



From mountain to sea

Aberdeenshire
COUNCIL



Community Impact Assessment Survey

August 2021



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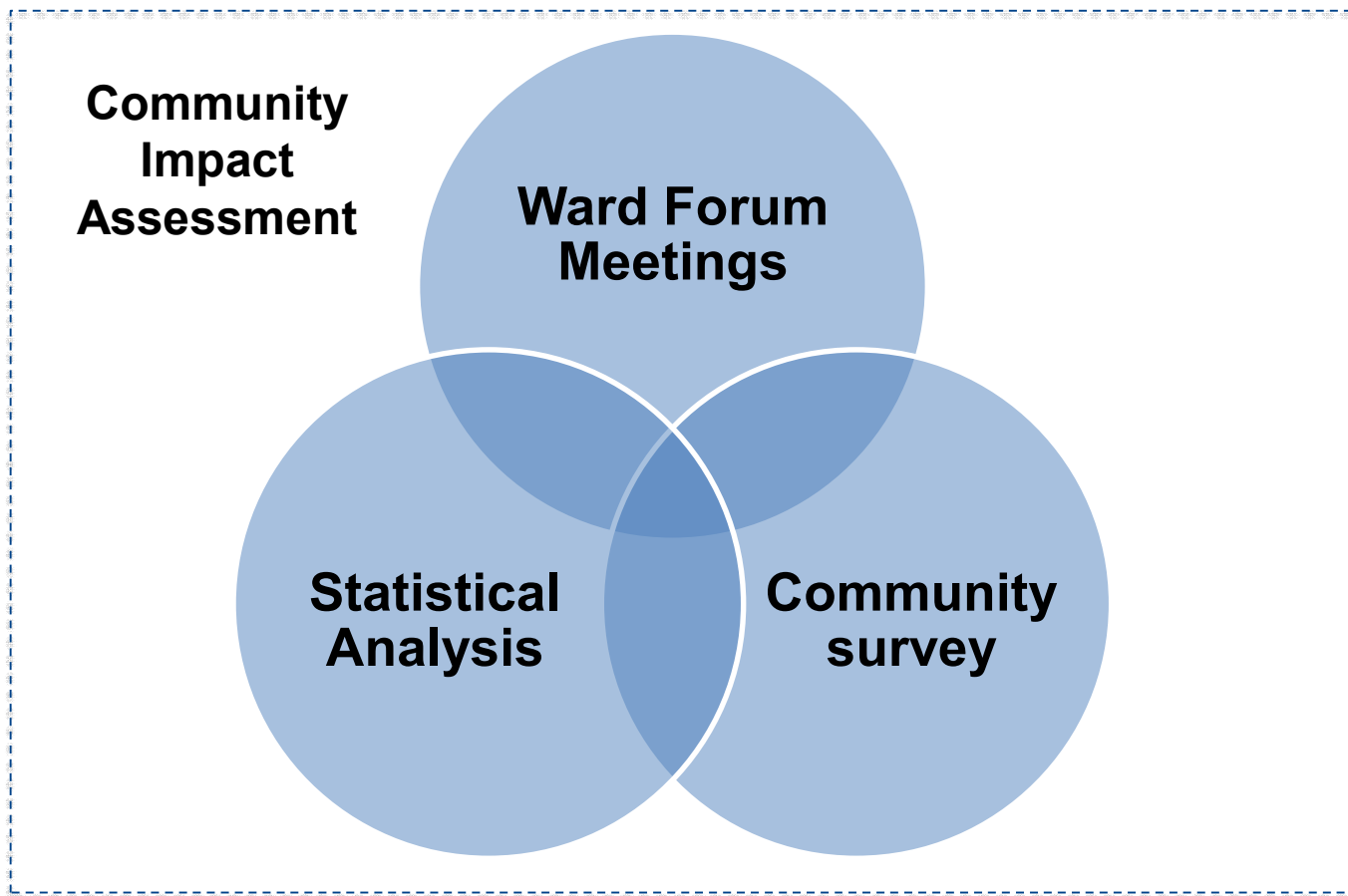


