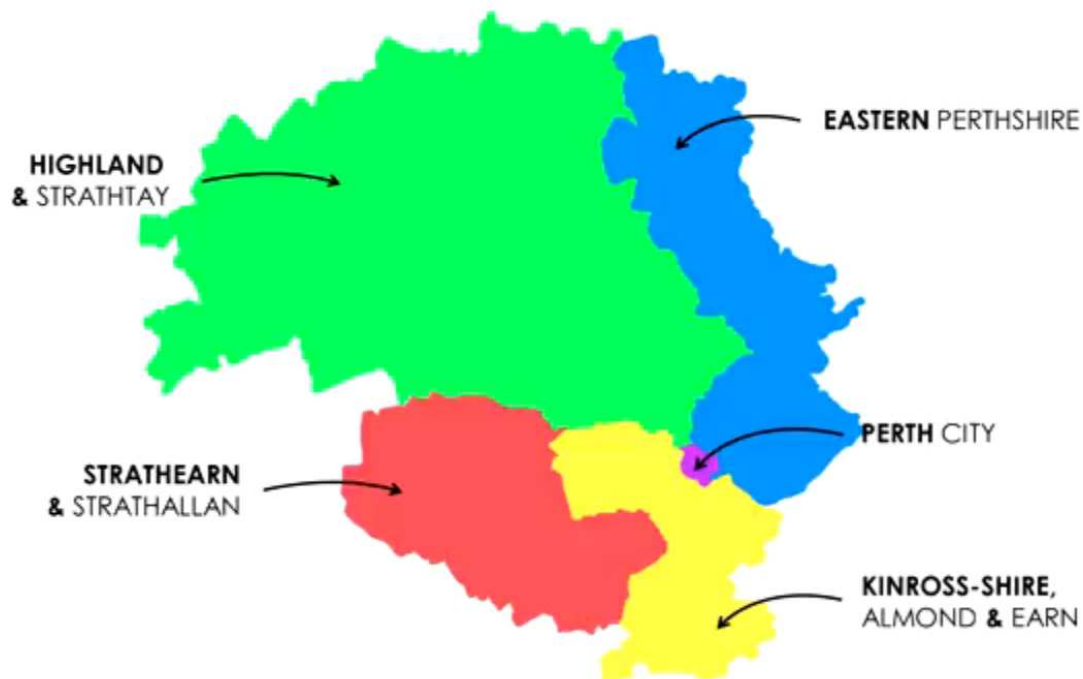


Local Action Plan

Perth City



About Perth City

The City of Perth is the administrative centre for Perth and Kinross and is located in the heart of Scotland with road and rail access to all of Scotland's other cities. The River Tay runs through the city with the North and South Inches parks on the banks of the river. The historic town centre is home to St John's Kirk dating back to 1159 as well as shops, restaurants and cafés. The city boasts cultural venues, from the Concert Hall, newly refurbished Perth Theatre to the Ferguson Art Gallery and the redevelopment of Perth Museum and Art Gallery and the creation of a new visual arts venue in the City Hall. The city is home to Perth College, part of University of Highlands and Islands which has 7,000 students¹.

The Perth City locality covers three multi-member wards: North, South and Central Perth City. The locality has an approximate population of 46,970 people – a third of the total population of Perth and Kinross. 17% of the population is aged under 16, 20% are over 65, and 63% are of working age. Perth is home to a larger proportion of young adults compared to other parts of Perth and Kinross. There are fewer people aged 65 and over in the locality compared to other localities in Perth and Kinross. However, the over-65 population is projected to increase over the next few years. The City serves as a central base for many

¹ <https://www.perth.uhi.ac.uk/about-us/about-perth-college/faqs>

services and employment opportunities for the 147,000 people of the Perth & Kinross council area².

There are many distinct neighbourhoods across the city with their own community centres, groups and local amenities.

