

LOCAL POVERTY: Painting a picture of Moray using both local and national benefits data, Children in low-income families and SIMD2020 data.

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METHODOLOGY

Nationally published Local data was extracted from various sources as detailed in Appendix 1. Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) data was extracted at Census Output Area (OA)/ Super Output Areas (SOA)¹. This data was then accumulated into Data Zone areas² to allow for accurate comparisons to be made along side National Records of Scotland (NRS) and Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD2020) data which is provided at Data Zone level.

Local data was provided by postcode, either by person or by household. Postcodes³ were matched to Data Zones and accumulated to allow for accurate comparisons to be made with nationally published data. In addition, data was factored into Intermediate Zones⁴ and Associated School Group (ASG) areas to provide larger area profiles of estimated poverty in Moray.

All data was transferred into an Excel spreadsheet with a field for every element of data. Data was standardised to a percentage based on either the number of people living or households within each area, this allowed for comparisons on a like for like basis. Each data field was then ranked (1-126) with ranking 1 being the worst value. No weighting was applied to any field, all were treated equally. To provide an overall ranking for each data zone all field rankings were totalled.

Data was from different timeframes between mid-2020 and early 2022, where possible, to maintain as much consistency as possible, the same timeframes were used, even where more current data was available. With the timespan covering a short period it is unlikely that any differences will be significant.

TABLES

The tables on the following pages detail information at Data Zone, Intermediate Zone and ASG level. The tables are ranked from top to bottom in order of highest levels of poverty/ deprivation to lowest. Different combinations of data are used within some tables to show the differences in findings. Tables are also provided showing the overall findings when all the data is brought together. The data used for each table is clearly defined within the table headers and listed beneath showing data used from Appendix 1. A brief commentary is provided for each table explaining the data within.

The author questions the validity of the poverty figure produced by “End Child Poverty”⁵ for Moray. “End Child Poverty” (After Housing Costs) estimate that in 2020/21 3,341 0–15 year-olds were in relative child poverty. Based on 2020 mid-year population estimates (16,037) this equates to 20.8% not 21.3%. Using Children in Low Income families data (Before Housing Costs), the author calculates poverty (data zone) in Moray ranges between 0.01% and 59.97% with a mean average of 20.8% (Median 21.9%).

¹ Census Output Areas (OAs) and Super Output Areas (SOAs) are geographical areas developed from Census 2001 information. OAs are the smallest unit, covering around 125 households.

² A data zone contains between 500 to 1,000 people. They are made up from groups of census output areas. There are 126 Data Zones in Moray.

³ Each postcode covers an average of 15 properties. Over 6,100 postcodes exist in Moray.

⁴ Larger geographical areas containing an average of around 4,000 people. There are 24 Intermediate Zones in Moray.

⁵ End Child Poverty: <https://endchildpoverty.org.uk/>

LEGEND	
	Present in all 4 Tables
	Present in 1, 2 & 3
	Present in Tables 1, 2 & 4
	Present in Tables 1, 3 & 4
	Present in Tables 1 & 3
	Present in Tables 2 & 3
	Present in 2, 3 & 4

The legend is applicable to tables 1-5 in this report and the colours depict the data zones appearing in each of the tables.

TABLE 1										
Top 13 Data Zones with Highest Levels of Poverty (BENEFITS BASED)										
Ranking	Data Zone Code	Intermediate Zone Name	ASG Area	Urban/Rural 8-Fold	Population	Number of Households	% of Single Occupancy Households	Accumulated Score (Low = Worst)	% Low Income Families	% Estimated Poverty
1	S01011102	Elgin Cathedral to Ashgrove and Pinefield	Elgin Academy	2	569	343	58.89%	93	54.92%	59.97%
2	S01011163	Forres South West and Mannachie	Forres Academy	2	725	357	46.50%	157	30.34%	33.13%
3	S01011092	Heldon West, Fogwatt to Inchberry	Elgin High School	2	642	295	41.69%	172	23.32%	25.47%
4	S01011141	Lossiemouth West	Lossiemouth High School	3	529	233	40.34%	199	40.20%	43.90%
5=	S01011099	Lhanbryde, Urquhart, Pitgavney and seaward	Milne's High School	6	696	360	43.89%	207	32.66%	35.66%
5=	S01011162	Forres South West and Mannachie	Forres Academy	2	495	197	35.53%	207	36.80%	40.19%
7	S01011077	Buckie Central East	Buckie High School	4	732	331	55.89%	220	26.39%	28.81%
8	S01011089	Fochabers, Aultmore, Clochan and Ordiquish	Milne's High School	6	624	311	51.77%	237	37.36%	40.80%
9	S01011154	Forres Central East and seaward	Forres Academy	2	546	345	60.00%	256	35.94%	39.25%
10	S01011101	Elgin Cathedral to Ashgrove and Pinefield	Elgin Academy	2	601	245	43.67%	262	27.34%	29.85%
11	S01011076	Buckie Central East	Buckie High School	4	664	361	46.26%	263	26.33%	28.75%
12	S01011161	Forres South West and Mannachie	Forres Academy	2	581	266	47.37%	269	27.01%	29.50%
13	S01011111	New Elgin East	Elgin High School	2	806	399	46.37%	272	42.24%	46.12%
MORAY MEAN AVERAGE				4	760	346	37.53%	609	19.08%	20.83%
MORAY MEDIAN AVERAGE				4	705	336	37.82%	618	20.03%	21.87%
MORAY BEST ACCUMULATED SCORE								976	0.01%	0.01%

