



Community Planning
Aberdeen

Northfield, Mastrick, Middlefield, Cummings Park and Heathryfold Locality Plan Annual Report 2019 – 2020



Wildflowers in Heathryfold Park next to new housing at Manor Walk

INTRODUCTION

As a local resident, I have been involved in the Northfield Total Place Locality Partnership Board since April 2017. I was elected Chairperson in May 2018.

Again, I would like to say what a privilege it is to be part of a group that has the best interests of Northfield, Mastrick, Heathryfold, Cummings Park and Middlefield at the core of their work and activity.

We have been very fortunate to be joined on the group by representatives from Farrans who have kept us up to date on the Haudigan project. Their input and the information they have shared has been very positive as has been their commitment to community engagement.

I would also like to thank our other partners who share so much information that benefits the communities for example, the Health improvement fund, other funding streams and general information.

We also thank our team members who have moved on to other projects and jobs and wish them all the best.

Thanks for taking the time to read our Annual Report.



***Garry McNulty, Chairperson,
Northfield Locality Partnership
Board***

SUMMARY

Northfield Locality Partnership Board has continued to see positive progress on the priorities in their Locality Plan. The Board began to review the priorities in August 2019 in line with the refreshed Local Outcome Improvement Plan from February 2019. Another review took place in early March 2020 with plans to determine the projects to support delivery scheduled for the end of March. Lockdown and Covid-19 response work have meant specific projects have not been identified although the need to address several priorities has intensified.

Prosperous Economy

Reductions to barriers to employment continue to be supported through the Pathways service providing sessions helping people getting into or back to work. The expansion of provision at Middlefield Nursery has supported people into further education and employment. The Food and Fun project has continued to run during school holiday periods supporting families on low incomes by providing meals during the school holidays.

Expansion of Community Food outlets have continued to be a priority throughout the year as demand for cheap and free food has continued to grow. Indications are that this need is only increasing as a result of Covid-19.

Prosperous People – Children and Young People

The expansion of the Nursery at Middlefield is supporting several children with their early development. Creative Learnings project Geronimo delivered in Mastrick and Cummings Park offered creative ways for parents to play with their children, supporting child development and assisting parents' confidence.

Middlefield Project Youth Hub continues to support several young people and through their activities have positive impacts on mental health and school attendance.

Prosperous People- Adults

Volunteering opportunities and involvement in community activity has been increased in Cummings Park with the establishment of a management committee at Cummings Park Centre. Family Learning staff worked with a several families towards achieving the John Muir Award.

Participatory budgeting and Boogie in the Bar provide opportunities for people to become involved as well as contributing to projects for the benefit of the area. A group started to support Syrian Scots expanded to a wider number of women who created and published a Recipe Book.

Prosperous Place

The completion of the housing at Manor Walk has increased the number of affordable homes in the area.

The developments at Heathryfold Park and gardening projects are further enhancing the area creating green spaces for the community to enjoy.

The Haudagain project has seen the demolition of 436 homes to create the way for a new link road. On completion of this part of project, further regeneration is planned with mixture of residential, retail and greenspace featuring through our development partner - Dandara.

