

Education, Children and Families Committee

10.00am, 03 September 2024

Local Government Benchmarking Framework 2022/23 – Children’s Services

Executive/routine
Wards

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 That the Education, Children and Families Committee note the report setting out the detailed analysis of the Local Government Benchmarking Framework (LGBF) Children’s Services dataset for the 2022/23 financial year.

Amanda Hatton

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Local Government Benchmarking Framework 2022/23 – Children’s Services

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 This report provides an overview of the 2022/23 benchmarking data provided by the Scottish Local Government Benchmarking Framework (LGBF) and reflects performance across Education and Children’s Social Work services over the last five years.

3. Background

- 3.1 Led by [SOLACE](#), with the support of the [Improvement Service](#), the Local Government Benchmarking Framework aims to provide a benchmarking toolkit for local government.
- 3.2 The publication and use of this data forms part of the Council’s statutory requirements for public performance reporting as directed by the Accounts Commission.
- 3.3 It should be noted that LGBF data is always retrospective, and the framework provides benchmarking data and national rankings for services that were delivered in the financial year 2022/23
- 3.4 This is benchmarking data for all Scottish Local Authorities and, where the data is relevant, can present a useful analysis of us in comparison to others.
- 3.5 In total there are 32 measures covering Children’s Services. This report focuses on the 29 indicators which have updated data since we reported last year – 29 with data for 2022/23 and 3 with data for 2021/22. Data will continue to be released through the [Improvement Service dashboard](#) as it becomes available.
- 3.6 This report has been presented to this committee today following a motion at the Policy and Sustainability committee meeting of 23 May 2023 which requested that ‘The report should be subdivided and provided to the relevant service area Executive Committees to allow greater scrutiny of performance and the actions required to instil a culture of continuous improvement, learning lessons from the better performance in Family Group Councils.’

4. Main report

- 4.1 The [Improvement Service dashboard](#) has been created to help councils benchmark with other councils.
- 4.2 The framework allows local authorities to compare their performance across a suite of indicators of efficiency (unit cost), outputs and outcomes, covering a wide range of local government activity.
- 4.3 This dataset provides information showing relative position for Edinburgh with the other councils as well as timeseries data for each of the indicators for Edinburgh.

High level Overview

- 4.4 The measures with 2022/23 data show that overall Children's Services relative position is in the top two quartiles (so above the national average) for 58.8% of the indicators (17 out of 29), 8 indicators just below the national average and 4 indicators sits in the bottom quartile.
- 4.5 Compared to last year we have shown improvement in 13 of the indicators. However, our performance has declined in 14 of the indicators and remained static in 2.
- 4.6 To enable comparison with other Local Authorities, we have included the national average, a 'family group' average and an average of the other three urban cities (Aberdeen, Dundee and Glasgow) to allow consideration of different perspectives of the data.

5. Next Steps

- 5.1 The Local Government Benchmarking Framework 2022/23 data analysis will be used to inform Senior Management Team discussions and the Council Planning and Performance Framework.

6. Financial impact

- 6.1 There is no financial impact associated with this report.

7. Equality and Poverty Impact

- 7.1 There is no equality or poverty impact arising from the analysis of this data.

8. Climate and Nature Emergency Implications

- 8.1 There are no climate or nature emergency impacts arising from the analysis of this data.

9. Risk, policy, compliance, governance and community impact

- 9.1 The publication and use of the benchmarking data forms part of the Council's statutory requirements for public performance reporting, as [directed](#) by the Accounts Commission.

10. Background reading/external references

- 10.1 [LGBF National Overview Report 2022/23](#) published by the Improvement Service in March 2024.
- 10.2 [Improvement Service Explore the Data](#) website.

11. Appendices

Appendix A: 2022/23 Children's Services Overview

Appendix B: Children's Services Charts

Appendix C: LGBF Family groups

Appendix A: 2022/23 Edinburgh Overview of Children's services

LGBF 2022/23 summary

1. This analysis of the most recent Local Government Benchmarking Framework (LGBF) data provides:
 - a. a summary of Edinburgh's relative position and indicator performance compared to the previous years, 2020/21 (mid-Covid) and 2021/22 (post-Covid)
 - b. indicator data and the national relative position for 29 LGBF indicators
 - c. urban cities, Scotland average and Family Group comparative data
 - d. an overview of national performance trends and local factors.
2. This report covers the 29 indicators with updated data since the previous LGBF 2021/22 release. **There are 29 with data for 2022/23 and 3 with data for 2021/22.**
3. Data on secondary school attainment, attendance and exclusions will be released through the [Improvement Service dashboard](#) as it becomes available.

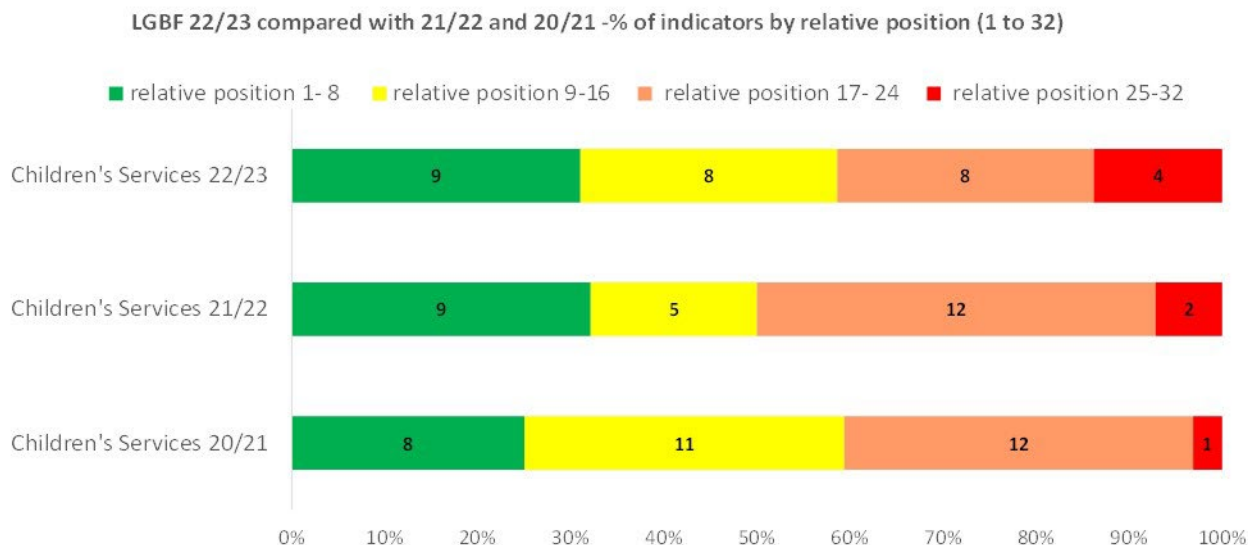
Edinburgh – summary of Children's Services

4. Children Services performance shows a mixture of performance across this wide ranging dataset. We continue to focus on recovering from the longer term impacts of the pandemic and the cost of living crisis on our children and young people and are working hard to target support where the impacts are greater such as for children living in areas of deprivation.