Overview

- Background
- Overview, analysis, and learning
- Impact on individuals (attitude & perceptions, behaviours, and wellbeing)
- Impact on community (connectedness, community activity, and unintended consequences)
- Impact on public services (satisfaction, changing priorities , and reputation)
- Other supporting sources
- Conclusion - emerging trends and next steps



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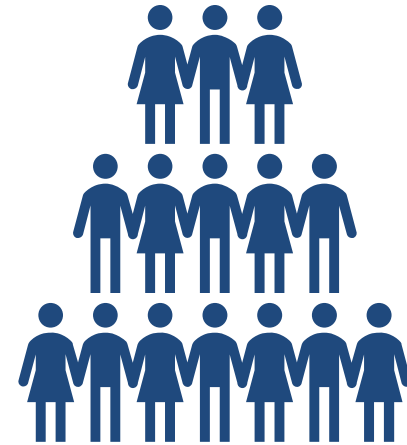


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Response, analysis, and learning

- Positive and balanced response – one of the highest responses to a Council Survey in recent months
- Broadly reflective but not representative – analysis is intrinsically subjective
- Lower response may be proxy for COVID-19/Survey fatigue
- Alternative methods may complement future work





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Female 73% and 26% Male

Housing tenure



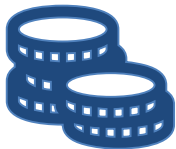
- 84% owner occupied
- 7% social rented
- 9% private rented/other

Disability

- 5% have a disability
- 2% prefer not to say



Household income



- 12% below £20,000
- 22% between £20,000 and £40,000
- 19% between £40,000 and £60,000
- 25% over £60,000

Age

- 13% over 65
- 26% 55 and 64
- 32% 45 and 54
- 18% 35-44
- 8% 25 -34
- 1% were under the age of 25

Caring responsibilities

- 17% responsible for caring for an adult
- 8% have pre-school age children
- 33% have school age children



Employment

- 73% employed
- 3% self employed
- 1% unemployed
- 1% student
- 2% unable to work
- 13% retired
- 3% looking after home/family



Area

- 15% Buchan
- 11% Banff and Buchan
- 20% Formartine
- 22% Garioch
- 14% K&M
- 18% in Marr

COVID 19

- Less than 4% tested positive. 3% believe they have had COVID.
- 6% of respondents have been on furlough.
- 15% experienced shielding.



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COVID-19 testing and vaccinations

Support among the Aberdeenshire residents to be vaccinated is strong but opinions on undertaking regular testing is less optimistic

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90% of respondents have had a vaccination or intended to be vaccinated



50% have undertaken COVID-19 lateral flow tests



34% of those respondents who had not taken a test are not willing to test regularly



The most common reasons for not wanting to be tested were:

1. Concern around accuracy
2. Concern around the impact self isolation (on return of a positive test)
3. Too much of a commitment



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Alcohol consumption



20% drinking more alcohol

with 1 in 5 of those reporting to be worried about their alcohol consumption

Physical exercise



35% doing less exercise

25% concerned around access to leisure and recreating activities

Mental health



41% more anxious or stressed

1 in 10 have accessed support services for mental health



Physical health



35% have witnessed a negative impact on their physical wellbeing

Around 1 in 4 are concerned around access to adult health and social care services

Wellbeing

Negative effects on wellbeing continue to be a concern for residents

Anxiety around accessing health and sport related services have been noted



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Education and employment

Residents remain concerned about education and employment opportunities in Aberdeenshire albeit satisfaction with learning and teaching of school pupils has been consistently high throughout the pandemic.