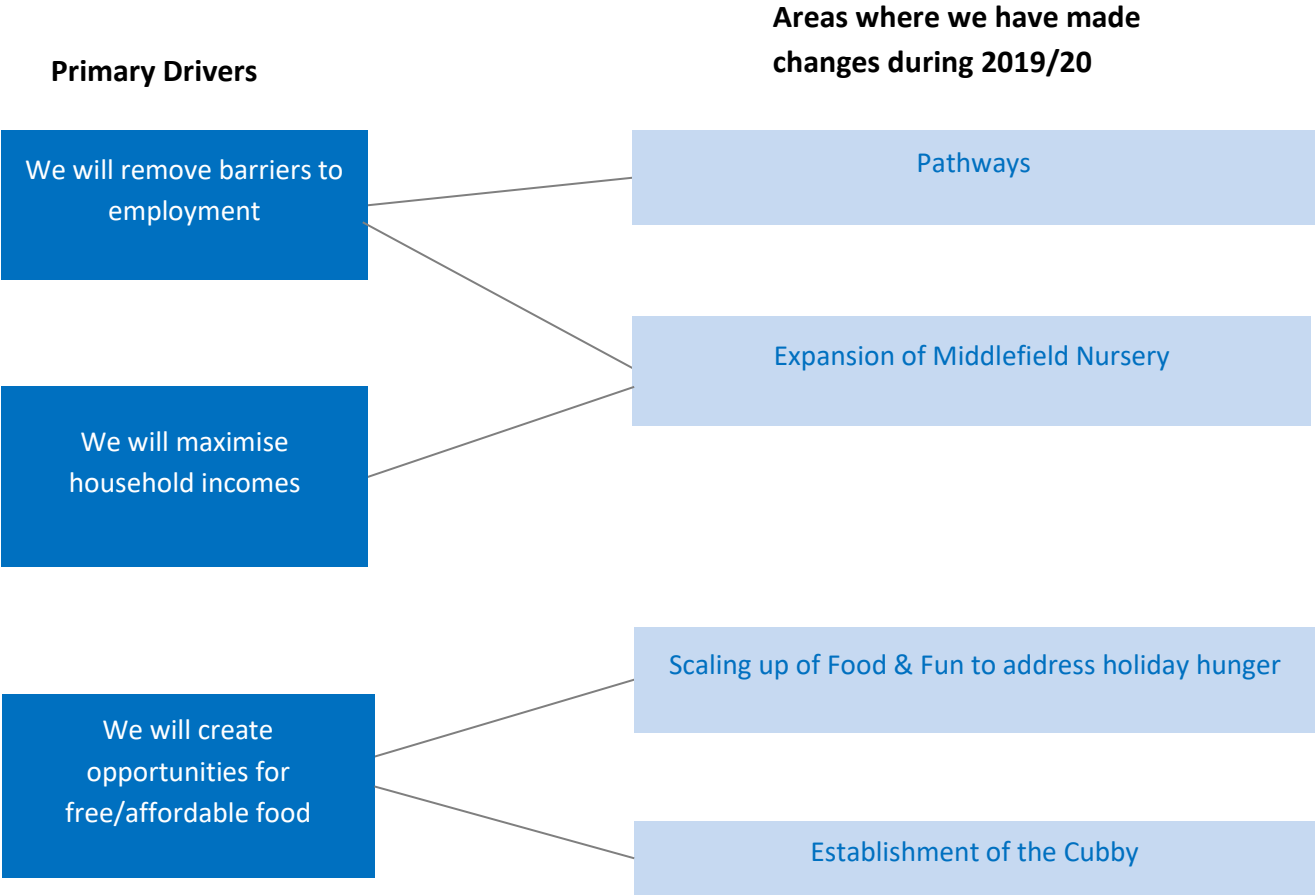
CONTENTS

1	Introduction by Chair of Locality Partnership	2
2	Summary	3
3	Contents	4
4	Prosperous Economy	5
5	Prosperous People - Children & Young People	12
6	Prosperous People - Adults	
7	Prosperous Place	22
8	Partnership Membership	29

PROSPEROUS ECONOMY



Priority: We will improve economic performance



What key changes have we made?

Pathways

Pathways have Employability Keyworkers who continue to meet people seeking assistance at weekly sessions at Manor Park Centre, Cummings Park Community Flat, Mastrick and Northfield Community Centres.


Pathways assist people from the age of 16 upwards to identify the job or training that is right for them. Key workers support people to plan job goals, help with CV's, assist in completing application forms and that they also have access to funds to remove barriers to work - clothing or equipment needs.

A total of **107** clients were supported across the area over the year. This is an **increase of 26** over the previous year. The majority received 1-1 support with **80%** being supported into full-time work.


Middlefield Project Nursery

The nursery participated in an Aberdeen City trial offering families the opportunity of extended nursery hours for their children prior to the planned roll out in August 2020. All children were offered the benefits of the full 1140 hours (potentially 30 hours of childcare per week). Working, college parents and families considered to be most vulnerable were also offered the opportunity of the extended hours too. A total of 72 children from the ages of 2 to 5 attended the Nursery throughout the year.

Families benefited from flexible options with having the full hours as either term time nursery sessions or having shorter term time sessions and their child then attending during the school holidays too. This has helped many families financially. Several parents commented that the extra funded hours had enabled them to have career or college opportunities that they would not have been able to previously have.



"Financially this is life changing as I am not having to pay for my childcare now"



"This has a positive impact for me and my family".

Food and Fun

The Food and Fun project has continued to be delivered during the school holidays.

The programme in Northfield has again been supported by ACC Communities Team staff along with partner agencies Sport Aberdeen through their Active Schools Co-ordinators, coaches, volunteers and senior pupil leaders; Police Scotland, Aberdeen Football Club Community Trust coaches and volunteers also ACC Youth Work and Family Learning workers.



Delivery moved to Cummings Park Centre both during the summer and October school holidays. This has successfully led to the involvement of parent volunteers with 2 during the summer holidays increasing to 7 for the October break.



Two parents successfully attended Food Hygiene training and received their REHIS certificates.

Eight volunteers went on to organise and hold a Festive Party at Christmas for 40 children.

Once again on Christmas Eve 2019 Sport Aberdeen hosted an event at the Beach Leisure Centre. This time it was a family event with children and parents attending. Coaches to and from the venue were provided through AFCCT, a soup and sandwich lunch was provided by CFINE, and selection packs for all children was provided by Sport Aberdeen.

Supported by CFINE, local families were provided with the opportunity to access food parcels which could be collected in the days before Christmas. A successful funding application meant that fresh meat packs could be added to this supported by a local butcher. For 40 families this ensured that limited incomes could stretch a little further at this time.

