

Educational Services  
Standards  
and Quality Report  
2013/14



# Foreword

Margaret Toner

**Portfolio Holder  
for Lifelong Learning**

I am pleased to introduce the standards and quality report for Educational Services for 2013/14 which highlights the many achievements of children and young people in South Ayrshire.

This year we have continued to deliver improved services against a backdrop of reduced resources. Despite this, we maintain very high levels of attainment in secondary schools, continue to reduce exclusions in secondary schools and maintain very low levels of exclusions in primary schools.

This year saw the introduction of new national qualifications for young people in secondary schools, which replaced Standard Grade awards.

Pupils, parents and staff have worked hard to bring about improvements in Educational Services which have impacted positively on the lives of children, young people and their parents and I would like to thank everyone who contributed to our success.

I trust that you will find the report both informative and encouraging. I am sure you will share my confidence that our children and young people will continue to become successful and confident learners, both within and outwith their schools, and will make a positive contribution to their school and local communities. Through their hard work, and with the support of their families and school staff, they are becoming responsible citizens ready to face the future.



children and young people will continue to become successful and confident learners, both within and outwith their schools

# Introduction

*Douglas Hutchison*

**Director, Educational Services**

The standards and quality report for Educational Services provides a summary of performance across all sectors of education from early years through primary and secondary education to school leavers. It includes information on services to support children and young people with additional support needs.

It draws on a wide range of information including:

- Scottish Qualifications Authority examinations
- Standardised assessments provided by Durham University
- Key performance indicators contained within the performance framework for Educational Services
- Education Scotland school inspection reports
- Education Scotland validated self-evaluation report
- The authority's own self-evaluation reports
- Pupil attendance and exclusion data
- Information gathered from SEEMIS, the national schools' management information system.

This year the authority worked in partnership with Education Scotland to carry out a validated self-evaluation. Education Scotland then published a positive evaluation of the quality of our self-evaluation within South Ayrshire Council Educational Services. The report, along with South Ayrshire's own self-evaluation reports, reflects the many strengths within Educational Services and identifies where we need to improve.



Since taking up post in June 2013, I have been impressed by the dedication of staff, the range and quality of services we deliver and the many achievements of our children and young people, who are a credit to their schools and families.

I would like to thank all staff within our schools and support services for their hard work and commitment to all of our children and young people which has helped to make 2013/14 another successful year for South Ayrshire Council Educational Services.

*the many achievements of our children and young people, who are a credit to their schools and families*



## Context

**South Ayrshire is set in the south west of Scotland and covers an area of 422 square miles. It includes the towns of Ayr, Prestwick, Troon, Maybole and Girvan. Seventy per cent of the population of South Ayrshire live in the towns of Troon, Prestwick and Ayr while the rest of the population live in Maybole, Girvan and the large rural area in the south of the authority.**

In 2013 the population of South Ayrshire was 112,850; a decrease of 0.1% from 112,910 in 2012<sup>1</sup>. The population of South Ayrshire accounts for 2.1% of the total population of Scotland. Fifteen per cent of the population is aged 16 to 29 years. This is lower than Scotland where 18.3% are aged 16 to 29 years. Since 1987 South Ayrshire's total population has fallen overall while Scotland's population has risen over this period.

By 2037 the population of South Ayrshire is projected to be 110,158, a decrease of 2.4% compared to the population in 2012. The population of Scotland is projected to increase by 8.8% between 2012 and 2037. The population aged under 16 is projected to decline by 6.7% over the 25 year period.

In 2012, 17 (1.7%) of the 15% most deprived datazones in Scotland were found in South Ayrshire, compared to 18 (1.8%) in 2009, 13 (1.3%) in 2006 and 13 (1.3%) in 2004.

The level of income deprivation in South Ayrshire is below that in Scotland as a whole.

In 2012, 13.2% of the population of South Ayrshire were income deprived. This compares to 13.4% across Scotland as a whole<sup>2</sup>. The level of employment deprivation in South Ayrshire is below that in Scotland as a whole. In 2012, 13.3% of the population of South Ayrshire aged 16-60/64 were employment deprived. This compares to 12.8% across Scotland as a whole.

However, more young people are claiming benefits in South Ayrshire than in Scotland (15.2% compared with 12.7%). This represents a slight decline over the last three years from 15.8% in 2010<sup>3</sup>.

Over the last five years there has been an increase in the number of children registered on the child protection register from 31 (1.7 per 1,000 of the 0-15 population) in 2009 to 49 (2.7 per 1,000 of the 0-15 population) in 2013; this compares with 2.9 per 1,000 in Scotland as a whole in 2013<sup>4</sup>.

At 31st July 2013 there were 365 children looked after by South Ayrshire<sup>5</sup>. This represents 1.7% of the 0-17 years population compared with 1.5% nationally. The majority of children looked after were boys (57%) and almost a quarter were under five years of age (24%). 25% had additional support needs. The number of looked after children has increased over the last five years from 290 children at March 2009 to 365 at July 2013.

<sup>1</sup> National Records for Scotland

<sup>2</sup> Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation

<sup>3</sup> Scottish Neighbourhood Statistics

<sup>4</sup> Children's Social Work Statistics Scotland

<sup>5</sup> Children's Social Work Statistics Scotland



There are 41 primary schools, eight secondary schools and two special schools in South Ayrshire. Provision for pupils with additional support needs is also made through five supported learning centres in mainstream schools. There are three nursery schools, 31 nursery classes and 11 partnership nurseries. In addition, five breakfast clubs, five out of school care services, two holiday clubs and a crèche service with eight crèche programmes were provided.

Over the last five years the overall number of pupils in schools in South Ayrshire has decreased by 446. The number of pupils in primary schools has increased by 164 and in special schools by 16; however a significant decrease of 626 pupils in the secondary sector has led to the overall drop in the pupil population. In 2013/14, 2,347 children accessed pre-school education – an increase of 28 compared with the previous session.

