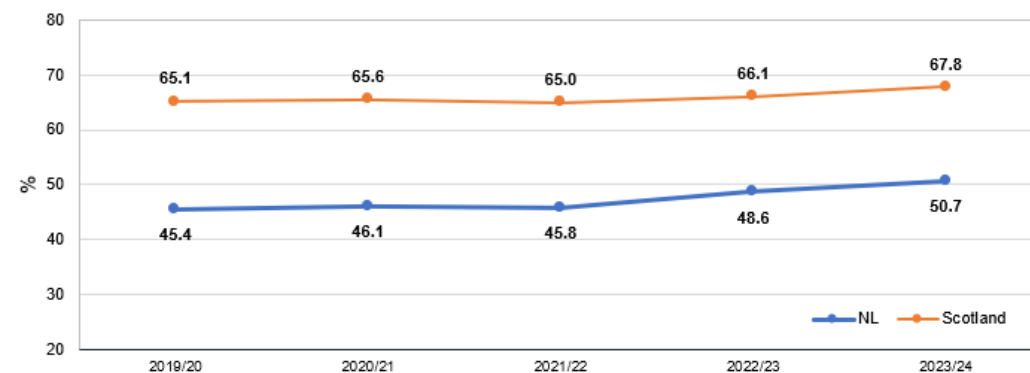
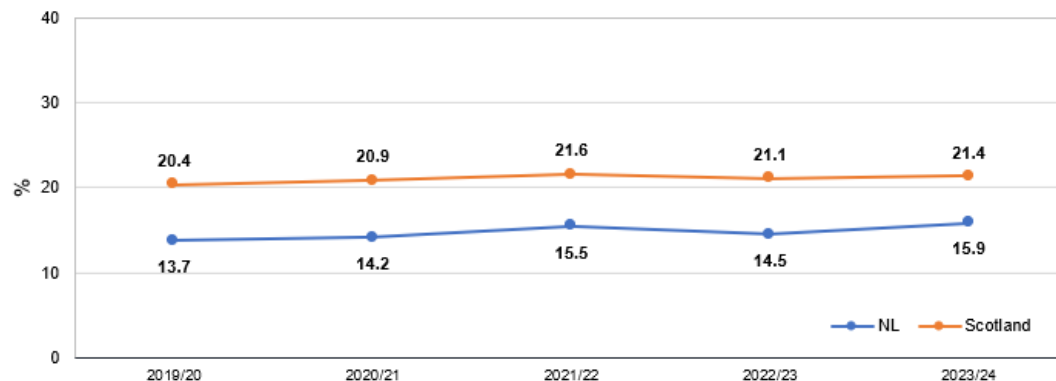


Figure 09c: % of babies breastfed at 13-15 month review (overall rate)



The latest North Lanarkshire commentary:

% of babies breastfed at 6-8 week review (overall)

- Figure 09a shows that NL has experienced a small year on year improvement in the proportion of babies breastfed at the 6-8 week review, which had been on a par with the level of improvement seen nationally.
- The latest figures show that 30% of babies in NL are breastfed at their 6-8 week review, getting the best start in life; this is a significant improvement from The Plan for North Lanarkshire baseline of 23.1% in 2017/18.
- This shows an improvement in babies in NL who are not breastfed at their 6-8 week review from 76.9% to 70% over the period of The Plan for North Lanarkshire.

% of babies breastfed at the first review (around 10-14 days old)

- Figure 09b shows that NL has experienced a small year on year improvement in the proportion of babies breastfed at the first review (around 10-14 days old), which had been on a par with the level of improvement seen nationally.
- The latest figures show that 50.7% of babies in NL are breastfed at the first review (around 10-14 days old), compared to a national average of 67.8%. Figures at a local authority level are not available earlier than 2019/20 for this measure.

% of babies breastfed at 13-15 month review (overall)

- Figure 09c shows that NL has experienced a small year on year improvement in the proportion of babies breastfed at the 13-15 month review, which had been on a par with the level of improvement seen nationally.
- The latest figures show that 15.9% of babies in NL are breastfed at the 13-15 month review (compared to a national average of 21.4%). Figures at a local authority level are not available earlier than 2019/20 for this measure.

Further analysis is required but the figures shows that half of all new babies are breastfed at the first review (around 10-14 days old), but the ability to sustain this can be shown to drop by time of the 6-8 week review and by the time of the 13-15 month review.

Notes:

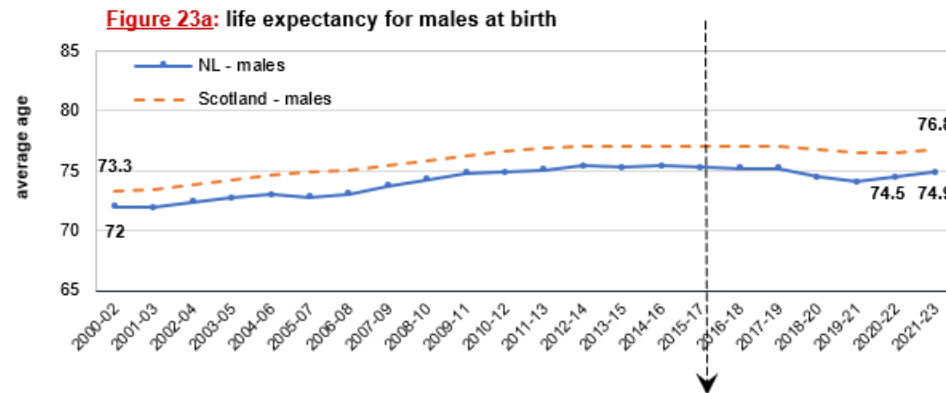
- These statistics are collected by Public Health Scotland and are derived from breastfeeding data collected at routine child health reviews at around 10-14 days of age (the public health nurse / health visitor first review), around 6 to 8 weeks of age and around 13-15 months and recorded on the Child Health Systems Programme Pre-School system (CHSP Pre-School). The number of children eligible for review is defined as the number of children who turned the appropriate age (10 days for first visit, 6 weeks for 6-8 week review, or 13 months for 13-15 month review) during the financial year of interest and who were active on the Scottish Immunisation and Recall System (SIRS). Figures at the 6-8 week review and 13-15 month review are the overall rate, i.e. those babies breastfed overall which includes mixed breast and formula.
- Breastfeeding is considered to provide the best nutrition for babies and young children. It supports children's health in the short and longer term, including through reduced risk of infections, and benefits mothers' health. Current guidance recommends that babies receive just breast milk for the first 6 months of life, then, after introduction of solid foods, should continue to breastfeed up to at least their second birthday. There is evidence that interventions can work to improve breastfeeding rates, e.g. ensuring good quality of breastfeeding support for mothers, influencing public attitudes to breastfeeding, restricting the inappropriate promotion of formula milk, and ensuring supportive employment policies.

[link to contents page](#)

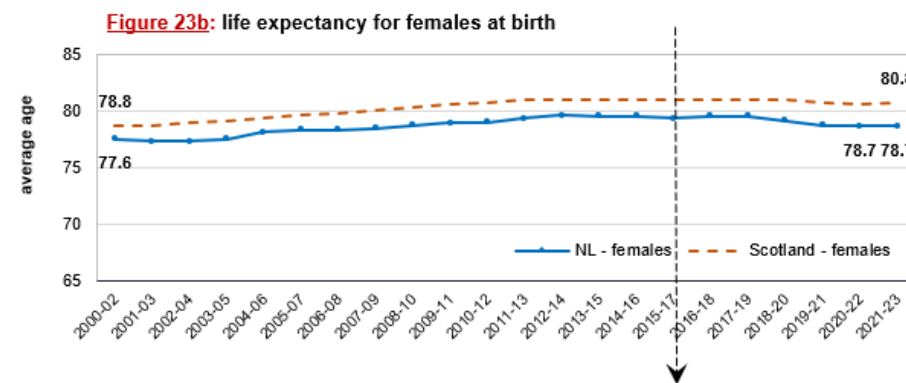
C23: Life expectancy at birth - estimates (males and females)

Measuring this indicator will tell us if we have: Improved the life expectancy of NLs residents.

What success looks like: More of NLs residents remain healthy for longer.

