



Community Planning  
Aberdeen

## Torry Locality Report – 2019/2020



# CONTENTS

- 1 Contents
- 2 Introduction
- 3 **Our Economy**  
**Our People**  
**Our Place**  
**Our Technology**
- 4 Partnership

# INTRODUCTION

## Introduction

Welcome to the 2019/20 Torry Annual Report.

It has been refreshing to review and reflect on the extent of work carried out across our locality. Particularly impressive is the range of support delivered by a wide range of community organisations and our partners, delivering services and support, that have clearly proven their value in recent months.

The report covers the period 2019/20 but it would be remiss not to include the early response to the ongoing Covid 19 situation. Covid 19 has almost overshadowed the work undertaken during the reporting year and it is also admirable how service delivery has responded to enable that support to continue to be provided to people in the community, including the most vulnerable people.

The next period will continue to see delivery challenges in response to the ongoing Covid 19 and finding ways to engage with the wider community, where not everyone can rely on online communication.

Looking forward to the next year, we will be refreshing the locality plan to align with the citywide Local Outcome Improvement Plan and again the challenge will be finding safe and effective ways of engaging widely to support that work. In the meantime, we'd like to celebrate and acknowledge all the volunteers, community groups, projects and services for their work in support of our locality.

passionate about Torry confident  
respectful supportive  
non-judgemental  
team player fair  
analytical friendly  
willing to compromise  
reliable represent wider community  
welcoming willing to learn new things  
& take on board new ideas  
action-focused  
forward-thinking committed  
care about your community  
sensible organised

**We want a Locality Partnership which is active, inclusive and delivers action.  
This means that:**

- A good cross-section of community interests are represented.
- A wider range of voices are heard that represent the community make up of Torry
- Fresh thinking and ideas contribute to the work of the Partnership.
- Better decisions are made (which address community priorities) and these decisions turn into joint action
- People feel they have ownership and influence over the work of the Partnership.
- The wider community is better-connected into the work of the Partnership and can influence and deliver on the Locality Plan
- There are clear relationships with other community organisations

Looking forward, we plan to continue to work closely with the wider community and partners through the Partnership to reach common goals and actions that will enhance the lives of Torry residents.

# OUR ECONOMY



## Our Economy Drivers

Priority Aim	Primary Drivers	Areas where we have made changes during 2019/20
We will increase the available income levels for residents	We will ensure the community have the knowledge, skills and confidence to reduce household costs and maximise household income	Best Start & Smile Pantry
	We will remove barriers to accessing employment and employment progression	Community Growing
Access to Employment and Enterprise Opportunities	Citywide Job and Apprenticeship creation benefits local residents	Provision of Low Cost Meals
	We will maximise the employment, education and training opportunities for school leavers	Torry Hub Development
	New Business Start Ups are supported and promoted as viable economic opportunities	Dragados Community Benefits
Regeneration of Victoria Road	Victoria Road will be an attractive Place for residents and visitors	Youth Work in Schools
		Greyhope Bay
		VictoriArt

# What key changes have we made?

## Community Food Growing

These projects feed into the Aberdeen city food growing strategy 2020-2026 which aims to provide access to everyone in the city to grow their own food and be aware of the benefits of food growing and quality environment across the city.

## Tullos Community Garden and Growing Space

Summer 2019 saw the delivery of 12 fun and interactive Outdoor Woodland learning Sessions. 20 families took part with a range of ages involved. We had bug and toy animal hunts, planted and picked vegetables, played games and held storytelling. Built dens and toasted marshmallows, with hot chocolate by the mud kitchen!



On the 6<sup>th</sup> of July the garden held its first Anniversary bash, with around 70 local people along to celebrate, with fun activities, food and refreshments on offer. We planted an apple tree to mark the day and shared birthday cake with everyone.

A number of Planting and garden maintenance sessions took place with the help of local volunteers and timebank hours from Dragados. Giving a small crop of veggies to share with the community.

In October the Garden group also put on a 'Spooky' Halloween event with some fun, scary activities, a Halloween grotto, games and snacks.

There has been a consistent increase in the number of people coming to use the garden to walk, listen to the birds and for children to play and take part in supported activities.

Lockdown and new restrictions delayed some of the planned projects for 2020, although the group were partners in the Keep Growing Aberdeen - 'Seed Sharing Project' which saw 50 seed packs delivered in Torry and a further 200 city wide.



The **Keep Growing Aberdeen - 'Seed Sharing Project'** ran from April – July 2020 during the pandemic, as a pilot project for the Torry area. To encourage those self-isolating or feeling shut off from nature and their neighbours to take part in a beneficial activity: growing at home and sharing vegetable and flower seedlings within their neighbourhood.

The project was promoted with delivery taking place through E bike and partners, some linked into local food parcel deliveries.

After a successful launch in Torry. The project was rolled out following interest citywide. Seeing 250 packs delivered to individuals and groups across the city. Becoming a collaborative health improvement venture between Community Food Initiative North East of Scotland (CFINE), Tullos



Community Garden Group, Aberdeen City Communities Team, One Seed Forward and Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership (ACHSCP).

The collaboration sought a variety of outcomes from the projects including:

- Improving mental health and wellbeing during the pandemic,
- Skills and capacity building i.e. knowledge of food growing as a life skill
- Community cohesion and inclusiveness and participation
- Improved dietary habits
- Pro-environmental behaviours
- Developing partnership working,

## St Fitticks Growing Space & Orchard

Towards the end of 2019 Cultivate Aberdeen attained the lease of the site on St Fittick's Road next to the golf club. Plans were drawn up with consultation of the community and the next stage was to move ahead with landscaping of the area in the spring of 2020. Cultivate linked in with the Eden Project and Old Torry Community Centre to host a launch event in March 2020. This was a well-attended, vibrant day with soup and sandwiches from Go Green and Cfine, topped off with a visit to the site and entertainment from the Torry Dancers.

Unfortunately, the restrictions around COVID 19 have delayed much of the planned activity on site.

### Cultivate Aberdeen Seedling project

Cultivate was successful in securing funding for Grow at Home kits. Cultivate Aberdeen's #GrowAtHome kit was part of our Community Action Response - an initiative to encourage everyone to do what they can to support communities, and particularly vulnerable and isolated individuals during this ongoing Coronavirus pandemic. We wanted to remain true to our vision so we facilitated the ability for people to grow their own - at home! With everything from salad leaves to cress, peppers to chives all being grown for free besides sinks or on kitchen counters when we weren't able to go too far outdoors.