Data from Appendix 1 used: 1-7 & 10-19

TABLE 1 COMMENTARY

Table 1 shows the 13 Data Zones with the lowest scores (Highest levels of estimated poverty) based upon both local and national benefits data for Moray. These 13 data zones are representative of the highest 10% of Moray for benefits estimated poverty levels. 17 types of benefits were used to establish the accumulated score. The shading in the last three columns highlights higher levels with darker shading. The data zone with ranking 1 has a significantly lower score than the 2nd placed data zone, the remaining 11 data zones are only separated by 100 points. Only four data zones are classed as being rural (4 = Remote small towns, 6 = Accessible rural areas), the remaining 9 (69%) are classed as being in urban areas. As the overall rurality average of Moray is 4 the data would appear to suggest that higher levels of benefits are claimed within urban areas and as such is fair to say that poverty is likely to be higher in urban areas of Moray. All bar one data zone have a high proportion of council houses which would appear to indicate that living in a council property presents as a higher risk of being in poverty. **11 of the 13 data zones are present in at least one of the other Tables 2-4, 10 are present in three tables and three are present in all four tables.** All data zones, bar one, have a higher single occupancy rate in comparison to the Moray average. Single occupancy refers to one adult, the number of children are not measured. Some will be single parent families which is a risk factor in determining higher poverty levels. This comes with a caveat however as Moray has a high older age demographic so some of these households are likely to be pensioners living on their own. All data zones in Table 1 have higher estimated poverty levels than the Moray average. National Child Poverty is mainly based on benefits, whilst this localised benefits data does not neatly match the data provided by "End Child Poverty", it may aid in determining a more accurate picture of poverty in Moray than can be provided nationally for larger geographies. As data zones are relatively small areas (approx. 750 people) they only provide a small insight to poverty levels. At data zone level there are some differences between the localised benefits scoring and estimated poverty levels, later in this report table 5 shows when data is built up into intermediate zones (Ave population 4,000) similarities in the differently gathered data become more apparent.

TABLE 2										
Top 13 Data Zones with Highest Levels of Deprivation SIMD 2020 (OVERALL RANKING)										
Ranking	Data Zone Code	Intermediate Zone Name	ASG Area	Urban/Rural 8-Fold	Population	Number of Households	% of Single Occupancy Households	SIMD 2020 Ranking	% Low Income Families	% Estimated Poverty
1	S01011092	Heldon West, Fogwatt to Inchberry	Elgin High School	2	642	295	41.69%	560	23.32%	25.47%
2	S01011101	Elgin Cathedral to Ashgrove and Pinefield	Elgin Academy	2	601	245	43.67%	1,067	27.34%	29.85%
3	S01011111	New Elgin East	Elgin High School	2	806	399	46.37%	1,298	42.24%	46.12%
4	S01011154	Forres Central East and seaward	Forres Academy	2	546	345	60.00%	1,377	35.94%	39.25%
5	S01011102	Elgin Cathedral to Ashgrove and Pinefield	Elgin Academy	2	569	343	58.89%	1,537	54.92%	59.97%
6	S01011099	Lhanbryde, Urquhart, Pitgavney and seaward	Milne's High School	6	696	360	43.89%	1,584	32.66%	35.66%
7	S01011165	Forres South West and Mannachie	Forres Academy	2	702	368	50.82%	1,601	23.60%	25.77%
8	S01011075	Buckie Central East	Buckie High School	4	661	323	44.89%	1,852	50.75%	55.42%
9	S01011125	Elgin Bishopmill East and Ladyhill	Elgin Academy	2	462	221	52.94%	1,896	30.92%	33.76%
10	S01011061	Keith and Fife Keith	Keith Grammar School	4	843	456	51.10%	1,921	29.55%	32.27%
11	S01011103	Elgin Cathedral to Ashgrove and Pinefield	Elgin Academy	2	539	333	54.95%	2,003	18.86%	20.59%
12	S01011162	Forres South West and Mannachie	Forres Academy	2	495	197	35.53%	2,110	36.80%	40.19%
13	S01011077	Buckie Central East	Buckie High School	4	732	331	55.89%	2,125	26.39%	28.81%
MORAY MEAN AVERAGE				4	760	346	37.53%	3,987	19.08%	20.83%
MORAY MEDIAN AVERAGE				4	705	336	37.82%	4,043	20.03%	21.87%
MORAY BEST ACCUMULATED SCORE								6,856	0.01%	0.01%