57% said they are concerned with future employment opportunities

41% are worried about education opportunities for themselves or a member of their household





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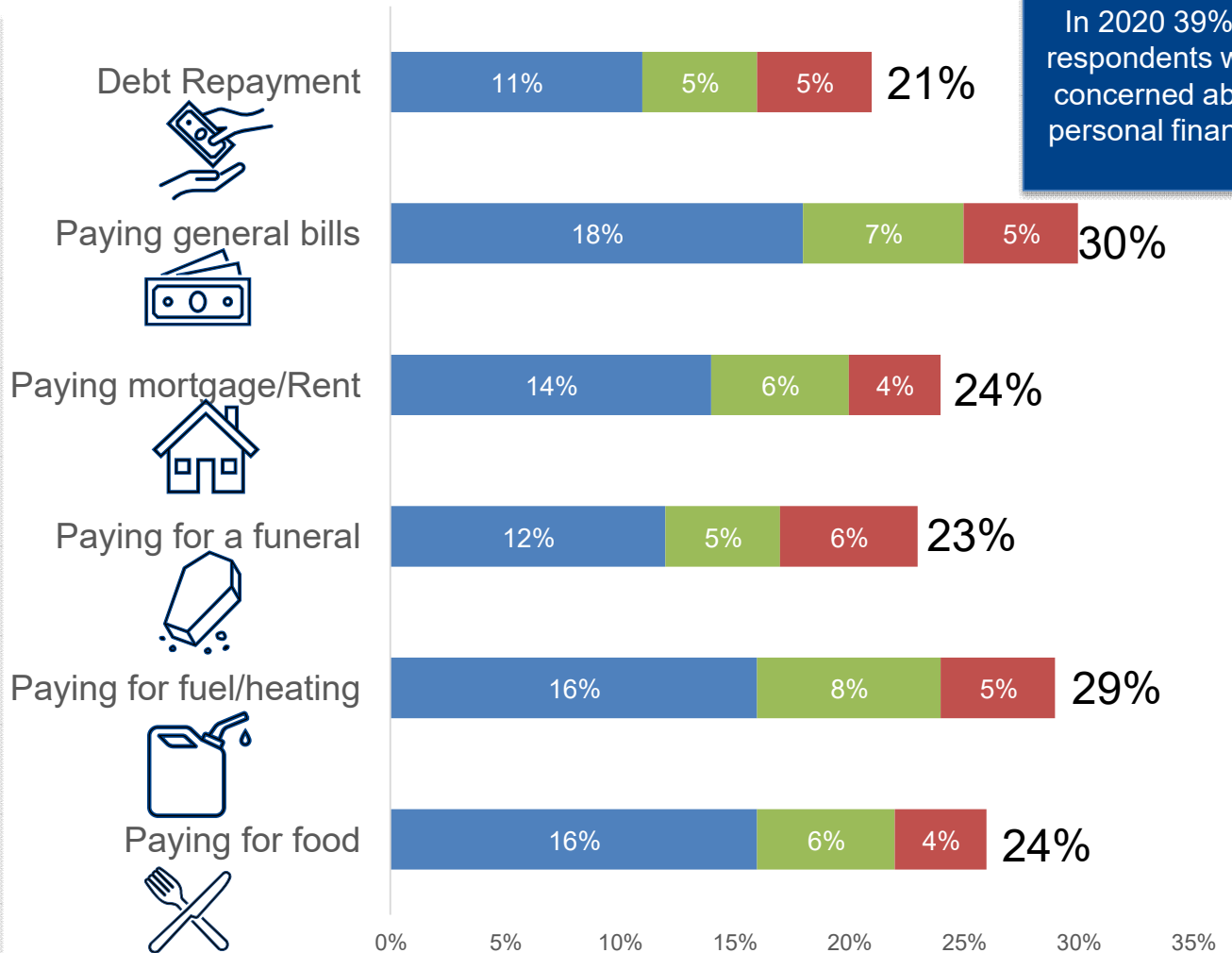
% concerned with

A little concerned Fairly concerned Very concerned

Personal finances

A significant number of residents are concerned about the impact that COVID-19 will have on their personal finances although in general, less so when compared with 2020