### **Vision and values**

South Ayrshire Council's vision is to establish South Ayrshire as the most dynamic, inclusive and sustainable community in Scotland. Educational Services is committed to this vision and to working with partners, within and outwith the Council, to help deliver it.

### **Our key outcomes**

The key outcomes of Educational Services for 2014-17 are outlined in our service and improvement plan:

- To deliver effective early years and early intervention services
- To increase the proportion of young people with relevant qualifications
- To help more children and young people to become successful learners, confident individuals, responsible citizens and effective contributors
- To narrow the gap between the highest and lowest achievers
- To look after the most vulnerable children and young people
- To develop our workforce
- To use performance management and self-evaluation to drive improvement.

# What Key Outcomes Have We Achieved?

This section of the report sets out some of the key performance outcomes we have achieved.

## Children And Young People

# 89%

of pre-school children had access to ½ hour physical activity each day.

Children benefited from improved access to physical activities

The Directorate is committed to ensuring that all children and young people are safe, healthy, active, nurtured, achieving, respected, responsible and included. Our aspirations for our young people are that they become confident and successful with the necessary skills for learning, life and work.

### Early Years Education

In 2013/14, 1,092 three year olds and 1,255 four year olds had access to high quality pre-school provision through nursery schools, nursery classes or partnership centres in South Ayrshire. This represents an increase from 2012/13.

	Ante pre-school (3 year olds)			Pre-school (4 year olds)		
	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
Local authority	846	855	808	970	1001	1025
Partners	258	250	284	215	213	230
<b>Total</b>	<b>1104</b>	<b>1105</b>	<b>1092</b>	<b>1185</b>	<b>1214</b>	<b>1255</b>

From April 2013 to March 2014, 22 early years establishments were inspected by the Care Inspectorate and all received positive evaluations. Provision is evaluated against six levels of performance where level 1 indicates performance which is unsatisfactory and level 6 indicates performance which is excellent. The table below provides the average evaluations for each quality theme inspected.

Quality theme	Care and support	Environment	Staffing	Management and leadership
Local authority	4.7	4.5	4.6	4.5
Partner provider	4.6	4.8	4.4	4.4
Out of school care	5	5	5	5

Ninety seven per cent of pre-school children participated in the literacy screening programme and as a result a number received additional support to improve their literacy skills.

Children benefited from improved access to physical activities and outdoor learning. In June 2013, 89% of pre-school children had access to ½ hour physical activity each day, 38% of children had access each week to play in open spaces and 40% of establishments accessed external funding to improve children's experiences outdoors.



## Attainment In Primary Schools

Pupils in primary schools are assessed in a range of ways, including using standardised assessments. These assessments, which were first introduced in primary schools in 2010/11, are used in Primary 1, Primary 3, Primary 5 and Primary 7 and provide teachers with further information about the pace of learning and progress of pupils.

The results of the assessments used in Primary 1 are provided as a set of standardised scores with an average score of 50 (68% of pupils nationally will achieve scores between 40 and 60; any score of above 50 is above average).

Stage	Reading				Mathematics			
	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
Primary 1	50	51	52	53	49	53	53	51

The results of the assessments used in Primary 3, Primary 5 and Primary 7 are provided as a set of standardised scores with an average score of 100 (68% of pupils nationally will achieve scores between 85 and 115; any score of above 100 is above average).

Stage	Reading				Mathematics			
	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
Primary 3	104	102	101	105	94	104	105	108
Primary 5	101	104	103	105	94	98	98	99
Primary 7	91	95	95	95	88	91	90	91

The achievement of Curriculum for Excellence levels is based on teachers' assessments of pupils' progress. Most pupils are expected to progress through levels as below:

- Early level by end of Primary 1
- First level by the end of Primary 4
- Second level by the end of Primary 7.

In South Ayrshire schools the majority of pupils were assessed as secure at expected levels for language and mathematics in 2013/14.

Stage	Language			Mathematics		
	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
Primary 1	78%	76%	79%	78%	77%	83%
Primary 4	60%	72%	70%	60%	75%	69%
Primary 7	56%	68%	69%	56%	69%	69%

**In South Ayrshire schools the majority of pupils were assessed as secure at expected levels for language and mathematics in 2013/14.**



# 86%

of pupils in S4 achieved 5 or more awards at level 4 or better

This year saw young people assessed using new national qualifications as part of Curriculum for Excellence.

## Attainment In Secondary Schools

Pupils in secondary schools are assessed in a range of ways including using standardised assessments. These assessments, which were first introduced in secondary schools in 2011/12, are used in Secondary 2 and provide teachers with further information about the pace of learning and progress of pupils. The results of the assessments are provided as a set of standardised scores with an average score of 100 (68% of pupils nationally will achieve scores between 85 and 115; any score of above 100 is above average).

Curricular Area	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
Reading	100.8	100.1	100.2
Mathematics	100.6	100.3	100.7
Science	101.2	99.4	99.1

Pupils in secondary schools are assessed at Secondary 4, Secondary 5 and Secondary 6 annually using examinations provided by the Scottish Qualification Authority (SQA). This year saw young people assessed using new national qualifications as part of Curriculum for Excellence. The Scottish Government has developed a new reporting tool which allows comparisons to be made between the pupils in a local authority with a virtual group made up of pupils with similar characteristics.

Key Performance Measures	2011/12		2012/13		2013/14	
	South Ayrshire	Virtual comparator	South Ayrshire	Virtual comparator	South Ayrshire	Virtual comparator
5+ awards at level 3 or better by the end of S4	98%	88%	98%	88%	94%	82%
5+ awards at level 4 or better by the end of S4	82%	73%	85%	74%	86%	75%
5+ awards at level 5 or better by the end of S4	41%	31%	45%	32%	48%	38%
3+ awards at level 6 or better by the end of S5	31%	26%	33%	28%	36%	29%
5+ awards at level 6 or better by the end of S5	13%	11%	16%	12%	18%	14%
1+ awards at level 7 or better by the end of S6	23%	16%	24%	16%	21%	17%



Broadening  
experiences

### Attainment In Special Schools

All young people in special schools also have an entitlement to achieve national qualifications. These qualifications form part of each young person's individualised educational programme, taking into consideration skills and learning that will be useful in a number of different ways:

- Broadening experiences
- Developing social skills
- Learning independence in targeted areas
- Developing and improving language and communication skills
- Learning numeracy skills that can be put into daily use
- Encouraging personal interests and activities that can be developed after they leave school
- Building an awareness of how to keep themselves safe.