Community Food

All the community and learning centres across the area serve as distribution points for FareShare food that is delivered by CFINE.

Cummings Park Centre has continued their partnership with Tesco's Cloud and collects food that would otherwise go to landfill at least 3 times per week. Foodstuffs vary but there is usually bread and a range of fresh produce that can be collected by anyone who needs it. With the centre having to close as a result of Covid-19 they have continued to collect food and deliver to Instant Neighbour to support their food parcel distribution.

Manor Park Centre now has a small community fridge allowing more fresh produce to be distributed locally.

Northfield Community Centre operates a Food Bank twice weekly in partnership with CFINE.

Mastrick Community Centre also collect from Tesco and Greggs food that would otherwise go to landfill for local collection. The centre has experienced growing demand from families with young children and in addition to food offer clothing and toiletries to those in need.

The Cubby

Together with six local volunteers, Community Development and Centre based staff with support from CFINE, have set up 'The Cubby' at Cummings Park Centre. The aim was 'to develop a food distribution pick up point at Cummings Park Community Centre, open twice a week -one weekday morning and one afternoon from April 2020.'

This has been achieved with a small room decorated and two commercial sized fridges and two freezers purchased to increase the variety of foods available. This is now a well-equipped space which has extended the amount and range of FareShare and other fresh, frozen and ambient (dried goods and tinned) foodstuffs that can be distributed.

The Cummings Park area was chosen as there was no readily accessible food bank in the immediate neighbourhood.

By March 2020, 34 households which consists of 65 adults & 63 children have registered to use The Cubby.

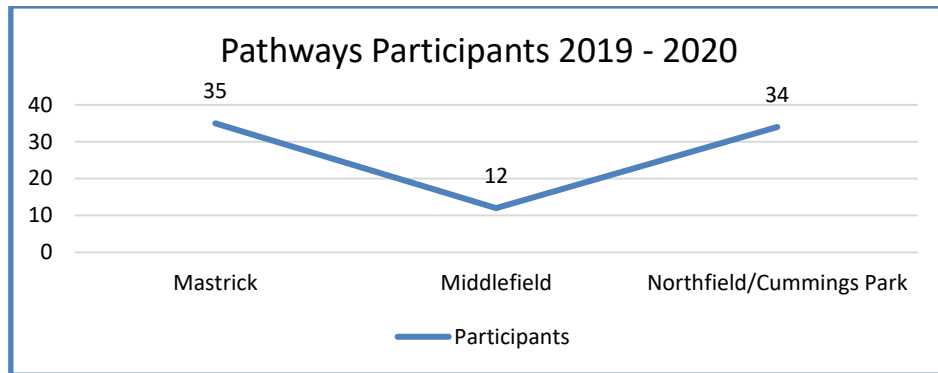
The dedicated space used by the Cubby has increased the capacity to support families and individuals with signposting to other appropriate agencies for any additional necessary supports. More personal conversations are now possible – previously food was distributed from the open foyer area.

The development of The Cubby has had to be stopped due to Covid-19 restrictions. Support to families by food distribution will be the first project to be started again at Cummings Park Centre when all necessary precautions can be in place.

Are our changes resulting in improvement?

Improving Economic Performance

PATHWAYS participants



81 people across the area were supported in returning to work

PROSPEROUS PEOPLE

Children & Young People

Adults



Priority: We will improve quality of life

Areas where we have made changes during 2019/20

Primary Drivers

We will support child development

We will improve Community Safety (Youth Diversionary Activities)

We will increase community involvement

Middlefield Nursery

Geronimo Project

Middlefield Youth Hub

Volunteering

John Muir Trust Award

Participatory Budgeting

Boogie in the Bar

Women's Group & Recipe Book

What key changes have we made?

Middlefield Nursery

With the Nursery expansion working, college parents and families considered to be most vulnerable were offered the opportunity of the extended hours too. Families benefited from flexible options with having the full hours as either term time nursery sessions or having shorter term time sessions and their child then attending during the school holidays too. In addition to assisting with family finances this has supported children with consistency and routines for attending nursery

Feedback from parents has been very positive. All parents highlighted that children benefited from longer playing and learning in nursery. Many parents commented that their child had picked up new words in English and that they were happy to play with more friends. Many parents highlighted that having lunch in the nursery is helping their child to become more confident to try and eat more varied foods. Comments include:

"I like the fact that the nursery has been flexible, and my child can attend during the holidays too so that they have consistent routines"

"A Mum finding the benefit of getting more one to one quality time with her youngest child"

Geronimo

Staff from Aberdeen City Council Creative Learning Team delivered the Geronimo project in Cummings Park and Mastrick. The project designed to deliver play and creative activities that support and encourage positive attachment between parent or carer and their child was attended over the 10 weeks by **20** different families in Cummings Park. While the sessions in Mastrick were slow to start by the end – unfortunately, cut short by a week due to lockdown – **29** families had attended.