Along with food growing the initiative wanted to support those struggling with the social affects of isolation and therefore created 'grounding techniques' to boost one's resilience to stress and anxiety which were available in every kit. The project was an astounding success and we were inundated with more requests than we could deliver, but by working with other organisations and through the generous funding from both the National Lottery and SHMU Community Support Fund we were able to reach over 500 individuals and families to share some joy for growing and to make steps towards our vision of creating kind, confident, and connected communities through the power of food growing.

## School Holiday Food and Fun

In partnership with AFC Community Trust and Sport Aberdeen the children of Torry were again offered the fantastic service of Food and Fun during the summer holidays. Between 15-30 children approximately aged 5-12 were offered a range of activities plus their lunch at Tullos Primary School, thus benefitting their health and offering them a chance to do stimulating activities and mix with their peers. Parents were also delighted with the service as it helped feed their children and gave them a well needed break too. The initiative linked in well with the Big Noise programme which meant that some children almost had a full day of fun at Tullos

A vital partner in the programme was Cfine who contributed the food every day.

Summer 2019 – 975 attendances

Due to Lockdown during the Easter break, a different type of provision was put in place, providing for children from Torry and the South who were already attending the Vulnerable Childrens Hub. A multi-agency group of staff and partners provided food and an activities programme

## Free and Low-Cost meals

- Jesus House's breakfast and supper club providing – feeding 135 people every month
- Go Green Café – Running from Old Torry Community Centre – average 40-50 meals each Friday
- Food and Fun Initiative to address holiday hunger – Summer 2019, October 2019, Winter 2019, Easter 2020
- St Fittick's Church fortnightly Lunch Club – 1,320 low cost meals to older people.

## Torry St Fitticks Church



St Fittick's Church provide a range of activities for the local community over and above their church services within the area. Messy Church providing family fun activities with snacks for everyone. Youth and community events provide a base for the Ragamuffin Drama groups running weekly.

Their Lunch Club provide for mainly elderly but is open to everyone. Held fortnightly, on a Wednesday. A team of

church volunteers provide a freshly cooked 3 course lunch followed by tea and coffee. Over 60 folk attend, adding up to over 1,320 meals served.

**Some of the outcomes reported for those attending are:** Reduces loneliness, Increased social interactions, Keep's people involved and active, provides fun and entertainment, Boosts moral and an opportunity to have a proper home-made meal.

## Breakfast and Supper Club Jesus House

The breakfast and supper club was in full operation up until April 2020 when Lockdown took hold. Cooked breakfasts and a weekly evening meal were served to on average 135 people every month. The existence of this club has raised hope in the lives of the people in our community. Some have been able to get back to work, others have reduced intake of substance, and others reduced criminal behaviours. Feedback has shown with support from the church and positive social interactions, feeling of anxiety and low self-esteem has have also been reduced.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions they had to stop physical attendance at the club but instead started door to door food parcel distribution to existing club members and others in the community who needed help. They currently distribute food parcels distribution from the church in Glenbervie Road every Saturdays. They are looking forward to starting up the Breakfast and Supper club in the near future (when restrictions allow).

## Community food outlets and food parcel distribution

Three main providers of food parcels in the area were operating in Torry over the year to March 2020.

- Community Food Initiatives North East (CFINE) - FareShare free produce distributed - 30 tonnes in Torry equates to 4,285 emergency food parcels, >71,000 meals.  
However this is not including CFINE's own food bank, which distributed a significant amount of food to Torry residents. There are also a number of CFMs around the city centre who will deal with Torry residents too, however this data reflects those actually based there.  
COVID 19 continues to pose a major challenge for Cfine. They switched their provision to contactless home delivery and made >500 deliveries in Torry between April 2020 and May 2020
- TLC Foodbank works in partnership with the Trussell Trust and ran from Old Tory Community Centre.
- Jesus House Church distribution of food parcels over the last year.

## Best Start Smile Pantry

CFINE, with partners Aberdeen City Council, NHS Grampian, Health and Social Care Partnership and Torry (a regeneration area) community organisations and residents, has opened a Torry Best Start and Smile Community Food Pantry where members can access good quality, nutritious fresh, frozen and ambient food for £2.50 a week with a typical shopping being worth £20 plus.

*Quote from Carole-Anne Duff  
NHS Health Professional*

*The Best Start and Smile Pantry "has enabled us to work directly with the public (something that we don't always get the opportunity to do) and to work in closer partnership with a third sector organisation."*

Key aspects of the programme, in which awareness and practical steps promoting good oral health are integral, include:

- Establishing a 'Healthy Start Community Food Pantry' where those entitled to claim Best Start vouchers (families with young children) can access the range of produce at a greatly reduced cost as well as free FareShare produce.
- Promoting good oral health practice including 'Making Every Opportunity Count', training for all front line public/voluntary sector staff, raising awareness of the importance of oral health and how to 'spot and refer', building on the 'Child Smile' programme.
- A programme of healthy cooking on a budget training targeted at parents with under 5's and including working with Midwifery services on a "Baby Steps" programme targeted at pre- and post- natal women which includes physical activity (walking primarily) and learning to cook healthy, nourishing meals for their families and infants; promoting oral health to be incorporated potentially including further community growing projects, further promoting local, healthy produce.

Adopting 'Test of Change' (Plan, Do, Study, Act) methodology, learning from the Torry experience, will expand and establish the programme in other regeneration areas.

The Best Start and Smile Pantry was launched on 21<sup>st</sup> November offering a unique shopping opportunity for Families with young children who are eligible for Best Start Foods. With an initial membership of 20, now increased to 60; members can access good quality, nutritious fresh, frozen and ambient food for £2.50 a week with a typical shopping being worth £20 plus. The Pantry includes FareShare produce which varies day to day but a typical includes fruit and veg, baby food pouches, steamed rice packets, bread, milk and juice etc.

Several members are using their Best Start Debit Card to purchase fruit, vegetables and pulses. Recipes, using the Pantry ingredients are available and members are reporting back how they have



got on when they have tried something new. Volunteers are helpful in offering cooking advice and sharing their low cost, healthy recipes. Members can also access free dental packs, sanitary products, nappies, wipes & toiletries etc.

Sixteen volunteers manage the day to day running of the Pantry shop; they have all been provided with training in Pantry operation processes focusing on requirements and regulation including food hygiene. Key skills in good customer management processes have been outlined and volunteer are trained to identify potential members e.g. primary carer givers, entitled to Best Start vouchers.

