

Introduction

The Local Government Benchmarking Framework (LGBF) is a dataset allowing for benchmarking across the 32 Scottish Councils for a range of services.

This business bulletin has been populated based on data as at 28 February 2026.

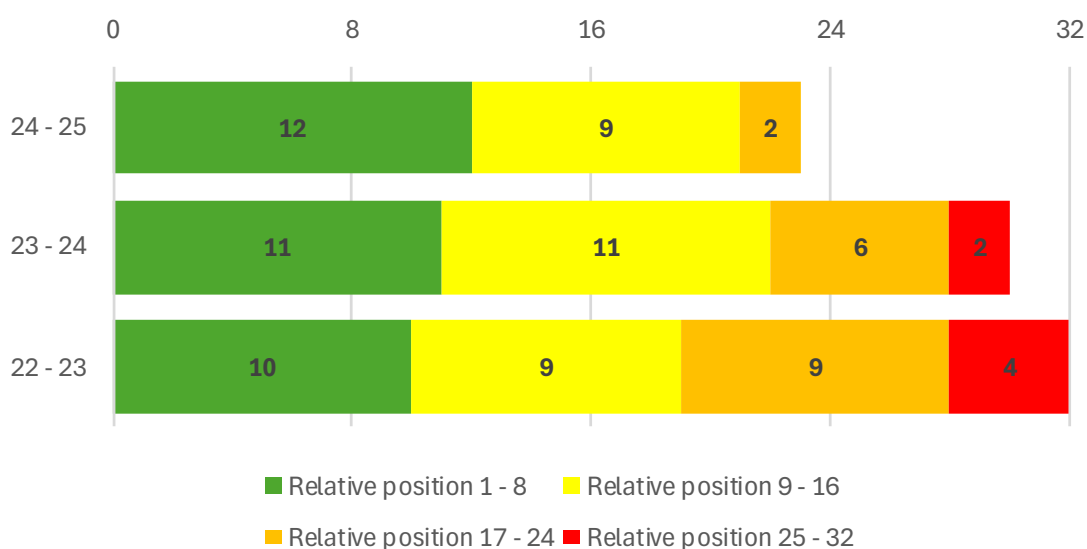
The dataset for 2024/25 has now been released and can be accessed using [the Improvement Service online tool](#). They have also published a [national report 2024/25](#).

Theme Summary

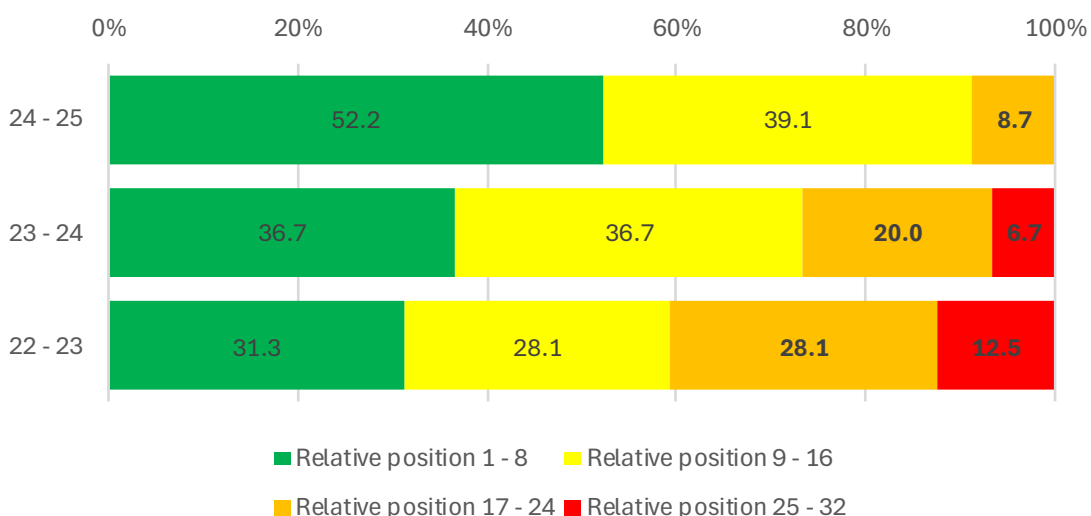
32 indicators for Children's Services in total. 23 have data for 2024/25, for the remaining nine indicators data will be released when available.

Between 2023/24 and 2024/25 performance improved for 16 of the indicators and declined for seven indicators. Relative position improved for 11 of the indicators, declined for nine indicators and remained static for three indicators.

Childrens Services- 3 year area chart (count)



Childrens Services- 3 year area chart (percent)



Key Messages

- There are no indicators in the bottom quartile in the 2024/25 data. There were two indicators in the bottom quartile in the 2023/24 dataset:
 - Early years provision graded good/better performance has improved from 86.6% to 87% moving us to a relative position of 24 and into the second bottom quartile.
 - Data for 2024/25 for the other indicator, Gross Cost of Looked after children in community, is not yet available.
- Performance continues to show an improving picture – increasing attainment levels, reducing attainment gaps and reducing costs.
- In more detail:
 - Costs per pupil for Primary and Secondary are consistently in top quartile. Early year cost has increased in 2024/25 and our relative position moves from 13 to 23.
 - Primary schools: increases in all children rates of literacy and numeracy and reduced attainment gap for both too. Literacy gap down from 27.8 to 16.7 over last four years.
 - Secondary schools: increases seen in all attainment measures. There is an improving picture for children from 20% most deprived area (gaining 5+ awards at level 5) increasing from 44 to 55 over last three years and at 55% in 24/25 we are above the national average for the first time since 2020/21.
 - Attendance for all pupil attendance is increasing (at 92% in 2024/25) but still below pre-Covid levels. Attendance data for looked after pupils for 2024/25 is not yet available.
- The Education indicators that show a decline in performance are:
 - Primary and Early year costs (which rise)
 - There is a gradual decrease in satisfaction with schools which mirrors what is seen nationally but our decrease from 74% to 72% between 2022/23 and 2024/25 is smaller than the national picture (with a 6% decrease to 69%)
- All of the looked after children indicators have not been updated with 2024/25 data and this data is due for release later on in 2026.
- However from the 2023/24 data, our re-registration rate for children onto the Child Protection Register, at 4%, returns to being in line with the national average. Two indicators which remain fairly static are 'the proportion of looked after children placed in the community' at around 90% and the 'proportion of looked after children with more than 1 placement in the last year' which sits around 20%. For the cost indicators for children social care, the cost of residential care reduces in 2023/24 after an upward trend over the last 5 years. Meanwhile the cost of community placements continues to gradually increase and reaches £658 in 2023/24 and shows a similar pattern to the three city average.
- Finally the latest figures for children living in poverty shows a gradual increase from 17% in 2020/21 to 22.8% in 2023/24.

Summary

Further analysis of Children's Services measures could be undertaken if more detail is required.