



Community
Planning
Aberdeen

Aberdeen City - South Locality

Annual Outcome Performance Report 2025-26



South Locality Neighbourhoods:

Culter, Cults, Bielside, Milltimber & Countesswells, Hazlehead, Braeside, Mannofield, Broomhill, Seafield, Garthdee, Ferryhill, Torry, Cove, Kincorth, Leggart and Nigg

Welcome

This is the fourth annual report on the South 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 South 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 South Locality, including in our priority neighbourhoods of Torry and Kincorth. 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 South 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 South Locality.

The Aberdeen City Locality Planning Team, May 2026

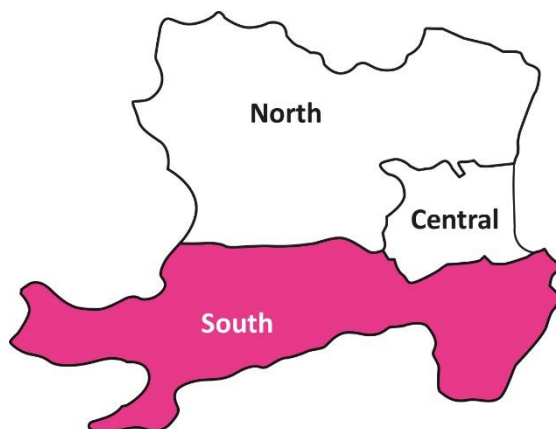
This report is split into the following sections:

Our Economy – Page 3

Our People – Page 12

Our Place – Page 28

Our Communities - Page 34





OUR PRIORITIES

The South Locality Plan 2021-26 sets out two priorities to improve our local economy:

Priority 1. Reduce number of people living in poverty

Priority 2. Improve and create employment opportunities

PROGRESS MADE DURING 2025/26

Supporting our most vulnerable families

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 Aberdeen

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](#).

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 South Locality, 82 households accessed the Rent Assistance Fund, with total awards of £112,664 made during the year. The Council's Financial Inclusion Team also supported 735 residents through debt and welfare rights casework during 2025–26.

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.



Supporting priority families via Fit Like hubs

[Fit like? Family Wellbeing Hubs](#) are a group of services working together to support children and young people's mental wellbeing. The Hubs help with:

- Finance and benefits
- Family relationships and communication
- Coping with daily pressures
- Promoting positive emotional and mental wellbeing
- Talking about traumatic things that have happened

There is a Fit Like Hub based in Kincorth Community Centre in the South Locality.

Improve and create employment opportunities

Local Employability Partnership

During 2025/26, residents in the South Locality was able to access a range of employability support delivered through the Local Employability Partnership. This included paid work experience opportunities, sector-specific pathways in construction, digital media, early learning and childcare, warehouse skills and hospitality, as well as supported employment and ESOL provision.

Multi-stage employability programmes supported parents, young people and adults aged 25+ to progress towards work in a way that reflected their starting point, confidence and wider circumstances. This approach helped reduce barriers and supported sustained engagement with employability pathways. Delivery involved community organisations and skills partners, alongside employers hosting work experience placements.

ABZ Works Development Grants supported community-based employability activity in the South Locality, including practical employability support at Gairn Community Garden, enabling skills development through hands-on activity, and an introductory electrics course delivered by The King's Community Foundation, combining technical skills with employability support for young people.



Business Gateway's business start-up project

As part of Business Gateway's Business Start-up project (April 2021–March 2026), delivery in the South locality emphasised building confidence and capability through practical start-up guidance and signposting to funding and wider support. Across the period, 34 individuals accessed tailored support and 14 businesses started, showing positive outcomes from

sustained local presence and clear pathways from initial enquiry to action. Between April 2025-March 2026 10 individuals were supported with 3 businesses established.



Case Study: KM Nail Lounge

Karen approached Business Gateway in February 2026 seeking support to re-enter the working world after leaving her full-time retail role several years earlier. Following a challenging period managing her mental health and completing extensive counselling, she identified an opportunity to retrain as a nail technician and eyebrow specialist, to establish as self-employed.

Karen engaged fully with Business Gateway and the support available. She attended a series of Business Gateway workshops to build her knowledge and confidence, while also exploring funding options to help her transition into her new career. Through this process, Donna recommended that Karen apply for the ABZworks Seed Fund, and her application was subsequently approved.

Karen demonstrated strong commitment by working closely with Donna to write a Business Plan and Cash Flow Forecast within just over a month. Regular meetings at the Torry Skills Centre ensured she remained on track throughout the process. In March, her plan was formally approved by ABZworks, resulting in an award of £5,000 to fund her initial training and essential equipment purchases. Business Gateway's accessible, local support played a vital role in enabling Karen to move forward and establish the for her new business.

Youth Volunteering – Saltire Awards (2025–26)



Youth volunteering is a major strength in the South 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 9787 hours of volunteering logged through the awards over the past year in the South Locality.
- A total of 1336 volunteers are now registered with the Saltire Awards in the South Locality.
- 273 Saltire Awards certificates were issued to volunteers in the South Locality during the year.

The continued growth of youth volunteering in 2025–26 reflects the strong civic spirit among young people in the South Locality. 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 South Locality.

Dominic Receives Saltire Summit Award

Local volunteer Dominic Dargie was recently honoured with the prestigious Saltire Summit Award at a special ceremony at Inchgarth Community Centre. Presented by the Lord Provost of Aberdeen, Councillor Dr David Cameron, the award recognises Dominic’s exceptional volunteering contributions.

Dominic was nominated by Jules Ory and Paul O’Connor MBE for his dedicated service at Inchgarth, including his work with the Youth Club, his vital role in the COVID-19 community response distributing food to vulnerable residents, and his ongoing support at the Phoenix Club for adults with additional support needs.



In addition to the Summit Award, Dominic received a Volunteer Thank You Certificate and a Queen’s Award badge. The event was attended by family, fellow volunteers, local councillors, and staff, all celebrating his achievements. Audrey Nicoll MSP also submitted a motion to the Scottish Parliament recognising Dominic’s contribution, which can be viewed at: <https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/votes-and-motions/S6M-19114>. The Saltire Awards, endorsed by the Scottish Government and delivered locally by ACVO, celebrate the impact of young volunteers aged 11–25. The Summit Award is the highest honour, recognising truly outstanding service. For more on the Saltire Awards or to get involved click [here](#)

Ruthrieston Community Centre: A Hub of Connection and Care

Ruthrieston Community Centre has become a vital wellbeing anchor for the local community, offering a warm, inclusive space where people of all ages can connect, learn, and thrive. The centre’s success lies in its strong partnerships, dedicated volunteers, and a clear focus on community-led support.