Data from Appendix 1 used: 1, 2 & 8

TABLE 2 COMMENTARY

Table 2 shows the most deprived 10% of Moray Data Zones as detailed by the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) 2020. It is important to understand that SIMD does not measure poverty, instead it measures AREAS of deprivation. It is a misconception that SIMD identifies people, it does NOT, SIMD identifies areas where the density of deprivation is highest. There is recognition that there are links between deprivation and poverty levels, but it is not always true to say that one can't exist without the other. SIMD consists of seven domains⁶ which contribute to an overall score/ranking for each data zone. The rankings in Table 2 are based upon the overall SIMD ranking for each data zone. Similar to benefits data in Table 1, SIMD identifies four data zones classed as rural and nine being urban. Again all, bar one, of the 13 data zones have higher proportions of single occupancy households than the Moray average. The links between SIMD and estimated poverty appear less consistent when compared with the benefits table (Table 1), strengthening the view that having high levels of deprivation is not always an indicator of high poverty levels. With the exception of one data zone all have poverty levels higher than the Moray average. **11 of the 13 data zones are present in at least one of the other Tables 1, 3 & 4, nine are present in three tables and three are present in all four tables.** Eight of the data zones in Table 2 also appear in Table 1 showing that there are some similarities between benefits related poverty and SIMD deprivation.

⁶ Income, Employment, Education, Health, Housing, Crime & Access

TABLE 3										
Top 13 Data Zones with Highest Levels of Poverty (BENEFITS + SIMD 2020 DOMAIN RANKINGS)										
Ranking	Data Zone Code	Intermediate Zone Name	ASG Area	Urban/Rural 8-Fold	Population	Number of Households	% of Single Occupancy Households	Accumulated Score (Low = Worst)*	% Low Income Families	% Estimated Poverty
1	S01011102	Elgin Cathedral to Ashgrove and Pinefield	Elgin Academy	2	569	343	58.89%	345	54.92%	59.97%
2	S01011092	Heldon West, Fogwatt to Inchberry	Elgin High School	2	642	295	41.69%	399	23.32%	25.47%
3	S01011099	Lhanbryde, Urquhart, Pitgavney and seaward	Milne's High School	6	696	360	43.89%	415	32.66%	35.66%
4	S01011162	Forres South West and Mannachie	Forres Academy	2	495	197	35.53%	529	36.80%	40.19%
5	S01011089	Fochabers, Aultmore, Clochan and Ordiquish	Milne's High School	6	624	311	51.77%	531	37.36%	40.80%
6	S01011077	Buckie Central East	Buckie High School	4	732	331	55.89%	552	26.39%	28.81%
7	S01011141	Lossiemouth West	Lossiemouth High School	3	529	233	40.34%	562	40.20%	43.90%
8	S01011165	Forres South West and Mannachie	Forres Academy	2	702	368	50.82%	571	23.60%	25.77%
9	S01011163	Forres South West and Mannachie	Forres Academy	2	725	357	46.50%	573	30.34%	33.13%
10	S01011111	New Elgin East	Elgin High School	2	806	399	46.37%	577	42.24%	46.12%
11	S01011075	Buckie Central East	Buckie High School	4	661	323	44.89%	586	50.75%	55.42%
12	S01011101	Elgin Cathedral to Ashgrove and Pinefield	Elgin Academy	2	601	245	43.67%	602	27.34%	29.85%
13	S01011061	Keith and Fife Keith	Keith Grammar School	4	843	456	51.10%	647	29.55%	32.27%
MORAY MEAN AVERAGE				4	760	346	37.53%	1,435	19.08%	20.83%
MORAY MEDIAN AVERAGE				4	705	336	37.82%	1,444	20.03%	21.87%
MORAY BEST ACCUMULATED SCORE								2,416	0.01%	0.01%

