

Policy and Sustainability Committee

10.00am, Tuesday 30 November 2021

Adaptation and Renewal Update

Item Number	
Executive/Routine	Executive
Wards	All
Council Commitments	

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 Note the Council's latest Covid-19 position following the statement from the First Minister on Tuesday, 26 October 2021 and associated Scottish Government guidance.
- 1.2 Note the Covid-19 Response Dashboard at Appendix 1.
- 1.3 Note the decisions taken to date under urgency provisions from 24 September to 12 November 2021 at Appendix 2.

Andrew Kerr
Chief Executive

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Policy and Sustainability Committee

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 The City of Edinburgh Council continues to respond to the Covid-19 global pandemic and adhere to all Scottish Government guidelines on the reopening of services. Scotland now has limited restrictions remaining, including the wearing of face coverings and a limit to numbers within venues - depending on the event.
- 1.2 This is the thirteenth report to Committee and includes the latest Covid-19 dashboard and details decisions taken in the period 24 September to 12 November 2021 at the Council Incident Management Team (CIMT).
- 1.3 Dona Milne, Director of Public Health and Health Policy from NHS Lothian will also be in attendance at the Committee and a separate update on vaccination roll out will be circulated to the Committee, in advance.

2. Background

Responding to Covid-19

- 2.1 The Chief Executive continues to chair the weekly CIMT meeting and, in consultation with the Leader and Deputy Leader. As restrictions evolve and change depending on the pandemic, CIMT will continue to respond, plan and communicate to the organisation the altered ways of operating.

First Minister's Update on Restrictions

- 2.2 On 26 October 2021 the First Minister provided an update on current measures including an assessment of current Covid-19 case numbers – noted to have decreased by 60% in the previous five weeks. It was acknowledged that while the situation in terms of infection rate had ameliorated since August 2021, this progress may soon be undermined by anticipated winter pressures. In consideration of this, the Cabinet agree to leave the regulations currently in place unchanged.
- 2.3 On 23 November 2021, a further update was announced which confirmed no changes to the current legal restrictions with one exception. From 6 December 2021 a negative test can be used as proof for access to the current restricted venues and there is no extension of the types of venues included.

- 2.4 In a plea to the public however, the First Minister asked for continued take up of the vaccine where applicable and to test more regularly before heading out to hospitality and/or meeting up in groups.
- 2.5 The vaccine programme continues to progress at pace and the Covid-19 booster programme is underway. Those eligible for the booster are:
- those living in residential care homes for older adults
 - frontline health and social care workers
 - all adults aged 40 years or over
 - adults aged 16 to 39 years with underlying health conditions that put them at higher risk of severe coronavirus
 - adult carers (aged 16 or over)
 - household contacts (aged 16 or over) of immunosuppressed individuals
- 2.6 Apace with the booster vaccine programme the NHS plans to deliver more than four million flu vaccines this winter. Booster and flu vaccines will be administered at the same appointment, where feasible to do so.
- 2.7 A further update on the vaccine programme will be made available by Dona Milne, Director of Public Health and Health Policy for NHS Lothian, in advance of the meeting. Dona Milne will also be attending the meeting to update the Committee and respond to questions.

3. Main report

Covid-19 Dashboard

- 3.1 The Covid-19 dashboard at Appendix 1 reflects the direct and indirect impacts of Covid-19 across the short, medium and longer term. It contains a wide range of information which highlights how Covid-19 continues to impact Edinburgh and, more specifically, Council services. Content for the dashboard continues to be kept under review based on the emerging situation and feedback received.
- 3.2 This monthly dashboard is supplemented with a weekly bulletin dashboard that provides the latest position on key data relating to the pandemic. This continues to be circulated to Elected Members every Thursday.

Decisions taken from 24 September to 12 November 2021

- 3.3 A full list of decisions taken under urgency provisions by the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader and Deputy Leader, from 24 September to 12 November 2021 is at Appendix 2. Matters requiring a decision under urgency powers by the Chief Executive are discussed at CIMT.
- 3.4 CIMT has taken the decision to meet once a week with the option to meet twice a week if required, the weekly meeting now takes place on a Thursday. Urgent issues are also raised weekly through the Corporate Leadership Team meeting.

- 3.5 Covid-19 specific risks are captured and presented monthly to the CIMT and are also incorporated into quarterly Corporate Leadership Team risk report presented at the Governance, Risk and Best Value (GRBV) Committee. The next paper scheduled to be presented at GRBV 14th December 2021 includes a high rated resilience risk for the Council that reflects the current Covid-19 operational resilience environment and the potential risk of concurrent resilience events that are more likely to occur during winter.

Service Resumption

Health and Safety Update

- 3.6 The Council have applied a broad 1m distancing rule between colleagues in the workplace as part of Covid-19 workplace controls. While the Scottish Government no longer specify set distancing as they once did as part of the Covid-19 controls, employers are asked to assess risk and put in place appropriate workplace controls.
- 3.7 The 1m rule is easy to communicate and relatively straight forward to deliver given typical spacing of desks allows for this distance. In addition, the requirement in law to wear a face covering only applies where people can't be more than 1m apart. Therefore, having this broad rule affords colleagues the opportunity to remove face coverings when sitting at workstations.
- 3.8 Some teams and in particular Education have applied a 2m rule in certain buildings. Currently Test and Protect pick up close contacts of confirmed Covid-19 cases where someone has been within 2m for more than 15 minutes. Therefore, from a business continuity perspective this control has merit.
- 3.9 More generally the direction and guidance from the Scottish Government and Health and Safety Executive require employers to assess risk in workplaces and put in place adequate controls, the above distancing arrangements do not replace the need for:
- good levels of ventilation;
 - hand hygiene;
 - surface cleaning;
 - respiratory hygiene (face coverings); and,
 - protective arrangements for extremely vulnerable and pregnant colleagues.
- 3.10 Currently there is a high focus from government on ventilation levels within workplaces, this is evident through the government funded programme to assess ventilation levels within all Scottish schools. Work is underway to assess the Council's operational estate and, as any legal requirements change, on face coverings a full review of the 1m/2m social distancing in Council buildings will be undertaken.

Enhanced Outbreak Response

- 3.11 In partnership with NHS Lothian and neighbouring authorities, the Council continues to operate an Enhanced Outbreak Response at this time. Asymptomatic Testing Centres (ATCs) as of the week beginning 15 November are now operating from two sites, one at McDonald Road and the other at Craigmillar Library. Due to adjustments on site we are able to keep libraries at those sites open as a way of minimising service disruption to our local communities.
- 3.12 The Council's Communications team has continued to support the Community Testing programme, using a range of communications channels (online and off) to target local communities across the city. The team is also working closely with NHS Lothian to promote the Edinburgh Vaccination Bus on a week-by-week basis.

