

Summary of Lossiemouth ASG/LMG

The Lossiemouth ASG includes the following towns/villages: Burghead, Duffus, Hopeman and Lossiemouth. Population levels vary throughout the ASG, ranging from 329 in Duffus to 7705 in Lossiemouth.

Main issues

The evidence highlights significant differences in outcomes for the residents of the smaller localities within the ASG. In particular, Duffus has very positive outcomes and these are present at each life stage. Duffus has the highest percentages in Moray of students aged 16-18 in full time education and of attainment levels. The subsequent positive outcome is that Duffus also has the highest percentage of school leavers entering Higher Education.

Positive outcomes continue for those of working age. Duffus has the lowest percentage in Moray for employment in lower income occupations. The inference that this results in higher levels of income appears to be substantiated by the fact that Duffus has the highest rate of home ownership in Moray. Another positive outcome is the extremely positive perception of health, despite the fact that Duffus has a higher percentage of residents aged 45+ than anywhere else in Moray. It might be inferred that the combination of positive outcomes impacts upon perceptions of well-being.

In contrast with Duffus, the town of Lossiemouth has a significantly younger population and notably higher rates of full-time employment than elsewhere in Moray. However, levels of educational attainment in the town and also Burghead are below average for the majority of S4 and S5, and there are slightly elevated rates of school leaver unemployment both here and in Hopeman. While these factors demonstrate short-term negative outcomes they also indicate the potential for young people to continue to experience negative outcomes in the longer term.

The varying levels of educational attainment in the area suggest that this is a theme which cuts across the ASG. A second theme of relevance to the overall ASG is the trend towards an aging population which has implications for the provision of and access to older people's services.

Minor issues

Other issues for this ASG are: transport and access to services, including multiple car ownership/reliance upon public transport; and housing – there are slightly higher percentages of households in social/private rented accommodation in Burghead and the town of Lossiemouth. There is a continued reliance upon the RAF Lossiemouth and Kinloss Barracks for employment and the population dynamics of the ASG is heavily influenced by these two bases.

Population

The population demographic of the town of Lossiemouth reflects the fact that it is home to a Royal Air Force base: there is a significantly higher percentage of working age people here (age 16 – 59) than the Moray average, particularly in the 16 – 29 age group.

Elsewhere however the ASG follows the national trend towards an older population. Duffus has the highest percentage of people aged 45 and above in Moray. An aging population, particularly when living alone, may have consequences for the provision of unpaid care and the need for paid care services, both of which would have an impact upon public expenditure.

Duffus has a significantly higher percentage of married/co-habiting households than the Moray average which may suggest an availability of unpaid care if needed. However, it would also indicate that the carers themselves would be older. This has implications for respite and/or carer support and may influence future service planning decisions.

Identity

The proximity of both RAF Lossiemouth and Kinloss Barracks appears to have an influence upon the identity of this ASG. Each of its four areas has significantly higher percentages of people who describe themselves as 'White – Other British' and also who were born in England than elsewhere in Moray. There is also a slightly higher rate of people who state that 'Other Christian' as their chosen religion across the ASG, Hopeman has the highest percentage of residents in Moray who describe themselves in this way. This may suggest affiliation to the Anglican Church and therefore further illustrate the population demographic of this area.

Numbers of individuals born outside the UK and now living in the Lossiemouth area are relatively low but in general most have been resident in the UK for ten years or more suggesting that they have settled down in the area.

Housing

Levels of home ownership are higher than the Moray average, particularly in Duffus and Hopeman. In fact these towns are ranked first and second in Moray, respectively, for home ownership. The town of Lossiemouth differs in that private and non-council social renting are more common here than the Moray average. As might be expected, the town has a significantly higher percentage of terraced housing than in the more rural parts of this ASG where detached housing is more prevalent.

Rurality is an influencing factor on the need for private transport and this is illustrated in levels of car ownership in the wider Lossiemouth area. Duffus has the lowest percentage of households in Moray with no car/van; instead there is evidence that multiple car ownership is very common here. Rates of multiple vehicle ownership are also slightly above the Moray average in both Burghead and Hopeman, whereas single vehicle ownership is more common in the town of Lossiemouth. It is possible that the availability and frequency of public transport in Lossiemouth reduces the need for multiple car ownership.

Owning a vehicle creates an added household expense but, as the predominant occupations in this ASG suggest higher levels of pay, it is possible that the impact of this may be reduced. Those living rurally who cannot afford private transport will rely heavily on public transport to access services. This has implications for the location of public services and also for the availability of public transport to those services.

Economy and labour

In line with its older population, Duffus has the highest rate of economically inactive and also retired people in Moray. As before, the town of Lossiemouth has a relatively young age profile. It is therefore not surprising that the town has more economically active people than the Moray 'norm'; in particular, the rate of full-time employment is significantly higher here. Self-employment is relatively less common in the wider Lossiemouth area than is the case for Moray as a whole and this may reflect the proximity of both RAF Lossiemouth and Kinloss Barracks which provide employment opportunities.

As might be expected, the most common industry in the town of Lossiemouth is public administration and defence: the rate of employment being over twice the Moray average. Elsewhere, human health and social work, education, and wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles are the predominant industries. This ASG is within a commutable distance to a range of local primary schools, three secondary schools and the independent school of Gordonstoun. In addition, Elgin and Forres are relatively short distances from this ASG which makes

accessing, for example, Moray Council headquarters/access points, Dr Gray's hospital and local retail parks for work a feasible option.