Healthy cooking on a pantry budget 5 week course started the first week of March and was attended by 6 mums. Aberlour Child Trust provided a free creche on CFINE premises beside the kitchen and this was attended by 6 children age between 7 month and 2 years.

SAFE team referrals are taken by the SAFE team when they attend the pantry or by one of two volunteers who have undergone training in completing the referral form with a member, to pass on to the team. The member is then contacted by the SAFE team and advised or given an appointment as is appropriate.

Due to COVID 19 the Pantry suspended public opening on the 19<sup>th</sup> of March. Pantry members were all offered home delivered food parcels, dental packs, sanitary and personal hygiene products, nappies, wipes and baby food and formula. During this process of adapting Best Start Pantry members also received a welfare call or email and they have been provided with food and anything they have requested.

#### **Our key achievements and impact**

- Aberdeen as a whole has seen an increase in the uptake of Best Start Vouchers, in the Pantry membership alone there has been an increase of 37%
- Local people in or at risk of food poverty have another option to food banks and the opportunity to buy a healthy, affordable shopping whilst sharing with others the benefits of an inviting, supportive space.
- Our hopes are that the pantries will expand across the City and Shire, that our members will help to create these and that the alliances we have made along the way continue to be beneficial and help each other to help those in need.

## **Old Torry Go Green Project**

The Go Green project uses food that would otherwise have gone to waste to create home cooked hot meals which are given away free at the Community Centre. The number of people served is estimated to average to around 40 – 50 people each week. Some users have commented that it is the only proper home made cooked meal that they receive during the week.

Apache North Sea Provided funding to the Centre to primarily for improvements to the Kitchen area in order to support the Go Green Project. As well as improvements to the Kitchen this funding allowed for a general refresh of the centre with internal decorations taking place along with the sanding and re-varnishing of the hall floor.

## **Old Torry Community Centre**

A public access defibrillator has been fitted at the entrance of the centre to be used by the wider community. This was supplied by the charity Red Rox.

The Centre has also had gigafast Fibre Broadband installed as part of the Cityfibre project. This ensures their public access Chrome computers have superfast broadband for activities such as the Pathways employment support services and users can free wifi access as superfast speeds as well.

## **Balnagask Community Centre**

The Association has recently arranged to redecorate the Coffee Bar and Main Hall within the centre and also arrange for a new flooring to be fitted in the Main Hall.

The chairperson of the Association, Hazel McAllen, was Awarded the British Empire Medal in the 2019 Queen's Birthday Honours list.

The Association ran their usual Summer Playscheme during 2019 which also included trips to Blair Drummonds Safari park, Landmark and the carnivals at Abroath. Other activities for children included trips to the Circus, while the Parents and Toddlers group went to Scallywags in Stonehaven.

Halloweens and Christmas parties were also organised and trips to visit Santa Clause at local stores were arranged.

For the Adults that use the centre the Prize Bingo nights arranged for gifts to be taken to Balnagask House and Torry Nursing Home, with the Volunteers dressed as Elves and Santa. Adults were also treated to a Hogmanay party to welcome in the New Year and volunteers were treated to celebration at the Caledonian Golf Club.

## **YOUTH WORK IN SCHOOLS – LOCHSIDE ASG – TORRY**

The Youth Work in Schools (YWIS team) work across the Lochside ASG within schools in the Torry, Cove and Kincorth areas. The YWIS team's aim is to engage with young people from P6- S6 delivering a wide range of skills building activities to support their personal and social development.

In partnership with young people, primary schools and Lochside Academy Multi Agency Team, the YWIS team offer one to one sessions to support young people's confidence building, consequential thinking, relationships and managing challenging situations in a positive way.

From August to October 2020, 72 young people have accessed one to one support from the Youth Work in Schools Team

Transition Groups-29 young people from Walker Road and Tullos Primary Schools have taken part in a 10 the YWIS teamek transition group to support their move to secondary education

Confidence to Cook – 6 young people have taken part in Confidence to Cook sessions at Lochside Academy and Deeside Family Centre. This has enables young people to develop further skills and knowledge around healthy eating on a budget and learn practical cooking skills

During March to August 2020 , the YWIS team supported young people with google classroom, virtual cooking walk and talk sessions, garden visits to promote positive health and being during lockdown and this support continued throughout the Summer break.

The YWIS team supported young people at the Tullos Hub from April – July 2020.

Lochside Academy Art Group – 14 young people attended the art group on a Monday lunchtime The YWIS team are also part of a joint project supporting the movie group at Tullos Community Centre with Street Sport

## **STREETSPORT – DENIS LAW TRUST**

Torry is a target area of the Denis Law Legacy Trust Streetsport programme and we are delighted that during this time period we have continued to grow our staple sessions and expand into new activity and opportunities.

Sessions have been delivered at Tullos Playing field. Then since its opening in November 2019, our popular Wednesday session moved to the Cruyff court and saw an increase in users and the number of activities we could offer. As soon as the court opened, we were able to offer an additional Tuesday session in line with the community need.

#### A Total of **4412** participants took part in Streetsport Sessions

With a breakdown of:

Male = 2760 (63%)

Female= 1652 (37%)

#### Streetsport Multisport Session breakdown - Participations: **2693**

- 05/11/19- 17/03/20 Tuesday 1930-2100 (Cruyff Court Neale Cooper) -Participations: 492
- 03/04/19- 18/03/20 Wednesday 1930-2100 (Tullos School – Cruyff Court Neale Cooper)

#### Pilot Combat Sport

After conducting participant interest questionnaires, we trialled boxing activity at our multisport sessions, having received funding to purchase equipment from Police Scotland. Those who engaged were invited to participate in a dedicated fitness and boxing session at Tullos School. We then managed to secure a partnership with Aberdeen Muay Thai in Torry. Securing funding for the hire of the space and a facility coach so that the session was free to the young people we signposted.

From 04/11/19- 19/03/20 there were **456** Participations in this activity.



#### Young Promoters Squad

From October 2019 until March 2020, in partnership with North East Arts Touring, we set up a group whose task was to organise a series of cinema screenings and professional theatre performances in

the Torry community. Meeting weekly to organise events and take part in related activities. An art group, set up in collaboration with the youth work team at Lochside produced marketing material and art to promote the events. Our event group -the Young Promoters Squad was made up of 10 young people of various ages. After a successful cinema screening the group was preparing for a live theatre performance of 'Space Ape' but unfortunately this had to be postponed. Our Grinch Cinema Screening had 40 attendees and at the Snow Queen was watched by Primary 1,2 and 3's pupils.