"I'll never be able to just throw out an Amazon box again"

The sessions included play, creativity and risk taking and ended with a shared lunch. Families carried their learning into the home with one mum remarking "I'll never be able to just throw out an Amazon box again". Parents developed relationships with each other and found that their children could have 'total free play – they don't always get that at home'

Middlefield Project – Youth Hub

Over the course of the year the Middlefield Youth Hub staff worked with **140** young people from Middlefield, Northfield and Cummings Park.

Young people engaged in fundraising for a trip to Belgium and to replace the furniture and fittings in the Youth Hub area. A number of young people attended an enlightening trip to the Findhorn Foundation which started and continued discussions over a number of weeks around wellbeing and environmental issues.

The Hub staff have provided support to a number of pupils from Northfield Academy that have found attending school challenging and behaviours had become difficult to manage in school and in the community. The Hub staff have worked hard with the young people, parents and the school staff in order to deliver a programme of alternative ways of working with the young people than attending school.

Four young people have been supported with developing CV's and job applications.

The Hubs own mental health recovery programme 'MindU' has been a particular success by increasing the mental health and wellbeing of young people. One young person now manages their anger issues much more appropriately and another found their mental health improved so much through attending sessions that he can now attend school 95% of the time after two bus journeys. Previously he was never on time.

Volunteering in the Locality:

ACVO

As the 2019-2020 year end came, the world was struck by the Covid-19 Coronavirus Pandemic. The most terrible, worrying and greatest challenge any of us and our communities have faced. As part of the response to Covid-19 and in looking towards recovery and building back in our communities the volunteering and community response in Northfield and across Aberdeen has been (and continues to be) incredible and most inspiring. Lots of new people who have never volunteered before have got involved and people and communities have been rallying together like never before. Reports to ACVO, the local third sector interface for Aberdeen highlight that across the city 7,000 plus people have been assisting in record numbers and with exceptional kindness and compassion with specific Covid-19 community responses to help everyone get through the current time and as we rebuild and renew. Volunteering enquiries have increased eight fold and Aberdeen's online volunteering portal – www.volunteeraberdeens.org.uk saw an unprecedented 104% increase in volunteering searches.

This is in addition to the tremendous volunteering that regularly occurs in our great community with pre-Covid-19 **43%** of people regularly volunteering either formally (through an organisation or group) or informally (helping out generally with community, friends, family

etc.) in Northfield. This includes high levels of young people volunteering and achieving awards such as Saltire Awards (for volunteers aged 12-25 years). In Northfield this year:

- **195** new young people (aged 12-25 years) registered for the Saltire Youth Volunteering Awards which ACVO coordinates in Aberdeen City on behalf of the Scottish Government
- a total of 354 Saltire Award certificates were issued during the period:
 - 179 Saltire Approach Awards (in recognition of 10 and 25 hours volunteering),
 - 160 Saltire Ascent Awards (in recognition of 50, 100, 200 and 500 hours volunteering)
 - 12 Saltire Challenge Awards (for 'one off' team volunteering)
 - 3 Saltire Summit Awards (in recognition of outstanding achievements)

This is a **further increase** compared with 2018-2019 and reflects the great contribution young people are making in Northfield and the achievements of young people. There has been excellent support with this from schools in the area, all locality partners and organisations active in the community such as ACVO, SHMU, Denis Law Legacy Trust Streetsport, Future Choices, Aberdeen FC Community Trust, Police Scotland Youth Volunteers, Community and Learning Centres in the locality.

Northfield locality partners will continue to support and help further build the important contribution volunteers are making more than ever in the Northfield locality partnership area.

Cummings Park Association

It has been an aim of Communities staff based in the locality to encourage local residents to get more involved with decision making, taking ownership and responsibility for decisions and actions that affect and benefit the communities they stay in. This requires people developing and sharing their skills with positive impacts for families, friends and the wider community.

It was decided to attempt to engage with local residents in the Cummings Park area using a Community Development approach in order to build a management committee that would oversee a programme of social and learning activities and recruit volunteers to support the development of a food aid resource. It was planned that these would both take place in Cummings Park Centre.

In the Summer of 2019 daily "Food and Fun" sessions were held in Cummings Park Centre. Families with primary aged children attending Bramble Brae School were invited to fill in a form regarding their food needs. Recognised that an ideal time to target parents/carers was at drop off/pick up. Staff concentrated in engaging with parents and carers at this time, developing positive relationships and getting to know more about their needs and aspirations.

At the end of the summer an invite was given asking if people would like to get involved in a committee and volunteer/help plan a food resource. Eight people said they would like to get involved,

Until Covid-19 restrictions were put in place, a group of 6 people have been regularly meeting with staff, learning and discussing the processes involved in managing a community organisation that reflects the needs of the local community. Policies have been developed and much work put in to writing a constitution. A formal meeting took place where the constitution was adopted, and the Cummings Park Community Association formally agreed.