Key highlights include:

- The “Knit and Natter” group, which brings together older residents to reduce isolation and build friendships.
- The “Soup and Sandwich” sessions, offering affordable meals and a welcoming space for conversation.
- Wellbeing activities such as yoga, mindfulness, and gentle exercise classes, supporting both physical and mental health.
- Intergenerational projects that connect young people with older adults, fostering mutual understanding and community spirit.

- Support for carers and those living with dementia, including memory cafés and peer support groups.

The centre's approach is rooted in listening to local voices and responding to identified needs. It has become a trusted space where people feel safe, valued, and empowered.

With continued support from partners like ACVO, Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership, and local volunteers, Ruthrieston Community Centre is a shining example of how community spaces can transform lives.



Family Learning Team



Aberdeen City Council's Family Learning team has established 12 Additional Support Needs (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. Notably, the groups are attracting families who were not previously engaged with Family Learning, demonstrating their wider reach and relevance.

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."

"A great safe place to openly discuss how we are feeling, with no judgement and good support."

Self-Care in the Outdoors

Self-Care in the Outdoors run by ACC's Family Learning team in response to an increasing demand for accessible, nuanced support for parents in the Aberdeen area, with a particular focus on mental health and wellbeing. The programme incorporates crafts, relaxation techniques, and guided conversation as mechanisms for participants to reconnect with their own creativity, recognise the importance of dedicating time to personal wellbeing, and engage in a supportive, shared space with others.

Craft activities and the outdoor environment are used as immersive tools to help participants step away from day-to-day pressures and stimulate their thinking in new ways. Loving Kindness relaxation practices were provided, with participants encouraged to use these regularly to reinforce the importance of ongoing self-care.

"I have loved the walks and art activities have been great. I loved my coaster we made. I also feel better about myself and started a new group with my boys which I wouldn't attempt before."

"I'm more outgoing and assertive within myself. I want to do this course again and again. I am now speaking up for myself having my voice heard which is a big change for me at my age."

English as a Second Language (ESOL) Support

Adult Learning have delivered 12 ESOL activities to 29 learners a total of 1102 learner hours. Core ESOL classes follow a communicative approach focusing on developing learners' basic English skills to a level which will allow them to function in society. Classes start at literacy level, where learners are taught how to read and write the roman alphabet and go up to Pre-Intermediate level (CEFR A2, National 3). Learners are able to prepare for SQA ESOL awards at National 2 and 3 Level. They also have the opportunity to complete SQA Core Skills Numeracy Level 2 and 3 awards.



As well as core classes, ESOL learners also have the opportunity to participate in short courses on a range of topics, such as Scottish culture and visit places around Aberdeen, such as Aberdeen Art Gallery or Old Aberdeen. A weekly board and language café on a Tuesday at Aberdeen Art Gallery and on a Friday at the Maritime Museum provides learners with an opportunity to develop their speaking skills in a different setting while meeting new people.

Learners have participated in a zine making project as part of the Scottish Mental Health Arts Festival and also completed basic sewing courses, learning how to use a sewing machine, as well as developing numeracy and measuring skills.

Bridge Centre, Torry

Over the past period the community programmes have continued to grow in both reach and impact. The *Intro to Electrics* course welcomed 12 new participants, with four people progressing into employment, further training, or education—an outcome one learner described as *"a real turning point in my confidence."* Alongside this, the cooking classes returned, supporting young people with additional needs and adults who have experienced barriers to healthy eating. All six attendees reported learning new practical skills, with one participant sharing that they now feel *"able to cook meals I never thought I could manage."* The *Soaring Seniors* sessions have also flourished, offering food, community, dancing, and singing for people over 55, with 10 regular attendees who described the group as a place where they feel *"connected and uplifted."*

The centre continues to serve as a vital hub for a wide range of community activities. The space has hosted Big Noise Torry's ukulele classes, Child Smile's Bumps and Babies groups, and several one-off community events, including RAAC support meetings. The café remains a cornerstone of day-to-day engagement, welcoming over 500 people each month and supported by eight regular volunteers, some of whom are gaining work experience after long periods of unemployment.



Meanwhile, the VicTorry youth group meets weekly and consistently attracts around 60 young people, offering low-cost meals and a safe, fun environment—something one young attendee described simply as *“the highlight of my week.”* “

Rotary Club of Aberdeen Deeside Trust

Rotary Club of Aberdeen Deeside Trust (also known as Aberdeen Deeside Rotary Trust or ADR Trust) is setup as a registered charity to support and enhance the charitable activities of the Rotary Club of Aberdeen Deeside. This is achieved through the seeking of funding from various sources including personal donations, corporate donations and grant funding in line with their constitution and the policies set out by Rotary International.



Disabled Swing Appeal

The ADR Trust has partnered with Bon-Accord Rotary to fund the procurement and installation of a wheelchair accessible swing, which has been installed in Duthie Park, Aberdeen. Aberdeen City Council procured and installed the equipment. All the funds raised through the project are routed through ADR Trust, who will also provide grant funding applications. Members of Bon-Accord Rotary will provide publicity, fundraising and assistance on the liaison with Aberdeen City Council. The project has been very successful in securing funding from a number of sources. In addition to donations, three significant grants have been awarded, from the Stafford Trust, NHS Grampian Charities and the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.



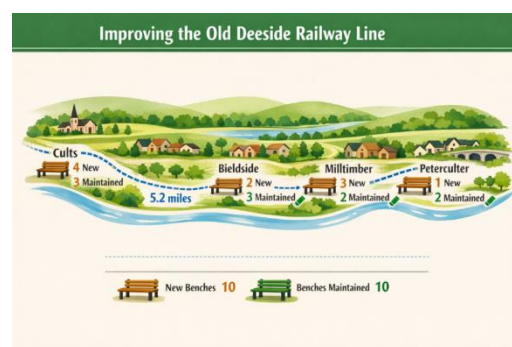
The success of the fundraising has allowed the project to expand the scope to include an additional piece of wheelchair accessible play equipment.