### Dance Classes

We also ran a free dance class at Tullos School, but when funding came to an end, we were able to secure more to allow us to support the Lochside dance group with 367 attendances. We supplied a dance instructor who helped support the PE staff member and the group of pupils to create choreography for a dance competition. This took place at Mackie Academy on the 27<sup>th</sup> of February 2020.

114 young people from Torry primaries took part in Kickstarter sessions, encouraging them to get involved in the project as well as members of the Wednesday sessions taking part in the Annual Sport Di Strada tournament at ASV.

## **Greyhope Bay**

In May of 2019, the board took the decision to increase fundraising capacity and engaged a further consultant to work alongside Fiona McIntyre in developing a fundraising campaign and support the implementation of a fundraising strategy. In August 2019, Greyhope Bay launched a new campaign focused on creating opportunities for communities, organisations and individuals.

A membership framework was developed that allowed business, organisations and individuals to join as members and be part of Greyhope Bay. This structure created four membership levels - ADMIRALS, SKIPPERS, CREW and BAYWATCHERS and an ever-evolving cross community collaboration that has led to investors getting in on the ground, hosting fundraising events and Skippers, who meet weekly, shaping the project programme and strategy.

By October 2019 commitments of funds and in-kind contributions had been raised to cover over a third of capital costs. This was achieved through the membership programme, including skipper fundraising events and commitments to provide funds and in-kind contributions as part of the design/build phase. In celebration, Greyhope Bay hosted a community event and fundraiser at Torry Battery with over 700 visitors joining in the fun-filled family event.

## Building Community

Greyhope Bay leads by building community, it was through crafting a way to connect individuals, businesses and community leaders and creating opportunities to be part of the project that fundraising skyrocketed.

Community empowerment has developed and been identified as one of Greyhope Bay's core values, which means creating structures for community ownership and space for the community to lead. Greyhope Bay membership includes a free access model (Greyhope Baywatchers) offering Greyhope Crew membership benefits to the immediate community of Torry and Balnagask and ownership of a community events calendar.

Our community have taken the lead in crafting events from bike rides, afternoon teas, treasure hunts, santa stand up paddle races and beach cleans to both fundraise and offer multiple opportunities to be a part of the project.

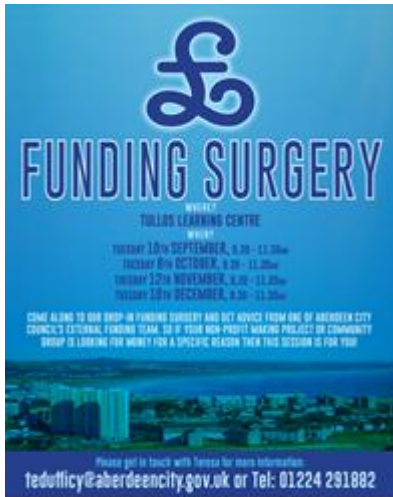
Greyhope Bay's ongoing fundraising success through the membership framework and building community has led to strengthened applications to larger grant funders. Greyhope Bay successfully secured £38,000 from Suez Communities Trust in February 2020, with further significant applications to Scottish Water, SNH Year of Coast and Waters, Aberdeen Harbour and Opportunity North East.

A new project manager was appointed to manage the project build and design team with the aim of submitting a building warrant application, finalising detailed designs for the construction and operation of an off-grid facility. This work has included the development of a bespoke green power system that will use alternative energy solutions including solar, battery and eventually wind - designed and built by JCE Energy at no cost to Greyhope Bay. The project aims to be operational at Torry Battery by the end of 2020.

## External funding - Torry Funding Surgeries







Between April 2019 and February 2020, 15 community groups attended funding surgeries in Torry, with some groups attending more than once. These surgeries were organised through close working between the Community Development Officers and External Funding Officers at Aberdeen City Council. Two groups were successful in applying for the Wee Grants for Wee Groups funds from the Robertson Trust in January 2020, after attending funding surgeries in December 2019. Another group were successful in their application to the Community Festive Fund and a further group was supported to apply and successfully granted an Awards for All Grant from the National Lottery. These outcomes help to deliver on the Torry Locality Plan and bring in funds for delivering activities in the area.

Other organisations were supported to apply for funding but were not successful. However, the content in these applications can be kept and used to support future applications. Other groups received information about potential funding sources.

Feedback from those who attended included:

- *"The help is much appreciated."*
- *"The funding meeting was very useful, and it has led us to have discussions in our committee as to whether we should move to a different structure to access more funding."*
- *"Links she provided for Funding Scotland has meant we have put in an application with another funding group from there."*

The most successful groups appear to be those who have attended more than one funding surgery – this could be because of there is more time to develop ideas and discuss potential funding opportunities.

## VictoriArt



The Victoriart Road Group have continued to brighten Torry's streets and buildings. Commissioning several new murals, involving local pupils and residents in art and wellbeing projects in the area.

Pupils at Tullos Primary School had a brilliant time in September 2019, helping artist 'Fit Like' complete an extensive mural, funded by Tesco bags for life. Depicting shining herring and pupil handprints as part of the colourful ocean inspired design.

The group launched a Mural Health Walk on 28<sup>th</sup> Sept 2019. Starting at the Victoria Road bridge along to Nigg Bay Golf Club with 15 local people taking part. Planned workshops on t-shirt printing, using a tufting gun, stone painting and collage, linked to the art on show will take place once restrictions are lifted.

The Mural Health Walk Project tells a story about Torry and local people around the theme of health and well-being. It centres on a series of new artworks scattered along Victoria Road in Torry, creating

a treasure trail of art. Artists (Isla Wade, Quarry Wood and KMG) engaging with partners at the Marine Laboratory, Carpet shop on Victoria Road and Nigg Bay Golf Club. The group felt this was a great opportunity to enhance the attractiveness of Victoria Road. These artworks will be added to an online and physical map of local street art in Torry and form part of the new walking route for people to improve their health while enjoying some art.

The group has also secured funding to run a pebble painting workshop for children and adults during summer 2019 in the Tullos Community Wildlife Garden.

More exciting projects are on the way. Include painting recycling bins and colourful painted stairways; like those at the St Nicholas Centre have been funded through HIF and local raffles. However, due to the current restrictions these projects are currently on hold.