Employment in 'traditional' industries such as manufacturing and construction is less common here than elsewhere in Moray – although Burghead does have a slightly higher percentage of people employed in construction. This may explain the lower rates of employment in lower skilled occupations. There is instead a higher rate of employment in associate professional and technical occupations than the Moray average, Lossiemouth being almost double the average. Employment in professional and managerial occupations is also higher in this ASG, particularly in Duffus, than elsewhere. This would suggest relatively higher levels of income.

Perhaps linking to lower rates of self-employment, working from home is relatively less common in this ASG than the Moray 'norm'. As might be anticipated there is a significantly higher percentage of travel to work by car by those living rurally, and travel on foot is more in line with the Moray average in the town of Lossiemouth. Hopeman has the highest percentage in Moray of people travelling to work by train.

Alongside Hopeman, Lossiemouth has a slightly higher rate of travel by 'other' means (e.g. bike, motorbike), and travel by bus is slightly more common in both Lossiemouth and Burghead than the Moray average. As discussed earlier, the evidence suggests that residents of this ASG may work in Elgin and Forres. The distance to these two towns means that cycling to work via local cycle networks is feasible. In addition, a regular bus service runs from Lossiemouth to both Elgin and Forres which may encourage travel by bus.

Education

Recent levels of attainment show that Duffus performs significantly better than the rest of the ASG, Moray and Scotland at both S4 and S5 level. Hopeman also performs well in relation to gaining one higher level exam but falls below the Moray and Scotland averages for multiple awards at this level. In contrast Burghead and the town of Lossiemouth perform significantly below average throughout S4 and S5 - although attainment of five higher level exams in Burghead rises above average. As pupils from military families do not tend to spend their whole school life in one school/area it is possible that this will impact upon their levels of attainment.

Linking with the levels of attainment in Duffus, a significantly higher percentage of its school leavers enter positive destinations than the Moray average. More than half go onto Higher Education. While young people from Hopeman follow a similar pattern to the Moray 'norm' there is a slightly higher percentage choosing work as their post-school destination.

Given the lower levels of attainment in Burghead and the town of Lossiemouth it is perhaps not surprising that students from these areas are more likely to enter employment and Further Education, respectively, these being options that do not necessarily require a high level of qualification. While employment may seem like a feasible option for those with fewer qualifications there are fewer 'traditional' industries and less employment in lower skilled jobs in this area. There is perhaps a correlation between this and the slightly elevated rates of unemployment amongst school leavers in Burghead, Hopeman and the town of Lossiemouth.

The variation in recent educational attainment appears to mirror the qualification levels of the adult population. Duffus has the highest percentage of adults in Moray whose highest qualification is SVQ. It also has a significantly higher rate of people educated to degree level. Hopeman also sits above the Moray average in this respect with Burghead and Lossiemouth just above and below the average. This might suggest that the educational aspiration of young people is influenced by the

attainment of their parents. It may also suggest that perceptions of the job market play a role in the expectations of and for young people.

The evidence shows that students from the more rural parts of this ASG rely on bus transportation to get to their place of study. Duffus has twice the rate of travel by bus than the Moray average and also the highest percentage of students who travel by car. As this area has significantly higher rates of both multiple car ownership and travel to work by car it might be inferred that parents drive their children to school 'en route' to work.

Walking to school is less common in Burghead, Duffus and Hopeman than the Moray 'norm'. However, both Burghead and Hopeman have a higher percentage doing so in comparison to the more remote rural areas of Moray such as Speyside. This may be explained by each of these towns having its own primary school. Being home to the local secondary school as well as two primary schools it is unsurprising that walking to school is relatively common in the town of Lossiemouth.

Health and social care

Self-reported perceptions of health in Duffus, including whether individuals feel limited by their long term condition or disability, are very positive despite its older population demographic and a significantly higher percentage of people who have one or more long term conditions. Duffus also has a lower rate of emergency admissions for the 65+ age group than the Moray average. The area has the highest percentage of residents providing unpaid care in Moray and this may provide part explanation for these positive outcomes. Further research may provide an indication of what is working well in this area and this may help to inform long term planning for the aging population.

Elsewhere perceptions of health are much in line with the Moray 'norm' - although Lossiemouth does fare slightly better, potentially as a result of its younger population profile. The top three health conditions in the ASG are smoking, hypertension and obesity. The prevalence of all three is slightly above the Moray average, particularly in the case of hypertension. While the town of Lossiemouth (alongside Forres) has the highest percentage of individuals with a mental health condition in Moray it remains below the Scottish average.

The rate of emergency admissions is below the average rate for Moray with one exception – the over 65 age group in Burghead.

Anti-social behaviour / crime

While levels of anti-social behaviour are generally very low in comparison with Moray as a whole, the incidence of vandalism in the town of Lossiemouth matches the Moray average and Burghead has a relatively high incidence of graffiti. Crime rates are also below average with Burghead and Hopeman having significantly lower levels of crime than the Moray 'norm'.

Access to services

As above, although smaller settlement areas in this ASG are rural, they are less so than some of the more remote parts of Moray and the relatively close proximity to two of Moray's five main towns helps to reduce the impact of their rurality. In fact accessing some local services particularly via public transport takes less time for residents of the wider Lossiemouth area than the Moray average.

As before, the impact on families of the relatively longer journeys to school is reduced through the provision of bus transport. The slightly further distance for Duffus pupils may bear influence on the decision to own multiple vehicles. The location of primary schools in each of the ASG's four areas also has a positive impact upon journey time for younger pupils.

An important consideration for older people living rurally is access to GP surgeries. Drive time to this service across the ASG is roughly in line with the Moray average. However, while access by public transport takes less time for three of the four settlement areas, the journey is longer for those living in Duffus.