Vaccine Certification Scheme

- 3.13 The Council's Coronavirus Compliance team has been engaging with businesses subject to the new requirement to implement a plan to check Vaccine certification for people attending certain venues or events. Anyone over the age of 18 unless exempt will be required to show that they have had both doses of a Covid-19 vaccine before they are allowed entry to the nightclubs and certain events depending on the capacity of the event.
- 3.14 The scheme itself set out by the legislation and the guidance has differing requirements based on the type of business. The Coronavirus Compliance team has been providing advice and guidance to all businesses affected to ensure their plans meets the requirements. They are also working with other regulatory teams to monitor compliance of venues to ensure plans work in practice. The team has adopted a risk-based approach, initially engaging with businesses with very large capacities and nightclubs for example where vaccine certificate compliance plans are required at all times. Both engagement and compliance across Edinburgh have been very high to date.

Vaccination Update

- 3.15 Dona Milne, Director of Public Health and Health Policy for NHS Lothian, is attending the Committee to update on the Lothian wide Covid-19 Vaccination programme. A further briefing paper from NHS Lothian colleagues will be circulated in advance of the meeting for elected members.

Adaptation and Renewal Programme - Closure

- 3.41 The Adaptation and Renewal programme was established to guide the Council's initial response to Covid-19. Since then, the Council Business Plan has been published and much of the programme has either been delivered or become business as usual.
- 3.42 A close report is therefore underway to capture deliverables and whether the original scope has been achieved. Lessons learned will also be captured to inform

this type of work in the future and will feed into the wider Covid-19 Lessons Learned.

4. Financial impact

- 4.1 The financial impacts arising from this report are dealt with in Council Business Plan and Revenue Budget 21- 26 which was considered at Finance and Resources Committee and referred to the Budget Full Council on 18 February 2021.
- 4.2 A further budget update was considered at Committee on 20 May 2021 and approved at Full Council on 27 May 2021.

5. Background reading/external references

- 5.1 [Finance and Resources 20 May Revenue Budget Framework 2021/26 Update](#)
- 5.2 [City of Edinburgh 27 May Motions and Amendments](#)
- 5.3 [Scottish Government Guidance](#)

6. Appendices

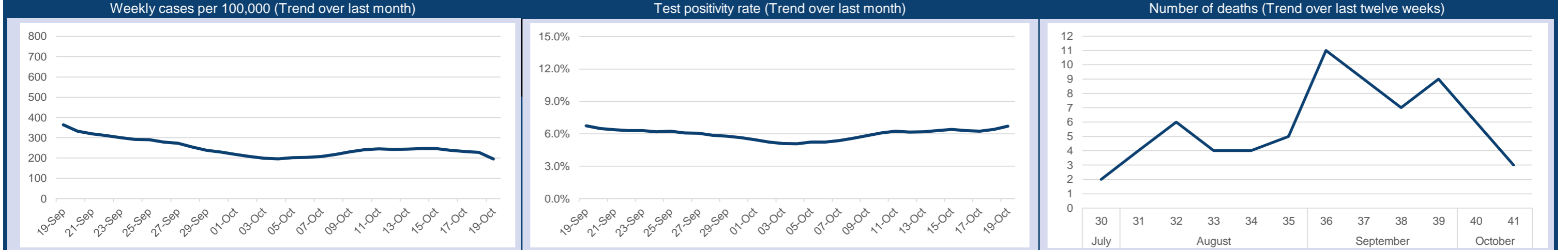
- 6.1 Appendix 1 - Covid-19 Response Dashboard
- 6.2 Appendix 2 - Decisions taken from 24 September to 12 November 2021

Covid-19: Key indicators

The figures and charts have been updated using data published daily from Public Health Scotland. Last updated to 19th October 2021

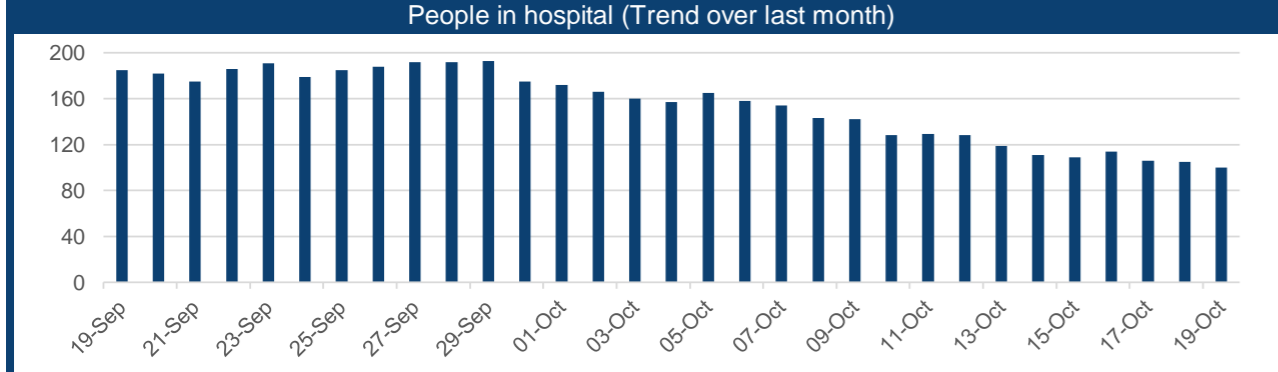
Overview of cases

196	cases per 100,000 (Edinburgh)	6.7%	Test positivity rate (Edinburgh)	3	deaths within 28 days of a positive test (Edinburgh)
▼ -47	less than last week -19.4% decrease	▲ 0.56%	more than last week 0.56% increase	▼ -3	less than last week -50.0% decrease

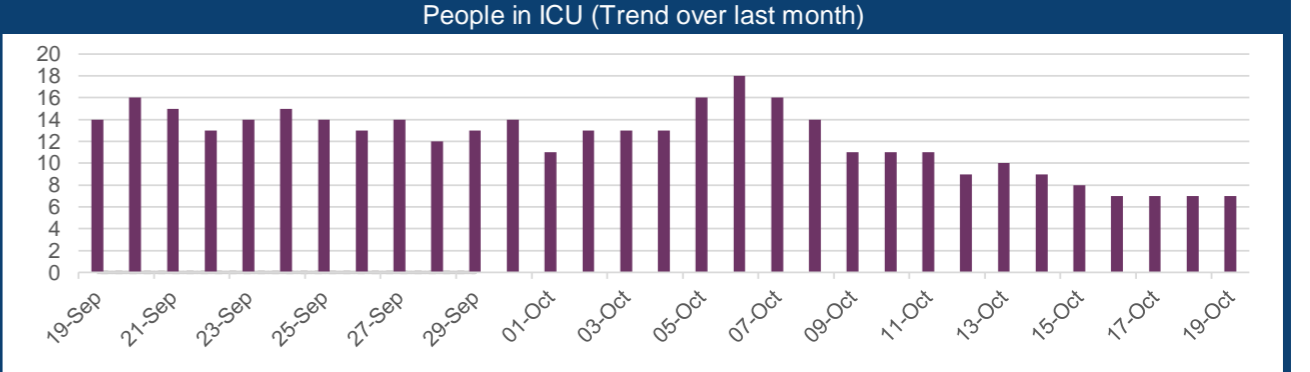


*The figures and charts are reviewed and updated as PHS publishes revised data.