Data from Appendix 1 used: 1-8 & 10-19

TABLE 3 COMMENTARY

Table 3 shows the 13 lowest scoring (Highest levels of estimated poverty) data zones for combined Benefits and SIMD2020 data. Instead of SIMD overall ranking used in Table 2 rankings from the seven SIMD domains were used. This method was used to take account of the significantly differing rankings within some of the domains. For example, the data zone with the highest levels of estimated poverty in Table 3 (S01011102 – Elgin Cathedral to Ashgrove and Pinefield) Ranks as 5/126 for overall SIMD ranking yet is ranked as 45/126 for the Access domain. Eight data zones are classed as being urban and five rural, one more than the previous two tables. Similar to Table 1 & 2 all, bar one of the data zones have a higher proportion of single occupancy households in comparison to the Moray average. **All the data zones are present in at least one of the other Tables 1, 2 & 4, 11 are present in three tables and three are present in all four tables**, showing strong linkages when data is combined. Linkages are less noticeable when compared with Children Living in Low Income Families (DWP figures) and estimated poverty levels, although all data zones show higher levels of estimated poverty in comparison to the Moray average.

TABLE 4										
Top 13 Datazones with Estimated Highest Levels of Poverty (HBAI Calculation)										
Ranking	Data Zone Code	Intermediate Zone Name	ASG Area	Urban/Rural 8-Fold	Population	Number of Households	% of Single Occupancy Households	Accumulated Score (Low = Worst)*	% Low Income Families	% Estimated Poverty
1	S01011102	Elgin Cathedral to Ashgrove and Pinefield	Elgin Academy	2	569	343	58.89%	345	54.92%	59.97%
2	S01011075	Buckie Central East	Buckie High School	4	661	323	44.89%	586	50.75%	55.42%
3	S01011066	Cullen, Portknockie, Findochty, Drybridge and Berryhillock	Buckie High School	7	505	235	35.32%	1,431	46.86%	51.17%
4	S01011110	New Elgin East	Elgin High School	2	615	318	48.43%	978	43.98%	48.02%
5	S01011082	Buckie West and Mains of Buckie	Buckie High School	4	550	273	58.97%	1,093	43.85%	47.89%
6	S01011111	New Elgin East	Elgin High School	2	806	399	46.37%	577	42.24%	46.12%
7	S01011053	North Speyside	Speyside High School	6	568	290	49.31%	1,045	40.63%	44.36%
8	S01011159	Forres South West and Mannachie	Forres Academy	2	541	323	58.82%	681	40.24%	43.94%
9	S01011141	Lossiemouth West	Lossiemouth High School	3	529	233	40.34%	562	40.20%	43.90%
10	S01011089	Fochabers, Aultmore, Clochan and Ordiquish	Milne's High School	6	624	311	51.77%	531	37.36%	40.80%
11	S01011162	Forres South West and Mannachie	Forres Academy	2	495	197	35.53%	529	36.80%	40.19%
12	S01011109	New Elgin East	Elgin High School	2	707	393	46.56%	1,081	36.80%	40.18%
13	S01011154	Forres Central East and seaward	Forres Academy	2	546	345	60.00%	687	35.94%	39.25%
MORAY MEAN AVERAGE				4	760	346	37.53%	1,435	19.08%	20.83%
MORAY MEDIAN AVERAGE				4	705	336	37.82%	1,444	20.03%	21.87%
MORAY BEST ACCUMULATED SCORE								2,416	0.01%	0.01%

Data from Appendix 1 used: 1, 2, 3 & 9

TABLE 4 COMMENTARY

Table 4 shows rankings based purely upon Estimated Poverty Levels. In this report 'Estimated Poverty Levels' have been calculated using the Households Below Average Income (HBAI), Children Living in Low-Income Families and End Child Poverty data. The number of children living in low-income families is provided by the Department of Work & Pensions (DWP) at data zone area level, Local Authority and National level and is based upon 'Before Housing Costs' are taken into consideration. The number of children living in poverty is provided by End Child Poverty at Local Authority and National level is based upon 'After Housing Costs' are taken into consideration. The average proportionate difference between the number of children living in low-income families and relative child poverty data across Moray is 9.2%, there are 9.2% more children living in 'Relative Poverty' (3,341) than there are in Low-Income families (3,060). This proportionate difference was applied to the number of children living in low-income families in each data zone to calculate the number of children living in poverty which was then used to calculate the estimated poverty percentage for each data zone.