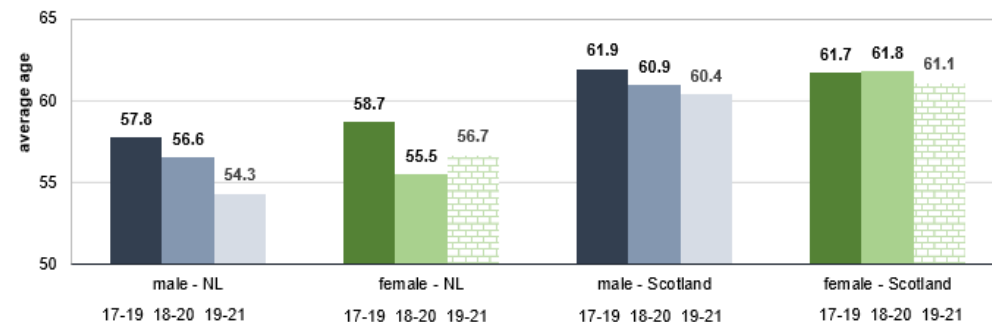


The Plan for North Lanarkshire baseline: males 75.3 (2015-17)



The Plan for North Lanarkshire baseline: females 79.4 (2015-17)

Figure 23c: healthy expectancy at birth for the 3 years (2017-19; 2018-20; 2019-21) - males and females



The latest North Lanarkshire commentary:

Life expectancy at birth - males:

- Latest life expectancy estimates for 2021-23 in NL are 74.9 for males (depicted in Figure 23a). This is the second increase in a row following two data series dips in 2018-20 and 2019-21 during the pandemic.
- Male life expectancy remains slightly lower than The Plan for North Lanarkshire baseline of 75.3.
- Life expectancy for males in NL had been following the national trend up to around the time of The Plan for North Lanarkshire baseline at which time the gap compared to the national average increased slightly. The national average for life expectancy for males has increased from 76.5 to 76.8 in the latest figures.

Life expectancy at birth - females:

- Latest life expectancy estimates in NL remain at 78.7 for females (depicted in Figure 23b). This follows a dip in 2018-20 which has not recovered since.
- Female life expectancy remains slightly lower than The Plan for North Lanarkshire baseline of 79.4.
- Life expectancy for females in NL had been following the national trend up to around the time of The Plan for North Lanarkshire baseline at which time the gap compared to the national average increased slightly. The national average for life expectancy for females has increased from 80.7 to 80.8 in the latest figures.

Healthy life expectancy - males:

- When considering the latest healthy life expectancy data (depicted in Figure 23c), the average age of healthy life expectancy at birth is 54.3 for males in NL. This is lower than the previous year (56.6) and lower than the latest national average (60.4).

Healthy life expectancy - females:

- When considering the latest healthy life expectancy data (depicted in Figure 23c), the average age of healthy life expectancy at birth is 56.7 for females in NL. This is higher than the previous year (55.5) but lower than the latest national average (61.1).

Notes:

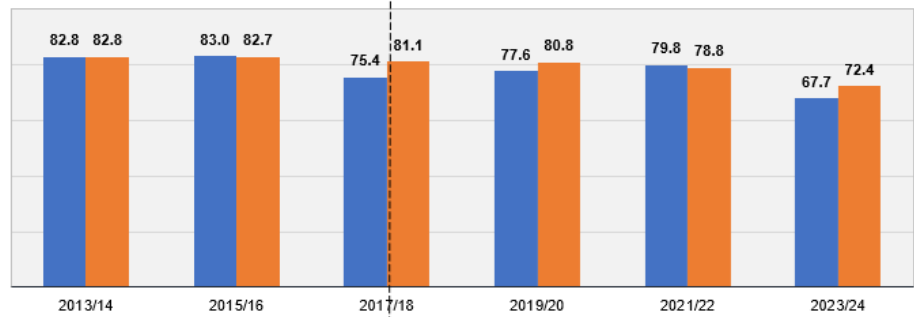
- Life expectancy is the average number of years (at birth) that an individual is expected to live based on current mortality rates.
- Healthy life expectancy data adds a quality-of-life dimension to estimates of life expectancy. Healthy life expectancy is the average number of years that an individual is expected to live in a state of self-assessed good or very good health, based on current mortality rates and prevalence of good or very good health. Considering health life expectancy data therefore brings in aspects around health and care and the importance of active and healthy lifestyles.

C24: Independent living - % of adults supported at home who agreed that they are supported to live as independently as possible

Measuring these 2 indicators will tell us if we have: Improved the independence and quality of life of NLs older residents.

What success looks like: NLs residents are supported as independently as possible for as long as possible.

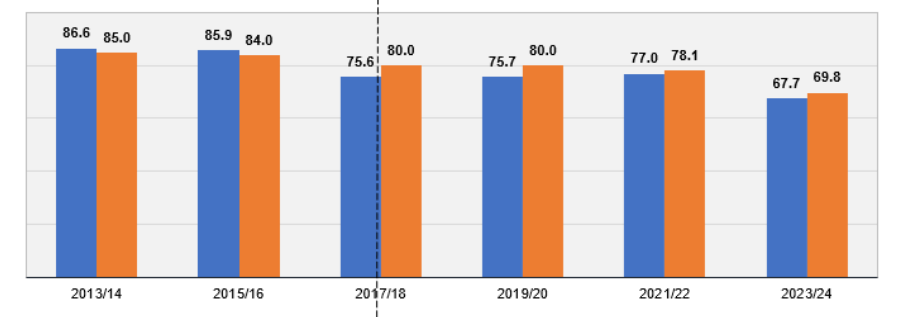
Figure 24a: % of adults supported at home who agreed that they are supported to live as independently as possible



The Plan for North Lanarkshire baseline: 75.4% (2017/18)

C25: Quality of life - % of adults supported at home who agree their services and support had an impact on improving or maintaining their quality of life

Figure 25a: % of adults supported at home who agree that their services and support had an impact on improving or maintaining their quality of life



The Plan for North Lanarkshire baseline: 75.6% (2017/18)

The latest North Lanarkshire commentary:

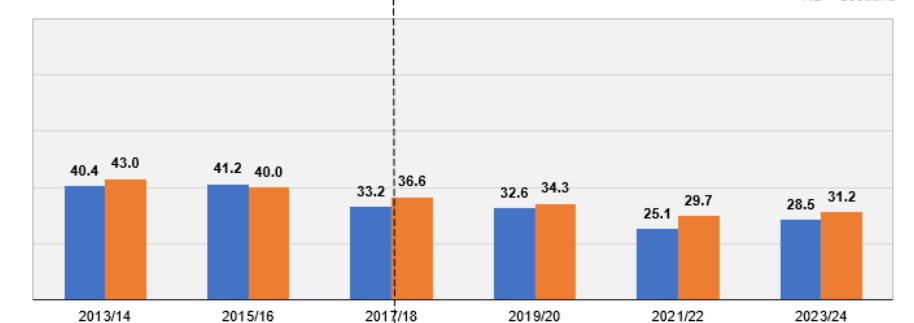
- **C24:** The results from the 2023/24 perception survey showed that 67.7% of people surveyed in NL agreed they were supported to live independently. The latest figures for 2023/24 show a decline in NL compared to the previous survey in 2021/22 (79.8%), although the national picture also shows a decline in satisfaction from 78.8% to 72.4% over the same period.
- **C25:** In 2023/24, 67.7% of people surveyed in NL agree that service and support improves their quality of life. The latest figures for 2023/24 show a decline in NL compared to the previous survey in 2021/22 (77%), although the national picture also shows a decline in satisfaction from 78.1% to 69.8% over the same period.
- **C26:** In 2023/24, the percentage of people in NL who agree they are supported to continue caring increased to 28.5% from 25.1% in the previous survey in 2021/22. This mirrors the national picture where satisfaction has also increased (from 29.7% to 31.2%) from the previous survey.
- It is expected that the 2021/22 results will reflect to some extent individual perceptions that were acquired during the pandemic, making comparisons with this particular year less able to be compared on a similar basis.

C26: Carers - total combined % of carers who feel supported to continue in their caring role

Measuring this indicator will tell us if we have: Improved support to NLs residents who care for others.

What success looks like: NLs residents are supported as independently as possible for as long as possible.