# OUR PEOPLE



## Our People Drivers

### Priority Aim

Our Children and Young People will have equal opportunities to achieve in life

### Primary Drivers

We will close the gap between our children entering P1 and the Aberdeen Average

We will close the Attainment Gap

Our Young People will have facilities and services that meet their needs

We will reduce the levels of dependency on alcohol and drugs in our community

We will improve the mental and sexual health in our community

We will improve the health and wellbeing of the community

Our Community is kept safe and protected from harm

### Areas where we have made changes during 2019/20

Torry Hub Development

Early Years Expansion

Priority Families

BIG NOISE

Food and FUN & Free School Meals

Pupil Equity Fund

Skate Park

Torry Alcohol and substance misuse Improvement project

Streetsport

Bonny Torry

Community Led Action

Jog Torry

TYAG and Operation Smallwood

Priority Aim	Primary Drivers	Areas where we have made changes during 2019/20
We will build on our community assets to improve Torry as a place to live and work and create opportunities for involvement in all aspects of community life	Build on our strong community spirit and the potential of groups, individuals and families to develop community action in response to this Locality Plan	We Love Torry and Torry Champions
	Enhances social cohesion and socially sustainable communities	Dragados Community benefits
	Our community has increased opportunities to influence decision making	Memories & Heritage Groups
		Community Meals
		Participatory budgeting
		Locality Partnership

## What Key Changes we have made?

### Torry Adult Counselling

Torry Adult Counselling provides professional, client-led counselling to people living in Torry. Clients are most frequently referred by the two GP practices working within the TNC but often clients can simply refer themselves via a very simple application form, obtainable at the Reception at the TNC. They delivered counselling to 161 clients in Torry, referred by GP practices and other health workers, social work, education, police and other agencies working either in the Torry Neighbourhood Centre or in the area (home-visiting) as well as self-referrals - 989 counselling sessions were provided. 1 volunteer involved in the delivery of the service, contributing 98 hours. Over the years, the project has grown into a community resource to all people in the Torry neighbourhood. The counsellor reported that she worked with 5 people who required help with accessing PIP

### Geronimo - Time to Play

Geronimo- Time to Play is a ten-week project for parents and their early years children (0-5 years) to play and be creative together, in Torry. This valuable time together helps create positive attachment, supporting the early stages of learning, loving and creating together. Nurturing these relationships at this key time can have a lifelong impact and can make a significant difference to childhood development, self-esteem and lead to increased academic achievement as they grow up.



Around 30 children and parents were involved in this project. Almost all (90%) of parents reported increased confidence in joining in with their children's play and learning.

## Healthy Minds

The Healthy Minds team is part of the councils Community Learning and Development service and is funded by the Health and Social Care partnership and NHS Grampian.

They aim to assist adults with enduring mental health illness to access learning opportunities within Aberdeen City and support and encourage learners to get involved in their community by accessing learning opportunities to promote their recovery.



In the last year they have supported learners with a wide range of opportunities including Gardening at the Grove, Basic and Intermediate Guitar, Writing Groups, Craft, Walks and Art.

One learner said *"When you reach an all-time low, something like this really gives you a sense of self-worth."*

The Branching Out Programme takes part in partnership with the Countryside Rangers and the Forestry Commission. This project supports learners to gain skills and build confidence over a 10-week programme. Some learners then support future courses as peer mentors. Learners from across all localities attend this group. One learner said the group helped them be *"More assertive, less anxious."*

## Some Statistics

96% of learners report improved confidence

98% of learners report improved skills

One learner completed their Adult Achievement Award

Locality 1 Total enrolments 74 Learner Hours 678

## COERCIVE CONTROL AWARENESS-RAISING

Communities Torry staff invited Grampian Women's Aid to deliver two 'Coercive Control Awareness Raising' training sessions on the 14<sup>th</sup> of May 2019 over an afternoon and evening session.

This training, part of a Scotland wide awareness raising campaign, targeted local workers, highlighting changes to the Coercive Control and Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018. Which came into force in April 2019. Twenty-two staff from a variety of organisations and roles attended: including midwives, housing support, health and social care roles, communities and youth work staff.

The two-hour session provided participants with an understanding of Coercive Control as a specific form of intimate partner abuse, explaining the characteristics of this abuse.

Participants gained Information on the main components of the act and how to support women to report and gain help in these situations. Reporting Positive feedback with a better understanding of the legislation changes, advice for clients involved, and how to signpost on for help.





## Torry Alcohol and Drugs Misuse Project

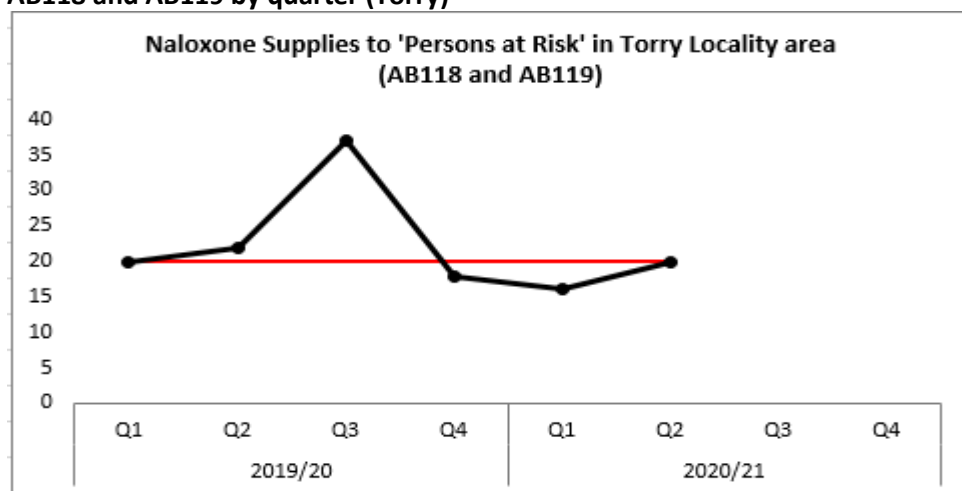
The Locality Partnership is now working with Aberdeen Drugs Partnership and other partners to develop two LOIP improvement projects being piloted in Torry

- Increasing access to Naloxone to avert overdose deaths - "Reduce the incidence of fatal drug overdose by innovative developments and increasing the distribution of naloxone by 10% by 2021"
- Reducing the number of births to opiate addicted mothers.  
Due to difficulties engaging relevant partners and data. This charter is currently on hold.

The Torry community embraced a test of change to highlight the importance of having Naloxone available in their community and these figures demonstrate the good work done in this last year. The COVID restrictions have impacted on the ability for face to face discussions regarding Naloxone but measures are now in place to allow alternatives, and we would want to ensure Torry have these opportunities available in the next quarter

A variety of methods were being implemented to increase the provision of Naloxone training and kits to individuals at risk, their families and friends. Those who may be at the scene or in a position to respond in crisis situations. Staff working in situations with at risk individuals were also targeted for training and awareness raising sessions, which will continue once restrictions are reduced. Access channels to Naloxone Kits have also been widened to allow increased and easier access.