Foreign Students Scottish Experiences

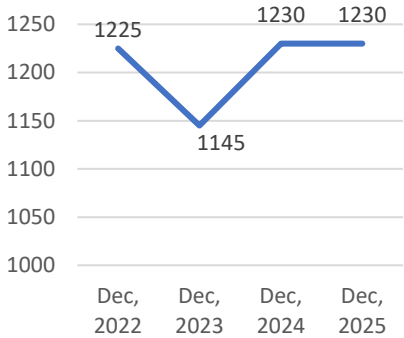
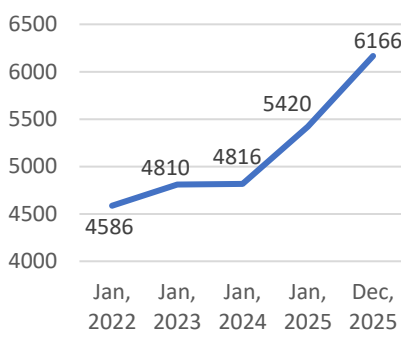
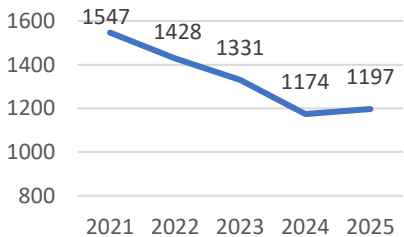
The ADR Trust received a grant from Foundation Scotland to provide Scottish cultural experiences to foreign students who are studying in Aberdeen. Through the year, the following events took place:

- Trip to the Aboyne Highland Games in August 2024
- International Student Evening in October 2024
- Christmas Party in December 2024
- Bingo Evening in February 2025
- Cash donations to 15 mainly local charities in 2025
- Shoebox Scheme – Promoted the Rotary shoebox scheme in local Primary Schools. Pupils filled shoeboxes that were sent to the Ukraine and Romania.
- Engaged with six local Primary schools to host a Primary School Public Speaking Event in October 2025; a Primary School Quiz in March 2026; and Rotary Youth Leadership Awards –
- Sponsored two female and one male Cults Academy students to attend week long Leadership development courses in July 2025

Rotary Club of Aberdeen Deeside continues to play an active role in supporting the wellbeing of communities across the South Locality. Through the Benches on the Old Deeside Railway Line Project, the club is improving accessibility on this key 5.2-mile walking route by installing new benches and maintaining existing ones across the South corridor—including Cults, Bielside, Milltimber and Peterculter—enhancing rest opportunities for older adults and encouraging regular physical activity. In addition, the Aberdeen Deeside Rotary Trust was awarded £13,000 from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund to deliver an all-ability wheelchair swing, strengthening inclusive outdoor play provision for local families. Together, these contributions help create safer, more accessible, and more welcoming neighbourhood environments within the South Locality.



WHAT IMPACT HAVE WE HAD DURING 2025/26?

Food Insecurity  7.1% of people in South Locality worried they would not have enough to eat, which improved from 10.4% in 2024 (City Voice 55, 2026)	Food Poverty  3.1% of households in South Locality ran out of food over the past year (City Voice 55, 2026)	Rent Assistance  82 households accessed the Rent Assistance Fund, with total awards of £112,664																						
Fuel Insecurity  13% of people in South Locality worried they would not be able to heat their home, this increased from 10.3% in 2024 (City Voice 55, 2026)	Cost of Living  8.1% of households in South Locality worried about having to choose between heating their home and eating (City Voice 55, 2026)	English as a Second Language  The Council's Adult Learning Team delivered 12 ESOL activities in South Locality to 29 learners during 2025-26. This is a total of 1102 learner hours																						
Claimant Count <table><tr><th></th><th>Dec, 2022</th><th>Dec, 2023</th><th>Dec, 2024</th><th>Dec, 2025</th></tr><tr><td>Claimant Count</td><td>1225</td><td>1145</td><td>1230</td><td>1230</td></tr></table>		Dec, 2022	Dec, 2023	Dec, 2024	Dec, 2025	Claimant Count	1225	1145	1230	1230	People on Universal Credit <table><tr><th></th><th>Jan, 2022</th><th>Jan, 2023</th><th>Jan, 2024</th><th>Jan, 2025</th><th>Dec, 2025</th></tr><tr><td>People on Universal Credit</td><td>4586</td><td>4810</td><td>4816</td><td>5420</td><td>6166</td></tr></table>		Jan, 2022	Jan, 2023	Jan, 2024	Jan, 2025	Dec, 2025	People on Universal Credit	4586	4810	4816	5420	6166	Cost of Living Support  40% of people from Torry and Kincorth knew where to access financial or welfare services, with 33% of people knowing where to access energy specific support (City Voice 55, 2026)
	Dec, 2022	Dec, 2023	Dec, 2024	Dec, 2025																				
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	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025																			
Children in low income families	1547	1428	1331	1174	1197																			

AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT IN NEW LOCALITY PLAN 2026-36

- Hold an accessible jobs fayre in the South Locality
- Rollout the Cash First scheme to maximise income for targeted groups
- Improve access to food to create meals



OUR PRIORITIES

Priority 3. Support children and young people

Priority 4. Focus on early intervention, prevention and re-enablement actions

PROGRESS MADE DURING 2025/26

Providing activities for Children and Young People

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 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.

Aberdeen City Council Youth Work Team

Across the Lochside Associated School Group (ASG), a wide range of targeted youth work interventions supported young people to build confidence, life skills and wellbeing. Twenty-two young people took part in *Confidence to Cook* sessions in partnership with Lochside Academy and Deeside Family Centre, gaining a certificate while learning to cook healthy meals on a budget. Participants reported increased confidence and the development of skills such as planning, organising and decision-making, as well as feeling proud of their achievements. One young person shared, *"I'm not scared to walk into school, Youth Work has helped build my confidence."*



In addition, 16 S3 pupils achieved a recognised Personal Development Award through the *Growing2Gether* project, supporting younger children in partnership with Lochside Academy and Loirston Primary. The project helped participants further develop confidence, communication skills and emotional awareness. One-to-one support was also provided to 48 young people across Lochside and Cults ASGs, focusing on confidence, resilience, health and wellbeing, and peer relationships, with a parent noting, *“It has been lovely to see their confidence grow.”*

Transition support was a key focus, with strong partnership working across primary and secondary schools. In the Lochside ASG, 144 P7 pupils gained their Hi5 Award after completing a six-week transition programme delivered by Youth Work staff, designed to increase confidence about moving to secondary school and strengthen teamwork, communication and problem-solving skills. A further 240 young people in the Cults ASG also achieved their Hi5 Award through the same programme. Young people consistently spoke positively about the impact, with one participant stating, *“I thought it was very useful for preparing for secondary.”* Youth Work staff also worked closely with The Promise Youth Work Team to provide ongoing, holistic support to young people and families across Aberdeen City.