Figure 26a: total combined % of carers who feel supported to continue in their caring role



The Plan for North Lanarkshire baseline: 33.2% (2017/18)

Notes:

- Data for these indicators comes from the Local Government Benchmarking Framework (LGBF) which uses a subset of the national Health and Care Experience Survey which is undertaken every two years; 107,538 (out of 526,758) individuals registered with a GP practice in Scotland responded to the 2023/24 survey, giving an overall response rate of 20%, a decrease from 24% in the 2021/22 survey.
 - The survey asks about people's experiences (during the previous 12 months) of accessing and using their GP practice and other local healthcare services; receiving care, support and help with everyday living; and caring responsibilities. The response rate in 2023/24 in NL was 18% (6,429 out of a sample of 36,443), a decrease from 20% in the 2021/22 survey.
 - Changes in the indicator calculations nationally in 2018 mean figures before this date are not necessarily directly comparable with either 2019/20, 2021/22, or 2023/24 figures for all 3 indicators.
- As noted above, the figures used in this analysis are based on the LGBF data subset which is based on only those respondents whose care was funded by the council or health board. This may differ from figures included in the national report, which includes all respondents regardless of how their care is funded.

C06: Crime - % change in total recorded crime

Measuring this indicator will tell us if we have: Reduced NLs recorded crime rates.

What success looks like: NL experiencing a continued reduction in overall crime.

Figure 06a: % change in total recorded crime

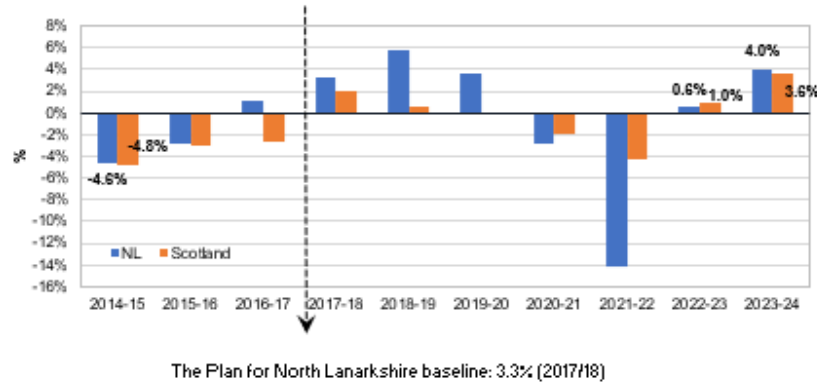
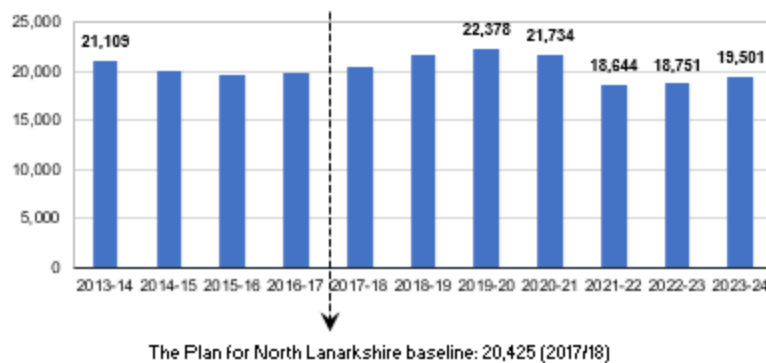


Figure 06b: number of crime in NL recorded by the police



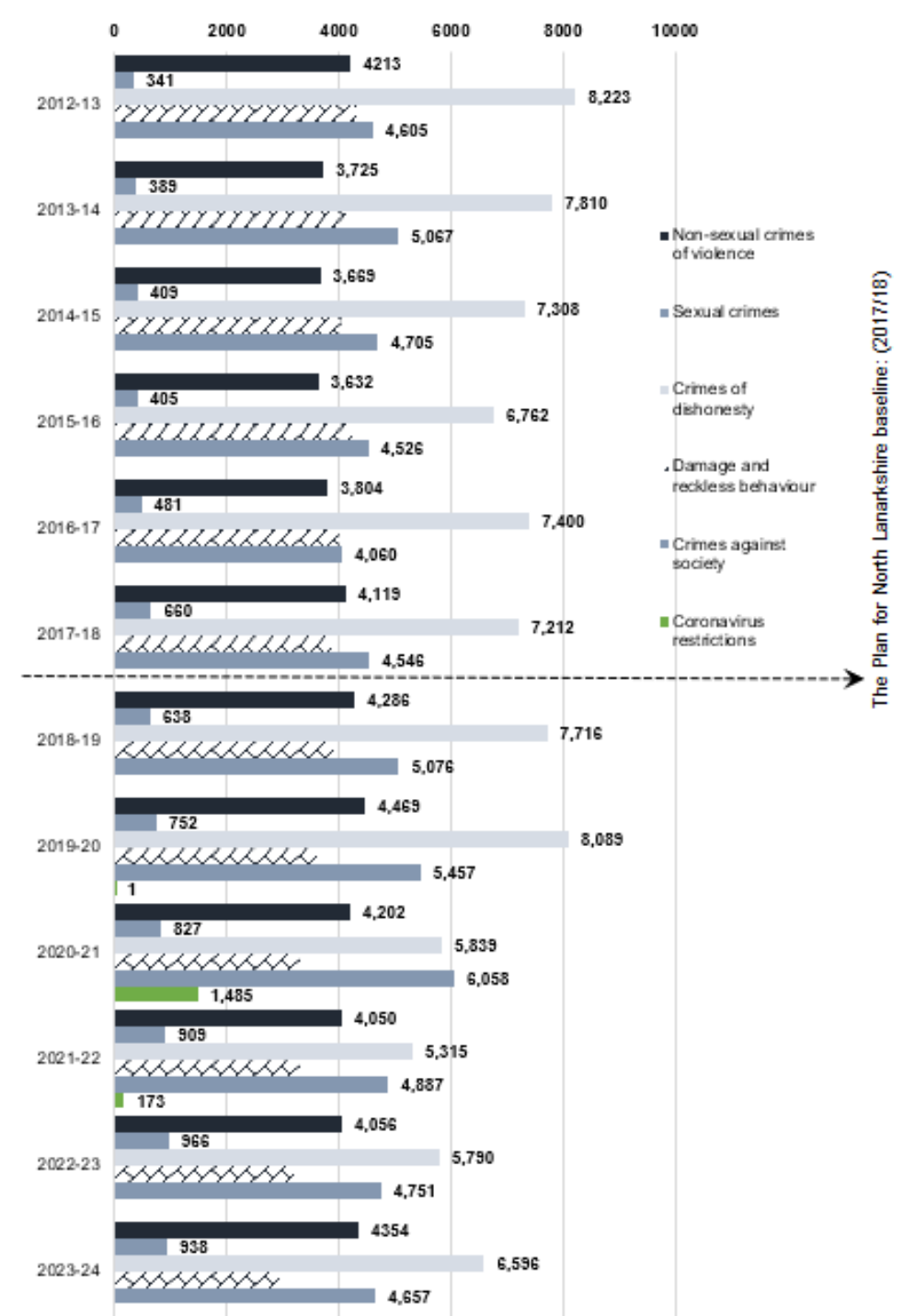
The latest North Lanarkshire commentary:

- Results from 2019/20 onwards had started to show a decreasing change in total recorded crime in North Lanarkshire which was a more positive picture than nationally (Figure 6a).
- The latest results for 2023/24 in Figure 6a show an increase of 4% in total recorded crime from the previous year compared to an increase of 3.6% nationally.
- The number of recorded crimes will have been impacted by the pandemic and this can be seen in Figure 6b, with a decrease from 22,378 in 2019 to 21,734 in 2020/21 and 18,644 in 2021/22. Figures for 2022/23 (18,751) and 2023/24 (19,501) are positive in that they have not returned to pre-pandemic levels and remain lower than The Plan for North Lanarkshire baseline (20,425).
- Figure 6c provides a breakdown of the crimes recorded by category with crimes of dishonesty remaining at the highest level albeit showing reductions over the years.

Notes:

- Total recorded crime includes all crime recorded in six categories - damage and reckless behaviour, crimes of dishonesty, crimes against society, sexual crimes, non-sexual crimes of violence, and coronavirus restrictions.
- Statistics on recorded crimes and offences provide a measure of volume of criminal activity which the police face. This does not reveal the incidence of all crime committed as not all crimes are reported to the police.
- The pandemic, and associated measures to limit social contact, had an impact on both the type and volume of crime recorded between March 2020 and the lifting of final legal restrictions in April 2022.