### Naloxone Community Supplies to "Persons at Risk" - AB118 and AB119 by quarter (Torry)



Also, as part of the Drug and Alcohol Improvement Project Torry Three Drug information training sessions were delivered by the 'Scottish Drugs Forum' – coordinated by SHMU

- 6 Feb 2020 – Trauma Informed Practice with people who use substances (15 attendees)
- 7 Feb 2020 -General Drug Awareness Training (20 attendees)
- 3 March 2020– Understanding Stigma- Promoting inclusive attitude and practice. (20 attendees)

## Boogie in the Bar

Boogie in the Bar became a regular feature in the Torry social calendar with the dementia and disability friendly boogie taking place on the second Thursday of every month at the White Cockade in Torry.

Some boogie fans hailed from the local care homes, others were isolated elderly who wanted to socialise and listen to tracks from their youth. The boogie started with a soup and sandwich lunch on arrival while requested tracks from the 50's and 60's played in the background. After the lunch and snacks were over, dancers took to the floor. The range of requests went from Abba to Frank Sinatra to Andy Stewart to Elvis and even to AC/DC! Some of the older members had fun teaching the younger care workers the sloss while our resident volunteer DJ Javier Buron from Dragados led on the Macarena. Sessions would often draw to a close with a circle of boogiers dancing along to Runrig's "Loch Lomond".

Sadly the boogie was one of the first thing to close due to covid but like many community activities it went online with the apply named "Boogie in Yer Living Room".

Here is hoping covid is over soon and the boogies will be back in the real world as our older residents have had so much to contend with over recent months.



## Community Cooking projects

### Torry Tasters – Family Cooking Sessions



**Torry Tasters – Family cooking sessions** were part of a wider Improvement project. Aiming to increase the uptake of free school meals in the Torry area.

As a lead up to these sessions. workshops were held in both Tullos and Walker Road Primary – asking children how they felt about school meals, which they would like to cook if given the opportunity. School assemblies, information stalls at parents' nights, also highlighting 'Veg cities campaign' promoting the project. Delivered jointly by Communities Team with CFINE. Having secured £2000 Health Improvement Grant funding.

Chef Spotless, the mascot created for the project, has been popular with pupils, encouraging interest in the uptake of school meals.

17 Cooking sessions have been delivered to total of 20 families taking part in 3 community kitchen venues. A variety of health and money saving topics were also included as part of the sessions. Including Oral health and reducing food waste.

Families cooked a range of 12 recipes from the school meal summer and winter menu', including: Singapore noodles, Vegetarian frittata, Chicken Korma, lentil soup and soda bread. With a few additional recipes contributed by the 'Torry memories and Heritage group'.

A colourful, family recipe booklet has also been produced as part of the promotion of school meal recipes with photos from the sessions. 800 booklets have been given to all families at Walker Road and Tullos Primaries and to Cfine Food Pantry, marking the end of the project.

#### **Highlights and benfiits of the project**

- Pre- workshops in school -engaging children in what would like to cook, and highlighting veg city campaign
- Filming of a cooking session by BBC Scotland which appeared on Grampian news.
- Positive relationships the groups built up over their sessions
- Additional info delivered as part of sessions
- Certificates given to all adults and children who took part
- Template of this project was requested by another school and has been used successfully on the Healthy Me at Northfield Academy with Kyle Hewitt, Child Healthy Weight team.

Some participant feedback:

*"Fun and good to work as a family."*

*"very helpful people. good atmosphere."*

*"I liked everything."*

## **Jog Torry**

### **JOG TORRY**

Jog Torry went from strength to strength over the year. Two new beginners "couch to 5km" courses were run and existing members integrated and supported new members really well. Routes round Torry and beyond were explored although a favourite destination was the Torry Battery and "bagging" the Oor Wullies on the way.

The clear links between physical health and mental health were demonstrated in the group as anecdotally group members remarked on how running was not only leading to weight loss and reduction in lethargy but they also remarked on a boost in mood. With mental health in mind Jog Leaders also completed the Jog Scotland mental health training.

Original members who had gone on to complete the Jog Leader Training then volunteered to run a Jog Scotland group at Tullos for the children there, thus supporting their own community even further.

The highlights of the year was the feel good Santa Run at the Sports Stadium and group members sporting their Jog Torry t-shirts and taking part in the Aberdeen half marathon.



## Torry Youth Action Group and Operation Smallwood

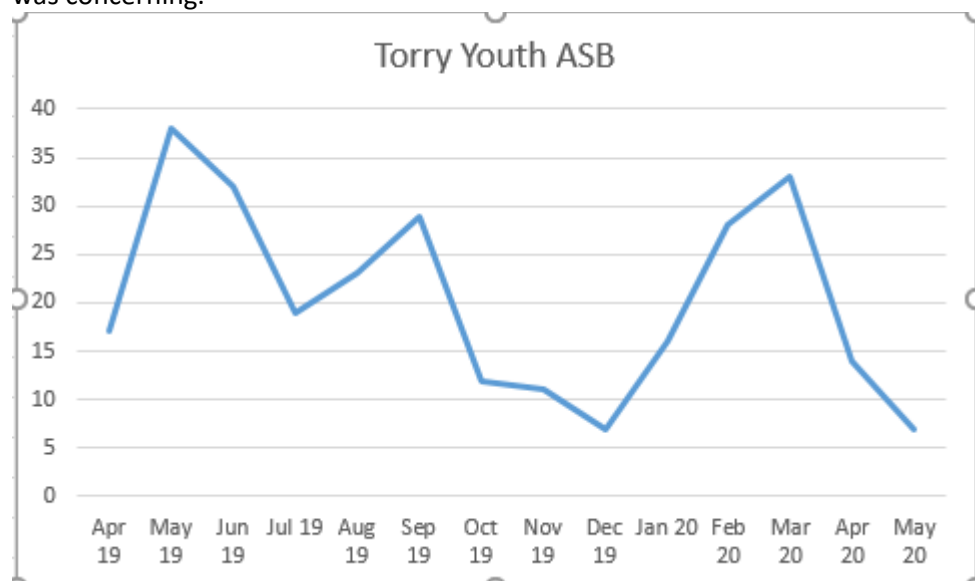
During 2019 the TYAG achieved the refurbishment and opening of a vacant unit at the Finnan Street Shops for use as a local youth work base. In one of the local hotspots for YAB. It opened on a limited weekly basis, staffed by workers from the ACC Street work team. While open the area saw a significant reduction in Youth Anti-social Behaviour calls proving a huge success in engaging those hard to reach young people.

