



**Community
Planning
Aberdeen**

Aberdeen City - North Locality

Annual Outcome Performance Report 2025-26



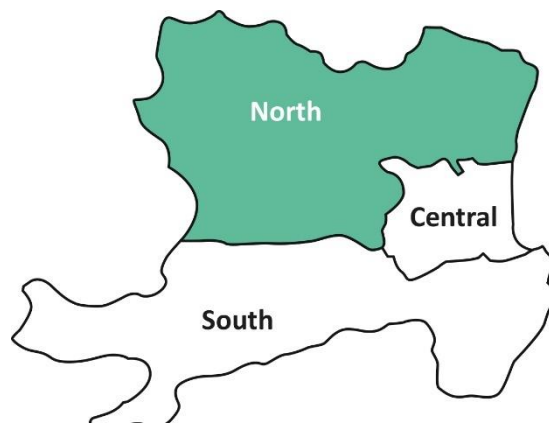
North Locality Neighbourhoods:

Dyce, Danestone, Oldmachar, Denmore, Balgownie & Donmouth, Bucksburn, Heathryfold, Middlefield, Kingswells, Northfield, Cummings Park, Sheddocksley, Mastrick and Summerhill

Welcome

This is the fourth annual report on the North Locality Plan, first published in 2021, and the final report following the Plan's refresh in 2024. The Plan describes how community planning partners work with local people to improve outcomes across the sixteen neighbourhoods in the North Locality.

Another challenging year has passed, with rising living costs increasing pressure on households across Aberdeen City. Public services and third sector organisations continue to face financial and staffing pressures at a time when demand is growing and becoming more complex. Working together as Team Aberdeen remains essential, helping us to focus support where it is most needed and make the best use of limited resources through a locality planning approach.



This report provides an update on progress against the six priorities identified by communities. It highlights key activities and the difference these have made across the North Locality, including in our priority neighbourhoods of Northfield, Mastrick, Middlefield, Cummings Park and Heathryfold. The report is structured around four themes – Economy, People, Place and Communities – to make it easier for readers to find the information they need.

During 2025–26, we spent significant time engaging with communities and partners to shape the new North Locality Plan 2026–36, gathering over 250 ideas on future actions between March and November 2025. We look forward to launching the new Plan in June 2026 and working alongside communities and partners to deliver it.

Finally, we would like to thank our Community Planning Partners, third sector and community partners who helped produce this annual report. We are also grateful to members of the Locality Empowerment Group and Priority Neighbourhood Partnerships for their helpful feedback on the format, presentation and content of the report. We hope you find it useful and feel encouraged to get involved in supporting important projects and activities across the North Locality.

The Aberdeen City Locality Planning Team, May 2026

This report is split into the following sections:

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OUR PRIORITIES

The North Locality Plan 2021-26 sets out one priority to improve our local economy:

Priority 1. Reduce the number of people living in poverty

PROGRESS MADE DURING 2025/26

Create Opportunities for Fair Work

Social Enterprises and small businesses

Over the life of Business Gateway's Business Start-up project (April 2021–March 2026), delivery in the North locality focused on accessible, place-based support for people looking to start or strengthen a business. This resulted in 33 individuals receiving direct support, with 16 new businesses started, demonstrating steady demand for practical advice, workshops and one-to-one guidance across the area. Between April 2025-March 2026 9 individuals were supported with 1 business established.



During 2025/26, people living in the North Locality were able to access a wide range of employability support delivered through the Local Employability Partnership. This included paid work experience opportunities, sector-specific training such

as IT, construction, early learning and childcare, supported employment, and employability support linked to mental and physical health.

A number of multi-stage employability programmes were available, supporting people at different points in their journey. This approach helped individuals move from early engagement and confidence-building through to skills development, work readiness and progression towards positive destinations, depending on their needs and circumstances. Delivery involved community organisations and skills partners, alongside employers hosting work experience placements.

ABZ Works Development Grants also supported place-based employability activity in the North Locality, including the Employability Café at Mastrick Community Centre, providing informal, drop-in support with CVs, job search and progression, and a 12-week structured employability programme delivered by Absafe SCIO, focused on confidence, communication skills and workplace readiness.



Youth Volunteering – Saltire Awards (2025–26)

Youth volunteering is a major strength in the North Locality and across Aberdeen. Over the past year the amount of young people receiving recognition for the important help people are providing volunteering through the Saltire Awards (for volunteers aged 11-25 years) which ACVO delivers in Aberdeen on behalf of the Scottish Government has increased significantly. With:

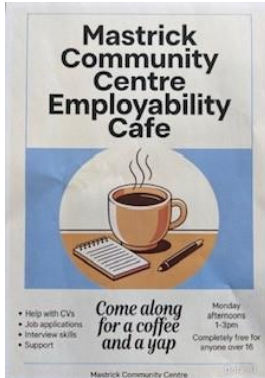
- An incredible 14954 hours of volunteering logged through the awards over the past year in the North Locality.
- A total of 1843 volunteers are now registered with the Saltire Awards in the North Locality.
- 428 Saltire Awards certificates were issued to volunteers in the North Locality during the year.

The continued growth of youth volunteering in 2025–26 reflects the strong civic spirit among young people in the North Locality and across Aberdeen. Their efforts have not only strengthened the local community but also fostered a greater sense of belonging and purpose. As we look ahead to 2026–27, the Saltire Awards will remain a key part of our strategy to support young people’s development and community engagement in the North Locality.

Youth Volunteering Highlights

- During Volunteers’ Week 2025, Saltire Award recipients from across Aberdeen, including young people volunteering in North Aberdeen, were recognised through civic celebration and online campaigns led by ACVO, increasing visibility of youth volunteering city-wide.
- ACVO’s “Why We Volunteer” campaign (March 2026) highlighted the motivations and experiences of young volunteers from a range of settings, reinforcing the value of youth voice and peer inspiration across the city.
- In preparation for the International Year of Volunteers 2026, young people across Aberdeen are engaging in volunteering aligned to the UN Sustainable Development Goals, including projects connected to climate action, social inclusion and digital skills.

Mastrick Community Centre Employability Cafe



Funded by ABZ Works and working with Mastrick, Sheddocksley and Summerhill Community Council, Mastrick Community Centre run an employability Café. They have taken an informal traditional approach to this as they found people open up more about their lives over a coffee at the café or during a game of pool, and try and offer wrap-around support. They held sessions on CV skills, First Aid, Health and Hygiene training and interview skills. They also have a fund that can help attendees with clothes or shoes to help people present at interview. Of the seventeen people attending, nine have sourced employment.

They found that people attending the sessions may not just need employability help, but through an informal approach may need life skills support and household goods or things like tea towels and bed sheets. They felt they wouldn't have found these things out if they hadn't been welcoming, open and friendly. This has been one of the Centre's most impactful social mobility initiatives.

Business Works - Mastrick Community Centre

Mastrick Community Centre need to be innovative and try out new ideas and look at things differently to support Centre services and benefit our community. They've opened up space they don't often use for business use, and the money raised helps support their programme. They found that this has also raised the profile of the Centre in the community, brought in more people, and business users have been signposted to Centre services.

Affordable Childcare

The Middlefield Community Project Parent & Toddler Group



The toddler group is going from strength to strength with 15 families over the year taking part, an increase on last year. The families also engaged in the Family Trips over the summer, and it has been nice to see the group integrated into the Project more in the last 12 months. Nurseries continue to flourish, with both being at capacity. This year, numbers have also increased during the holidays. The project had four staff achieve their Modern Apprenticeship Award and one staff member achieved their degree qualification with a BA award. Currently they have three staff working towards achieving their modern apprenticeship.

The nurseries continue to deliver dynamic and creative learning sessions, with a snail project, outdoor learning and trips to the woods. They have a high increase in children with additional needs since the pandemic so extra funding has been provided by Aberdeen City Council to allow them to support children with specific individual needs. Family trips to Den In The Glen have been a great way of getting to know families, alongside the new nursery entrance coming into the building this has also helped connect the nursery parents with the wider project.

Aberdeen City Council School Age Childcare Team

The Team supported National Playday by running an event for Holiday Club providers across the city at Cults Primary School on 6th August 2025. There were 200 children from six different providers. National Play is a celebration of children & young people's right to play and also highlights the importance of play in their lives. Campaigning for play where you live can make a huge difference not only to the children & young people but to the whole community.



This year's theme was Space to Play. This was embraced by using the large green field area to offer rugby with the coaches from Aberdeen Grammar Rugby, football, garden games & face painting. Children were able to access the play equipment within the school grounds.

Sustrans supported the day by providing bikes and coaching the children on safety and helping some children to achieve riding solo, with fruit and water supplied from Tesco. Indoors staff provided science experiments, messy play with playdoh & slime, Dungeon & Dragons and in the gym hall a bouncy castle and inflatable football shoot out.

Supporting our Most Vulnerable Families

Mastrick, Sheddocksley and Summerhill Community Council

The Community Council has made significant strides in improving local safety. They supported the funding and installation of a defibrillator at Mastrick Community Centre ensuring critical, life-saving resources are accessible within the community. They are currently developing a Community Safety Seminar for Parents where they'll look at the impact of IT and Social Media and how we and our children can use it more safely.

Mastrick Community Centre Food Bank

This is the most used service in the Centre. It is ran from 10am-3pm every Tuesday but help is available for people with emergency parcels during opening hours. The foodbank receives support from Cfine, Fairshare, local donations plus grants and help with food, toiletries, pet food and household goods. The foodbank find it challenging finding funding and goods to keep up with demand and ensuring support goes to those who need it the most. They also signpost people who attend to partner services.