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.

Grampian Wellbeing Festival

The Grampian Wellbeing Festival 2025 was a comprehensive community health initiative promoting wellbeing through diverse activities aligned with the Five Ways to Wellbeing framework. It successfully engaged a broad range of participants and hosts, fostering community connection, preventive health, and empowerment across Aberdeen City.



- **Festival purpose and framework:** The festival aimed to enhance health and wellbeing by encouraging healthy lifestyles, community engagement, empowerment, support for older adults, proactive health planning, partnership strengthening, resource awareness, and cost-efficiency, guided by the Five Ways to Wellbeing: Connect, Be Active, Take Notice, Keep Learning, and Give.
- **Participation growth and impact:** The event in Aberdeen City saw 1884 participants and 85 hosts, reflecting a 130% increase in hosts and a 43.4% increase in events from 2024, with positive impacts including reduced loneliness, stronger community ties, improved health, and increased emotional awareness. Sixty-seven percent of participants intended to continue activities post-festival. **Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership hosted events:** During the month Aberdeen Health and Social Care Partnership (AHSCP) hosted several events including Soup and Sandwiches, Boogie in the Bar, Stand up to Falls and Grampian Meaningful Engagement Network (GMEN) In Person Festival. All were well attended and continue into 2026.
- **Aberdeen Wellbeing Mascot:** A competition took place across Primary Schools in Aberdeen to design a Wellbeing Mascot. Cornhill Primary won and 'Fit Like Fleur' was created and her image was used across all marketing.



- **Collaborative delivery:** The festival was delivered in partnership with Aberdeenshire and Moray HSCPs, NHS Grampian Public Health Directorate, Aberdeen City Council, and ACVO. The Strategy and Transformation Team led Aberdeen City's efforts, working closely with 85 host organisations across public, third, and independent sectors.
- **Recommendations for future festivals:** Aberdeen Health and Social Care Partnership recognise the festival's positive outcomes and will support future delivery during 2026 and 2027.

School Age Childcare Team (Aberdeen City Council)

The Team supported National Playday by running an event for Holiday Club providers across the city at Cults Primary School on 6th August 2025. We had 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, the Team embraced this 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. Indoors we had staff provide science experiments, messy play with playdoh & slime, Dungeon & Dragons and in the gym hall a bouncy castle and inflatable football shoot out. The children had a great day and fully embraced the play spaces.



Bethany Christian Trust

Bethany Christian Trust delivers frontline support from the Bridge Centre in Torry, providing targeted help through a Women & Families Worker and a Recovery & Resettlement Worker. Over the past year, these part-time roles supported 33 individuals and families on a regular basis, with 18 supported through women and family services and 15 through recovery and resettlement work. Support has focused on core areas that stabilise households and reduce crisis, including parenting and family support, benefits advice, budgeting, addiction support, and connection to community services. As one service user reflected, *"I didn't know where to turn before — having someone walk alongside me made things feel possible again."* This wide-ranging support helps individuals address immediate challenges while building long-term resilience.

Several cases highlight the depth and impact of this work. One individual involved in a complex parenting situation received intensive one-to-one support alongside advocacy at multi-agency meetings, completed a parenting course with their worker, and was assisted through a house move - all contributing to greater stability for the family. Another individual, supported by the Recovery & Resettlement Worker, had lost their job due to injury and had turned increasingly to alcohol. Through practical and emotional support, they were helped to transition onto benefits, address addiction issues, access training and volunteering opportunities and regain control of household management. As they put it, *"I went from feeling completely stuck to feeling like I had options again."*

Supporting unpaid carers to maintain wellbeing and connection



“I was concentrating so hard on being creative that I forgot about everything else that was going on at home.” — Unpaid carer

During 2024–25, Aberdeen Carers Support Service, delivered by Quarriers, continued to provide vital support for unpaid carers across the city, including those living in the South Locality. The service offers accessible, person-centred support to carers at any stage of their caring journey, with no threshold for entry and a strong focus on early identification and prevention.

Several South-based activities and partnerships supported carers to reduce isolation and maintain wellbeing. A new “Wee Blether” group at Coronation Court in Peterculter was launched in partnership with Bon Accord Care, bringing together registered

carers and relatives of residents for regular social connection. These fortnightly sessions provided a welcoming space for conversation, peer support and signposting into wider community services.

Carers in the South also benefitted from creative and outdoor wellbeing opportunities, including woodland and coastal art sessions supported by the Health Improvement Fund. Outdoor creativity sessions held at Duthie Park enabled carers to take time out from their caring roles, connect with others, and focus on their own wellbeing. One carer reflected, *“I was concentrating so hard on being creative that I forgot about everything else that was going on at home”*.

Targeted financial and practical support further helped carers manage ongoing pressures. Through ‘Time to Live’ funding, carers were supported to access short breaks, helping them to rest, reset and sustain their caring roles. Feedback highlights the impact of these breaks on family relationships, stress reduction and mental health, with carers describing them as essential for coping during challenging periods. Community awareness activity across Aberdeen also helped identify and support previously unknown carers, ensuring more people were able to access advice, information and tailored support. Partnership working, listening to carers’ voices continues to play an important role in prevention and wellbeing.

Supporting People to Make Healthy Choices

The Community Learning and Development Healthy Minds Team



The Team works with adults in recovery of an enduring, diagnosed mental illness to access learning opportunities within their community to promote 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 the learners needs as and when required. During 2025-26 the

Team supported 15 participants from South Locality across 79 learning hours.

Healthy Minds learner Marie Mcloughlin reached the final of the Scottish Mental Health Arts Festival writing competition with her piece *Me, Myself and I - A Life Living with Dissociative Identity Disorder*, and read her piece at a celebration at the Cowdray Hall in November.