In 2020 39% of respondents were concerned about personal finances



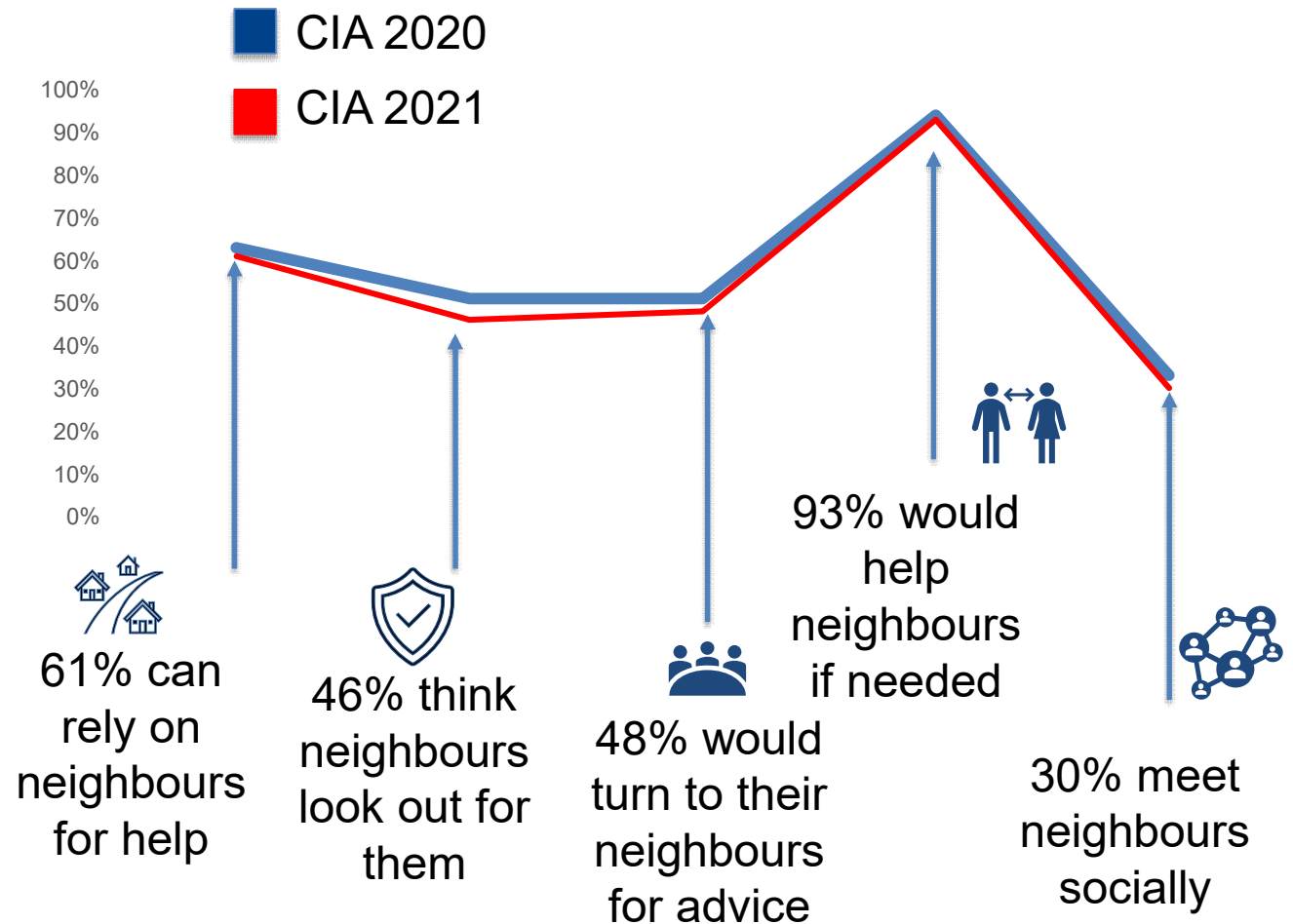


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Community Connections

Cohesion within communities is consistent with 2020 and is higher than in pre COVID-19 times





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Volunteering



32% have given up time to help groups, clubs or organisations (an increase compared to 2020)

Participation in decision making



Nearly everyone thinks it is a good idea for the local community to be more involved in decision making and the design and delivery of public services

Community Safety



More people feel safe in their local area than unsafe

Relationships



28% of people feel more connected with their local community

The principal support for individuals during the pandemic has been care from friends and family

Community life

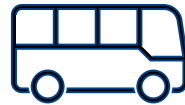
People feel more safe and more connected with others in their local area compared to this time last year.