Five data zones are classed as being rural and eight urban from the 13 with the highest estimated poverty levels. Two of the data zones have lower proportions of residents in single occupancy households than the Moray average, Tables 1-3 only have one. **Seven of the data zones are also present in two of Tables 1-3 with three appearing in all four tables, six data zones are only present in table 4.** Five data zones in Table 4, which are not present in Tables 1-3, have significantly higher accumulated scores (Table 3 combined scores) showing that neither local benefits data nor SIMD data ranks them low enough to be included. The remaining data zone (S01011159 Forres South West and Mannachie) has an accumulated score and ranking (16/126) just marginally higher to be included in Tables 1-3.

TABLE 5													
DATA ZONES FROM TABLES 1-4 RANKED IN ORDER OF COMBINED SCORES (LOWEST=WORST)													
Ranking	Data Zone Code	Intermediate Zone Name	ASG Area	Urban/Rural 8-Fold	Population	Number of Households	% of Single Occupancy Households	TABLE1: Benefits RANKING	TABLE 2: SIMD2020 (OVERALL) RANKING	TABLE 3: Combined BENEFITS, SIMD (DOMAIN) RANKING	TABLE 4: Poverty RANKING	ALL RANKINGS COMBINED	Estimated Poverty
1	S01011102	Elgin Cathedral to Ashgrove and Pinefield	Elgin Academy	2	569	343	58.89%	1	5	1	1	8	59.97%
2=	S01011111	New Elgin East	Elgin High School	2	806	399	46.37%	13	3	10	6	32	46.12%
2=	S01011162	Forres South West and Mannachie	Forres Academy	2	495	197	35.53%	5	12	4	11	32	40.19%
4	S01011099	Lhanbryde, Urquhart, Pitgavney and seaward	Milne's High School	6	696	360	43.89%	5	6	3	19	33	35.66%
5	S01011089	Fochabers, Aultmore, Clochan and Ordiquish	Milne's High School	6	624	311	51.77%	8	18	5	10	41	40.80%
6	S01011154	Forres Central East and seaward	Forres Academy	2	546	345	60.00%	9	4	17	13	43	39.25%
7	S01011075	Buckie Central East	Buckie High School	4	661	323	44.89%	23	8	11	2	44	55.42%
8	S01011141	Lossiemouth West	Lossiemouth High School	3	529	233	40.34%	4	25	7	9	45	43.90%
9	S01011101	Elgin Cathedral to Ashgrove and Pinefield	Elgin Academy	2	601	245	43.67%	10	2	12	29	53	29.85%
10	S01011092	Heldon West, Fogwatt to Inchberry	Elgin High School	2	642	295	41.69%	3	1	2	50	56	25.47%
11=	S01011077	Buckie Central East	Buckie High School	4	732	331	55.89%	7	13	6	33	59	28.81%
11=	S01011159	Forres South West and Mannachie	Forres Academy	2	541	323	58.82%	21	14	16	8	59	43.94%
13	S01011125	Elgin Bishopmill East and Ladyhill	Elgin Academy	2	462	221	52.94%	17	9	15	22	63	33.76%
14=	S01011061	Keith and Fife Keith	Keith Grammar School	4	843	456	51.10%	14	10	13	27	64	32.27%
14=	S01011163	Forres South West and Mannachie	Forres Academy	2	725	357	46.50%	2	27	9	26	64	33.13%
16	S01011165	Forres South West and Mannachie	Forres Academy	2	702	368	50.82%	16	7	8	46	77	25.77%
17	S01011161	Forres South West and Mannachie	Forres Academy	2	581	266	47.37%	12	24	18	31	85	29.50%
18	S01011110	New Elgin East	Elgin High School	2	615	318	48.43%	43	23	26	4	96	48.02%
19	S01011053	North Speyside	Speyside High School	6	568	290	49.31%	31	30	30	7	98	44.36%
20	S01011076	Buckie Central East	Buckie High School	4	664	361	46.26%	11	37	20	34	102	28.75%
21	S01011082	Buckie West and Mains of Buckie	Buckie High School	4	550	273	58.97%	82	15	36	5	138	47.89%
22	S01011103	Elgin Cathedral to Ashgrove and Pinefield	Elgin Academy	2	539	333	54.95%	39	11	24	67	141	20.59%
23	S01011109	New Elgin East	Elgin High School	2	707	393	46.56%	25	93	34	12	164	40.18%
24	S01011066	Cullen, Portknockie, Findochty, Drybridge and Berryh	Buckie High School	7	505	235	35.32%	61	110	60	3	234	51.17%
				TOTALS	14,903	7,576	48.76%					76	38.53%
				MORAY	95,710	43,651	37.53%					252	20.83%