[Me, Myself and I | Scottish Mental Health Arts Festival](#)

Women's Menopause Supper Club

ACHSCP's (Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership) Wellbeing Team was approached by the Bridge Centre in Torry to set up a women's/menopause supper club again as the centre manager had been asked by quite a few women if she knew of anything in the local area. The team then set up a pilot running the last Tuesday evening of every month between December-February to establish if there was a need. It has proved very popular with numbers continuing to grow. Eight women come along regularly. They have stated that it's lovely to have a safe space where they can talk about their symptoms, share stories and receive information from reliable sources such as ACHSCP, NHS Grampian & community pharmacists. It is hoped that this peer support group grows from strength to strength, which will help more groups start across the city.



Torry Health Matters

It has been a productive year for Torry Health Matters.

The Torry Men's Health Event, held in June 2025, brought together 50 local men and marked an important step in strengthening community health efforts in Torry. Through partnership with NHS Putting People First, Public Health Grampian, and the wider Torry Health Matters Network, the event helped elevate the profile of men's health and acted as a catalyst for new community-led wellbeing initiatives. This collaboration reinforced a shared commitment to ensuring accessible, meaningful, and long-term support for men's physical and mental wellbeing. Following the event, several ongoing programmes have continued to grow, including the weekly Men's Breakfast at Greyhope and Men in Mind, which provides a consistent, supportive space for men to connect around mental health.

Alongside this, the community now benefits from a range of weekly activities such as Confidence to Cook, table tennis, and boccia sessions, all designed to build healthier routines and encourage social interaction, while Torry Circuits, a newly funded fitness programme, now attracts around 10 regular participants each week. The Jump into Autumn 2025 event further highlighted the strength of local collaboration, engaging 245 attendees—including 59 parents and 86 children—in a vibrant programme of activities designed to increase awareness of family wellbeing services. With 28 organisations involved and over 1,060 interactions recorded at stalls, the event created opportunities for families to build confidence, access support, and enjoy time together, while guiding next steps for future engagement, including clearer signposting and expanded teen focussed activities.

The image shows a promotional flyer for 'Circuits @ Greyhope Community Hub'. At the top, there are logos for 'Torry Health Matters' and 'healthy communities'. The main text reads: 'Circuits @ Greyhope Community Hub', 'An exercise class for those aged 18+ with the aim of getting you fitter, stronger and happier.', 'The class will use various pieces of equipment including dumbbells, kettlebells and balls.', and 'The exercises can be tailored to all levels of fitness.' Below this, it says 'Greyhope Community Hub', 'Tuesdays - 1930-2030', and 'Cost - Free'. There is a small image of yellow kettlebells. At the bottom, it says 'No need to book, just pop along.', 'Wear comfortable clothing, bring water and any medication you may require e.g. an inhaler for asthma', and 'For more information contact: 01224 507703 or activelifestyles@portabdean.co.uk'.

Greyhope Soup and Sannies



The Soup and Sannies Initiative has continued to provide a monthly lunch through 2025 and into 2026. The project has served a total of 491 meals with an average of 37 people attending each session at Greyhope Community Hub to enjoy homemade soup and sandwiches made by Max from the Coffee Stop café. Big Noise Torry has provided musical entertainment during most of the lunchtime sessions and local volunteers have provided a Christmas and Valentine craft sessions. There is now a reliable team of four volunteers to serve and set up, and also four senior pupils from Lochside Academy volunteer in order to gain experience and build their skills.

Alice's Knitters @ Greyhope

The Knit and Natter group at Greyhope continues to grow with a hive of creativity at each session. Attendance averages around 15 people. Some attend for the natter and a new group of women have started to come who are keen to learn crochet and focus on producing items to sell to raise funds which will benefit children and young people in Torry.

Big Noise Torry



Big Noise Torry is a community-rooted music programme that helps children and young people “*thrive through music*,” building confidence, creativity, and wellbeing from birth to adulthood. Through orchestral learning, nurturing relationships, and long-term support, participants develop key life skills such as teamwork, resilience, aspiration, and pride. The project also supports the wider Torry community through activities like a weekly adult orchestra,

baby-and-carer sessions, intergenerational visits to care homes, and engagement with adults with additional support needs. Its work directly contributes to the South Locality Plan’s aims around reducing poverty, improving employability, and strengthening community involvement.

Over the past year, Big Noise Torry delivered 3,594 hours of high-quality learning and reached 668 children weekly (projected to rise to 735 by 2026). This included Afterschool Clubs, whole-class music sessions for 518 pupils, 179 instrumental lessons, 192 hours of holiday clubs, targeted nurture sessions, and enhanced support for 61 Priority Families. Community events attracted 1,134 audience members, with 382 people taking part in wider musical activities. Young people also benefitted from leadership pathways such as paid internships – with one young intern noting, “*It’s really helped me with my confidence and helped me understand a bit about what work life is like.*” Another added, “*Being part of the staff team here really feels like it prepares you for the next level of education and going out into the real world.*” Celebrations included major performances at Cowdray Hall, Dundee’s Caird Hall, and festive concerts marking Big Noise Torry’s 10th birthday.

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.



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

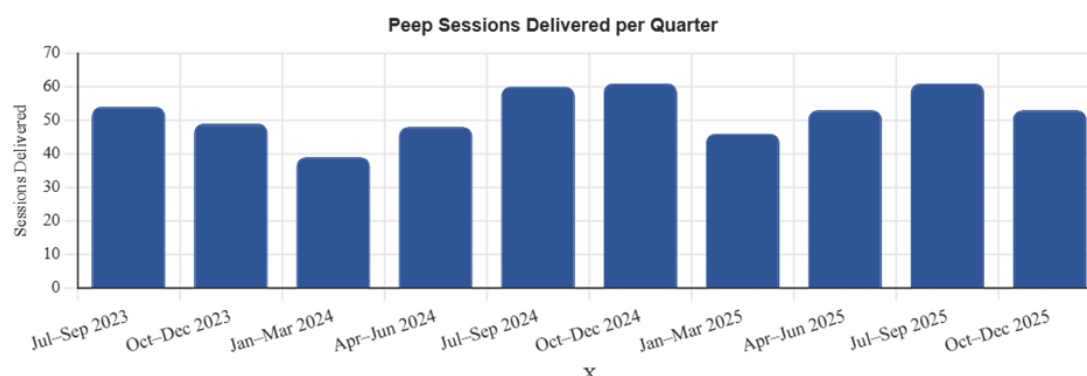


- 73.3% felt more confident as parents
- 77.1% felt more confident supporting their child's learning
- 69.6% sang more songs and rhymes with their children
- 64.7% reported more conversations at home
- 58.1% felt their relationship with their child had improved

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.