Figure 06c: crimes in NL recorded by category

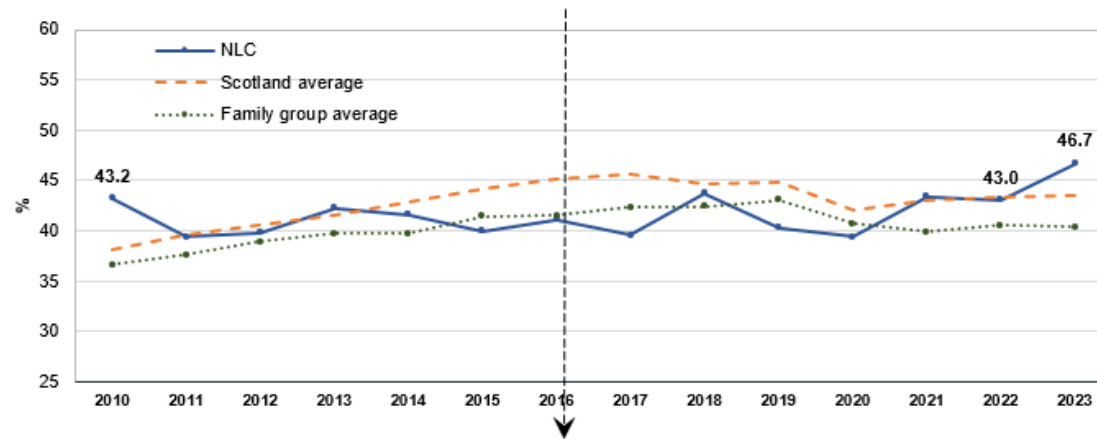


C05: Household waste - % recycled

Measuring this indicator will tell us if we have: Improved NLs waste recycling rates.

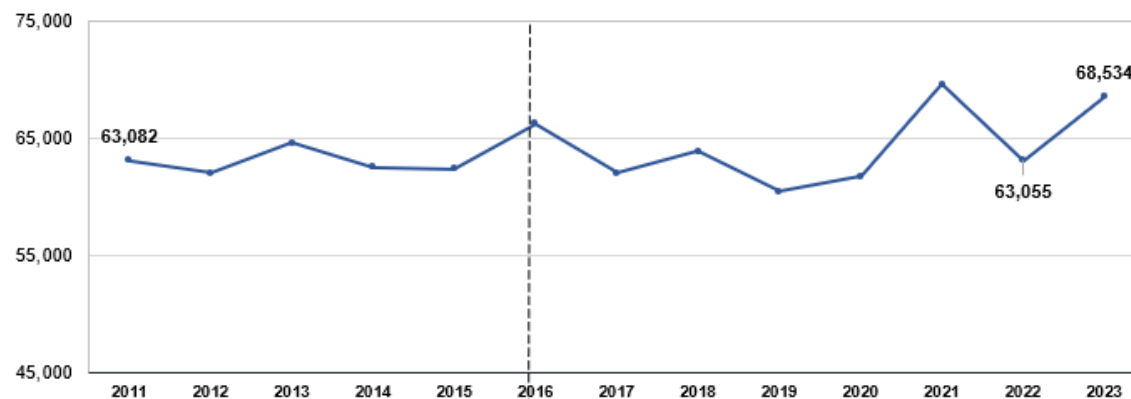
What success looks like: Residents of NL actively reducing the amount of their household waste going to landfill and increasing their recycling rates.

Figure 05a: household waste - % recycled



The Plan for North Lanarkshire baseline: 41.1% (2016)

Figure 05b: household waste - tonnage recycled in NL



The Plan for North Lanarkshire baseline: 66,207 (2016)

The latest North Lanarkshire commentary:

- The latest figures for the proportion of household waste that is recycled in NL, show a significant increase to 46.7%.
- Over the period of The Plan for North Lanarkshire recycling rates in NL show improvement from a baseline rate of 41.1% in 2016 to 46.7% in 2023.
- NLs recycling rates are now higher than the national average (43.5%) and the family group of similar councils (40.4%).
- In 2023 NL saw an increase in tonnage recycled to 68,534 which is an increase of 3.5% over the period of The Plan for North Lanarkshire.

Notes:

- The family group comprises the eight most densely populated local authority areas in Scotland (i.e. Aberdeen City, Dundee City, East Dunbartonshire, Edinburgh City, Falkirk, Glasgow City, North Lanarkshire and West Dunbartonshire).
- National recycling targets are not statutory.
- This data is collected by SEPA which involves all 32 Scottish local authorities using the web-based reporting tool *WasteDataFlow*.
- Recycling figures are calculated according to Scotland's national recycling rate methodology. Over the years there have been changes to the methodology in terms of what is counted as recycled, although these have been relatively minor and are not expected to have any significant bearing on the reported figures.
- Following SEPAs verification process, figures are subject to slight changes; the information presented here is the most up to date available as at the time of producing this report.

C07: Rating of neighbourhood (includes all neighbourhoods) - % good / very good ratings

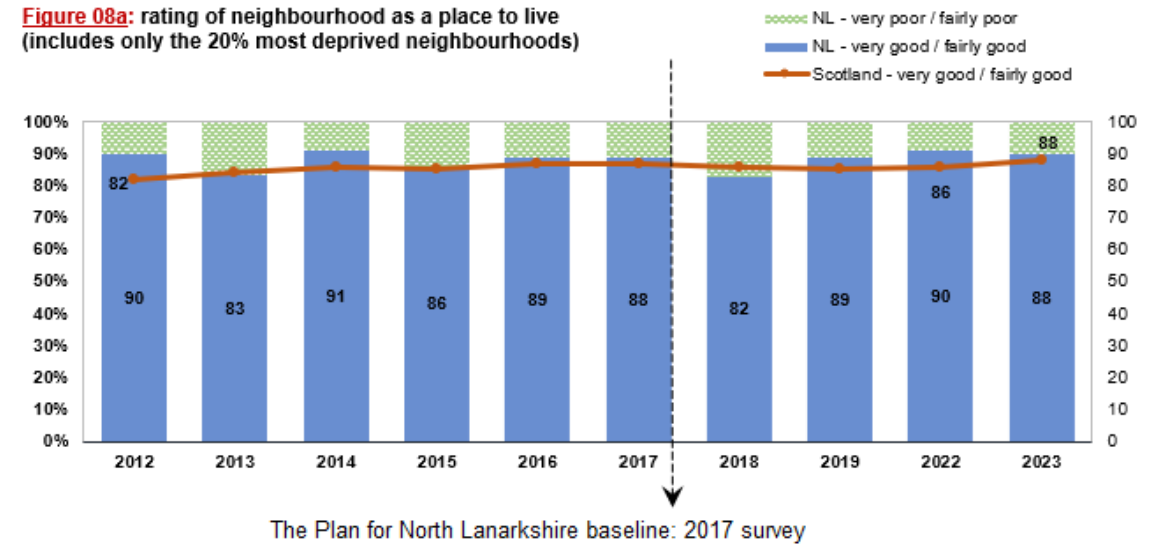
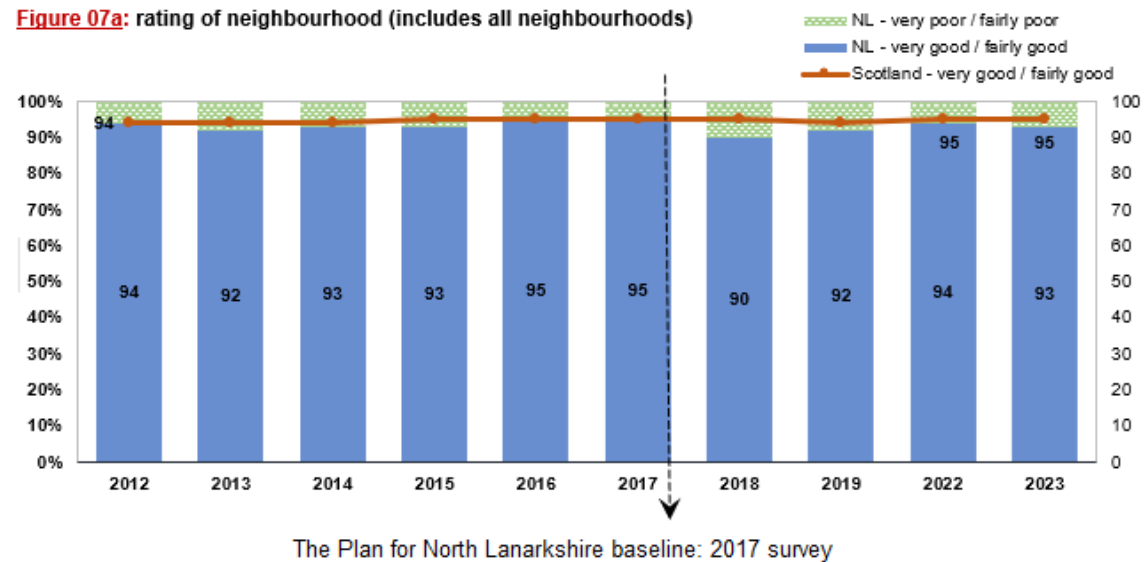
Measuring this indicator will tell us if we have: Improved NLs residents' perceptions of their neighbourhoods.