100	people in hospital with Covid-19 (NHS Lothian)	-28	less than last week -21.9% decrease	7	people in ICU with Covid-19 (NHS Lothian)	-2	less than last week -22.2% decrease
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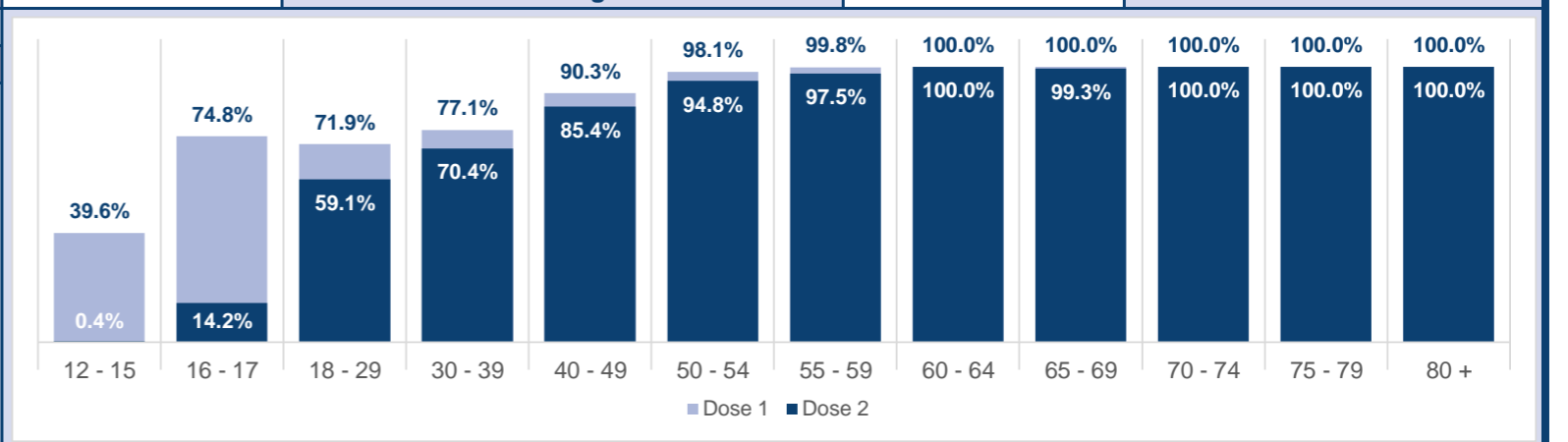
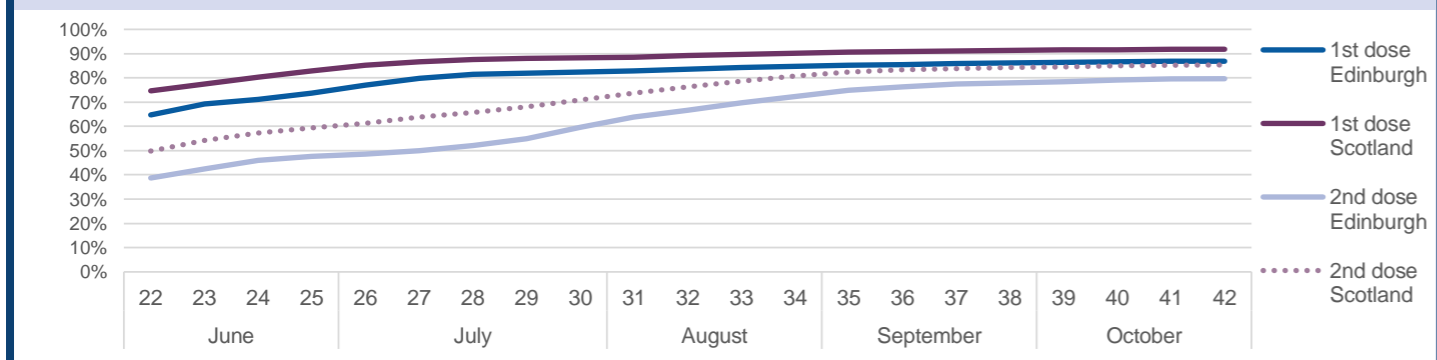


* Please be aware that if the number of Covid-19 patients in hospital or ICU is 4 or less the figure is not published. This means that the charts only show a column if the number of patients is 5 or more. The top figures will show "<5" if the number is under 5, and the change in relation to the previous week will only be calculated if both weeks figures are 5 or more.



Vaccinations

Vaccinations by dose for people over 16				Vaccinations in Edinburgh by age group (includes age group 12-15 and 16-17)			
389,597	1st dose vaccines in Edinburgh	357,239	2nd dose vaccines in Edinburgh	754,392	total number of vaccines administered in Edinburgh*	4,029	vaccines last week*
4,177,071	1st dose vaccines in Scotland	3,882,801	2nd dose vaccines in Scotland				
86.9%	1st dose coverage in Edinburgh	79.7%	2nd coverage in Edinburgh				
91.8%	1st dose coverage in Scotland	85.4%	2nd dose coverage in Scotland				



*Data excludes booster vaccine since there is no data publicly available for Edinburgh