Edinburgh – relative position 2022/23

5. The proportion of our measures in each of the quartiles remains fairly static if we compare the 2022/23 data with the two previous years.

Chart 1: Edinburgh relative position by theme – Children’s Services



Edinburgh – Children’s services performance

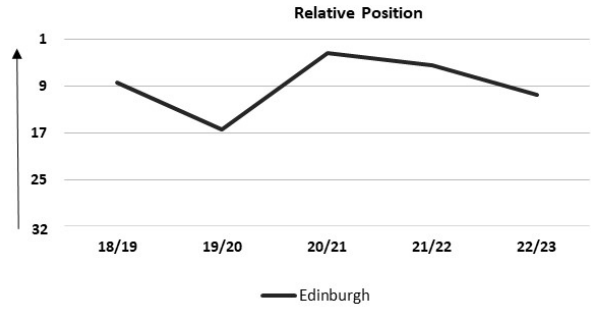
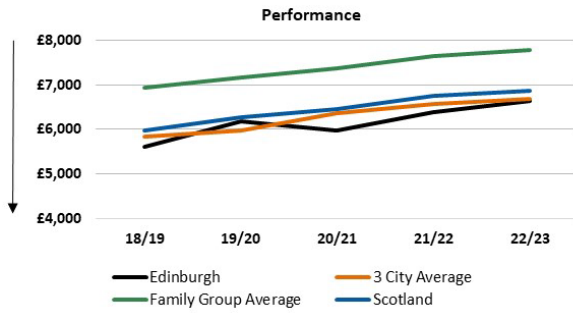
6. The four primary school attainment measures are all showing improvement in 2022/23 with our overall literacy and numeracy levels increasing to above pre-pandemic levels and our attainment gaps (literacy and numeracy) getting smaller. While our cost per primary school pupils is increasing, we continue to track but sit below the national and family group averages.
7. The impact of our revised Numeracy and Mathematics Strategy (2020) is reflected in the strong attainment levels demonstrating sustained improvement over time. Consistently high-quality teaching of numeracy is well embedded and during session 2022-23, officers delivered more targeted 1:1 coaching and team teaching to further develop teachers’ skills and raise attainment. This has had a direct impact on raising attainment overall in numeracy. In addition, there has been a rigorous approach by the local authority to the tracking and monitoring of data throughout the session, with targeted and intensive support being provided to schools highlighted.
8. We are also continuing to implement actions arising from the Literacy Thematic Review to drive ongoing improvement in literacy attainment. We have a rigorous approach to the tracking and monitoring of data throughout the session, with targeted and intensive support being provided to schools highlighted. We have adopted a ‘coaching in context’ approach to improve the quality of Raising Attainment meetings and local moderation.
9. Finally, ensuring that resources, such as Pupil Equity Funding, are managed effectively to focus on interventions to close the poverty-related attainment gap has been a key focus for the Senior Development Officers and Equity and Attainment Advisor working with schools.
10. Maintaining high levels of attendance for all pupils is key to driving improvements in attainment. The LGBF dataset shows the impact the pandemic has had on levels of attendance across Scotland. However while the national trend continues to fall in 2022/23, down from 92% to 90.2%, Edinburgh shows a slight rise from 92.6% to 93.0% which is the highest level in Scotland. In the spring of 2023 we undertook an in-depth

analysis of attendance at school highlighting that overall attendance in Edinburgh is good, but that some children suffer from persistently poor attendance. We continue to focus on attendance in the 2023/24 academic year. The attendance of our looked after children data for 2022/23 will be released later on in 2024.

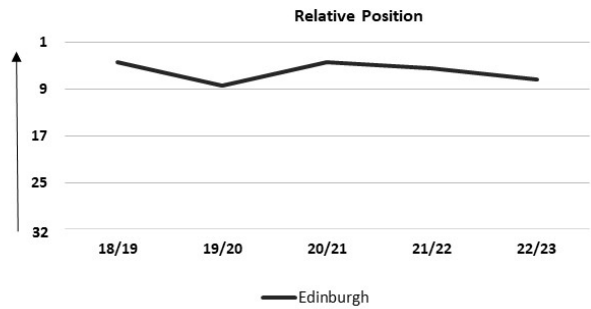
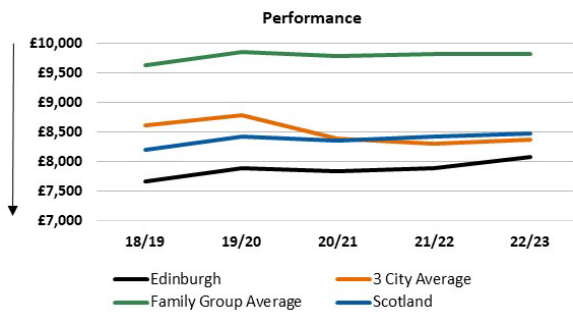
11. For our looked after children measures performance, we continue to show a gradual reduction in the proportion of children looked after in more than 1 placement in a year. As we continue to focus on working with families to provide support informally wherever possible, the proportion of our looked after children living in the community shows a decrease and we are now in line with the national average. Looking at the cost measures, our residential weekly costs continues to increase but we are in line with the national and family group averages. However, we continue to show a high community setting weekly cost which sits above the national and family group average (although we see a slight reduction in our cost in the latest figures relating to 2021/22).
12. The sharp rise in our early year provision costs, seen in 2020/21 results from our rollout of the early years provision expansion and mirrors increases seen nationally. While we continue to expand the uptake of funded early years provision for 2 year olds in 2023/24, we continue to look for ways of ensuring delivery of good quality but cost effective services.
13. The percentage of funded early years provision which is graded good/better performance remains at 85% after reducing from 91% pre Covid.
14. Our tracking system shows that there is a larger proportion of non-local authority providers graded below good in the latest data. This is a pattern seen nationally. Data from August 2022: shows 2.7 % of local authority settings and 22.8% of Private, Voluntary and Independent settings were graded below good and in a Service Improvement Period.
15. The Early Years Quality Improvement Team continues to work closely with all settings to support them to improve their performance within their agreed Service Improvement Period (which is allowed as part of the Scottish Government guidance). However, many of these organisations have been in this process for an extended period and we are now working, alongside the Commissioning Team, to review our partner contract approach to address quality issues as part of our new contract arrangements from August 2025.
16. In addition, we are continuing to expand the services we offer in local authority settings and from August 24 will be re-introducing the opportunity for parents to purchase additional hours in local authority settings to provide more flexibility.
17. Charts showing performance and relative position for all 32 indicators for the last five years are shown in Appendix B.