What success looks like: Having neighbourhoods where people want to live is a fundamental aspect of the shared ambition.

C08: Rating of neighbourhood as a place to live - % good / very good ratings (includes only the 20% most deprived neighbourhoods, as defined by the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation)

Measuring this indicator will tell us if we have: Improved the perceptions of NLs most disadvantaged communities of the areas in which they live.

What success looks like: Improvements to the most deprived neighbourhoods to ensure that residents share equally in the improving picture and there is social inclusion across our diverse towns and communities.



The latest North Lanarkshire commentary:

- Residents' perceptions of their neighbourhood in NL in indicator C07 (see Figure 07a) have remained relatively stable with little change recorded over the years. This mirrors the picture nationally.
- The latest results for NL show 93% rate their place to live as very good / fairly good (compared to a national average of 95%).
- A slight decline (from 90% who rated their neighbourhood as very good or fairly good to 88%) can be noted in ratings over the recorded data for neighbourhood as a place to live in the 20% most deprived areas (see Figure 08a) compared to all neighbourhoods.
- Conversely the national picture reverses this trend with an increase from 86% to 88% over the same period. However, the national picture shows ratings generally to be the same or at a lower level than NL over the time series.
- Both indicators show a decline immediately following the baseline of The Plan for North Lanarkshire, however both indicators almost show an increasing trend since and the latest results differ very little to The Plan's baseline.

Notes:

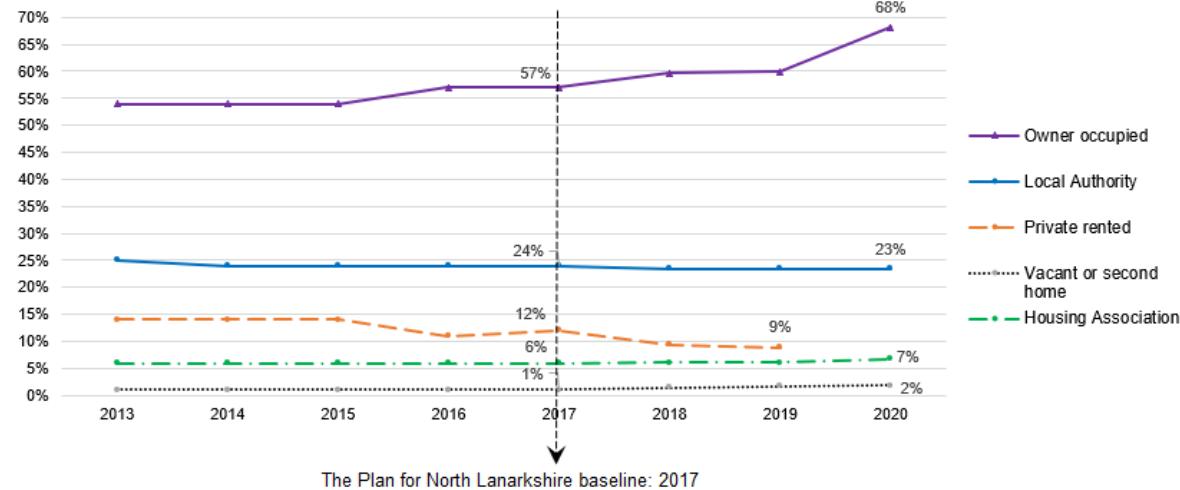
- This data is obtained from the Scottish Household Survey which is derived from a small sample of the population.
- Due to the pandemic the survey methodology significantly differed to previous years, and therefore the results for 2020 and 2021 are not included in this analysis as they are not directly comparable with other years.
- Results at a local authority level are not yet available from the 2024 Scottish Household Survey.

C04: Housing - estimated housing by tenure

Measuring this indicator will tell us if we have: Increased the housing choice available to NLs existing and future residents

What success looks like: Having a range of housing stock that meets population growth demands and also changes in household composition

Figure 04a: % housing tenure in NL



The latest North Lanarkshire commentary:

Number of households

- In terms of overall households, there were an estimated 152,653 households in NL in 2023 - which is an increase of 2% over the period of The Plan for North Lanarkshire.

Housing tenure

- Figure 04a shows NLs housing by tenure, with the largest proportion being owner occupied. In Figures 04a and 04b, the 2020 figures published have combined owner occupied and private rented figures together - this explains the even larger increase in the owner occupied figure in 2020.
- No new data has been published at local authority level since the 2020 update as at March 2023.
- For this reason, the results from the 2022 Census in respect of the housing tenure in NL is shown in Figure 04b, along with the corresponding data table. This shows 63.2% of households are owned at 2022 compared to 54.2% at the 2001 Census.
- Conversely social rented tenure has decreased to 27% at the 2022 Census compared to 36% at the 2001 Census, while private rented has seen an increase from 2.1% to 8.7% over the same period.

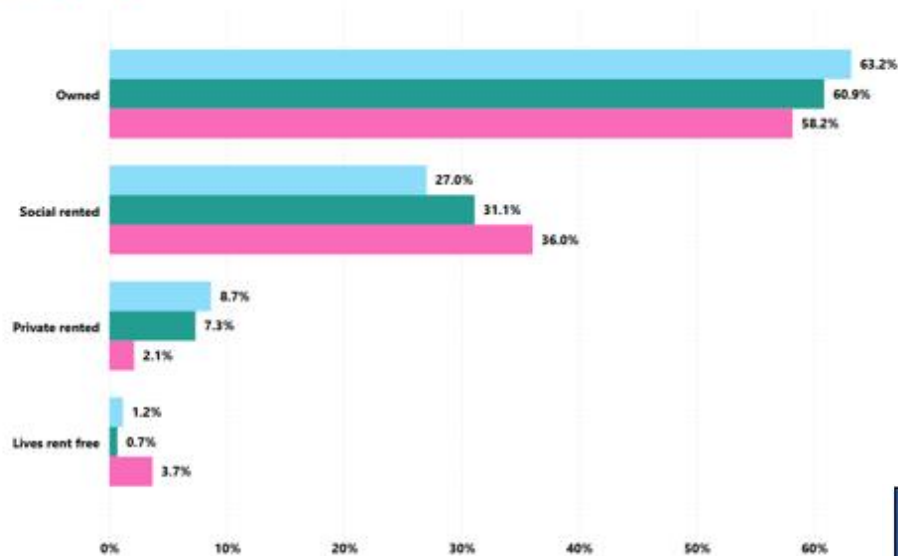
Housing projections

- While the population is expected to fall overall by 0.9% by 2043, household numbers are projected to rise by 9%; this will mean increased demand for homes - the table below provides more details in terms of household projections (from a 2018 base).
- The number of individual households in North Lanarkshire are predicted to increase by 5,720 new households by 2028 and by a further 4,720 from 2028 to 2043.
- More significantly, single adult households are projected to increase by 14% (almost 7,240 people) by 2043. Similarly households with 2 adults are projected to increase by 14.1% (+6,080) by 2043.