Public Health and Safety

Public Health Data

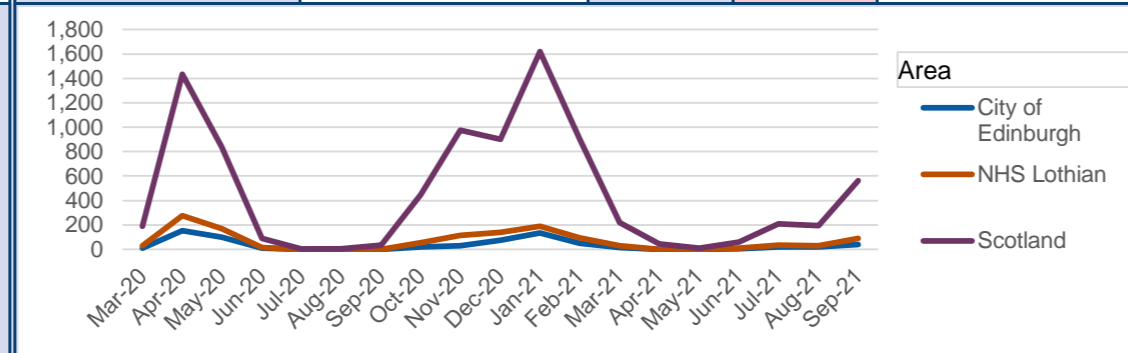
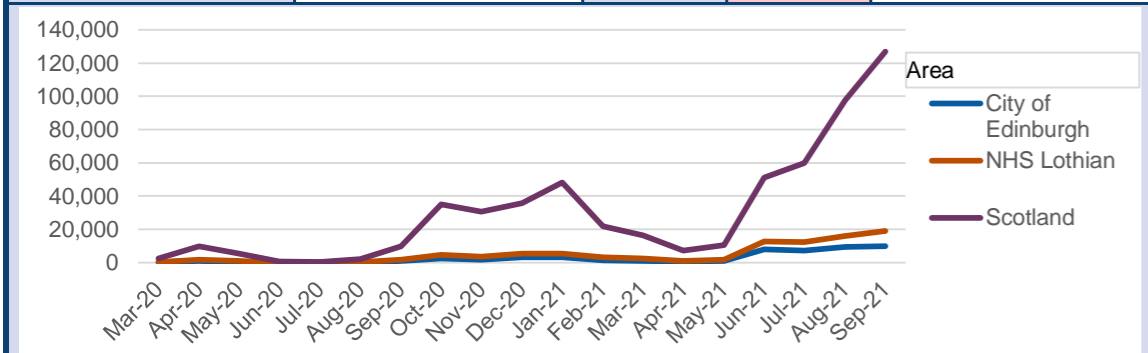
[Link for Source and further info](#)

Number of positive tests

Area	Sep-21	Difference vs last month	Cumulative
Scotland	126,899	29,456 ▲	571,360
NHS Lothian	19,035	2,879 ▲	93,411
Edinburgh	9,906	312 ▲	52,810

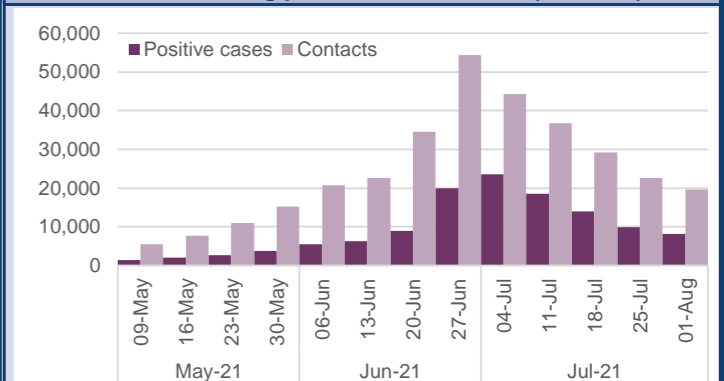
Number of deaths within 28 days of a positive test

Area	Sep-21	Difference vs last month	Cumulative
Scotland	564	372 ▲	8,732
NHS Lothian	91	59 ▲	1,282
Edinburgh	38	18 ▲	685

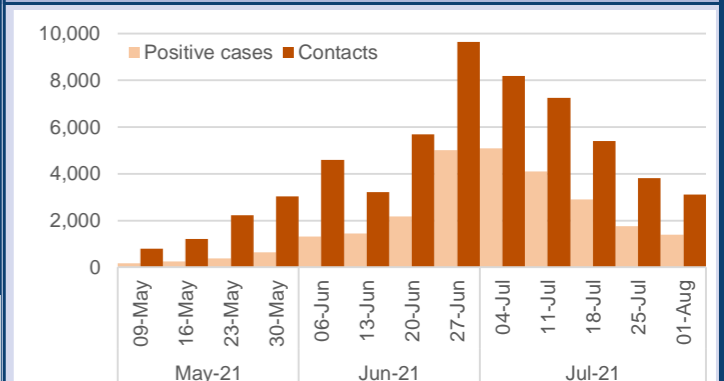


Test and Protect

Individuals testing positive and contacts* (Scotland)



Individuals testing positive and contacts* (NHS Lothian)

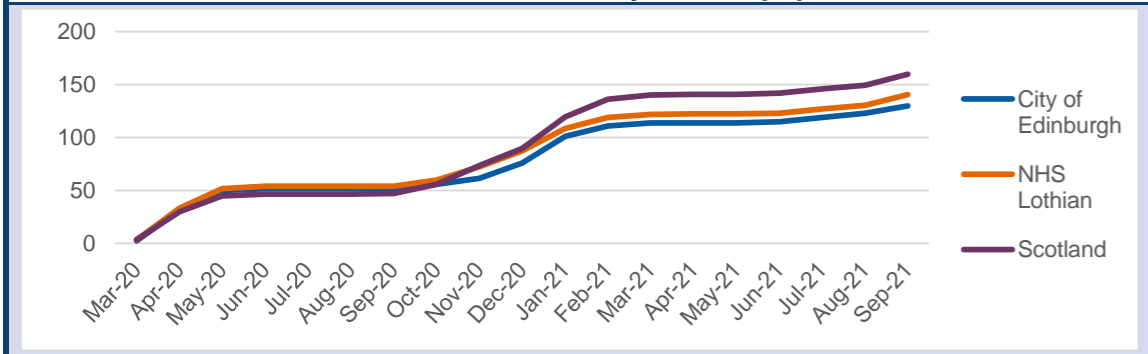


*Unique contacts within Scotland/ within health board

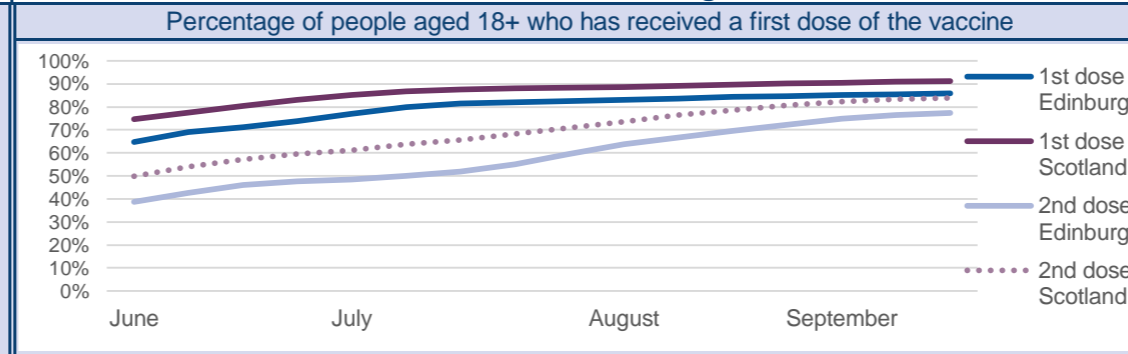
Outbound calls from CEC to self-isolating individuals