Since the Covid-19 restrictions the group have tried to meet digitally with mixed success. They are currently trying to open a community bank account which is very difficult as many banks have suspended this service. Understandably, family life has taken precedence over the committee in some cases, but the group are working through these issues. There is a strong chance of securing funding to allow a learning/social needs programme to go ahead, albeit considering the constraints the pandemic may bring.

John Muir Trust – Family Learning

During the summer of 2019 Family Learning Development Workers and the Middlefield Community Ranger worked with families from Bramble Brae, Manor Park, West Park and Quarryhill schools to complete the Family John Muir Award.

The John Muir Award is an environment award scheme where each participant must face four challenges - discover, explore, conserve and share with increasing responsibility and ownership, over the course of four days. At the beginning of the scheme the Family Learning Team gave an overview of the award to the 12 families taking part. They then enjoyed a scavenger hunt in Auchmill Woods, which was followed by putting at the golf club and a picnic in the park. The second part of the scheme took place in Hilton Woods where participants made moth traps, walked around the woods looking for moths, bats and other nocturnal animals, then finished with roasting marshmallows around the fire accompanied with a hot chocolate. The third activity was at Howes Road where the participants did some bird watching with binoculars, went pond dipping, did some litter picking and made doggy poo bag holders. Families also enjoyed making seed bombs and leaf printing. The final activity was at Manor Park Centre. Families enjoyed a hunt around the area looking for minibeasts. They also did pebble painting which was followed by the local police officers showing children inside of the police car. The session was finished with a celebration lunch and all families received their John Muir Award certificates.

All families enjoyed learning new skills and finding new parts of their community that they can enjoy in the future as well as building relationships with families from different schools. One family said, “the whole experience has been great” while another commented “favourite was pond dipping enjoyed being outdoors with the John Muir challenge award have enjoyed every activity and would like to do more”. Another family’s favourite was “sharpening the sticks for marshmallows and sitting together around the fire”. Family Learning Team members

and Middlefield Community Ranger had a great time completing the challenges along with the families and looking forward to working with more families in the future to support them in completion of their award.

Participatory Budgeting

Aberdeen City Council has provided the opportunity to allocate funds to local community groups since 2016 via the Participatory Budgeting process. Community Development staff in Northfield have supported a group of residents to develop their skills so they in turn can support the process. During the 19/20 cycle, Aberdeen City Council via the Fairer Aberdeen Fund provided £10,000 to local community groups for projects that would benefit the community.

The UDecide Northfield Steering Group have built up a wide range of experience from 2016 using the Participatory Budgeting model that has an event at its core. Bidders for funding present their application to an audience of voters who then decide the projects to receive funding. It was recognised during the 18/19 cycle that it would be beneficial to the steering group and PB in the area to develop and explore different models of carrying out the PB process. With this in mind, they approached Northfield Academy about basing a PB project in the school, sharing and developing ideas. The project was a success but the group realised further development was required as they had worked with the pupils in a very limited timescale.



They contacted the Academy late 2019 to gauge interested and the school were keen to participate. The steering group decided to work towards the following outcomes.

- to develop the skills of the adult steering group
- Increase the numbers of people voting
- Explore models of PB including the use of digital platforms
- Increase deliberation time of the young people the group work with
- Recruit young members for the steering group

The steering group held a session with an Academy Working Group consisting of pupils from years 1-3 to learn about PB, refine the model, decide the priorities, funding limits, rules, type of voting and the allocation of voting roles.

The Academy Working Group decided that an offer would be publicised throughout the Northfield community, giving groups the chance to apply for up to £1500, for projects that would meet the following outcomes from the LOIP:

- Being a safe/child friendly city
- Supporting Mental Wellbeing
- Combating Food Poverty
- Supporting Young People to a Positive Destination

They also decided that once the applications were returned, they would be scrutinised by the AWG to check they fit the criteria. They would then be presented at assemblies, advertised on the school digital displays and at lunchtime sessions. The pupils would vote on the 3 projects they believed would benefit their community the most with funding given to the projects with the most votes. The results would be fed back to the pupils at later assemblies and a celebration held to acknowledge the volunteer's and community group's involvement and learn about the successful projects.