Developing  
social skills

Learn  
Independence

An award at National 1 which provides opportunities for experiential learning is designed for young people who require considerable support with their learning. An award at National 2 is designed for those with more moderate support needs who are more independent in some areas and with some support are able to achieve at this level. An award at National 3 is comparable with Standard Grade Foundation level. A small number of young people are able to achieve at this level in some areas.

Qualification	Number of awards in 2013/14
National 1	48
National 2	85
National 3	3

In addition to young people in special schools, a number of young people with additional support needs in mainstream schools were also presented for awards at National 2 level.

Qualification	Number of awards		
	2012	2013	2014
Access 2	41	29	10
National 2	N/A	N/A	12

**Pupil attendance is monitored by schools on a daily basis and analysed by the authority on a termly basis**

### Attendance

Pupil attendance is monitored by schools on a daily basis and analysed by the authority on a termly basis. Information relating to our family of comparator authorities and the national average is available on a bi-annual basis therefore there is no comparator authority or national data for 2011/12 or 2013/14.

#### Primary

Year	South Ayrshire	Comparator authorities	National
2010/11	95.1%	95.4%	94.8%
2011/12	95.6%	No data	No data
2012/13	95%	95.2%	94.9%
2013/14	95.4%	No data	No data

#### Secondary

Year	South Ayrshire	Comparator authorities	National
2010/11	91%	91.7%	91.2%
2011/12	91.7%	No data	No data
2012/13	91%	92.2%	92%
2013/14	91.4%	No data	No data



No school excludes pupils lightly and considerable involvement of wider services is considered before such a measure is used.

### Exclusions

Pupil exclusions are managed by schools and analysed by the authority on a termly basis. Information relating to our family of comparator authorities and the national average is available on a bi-annual basis therefore there is no comparator authority or national data for 2011/12 or 2013/14. No school excludes pupils lightly and considerable involvement of wider services is considered before such a measure is used. In session 2013/14 exclusions decreased significantly in the secondary sector and low exclusion levels were maintained in the primary sector.

#### Primary

Year	South Ayrshire	Comparator authorities	National
2010/11	7	12	11
2011/12	5	No data	No data
2012/13	4	9	10
2013/14	6	No data	No data

\*Exclusions levels per 1,000 pupils

#### Secondary

Year	South Ayrshire	Comparator authorities	National
2010/11	47	49	72
2011/12	38	No data	No data
2012/13	37	45	58
2013/14	27	No data	No data

Exclusion levels per 1,000 pupils

In session 2013/14 exclusions decreased significantly in the secondary sector



In 2013/14  
the WorkOut!  
programme  
was extended  
to all secondary  
schools

### More Choices More Chances

More Choices, More Chances (MCMC) partnerships have been established in all secondary schools supported by MCMC funding. The partnerships work with Skills Development Scotland, Community Learning and Development, the Skills Towards Employment Project (STEP), Ayrshire College and the voluntary sector to identify and support young people at risk of not making a positive post-school transition. All schools are now using a risk matrix to identify these young people and share information with Skills Development Scotland and other partners.

South Ayrshire's Employability and Skills service was restructured in 2014 to create more integrated support. STEP, South Ayrshire's employability and skills team worked with young people making a transition from school to support them into appropriate placements such as apprenticeship programmes. In 2013/14 the WorkOut! programme was extended to all secondary schools including the special school at Southcraig campus. In order to facilitate the extended programme, work placement opportunities were identified with local employers and community planning partners as well as within the Council. One hundred placement opportunities were identified and 74 young people completed the programme with almost all achieving a positive outcome of either returning to school or progressing to employment, education or training.

The School Leavers' Destination Return is a statistical return undertaken by Skills Development Scotland on behalf of the Scottish Government. The return reports on the destinations of school leavers in December and again in June to determine the percentage who have made and sustained a positive destination.

Destination	2010/11		2011/12		2012/13		2013/14
	Initial	Follow-up	Initial	Follow-up	Initial	Follow-up	Initial
Total number of leavers	1217	1214	1173	1166	1184	1183	1256
Higher Education	41.3%	39.4%	40%	39.5%	37%	36.7%	41.6%
Further Education	28.7%	26.1%	29.1%	26.6%	33.4%	32.4%	32.2%
Training	4.3%	3.5%	3.5%	4.0%	4.2%	2.6%	2.4%
Employment	14.1%	18.5%	14.2%	18.4%	15.1%	17%	14.3%
Volunteering	0.2%	0.2%	0%	0.1%	0.3%	0.4%	0.3%
Activity Agreement	1.2%	1.2%	1.8%	1.4%	2.7%	2.5%	1.4%
Unemployed (seeking employment)	9.4%	10%	10.1%	8.0%	6.3%	6.8%	6.9%
Unemployed (not seeking employment)	0.8%	1.1%	1.4%	2.0%	0.8%	1.5%	1.0%
Unknown	0%	0%	0%	0.1%	0%	0.2%	0%
<b>Positive destination</b>	<b>89.7%</b>	<b>88.9%</b>	<b>88.5%</b>	<b>90%</b>	<b>92.8%</b>	<b>91.5%</b>	<b>92.1%</b>



The most significant increase is in the number of young people who choose to return to school to complete a 6th year.

almost all schools received positive inspection reports

### Staying On Rates

Over the last five years the percentage of 4th year pupils returning to school for a 5th year has increased and more pupils who are eligible to leave at Christmas now choose to remain at school after they have reached the statutory school leaving age. The most significant increase is in the number of young people who choose to return to school to complete a 6th year.