The Confidence2Cook (C2C)

The programme aims to promote healthy eating behaviours and 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. A total of 24 people completed the six week skills course. These were delivered at the community kitchen in Greyhope and South Church Torry.

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.

Kincorth Loves Walking

Walking Scotland recently carried out a Walking Communities consultation in Kincorth to better understand local needs and identify barriers that prevent people from walking more often. Residents expressed strong interest in joining a local health-walk group as a way to stay motivated and active. In response, a pilot Health Walk was delivered in March, attracting enthusiastic participation from local people. Building on the success of this pilot, a “Kincorth Loves Walking” campaign is now underway. As part of this initiative, weekly Health Walks and chair-based exercise sessions are being offered every Wednesday, helping to create routine, build confidence, and support residents to lead more active, connected lives.



Greyhope Hub Men's Breakfast



In May 2025 the men's breakfast was established and now offers far more than a meal; it creates a supportive, social space that positively impacts physical, mental, and social wellbeing. Numbers have grown with 8-14 men attending. A total of 297 breakfast rolls have been served.

The regular breakfast meet-up has created a routine, built friendships and fostered peer support. The group has participated in a Torry men's health day and had visits from Chest Heart and Stroke nurses, played quite

a few competitive Boccia games, and made clay fish with Torry Casting Fish project and sang a few sea shanties.

Torry Men's Shed



As part of weekly conversations at the breakfast, men expressed an interest in forming a Torry men's shed. In September 2025 the group was formally constituted. They are now actively pursuing an identified building and working in partnership with Aberdeen University's Just Systems Project to create a feasibility study. The men have designed a programme of talks and activities including visits to other Sheds and have undertaken first aid training whilst awaiting building approval. They have been involved in local litter picks and a painting project at a local community centre.

Men in Mind at Greyhope

The group started in July 2025 - their mission is to support men who have been struggling with their mental health in the local community by providing peer to peer support in a safe space. Currently they have five regular attendees. All men are welcome to attend.

Halla, Garthdee



Across the weekly programme, a diverse range of community groups continue to thrive, attracting participants of all ages and interests. Fitness and wellbeing remain popular, with 7 people attending Badminton, 8 in Pilates, and 10 in the 50+ exercise class, while the 50+ walking group regularly draws 10 walkers. Creative pursuits are also well-represented: the Craft, Sewing, and Crochet classes each welcome between 8 and 9 participants, alongside smaller specialist groups such as Knitting (4),

Felting (3), and Self-Help Crochet (2). Drama Club engages 8 enthusiastic members, and art opportunities span from 5 adults in the Adult Art Class to 5 children in the Kids' Art Class, supported further by the Explore Urban Wildlife group (8 participants and 1 volunteer tutor).

The youth programme is growing steadily, with 10 children learning guitar and 5 pupils attending the P4 Maths Club, supported by four dedicated volunteers. Digital inclusion also remains a priority, with 2 learners receiving tailored support in the Tech Help class, delivered by a volunteer tutor. The Breakfast Club continues to play a vital role four days a week, supported by 12–15 volunteers and serving around 20 children each morning. Finally, community capacity-building remains part of their mission, with 3 participants attending the Financial Stability class thereby strengthening skills that support long-term wellbeing.



Rock Up and Ride – Sport Aberdeen



The *Rock Up & Ride* programme delivered a wide range of cycling activities across Aberdeen’s North, South, and Central localities, supporting children, young people, families and adults to build confidence, develop skills, and experience the joy of cycling. In the South Locality, high demand at Tullos School led to the expansion of cycling sessions, focusing on fun, creativity and confidence-building. A major highlight of the year was the Christmas Bikes Project, which delivered 12 free

bikes for children in the South, 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. Taken together, the case studies show a programme that not only increases cycling ability but strengthens wellbeing, confidence, and community connection across priority neighbourhoods.

Community Sports Hubs – Sport Aberdeen

The Community Sports Hubs highlight several successful community-led physical activity initiatives across Aberdeen, each designed to reduce barriers to participation and improve wellbeing. Projects such as the Torry Table Tennis & Boccia sessions have shown strong community engagement with 8 regular participants across 28 sessions, with attendees reporting that the activities helped them manage *anxiety and confidence issues* by socialising in small, supportive groups.

Torry Dancers

The Torry Dancers have enjoyed another successful year, with strong attendance across all five weekly classes and a consistent total of just over 50 dancers taking part each week. The annual dance show in June was a particular highlight, offering families the chance to see the dancers “all dressed up and ready to perform”. The event was a wonderful celebration of the new routines, skills, and confidence that the young people have developed and it provided a moment of pride for the whole Torry community.



In addition to the show, some of the younger dancers performed for the local knitting group last month. Their generous Christmas donation supported the club's festivities, including the dancers' Christmas party. These opportunities to perform at community events play an important role in building confidence, and parents consistently share positive feedback about the benefits for their children. Friendships formed at the classes continue to support the dancers in school and beyond. The dancers are busy

rehearsing for their Summer Show in June 2026, which is already generating great excitement among dancers and families. They also hope to welcome local groups to a special performance at Greyhope School in June, further strengthening community connections.

Case study - Youth Project, Hazlehead Academy



A group of pupils from Hazlehead Academy have set up an intergenerational weekly Dementia Café project for Bon Accord Care residents. The project was awarded an Aberdeen City Council Star Award in the Innovation and Bright Sparks category for their Dementia Café in 2025. The young people handled tasks such as baking, setting up the space, and having compassionate conversations with older adults. Notably, one participant has chosen to pursue

social care in college, inspired by their experience with the dementia café. Students report feeling a sense of accomplishment and value, with increased confidence, and some have decided to take Home Economics as a subject.