Appendix B Children's Services

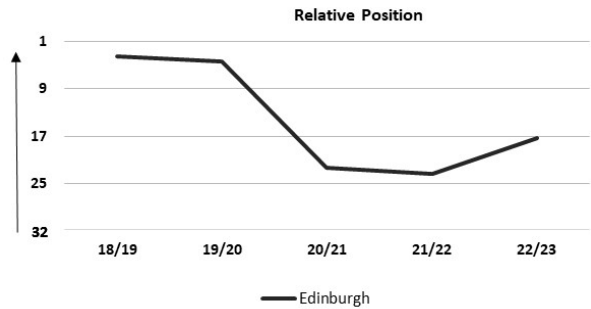
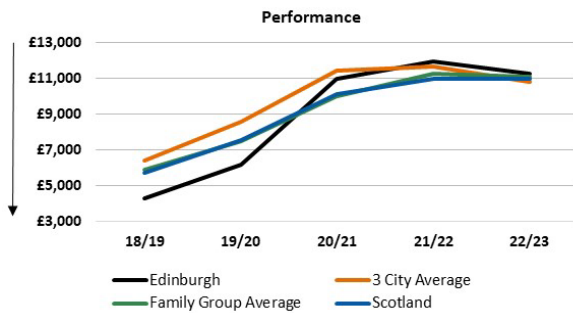
Cost Per Primary School Pupil



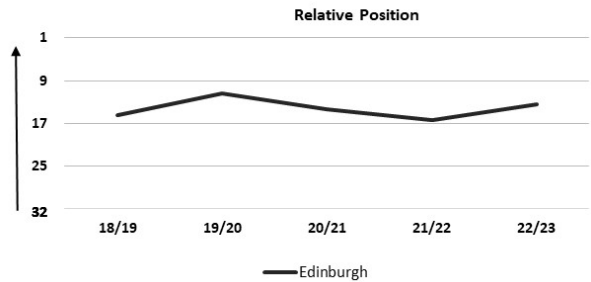
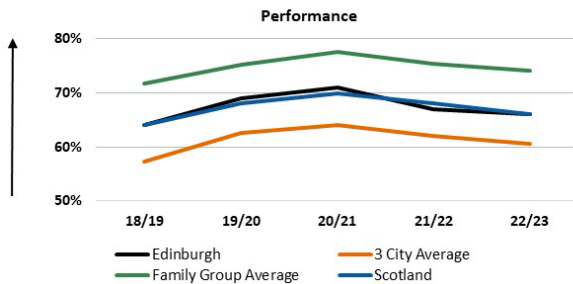
Cost per Secondary School Pupil



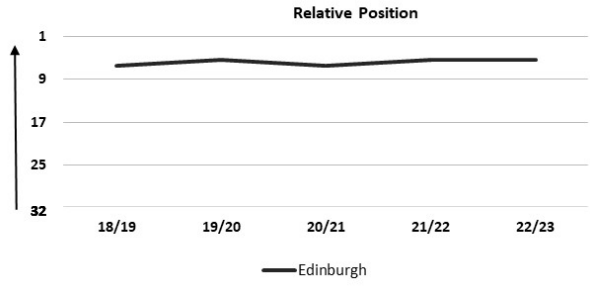
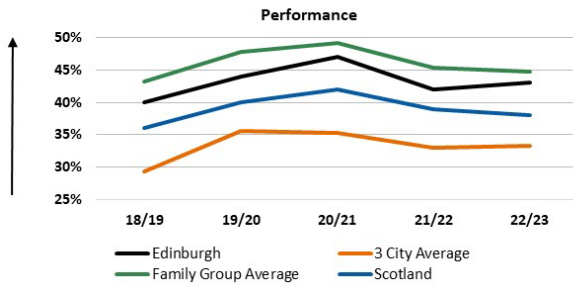
Cost per Pre-School Education Registration



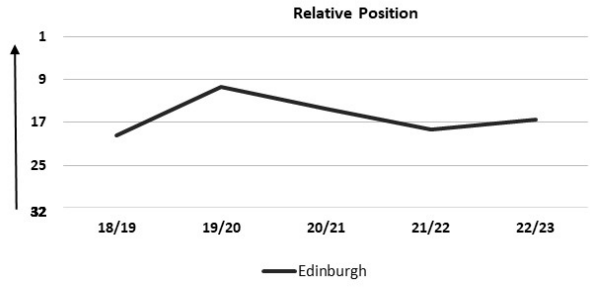
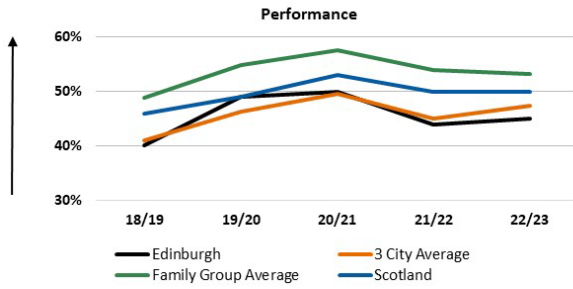
% of Pupils Gaining 5+ Awards at Level 5



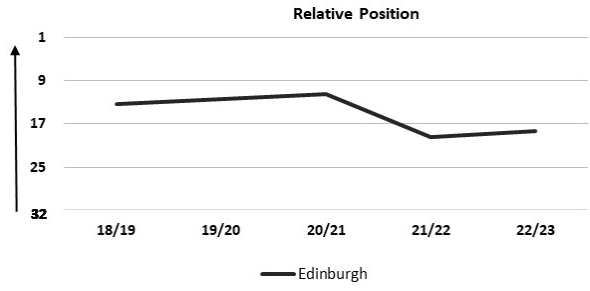
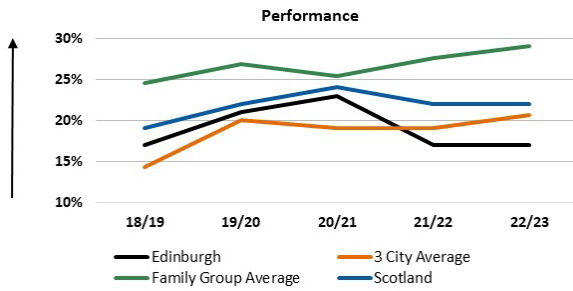
% of Pupils Gaining 5+ Awards at Level 6