	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
Sep S5	85%	89%	86%	90%	89%
Jan S5	74%	80%	78%	81%	78%
Sep S6	59%	66%	68%	72%	75%

### School Inspections

Each year Education Scotland evaluates the quality of education in schools through a programme of school inspections. Quality indicators are used to help inspectors judge what is good and what needs to be improved in the work of a school. Each indicator is judged using a six point scale. Schools which receive evaluations in three core quality indicators of satisfactory or better are judged to have received positive inspections. In 2013/14 five early years establishments, three primary schools and one secondary school were inspected and almost all received positive inspection reports. One school received an evaluation of weak for meeting learning needs. Appropriate steps were taken to address the issues and the school received a very positive follow through report.

Year	Pre-school		Primary	
	Number inspections	Number positive	Number inspections	Number positive
2009/10	5	5	6	5
2010/11	7	7	7	7
2011/12	2	2	1	1
2012/13	3	3	2	2
2013/14	5	5	3	2

Year	Secondary		Special	
	Number inspections	Number positive	Number inspections	Number positive
2009/10				
2010/11				
2011/12	1	0	1	1
2012/13	1	1		
2013/14	1	1		

### Eco Schools

The Eco Schools programme is an international initiative designed to encourage whole-school action for the environment. It is a recognised award scheme that accredits schools who make a commitment to work towards continuously improving their environment.

Registered		Bronze Award		Silver Award		Green Flag	
Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
54	100%	44	81%	49	91%	25	46%

### Rights Respecting Schools

UNICEF UK raises funds for UNICEF's emergency and development work around the world and advocates for lasting change for children worldwide.

UNICEF Rights Respecting Schools (RRS) Award seeks to put the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child at the heart of a school's ethos and culture to improve well-being and develop every child's talents and abilities to their full potential.

In South Ayrshire 51 schools have registered with UNICEF, 28 have signed up for Record of Commitment to the RRS Award and 15 schools have achieved their Level 1 Rights Respecting School Award.

South Ayrshire Council has collaborated with North and East Ayrshire to deliver training by UNICEF on RRS. Staff from across Ayrshire attended the training events which were hosted in North, South and East Ayrshire. Three South Ayrshire Council volunteers have been put forward for RRS Assessors training in 2015.





**all pupils with additional support needs received support from pupil support teachers and assistants**

### Additional Support For Learning

In 2013/14, 3,669 pupils in South Ayrshire were identified as having additional support needs through the authority's staged intervention process; all pupils received support from pupil support teachers and assistants and, where appropriate, pupils were also supported by a range of specialist staff.

	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
<b>Number of pupils receiving support</b>				
Psychological Service – active cases	821	787	568	507
Intensive Support Team	21	15	26	21
Alpha Plus Initiative	21	24	37	25
Care and Learning Team	62	64	80	66
Home Link Service	91	153	164	151
Visual Impairment Service	30	36	43	46
English as an Additional Language Service	113	149	188	175
Hearing Impairment Service	45	42	39	39
Gypsy Traveller Service	22	49	46	36
Early Years Home Visiting Service	30	33	47	44
Language and Communication Service	14	18	19	17
Home Tuition	20	14	10	10
Hospital Tuition	17	6	12	-



our children and young people have opportunities to participate in a range of health promoting, cultural and volunteering activities

almost all received positive inspection reports

### Dyslexia Friendly Schools

South Ayrshire Council has developed a local accreditation scheme to recognise those schools which are deemed to be “dyslexia friendly”. In order to achieve a Dyslexia Friendly School Award, schools provide a range of evidence that they have met specific targets. The scheme, which was introduced two years ago, is overseen by a steering group which also provides the accreditation.

Year	Bronze Award	Silver Award	Gold Award
2012/13	30	8	0
2013/14	42	21	7

### Looked After Children

We take our responsibility as corporate parents seriously and the attainment of looked after children remains a priority for the Council. The achievements of looked after children are closely monitored. Due to the small number of looked after children in 4th year the figures are liable to year on year fluctuations. Nevertheless the attainment of looked after children in 2013/14 was higher than that of the virtual comparator group.

Percentage of looked after pupils attaining at least 5 awards at SCQF\* level 3 or above

LAC Status	2011/12		2012/13		2013/14	
	South Ayrshire	Virtual Comparator	South Ayrshire	Virtual Comparator	South Ayrshire	Virtual Comparator
Looked after at home	89%	67%	91%	80%	50%	49%
Looked after away from home	71%	82%	58%	45%	91%	63%

\* Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework

### Wider Achievement

We are committed to ensuring that our children and young people have opportunities to participate in a range of health promoting, cultural and volunteering activities both in and out of school. Our young people continued to be supported in ever increasing numbers to participate in and achieve a range of awards.

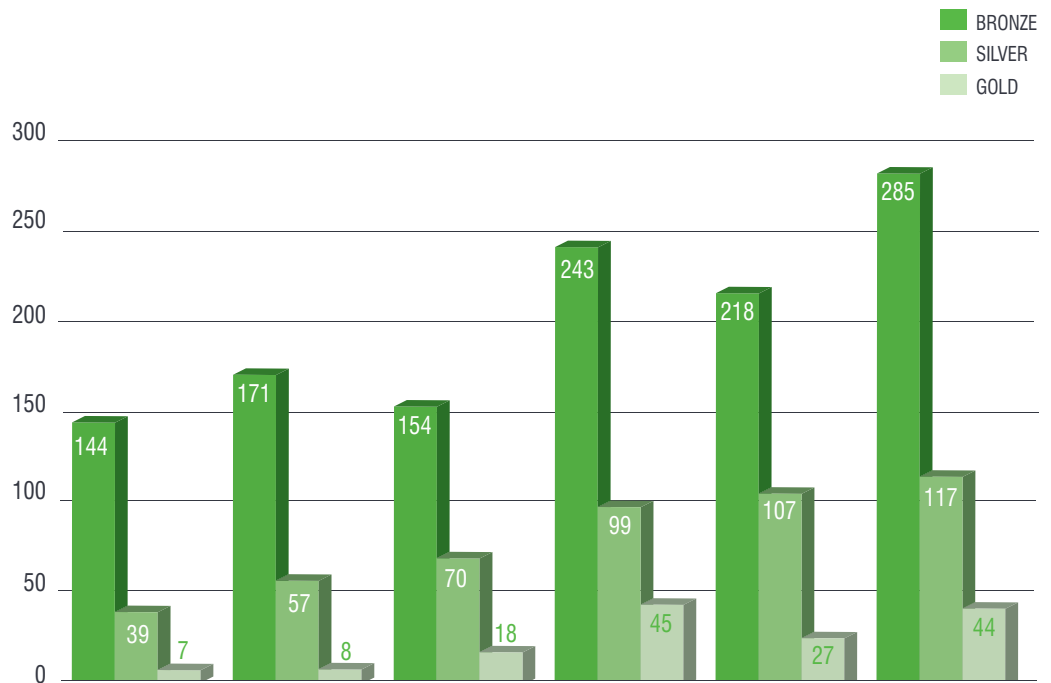
We continued to be sector leading in the number of young people achieving through the Duke of Edinburgh’s Award Scheme and staff, parents/carers and volunteers make a significant contribution to the success of these programmes.