Boards and Beans at Mastrick Community Centre

Working with Mastrick, Sheddocksley and Summerhill Community Council and with £18000 granted by the National Lottery, the Centre opened Boards and Beans Café in April '25, originally offering hot drinks and cakes but now offering hot food too. They've co-started an initiative "Cover a Coffee" where people can prepay for a coffee to pass forward. The Café has brought new, or reconnected people to the Centre. As people have come for a coffee or some food, they've found out more about the Centre programme, and numbers have increased at Centre groups. Profits from the café have been channelled back into the programme, supporting Youth Work, Under 5's Work and the Food Bank. The Centre works with Hazlehead Academy and some of their young people who find it difficult to attend school. Currently, there are 8 young people learning and developing skills by helping out at the Café and with Centre Groups.

Middlefield Community Project Hub Café

The Hub Café continues to be popular safe space for the community, providing low-cost food. It has taken on an extra member of staff for 15 hours per week. The Café staff and volunteers still manage the Food Table and distribute over 10,000 food parcels per year. At each session of the Under 11s group, snacks are provided offering toast, fruit, and other healthy options. AFCCT also provide a packed lunch and snacks on a Thursday evening too. There was also the offer of a Summer Breakfast Club for children over the Summer who needed a bit more support before trips.

Food makes up a large part of the work in Youth Hub, each session has snacks offered such as toast, fruit, wedges, or pizza. A Cooking Group is also ran on a Tuesday where the young people learn how to cook and to develop skills, as well as a Saturday morning breakfast club.

Cummings Park Community Association (CPCA) Cubby

Until 13 December 2025, the Association operated *The Cubby*, a volunteer^[OB] led community food and essentials hub supporting local households.

- 15–20 households supported per Cubby session, delivered by volunteers
- £4,900 external funding secured for food and wellbeing activity
- 4+ regular volunteers involved in Cubby delivery



Cummings Park Centre Christmas Meal

For the second year, Cummings Park Centre Staff in Partnership with Cummings Park Community Association held a Christmas meal after their Christmas Fair. Supported by the Trade Widows Fund the event brought over 60 people together to help alleviate food poverty and food anxiety, tackle social isolation, and to have fun. They enjoyed a Christmas meal sitting around the table with others, a show by a magician and each child received a gift from Santa.

“It was heartwarming to see that nobody was left out.”



Northfield Community Centre Food Bank

Northfield Community Centre hosts a Food Bank every Tuesday between 6 and 7.30pm on a Tuesday and 10am-2pm on a Thursday supporting approximately 90 households every week. Five volunteers work hard ensuring bags are ready for collection and any held food is stored properly. Cfine and Fairshare supply much of the food.



Emergency bags are available at any time the Centre is open for those who are struggling. Recently, the Food Bank has had difficulty in sourcing enough food to supply the numbers visiting and an anonymous benefactor has donated money to allow the Food Bank to buy shopping.

Beehive Community Cafe

Working with All Life Chances, Northfield Community Centre welcomed £20,000 in funding to revamp the Beehive Café, and if moneys are available their kitchen. Work is beginning in removing a café wall, utilising the corridor space, turning it into an open plan area with booths for customers. This will build on the successful introduction of hot breakfasts at affordable prices.

Benefits & Money Advice at Northfield Community Centre/ Citizens Advice Bureau

Every second Wednesday Aberdeen City Council Staff visit the centre to give advice regarding benefits and Money advice, giving support to those who need it.

On a Thursday at Northfield Community Centre they host Citizens Advice. They play a great role in the support provided by confidentially advising people to get the support they are entitled to and how to best deal with your debts.

Cash First project

Aberdeen Cash First Network forms part of the Scottish Government pilot -

["Cash-First: Towards Ending the Need for Food Banks in Scotland"](#) – which

sets out a human rights approach to

tackling food insecurity. To meet the aims of the pilot project, ACVO co-designed the project with local third-sector organisations alongside 70 lived experience voices. The fund supported single males, aged 18-45, who were in receipt of Universal credit and presenting at food banks as food insecure.

Cash First also takes a person-centred approach in identifying and connecting people with additional wrap-around support; by January 2026, monitoring shows that 80% of recipients have experienced an increase in access to wrap-around support. To find out more about Cash First, to view the *Stories from Cash First Aberdeen* project or for the latest updates, click [here](#).



Cash First Aberdeen

Rent Assistance Fund

"I just want to say thank you to my advisor and the panel for helping with that weight on my shoulders. You have given me a fresh start and I couldn't ever be more grateful!"

Distribution of the fund has been far reaching and utilised by families who need assistance to keep on top of their rent payments. The Pilot Rent Assistance Fund aims to assist Council tenants who may be facing financial hardship and through no fault of their own can't afford an increase in the rent they currently pay. The £500,000 fund is funded through Aberdeen City Council's Housing Revenue Account budget. In North Locality, 142

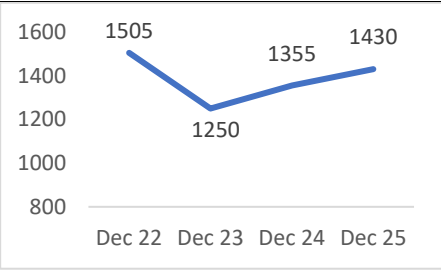
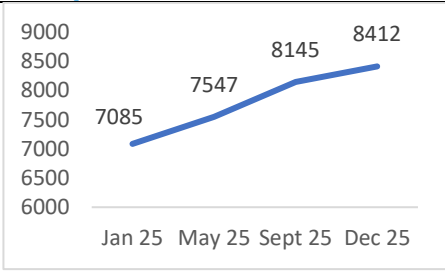
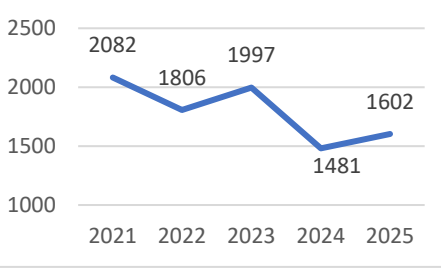
households accessed the Rent Assistance Fund, with total awards of £156,271 made during the year.

Fuel Poverty

Scarf is a Scottish charity and social enterprise providing free, impartial energy advice and practical support to help households cut bills, reduce carbon and stay warm. Marking its 40th anniversary in what proved to be one of its busiest and most impactful years to date, the organisation handled 2,473 enquiries and carried out 1,779 home visits, delivering over £429,949 in financial benefit for households across the area.



WHAT IMPACT HAVE WE HAD DURING 2025/26?

 Food Insecurity 7.8% of people in North Locality worried they would not have enough to eat, which improved from 10.7% in 2024 (City Voice 55, 2026)	 Food Poverty 2.6% of households in North Locality ran out of food over the past year (City Voice 55, 2026)	 Rent Assistance 142 households accessed the Rent Assistance Fund, with total awards of £156,271																				
 Fuel Insecurity 24.4% of people in North Locality worried they would not be able to heat their home, this is a slight improvement from 25.4% of people in 2024 (City Voice 55, 2026)	 Cost of Living 12.8% of households in North Locality worried about having to choose between heating their home and eating (City Voice 55, 2026)	 Financial Inclusion The Council's Financial Inclusion Team supported 919 in North Locality through debt and welfare rights casework																				
Claimant Count <table><tr><th>Period</th><th>Count</th></tr><tr><td>Dec 22</td><td>1505</td></tr><tr><td>Dec 23</td><td>1250</td></tr><tr><td>Dec 24</td><td>1355</td></tr><tr><td>Dec 25</td><td>1430</td></tr></table>	Period	Count	Dec 22	1505	Dec 23	1250	Dec 24	1355	Dec 25	1430	People on Universal Credit <table><tr><th>Period</th><th>Count</th></tr><tr><td>Jan 25</td><td>7085</td></tr><tr><td>May 25</td><td>7547</td></tr><tr><td>Sept 25</td><td>8145</td></tr><tr><td>Dec 25</td><td>8412</td></tr></table>	Period	Count	Jan 25	7085	May 25	7547	Sept 25	8145	Dec 25	8412	 Fuel Poverty 25% of households living in priority neighbourhoods across North Locality went without heating for more than one day due to lack of money (City Voice 56, 2025)
Period	Count																					
Dec 22	1505																					
Dec 23	1250																					
Dec 24	1355																					
Dec 25	1430																					
Period	Count																					
Jan 25	7085																					
May 25	7547																					
Sept 25	8145																					
Dec 25	8412																					
Children in low income families <table><tr><th>Year</th><th>Count</th></tr><tr><td>2021</td><td>2082</td></tr><tr><td>2022</td><td>1806</td></tr><tr><td>2023</td><td>1997</td></tr><tr><td>2024</td><td>1481</td></tr><tr><td>2025</td><td>1602</td></tr></table>	Year	Count	2021	2082	2022	1806	2023	1997	2024	1481	2025	1602	 Business Start Ups Business Gateway's New Business Start Up project supported 33 people from North Locality to start 16 new businesses	 Digital Access and Skills 3.4% of people across North Locality said digital connectivity limited their ability to be socially active (City Voice 54, 2025)								
Year	Count																					
2021	2082																					
2022	1806																					
2023	1997																					
2024	1481																					
2025	1602																					

AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT IN NEW LOCALITY PLAN 2026-36

- Develop skill building workshops to support employability
- Intergenerational learning opportunities within the community
- Deliver a North Locality Jobs Fayre
- Rollout the Cash First Scheme to maximise income for disadvantaged groups
- Increase access to nutritious community grown food



OUR PRIORITIES

North Locality Plan 2021-26 sets out three priorities to improve outcomes for our people

Priority 2. Improve the physical health and wellbeing of people

Priority 3. Support local volunteering

Priority 4. Early Intervention Approach

PROGRESS MADE DURING 2025/26

Upskill knowledge and understanding to improve health and wellbeing

Boogie in the Bar at the Oldmachar British Legion



Boogie in the Bar is a free, daytime disco for older adults and those living with disabilities, cognitive decline, or who feel lonely and isolated. In September 2025, two new community boogies were introduced, including the Oldmachar Boogie, and it has welcomed many new and familiar faces.

People who live independently or live in care settings attend and it has been wonderful to see friendships and connections forming.