Number of outbound calls + texts	Difference vs last month
Sep-2021	4,031
	-2,050 ▼

Cumulative rate of deaths by 100,000 population

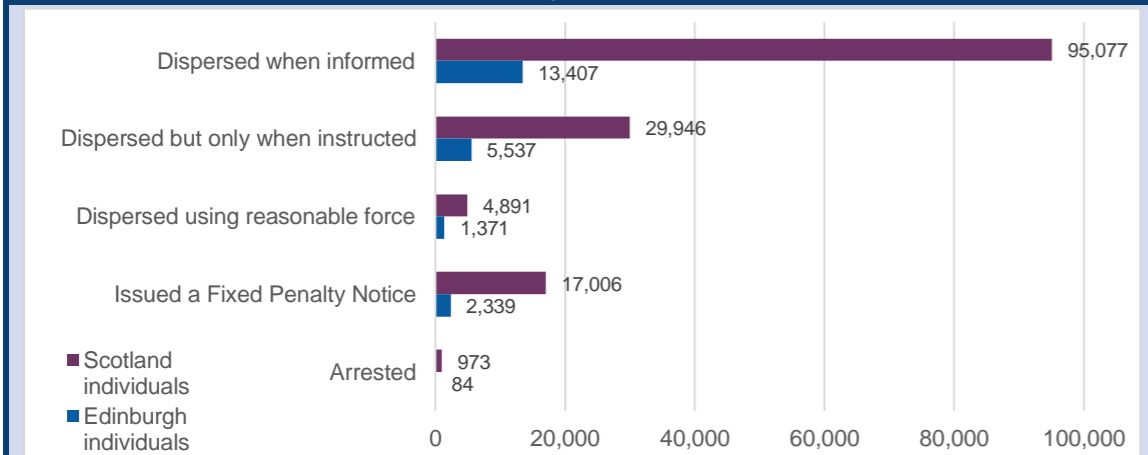


Vaccination coverage



Police enforcement for COVID-19

Cumulative from 6th Apr 2020 to 6th October 2021



Extracted from source: This system relies on Police Officers manually updating the system with the co-operation level they experienced when they encounter an individual in contravention of the new legislation.

Environmental Health & Trading Standards advice/ enforcement

Cumulative from 5th May 2020 to 20th August 2021



Advice requests: from business about how best to follow the new coronavirus guidelines.

Enquiries/complaints: about business operating when they should not or did not have in place the necessary provisions.

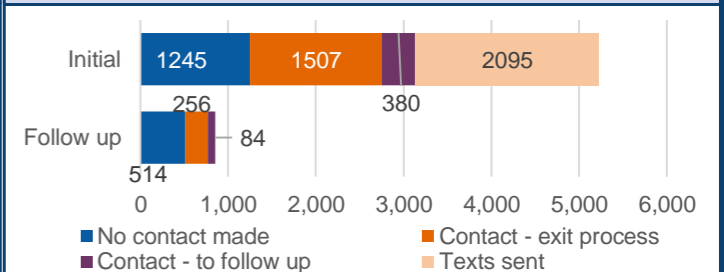
Open premises-Interventions: officer engagement with premises to explain new policy and encourage compliance

Intervention follow ups: engagement to see if action has been taken.

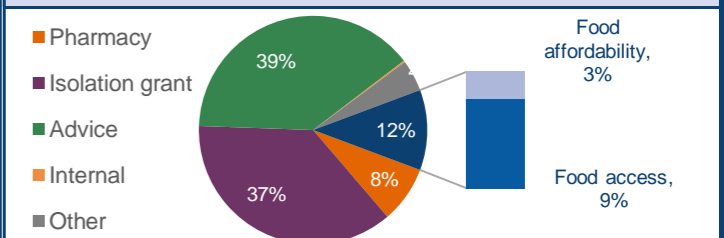
Written warnings: formal written warning for continued non-compliance.

Prohibition notices: official enforcement action for continued non-compliance.