Data from Appendix 1 used: 1-19

TABLE 5 COMMENTARY

Table 5 shows all 24 data zones that are present in at least one of Tables 1-4. When all the data zones are brought together into one table it forms a more consistent picture of where poverty in Moray is most likely to be more prevalent. The data zones which are present in one or more table appear in the top 16 when all assessment methods are combined. The rankings in the table columns show where each data zone is placed (1-126) in each of the assessment methods for all Moray data zones. These 24 data zones are almost representative of the highest 20% (19%) of Moray data zones with regards to levels of estimated poverty. They also represent 16% of Moray's population. With the population proportion being less than the data zone proportion it appears to indicate that higher levels of poverty are more likely in data zones with smaller populations, smaller population data zones are more prevalent in urban areas. Nine (38%) of data zones in Table 5 are classed as remote or rural, yet 53% of data zones and 56% of the population of Moray reside in remote and rural areas, this would appear to add further support the argument that the likelihood of being in poverty is significantly greater living in an urban areas. 22 (92%) of the data zones have higher proportions of single occupancy households than the Moray average, in comparison 52% of Moray data zones have single occupancy rates higher than the average. This adds weight to the argument that single occupancy is an indicator of higher levels of poverty. All, bar one, of the 24 data zones have higher estimated poverty levels in comparison with the Moray average. There are some anomalies within the table, shown by the lighter coloured cells, however these represent only 6% of the overall data.

TABLE 6

INTERMEDIATE ZONES RANKED IN ORDER BY COMBINED SCORES (LOWEST=WORST)

Ranking	Intermediate Zone Name	ASG Area	Number of Data Zones	Urban/Rural 8-Fold	Total Population	Total No of Households	% of Single Occupancy Households	AVERAGE Based on number of Data Zones					Estimated Poverty
								TABLE1: Benefits SCORE	TABLE 2: SIMD2020 (OVERALL) SCORE	TABLE 3: Combined BENEFITS, SIMD (DOMAIN) SCORE	TABLE 4: Poverty SCORE	ALL SCORES COMBINED	
1	Forres South West and Mannachie	Forres Academy	8	2	5,235	2,473	44.68%	19	37	24	31	111	32.57%
2	New Elgin East	Elgin High School	5	2	3,982	1,774	43.69%	32	39	26	22	119	35.28%
3	Elgin Cathedral to Ashgrove and Pinefield	Elgin Academy	6	2	4,159	2,060	47.86%	30	19	24	52	126	27.49%
4	Buckie Central East	Buckie High School	5	4	3,366	1,608	42.48%	33	30	35	43	141	30.80%
5	Keith and Fife Keith	Keith Grammar School	5	4	4,488	2,280	45.96%	39	41	39	39	159	30.09%
6	Elgin Bishopmill East and Ladyhill	Elgin Academy	5	2	3,242	1,596	44.55%	45	47	47	60	199	23.19%
7	Lossiemouth West	Lossiemouth High School	6	3	4,192	1,532	35.97%	50	60	53	65	228	19.83%
8	Fochabers, Aultmore, Clochan and Ordiquish	Milne's High School	3	6	2,471	1,173	40.32%	61	64	57	53	235	23.31%
9	Cullen, Portknockie, Findochty, Drybridge and Berryh	Keith Grammar School	8	7	5,584	2,368	34.46%	67	70	62	58	256	26.24%
10	South Speyside and the Cabrach	Speyside High School	5	7	4,154	1,856	34.27%	68	65	71	56	260	23.29%
11	Mosstodloch, Portgordon and seaward	Buckie High School	5	6	3,532	1,645	32.95%	64	74	65	65	268	19.94%
12	Buckie West and Mains of Buckie	Buckie High School	5	4	4,945	2,292	38.70%	78	51	64	76	269	12.23%
13	Lhanbryde, Urquhart, Pitgavney and seaward	Elgin Academy	5	5	3,432	1,676	33.53%	63	69	68	71	271	19.40%
14	Forres Central East and seaward	Forres Academy	6	2	3,659	1,939	49.61%	66	72	74	74	287	15.81%
15	New Elgin West	Elgin High School	5	2	4,058	1,750	35.77%	76	79	74	63	293	17.47%
16	North Speyside	Speyside High School	5	6	3,614	1,691	38.26%	71	74	76	74	295	18.94%
17	Lossiemouth East and Seatown	Lossiemouth High School	5	3	3,365	1,594	39.15%	65	78	76	100	320	8.49%
18	Findhorn, Kinloss and Pluscarden Valley	Forres Academy	5	6	3,768	1,562	33.29%	88	81	87	65	321	21.41%
19	Rural Keith and Strathisla	Speyside High School	5	7	3,124	1,315	28.37%	100	65	89	69	324	18.70%
20	Rafford, Dallas, Dyke to Dava	Forres Academy	4	5	4,307	1,840	27.50%	78	78	88	83	326	15.81%
21	Burghead, Roseisle and Laich	Lossiemouth High School	6	6	5,507	2,208	31.88%	83	98	88	63	331	16.70%
22	Elgin Bishopmill West and Newfield	Elgin Academy	5	2	3,119	1,365	31.50%	85	78	80	92	335	9.83%
23	Heldon West, Fogwatt to Inchberry	Milne's High School	5	4	5,340	2,522	26.17%	85	76	85	90	336	12.87%
24	Elgin Central West	Elgin Academy	4	2	3,067	1,532	36.29%	117	104	109	87	417	13.45%
TOTAL/AVERAGE			126	4	95,710	43,651	37.53%	65	65	65	65	259	20.83%