On average there are around 40- 50 people attending per session as the positive word continues to spread about the Boogies. The catering is provided by Oldmachar British Legion volunteers. They have been incredibly welcoming and have embraced the ethos of the Boogies. They are delighted to have a Boogie as part of their monthly activities and opportunities as it has encouraged those who don't normally attend the club to come along.

There is also a volunteer DJ who has enjoyed getting back into the disco scene after many years of retirement. It's wonderful to see his enthusiasm for bringing some great music and making some wonderful memories in the process.

"This has been a great new activity to attend for Bridge of Don"

"We haven't been off the dance floor all day!"

"Its wonderful to have something regular on a Wednesday for the residents to attend."

Sunnybank FC Social Club Boogie in the Bar

This Boogie in the Bar was set up in 2018 and is now a focal event in that area. Working closely with the Sunnybank FC committees, monthly Boogies attract nearby residents (between 40 – 70 people per session) & some from further afield, from local sheltered housing, care residential settings, as well as independently living

"I have met some wonderful new friends here"

"This is OUR Boogie , & we wouldn't miss it "

citizens, to have fun, reminisce & improve their quality of life. Boogies give an opportunity to volunteer and this boogie has two fabulous volunteers; Sheila – who makes a wonderful tea or coffee, as well as delicious sandwiches, and now resident DJ and fan favourite Sandy!

Sandy, has gained tremendous confidence from starting his regular sessions at the Boogie. And this has developed his DJing skills so much that he is now on local radio SHMU & volunteers at gigs at Sunnybank & in the local area.



The New Greentrees, Dyce Boogie in the Bar

This Boogie in the Bar was set up in 2023. The ACHSCP Wellbeing Team work closely with Stephen, the owner of Greentrees, and his very helpful staff and attracts

"Our monthly meeting place!"

" So good to have this on our doorstep – as Dyce sometimes feels too far from town "

between 30 – 50 people every session. It is located in the outer suburb of Dyce & is the Boogie of choice for Fergus House, which is based nearby. However,

like all Boogies it welcomes people from further afield, from local sheltered housing, care residential settings, as well as independently living citizens.

This Boogie provides a hot meal: typically lasagne, stovies, mince & tatties, or mac 'n' cheese, which go down extremely well with the audience! As a smaller venue, the Greentrees provides a great opportunity for building connections amongst those who come along.



Rock up and Ride – Sports Aberdeen

The *Rock Up & Ride* programme delivered a wide range of cycling activities across Aberdeen's North Locality supporting children, young people, families and adults to build confidence, develop skills, and experience the joy of cycling. In Northfield, regular sessions at Heathryburn and Westpark primaries saw children progress from non-riders to confident cyclists. with teachers describing the *learn-to-ride* sessions as "a game changer for kids struggling Staff at Westpark reported that participants became "noticeably proud of themselves" as they developed new skills. The team also trained eight young people through the *Velotech Bronze* cycle-maintenance course and supported additional learners through the Fit Like Hubs programme, demonstrating strong impact on both practical skills and personal development.



A major highlight of the year was the Christmas Bikes Project, which delivered 113 free bikes—including 28 bikes in the North to children who otherwise faced barriers to owning a bike. Early-year statistics further demonstrate the programme's reach: for example, the Afterschool Kids Club recorded 38 total visits from 14 distinct participants, while Women's Led Rides at Seaton saw 13 visits across 7 sessions. Taken together, the case studies show a programme that not only increases cycling ability but strengthens wellbeing, confidence, and community connection across priority neighbourhoods.

Len Ironside Centre

The Len Ironside Centre (LIC) plays a vital role as a community hub supporting health, wellbeing, and inclusion. They work in partnership with NHS services by providing space for people with learning disabilities to complete their annual health checks with nurses, removing the need to attend GP surgeries. The centre is also used by Aberdeen bus



services to gather feedback on how accessible local

buses are and identify areas for improvement. In addition, the Carers Strategy team regularly meets at the LIC, offering families a welcoming space to access support. The Centre acts as a central location for the health team to use wheelchair scales, ensuring people across Aberdeen can be weighed in an accessible setting. An oral health dental hygiene project also runs at the LIC, with many clients actively participating in the tooth-brushing programme. The building is further used during evenings and weekends by a range of organisations, maximising community use of the space, including support for Charlie House.



The Care Inspectorate's report published in March rated the support for people's wellbeing as very good (grade 5), noting that *"people were being supported by a staff team that knew them well,"* with staff being attentive, responsive to changes, and quick to act on health concerns. Families also shared how staff helped them access services for their loved ones, helping to ease some of the pressures of their caring responsibilities.

Hearing Aid Batteries Uptake

In June 2024, three community locations were identified to stock three sizes of replacement hearing aid batteries for NHS patients in addition to the Audiology department at Woodend Hospital, Health Point at ARI, and North East Sensory Services. The latter was replaced due to a low uptake, and in June 2025 Danestone Community Centre and all city libraries started to provide this service. In total for the period June 2025-December 2025, 1633 people have accessed these locations for their replacement batteries

Menopause goals: Enjoy the 2nd half

ACHSCP Wellbeing Co-Ordinators along with colleagues from Aberdeen Football Club Community Trust (AFCCT) underwent Scottish Football Association training enabling them to deliver menopause coaching to local women. Together they delivered an eight week programme at Pittodrie Stadium to support, empower and provide knowledge to women about their menopause. The numbers had to be no more than 10 women per session, and there were 7 women over the 8 weeks who found it life changing. There is currently a waiting list with 28 women on it. As there is a condition that coaching has to be delivered at a football ground, ACHSCP are now contacting local football clubs to bring this programme out in to communities across Aberdeen City.



Men's Health and Wellbeing

The Men's Group Wellbeing Programme follows on from the success of existing Men's groups, offering them a range of health and wellbeing topics, which can be delivered to their members. Topics range from health MOTs and screening, to cooking sessions and stress management.



- Men's Wellbeing Programme:
- Prostate / Testicular Cancer
- Stress Management
- Healthy Eating
- Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Screening
- Health Checks - MOTs
- Cooking Sessions
- Mental Health
- Footcare
- Diabetes
- Liver Health

Groups that have taken part in this programme from North Locality include:

- Men's Shed - Bridge of Don & Dyce
- Middlefield Men's Hub - Middlefield
- Strikers Walking Football - Bridge of Don



Men's groups range in size from smaller groups of 12 -15 men to bigger groups at the Men's Sheds and Strikers Walking Football, whose memberships range from 90 – 120 members.

This programme has caught a few issues early, e.g. very High BP pressure was measured in a participant who was totally unaware of this and was sent to seek urgent medical attention, another participant was identified to have a kink in the abdominal aorta which again required further attention. This had led to many men taking up the chance to seek further medical advice and screening e.g. going for a prostate check. These examples show that this programme has had real impact.

Over 50's Group: Mastrick Community Centre

This is a strong group with 38 members. It meets weekly to deliver activities and build friendships. Some of the activities include celebration days e.g. St Andrews Day or Halloween, visits from entertainers, arts and crafts and bingo. Participants often request ICT support with new phones, laptops or difficulty working apps and the group also helps with shopping. For some of the group it's the only time participants come out of their house, they've developed new friendships and no longer feel so isolated.

Aberdeen City Council Resettlement Team

The Community Resettlement team is there to provide support to all New Scots living in Aberdeen. This involves a collaborative approach to ensure that individuals are well supported in their resettlement and integration journey. The Team works with individuals to identify what they need to feel welcomed and settled, access local facilities & local community groups/activities, information sessions to help New Scots understand their rights and entitlements, and support New Scots to engage in local and national strategies.

Some of the activities the Resettlement Team have put on during 2025-26:

- Four Women Only Cooking sessions.
- Employability event, in partnership with Robertson's, ABZworks, ESOL, DWP and Skills Development Scotland.
- Two Afghan events in partnership with Children First.
- Middlefield Community Group launched as part of the April holidays
- 21 sessions at Middlefield Community project.
- A Photo Exhibition session

Community Learning and Development Healthy - Minds Team

The Community Learning and Development Team works with adults with an enduring and diagnosed mental illness to access learning opportunities within their community to help their recovery. They work on a 1:1 basis to offer guidance, develop a learning plan and support the learner to participate in learning opportunities. They also offer short engagement courses to meet our learners needs as and when required. In North Locality the Team supported 16 participants across 57 learning hours.



Promoting Healthy Life Choices

Confidence2Cook

The Confidence2Cook (C2C) programme aims to promote healthy eating behaviours, address food insecurity by increasing the affordability and availability of healthier choices. It empowers communities by providing practical cooking skills and food knowledge through six-weekly Confidence To Cook sessions. There are 48 trained Food Champions in Aberdeen City, with 34 from the public sector and 14 from the voluntary sector (November 2025), with 32 of the 48 actively delivering sessions. Between March 2025 to October 2025, approximately 150 individuals participated in the 6-week sessions, with additional taster sessions offered to groups such as refugees and asylum seekers, those with additional support needs and young carers.



Outcomes from the sessions show that there have been improvements in partnership working, collaboration, and diversity, with increased participation, efficiency and sustainability of the programme. There was a decrease in the consumption of ready meals, take aways, and sugary drinks and an increase in consumption of fruit and vegetables. Confidence and knowledge of participants increased, with a positive effect on mental health and social skills.

Case Study: Improved school attendance and opened career avenues in hospitality

A school pupil who had poor school attendance, experienced physical conflicts with peers, and experienced family health challenges took part in Confidence 2 Cook sessions within their school environment. The pupil exhibited strong engagement and displayed a notable aptitude for food preparation. They undertook challenging recipes, and thereafter their school attendance improved significantly, contributing to greater confidence and increased participation. Based on the pupil's feedback, there was a marked improvement in the understanding of food hygiene and rated the cooking skills as excellent. The sessions were described as enjoyable, appropriately paced, and supportive. The pupil reported enhanced confidence and expressed pride in their achievements and learning outcomes. As a result, they have shown an enthusiasm for pursuing further opportunities in cooking.