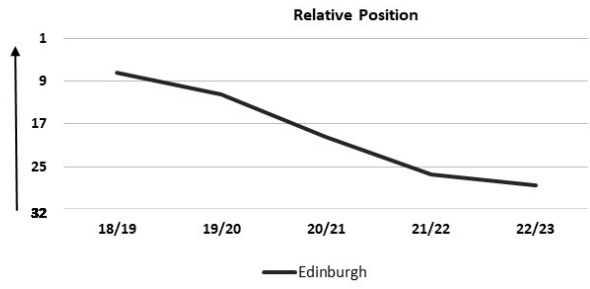
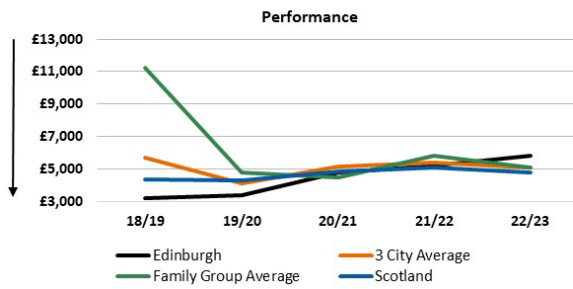
% of Pupils from Deprived Areas Gaining 5+ Awards at Level 5 (SIMD)



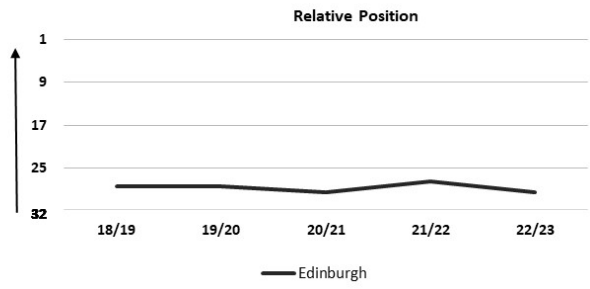
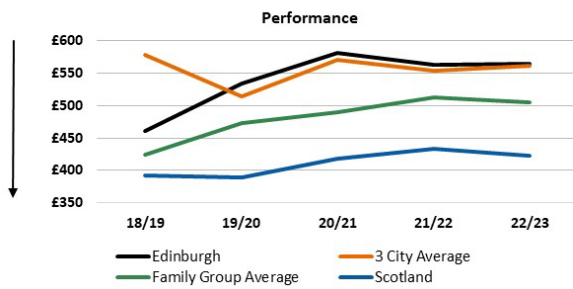
% of Pupils from Deprived Areas Gaining 5+ Awards at Level 6 (SIMD)



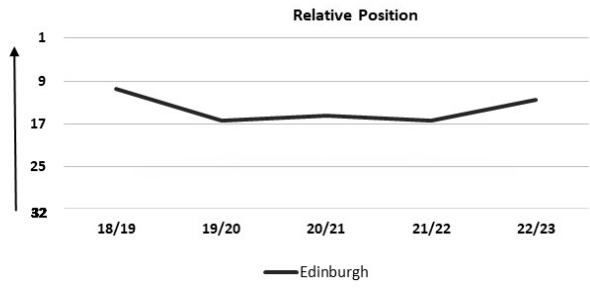
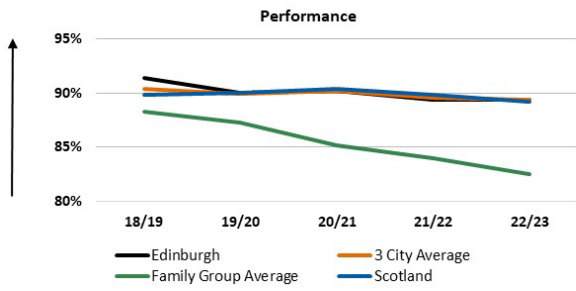
The Gross Cost of "Children Looked After" in Residential Based Services per Child per Week



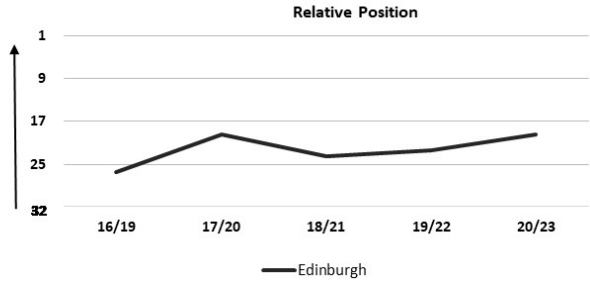
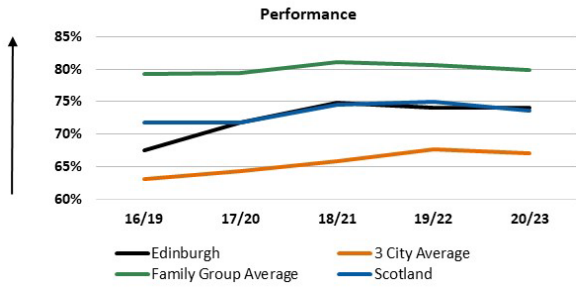
The Gross Cost of "Children Looked After" in a Community Setting per Child per Week



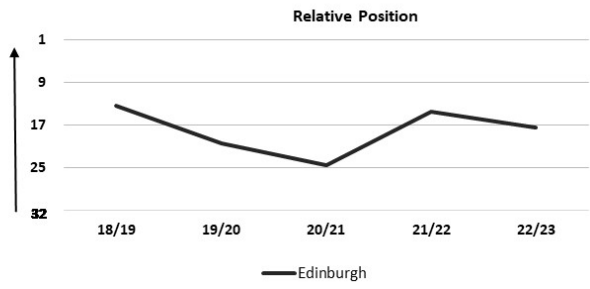
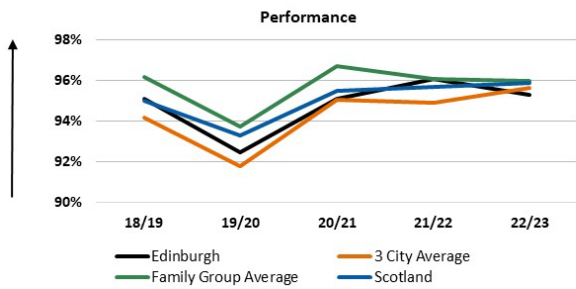
% of children being looked after in the community