Figure 04b: % housing tenure in NL

Percentage of household tenure - households

2022 2011 2001



Household tenure - households	2001	2011	2022
Lives rent free	4,868	1,005	1,722
Owned	77,154	88,872	94,335
Private rented	2,799	10,705	12,925
Social rented	47,798	45,416	40,336
Total	132,619	145,998	149,318

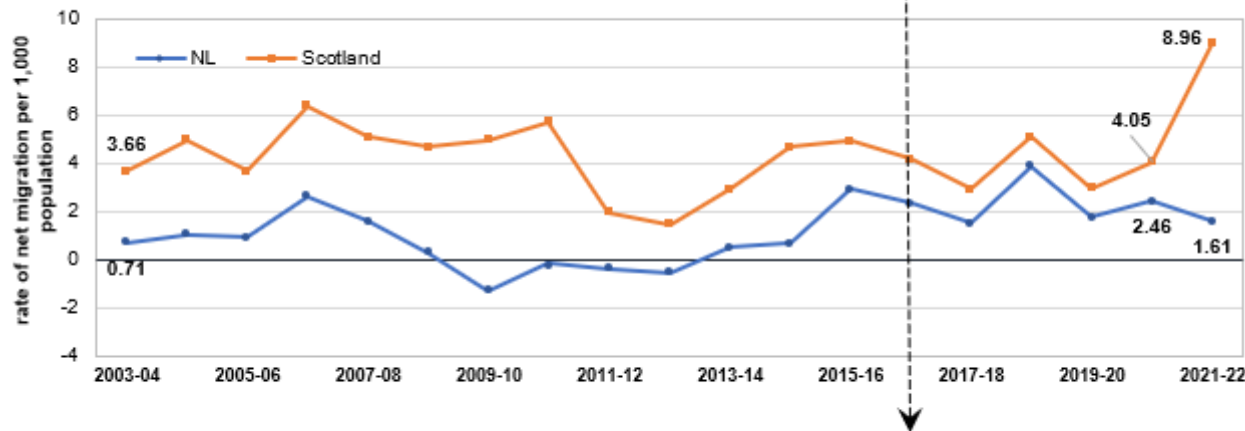
	Total NL households	1 adult, no children	2 adults, no children	3 or more adults, no children	1 adult and 1 or more children	2 or more adults and 1 or more children
2018	151,750	51,610	43,150	14,560	12,170	30,260
From 2018 to 2028	+5,720 +3.8%	+3,880 +7.5%	+3,500 +8.1%	-540 -3.7%	+90 +0.75%	-1,210 -4%
From 2018 to 2043	+10,440 +6.9%	+7,240 +14%	+6,080 +14.1%	-230 -1.6%	-530 -4.4%	-2,120 -7%
2043	162,190	58,850	49,230	14,330	11,640	28,140

C03: Net migration - total rate per 1,000 population

Measuring this indicator will tell us if we have: Increased NLs population and net inward migration.

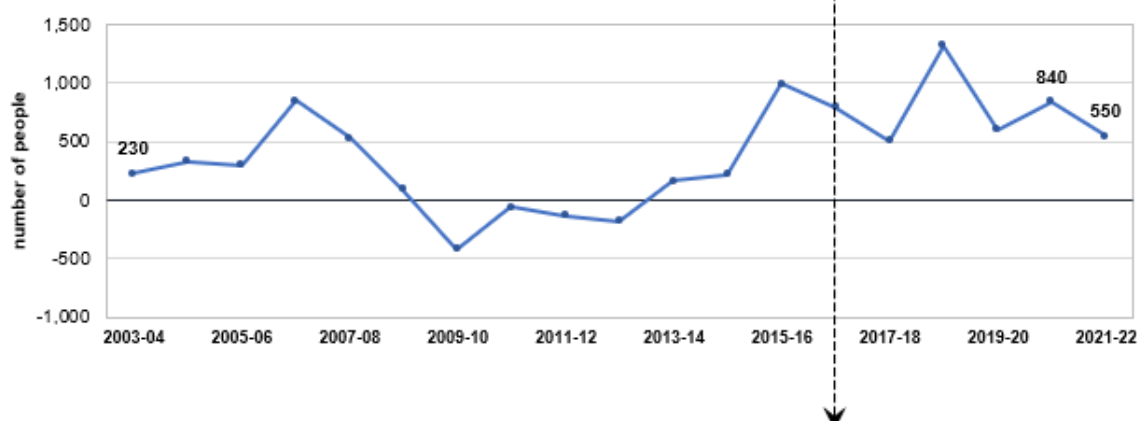
What success looks like: Steadily increasing population in NL, and in particular growth in the number of school age children and the working age population.

Figure 03a: rate of net migration per 1,000 population



The Plan for North Lanarkshire baseline: 2.32% (2016-17)

Figure 03b: net migration in terms of number of people migrating to NL each year



The Plan for North Lanarkshire baseline: +790 (2016-17)

The latest North Lanarkshire commentary:

- Inward migration in NL had generally been positive in recent years, with more people moving into North Lanarkshire than moving out.
- The recent trend shows a change in this respect with a decrease from +2.46 per 1,000 population in 2020-21 to +1.61 in 2021-22, which although a decrease from previous years it still shows growth in NLs population.
- Over the period of The Plan for North Lanarkshire migration growth has dropped less significantly from +2.32 per 1,000 population to +1.61, an estimated decrease of around 240 people.
- Historically the NL trend had mirrored that of the national average (which has increased from +4.05 per 1,000 population to +8.96 in the recent publication, albeit migration in NL has remained at a lower growth rate than the national average).
- The latest figures show a change in this respect - as while NLs trend shows a decrease in population growth, the national picture shows an increase.

Notes:

- Net migration is the number of people coming into North Lanarkshire minus the number of people leaving.
- Figures are published by National Records of Scotland and relate to total net migration (difference between immigration and emigration). They include asylum seekers and rounding adjustments. Refugees are also included from 2015-16 onwards. Migration estimates for 2012 to 2022 have been revised alongside the mid-year population estimates following the 2022 Census in Scotland.
- Net migration is a general sign of a positive economic growth.

C01: Population projections - % change

Measuring these 2 indicators will tell us if we have: Increased NLs population and net inward migration.

What success looks like: Steadily increasing population in NL, and in particular growth in the number of school age children and the working age population.

	Total NL population	Age under 16	Working age 16-64	Age 65+	Age 65 to 74	Age 75+
2018	340,180	62,960	219,220	58,000	33,430	24,570
From 2018 to 2028	+990 0.3%	-6,150 -9.8%	-4,330 -2.0%	+11,470 +19.8%	+6,110 +18.3%	+5,360 +21.8%
From 2018 to 2043	-3,010 -0.9%	-9,300 -14.8%	-16,670 -7.6%	+22,960 +39.6%	+5,400 +16.2%	+17,560 +71.5%
2043	337,170	53,660	202,550	80,960	38,830	42,130

number of under 16 year olds	2018	2018 to 2028	2018 to 2043	% of the NL population	2018	2018 to 2028	2018 to 2043
pre school children	18,330	-1,730	-1,950	under 16 years old	18.5%	16.7%	15.9%
primary school children	28,610	-4,110	-5,090	of working age (age 16 to 64)	64.4%	63.0%	60.1%
secondary school children	16,020	-310	-2,260	aged 65 and over	17.0%	20.4%	24.0%

The latest North Lanarkshire commentary:

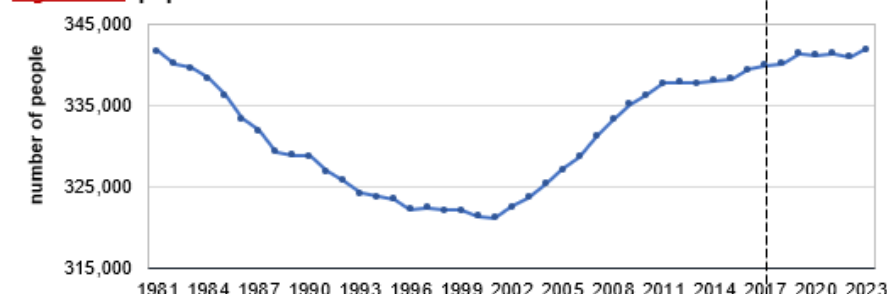
- The NL population is projected to increase 0.3% from 2018 to 2028 (+990 people), compared to growth of 1.8% in Scotland. The NL population is then projected to fall by a further -0.9% (-3,010 people) from 2028 to 2043.
- The tables above show a detailed breakdown of the projected change in the population from 2018 to 2028 when growth remains favourable, and from 2018 to 2043 when growth is predicted to decline.
- Of note are changes that by 2043 will see a 7.6% reduction in the working age population and a 14.8% reduction in children aged under 16, but a 39.6% increase in adults aged 65+.
- Within the aged 65+ age range, population projections expect to see a 16.2% increase in adults aged 65 to 74 and a 71.5% increase in adults aged 75+.