"I can cook for my family",

"I learned to cook ... I want to be a chef",

"I've gained a lot of knowledge, enjoyed the company of others. Would highly recommend to others especially for gaining confidence."

SAMH – Scottish Action for Mental Health



During 2025-26, SAMH's suicide prevention team delivered 46 training sessions across Aberdeen City which were attended by 547 people. In addition, 15 online training sessions were delivered, open to anyone in Aberdeen City and Moray (reflecting current areas where the team is funded). These were attended by 146 people, a good majority of whom lived or worked in across Aberdeen City.

The training delivered included the following topics:-

- Introduction to Suicide Prevention
- Introduction to Youth Suicide Prevention
- Wave After Wave (focussing on proving a compassionate response following suicide bereavement)
- Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST)
- Creating a Safety Plan (a new session piloted this year).

Smoking Cessation

Across Aberdeen City, smoking cessation support continues to reach large numbers of adults through a combination of Health point and pharmacy-based services. Since March 2025, over 1,450 people have been supported to set a quit date, with more than 570 achieving a four-week quit, demonstrating both scale and impact across the system. This widespread and accessible approach contributes to ongoing efforts to reduce smoking prevalence and health inequalities across the city.

Smoking in Pregnancy

Since March 2025, pregnant women in Aberdeen City have been proactively offered support to address tobacco dependency as part of routine maternity care. Local data shows that 37 pregnant women were supported to set a quit date, with the clear majority living in communities experiencing the greatest disadvantage. Over four-fifths of women supported (31 out of 37) lived in SIMD 1 and 2 areas, demonstrating that support is reaching those at highest risk of tobacco-related harm. The approach focuses on non-judgemental, wellbeing-focused conversations that recognise different levels of readiness to change and reduce barriers to engagement.



Raise awareness of substance use service and provision

Healthy Beginnings is a resource developed to highlight the risks of alcohol and smoking during pregnancy, drawing on national campaigns and evidence-based materials. It reinforces key messages on alcohol use in pregnancy, including awareness of Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD), and uses impactful visual content alongside wider communications such as posters, digital messaging and peer support.

The resource has highlighted that while there is generally good awareness of the risks of alcohol in pregnancy, confidence in supporting smoking cessation is lower. Smoking is often viewed as more difficult to address due to addiction. There is also less awareness of the harms of second-hand and third-hand smoke. Information on available support is therefore an important part of the approach, including nicotine replacement therapy and behavioural support through local services.



Aberdeen Protects



The Aberdeen Protects app supports this by increasing awareness and access to naloxone and wider harm reduction information. It provides access to local stockists, guidance on recognising and responding to overdose, harm reduction advice, and links to support services and alerts.

Community-based learning and engagement activity continues to raise awareness of naloxone and ensure training is widely accessible. Young people are a key focus, with schools playing an important role in building awareness and life-saving skills alongside wider health and wellbeing education. Recovery from drug and alcohol-related harm remains a priority. A range of treatment, peer-led and community-based supports help individuals sustain recovery, reduce stigma and build resilience. This includes expanded access to support across the week and a broad programme of recovery-focused activities designed to meet different needs and interests.

Activities for Children and Young People

School Sport Award

The Award recognises schools' commitment to high-quality physical education, physical activity, and school sport. Engagement with the award supports improvement planning, strengthens learner leadership in sport and develops partnerships with community organisations.

The promotion of the award is a priority for Aberdeen City PEPASS (Physical Education, Physical Activity and Schools Sport group). Sport Aberdeen Active School Co-ordinators have played and continue to play a pivotal role in supporting and encouraging engagement. However, engagement at any level with the Award remains the choice of each individual school.

In 2025/26, 20 schools held either Gold, Gold Qualified, Silver or Bronze status with a further 10 schools working towards an award level. The School Sport Award aligns strongly with the ambitions of Scotland's Physical Activity for Health National Framework, which emphasises creating Active Places of Learning where schools play a central role in enabling children and young people to be "more active, more often." The framework highlights that education settings are critical environments for establishing lifelong physical activity habits and for reducing health inequalities through accessible, inclusive opportunities for movement and sport. It calls for whole-system approaches that embed physical activity across school culture, curriculum, and community partnerships, ensuring that every child benefits from a supportive and activity-rich environment.

Free Breakfast Clubs

Aberdeen City Council expanded its Free Breakfast Club provision in primary schools in the city's Priority Neighbourhoods, ensuring more children receive a nutritious start to their school day. The Council has successfully secured funding from the Scottish Government's Bright Start Breakfasts Fund to double its breakfast provision – allowing the delivery of an additional 52,250 free breakfasts, bringing the total to 76,000 during the new 2025/26 school year – an important step towards tackling child poverty. The Council is now providing up to 40 free breakfasts per school day in 10 primary schools, five days a week throughout the 38-week school year.



Wellbeing Support for Parents

Stronger Families online sessions continue to focus on wellbeing with sessions delivered on Supporting Young People with school attendance and cyber-safety. Online workshops in March focused on primary school children's mental wellbeing. The session on health was delivered by an educational psychology team and shared a range of strategies and sources of support. The session for parents of secondary aged young people, delivered by SAMH, focused on the launch of the new resource [Enabling Conversations](#). Produced by Suicide Prevention Scotland, the resource helps adults feel more confident in noticing when a young person may be struggling. It provides simple, practical guidance on how to start supportive conversations and connect young people to the right help." Physical copies of the resource have been shared with all academy school guidance teams.

Family Learning Team



Aberdeen City Council's Family Learning team has established 12 ASN parent peer support groups across the city, reflecting strong demand for peer-led support and the high level of trust families place in these groups. Attendance is consistent, with many parents encouraging others in similar circumstances to join. Notably, the groups are attracting families who were not previously engaged with Family Learning, demonstrating their wider reach and relevance.

Parents increasingly see these groups as their own safe, non-judgemental space to share experiences, build confidence, and recognise their expertise in supporting their children. This sense of ownership promotes empowerment and strengthens community connections.

Professionals, including Educational Psychologists, have endorsed the initiative, highlighting that it fills a critical gap in support following diagnosis. These groups provide continuity, helping families navigate services and maintain emotional wellbeing during periods of uncertainty.

"This group is such an important time of my week... a space to learn and feel heard by people who understand."

"I'm learning all the time how to cope with the situation in our home due to ASN."

Northfield Christmas Party



Family Learning hosted a festive celebration at Northfield Academy in December 2025, generously funded by the Northfield Associated School Group. The event was open to all families engaged with Family Learning across Northfield.

The celebration featured a hot meal, a welcoming performance by a piper, face painting, interactive activities from Aberdeen Science Centre and Sport Aberdeen, and a special visit from Santa Claus. The children played party games and every family received

a food parcel, courtesy of CFine. A total of 131 individuals attended, including 89 children, and every child received a gift from Santa and his Elves!

Aberdeen Youth Movement

Aberdeen Youth Movement's (AYM) year was defined by major milestones, strengthened partnerships, and a growing influence locally, nationally, and globally. From April's packed schedule—hosting Argyll and Bute Youth Voice, delivering school-based consultation roadshows, and celebrating a member's selection for the UN Youth Forum—to recognition at the National Children and Young People Awards, every month showcased meaningful youth led impact.



The team delivered Youth Action Grants supporting over 500 young people, celebrated a Fulbright Scholarship achievement, supported national events like the Young Women and Democracy Summit, and contributed to important discussions on young people's mental health. AYM also shared its expertise nationally, co-presenting at the CLD Standards Council and helping strengthen youth voice strategies beyond Aberdeen.

AYM led budget consultation takeovers engaging 848 pupils, supported intergenerational community events, and gathered youth perspectives on climate change for the Scottish Government. The team played a role in the

Hearts of Change Youth Work Awards, supporting over 300 attendees and uplifting 103 young people being recognised on stage. The year closed with high impact projects on democratic participation, Local Outcome and Improvement Plan and Locality Planning engagement, and ongoing school-based consultations—bringing AYM's influence to hundreds more young people and cementing its role as a leading force in youth empowerment across the city.

Award Winners: AYM were thrilled to share that they had been named “Team of the Year” at the prestigious Celebrate Aberdeen Awards 2025. The category was highly competitive, with AYM up against powerhouse teams such as AFC Community Trust and the Camphill Estates Development Team. Even before the announcement, being compared to projects of such scale was a testament to the strength and value of youth-led work in Aberdeen.



Budget Roadshow: During December AYM focused on Lunchtime Takeover sessions—sparking vital conversations around the city's budget consultations in Dyce, Bridge of Don, Lochside, Grammar, and Oldmachar. These roadshows go beyond sharing information; they equip young people with the knowledge to understand potential changes and give them a platform to make their voices heard where it matters most. AYM engaged with 848 pupils which was a 117% increase in participation from the previous year.

Middlefield Community Project (MCP) Youth Work Under 11s

Five after school clubs per week term time of up to 20 young people per night. Playschemes delivered across Summer, October, and Easter school holidays with over 120 children and families supported. Extra support from Aberdeen Football Club Community Trust and Aberdeen Science Centre this year offering regular sessions and food. This summer MPC were able to help more families by offering a breakfast club for targeted children over the summer to relieve some more costs and stress for families before trips. MCP also takes local children swimming every week at Northfield pool. Thanks to Sport Aberdeen for their support and for our brilliant volunteers for giving up time every week to do this.



Youth Hub

Four nights increased to five nights per week provision plus a Saturday Breakfast Club at MCP. This included cooking groups, girls groups, boys groups, drop in sessions, and support sessions for young people aged between 12 – 24. Support was provided during school holidays with our holiday programme. These included day trips, Sunday outings to Codonas in partnership with All Life Chances, drop in sessions, sport sessions, and more. There were Christmas and Halloween parties, and also provided support to young people and families over Christmas with Mission Christmas, Giving Tree, and drop in sessions during the holidays. The Youth Hub also hosted a bake sale and a book sale as part of the Middlefield Fun Day 2025.