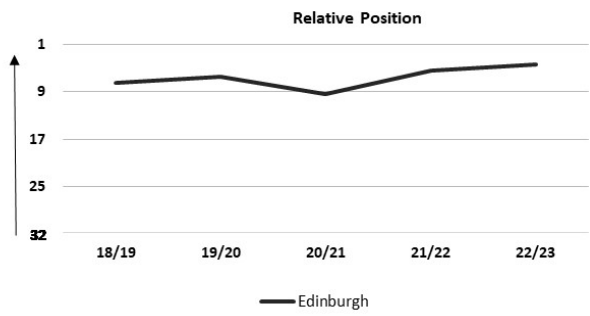
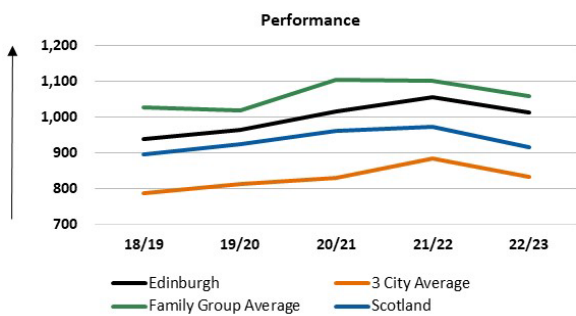
% of Adults Satisfied with Local Schools



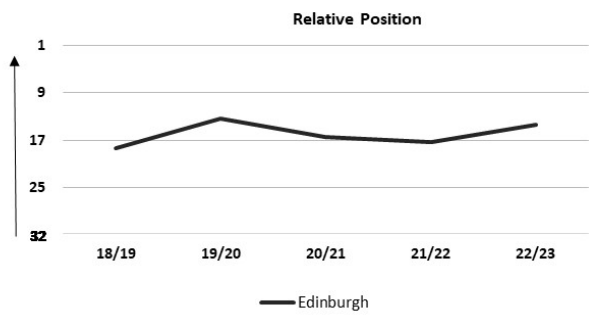
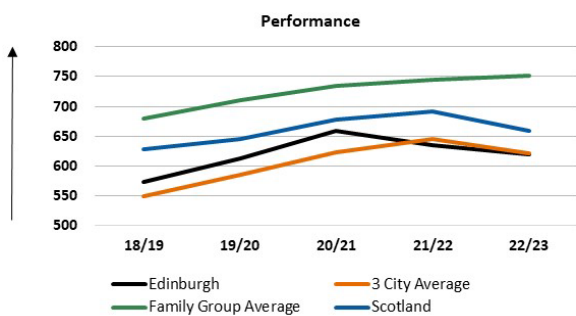
Proportion of Pupils Entering Positive Destinations



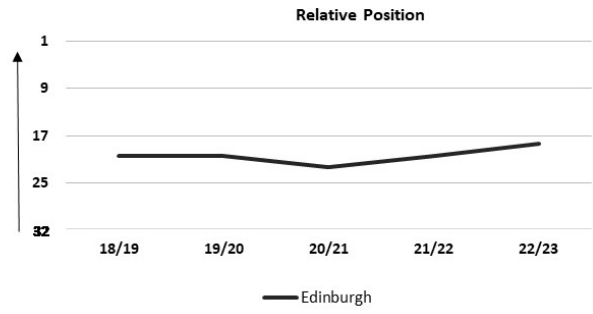
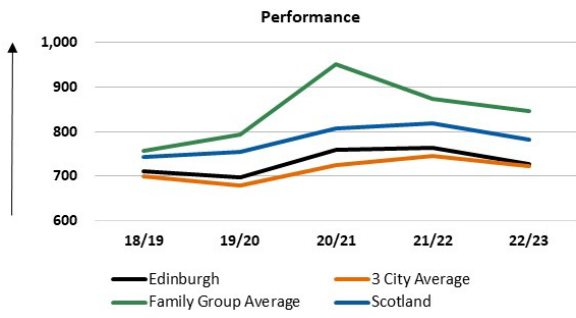
Overall Average Total Tariff



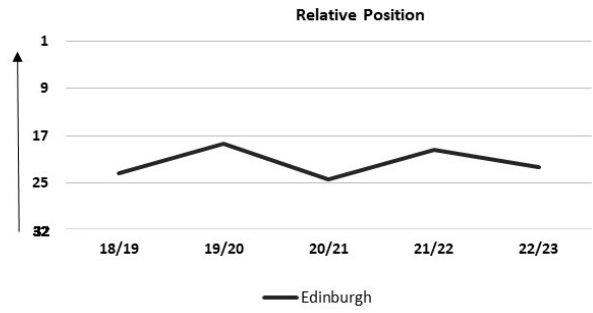
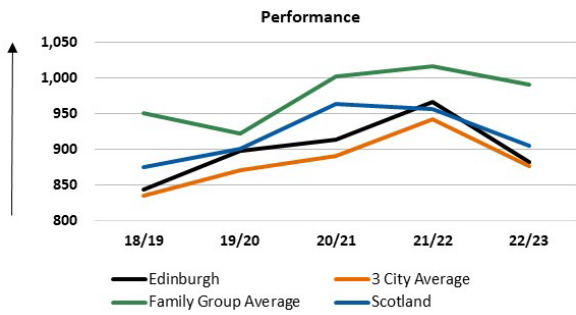
Average Total Tariff SIMD quintile 1



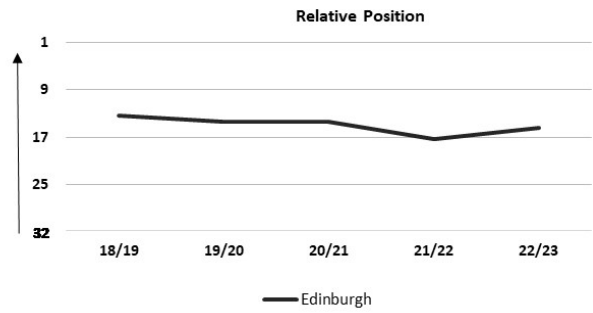
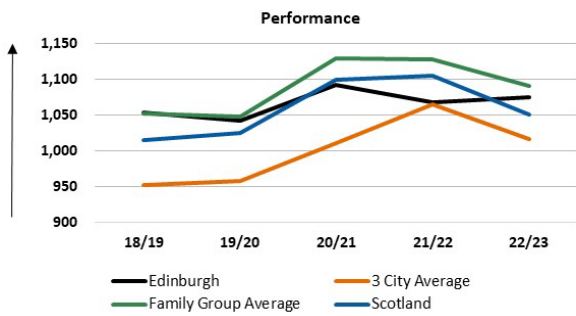
Average total tariff SIMD quintile 2