Community Appointment Days (CADs)



These days are now an important part of how health and wellbeing support is delivered in Aberdeen City. Since late 2024, several CADs have taken place across the city, covering topics such as chronic pain, women's health and wellbeing, dementia support, men's health and wellbeing, podiatry and place-based work in areas like Torry. These events bring health services, third sector organisations and community groups together in local venues. People are asked, "What matters to you?", which helps staff and partners focus on what is most important to each person and connect them with the right support in their community.

"I felt that clinical staff were able to meet up with [our organisation] and ask questions about the community, and able to be encouraged about being more community-centred in the practice and future plans - all good!" – Community Partner at the Aberdeen Chronic Pain CAD

Feedback from people attending CADs in Aberdeen has been very positive. Most attendees said they felt listened to and treated with respect, rather than feeling rushed or, “just a number”. Many people reported learning more about their condition, feeling more confident about managing it, and finding out about local services they did not know existed. People also valued having many services in one place, which made it easier to get help. At chronic pain and dementia events, people spoke strongly about the emotional support they received and the benefit of meeting others with similar experiences. Most attendees said they would recommend CADs to others.

“It's been a relief to talk to people who understand and can offer help & support. Chronic pain has affected my confidence, as I don't go out and am unable to work, so to speak with people who are empathetic has been amazing.” – Attendee at the Aberdeen Chronic Pain CAD

Staff and community organisations in Aberdeen also said CADs worked well. They valued the chance to work more closely with each other and to build stronger relationships across services. Staff felt the events allowed better, more meaningful conversations than are usually possible in day-to-day work. Community and third sector organisations said CADs helped raise awareness of their services

and improved links with both NHS staff and local residents. In some cases, the relationships built through CADs have continued after the events and supported better joint working across Aberdeen City. Early evidence suggests that CADs can have benefits beyond the day itself. Follow-up work shows that some people felt more confident and better able to manage their health over time, and there were short-term improvements in access to services in some areas.

The evaluation also highlights lessons for Aberdeen going forward. These include making CADs easier for working-age adults to attend, being clearer about what people can expect on the day, involving communities early in planning, and focusing events where they can help reduce inequalities. Overall, CADs are seen as a useful and flexible way of supporting Aberdeen City's locality priorities when they are planned around local needs and built into wider service planning.



Boogie in the Bars



These are day time discos which aim to support older people and people with learning disabilities at risk of social isolation, physical & cognitive decline, and loneliness. The Boogies also provide attendees with a light lunch. ACHSCP's Wellbeing Team work in partnership with the Bridge Centre Cafe to supply both South boogies which invests the money directly back into the local community.

The Abbott Bar Boogie has been running for four years now with an average attendance of 50 people per session. During 2025-26, 498 people attended the Abbot Boogie. The Torry Boogie has been running for two years and was initially held at The White Cockade Pub but changed location to Nigg Bay Golf Club in February 2026. There were 75 participants at the April event, the highest ever attendance for any Torry Boogie. During 2025-26, 394 people attended the Torry Boogie. Lately the project has managed to recruit a new volunteer DJ Frazier who, along with his mum Stacey, have become much loved by Boogie attendees. Frazier is a total hit with participants at both Boogies and even puts on line dancing tracks then teaches everyone the dance moves.

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).

If you'd like find out more about this and other support provided by SAMH please use click [here](#).

SAMH Mental Health & Wellbeing Support for RAAC-Affected Residents in Balnagask

In response to the RAAC housing crisis in Balnagask, a coordinated effort was launched to support the mental health and wellbeing of affected residents. Key initiatives included:

- SAMH "Hear for You" Service. Commissioned by the Council, this ongoing service offers one-to-one support for anyone aged 16+ affected by RAAC. Wellbeing Practitioners provide up to eight counselling sessions, while Link Practitioners assist with practical challenges and referrals.
- Community Outreach. The Bridge Centre and local volunteers maintained contact with displaced families, offering social connection, signposting, and access to essentials. Informal peer support networks also emerged, helping residents share experiences and advice.
- Torry Medical Practice. GPs identified 60 patients with RAAC-related health issues, noting increased prescriptions for anxiety and sleep difficulties. The practice advocated for better health impact assessments and continues to monitor affected patients.

These efforts have helped reduce isolation, improve access to support, and rebuild trust. Residents report feeling more heard and supported, with services continuing into 2026.

RAAC Support Timeline – Balnagask (2024–2026)

Date	Event Title	Description
June 2024	Bridge Centre Drop-In Sessions	10 residents supported by ACHSCP, SAMH, MHA, Penumbra. Signposting to services.
Aug–Sep 2024	MHA Support Group	6-week group led by Laura Simmons. 8–10 participants. Focus on anxiety and stress.
Early 2025	SAMH “Hear for You” Launch	1:1 wellbeing and link practitioner support for anyone 16+ affected by RAAC.
2025-2026 (ongoing)	Community Outreach & GP Support	Bridge Centre, peer groups, and GPs supporting 60+ residents with RAAC-related health issues.

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.

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, help with access to local facilities & local community groups/activities, provides information sessions to help New Scots understand their rights and entitlements, and supports New Scots to engage in local and national strategies.

Some of the activities that the resettlement team has put on -

- Youth Group as part of the April holiday programme.
- Volunteering at the Grove Community centre.
- Sport Aberdeen Session as part of the October holiday programme.

WHAT IMPACT HAVE WE HAD DURING 2025/26?