Data from Appendix 1 used: 1-19

TABLE 6 COMMENTARY

Table 6 shows data for the whole of Moray by Intermediate zones. Intermediate zones are larger geographic areas built from their constituent data zones. As the table shows there are 24 intermediate zones in Moray with an average population size of around 4,000 residents. As there are differing numbers of data zones in each intermediate zone, to allow for comparisons, the scores are calculated by adding the totals for the data zones (within each intermediate zone) then dividing the total score by the number of data zones within each intermediate zone, creating an Intermediate zone average. Whilst data zones provide an insight into small pockets of poverty, intermediate zones, although still relatively small geographic areas, provide insights into more defined and recognisable areas. For example, rather than examining 30 data zones for Elgin, we can instead examine 6 defined and recognisable areas. The table is ranked in order of estimated poverty (All Combined Scores) with 1 having the highest estimated levels. Darker shaded areas appear consistently more often towards the top of the table showing greater accuracy of the data at intermediate zone level. Those ranked 1-5 in the table are relatively close when combined scores are compared and show a fairly uniform increase, then there is a significant increase after which there is a more uniform increase towards the bottom of the table until 24 is reached which has a significantly higher score (Lower estimated poverty) than the preceding zone. Although anomalies still exist there is more consistency when overall combined scores are compared with estimated poverty with intermediate zones ranked 1-5 also having the highest levels of estimated poverty in Moray.

TABLE 7 ASG AREAS RANKED IN ORDER BY COMBINED SCORES (LOWEST=WORST)												
Ranking	ASG Area	Number of Data Zones	Urban/Rural 8-Fold	Total Population	Total No of Households	% of Single Occupancy Households	AVERAGE Based on number of Data Zones					Estimated Poverty
							TABLE1: Benefits SCORE	TABLE 2: SIMD2020 (OVERALL) SCORE	TABLE 3: Combined BENEFITS, SIMD (DOMAIN) SCORE	TABLE 4: Poverty SCORE	ALL SCORES COMBINED	
1	Elgin High School	13	2	11,928	5,417	35.50%	56	62	54	51	223	22.12%
2	Buckie High School	19	5	14,703	6,665	37.93%	62	55	56	57	230	22.71%
3=	Forres Academy	23	3	16,969	7,814	39.58%	56	63	62	59	240	22.49%
3=	Keith Grammar School	10	5	7,758	3,652	39.59%	69	52	61	58	240	24.52%
5	Elgin Academy	22	2	15,290	7,364	39.15%	66	61	63	74	264	18.38%
6	Milne's High School	11	6	7,693	3,624	35.35%	68	67	68	70	273	19.29%
7	Speyside High School	11	7	8,305	3,781	35.70%	71	70	75	61	277	22.22%
8	Lossiemouth High School	17	4	13,064	5,334	35.23%	66	79	72	74	291	16.15%
TOTAL/AVERAGE		126	4	95,710	43,651	37.53%	63	63	63	63	252	20.83%

Data from Appendix 1 used: 1-19

TABLE 7 COMMENTARY

Associated School Group Areas (ASG) are areas commonly used within the Council to determine need and the delivery of services. ASG's are formed from the constituent data zones. With ASG's being on average three times larger than Intermediate Zones the ability to identify defined areas of poverty is reduced significantly, in effect the quality of information is diluted whereby the differences between ASG's is less noticeable. From Table 6 we know that the Forres South West and Mannachie Intermediate Zone is likely to have the highest poverty levels, yet the Forres ASG area is ranked as 3rd highest. The Elgin Cathedral to Ashgrove and Pinefield is likely to have the 3rd highest level of poverty, yet Elgin Academy ASG is the 5th highest ranked ASG area. If ASG information is used as a mechanism to decide the level of resources allocated to mitigate poverty there is a significant risk that these resources will not influence the mitigation as effectively as would be achieved at Intermediate zone level.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The author recognises that although benefit awards and entitlement data are large contributory factors in determining poverty as defined, there are other factors which also contribute to determining levels of poverty. Data for other recognised poverty drivers, such as fuel prices and availability, have not been used to determine rankings in this report, this is due to data not being available at small geography level.