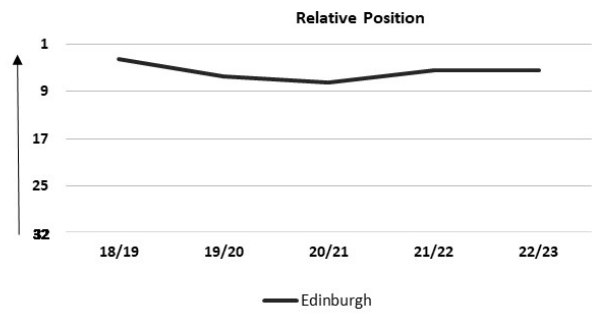
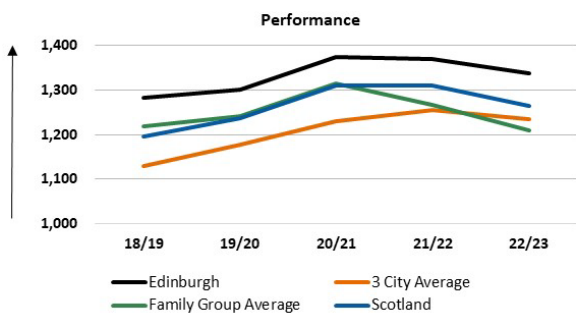
Average total tariff SIMD quintile 3



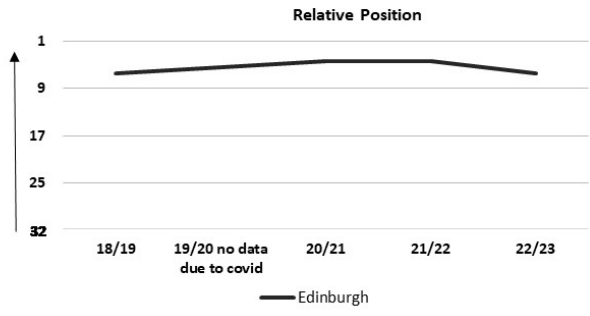
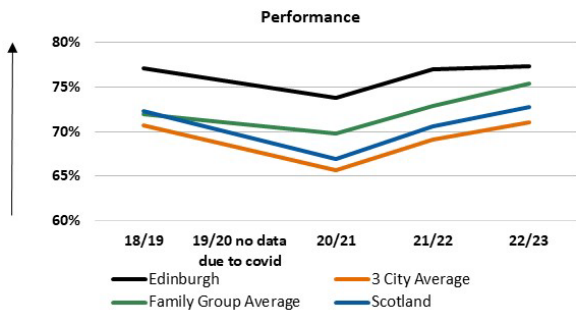
Average total tariff SIMD quintile 4



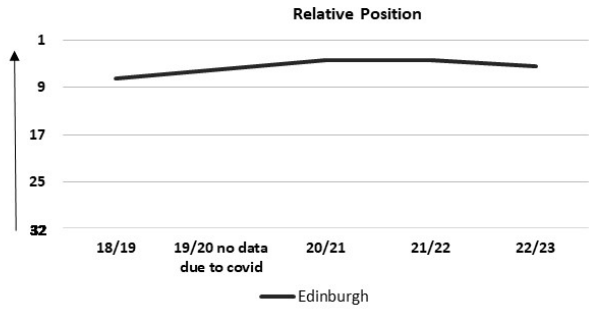
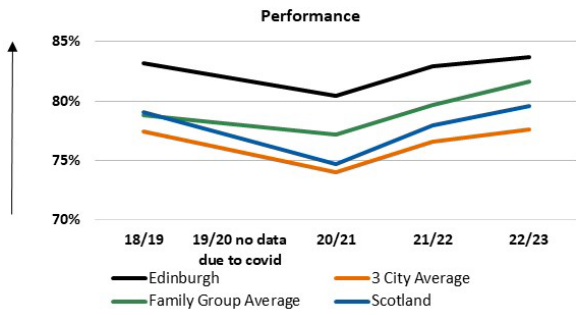
Average total tariff SIMD quintile 5



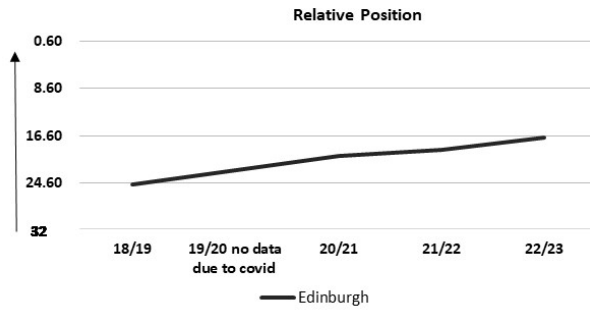
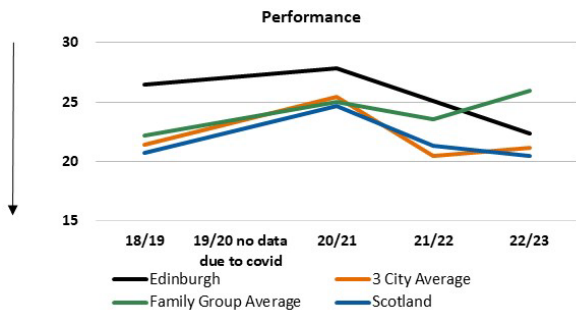
% of P1, P4 and P7 pupils combined achieving expected CFE Level in Literacy



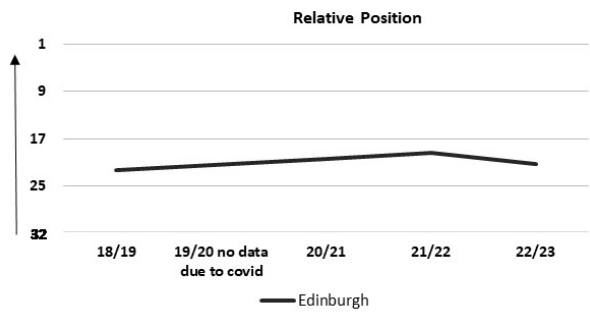
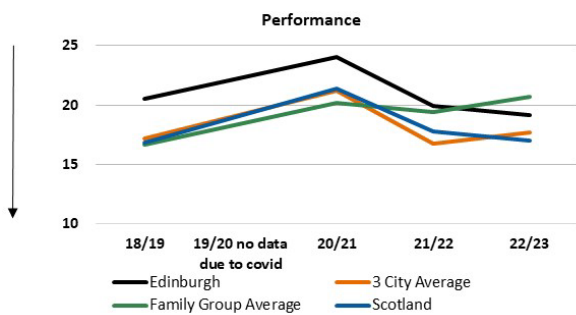
% of P1, P4 and P7 pupils combined achieving expected CFE Level in Numeracy