9 bids totalling £12293.80 were received by applicants, were scrutinised by the AWG and presented at the assemblies. The vote took place on 6th March 2020 throughout the school supported by teaching staff, so could be regarded as a whole school effort. 450 pupils voted, the votes counted, and moneys awarded to the following applicants

- **Northfield Youth Project 2020** A weekly youth group and monthly disco for young people with support and food. £1500
- **As-Salaam Project** Fishing and outdoor activities for Syrian New Scots who have moved to the area as a result of civil war. £1235
- **Street sport Gazebo** A Gazebo to allow chilling out, karaoke, arts and puzzles, or a place to watch the sports at the Northfield Street sport sessions. £1500
- **The Cubby** A fund to make sure the fridges and freezers in Cummings Park Centre have food in them to give to people who need extra help and make ends meet. £1500
- **Preparing for Secondary** Shazam Theatre Company want to hold drama confidence building workshops for 2 primary 7 classes in the area to build their confidence before attending secondary. £1370
- **Community Food Bank Initiative** Mastrick Community Centre and Muirfield Primary will work together in this pupil led project to build a bigger food bank for the Mastrick area. £1500
- **Boogie in the Bar** People over 50 or with dementia, many who live alone attend a social and dance at local venues. The bid is to provide lunch at the sessions. £840
- **Northfield Masters Basketball Club** To start a basketball club for players to continue participation in basketball outside of school and provide development opportunities in leadership £1349



The number of volunteers that supported this project totalled 14, 3 in the UDecide Northfield steering group and 11 from the AWG, totalling over 100 volunteer hours.

A PB Celebration, plus evaluation session was planned but had to be postponed due to the Covid-19 crisis. This celebration has been postponed and it is hoped members of both steering groups can visit the successful bidders to see the difference PB funding can make to communities although it

should be noted that the Covid-19 restrictions have resulted in delays to the funded projects. Once they take place the total number of volunteer hours will increase.

The UDecide Northfield steering group have been impressed by the attitude and commitment of the pupils. Also, the planned outcomes were achieved as follows:

- Number of voters **increased from 372 (previous PB) to 450.**
- Digital displays were used in the presentation of the bids and ideas have been developed to use and simplify the voting process using digital platforms in the future. This PB model departed from the usual one event model normally practiced in the city therefore showed other models could be successful.
- Involvement/deliberation time of pupils increased from two short sessions to 2 double period sessions plus presentations and vote counts.
- 2 young people want to join the main steering group

Boogie in the Bar

Following the success of the Boogie in the Bar initiative that is aimed at giving people with dementia, their carers and others needing additional support a fun activity, “Boogie on Tour” takes the Boogie brand to sheltered housing complexes and brings the party to those who have more difficulty or cannot access the Boogie at the Bar events. The first of the tours was at Lewis Court.

It was Valentine’s day so the décor in the common room was hearts and flowers. Thirty-eight residents attended. They had soup and sandwiches for lunch, finishing with some tea and

biscuits. After all the food the Boogie was a must. Those that could dance did, and the others simply enjoyed the music and the company.



This initiative goes a long way to the reduction of isolation and from the feedback we received impacts positively on people's wellbeing.

Women's Group and Recipe Book

The group was set up originally to support women from families who had been relocated to Aberdeen from Syria. There were 8 women regularly attending the sessions together with 6 children under 5's, planning a programme based around their interests. Some of the women cooked and recorded recipes in traditional Arabic cooking. Three of the women completed a recipe book with Arab food recipes. This involved translating ingredients into English and sourcing unusual spices and ingredients. This helped to improve their oral and written English. Funding for this project came from Aberdeen City Councils Syrian Project and the completed booklet was sent to the printers just before lockdown. This delayed publication but the



booklet has now been completed and distributed to family and friends and further into the community.

The biggest unintended outcome for this group was that they met at the same time as those developing the Cummings Park Community Association with the two groups regularly coming together to eat and get to know more about each other. They spoke

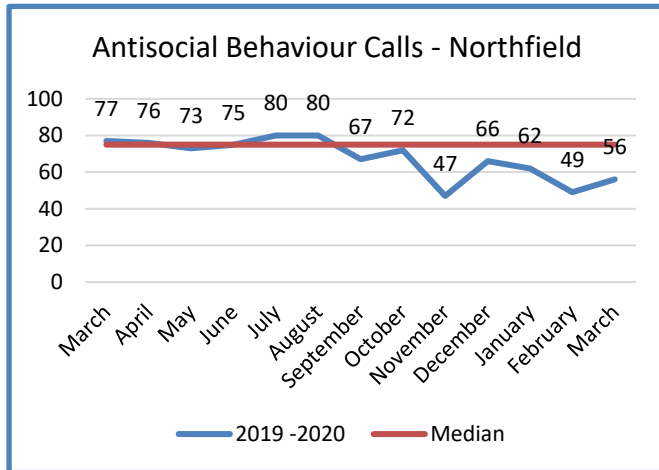
about differences in culture and spoke about their children and schools. They also spoke about the area and the ladies from the management committee group were interested in ideas to develop the area including the development of the coffee bar in Cummings Park Centre. It is hoped this can be developed into providing lunches from different cultures for everyone to enjoy.

Another outcome for the Women's Group was that they successfully applied for funding for 2 summer family trips during the school summer holidays 2019. This was an opportunity for the women and their families to visit other parts of Scotland they had not yet visited and have fun together.