The introduction of the Award of Ambition has increased the range of experiences for Primary 7 pupils. As part of the residential outdoor experience at Dolphin House, upper primary pupils were also given the opportunity to “discover, explore and conserve” a wild place while undertaking the John Muir Award.



Wider Achievement Award	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
Number of young people achieving the Award of Ambition	625	734	811	848	793
Number of young people achieving the Duke of Edinburgh's Award	238	242	387	352	446
Number young people achieving the John Muir Award	366	618	851	602	691

### DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARDS GAINED





**The Council is committed to promoting the talents of individual children and young people.**

### The Cultural Rucksack Programme

The Council is committed to promoting the talents of individual children and young people. Through our Cultural Rucksack programme we introduce professional artists into schools, to provide experiences through which children and young people can actively engage with a range of art forms culminating in a formal performance, exhibition or film premiere.

In 2013/14 just under 4,000 children and young people participated in Cultural Rucksack projects in schools across South Ayrshire, including:

- Let's Sing It! – for 570 primary 5 children from 18 schools in partnership with Scottish Opera
- Let's get Dramatic! – for over 353 primary 4 children in 8 primary schools delivered in partnership with Fib Expressive Arts
- United by Sound – an African drumming and dance workshop for 584 children in 12 primary schools
- Let's Tell It! – for 125 children in early years delivered in partnership with the National Storytelling Centre and Kati Waitzmann
- Mighty Zulu Nation Theatre Group performed to 465 primary 6 pupils from 12 schools
- National Museum of British Invention – 355 upper primary pupils from 17 schools visited the travelling exhibition
- Our Culture -114 primary 7 and secondary 1 pupils from 10 schools worked in partnership with Seth Gardner@RedSnappa to make a documentary film
- Sporting Art – 269 primary 4 pupils from 8 schools were involved with Tom Wilson and Ayr Town Centre Regeneration on a Commonwealth Games project
- Travelling Gallery – 1,142 primary 4 – 7 pupils from 18 schools visited the travelling gallery
- Printmaking – 100 primary 6 pupils from 3 schools worked with Ian McNicol on a Commonwealth Art Project.

In 2013/14 just under  
**4000**  
 children and young people participated  
 in Cultural Rucksack projects



**South Ayrshire Council provides free instrumental music tuition to our young people**

### Music Service

The Youth Music Initiative funded by Creative Scotland provides access to high quality musical experiences for all children in South Ayrshire by the end of primary 6. In addition South Ayrshire Council provides free instrumental music tuition to our young people. In 2013/14, 1,224 weekly lessons were provided to young people enabling them to develop skills in playing a range of musical instruments across a number of disciplines.

Instrument	Number of young people
Brass	326
Guitar	76
Keyboard	109
Percussion	75
Piping	46
Strings	398
Voice	46
Woodwind	152

The Music Service also provides a range of opportunities for young people to perform through learning planned outwith the school day including String, Symphony and Chamber Orchestras, Jazz Band, Youth Brass Band and Junior and Senior Percussion ensembles. These groups allowed over 400 young people to showcase their work in a number of concerts throughout the year.

2014 also saw the start of the South Ayrshire Choirs, three choirs including 108 juniors, 44 intermediates and 40 seniors.

A number of young people successfully auditioned and gained selection to national youth orchestras and ensembles, including:

- 9 young people selected for the West of Scotland Schools' Symphony Orchestra
- 3 young people selected for the National Youth Choir
- 3 young people selected for the National Youth Orchestra of Scotland.

**3**  
Young people selected for the National Youth Choir

**9**  
Young people selected for the West of Scotland Schools' Symphony Orchestra;



# 8%

increase in the number of opportunities for children and young people to participate in sport and physical activity before, during and after school.

**A total of 39 different activities were offered across South Ayrshire**

## Active Schools

The academic year 2013/14 was an opportunity for Active Schools in South Ayrshire to use the profile of the Glasgow 2014 Games to maximise participation in school and community sport. The Active Schools Legacy programme provided every pupil in South Ayrshire, from nursery to secondary 6, with opportunities to participate and compete in Commonwealth Games sports, with a strong emphasis on building sustainable links with local sports clubs and facilities. The Queen's Baton Relay was welcomed to South Ayrshire by over 1,500 primary and secondary pupils attending Active Schools events and many more were supported by schools to line the route. Active Schools also hosted the Sport Relief mile in March 2014 with over 100 participants and raising £2,539.12 for the charity.

During 2013/14 there was an 8% increase in the number of opportunities for children and young people to participate in sport and physical activity before, during and after school. In addition, there was a 5% increase from 2012/13 in the number of pupils participating in Active Schools activities.

Active Schools Leadership programmes have been key to increasing the capacity to deliver a number of programmes within schools and local communities. The Active Schools Dance Academy, delivered in conjunction with YDance as part of the Active Girls programme, resulted in 29 secondary school-aged girls being trained as Level 1 Dance Leaders and has seen dance become the fifth most popular activity delivered by South Ayrshire Active Schools.