Notes:

- The population projection tables above remain the most up to date available at a local authority level at March 2025; these figures have not changed from the update at March 2024.
- Figures published nationally in January 2025 show projections re-baselined at a national level using the 2022 Census data - this shows projections for Scotland to 2032 and 2047. However, these projections are not yet available at a local authority level, so no new populations projections are available at a NL level and the most up to date available remain those noted in the tables above.
- Population projections to 2032 and 2047 at a local authority level are expected to be published in the summer of 2025.
- In the meantime, a single updated figure is available from the 2022 Census results (published in 2024) which shows that NLs population increased from 337,727 at the previous Census in 2011 to 341,117 in 2022 - an increase of 3,390 (+1%).

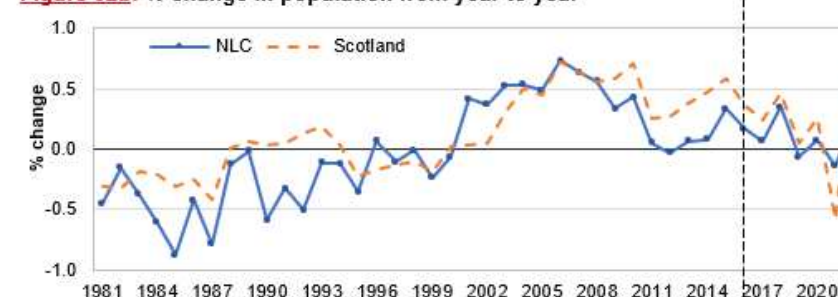
C02: Population - mid-year estimates (mye)

Figure 02a: population in NL



The Plan for North Lanarkshire baseline: 339,960 (2017)

Figure 02b: % change in population from year to year



The Plan for North Lanarkshire baseline: +0.2% (2017)

The latest North Lanarkshire commentary:

- NLs population has been growing since 2009. The population as at The Plan for North Lanarkshire baseline was 339,960; the latest mid year estimates published in October 2024 shows this has increased +0.6% to 341,890.

Notes:

- Mid year population estimates are currently under review nationally to reflect amended data on long-term international migration for Scotland. As a result, Scotland's current total mid year population estimates - and future local authority level estimates - are subject to change as the re-baselining exercise continues.
- This review is also expected to take account of the subtle changes in the estimate of international migration and provide a more accurate account of inward migration of individuals aged 16 and under.
- It is recognised that the publication of the 2022 Census results creates to some extent a position where various figures can be used to depict NLs current and future population. It is hoped that by the time the re-baselining of both the population projections (i.e. C01) and the mid year estimates (i.e. C02) is complete that a clearer picture will be available to inform future plans and priorities.

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Appendix 3

The Plan for North Lanarkshire: Delivering the Programme of work to 2028 - looking forward

Outline of the ask for the Programme of Work mid-term review

Note, it is accepted that as this review progresses the review group may identify other relevant information and points to add to the undernoted. As such the purpose of setting the broad overview below is to ensure the review progresses within a broad set of principles and clear requirements at the outset, while at the same time allowing appropriate flexibility to get the best possible outcome at the end of the review for the council and the people and communities of North Lanarkshire.

Review context	<p>The Plan for North Lanarkshire was established in 2019 with a very clear vision - inclusive growth and prosperity for all to bring equal benefits and a fairer distribution of wealth to all North Lanarkshire's people and communities. This vision is about transforming the place that is North Lanarkshire. It's about securing economic growth by enhancing local physical environments in a way that recognises the intrinsic social and health benefits gained in doing so. It's about securing holistic ways of working that integrate policies, services, and systems with only one solution in mind - to deliver a one council approach that targets the growing complexities in society to improve outcomes for the people and communities of North Lanarkshire.</p> <p>Approved by Policy and Strategy Committee in March 2023, the five year Programme of Work to 2028 set out the plans to deliver these improvements against seven priorities (i.e. transforming places, invest in North Lanarkshire, sustainable futures, resilient people, brighter futures, digital North Lanarkshire, and one service).</p>		
Review purpose	<p>The Plan for North Lanarkshire was founded on a place-based ambition to transform North Lanarkshire. Implementing place-based approaches originated from the need to address spatial concentrations of disadvantage which, in recent years, have become further exacerbated by a growing complexity in problems being presented in terms of local health and social issues. As such, a place-based approach aims to target an entire community and tackle issues that exist at the neighbourhood level (such as housing, employment, education, economic stability, and health, etc), and address fragmented service provision that leads to gaps or duplication of effort. Investing in place-based approaches and focusing on the physical environment of a community, and on integrated and more accessible service systems, is considered to provide a holistic approach that crosses public sectors and silos and is real for people as it's something an individual can identify with - a place to live, learn, work, invest, and visit.</p> <p>The success of implementing a place-based approach though relies on both place-based and person-based policies crossing policy sectors and being developed and implemented in tandem. It relies on integration with wider investment and poverty reduction strategies if it is to truly make a difference. The Delivery Plan for the Programme of Work to 2028 supports such an integrated and aligned approach and aims to further build on the significant achievements that have been realised through the Programme of Work to date in terms of maximising the potential of North Lanarkshire as a place.</p> <p>However, such is the state of the nation (i.e. the wider national picture, the public sector reform agenda, and the local government environment) that the landscape within which the Programme of Work requires to be delivered has changed since The Plan for North Lanarkshire was established. In addition, the landscape isn't just one that remains challenging, it is unpredictable, can be obstructive, and in danger of hampering (and undoing) the significant and positive inroads that the council has made in working towards realising the vision of <i>inclusive growth and prosperity for all</i> and creating (and sustaining) a place with equal benefits and a fairer distribution of wealth for all North Lanarkshire's people and communities.</p> <p>Even with around half of the 28 Health Check Indicators showing improvement over the period of The Plan for North Lanarkshire, there are many deep rooted, stubborn, complex, inter-connected, and inter-generational social, health, and economic issues that remain in North Lanarkshire and that will not be resolved without a consistent and targeted <i>one council</i> approach to managing strategic change and delivering transformation, and ensuring the Programme of Work and its Delivery Plan remain current, relevant, and deliverable. Within this context there are also pockets of places across North Lanarkshire that are benefiting from economic growth more so than other areas which means the position remains fragile and therefore susceptible to any wider (and uncontrollable) economical or environmental impacts on society. This means that the Programme of Work needs to be able build resilience that can be sustained across all of North Lanarkshire.</p> <p>Therefore, with delivery of the Programme of Work to 2028 reaching its mid-way point, the aim of this review is to ensure that the council's transformation programme remains current, relevant, and deliverable and set within the latest North Lanarkshire context which is established through the 28 Health Check Indicators and wider bank of evidence. It is also critical that the Programme of Work continues to be able to address the aforementioned deep rooted, stubborn, complex, inter-connected, and inter-generational social, health, and economic issues and that the Programme of Work continues to be delivered in line with the one place, one plan, one council approach to ensure a greater focus on scale and purpose in order to escalate significant place based transformational change across all local communities and deliver positive and sustainable change that improves the lives of the people and communities of North Lanarkshire.</p>		
Pre-requisites	<p>In identifying the key challenges, demands, and gaps in delivery that need to be addressed in the Programme of Work in order to escalate the transformation of North Lanarkshire, the review will consider the following (noting that this list is not exhaustive):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progress and impact of delivering the Programme of Work to 2028 to date, including the impact of the related strategies, policies, and plans. • The latest results and trends for each of the 28 Health Check Indicators. • A wider bank of evidence that includes the recently published Census results as well as other appropriate North Lanarkshire data in respect of place and people. • The current wider national context within which local government is operating, and future changes and impacts in this respect. • The future state requirements (e.g. where we want to be) based on the evidence presented. 		
Review team	Chief Officers in post since 2023/24, with input from subject matters experts and stakeholders across the council (including Elected Members).		
Timescale	Outcome report to be submitted to Policy and Strategy Committee in cycle 4 of 2025.		
	population, economy, regeneration	health and wellbeing	society, community, tackling poverty
The latest North Lanarkshire context (Note this is only an initial high-level overview and further data will be provided to support the review process)	One of the most significant enablers to the success of The Plan for North Lanarkshire is that North Lanarkshire maintains a balanced, growing, and healthy population that is supported by net inward migration. Notwithstanding the recent position nationally where the various population datasets are being re-baselined in line with the 2022 Census, the data shows a clear shift in North Lanarkshire's population in terms of there now being more people age 65+ than under 16 years old. This is accompanied by migration levels which, while still showing an increase, are showing growth at a lower level than the national average. If trends continue in this way, the impact of such demographical change will erode the supporting working age resource base and increase the	<p>Life expectancy in North Lanarkshire had been rising, but gains have started to stall locally and nationally in recent years, albeit the average life expectancy for males in North Lanarkshire has seen a small gain in the last two years.</p> <p>Healthy life expectancy (the average number of years that an individual is expected to live in a state of self- assessed good or very good health, based on current mortality rates and prevalence of good or very good health) for males and females in North Lanarkshire remains below the national average.</p> <p>An aging population that combines lower life expectancy with lower healthy life</p>	<p>The 2022 Census shows that 21% of North Lanarkshire's working age population have no formal qualifications. While this is an improvement from 33% at the 2011 Census and 39.9% as at the 2001 Census, this outcome still restricts the ability of individuals to access current or developing employment opportunities.</p> <p>Educational attainment in terms of pupils gaining 5+ awards at level 6 continues to improve in line with national trends. However, this indicator does not tell the whole story, SCQF Level 6 provides a measure for those achieving at the highest level in school, it does not provide a picture of those who have chosen other pathways. For example, latest results show that 97.1% of all pupils in NL</p>