Breakdown of cases



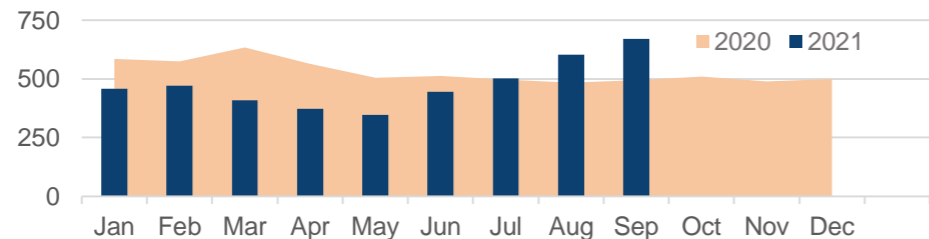
Breakdown of outcomes



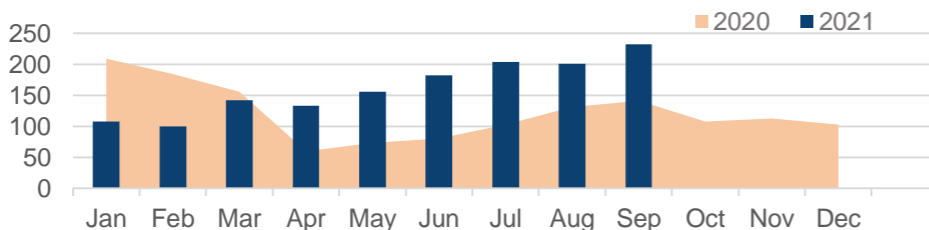
Vulnerable Groups

Health and Social Care

670



232



Schools

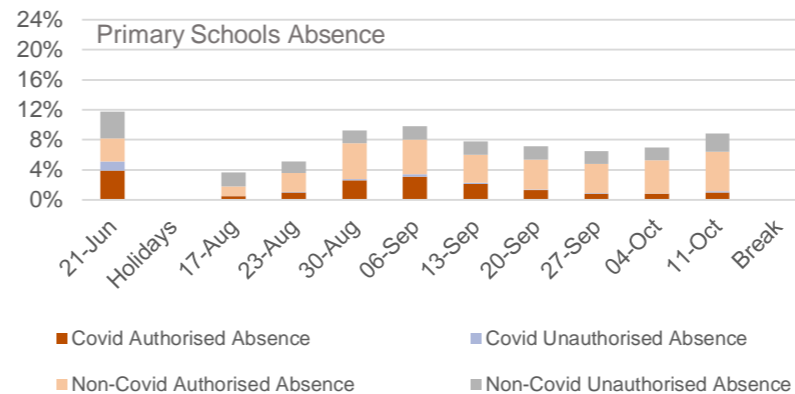
Pupil Absence in Primary Schools

0.80%

Covid authorised absence

vs last week

-0.04%



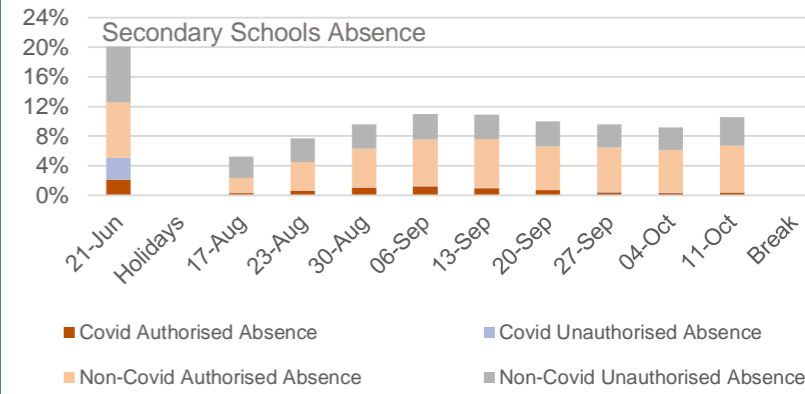
Pupil Absence in Secondary Schools

0.3%

Covid authorised absence

vs last week

-0.07%



Homelessness

Total number of homeless presentations in Sep

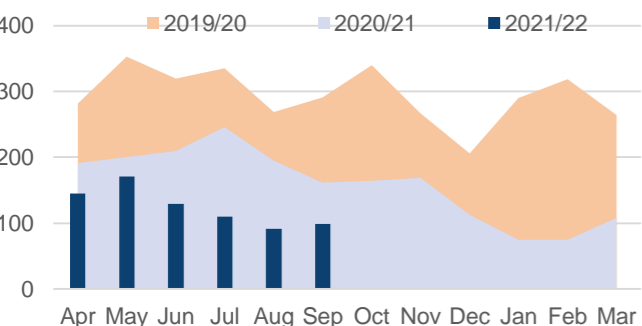
99

vs last month

8 ▲

vs last year

-63 ▼



Families with children in B&B on last day of month

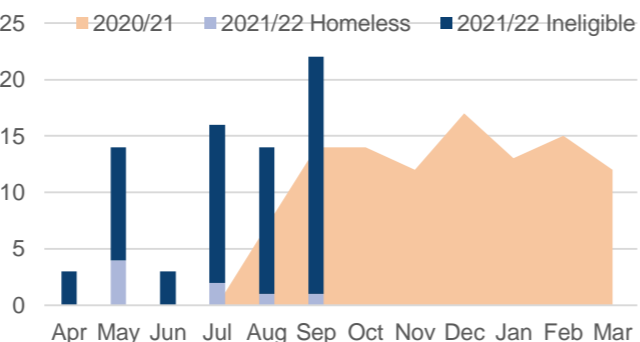
22

vs last month

8 ▲

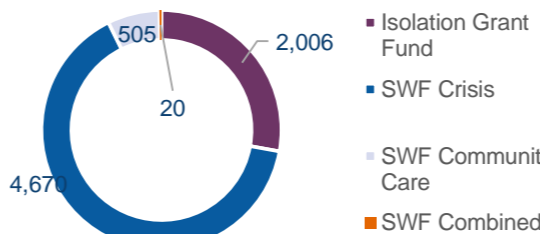
vs last year

8 ▲

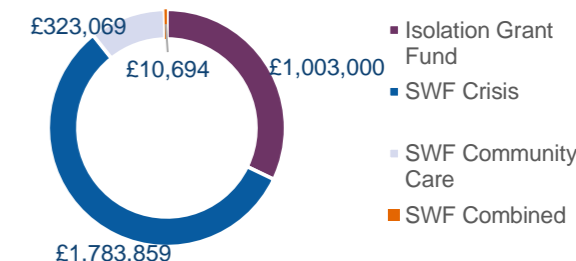


Scottish Welfare Fund and Isolation Support Grant

Volume of applications by type of grant



Funds requested by type of grant



5,195

Total number of applications excluding ISG in Sep

SWF Grants

£

2,117,622

Total funds requested excluding ISG in Sep

5,505

Cumulative applications to new Isolation Support Grant

ISF Grants

£

2,776,000

Cumulative funds requested through Isolation Grant Fund

Customer Contact

excluding Vulnerable line

Contact Centre

41,189

Number of calls to Customer Contact Centre in Sep

90.9%

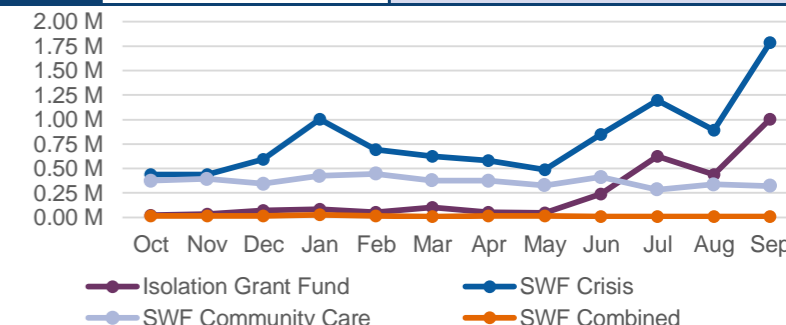
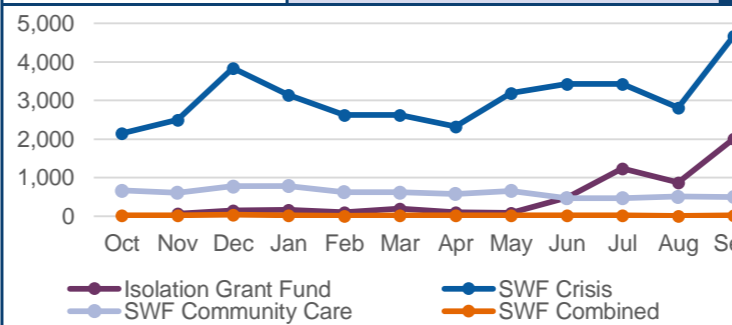
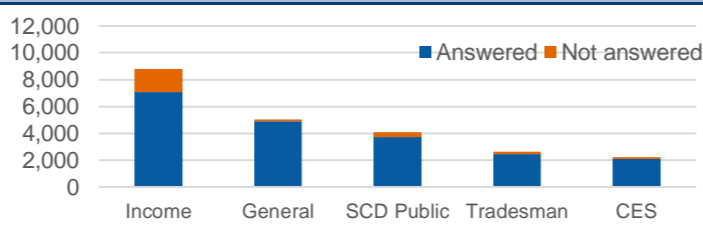
Percentage of calls answered