A total of 39 different activities were offered across South Ayrshire through a variety of clubs co-ordinated by the Active Schools service outwith the school day, including athletics, badminton, basketball, boccia, boxercise, cheerleading, country dancing, cricket, curling, cycling, dance, dodgeball, fitness, gymnastics, handball, hill walking, hockey, martial arts, mountain biking, netball, orienteering, rugby, sailing, table tennis, taekwondo, tennis and volleyball.

There were a total of 475 qualifications received by 187 young people through the Active Schools programme in 2013/14.

During 2013/14 there were:

- 505 volunteers (15% increase from 12/13) providing physical activity sessions, including 134 qualified adults and 86 qualified secondary pupils
- Five leadership programmes within secondary schools with a total of 187 pupils taking part and a total of 475 certificates being achieved
- One leadership programme within primary schools with a total of 730 pupils taking part in the Junior Coaching Academy
- Coach Education calendar with 172 people taking part in Active Schools' workshops
- 39 different activities offered within schools outwith the school day
- Pathways developed with a total of 46 different local clubs
- £48,356.84 of external funding sourced for schools.

# Active



volunteer

# Take part



**Dolphin House, continues to provide a range of personal development opportunities**

### Outdoor Learning At Dolphin House

Our residential outdoor learning centre, Dolphin House, continues to provide a range of personal development opportunities for children, young people and adults in South Ayrshire and beyond. Our staff also support schools with fieldwork for SQA qualifications.

		2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
<b>Residential visits</b>	Visits by primary school pupils	934	906	915	750	789
	Visits by special school pupils	7	48	20	18	12
	Fieldwork students (Higher studies)	38	23	44	29	50
	South Ayrshire School Orchestra	32	68	64	62	0
	Artists in Residence (South Ayrshire pupils)	16	40	40	40	18
	Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award		10	10	8	71
	Other residential groups		153	227	251	172
<b>Day visits</b>	Visits by primary school pupils	164	40	63	55	80
	S3/4 Fieldwork Students			10	66	16
	Ayr College, Skills Towards Employment Project	48	46	146	98	48
	Youth Groups teambuilding days	70	114	190	218	82
	More Choices More Chances Groups					95
	Modern Apprentices					70
	Work Out! Programme					90

# How Well Have We Met The Needs Of Our Stakeholders?

This section of the report highlights some examples of the ways we involve people in our services.

## Children And Young People

# 291

families have participated in early years programmes

### Early Years Education

Our partnership with parents has improved through the use of recognised parenting programmes in early years establishments. In 2013/14, as part of our early intervention approaches, four early years workers provided a range of universal supports for parents. Since September 2013, 291 families have participated in the PEEP programme (Parents Early Education Partnership), Bookbug sessions and Stay and Play in nurseries. A parenting strategy and leaflet for parents have been developed in partnership with colleagues from other agencies and services.

All pre-school children and those attending out of school care have individual care plans. These care plans have been developed using the Getting it Right for Every Child principles and are updated in partnership with parents.

Parents were involved in consultations and helped to shape decisions about new nursery provision in Troon and Prestwick.

The community food worker provided support to parents to improve infant and maternal health and 290 parents took up opportunities to attend cooking classes which led to an increased awareness of healthy eating and improved diet for families.

# 290

parents took up opportunities to attend cooking classes which led to an increased awareness of healthy eating and improved diet for families.

### Pupil Survey

Each year an annual survey of pupils is carried out and in 2013/14, 3,772 pupils in primary schools and 2,228 pupils in secondary schools completed the survey. The survey carried out in 2013/14 demonstrated that generally pupils are very positive about their educational experiences. The tables below show the percentages of pupils who agreed with statements which were included in the survey.

Primary schools	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
I enjoy learning at school	82%	92%	92%	94%	93%
I feel safe and cared for in school	87%	94%	94%	96%	94%
Secondary schools	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
I enjoy learning at school	77%	79%	85%	82%	80%
I feel safe and cared for in school	73%	82%	83%	82%	81%

generally pupils are very positive about their educational experiences



### Partnerships With Parents

The authority is making good progress in developing productive partnerships with parents and continues to develop an effective strategy for consultation to take forward implementation of the Scottish Schools (Parental Involvement) Act 2006.

South Ayrshire Council staff meet quarterly with Parent Council chairpersons or their representatives. Recently, these meetings have focussed on the current financial targets to reduce the overall budget within Education. These challenges were openly shared with parents in order that their views could be taken into account throughout the budget planning process.

Parents also contributed to the development of a policy statement for Parent Councils on the appropriate use of social media and are now working with local authority staff on preparing statements for the wider Parent Forum on absence from school due to family holidays and the cost of educational excursions.

### Pupil Voice

Each year, pupils from primary 4 to secondary 6 are asked for their views of schools and these are used to inform school improvement plans.

Pupils are engaged in decision making within their schools through the Pupil Council and represent the pupil voice on committees such as the Eco-School Committee.

In 2013/14 a number of young people in secondary schools were engaged in the process of local democracy and given opportunities to experience council decision making through the Provost's "mock council debate". The mock debate for young people in S3 was held in the Council's County Hall with the chamber organised as it would be for an actual council meeting to lend authenticity to the debating process. The event received very positive feedback from all the young people who took part.

### Additional Support In School

During 2013/14 the home link team hosted a highly successful parents' forum. This provided parents with an opportunity to give feedback on the services they had received and suggest improvements, which has assisted with future planning. Additional meetings will be held in 2014/15 for parents of pupils in receipt of central peripatetic support services or who attend the Alpha Plus programme for 4th year pupils.

*In 2013/14 a number of young people in secondary schools were engaged in the process of local democracy and given opportunities to experience council decision making through the Provost's mock council debate*



# How Good Was The Delivery Of Our Services?

This section of the report highlights some examples of the range and quality of services we delivered and how these have been developed and improved.