About our Plan

Action Partnerships

Perth and Kinross has five Local Action Partnerships, each representing one of the area's localities. Each Local Action Partnership is made up of representatives from public services, the local community and councillors from the area. Their purpose is to tackle local inequalities by setting priorities to work for and with the community. The [Community Empowerment Act \(Scotland\) 2015](#) requires each area to prepare and publish a local action plan that it has identified as experiencing inequalities. The local action plan does not have to cover an entire locality but can tackle specific communities of interest such as young people, carers, or people facing social isolation.

The Local Action Plan will be connected to the new Community Plan which covers the whole of Perth and Kinross and sets the direction for the Community Planning Partnership. The Community Plan can be found at pk-storyboard.org.uk/cp

Purpose of the Plan

Action planning at a local level is a tried and tested way to tackle issues faced by communities. Local people know the issues their communities face and often know the best solutions too. The Local Action Plan will direct the Local Action Partnership in the work they do, using evidence from the Story of Place, which contains a wealth of statistical information; information about community assets and other consultations with the community; as well as the local knowledge brought by members of the Action Partnership. The Story of Place can be found at pk-storyboard.org.uk.

Key Inequalities

Child Poverty

Perth City has a higher rate of children living in poverty when compared to the rest of Perth and Kinross. The City Centre and North Perth in particular have more than 1 in 4 children living in a household which is financially challenged (see table below).³

Percentage of children in poverty, Oct-Dec 2015	Before housing costs	After housing costs
Perth and Kinross	11.27%	18.23%
Perth City South	5.34%	8.87%
Perth City North	16.72%	26.91%

² <https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/>

³ <http://www.endchildpoverty.org.uk/>

Perth City Centre	15.80%	25.29%
-------------------	--------	--------

Health and Wellbeing

For most health indicators, Perth City is similar to Scotland as a whole. Alcohol and drug hospitalisations are higher in Perth City than in Perth and Kinross as a whole but low compared to other Scottish cities.

The rate of adults claiming incapacity benefit/severe disability allowance is higher in Perth City than the rest of Perth and Kinross (3.4%). Although this is lower than the national average, it is still a significant number of people living with serious disabilities and illnesses who can be at risk of social isolation.

In 2009, 13.5% of people living in Perth were being prescribed medication for anxiety, depression or psychosis. In 2014, this figure rose to 16.3%. While the proportion of people being prescribed medication for anxiety, depression and psychosis is lower than the national average (17.4%) there has been an increase in people being prescribed in recent years (partly because of greater recognition of mental health problems).

The rate of patients being admitted to hospital with psychiatric conditions is higher in Perth City compared to Scotland as a whole (434 per 100,000 compared to 291 for Scotland in 2014).

Housing

Like most cities, Perth has a high rate of one adult households (41.5% of households). People living alone (especially older people) are more at risk of being socially isolated. Fuel poverty (where people spend 10% or more of their income on fuel) is lower in Perth (18%) than the rural areas of Perth and Kinross (22.3%).

Crime

Perth City has a lower crime rate than Scotland as a whole at 35 crimes per 1,000 people compared to 40 per 1,000 people in Scotland.

Income

There are large income inequalities within the city. In Central and North Perth, the average household income is £384 a week, compared to parts of the Western Edge where the average household income is £905 a week. Parts of Tulloch, Muriton and Letham are ranked as in the 5% most deprived areas in Scotland for income deprivation. 3 in 20 households in the city have an income which is less than the average Scottish weekly income, which puts them at risk of being in poverty.

Employment

The proportion of people claiming Out of Work benefits in Perth City is higher than in the rest of Perth and Kinross. However, it remains lower than in Scotland as a whole. The Claimant Count is equal to the national average of 2.4% in Perth City North and slightly higher than

the national average in Perth City Centre at 2.6%⁴. Youth unemployment is generally higher than it is amongst the rest of the population in Perth and Kinross⁵.

Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD)

Perth contains some of the most and least deprived communities in Scotland. The [Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation \(SIMD\)](#) ranks datazones (of approx. 800 people) from most to least deprived in Scotland based on a wide range of indicators across 7 'domains' (income, employment, health, education, housing, crime and access). Much of South Perth is classed as being in the 20% least deprived areas in Scotland. In contrast, areas in the City Centre, Letham, Tulloch, North Muirton and Fairfield are in the 20% most deprived communities to live in.

Fairness Commission

The Community Planning Partnership launched a Fairness Commission in 2016 to bring together evidence on some of the key inequalities which impact people living in Perth and Kinross. The Commission reported that 1 in 7 households in the region are considered to be amongst the most socially and financially challenged in the UK. The commission found that people in rural areas were experiencing barriers to accessing services because of transport and digital availability.

The Commission had 5 key themes:

- Fairer Perth and Kinross: people, place, equality
- A strong start: an equal footing for life – chances, choices, confidence
- Fairer working lives: opportunity, security, respect
- A thriving third age: living well, belonging, contributing
- Better connected: services, transport, digital lives

The findings of the Fairness Commission have been used by the Local Action Partnerships to assist them with identifying the inequalities in their area as outlined in the Local Action Plan (below).

What we have learned so far

The Perth City Action Partnership has been meeting since autumn 2016. The partnership brings together a broad range of people from different background across the locality. They have reviewed local data and brought their experience and perspectives to identify key priorities for the locality.

The Perth City Action Partnership has engaged with the wider community through its Participatory Budgeting events in March 2017, where community groups were able to put forward projects they felt would tackle inequalities experienced by people living in the locality. It is important to note that Perth is made up of distinct neighbourhoods and communities each with their own strengths/assets and challenges.

⁴ http://www.pkc.gov.uk/media/39265/Perth-Kinross-Economic-Journal-January-to-April-2017/pdf/Economic_Journal_2017Q1

⁵ <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Labour-Market/Publications/APSJul16Jun17Sum>

When organising the PB event, the partnership agreed the following criteria for groups applying for funding:

- Social Isolation - young mums, older people, young people, across all age groups
- Health and well-being
- Children, young people and families
- Volunteering and community involvement
- Lifelong Learning

Over the summer 2017, the Perth City Action Partnership developed the following priority actions, based on the Partnership`s previous work.

PERTH CITY ACTION PARTNERSHIP LOCAL ACTION PLAN

KEY ISSUES IDENTIFIED	<p>Young people would like more influence on key issues that affect them. Anti-social behaviour in North Inch, South Inch and surrounding neighbourhoods.</p>			
COMMUNITY PLAN STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE	<p>SAFE AND SUSTAINABLE PLACE FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS DEVELOPING EDUCATED RESPONSIBLE AND INFORMED CITIZENS</p>			
WHAT NEEDS TO CHANGE	ACTIONS	WHEN	WHO	PROGRESS
<p>1. Young people will have more opportunities to contribute and influence local decisions that interest them.</p> <p>2. Young people's opinions will be valued and recognised about issues that affect them.</p>	<p>a. Identify how young people are currently able to express their views.</p> <p>b. Involve young people in the participatory budgeting process.</p> <p>c. Set up community councils or a similar forum in secondary schools as a way of allowing young people to express their views and influence activities.</p>	<p>December 2017</p> <p>March 2018</p> <p>September 2018</p>	<p>Services for Young People</p> <p>Stronger Communities Team</p> <p>Perth City Action Partnership</p> <p>Voluntary and Community Groups</p> <p>Live Active Leisure</p> <p>Schools</p> <p>Scottish Youth Parliament</p> <p>Health and Social Care Partnership</p> <p>Community Link Workers</p> <p>Perth and Kinross Council Democratic Services</p>	<p>Work to engage and hear from young people should come through @Scott St (Gary Brown and Brian Hutton)</p> <p>Need summary of all youth engagement and forums for us to target to find out their key issues, priorities and gaps in services</p> <p>James Gardner to lead on this and contact Brian/Gary in first instance</p>