Council Resilience Centres

2,577

Council Resilience Centres footfall

Top 5 lines



Vulnerable line calls

499

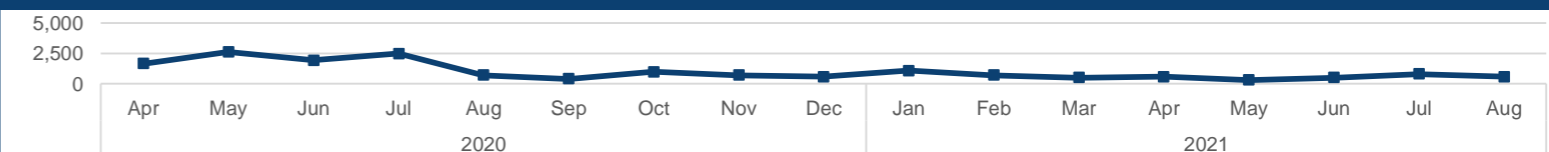
calls during Sep-2021

59

less than previous month

17,468

cumulative calls from Apr-20

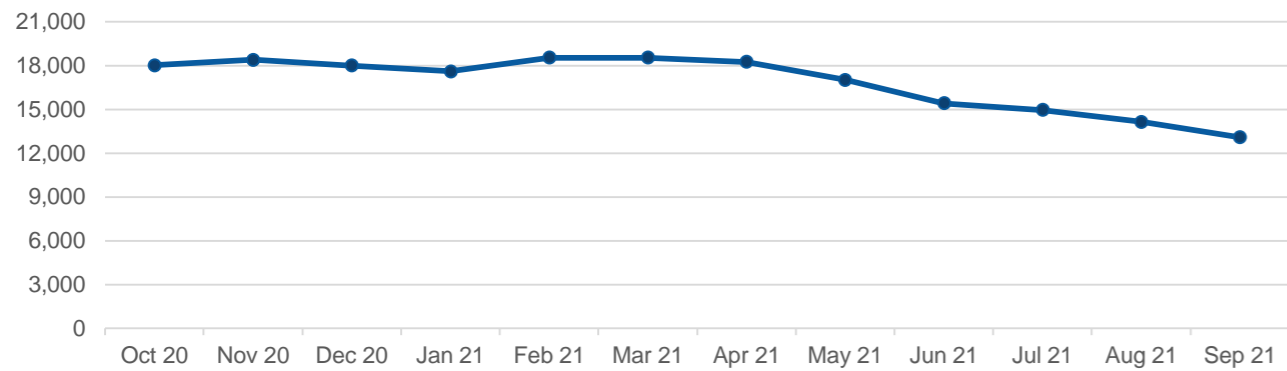


Economy

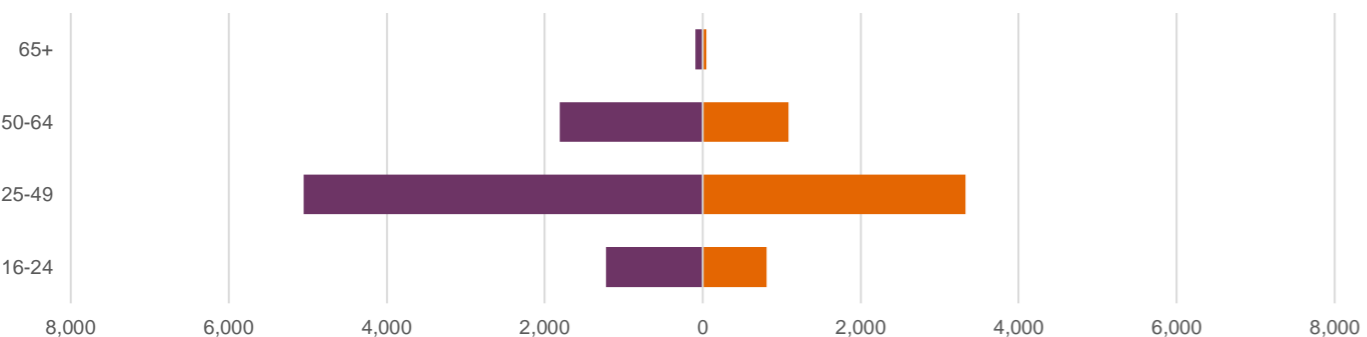
Job Seekers Allowance

Number of claimants in Sep-21	Difference vs last month (%)	This represents 3.5% of Edinburgh residents aged 16-64	Percentage of population who claims JSA by gender	
13,080	-7.50% ▼		Male ■ 4.5%	Female ■ 2.6%

Number of claimants (last 12 months)



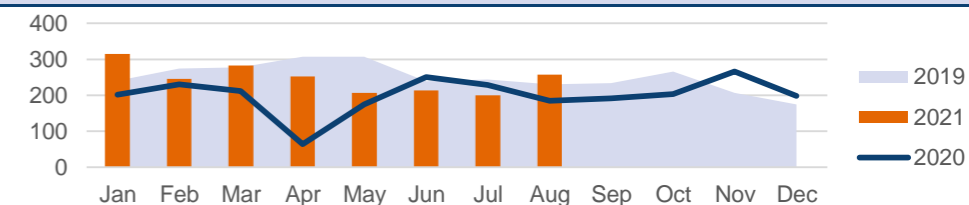
Claimants by age and gender



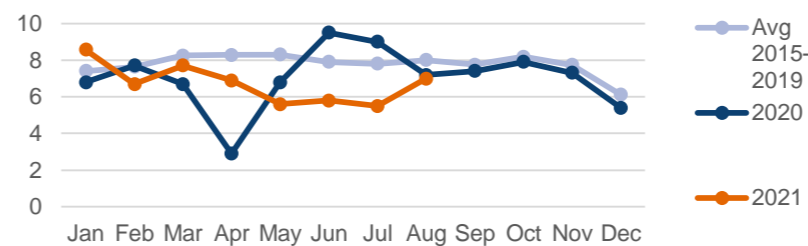
Business Start-ups in Edinburgh

New Start Ups Aug 2021	Difference vs Jul 2020
257	57 ▲
Number of new Start Ups (YTD)	Difference vs last year
1,970	424 ▲