There are other factors which have been excluded from this report, such as the continuing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the cost-of-living crisis, as these are unknown factors at present and insufficient data exists to form accurate conclusions. With Moray being a low-wage economy, these factors are likely to have a negative impact on poverty levels over the course of the next few years.

In addition to the tables in this report a table ranking all 126 data zones in Moray can be provided.

CONCLUSION

The tables in this report have shown the estimated poverty levels by using different data sets and by applying this data to different sized geographies. The data sets if analysed in isolation will form, in some cases, very different conclusions. In the authors opinion it is clear that there are significant differences when SIMD 2020 (Geography based) data is compared with benefits (People based) data, this is a prime example of why SIMD data should not be used to assume that all people in an area with high levels of deprivation are deprived and possibly in poverty.

Probably the most surprising data to come from tables 1-4 are the significant differences identified when comparing the poverty data in table 4 with the data in the preceding three tables. Only seven (54%) data zones in Table 4 (Poverty table) appear in Tables 1-3. The data used by 'End Child Poverty' to estimate poverty is based on nationally published data and heavily weighted by 'Children Living in Low Income Families', it takes no account of locally claimed benefits, some of which are only available within Moray, or Scotland. The smallest geography for which the data is produced by 'End Child Poverty' is at Local Authority/Parliamentary constituency level so it is unable to make estimations for much smaller geographies such as data and intermediate zones. 'Children Living in Low Income Families' data is however published at data zone level. By using the methods as described in the commentary of Table 4 the author is confident that the estimated poverty levels calculated are, whilst not exact, as accurate as possible based upon available data. The disparity between the data zones with the highest and lowest levels of poverty shocked the author. From a couple of data zones having virtually no children living in poverty to three data zones where more than 50% of children were estimated to be living in relative poverty.

Tables 1-4 do share many similarities as described within the commentaries for each. Three data zones exist in all tables, the author concludes, without any doubt, that these are the small 'pockets' with the highest poverty levels in Moray. Along with the remaining 21 data zones in Table 5, these most likely to represent the 20% highest levels of poverty in Moray. All, bar one, of these data zones have estimated poverty levels higher than the Moray average. In total 65 of Moray's data zones have poverty levels higher than the mean average of 20.83%.

When the data is analysed by Intermediate zone it shows poverty levels in defined and recognisable areas. When combined into one table the shading, identifying areas with higher estimated levels of poverty, are clearly defined towards the top of the table. It is the author's view that the data provided within Table 6 (Intermediate zone analysis) provides the most valid and beneficial data in determining where services to mitigate poverty should be targeted.

It is the author's view that the analysis of the data at ASG level provides an inadequate picture of the levels of poverty within Moray and is unsuitable to be used to target services in the mitigation of poverty.

APPENDIX 1: DATA SOURCES

NATIONAL SOURCES

1. National Records of Scotland (NRS): Mid-year population estimates by Data Zone 2020
2. National Records of Scotland (NRS): Small area household estimates by Data Zone 2021
3. Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) Stat-Xplore: Children living in Low Income Families 2020/21
4. Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) Stat-Xplore: Carers Allowance (November 2021)
5. Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) Stat-Xplore: Disability Living Allowance (DLA) (November 2021)
6. Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) Stat-Xplore: Personal Independence Payment (PIP) (April 2022)
7. Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) Stat-Xplore: Universal Credit (June 2022)
8. Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) 2020
9. End Child Poverty 2020/21

LOCAL SOURCES (BENEFITS AND MONEY ADVICE SERVICE)

10. Child Tax Credits (CTR), 31 December 2021
11. Housing Benefit (HB), 31 December 2021
12. Flexible Food Fund (FFF), 31 December 2021
13. Free School Meals (FSM) SEEMIS Snapshot, June 2022
14. MAMS Income Maximisation (IM), 2021/22
15. MAMS Money Advice (MA), 2021/22
16. MAMS Welfare Benefits (WB), 2021/22
17. Discretionary Housing Payments (DHP), 2021/22
18. Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA), 2021/22
19. Scottish Welfare Fund (SWF), 2021/22