DRAFT

Are our changes resulting in improvement?

Improving Quality of Life



Youth Anti- social behaviour calls have gradually decreased over the year – starting at an average of 77 and reducing to 56 per month.

PROSPEROUS PLACE



Priority: We will work together to improve the area

Primary Drivers

Areas where we have made changes during 2019/20

We will deliver high quality housing and support

Manor Walk Housing

Housing Improvements

We will improve area facilities

Heathryfold Park Group

Middlefield Corners Greenspace

Haudagain Project

What key changes have we made?

Manor Walk Housing

The Manor Walk development was completed in early summer 2019 with the houses being allocated from August 2019.

This sees the completion of a further 179 new homes and an investment of £26.5 million across the two Smithfield and Manor Walk developments in Middlefield.



Housing Improvements

The flats on Byron Square have seen a major refurbishment project to the external painted areas. Issues with windows deteriorating has seen the project expand to window replacements.

It is intended that with the completion of the work on the flats a project will develop to enhance and redevelop the whole square area reconfiguring the car parking area and generally making the area more 'attractive'.

Heathryfold Park Group

Over the last few years major flood alleviation works have taken place in Heathryfold Park, including the development of flood alleviation measures by opening the Scatterburn which coursed underground and the building of bunds. The major works are complete for this and are currently being tested and adjustments made.

The development of this area meant design opportunities could take place including the development of two play areas, the creation of a dog play area (one of the first in Scotland), new paths and walkways created, plus various planting opportunities for wild flowers, bulbs, various different grasses, plants suitable for different terrains including semi wetlands and fruit bushes. New paths and walkways have also been built.



Throughout the process a Greenspace Development Group made up of 7 residents and

supported by local ACC Community Development staff have been influential with the design aspects of the development, including the location and design of the playparks, the routes and materials of the paths, the location and design of the dog play area, the placement of

litter bins and the planting, plus the introduction of new lighting. They brought a level of local knowledge to the process and showed a commitment to the area by regularly carrying out litter picks. This has brought about much learning about planning, environmental issues, working in partnership and budgeting not only for the local people, but for the staff and workers involved.

The Steering Group also supported various engagements with the local community, from consultations on play spaces to historical walks and talks, bulb planting sessions and in the Summer of 2019 held an open week of activities that included bat exploration walks, science Workshops, a family fun run and even horse riding!

The group also supported activities arranged by a Community Countryside Ranger, managed by ACC Countryside Service and contracted for a year. These included work with the local primary schools, learning about habitat, nature and the environment using various means from guided walks to art activities. Animal searches also took place as the wildlife in the area includes deer, foxes, hedgehogs, many different species of birds and frogs. The Ranger was instrumental in raising the profile of the project within the local community and wider area.



Due to Covid-19 restrictions continued development of the area has been difficult, however this year (2020) saw the first flowering of the wildflowers and the establishment of much of the other planting. It is hoped that more bulb planting will take place and to develop the idea of family runs. It is also hoped to create information points throughout the area.

Middlefield Corners Greenspace Project



The project came to life following conversations with local folk who said:

“The corners of some of the streets are a mess and could something be done to change them from dull, muddy areas where people fly tip and allow their dogs to mess by turning them into something more colourful and appealing.”

The project developed to improve the look of the environment and to further offer food growing activity in the area. It began with improving the green space corners located at the bottom of Kemp Street onto Danestone Circle in Middlefield, opposite Manor Park School. Spring bulbs were donated by Aberdeen City Council and planted by the Nursery School children of the school in October 2019. By March 2020 the fruits of their labours were visible, and the community was rewarded with white crocus flowers. Fruit bushes, raspberry and blackcurrant have also been planted so that the local community can forage for

berries. More planting is planned with the Nursery School although unfortunately this has halted due to Covid-19.

The project has been a team collaboration involving our Aberdeen City Council Gardeners, they did the digging and assisted the nursery children to plant the bulbs along with the Communities team based in Middlefield. The project has received funding from the Community Food Growing and the Health Improvement fund of £700.

Middlefield Corners has also registered with 'It's your neighbourhood (Keep Scotland Beautiful) and was recognised and awarded their first "establishment" certificate by Steven Shaw, Aberdeen City Council Environmental Services Manager. Manor Park Nursery is among the first nurseries in Scotland to be involved in such a project.



Haudagain Development

Following being appointed by Transport Scotland to work on the major infrastructure improvement project to reduce congestion at the Haudagain roundabout, Farrans Construction came onsite early summer 2019 with an expected completion date of Spring 2021. The project includes approximately 500m of new carriageway connecting the A90 North Anderson Drive and the A96 Auchmill Road to assist reduce traffic congestion and improve journey times.

Farrans have kept the community updated with regular newsletters and pieces in the community magazines that serve the area – Middlefield Mirror, Cummings North and Mastrick Matters. Their dedicated Community Liaison staff are regular attendees at the Northfield Locality Partnership Board, and they provide updates for the Board as work progresses.