Youth Work at Northfield Academy



Falling UP! On stage at the Beach Ballroom at the Hearts of Change Event (11/2/26)

After another busy year for the Youth Work Team in Northfield Academy with 1 to 1s, group work and drop in sessions happening every week in school the highlight has to be the emergence of confidence and skills in the form of a new local rock band – Falling UP! Made up of four young men in S3; Tyler on vocals, Leighton on guitar, Kaiden on bass and Thomas on drums, they delivered their debut performance at the celebration of the achievements of Aberdeen City Council's Youth Work provision Hearts of Change Event at the Beach Ballroom on 11th February 2026.

They played The White Stripes' Seven Nation Army to an audience including, The Lord and Lady Provost, the Council's Executive Director Families and Communities, the Chief Officer Education and Lifelong Learning), school representatives, parents and young people from across the city.

Three of the four band members had no previous musical experience before but all had contact and experience of taking part in Youth Work sessions in school. Leighton was proficient on guitar but the others had only tried instruments during youth work holiday provision, they quickly took to playing. Weekly sessions were offered and progress was quick. A song was chosen, equipment was borrowed and music was made. Steady and regular practice sessions were hosted in the Youth Room and supported by staff. On the night of the event they performed their song twice, both times to huge applause. They showed confidence in the skills they had learned and practiced regularly to deliver their debut performance to a large audience in a famous venue, showing the power of Youth Work and the talents of young people from Northfield.

Young people were asked “What was the impact on you?”

“The impact this had on me was when I got this opportunity I was quite good at guitar but not as I am now because the space and the time they gave me made me develop new skills and get better at guitar the support I got was amazing to learn new skills and I also volunteer for youth work in the pool and that gave me more confidence to talk to people I never talk to before”.

Leighton Laing – S3

“The impact that it had on me was when I got the chance to be part of a band which not only improved my social skills but it also really helped me build positive relationships with others. I’ve been with youth work for several years, it has given me the chance to learn and progress within myself, I also volunteer in the pool room, helping others learn new things and it has changed the way I see things today. I thought I wasn’t good enough for anything but youth work made me realize just how wrong I was”.

Kaiden Henderson – S3

Feedback from Youth Work:

“The young people involved in this have been great, most of them going from not knowing how to play the instruments that they had chosen, to being confident enough to work together and choose a song that they would all be at a suitable level to play. All of them showing up weekly for practice shows the dedication that they all have to the project and that they are all keen to be doing it. Managing to go from just starting in Summer last year, to doing a performance in February made us as a Youth Work team so proud to see that they all had built that confidence to do it”.

Daniel Simpson – Youth Worker

Northfield Community Centre Under 11’s Disco



Centre volunteers realised that there were few opportunities for primary aged children to attend a group on a Friday so the under 11’s disco was developed. Every second Friday around 60 under elevens descend on Northfield Community Centre for an evening of music, dancing and fun. Under-fives can also attend with a responsible adult.

Steven Lamb is the DJ and the café is also open for hot food and snacks. The children enjoy competing in dancing competitions and the recent “Easter Bonnet” competition.

Peep in Aberdeen

Peep continues to deliver early years learning and parenting support across Aberdeen, with a focus on multi-agency collaboration. While the project did not fully meet its target of a 40% increase in Peep sessions delivered by multi-agency partners, it achieved significant progress in reach, training, and impact.

peep
supporting parents and
children to learn together

Key Data (2025–26):

- 213 Peep sessions delivered between Jan–Dec 2025 (including regular groups, pop-ups, and 1:1 sessions)
- 455 families attended sessions in July–Sept 2025; 293 in Oct–Dec 2025
- 164 practitioners trained over the past two years, including NHS staff, childminders, third sector workers, and parents

Programme Highlights:

- New and ongoing peer support groups: Intergenerational Peep, Antenatal Peep, Peep TALK, Empowering Families (domestic abuse), English As an addition Language (EAL) Peep, Additional Support Needs/Relaxed Peep, Peer Support group (for mums experiencing low mood, anxiety, and isolation after having their baby, Healthier Families Peep, and outdoor sessions
- Co-delivery with partners including NHS, Family Learning, EAL services, and third sector organisations
- Peep is now included in other services such as the Resettlement Team, adult learning, library services, and various social work departments
- More Peep TALK training are scheduled for early 2026
- Ongoing support to practitioners, including those undertaking an accreditation course

Family Feedback (2025 Survey, 106 responses):

Empowering families

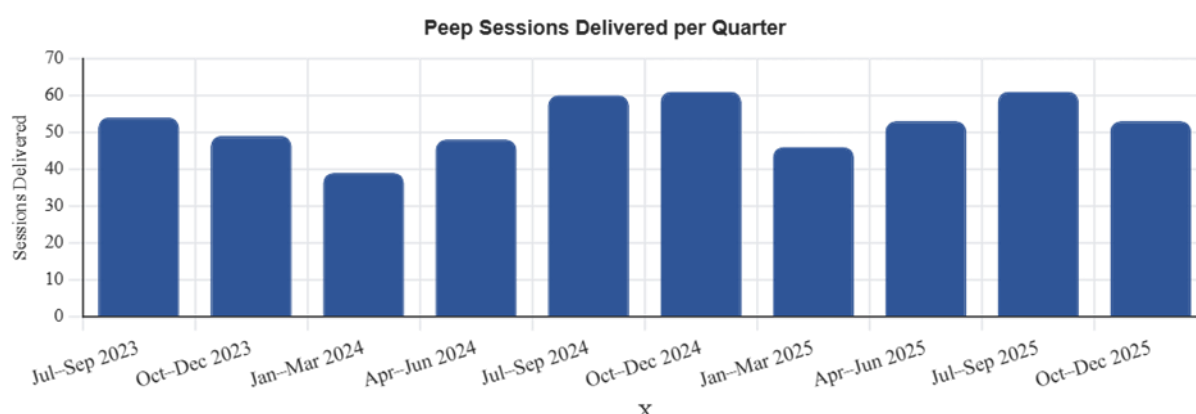


- 73.3% felt more confident as parents
- 77.1% felt more confident supporting their child's learning
- 69.6% sang more songs and rhymes with their children
- 64.7% reported more conversations at home
- 58.1% felt their relationship with their child had improved

Despite some challenges, Peep in Aberdeen has expanded its reach and strengthened family engagement citywide. The project officially concluded in March 2026, with legacy training and delivery continuing into 2026-27.

Overall

The charts below demonstrate that regular Peep group delivery is strong and stable across all localities, with each area contributing consistently throughout the year.



Under 5's Programme at Mastrick Community Centre



One of the biggest challenges the Centre has is raising money to support the Centres activities. They are proud to say they've just received £18,500 to restart an under 5's programme and are busy working out the logistics and staffing prior to launch. They've had to try new, different approaches to fund raising, balance this with providing services and people are seeing the positive changes at the centre.

Building connection, voice and resilience for carers

Throughout 2024–25, Aberdeen Carers Support Service, delivered by Quarriers, provided a wide range of preventative and wellbeing-focused supports for unpaid carers across Aberdeen, including strong engagement within the North Locality.

A number of North-based Wee Blether groups offered regular opportunities for carers to connect with others experiencing similar challenges. Groups operating in Bridge of Don, Danestone, Bucksburn, Airyhall and Middlefield supported carers to build relationships, reduce isolation and access timely advice and signposting. Many carers described these groups as a “lifeline”, helping them feel less alone and more confident in managing their caring roles.



“All carers that participated felt it was a worthwhile experience, with carers and staff encouraged to provide input on an equal basis.”

— Carer, PATH session

North carers were also actively involved in shaping future service delivery. A PATH (Planning Alternative Tomorrows with Hope) session at Northfield Community Centre brought carers and staff together to co-design how the service should develop. Carers highlighted feeling listened to and valued, with feedback emphasising the benefit of creative, inclusive approaches to participation rather than traditional meeting formats. Creative and social activities further supported wellbeing in the North. Art sessions, outdoor coastal activities, and creative workshops enabled carers to step away from daily pressures, focus on self-expression, and share positive experiences with peers.

One participant shared, *“The sessions were a great distraction and escape from a very challenging time as a carer”*.

Alongside group activity, carers living in the North Locality also accessed individual support, emergency planning, and short breaks through Time to Live funding. These interventions played a key role in maintaining carers' mental and physical wellbeing and supporting them to continue caring safely and sustainably.

Teenage Pregnancies In North Locality, 35 girls and young women per 1000 recorded pregnancies. This is above the Aberdeen City average rate of 19.8 per 1000 girls and young women. The North Locality has the highest proportion of teenage pregnancies across in Aberdeen City	Counselling for Young People  100% of schools in North Locality offer counselling and Active School activities	Working Together with Parents  15 PEEP groups were running in the North Locality between October-December 2025 to build parental confidence, capacity, and bonding with their children
Mental Health  20.5% of people who live in North Locality have been prescribed drugs for anxiety, depression, or psychosis. This is higher than the Aberdeen City figure of 17.4% and the highest per locality in Aberdeen City	Healthy Eating  15.9% of people in North Locality said they were unable to eat healthy and nutritious food due to poverty. This compares to 40% of people in priority neighbourhoods (City Voice 50, 2024)	Cancer Registrations  The rate of new cancer registrations in North Locality was 627 people per 100,000. This is slightly higher than the city average of 624 per 100,000
Alcohol Awareness  48.8% of people in the North Locality said they didn't know the maximum number of alcohol units recommended per week. This is only a marginal increase from 48.6% in 2024 (City Voice 54, 2025)	Drug Related Hospital Stays  146.8 people per 100,000 of the population were admitted to hospital due to drugs in North Locality. This is below the Aberdeen average rate of 176.6 per 100,000	Drug Related Hospital Stays  The rate of drug related hospital stays for the North Locality was 146.8 per 100,000 population. This is an improvement from 162.4 per 100,000 in 2023
Alcohol Related Mortality Rates  Alcohol related mortality rates in North Locality are now 13.9 people per 100,000. This is below the Aberdeen City rate of 19.9 people per 100,000. North Locality had the lowest proportion of alcohol related mortality deaths across Aberdeen City	Deaths from Suicide  The rate of death from suicide in North Locality is 12.6 per 100,000, this is higher than the citywide average of 11.1 per 100,000 of the population. The North Locality has the highest rate of deaths from suicide in Aberdeen City	Life Expectancy  Men in Balgownie and Donmouth East can expect to live 81 years, compared to 73.2 years in Heathryfold and Middlefield (Aberdeen average: 76.9). Women in Balgownie and Donmouth East can expect to live 85.6 years, compared to 74.7 years in Heathryfold and Middlefield — the lowest in the city (Aberdeen average: 80.9).

AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT IN NEW LOCALITY PLAN 2026-36

- Establish a Northfield Health Matters network
- Support people to attend GP appointments where accessibility is a barrier
- Deliver more activities and increase access for those with additional support needs or disabilities
- Increase uptake of cycling proficiency for children
- Set up intergenerational music tuition groups
- Support boys and young men's mental health and wellbeing
- Encourage more school uniform swap schemes
- Designate safe spaces for young people to express themselves



OUR PRIORITIES

The North Locality Plan 2021-26 sets out one priority to improve our local place:

Priority 5. Maximise use of disused outdoor space

WHAT PROGRESS HAVE WE MADE DURING 2025/26?

Supporting greenspace use and development

Walking and Cycling

Nestrans – People and Place Funding Programme

In 2025/26 Nestrans administered funds on behalf of Transport Scotland's People and Place programme to encourage more people in Scotland to walk, cycle, or use other modes of active transportation. As the Regional Transport Partnership for Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire, Nestrans administered this fund to local organisations across the North East to support projects that promote active and sustainable travel.

Through People and Place, Nestrans has been able to support Aberdeen City Council in delivering their School Streets initiative Phase 1 for Greyhope and Greenbrae Schools. School Streets restrict motor traffic on the street outside the school gate for short periods of time at the beginning and end of the school day. This approach has been trialled in many other cities across Scotland and results in a safer, healthier street environment for everyone, including children and young people.

Through funding, Sport Aberdeen has continued to delivery it's adaptive cycling sessions through Grampian Inclusive Cycling Bothy from the Aulton Pavillion. Scottish Cycling's Rock Up & Ride initiative, as well as Cycling UK's Connecting Communities programme also work out of the Aulton Pavillion, all supported by Nestrans, to encourage more people to walk and cycle across the city. In Cycling UK's follow up surveys, participants reported that:

- 69% cycled regularly (fortnightly or more) for local journeys before intervention, increasing to 81% after engagement
- Importantly, 75% said that they were now cycling for journeys previously made by car and, equally, 75% said that they were now more likely to cycle more as transport in the future
- 69% said that project support helped them feel safer when cycling
- 40% of respondents were not meeting NHS guidelines for physical activity; of whom, 83% said the project had helped them to increase the amount of exercise they do

Furthermore, Nestrans were able to support Sport Aberdeen in the surfacing of Core Path 17, connecting Aulton Bothy to the Beach. This has improved accessibility for adaptive cycle users and provided an important connection for communities with the beach front area.

Additionally, funding has also supported Aberdeen City Council to expand its residential cycle parking at multi-story housing blocks. A communal bicycle storage shelter with a capacity for 30 bicycles has also been installed within a car park managed by the Housing Service, located on Seaton Drive, to provide a secure facility for residents living in low-rise flatted properties (typically 6 in a block) to store their bicycles.

More information on all of the projects funded can be found here - [2025/26 People and Place | Nestrans](#). A full evaluation of the project will be available in September 2026.

Cycling UK Connecting Communities Project: Aberdeen City

The Cycling UK Connecting Communities Project in Aberdeen focuses on improving access to cycling for local residents, particularly people who may face barriers such as cost, confidence, skills, or lack of access to equipment.

Output	Target	Q1	Q2	Q3*	Q4	Total
Cycling activities delivered	160	15	46	25	2	88
Cycle loans	5	5	14	7	9	35
Volunteers recruited	3	0	3	0	0	3
People reached through direct delivery	750	163	374	194	13	745

Middlefield Bike Hub at Middlefield Community Hub

The Bike Hub, funded by Cycling UK, is open every Thursday. This year they have repaired and recycled over 300 bikes. One of the staff members has went on a Bike Maintenance Course, and three young people are being supported to access this qualification too.

Velotech: Bike Maintenance Training

Eight young people benefited from this Sport Aberdeen led programme which aimed to provide young people with experience of carrying out bicycle repairs and maintenance, as well as helping them achieve a certificate, which could be used to quantify experience and increase the strength of their CV. The setting was also important, with Adventure Aberdeen's Kingswells workshop providing a professional working environment, and with the course running 9-5 over two days, it was a great opportunity for them to experience what a working day might look like in a bike shop.

CFINE Growing Summary

Over the past year, CFINE's Community Growing programme has delivered a wide range of activities across Aberdeen, supporting individuals, families, and community groups to take part in food growing, outdoor learning, and community-led environmental projects. Work has spanned 17 community growing spaces, with programmes such as Grow Indoor Edible Gardens, forest-garden development with NESCOL students, and ongoing support for local growing groups. The focus has been on building skills, confidence, and social connections



through inclusive, welcoming environments. As one participant put it, the sessions were “very informative and enjoyable,” reflecting the strong engagement and community benefit these activities created.

Across the network, approximately 135 community growers reported financial savings through the food they produced, while more than 80 sessions and events were delivered in partnership with at least 19 organisations, reaching hundreds of residents. Targeted programmes also saw steady participation—for example, over 50 participants engaged in September and around 30 in November, including children, families, asylum seekers, and students with additional support needs. The Grow Food Indoors programme alone delivered 10 sessions, involving 13 participants and 4 volunteers, contributing 48 volunteer hours. Feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, with 100% of surveyed participants strongly agreeing that the programme improved their mental health and wellbeing, and one staff member noting the team were “so warm and welcoming.”

Mastrick, Sheddocksley and Summerhill Community Council

With permission and support from Aberdeen City Council the Community Council have started developing Greenfern Grove, a space in front of Mastrick Library and have received £17,000 funding to enable it to happen. The plans have been developed with construction planned for 2026 with a focus on sustainability and accessibility. Part of the plan is to develop an outdoor reading space encouraging people to use the space and read more. They also campaigned and funded to make the playpark in front of the Centre more accessible and are pleased to say they got a new bit of inclusive equipment installed and improved access.

Middlefield Community Hub

Middlefield Community Hub has been developing its rear garden since 2020, supported by “a small but dedicated group of volunteers.” After receiving early guidance from CFINE, the group felt ready in 2025 to “increase engagement in the garden project.” Inspired by CFINE’s winter *Grow Food Indoors* course, the Hub asked CFINE to help design a bespoke programme. CFINE met with volunteers to shape a mixed indoor–outdoor course, drawing on past learning such as the Caley Grow & Learn in Nature programme. The first six-week course (15 April–20 May 2025) covered garden design, seed sowing, propagation, soil health and composting, each session starting with “a cuppa and a natter” before hands-on activities.



The course proved popular, leading to two more intakes—one in June and another in September 2025. By summer 2025, the garden had been significantly cleared and expanded, with new bed space and a large number of plants raised and planted, plus surplus plants shared with participants and other community gardens. Engagement has increased notably, and the Hub now runs a weekly Middlefield Grow Group with seven regular attendees, demonstrating a strong legacy and renewed community involvement.

Cfine Grow Indoor Edible Garden

The CFINE Grow Indoor Edible Gardens project, funded by the Scottish Government’s Investing in Communities Fund and the 2025 Food in Focus Fund, delivered three programmes aimed at improving food education, confidence, and wellbeing among children and young adults.

The five-week partnership with YAHYAS (Young Adults Helping Young Asylum Seekers) and Earth & Worms Community Garden supported 27 young adults, six of whom completed the full programme and received certificates. Participants described feeling “a welcoming social environment” and gaining “a sense of purpose,” while the shared gardening work significantly improved the garden’s productivity for the wider community. The course also promoted cultural exchange, helping local young adults better understand the experiences of those seeking asylum, while asylum-seeking participants learned UK social norms and practiced conversational English.



The project also delivered a five-week programme with 8 children at Muirfield Out of School Club, where staff noted the activities were simple, practical and easy to replicate. Children enjoyed watching their seeds grow, vegetable-printing, and especially making apple crumble with local produce. A condensed training session for over 16 Community Link Childcare staff followed, equipping practitioners city-wide with replicable gardening activities. Feedback was strongly positive, with one staff member noting: “*The session today was great, very informative and enjoyable,*” and another saying the facilitators were “*so warm and welcoming.*” Across all components, the project successfully strengthened skills, confidence, and community connections through accessible hands-on food growing activities.

RSPB Nature Social Prescribing



Nature Prescriptions are being developed across Aberdeen to support mental wellbeing by helping people connect with nature through simple, everyday activities such as walking, gardening and spending time in local green spaces. The approach is designed to be flexible and accessible, drawing on local places, assets and opportunities, and supporting practitioners to introduce nature-based options within routine conversations.

From April 2025 onwards, activity has continued to increase as awareness and confidence among practitioners has grown.

Data from the Aberdeen Links Service shows 29 nature-based social prescribing referrals between April and December 2025,

contributing to a total of 48 referrals since April 2024.

Community Clean Ups

With Support from Aberdeen City Council Environmental Services, people showed they were committed to keeping the city clean by taking part in Community Clean Ups. They braved all the seasons and weather throughout the year. In the North Locality, there were approximately 49 sessions with 424 attendees picking up 341 bags of rubbish. While it’s disappointing the amount of rubbish picked up, it’s amazing the commitment of the volunteers.