Number of Start Ups by month

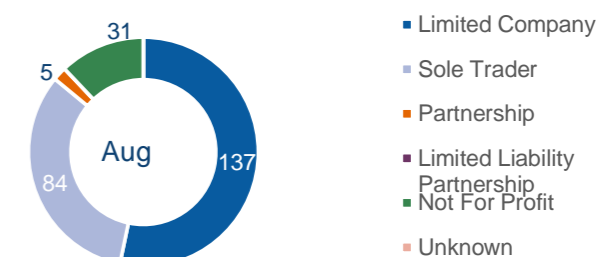


Business Start Ups rate* against 5 years average

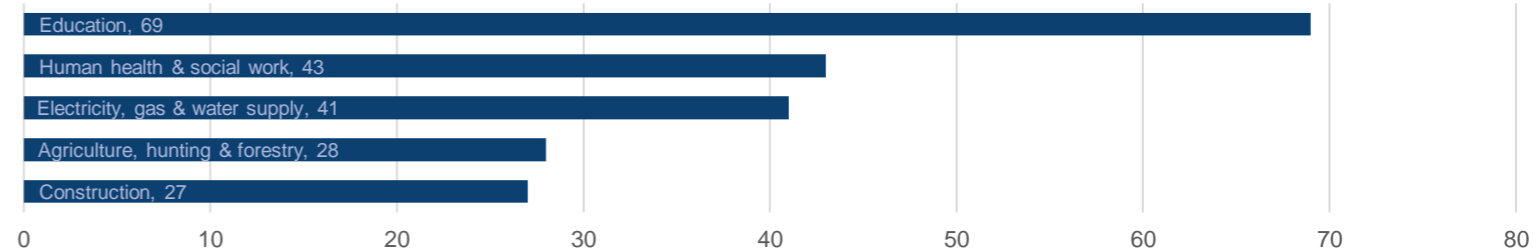


*Number of start ups/ (working population/10,000)

Start Ups by Legal Status



Start Ups by Industry (Top 5)



Resources

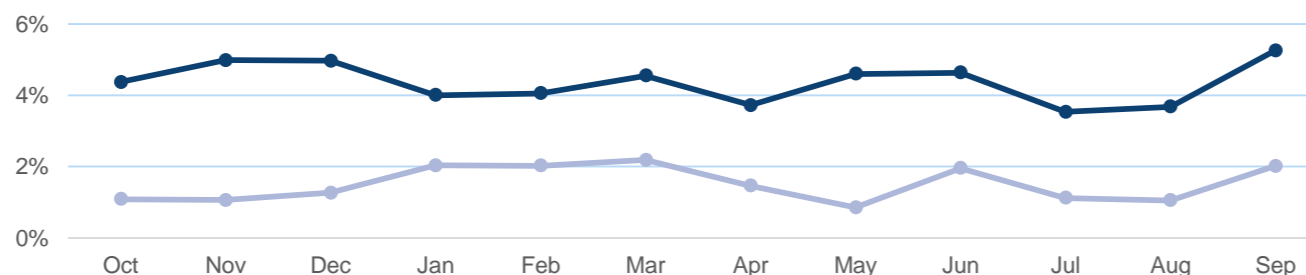
HR - Councilwide absence

Sickness absence in Sep 2021

5.3% vs last month **1.58%** ▲

Covid-19* absence in Sep 2021

2.0% vs last month **0.97%** ▲



*Covid-19 absence includes the following categories:

- COVID-19 - Can't return from travel
- COVID-19 - Care for a dependant
- COVID-19 - School or office closure
- COVID-19 - Self isolating
- COVID-19 - Sick / infected
- COVID-19 - Shielding

Appendix 2 - Decisions taken from 24 September to 12 November 2021

Ref.	Approved decisions	Date
D800	C203 Re - Introduction of Library Live Events 1) To note this proposal was agreed via email on 21/10 as a matter of urgency as the first event is due to take place on 28/10. 2) To therefore formally approve the reintroduction of an Events Programme, which is part of the Library Service Offer.	28/10/2021
D801	C205 Museums and Galleries - Exhibition Private Views To approve the resumption of Private Views for exhibitions.	28/10/2021
D802	C206 Resumption of limited museum outreach services face to face for priority groups To approve the resumption of some museum outreach services for priority groups.	28/10/2021
D803	C207 Museums & Galleries Edinburgh - resume limited in-person volunteering in venues To approve the resumption of limited in-person volunteering in museums and galleries.	28/10/2021
D804	C210 CALM Physical Intervention and Escapes Skills Instructor Training 1) To note that due to time constraints, the proposal is yet to be considered by the Service Resumption Group. To therefore approve the proposal subject to approval by the SRG.	28/10/2021
D805	C199 – ASL and Early Years 1) To approve access for ASL and EY staff into WC/the locality hubs as detailed in the report	28/10/2021
D806	Events in Parks - Friends of Montgomery Street Park Halloween Event To approve the Friends of Montgomery Street Park Halloween Event to take place in Montgomery Street Park on 31 October 2021 and enable the team to notify organisers as soon as is practicable.	28/10/2021
D807	Events in Parks – Santa Fun Run 2021 To approve the Santa Fun Run to take place in West Princes Street Gardens on 5 December 2021 and enable the team to notify organisers as soon as is practicable.	28/10/2021
D808	C209 Family Group Decision Making, Multi-Systemic Therapy and Wellbeing Nurses 1) To note this proposal was agreed via email on 04/11 as there was	11/11/2021

	<p>no CIMT meeting that week.</p> <p>2) To therefore formally approve the proposal to allow staff from Family Group Decision Making, Multi-Systemic Therapy and the Wellbeing Nurses access to use room 42, City Chambers.</p>	
D809	<p>C191 Capability Scotland Day Support Remobilisation Re-opening of Corstorphine Room Drumbrae Hub</p> <p>1) To note this proposal was agreed via email on 04/11 as there was no CIMT meeting that week.</p> <p>2) To therefore formally approve the proposal for access to the Corstorphine room within Drumbrae hub for day support service for adults with Learning disabilities.</p>	11/11/2021
D810	<p>C211 Business Support Service one staff member to support Waste Cleansing at Murrayburn Depot</p> <p>To agree the proposal to allow office working for one staff member from Business Support to support the Waste and Cleaning Service from Murrayburn Depot.</p>	11/11/2021
D811	<p>C212 Lifelong Learning Health & Wellbeing team Pilots – new Mental Health Matters materials</p> <p>To approve the proposal to allow one off access for 2 days in a CEC building for staff to finalise the new Mental Health Matters materials.</p>	11/11/2021
D812	<p>C213 Pest Control BPCA training course at main Pest Control office 20/12/2021</p> <p>To approve the proposal for the Essential Pest Control BPCA training course held at the main Pest Control office based in the grounds of Mortonhall Crematorium.</p>	11/11/2021
D813	<p>C214 Four Business Support staff to provide support for Fleet Services at Russell Road Depot</p> <p>To agree the proposal to allow office working for 4 staff members from Business Support to support Fleet Services from the Russell Road Depot as detailed in the report</p>	11/11/2021
D814	<p>C215 Essential Manual Handling and Management and Administration of Medicine refresh training for front-line care colleagues H&SC settings</p> <p>To agree the proposal to resume essential Manual Handling and Management and Administration of Medicine refresh training for front-line care colleagues H&SC settings as detailed in the report</p>	11/11/2021