## Children And Young People

### Childcare

During 2013/14, the early years and childcare team undertook an evaluation of out of school care provision. A number of areas, such as resources, personal care plans, consultation with children and parents and service monitoring were improved as a result of this and the number of children attending has increased due to improvements in activities and resources.

In out of school care, 99% of children had access to ½ hr physical activity each day and almost half had access to play in outdoor open spaces. Staff have undertaken Forest School training and this is now being implemented in two out of school care settings. An increasing number of outdoor spaces have been risk assessed by staff to enable them to make more use of open spaces.

The Care Inspectorate inspected one care club in May 2013 and the service received an overall evaluation of very good, which was an improvement from the previous inspection in June 2010.

### Early Years Education

During session 2013/14, a steering group worked to ensure the successful implementation of the increase in nursery hours from August 2014. The next phase of work, to ensure more flexible provision for children and families, will be taken forward from August 2014.

Fourteen nurseries participated in the Bikeability initiative to promote children's safety and good practice using wheeled toys. In partnership with Road Safety, children in identified nurseries were provided with around 90 cycle helmets.

### Curriculum For Excellence (CfE)

Through Curriculum for Excellence all primary schools in South Ayrshire continued to provide active, motivating and engaging experiences to help children and young people to become successful learners, confident individuals, responsible citizens and effective contributors.

Schools are now providing a wider range of opportunities for personal achievements which are recognised and celebrated within and outwith school. Schools have created a whole school ethos and approach to health and wellbeing, including physical activity, sport and healthy eating.

Secondary schools worked together to develop a senior phase (secondary 4 to secondary 6) model to offer a wide range of learning opportunities, including a South Ayrshire Learning Campus to maximise choice and meet the needs of all learners. We continue to review the secondary curriculum, particularly in secondary 3, to ensure all young people benefit from their entitlement to a broad general education. Schools have worked closely with partners to ensure all young people aged 16+ benefit from an appropriate offer to continue their learning past their statutory school leaving age.





In early years there has been very good progress in further developing approaches to planning and assessment procedures and staff are better able to support continuity and progression in children's learning. Children benefit from improved opportunities for early literacy and language development. Literacy screening has helped staff to identify and support the needs of individual children. There has been significant progress in developing outdoor learning and using the wider community such as Rozelle, local woodland areas and the beach.

The primary physical education (PE) initiative, funded by Education Scotland and Sport Scotland, has helped to improve the quality of physical education delivered in our schools and provide an inspiring and challenging experience for children and young people as well as providing them with a positive attitude and foundations for life-long participation in physical activity and sport. To achieve this, secondary school staff helped to deliver PE lessons within their cluster primary

schools and supported primary staff in the implementation of high quality PE.

### Additional Support In Schools

This year a small number of 4th year pupils attending the Alpha Plus programme, participated in the Columba 1400 programme which offered opportunities for leadership development. Three young people graduated from the programme.

### Child Protection

The safety and wellbeing of children is a priority for all staff. As staff become more aware of, and sensitive to, the early identification of concerns about the safety of children, we are identifying more children who may need protection and this enables us to put in place a response to help them.

Through work in schools we continue to actively promote awareness of personal safety and protection with children and young people who received advice, support and specialist input in relation to

internet safety, domestic abuse and stalking. From responses gathered through the pupil survey we know that almost all children and young people know what to do if they are concerned about their own safety and protection.

*The safety and wellbeing of children is a priority for all staff.*

# How Good Was Our Management?

This section of the report highlights some examples of how well our services and resources were managed.

Educational Services' expenditure remained within budget for the year.

## Financial Management

Educational Services' expenditure remained within budget for the year. The major under-spends experienced were in relation to energy costs (due to the mild weather), payments to the Scottish Qualifications Authority (due to a change in accounting treatment), charges for public-private partnership (PPP) schools and an under-spend in relation to the devolved school management scheme. The under-spend in the devolved school management scheme is carried forward for use in 2014/15.

Year	2011/12 £ 000's	2012/13 £ 000's	2013/14 £ 000's
Net Expenditure (EDUCATION)	101,536	100,940	108,847

Overall, good progress is being made to improve the Council's school estate

## The School Estate

The Council continues to make good progress in delivering the outcomes identified within its Fundamental Review of the School Estate report "Planning for Improvement". This set out the agenda for modernising school buildings and meeting the challenges presented by the implementation of Curriculum for Excellence and changing class sizes.

Overall, good progress is being made to improve the Council's school estate with improvements in both the suitability and condition ratings for schools. The new schools for Ayr Academy, Dailly Primary, Tarbolton Primary and the modernisation and extension of Marr College are at an advanced design stage and will have a significant impact on current ratings.

During 2013/14 the new school at Kirkmichael was opened and the modernisation of Braehead and Forehill primary schools were completed. The modernisation works continued at Kincaidston and Barrhill primary schools and improvements were made to the maths, technical and library areas at Queen Margaret Academy. A total of £11,264,717 capital investment was made to improve schools during 2013/14 and £1,390,873 was spent on maintenance.



**We continue to implement recommendations from Teaching Scotland's Future**

### **Staff Development**

Arrangements for Professional Review and Development (PRD) for teachers and other staff within Educational Services, who have full registration with General Teaching Council for Scotland (GTCS), were revised in preparation for the national implementation of Professional Update in August 2014. The revised PRD policy and support pack for staff was approved and adopted by our Joint Negotiating Committee for Teachers (JNCT) in February 2014 and our revised processes received full validation from GTCS on 28th February 2014. Our revised processes take account of good practice guidelines published by GTCS and Education Scotland.

Following completion of the GTCS validation process a training programme is being developed to ensure consistent application of the revised procedures. A communication strategy is also being developed to ensure all GTCS registered staff are aware of the implications of Professional Update and their individual entitlements and responsibilities in relation to this.

We continue to implement recommendations from Teaching Scotland's Future which are supported by the National Implementation Board (NIB). A steering group has been established to ensure that staff development opportunities take account of the recommendations of the NIB.