Environmental Services also held the annual 24 Hour Litter Pick on 19th June when sessions were held across the city with almost 400 volunteers picking up an amazing 202 bags of rubbish. Participants included primary age children and there was even a session at the Tall ships! In the North 7 sessions were held where 62 people picked up 37 bags of rubbish.

“The kids loved it so much they’ve got their parents to buy pick up sticks”

Middlefield Community Project Gardening Group

The Middlefield Community Project gardening group meets every Wednesday morning and has been working hard renovating the community garden and our green spaces around The Hub. Over 400 hours of volunteering hours have been donated by this group to help Keep Middlefield Green this year, with a focus now on food growing and sustainability.

Keep Middlefield Clean

Over the year the group has led 20 litter picks, engaged community members of all ages including nursery and primary school children from The Hub and across local schools. This group has kickstarted a lot of the Keep Middlefield Green work that MCP (Middlefield Community Project) will undertake in the coming years.

- 20+ community litter picks
- 150+ bags of rubbish collected
- 40+ Hours of Volunteer Hours

Cummings Park Community Garden Launch – Gather in the Garden

With the building of the Flexible Childcare Services Nursery adjacent to Cummings Park Centre a space was allocated for a community Garden. It was agreed that the Centre could support development of the space with the Nursery and in July 2025 a launch event was held.

Centre staff in Partnership with Cummings Park Community Association and supported by Family Learning and CLD held the event, which included opportunities to plant using tools funded by Central Scotland Green Network, tidy up the space and have a burger from the barbeque. Over 30 people attended throughout the session including staff and pupils from Northfield Academy.



Winter/Flood Resilience

Community resilience activity in the North Locality has focused on sustaining well-established volunteer-led groups while also building resilience awareness among younger people. Community Resilience groups continue to operate in Bridge of Don and Danestone, supported by the Council’s Emergency Planning and Resilience team to remain connected into wider emergency planning arrangements and local response activity. Alongside this, work has begun to strengthen longer-term resilience by engaging children and young people. A primary school-based resilience group is being trialled at Fernielea Primary School, helping to raise awareness of community resilience from an early age and supporting the future sustainability of community-led resilience activity in the North Locality.

Grow Well Choices



Grow Well Choices (GWC) is a universal, evidence-based healthy weight and wellbeing programme for children aged 3–12 years, delivered across Early Years, Level 1 (P2–4) and Level 2 (P5–7). The programme supports Curriculum for Excellence outcomes through fun, interactive learning focused on healthy eating, physical activity and wellbeing, with strong links to home and family learning.

What Grow Well Choices delivered in 2025-26

- Refreshed Early Years, Level 1 and Level 2 toolkits to improve accessibility, relevance and sustainability
- Continued free online access to resources for early years, schools and community settings
- Targeted workforce engagement and training, supporting confident practitioner-led delivery



Early Years engagement

- 158 early years staff engaged through 3 workshops
- 98% likely or very likely to use Grow Well Choices
- 98% would recommend the toolkit to others
- Majority reported no additional training required, with flexible online and face-to-face options preferred where needed

WHAT IMPACT HAVE WE HAD DURING 2025/26?

Satisfaction with Green Space	Community Growing Spaces	Access to Nature
 65.2% of North Locality respondents reported being satisfied or fairly satisfied with the overall quality of green/open spaces. This is lower than the 74% of respondents for Aberdeen City collectively (City Voice 51, 2024)	 424 Local people in North Locality, supported by the Council's Environmental Service collected 341 bags of rubbish across 49 separate sessions during 2025-26	 70.8% of people in the North Locality exercise in the natural environment (City Voice 54, 2025)
Cycling	Walking	Community Resilience
 7.9% of people in the North Locality cycle as a form of physical activity, this increased from 4.4% in 2024 (City Voice 54, 2025)	 74.2% of people in the North Locality walk as a form of physical activity, this increased from 53.1% in 2024 (City Voice 54, 2025)	 There is one Community Resilience Group in North Locality which serves Bridge of Don and Danestone

AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT IN NEW LOCALITY PLAN 2026-36

- More litter picks and community clean ups
- Improve access to parks for people struggling to access nature
- More community designed art in our green and common spaces



OUR PRIORITIES

The North Locality Plan 2021-26 sets out one priority to improve our Communities:

Priority 6. Increase the number of people and groups involved in making improvements and decisions in their communities

PROGRESS MADE DURING 2025/26

Community Participation

There are many ways you can get involved in the work of Community Planning Aberdeen to make things better for your local community and influence how public services are delivered in your area to meet your needs. We are committed to enabling all citizens to participate should they wish to.

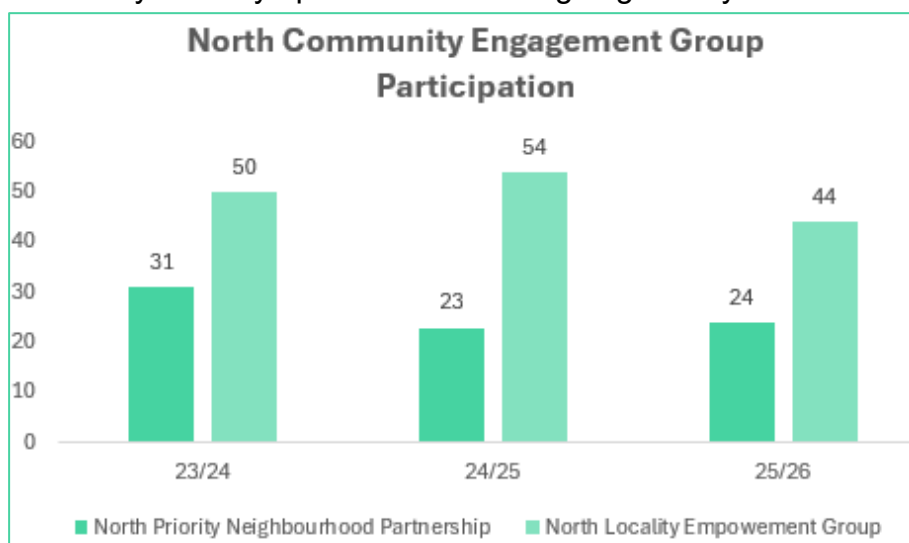
Community members in the North of the city can get involved through a range of methods:

- North Locality Empowerment Group (LEG)
- North Priority Neighbourhood Partnership (PNP)
- UDecide Participatory Budgeting
- Fairer Aberdeen Board

The North Locality Empowerment Group and the Cummings Park, Heathryfold, Northfield, Mastrick and Middlefield Priority Neighbourhood Partnership are two of the main ways we connect with our local communities in the North Locality. As a member of a Locality Empowerment Group or Cummings Park, Heathryfold, Northfield, Mastrick and Middlefield Priority Neighbourhood Partnership you will be able to provide a voice on behalf of the people and communities across your neighbourhood

As well as this, we have a number of ways to stay updated on what is going on in your neighbourhood. Every few month our partners ACVO pull together a funding and events update, so you can find out what's on and have up to date access on locally available funding opportunities. See the latest update [here](#)

Council tenants can also find out about updates in the Tenant Participation **Newsbite** magazine, hard copies are sent to all council tenancies.



Get Involved

This is what our community reps have to say about what they gain from involvement:



If you are interested in getting involved in helping achieve these aims in your local community, follow this link to find out more [Our Communities - Community Planning Aberdeen](#)

or contact the Locality Planning Team: localityplanning@aberdeencity.gov.uk

Community Funding



Participatory Budgeting (PB) is a way in which communities can have a direct say in how public funds should be used to address local priorities. The Locality Planning Team Led a project across the City with £60,000 of funding available to community groups, £40,000 from Community Planning Aberdeen and a further £20,000 from the Fairer Aberdeen Fund. This provided a total of £20,000 available for the Priority Areas of North, South, Central Localities.

UDecide was the branding used for the process as other PB projects run by the city had used the name. To ensure there was community involvement across the planning and decision making process, a steering group was formed. The steering group consisted of 6 community members in total from each of the three localities. The steering group decided on the application process, the voting process and scrutinised applications to make sure they related to one or more of the community ideas within the Locality Plans. They also decided voters must be aged eight or over to vote at the in-person events. People had to be 16 or over to vote online.

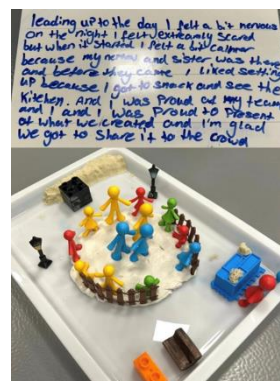
Throughout the voting period, there were around 8 voting roadshows held at various community locations in each locality to maximise the opportunity for people to get involved and vote. Events were also held in each Priority Neighbourhood for voters to meet those bidding for the UDECIDE funding before they voted for their favourite proposals. Each voter selected three projects.

Anyone that was unable to attend one of the in-person events were welcome to vote online. Schools within the Priority Neighbourhoods were invited to participate and ballot papers were issued to schools that were interested. In the North Locality 257 people voted for 8 initiatives totalling £20,000. Examples of initiatives funded are set out below:

Project Strive – City Moves Dance Agency

15 Young People were the primary beneficiaries and 35 adults from the dance development and performances. at Cummings Park Centre and Middlefield Hub. Participants chose to work on “POP” and “Then What?”

After the groups returned from their summer holidays in August 2025, they committed to an intensive seven-week preparation period. During these weeks, the young people did far more than just rehearse the choreography from the workshop. They refined the choreography and taught it to those attendees who couldn't make it to the workshop day, while also planning every aspect of their own community performances.



“My child has so much fun and was happy she faced her fear with speaking in front of a crowd.”

“It was a great to see a community together. The children seemed to enjoy themselves!”

This included designing posters and ads to be put on the Strive Facebook Group and up around their communities, promoting the event to family and local audiences. They organised refreshments, set ticket prices, and took on roles such as hosting and event coordination. The process built teamwork, confidence, and a strong sense of ownership, as participants shaped the performances from concept to delivery.