However due to staff changes the unit was only able to open for a short time until December 2019. Following this setback, the group were working towards the reopening of the Unit to provide a safe working environment for youth workers as well as a focal point for the community which could be used for a variety of different activities. With interest from -Community Wardens, Priority Families as well as after school provision in using the facility to work with young people and other vulnerable groups within the community.

Those involved felt the Unit had been a wonderful asset in reducing ASB and were working towards the addition of a multi-agency provision to develop a sustainable project for Young people, in anticipation of the new Community Hub opening. Funding streams for the reopening of this facility were being explored prior to the lockdown coming into force which brought developments to a halt. Over the requested period, ASB calls were recorded at well under one per day, with 286 calls recorded of an antisocial nature, which is a great figure to have and these call types range from anything like shouting in the street, general annoyance calls, to acts of vandalism or drug misuse. This low figure shows the longer term benefits of the work that is being done within the community providing the support to the right people who require it the most.

The Police closely monitored these calls and reacted to the emerging trends by carrying out high visibility patrols, working with partner agencies to support those affected and to provide diversionary activities, such as the opening of the Cruyff pitch, to stop any minor irritations become a major issue. During the time frame, there were 91 instances where youths were dealt with for criminal acts and reported to the Youth Justice Managent Unit for a disposal decision. These offences ranged from juvenile assaults to drug possession offences. It should be noted that under current Criminal Justice legislation, a youth is defined as anyone under the age of 18 so this figure may be appear higher than would be anticipated. 19 of these offences are attributed to one individual so again this figure is somewhat inflated. To shorten AM

The only real spikes were in August 19 - (9 calls to the Old Torry Academy) and September 2019 - (6 calls to the RS McColls at Finnan Brae), beyond that, the calls were as I say, routine and nothing that was concerning.



## Torry Dancers

April 2019 saw the dancers busy practising for their Summer Showcase giving families a chance to enjoy the new routines/skills the girls had learned over the last year and a wonderful opportunity for the dancers to perform on a stage. The senior dancers were once again invited to perform at the Beach Ballroom for an ACC award ceremony in June last year and as always did a great job of showcasing the wonderful talent and commitment of the Torry Dancers. It was a very busy month with the dancers performing for their families at Tullos Primary School which was a great free evening which went well from start to finish and was very well received by the audience. In July some of the Dancers went along to support the Greyhope Bay promotion day.

As soon as the pupils were back to school in August the dancers once again took part in the Celebrate Aberdeen Parade, which, as always was great fun. Next came Xmas where once again they had a free party at Nigg Bay Golf Club for all the dancers. A great time was had by all.

2020 started with rehearsals for the RSPB Scottish week of promotions. Luckily in March they managed to perform for Cultivate Aberdeen in Old Torry Community Centre which was fantastic,





## Bonny Torry

A group of local residents wanted to celebrate a positive image of Torry and what better way to do that than recreate the Bonny Torry competition? This had been a hit in the past so with that in mind and support from Cove in Bloom who had launched a similar event in Cove the group got stuck in. Walker Road school was approached for the children to do a poster competition to advertise the event. The Bonny Torry group was blown away with the quality and quantity of entries and a winner was picked, posters were produced and the community was engaged.

There were three categories – front garden, back garden and community garden and Torry Memories and Heritage group produced framed winners certificates while the Community Council contributed towards the trophy. the cup and certificates were presented at a feel-good afternoon tea at Provost Hogg Court.



## Torry Teen pregnancy LOIP project

Although parenthood is a positive experience for many young people, it is associated with increased risk of a range of poor social, economic and health outcomes for some. The Pregnancy and Parenthood in Young People (PPYP) Strategy aims to drive actions that will decrease the cycle of deprivation associated with pregnancy in young people under 18 and provide extra support for all of Scotland's young parents.

The teen pregnancy LOIP charter for Torry is one approach that aims to drive action to improve outcomes for young people and reduce rates of teen pregnancy in the locality. South locality data of 25.7 crude rate per 1,000 females aged 15-19 indicates that this is comparable to the national rate which is set as one of the poorest rates in Europe.

# OUR PLACE



## Our Place Drivers

Priority Aim	Primary Drivers	Areas where we have made changes during 2019/20
Our Community is Safe, Clean and we can move around easily and safely	We can Move around Torry easily and safely	Traffic and Air Quality management on Victoria Road
	The Community is Tidy and well maintained	Keep Torry Tidy
	The Community is resilient	
We have access to affordable fit for purpose well maintained housing which we can sustain	We will deliver high quality social housing estates and housing services	Living Streets
	We will deliver additional affordable housing that meets resident’s needs	Housing Estate Upgrades
	There are increased opportunities to access high quality fit for purpose facilities	Torry Hub
	Community Ownership of assets	Former Phoenix – 258 NBR
We will increase the promotion, quality and use of our greenspace and heritage	We will improve and promote our Greenspace	Community Growing Spaces
	We will celebrate and promote our Heritage	Torry Battery
	We will improve children and young people’s play experiences	Memories and Heritage Groups
		Park Upgrades

## Brimmond Court Backie

The residents committee had an eventful and productive year at Brimmond Court. Besides their indoor social events including bingo and zumba as well as themed party event around about such days as Burns night, they got going on the outside of their building. They managed to secure funding



from HIF and started making their outdoor area a welcoming place for residents to catch some outside sunshine. Neighbours from the other tower block were also welcomed to their new benches – all funded by Health Improvement Fund. Brimmond entered into Britain and Bloom and Bo nny Torry under the community garden section and were over the moon to receive certificates and recognition.

This year was to be extra special for the residents as it marked 50 year anniversary of the building of the block. With that in mind they were assisted in applying for an Awards for All grant and were delighted to be given funding for celebrations. Sadly some of that has since been curtailed due to covid. But the plans are still there to hold a bash when conditions allow.

## Community Asset Transfer - Former Phoenix- 258 NBR

Kings Community Foundation have been working with their local steering group, council staff and partners, to complete the second stage of refurbishment to the former 'Phoenix' building in the heart of Balnagask.

Their aim is to create a vibrant, inclusive, multi-functional centre. Delivering a wide range services and groups targeting the whole community: young people, family support, social isolation, employability and addiction services. With levels of anti-social behaviour and poverty significantly higher in this area of Torry. The centre will, as part of a planned approach, hope to deliver solutions to tackle these issues.