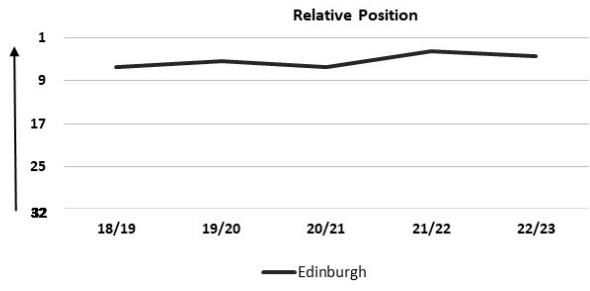
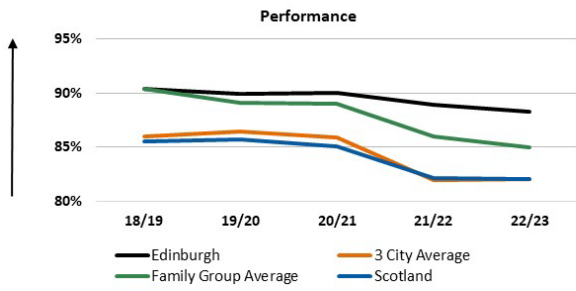
Literacy Attainment Gap (P1,4,7 Combined) - percentage point gap between the least deprived and most deprived pupils



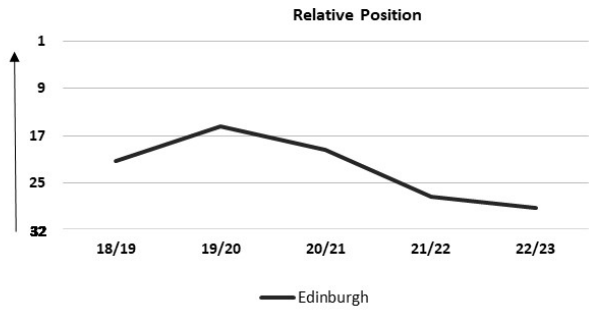
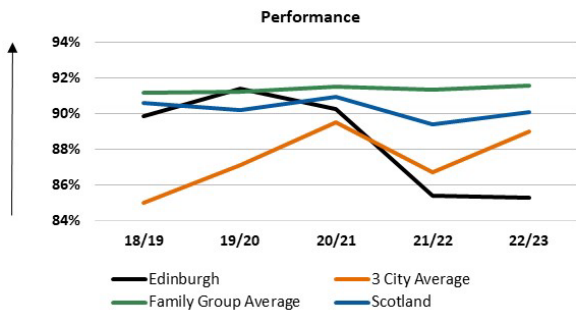
Numeracy Attainment Gap (P1,4,7 Combined) - percentage point gap between the least deprived and most deprived pupils



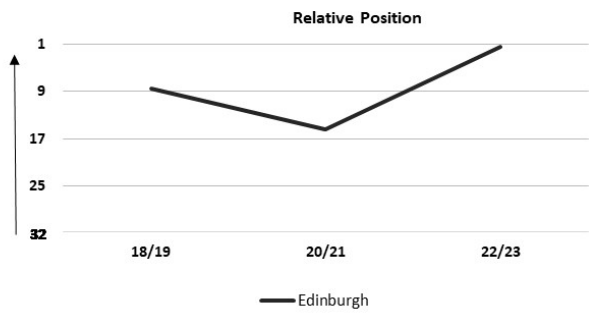
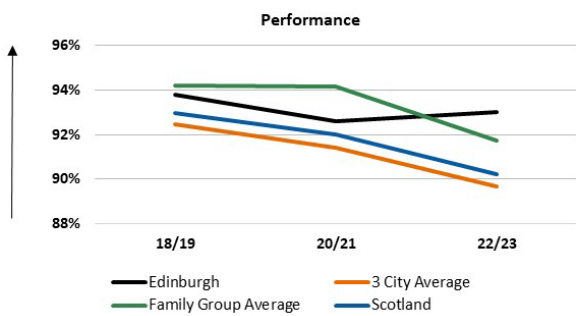
% of children meeting developmental milestones



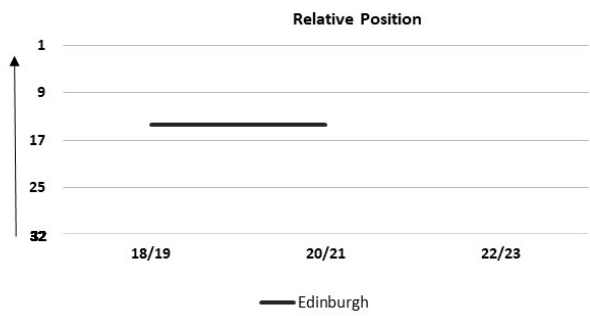
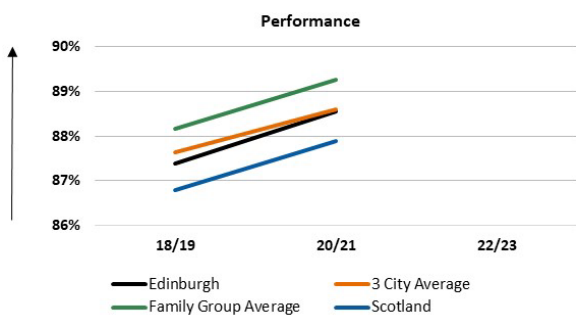
% of funded early years provision which is graded good/better



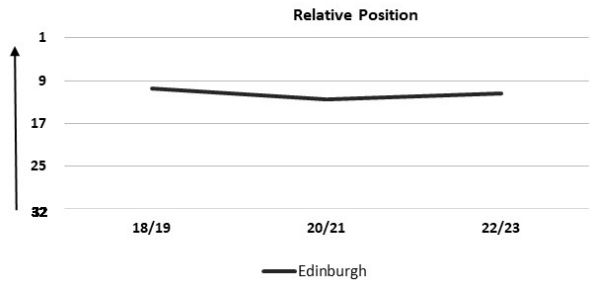
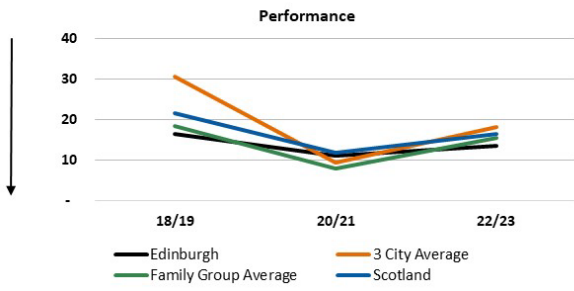
School attendance rate