Generation Games – Middlefield Community Hub

25 Nursery children, teenagers, 25 adults, and older adults who live in the community benefited from this programme bringing generations together. We have seen great engagement from teenagers who have been doing their volunteer Saltire Awards and volunteers at the Games, meeting and greeting, waiting, and playing games with the children and hosting quizzes for the adults as well. One older gentleman has started playing music for the nursery children, he lives alone and can be very isolated. Many of the older people say these sessions makes them feel part of the community, as well as really happy for days afterwards. Seeing the nursery children come through and say hello, and join in with dancing or arts 'n' crafts benefits them, but the children also enjoy learning and playing in a different environment.

Parent and Toddlers – Aberdeen North Parish Church

15 children attend regularly, along with seven parents/carers who volunteer. The funding was used to buy:

- items for babies/toddlers and their parents who come to use the Sanctuary/church, for their weekly toddler group and on other occasions
- baby/child gates to secure entrances and improve the safety within the space
- storage units to make it easier to select toys from the main store, to rotate them regularly to allow for varied creative play, and to set out/tidy up afterwards
- rugs for the wooden floors so that it is more comfortable for babies to play.

The toddler group, run by participants themselves provides a regular opportunity (weekly in term-time) for parents with toddlers/babies to get together and support each other, and can help reduce isolation and loneliness amongst young families. These additional items bought with grant funding made the

“we look forward to Fridays to socialise and enjoy the support of other parents. Two Dads and two child minders have joined the group so it's becoming a wider group for anyone in the area caring for young children.”

Sanctuary a more appealing and safe space, encouraging more people to participate; children can play in the open, safe space, and their parents/carers can relax in the supportive network that has developed, knowing that the children are safe and having fun playing with other children.

The Fairer Aberdeen Fund

The fund is allocated by Aberdeen City Council to tackle poverty and deprivation. The Fund is allocated by a deliberative participatory budgeting approach, with a Board made up of Elected Members, Community Planning Partners, and community representatives with lived experience. The Fund supports initiatives and services in priority areas, as well as vulnerable groups across the city. In the North Locality, **25 initiatives** were funded to deliver activities with a value of £452,487. Support included income maximisation, employability, youth and adult activities, community media and food provision.

Health Improvement Fund Projects (25/26)

The Health Improvement Fund is administered by Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership. The fund is designed to enhance health and wellbeing across Aberdeen through community-led projects. It is open to anyone living and/or working in Aberdeen City, offering community grants of up to £5,000. Projects must be innovative, community-led, meet local needs, and demonstrate improvements in health and wellbeing. The decision-making process involves local screening panels composed of community representatives and staff, who allocate funds based on a scoring process aligned with the fund's principles. This ensures that projects are selected fairly and effectively to address the diverse needs of the community.

Funded by

Aberdeen City
Health & Social Care
Partnership



Health Improvement Fund

NORTH LOCALITY PROJECT NAME	Amount Agreed (£)
Chair Yoga - Bridge of Don Community Centre Association	£700.00
MSS Men's Shed - Mastrick, Sheddocksley & Summerhill Community Council	£5,000.00
Amped project - The AMPED project (Aberdeen Motor Project for Educational Development)	£2,400.00
Community Enterprise for Wellbeing - Absafe SCIO	£2,000.00
Warm Hub - Danestone Congregational Church	£1,000.00
Community Empowerment Project - Cummings Park Community Association	£2,800.00
Wise Steps to Wellness - Robert Gordon University	£200.00
Get active and come together - Bridge of Don Community Council	£4,290.00
Healthy Minds Befriending Project - Befriend a Child	£5,000.00
Active Kids Group - Middlefield Community Project	£4,000.00
Friends of Westfield Park - Improvements to Westfield Park	£5,000.00
Seasons of Joy - Lewis Court Sheltered housing committee	£2,600.00
Boys Group and Dads Group - Children First	£2,676.00

Citywide

CITYWIDE PROJECT NAME	FUNDING
Raising Awareness - Grampian Cardiac Rehabilitation Association	£4,100.35
Cycling Without Age Scotland – Aberdeen City chapter	£1,500.00
Forget Me Not - Forget Me Not (Rosemount CC)	£810.00
Everlasting Love - Music 4 U	£3,368.00
Cairns in the Community - Cairns Counselling	£5,000.00
Dance for Dementia - Citymoves Dance Agency SCO	£4,956.00
Together We Thrive - Let's All Talk North East Mums (LATNEM)	£1,549.00
FYF Aberdeen Wellbeing Project - Finding Your Feet	£5,000.00
Wellbeing Together - Time to Heal	£3,200.00
Enhancement of Family Learning support to families with ASN children - Aberdeen City Council (CLD Family Learning)	£4,345.00
Relaxed Sports Day - We Too!	£1,000.00
Improving respiratory health and COPD diagnosis in vulnerable groups - NHS Grampian (Community Nursing Outreach Team)	£1,136.95
Hazlehead Park Permanent Orienteering Course and Information Board - Scottish Orienteering Association	£775.00
Survivors of Bereavement by Suicide - Survivors of Bereavement by Suicide	£2,600.00
Making Recovery Visible - Station House Media Unit	£5,000.00

Pride and Place



In December 2025, the UK Government announced that the Aberdeen North Locality Priority Neighbourhoods had been selected for the Pride in Place Programme.

Local neighbourhoods — Cummings Park, Heathryfold, Mastrick, Middlefield and Northfield — will share up to £20 million over 10 years. This money will be used to improve the local area and support community projects.

A Neighbourhood Board will decide how the funding is used. The Board will include local residents, giving people who live in the area a direct say in the decision-making process. Local residents were invited to apply to join the Board through an open Expression of Interest process, which started in March 2026. The final Board will be confirmed in Summer 2026.

A Pride in Place Summer Event Grant Scheme was also launched in March 2026. This scheme helps local groups and organisations run events during the summer months. The Pride in Place funding can support a wide range of activities, including:

- Building new community facilities
- Improving existing local spaces
- Running new programmes and activities for local people

Throughout 2026, community engagement activities will take place so local people can learn more about the funding, share their ideas and help decide which projects should be prioritised. The main projects and improvements funded by Pride in Place are expected to begin from Spring 2027. More information can be found on [Aberdeen City Council's Pride in Place webpage](#).

Consultation & Engagement

From March to May 2025 we invited the local people to tell us what they thought was good and what could be better in their community.

This engagement was a combination of the following:

- online survey for adults
- online survey designed for children and young people
- 6 locality events, with specific activities designed by the Aberdeen Youth Movement and Aberdeen Ambassadors for children and young people
- outreach programme where we went to 98 groups/schools/locations across Aberdeen and facilitated participation to meet people's needs.



We reached out to you, through the services you connect with, the people you know, the community and third sector group you are involved with, your friends and family. We also used our networks and social media platforms; we issued press releases and got stories in newsletters. Your contribution has been a valuable part of this exercise. You can find out more about the process by watching this short [video](#).

To see all of the data and responses to the engagement, you can view our:

[North Engagement Summary Report](#)
and
[Population Needs Assessment \(PNA\)](#)

Community Ideas Workshops

At the workshops, we explored the key areas for improvement identified across the North Locality before thinking of practical ideas to address them. Through a fun and interactive approach, community members identified the strengths and assets already present in their communities—such as people, places, and groups—and brainstormed ways to use these to make a difference. Whether attendees were part of a local group or simply passionate about their area, contributions were valued and recorded to help shape the Locality Plans. Outreach sessions and a digital option was offered as an alternative for those unable to attend a full workshop. The sessions encouraged collaboration and community-led solutions and were supported and co-delivered by Community Planning partners.



Community Ideas Workshops were delivered to the following community groups across the North Locality:

- Northfield, Mastrick, Middlefield, Cummings Park and Heathryfold Neighbourhood Partnership
- North Locality Empowerment Group
- ACC Tenant Participation Group
- Carers Reference Group
- BSL Outcome Engagement Group
- Cash First Lived Experience Group
- Aberdeen in Recovery Lived Experience Group
- Children and Young People Forum
- ACC Sheltered Housing Tenant Participation Group
- Dyce Knit and Natter
- Bridge of Don Men's Shed
- Middlefield Community Project
- Northfield Community Association
- Cummings Park Community Association
- Mastrick Community Association
- Mastrick Community Council

Further Engagement around our new Plan

Participation of communities and people's rights lie at the heart of community planning and our communities

Developing the North Locality Plan

All information was collated from the workshops and organised into the 5 Determinates of Health (Economic Stability, Health and Social Care, Children, families and Lifelong Learning, Neighbourhood and Environment and Communities and Housing) in preparation of reflecting back to the community the ideas gather at the Community Ideas workshop earlier in the year. The North event took place at Northfield Community Centre in November



2025 where staff and partners manned a theme where conversation, led to feedback and input into the Locality Plan.

Along with the conversation attendees were able to commit community credits to the Idea that they see as a priority within the locality. These were then added up at the end to give partners an indication as to what the community were seeing as priorities for them.

The plan as it goes through various drafts will be reflected back to groups and organisations to ensure

that feedback captured the essence of conversations on how the plan looks, reads and feels in terms of accessibility.

AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT IN NEW LOCALITY PLAN 2026-36

- Support communities to host more community galas
- More outdoor exercise opportunities
- Develop a Community Hub Network
- Support communities to set up community safety groups
- Strengthen communication with our communities, including new arrivals into the city and housing tenants

Your Locality Planning Team

We recognise the value of partnering with communities to foster a thriving environment for everyone. By working closely with local communities through our locality planning team, we aim to be more responsive, supportive, and action-focused. Input from the community is essential to this process.

The Locality Planning Team consists of staff from both Aberdeen City Council and the Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership, working together to enhance outcomes across all local areas and neighbourhoods. In the South Locality, your key locality planning contacts are Cat and Kev. You can get in touch with the team on localityplanning@aberdeencity.gov.uk.

Cath McLeish

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