**The visual impairment team participated in a sensory improvement development group.**

### **Partnership Working**

The additional support needs team has established links with the University of West of Scotland in order to share information and expertise with student teachers during their initial training. In 2013/14, the visual impairment team in partnership with a blind young person delivered an awareness raising presentation.

Staff from the additional support needs team also participated in a number of cross-authority initiatives. The visual impairment team participated in a sensory improvement development group, a collaboration of Health, Social Work, Education and third sector agencies working to improve outcomes for children and young people with sensory impairments.

# How Good Was Our Leadership?

This section of the report highlights some examples of how well our services were led, including the leadership of change and improvement.



## Equality And Diversity

We continue to make good progress in raising awareness with staff of the duties in relation to the Equality Act 2010 to ensure all young people with protected characteristics are treated equally and fairly. Head teachers have undertaken training and cascaded this training to staff. In addition, online training is available through COAST – the authority's online staff development platform.

The Directorate has established systems to support young people to ensure they have appropriate access to facilities and the curriculum. The Inclusion Strategy Group screens all necessary adaptations to schools to ensure individual children and young people can access the physical environment.

## Planning, Performance Monitoring And Self Evaluation

The Service and Improvement Plan for Educational Services for 2014-17 was developed following a workshop involving all head teachers.

It reflects the contribution that Educational Services will make to the Council's Plan for the same period. The plan will be refreshed annually following further self evaluation activity. We monitor and report our progress in delivering our plan to Elected Members twice yearly through the Service and Performance Panel.

To align with the integration of Health and Social Care, Educational Services were restructured to incorporate early years and additional support needs teams, which were previously part of Children's Services. The Service and Improvement Plan was updated to reflect these new services including the key tasks to be undertaken by them.

A performance framework has been developed for Educational Services which outlines the performance measures to be used to ensure Educational Services delivers its key objectives as outlined in the Single Outcome Agreement, the Council Plan and the Service and Improvement Plan.

Educational Service's self evaluation processes were subject to a validation by HM Inspectors from Education Scotland in April 2014. Education Scotland's report stated that "The Education Scotland team of HM Inspectors and Associate Assessors are confident that South Ayrshire's evaluation is strong and supported by robust approaches<sup>6</sup>".

## Leadership Development

We provide very good opportunities for leadership development for staff. Over the past two academic sessions, leadership development programmes have helped to build effective leadership capacity amongst our staff. A number of different elements exist for leadership development including: a bespoke programme which has been run by senior officers within the Council; the Flexible Route to Headship (FRH); and, the Scottish Qualification for Headship (SQH). In the last three sessions, we have had more than 40 individual members of staff successfully completing the South Ayrshire Leadership Development Programme, four graduating through the FRH programme and five through the SQH programme.

*We provide very good opportunities for leadership development for staff.*

The leadership framework has been further developed this session to provide a route for aspiring Principal Teachers (PTs), acting PTs, newly appointed PTs, Depute Head Teachers and newly appointed Head Teachers. We have recruited a further 25 staff who will begin elements of the programme in 2014, three FRH participants and one SQH participant. Feedback from participants has been extremely positive and has focussed their approach to leadership of learning within their various posts in schools.

Fifteen head teachers participated in the Columba 1400 Head Teacher Leadership Academy (HTLA) – a programme designed to develop and support head teachers while promoting collegiate working across South Ayrshire. A four day residential programme at Ardoch, Loch Lomond allowed staff to reflect on their leadership values and the challenges they face in their drive to ensure positive outcomes for all young people.

**15**  
head teachers  
participated in the  
Columba 1400 Head  
Teacher Leadership  
Academy (HTLA)

Eight secondary schools also engaged with Columba 1400, participating in Ambassadors Leadership Academies involving 105 young people and 23 staff. School based orientation sessions led by Columba 1400 staff prepared our young people for a challenging residential week in Skye. The young people returned from Skye with a set of values-based leadership skills and were challenged to make an impact in their school and local communities. Each group benefited from on-going support from Columba 1400 and staff who participated in the programme. A further Ambassadors Leadership Academy programme was delivered in partnership with South Ayrshire Young Carers. This programme involved eight young people from four schools, supported by staff from the Young Carers Centre and school.

### Innovation, Change And Improvement

The Directorate continues to work to improve its performance and make a positive difference to the lives of children and young people in South Ayrshire and a number of innovative services were developed or improved.

Our annual Curriculum for Excellence festival continues to go from strength to strength. Nearly 1,000 South Ayrshire Council teachers, school assistants, nursery nurses and additional support needs staff from across early years, primary and special schools attended the fifth learning festival at Belmont Academy in October 2013. The festival was held on an in-service day, with all primary school staff required to attend and was a valuable part of their career long

professional learning. This year the festival focused on teaching science, technology, engineering and mathematics and examined how practical and theoretical skills could be merged within Curriculum for Excellence. Forty two different seminars were on offer and each workshop was hosted by a practitioner keen to share their knowledge and first-hand experience of delivering excellence in the classroom. In addition, a number of key note speakers were invited to provide a national perspective.



## What Is Our Capacity For Improvement?



Despite the challenges posed by the economic downturn and the requirement to make significant savings in the public sector, the Directorate has continued to improve services as outlined in this report.

This report indicates that there is a strong pattern of maintaining high performance levels in the attainment and achievement of children and young people in South Ayrshire. This is evidenced by external evaluations in inspections and through the validated self evaluation activity carried out in partnership with Education Scotland.

However, we are conscious that there is room to further close the attainment gap particularly for those children and young people affected by deprivation. Closing the attainment gap remains a priority for the Directorate and staff have a clear focus on working together to deliver better outcomes for children and young people in South Ayrshire.

We hope that you have found this report informative and reflective of our commitment to continuous improvement in providing services of the highest quality. Although public services will continue to operate with reduced budgets for the foreseeable future, we will continue to work closely with partners to deliver the best services possible for children and young people in South Ayrshire.

*We hope that you have found this report informative.*

Text only versions of this publication are available in Polish, Chinese and Urdu.

It is also available in large print or on audio, on request.

**0300 123 0900**

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