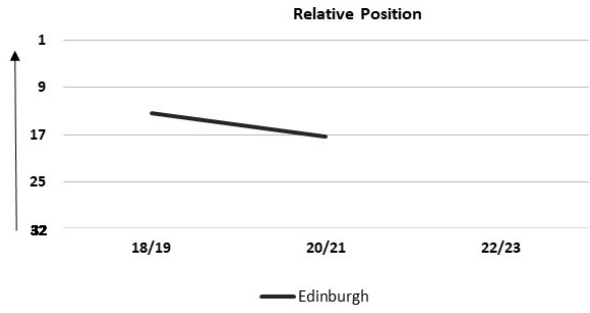
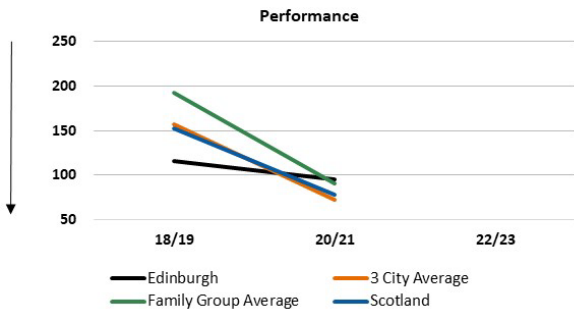
School attendance rate (Looked After Children)



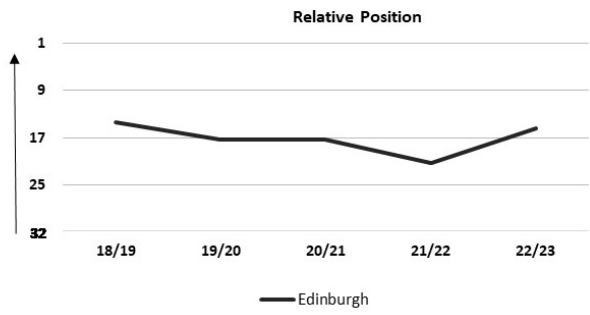
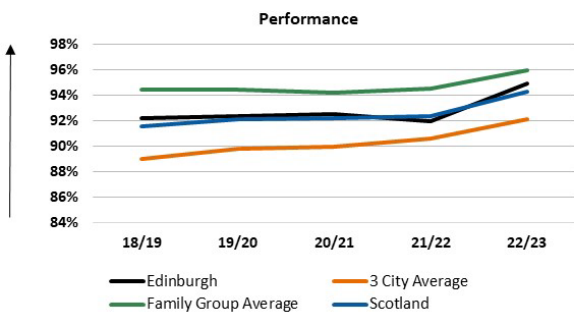
School exclusion rates (per 1,000 pupils)



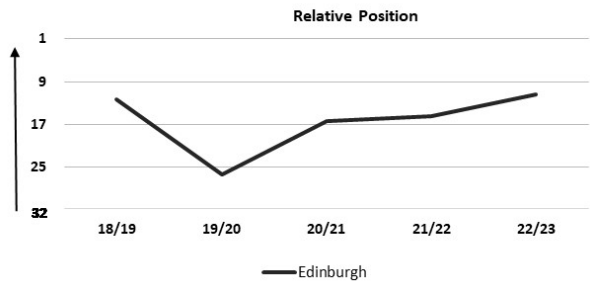
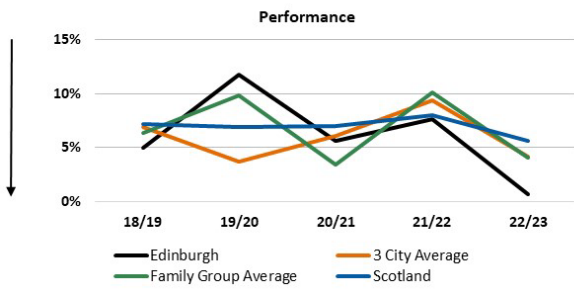
School exclusion rates (per 1,000 'looked after children')



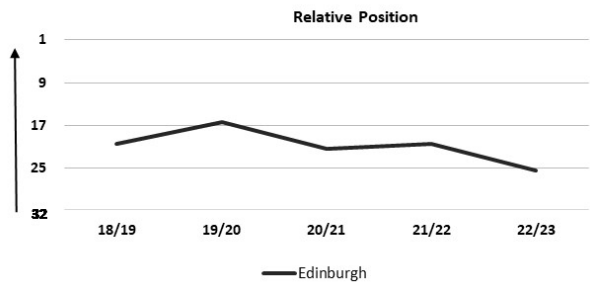
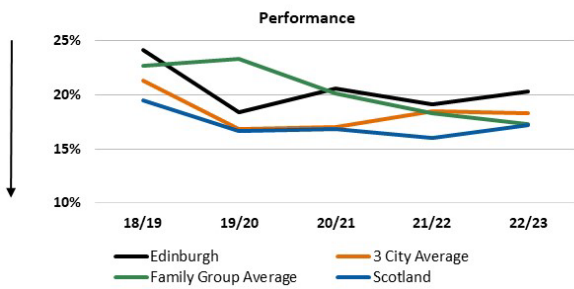
Participation rate for 16-19 year olds (%)



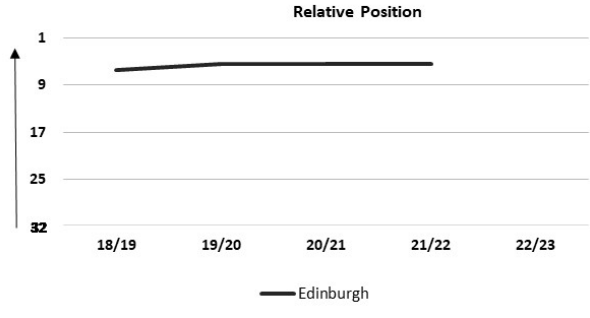
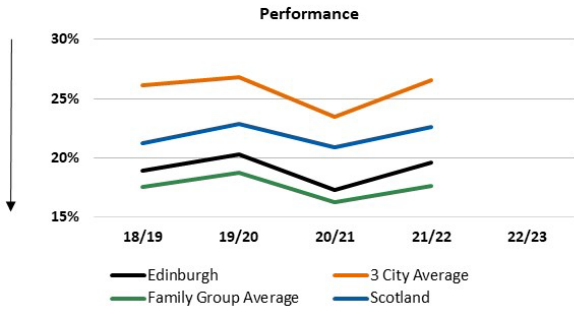
% of child protection re-registrations within 18 months



% LAC with more than 1 placement in the last year (Aug-July)



% of children living in poverty (After Housing Costs)



Appendix C LGBF Family Groups

The People family group reflects delivery of services to residents only, with comparison to other Local Authorities with similar wealth and deprivation.

People (relative deprivation and affluence)
Children, Social Care, Housing
Family Group 1
Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire, City of Edinburgh , East Dunbartonshire, East Renfrewshire, Orkney Islands, Perth & Kinross, Shetland Islands

The Urban family group reflects the density of population and delivery of services to **all** residents, visitors and businesses.

Other (Urban)
Corporate, C & L, Environmental, Econ Dev, Fin Sus, Tackling Climate Change
Family Group 4
Aberdeen City, City of Edinburgh , Dundee City, East Dunbartonshire, Falkirk, Glasgow City, North Lanarkshire, West Dunbartonshire