<p>dependency ratio (i.e. those aged under 16 + those of pension age -v- those of working age).</p> <p>Economic growth is also key to realising The Plan for North Lanarkshire and delivering inclusive growth and prosperity for all. This means driving major economic regeneration and growth and establishing North Lanarkshire as the best location for businesses to set up roots, grow, and prosper. With the most ambitious house building programme in the country being delivered at pace, community hubs being built in local areas that bring together education/ leisure public sector services in the centre of local communities, and town centres plans in motion to revive and sustain the local economy there have been many positive changes evidenced through the 28 Health Check Indicators over the period of The Plan for North Lanarkshire. The latest results show that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Growth in GVA per head has consistently remained positive and in line, or above, the national trend, and recovery from the pandemic has been strong. • The volume of new business start-ups continues to add to the North Lanarkshire economy however, there remains improvements that can be made to increase business sustainability in the longer-term. • Wages continue to rise steadily for North Lanarkshire's residents and while the gap between male and female full-time and part-time workers continues to decrease, these hourly rates remain lower than the national average. • Self-employment rates have recently shown significant recovery following a period of decline - the proportion of the working age population in self-employment is now greater than pre-pandemic levels. • While economically active rates in North Lanarkshire are showing signs of improvement, there are still fluctuations in the data and economic inactivity remains a concern, particular where the reason is due to long-term sick. • Jobs density in North Lanarkshire is currently 0.64 jobs available within the area (a job density of 1.0 would mean there is one job for every resident aged 16 to 64); 0.64 means there are 2 jobs for every 3 working age residents. <p>As North Lanarkshire's economic growth has remained positive for many years, even during and in the aftermath of the pandemic there is much to build on to increase the pace and scale to improve economic growth further. Ideally located at the centre of Scotland, North Lanarkshire is situated in a prime location to realise the vision of The Plan for North Lanarkshire. Well connected to the transport network in terms of location on the main national rail network, situated less than an hour away from three of Scotland's international airports, with direct links to three major motorways - and with 50% of marketable land within the West of Scotland sitting in North Lanarkshire - the area is ideally placed in the centre of Scotland to support a wide range of inward investment and business development opportunities to secure economic growth locally.</p> <p>The mid-term review of the Programme of Work to 2028 will therefore include due consideration of sustaining the transformation of North Lanarkshire as well as ways to increase the pace and scale of regeneration to improve local economic growth further, this includes increasing the new supply programme target to create more options for housing across North Lanarkshire and developing an approach to business and industry that supports significant increases in inward investment along with the skills needed to fulfil demand across a wider mix of industry sectors and sizes.</p>	<p>expectancy adds to the range of different and complex economic, social, and health issues that exist at a local level. These issues present significant challenges for the future shape and delivery of local public services and the resources required to deliver them. While older people may not necessarily require formal support, as people live longer the evidence suggests that with healthy life expectancy decreasing people are more likely to develop health conditions which may become complex and, as a result, require a growing reliance on one or more local services or supports.</p> <p>Results from the most recent health survey of local residents show improvements in terms of local residents who agree they feel supported to continue in their caring role.</p> <p>Improvements have also been significant in the proportion of babies breastfed at the 6-8 week review which had been on a par with the level of improvement seen nationally, albeit at a much lower rate. As this rate appears to have stalled recently, of concern now is the ability to sustain breastfeeding over time compared to the initial rate recorded when the first review if undertaken around 10-14 day after birth.</p> <p>As reported in the latest Chief Social Work Officer annual report, recent years have been particularly challenging given the pandemic and front facing and priority nature of social work and care services which was followed by an impact of the cost of living which added to the challenges through continuing demand pressures, impacts on capacity, backlogs within wider systems, increased need, and increased complexities.</p> <p>The mid-term review of the Programme of Work to 2028 will therefore include due consideration of the transformational activity that is required to support more of North Lanarkshire's residents to remain healthy for longer, to break the cycle of declining health, to support residents to be as independent as possible for as long as possible, to increase life expectancy for residents, and to ensure the majority of North Lanarkshire's babies get the best start in life and where issues occur in the social and care sector, they are addressed at the earliest opportunity.</p> <p>This will also include due consideration of the changes in the local social care provision given the changing demographic profile and increase in an elderly population (and their housing requirements) and securing a whole system approach within the place-based ambition set out in The Plan for North Lanarkshire with community hubs being at the forefront of delivering whole family support.</p>	<p>achieved 1 or more awards as SCQF level 3 or above compared to a national average of 97.8%. This means that 2.8% (the converse) of all pupils in NL achieved no passes at this level compared to a national average of 2.2%.</p> <p>Educational attainment in terms of pupils living in 20% most deprived areas gaining 5+ awards at Level 6 continues to improve and is higher than the national average. The gap in this respect in North Lanarkshire now shows a marked improvement in attainment for pupils living in the 20% most deprived areas, compared to the overall student population.</p> <p>The proportion of young people leaving school in NL and entering a positive destination continues to show a year-on-year improvement. However, there remains at least 200 young people each year who do not, and these individuals are generally the hardest to reach and engage with.</p> <p>After a period of improvement since The Plan for North Lanarkshire baseline, child poverty rates have not been able to return to pre-pandemic levels. Research shows the extent to which the environment shapes the lives of children who are born into households experiencing poverty and deprivation. It's therefore critical to tackle the barriers to growth by unlocking the potential in the most deprived areas, breaking the cycle of poverty, and opening up opportunities to create more equal communities.</p> <p>Following previous year's figures which showed the change in recorded crime in North Lanarkshire to be lower than the national average, this position has moved with local rates reaching 4% compared to a national average of 3.6%. Notwithstanding the impact of the pandemic on the number of recorded crimes, this remains a positive position in that the number of crimes in North Lanarkshire recorded by the police has not returned to pre-pandemic levels and remains lower than The Plan for North Lanarkshire baseline. A breakdown of the crimes recorded by category with crimes of dishonesty remaining at the highest level over the years, albeit showing gradual reductions.</p> <p>The mid-term review of the Programme of Work to 2028 will therefore include due consideration of creating neighbourhoods where people want to live as well as neighbourhoods to ensure that residents share equally in the improving picture and there is social inclusion across North Lanarkshire's diverse towns and urban and rural communities.</p> <p>This will also include due consideration in terms of ensuring every child leaving a North Lanarkshire school is able to share equally in the improving economic picture and achieve the pathway they wish to, how to further involve communities in decision making, and designing, developing, delivering local services to achieve co-production and community empowerment.</p>
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