The foundation has secured funding for a part time centre manager and are in discussion with a range of organisations including the Princess Trust, to help deliver services.

Further developer contribution monies has now been agreed, along with the signing of a 3-year lease for the building, leading to a proposed asset transfer in the future.

Extensive planned works will include a new kitchen and café area, remodelling of the ground floor, new toilet facilities, general upgrades, reflooring and decoration throughout. Works will be in three phases, taking an estimated 16 weeks to complete. Community Involvement will be key to the Centres success and the driver behind the work it delivers.

### **The renovation of the physical building and readapting the space to provide a community café.**

- Provide a community facility that is available and displays value to the community.
- Offering a space for the community to meet and use.
- Having a community café open for people to enjoy affordable refreshments.
- Offering the café and other spaces to be available for local community groups.
-

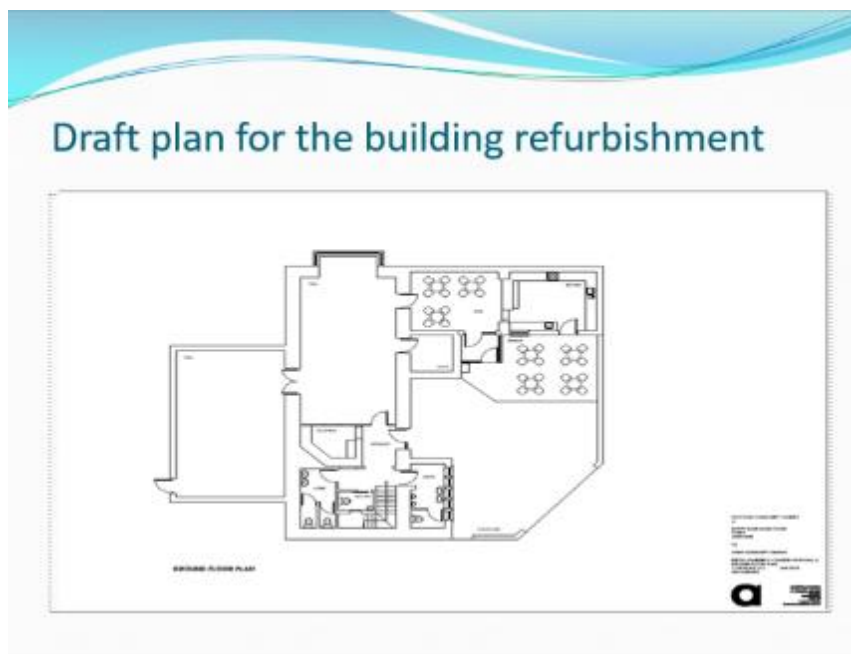


### **The provision of enhanced services from the café to benefit the local community.**

- Offering cooking on a budget and healthy living workshops from the café kitchen.
- Opening the café for young people to use.

### **Providing inter-generational services to reduce social isolation and enhance social cohesion.**

- The coordination of a weekly programme that provides opportunities for the marginalised and vulnerable in the community to be included and supported.
- Providing post school learning and employment opportunities.
- Offering a debt management and advice service.
- Providing IT training and offering the use of a computers for the community.
- Providing ESOL for the community.
- Working in partnership with the community and other charities to develop a programme of services from the building.



### **Cruyff Court Neale Cooper**

On November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2019, Torry hosted the celebrations to mark the official opening of Aberdeen's second Cruyff Court in Tullos. The £250,000 facility, which is named after late Dons legend Neale Cooper, has been built next to Tullos Primary School along with an upgrade of the existing multi-use games area on the Tullos pitches on Girdleness Road.





In addition to the artificial AstroTurf pitch, the courts include a hard surface pitch with the following features: with a solar lit path and a disabled access ramp to ensure accessibility.

- Basketball with adjustable hoops, Mini tennis, Dodgeball and Freestyle Football and an area for outdoor gym equipment

This project will support the delivery of several key strategic objectives through:

- Increasing the no. of individuals taking care of their own health and wellbeing.
- Decreasing the incidence of anti-social behaviour in the surrounding areas.
- Increased opportunities to high quality, fit for purpose facilities.
- To provide opportunities for young people to volunteer and develop employability skills.

Streetsport and the Cruyff Foundation will offer diversionary, plus coaching and volunteering schemes which are designed to provide improved opportunities for local residents to develop their confidence and employability skills through their Heroes of the Cruyff Court programme and Cruyff Foundation Coach course.

Funding to support the project came from Partners:

- £250,000 from the Aberdeen City Council non-housing capital programme
- £50,000 from the Cruyff Foundation
- £50,000 in kind contribution from the Denis Law Legacy Trust

The site sits adjacent to the Tullos Primary School, one of several anti-social behaviour 'hot spots' in the area identified by Police Scotland. Since opening It has been noted, based on community safety analysis, that the increase of provision has a positive effect on the levels of anti-social behaviour in the area.

Graham Hunter compered the event while members of the Gothenburg Greats, ex-Barcelona, Tottenham and Aberdeen player Steve Archibald and, of course, footballing legend and patron of the charity, Denis Law, were among those to attend. Chairman of the Denis Law Legacy Trust, Graham Thom, said: "We're delighted to be marking the opening of Aberdeen's second Cruyff Court and to be honouring the memory of Neale Cooper, one of the city's most-loved sporting sons. "The investment made by the Council and the Cruyff Foundation has created a wonderful facility and through our Streetsport team we look forward to bringing a range of activities to the community, with support and encouragement to get involved and enjoy new opportunities."



# Locality Partnership and Key Contacts

A consistent priority for the Locality Partnership since it was established in early 2017 has been to maximise the role of the local community in progressing the Plan. Whilst our target is 50% community representation, in the past year we have increased community representation on the Locality Partnership from 62% of overall membership to 70% of overall membership. The Partnership has successfully attracted local membership from a diverse cross section of the community

## Membership

- 9 Community Representatives
- 1 Community Project Representative – Big Noise
- 4 Local Councillors
- 1 City Council Representative
- 1 Police Scotland Representative
- 1 AHSCP Representative
- 1 ACVO / Third Sector Representative
- 1 Active Aberdeen Partnership Representative
- 1 Local Head Teacher



For all enquiries in relation to this report, or about Locality Planning, please contact the Locality Team in the first instance by emailing: [CoWright@aberdeencity.gov.uk](mailto:CoWright@aberdeencity.gov.uk)