In addition to their newsletter and media updates, Farrans have held 2 Community Engagement events – a Meet the Contractor in May 2019 and a Public Drop in Event in December 2019. Both were held in the Lord Provost Henry E Rae Hall at the Middlefield Hub.

Following the final demolition of the remaining houses in the Middlefield Logie area, work started to divert utilities which had to happen to allow road construction work to begin.

As well as the actual construction work, Farrans staff have attended Manor Park School to deliver a safety workshop to pupils in Primary 2. A major construction project can be very exciting for children to consider exploring -and the workshop was designed to educate the

children of playing in and around the construction site. Various activities were held to highlight the need for safety and the class teacher commented – “The workshop was great, it had a mixture of activities to keep the children engaged, which they continued to talk about afterwards.

Five of Farrans Project staff had signed up to become STEM Ambassadors using their own skills to encourage and promote young people to choose a career in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). An opportunity for the company to promote the industry it should offer to inspire the future generation of workers and the STEM Ambassadors will visit Manor Park and other schools in the area over the duration of the construction project.

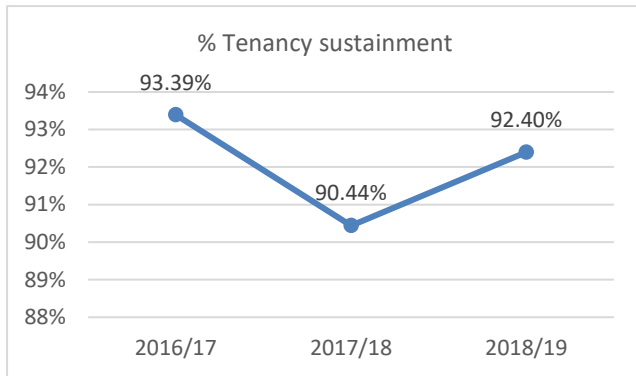
Not only will the Haudagain Project improve traffic congestion but will hopefully provide exciting future prospects for the area’s children and young people.



Are our changes resulting in improvement?

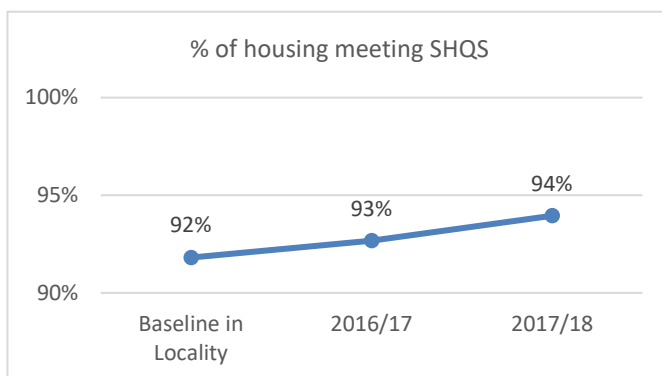
Improving the Area

Tenancy sustainment shows an improvement over the last year

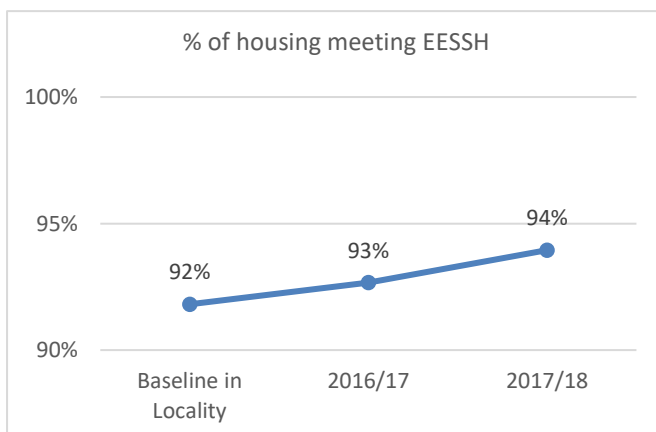


The following graphs illustrate the improvements that have been made to our stock over the last year resulting in achieving high levels of compliance with national indicators.

Scottish Housing Quality Standard



Energy Efficiency for Social Housing



Locality Partnership

Cummings Park, Heathryfold, Northfield, Mastrick and Middlefield

Martin Smith, Locality Inclusion Manager

Northfield Locality Partnership Board is a well-established and well supported partnership group within the CPA structure. We work together to achieve improvements for the Locality around the themes of people, place, technology and economy and to ensure it is a place where all people can prosper.

Membership

- *4 Community Representatives*
- *2 Community Council Representatives*
- *1 Community Project Representative*
- *1 Community Centre Representative*
- *1 Aberdeen City Council*
- *1 AHSCP Representative*
- *2 Police Scotland Representatives*
- *1 ACVO / Third Sector Representative*
- *1 Deputy Head Teacher*
- *2 Elected Members*