KEY ISSUES IDENTIFIED	Low incomes have a negative effect on family life			
COMMUNITY PLAN STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE	SUPPORTING PEOPLE TO LEAD INDEPENDENT, HEALTHY AND ACTIVE LIVES GIVING EVERY CHILD THE BEST START IN LIFE			
WHAT NEEDS TO CHANGE	ACTIONS	WHEN	WHO	PROGRESS
<p>1. Families will be able to participate in community activities.</p> <p>2. Families in Perth will have better access to advice and support.</p>	<p>a. Find out about the services already available and identify gaps.</p> <p>b. Create information and support hubs for families in the local area.</p> <p>c. Work with communities and services to make sure family activities are open to all.</p>	<p>December 2017</p> <p>September 2018</p> <p>September 2018</p>	<p>Stronger Communities Team</p> <p>Perth City Action Partnership</p> <p>Voluntary and Community Groups</p> <p>Live Active Leisure</p> <p>Health and Social Care Partnership</p> <p>Welfare Rights</p> <p>Citizens Advice Bureau</p> <p>Parenting and Family Services</p> <p>Housing Associations</p> <p>Schools</p> <p>Community Link Workers</p>	<p>Explore idea of expanding family clubs to target families in need/poverty</p> <p>Chris Sanderson to contact Susan Guild who runs these clubs to explore further</p>

KEY ISSUES IDENTIFIED		People in Perth need support to improve their language, literacies and digital skills to be able to participate more in community life.		
COMMUNITY PLAN STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE		DEVELOPING EDUCATED RESPONSIBLE AND INFORMED CITIZENS		
WHAT NEEDS TO CHANGE	ACTIONS	WHEN	WHO	PROGRESS
<p>1. People will have access to more support to improve their language, literacies and digital skills.</p> <p>2. People will be better able to participate in the wider community.</p>	<p>a. Understand the opportunities that are already available to people.</p> <p>b. Work with current services to identify ways to promote and expand provision.</p> <p>c. Make IT equipment and online information more accessible to people.</p>	<p>December 2017</p> <p>March 2018</p> <p>September 2018</p>	<p>Perth City Action Partnership</p> <p>Health & Social Care Partnership</p> <p>Stronger Communities Team</p> <p>Perth & Kinross Literacies Partnership</p> <p>PKAVS Minority Communities Hub</p> <p>Culture Perth & Kinross – Libraries</p>	<p>Chris Sanderson and Sharon Doyle to invite Renata Fraser, literacies co-coordinator for the literacies partnership, to next meeting on 25th Sept</p> <p>Also to speak to Susie Burt about the former 'well connected' now 'your community Perth and Kinross' website</p> <p>Work on creating specific actions around this area</p>

KEY ISSUES IDENTIFIED		There is often a lack of support to find and sustain employment for people in Perth.		
COMMUNITY PLAN STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE		PROMOTING A PROSPEROUS, INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY		
WHAT NEEDS TO CHANGE	ACTIONS	WHEN	WHO	PROGRESS
1. People will find it easier to get support to find employment.	a. Find out about employment opportunities and support services currently available to people living in Perth.	December 2017	Perth City Action Partnership	Initiatives to be developed to encourage people into areas with shortages (social care, teaching, nursing, trades (electricians). Clare Mailer and Lorna Cameron to meet with David Littlejohn and Tom Flanigan to progress options with economic development and Tay Cities Deal. Chris Sanderson to speak to Karyn Sharp about expanding opportunities with the Employability Network
	b. Work with local businesses to develop more opportunities for employment in the area.	September 2018	Employment Support Services Hub	
	c. Identify training and support to address the current skills gaps.	September 2018	Stronger Communities Team Perth & Kinross Literacies Partnership Culture Perth & Kinross – Libraries Welfare rights Citizens advice Skills Development Scotland Perth College PKAVS Local Businesses	