Support and gratitude for volunteering remains high

Citizens want to be more involved in decisions that effect their communities



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Public transport

82% of respondents noted they had totally or partially stopped using public transport during the pandemic. *Half of those thought this will be a permanent change*

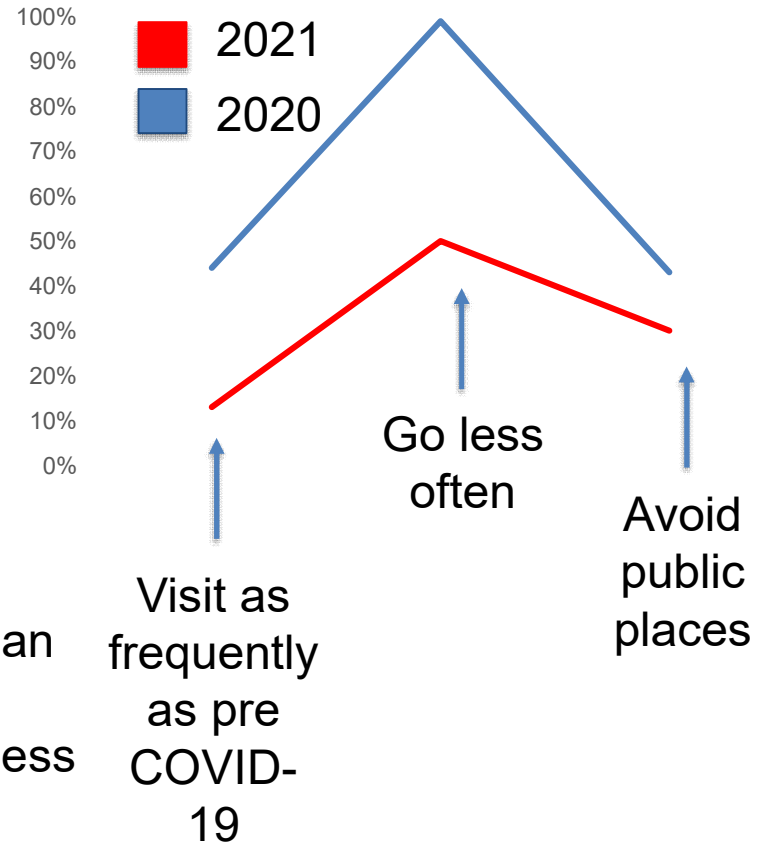
Change in behaviours



Top changes people plan to make to make

1. Support local business more
2. Work from home more
3. Spend more time at home

Visiting public places



Daily living

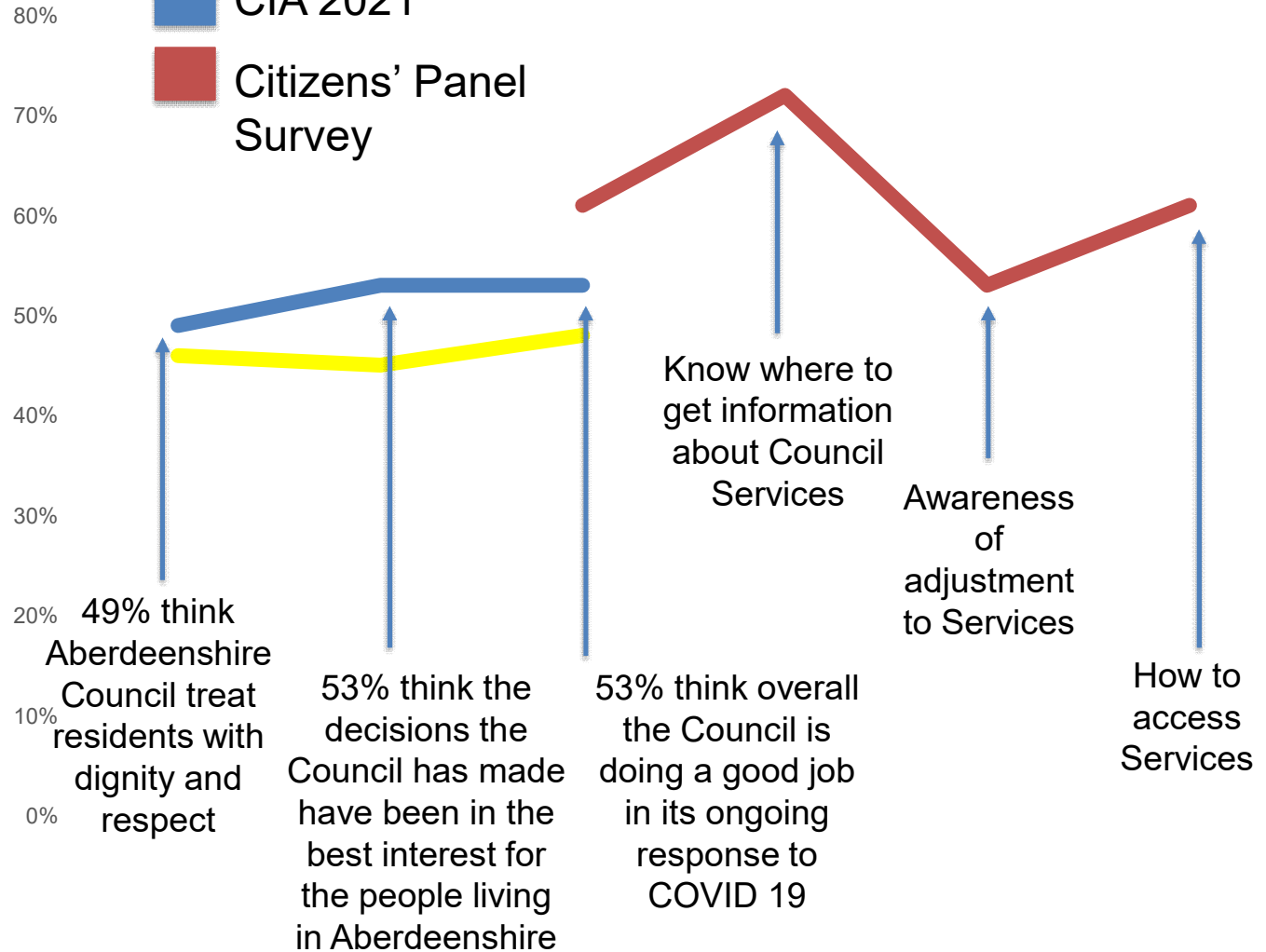
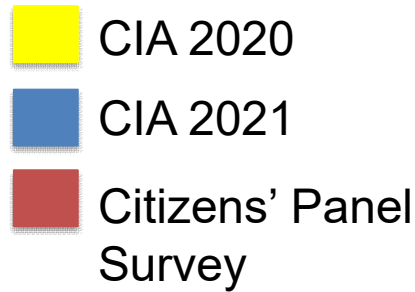
Responses show that COVID-19 has resulted in a change in how people live day to day

There has been a significant change in the amount of people reporting they will be avoiding public places

Transport needs remain uncertain



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Public services

Satisfaction with the Council has increased over the last year and people have a good awareness of changes to services and how to access support services and information

Aberdeenshire Summary



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People are drinking more alcohol

A high number of people reported increased anxiety/stress for one or more family member

COVID-19 continues to have an impact on peoples' personal finances

People are experiencing negative physical wellbeing outcomes because of the pandemic



People remain connected to their local area and are supportive of local business and the physical environment

People are positive about volunteering, but work may need to be done to ensure volunteers are supported and that the high levels of volunteering experienced during the pandemic are sustainable

Community cohesion remains strong and desire for social participation and increased community empowerment seems to be increasing