Essential Life Skills  24 people from South Locality successfully completed the six week Confidence2Cook training programme during 2025-26	Breastfeeding Inequalities  73.6% of women from Cults, Bieldside, and Miltimber breastfeed their babies, compared to 21.8% in Torry East.	Mental Health  16.9% of people who live in South Locality have been prescribed drugs for anxiety, depression, or psychosis. This is slightly lower than the Aberdeen City figure of 17.4%
Teenage Pregnancies  In South Locality, 20.9 girls and young women per 1000 recorded pregnancies. This was just above the Aberdeen City average rate of 19.8 per 1000 girls and young women	Counselling for Young People  100% of schools in South Locality offer counselling and Active School activities	Working Together with Parents  45 Peep groups were delivered in South Locality during 2025 to support parents with young children
Young People Volunteering  1336 young people are now registered with Saltire Awards in South Locality. The young people have logged 9787 hours of volunteering, a 44% increase from 2024-25. With 273 Saltire Awards issued to volunteers, an increase of 27% from 2024-25	Healthy Eating  15.4% of people in South Locality said they were unable to eat healthy and nutritious food due to poverty. This compares to 16.7% in Torry and Kincorth (City Voice 50, 2024)	Cancer Registrations  The rate of new cancer registrations in South Locality was 610 people per 100,000 . This is lower than the city average of 624 per 100,000. South Locality had the lowest rate of new cancer registrations in Aberdeen City
Alcohol Awareness  50% of people in the South Locality said they didn't know the maximum number of alcohol units recommended per week. This is a slight reduction from 51.1% in 2024 (City Voice 54, 2025)	Smoking During Pregnancy  25.7% of women from Torry East smoked during pregnancy. This is the highest by neighbourhood in Aberdeen City, and significantly higher than the city average of 9.1%	Drug Related Hospital Stays  The rate of drug related hospital stays for South Locality was 116 per 100,000 population. This is an improvement from 121.5 per 100,000 in 2023
Alcohol Related Mortality Rates  Alcohol related mortality rates in South Locality are now 14.4 people per 100,000 . This is below the Aberdeen City rate of 19.9 people per 100,000	Deaths from Suicide  The rate of death from suicide in the South Locality is 10.4 per 100,000 , this is below the citywide average of 11.1 per 100,000 of the population.	Life Expectancy  Men's life expectancy ranges from 71.5 years in Torry East to 84.2 years in Braeside (city average: 76.9). For women, it ranges from 76 years in Torry East to 84.7 years in Braeside (city average: 80.9).

AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT IN NEW LOCALITY PLAN 2026-36

- Support development of the Torry Men's Shed
- More low cost activities and safe spaces for young people and families
- Recruit and support more volunteers
- Support development of the Community Hub Network
- Increase drug messages in the community



OUR PRIORITIES

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

Priority 5. Identify and maximise use of green space

WHAT PROGRESS HAVE WE MADE DURING 2025/26?

Supporting use of greenspace for health benefits

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. More information on all of the projects funded can be found - [here](#). A full evaluation of the project will be available in September 2026.



Denis Law Legacy Trust

The Denis Law Legacy Trust is a children's charity supporting and empowering young people across Aberdeen through free-to-access programmes and positive destination activities. The Trust delivers a range of diversionary and community-based initiatives, primarily through its award-winning *Streetsport* programme delivered in partnership with Robert Gordon University. Its aim is to reduce antisocial behaviour, improve wellbeing and provide safe spaces for young people to engage in sport and creative activity.

Street Sport Programme

Operating nightly across priority neighbourhoods, Street sport takes activities directly into communities, offering young people safe, barrier-free opportunities to participate in sport, socialise, and develop life skills. The programme continues to help reduce instances of youth crime and antisocial behaviour and supports thousands of young people annually across Aberdeen. Over the last year their programmes have supported over 30,000 participations.

Cruyff Courts

In partnership with Aberdeen City Council and the Johan Cruyff Foundation, the Trust



supports Aberdeen's Cruyff Courts which are free-to-access, all-weather community sports spaces designed to provide safe environments for physical activity and positive social interaction. The Cruyff Court Neale Cooper in Torry continues to demonstrate measurable community impact. Since opening in 2019, youth antisocial behaviour in the area has been reduced by 80%, transforming one of Aberdeen's historically highest-ASB

neighbourhoods into a significantly safer community environment.

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. In parallel, the RSPB Nature Prescriptions project has gone live in two GP practices, with approximately 21 prescriptions issued through Garthdee Medical Practice and Torry Medical Practice. When combined, this brings the overall total number of Nature Prescriptions issued across Aberdeen to an estimated 70 or more.



Delivery has been supported through RSPB-led training and a locally co-designed Nature Calendar developed with local people, ensuring the approach reflects Aberdeen's neighbourhoods, seasons and realistic ways for people to engage with nature in their own communities. This has been complemented by Nature Prescription booklets, including indoor-focused and easy-read versions, to improve accessibility. Early informal feedback from Link Practitioners indicates that Nature Prescriptions are being well received and increasingly used in routine practice, with ongoing data collection supporting local monitoring and contributing to national research being led by RSPB.

Safe and Welcoming Environment

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 South there were 124 sessions with 978 attendees picking up 738 bags of rubbish. While it is disappointing the amount of rubbish picked up, it is 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 South Locality, there were 19 sessions where 230 people picked up 80 bags of rubbish.



Winter/Flood Resilience

The South Locality continues to benefit from several established Community Resilience groups, including those operating in Peterculter and Culter, Milltimber and Bieldside. These groups remain an important part of the city's overall resilience arrangements and continue to be supported through ongoing engagement and funding for resilience activity, including support for winter preparedness. Alongside these established groups, a flexible single-task approach has been used to support community resilience activity in areas such as Torry, allowing communities to focus on specific local priorities rather than the full resilience remit. This approach supports local ownership and participation while ensuring activity remains aligned with wider emergency planning and response arrangements.

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.

Grow Well Choices Level 1 Pilot – Greyhope Primary School



During 2025–26, Grow Well Choices Level 1 was piloted at Greyhope Primary School as part of delivery within the South Locality. The pilot engaged four classes (P1/2, P2 and two P3 classes), reaching 112 children across four weekly sessions.

Feedback from staff highlighted that the programme was easy to deliver, well aligned with Curriculum for Excellence, and highly engaging for pupils. The story-based and superhero themes were particularly

effective in supporting discussion and recall, with children able to link learning to their own experiences of food, activity and wellbeing.

Teachers reported high levels of pupil enthusiasm and participation, with children retaining key messages from previous weeks and confidently contributing to class discussions. The involvement of community partner RADS, including young leaders supporting sessions, was seen as a positive addition that strengthened engagement.

The pilot also provided useful learning for future delivery, including considerations around access to shared resources, use of flexible indoor or outdoor spaces, and the value of visual aids to support understanding. Overall, the Greyhope pilot demonstrated that Grow Well Choices Level 1 is a feasible, well-received and impactful approach to supporting early healthy weight and wellbeing learning within South Aberdeen schools.

Gairn Community Garden



Gairn Community Garden has transformed a once-derelict piece of land into a vibrant, safe, and welcoming green space for local residents. Over the past year, volunteers and partners installed key infrastructure including a polytunnel, sheds, raised beds, new pathways and fencing, making the garden fully accessible and practical for community use. The project delivered two One Seed Forward growing courses, expanded weekly outdoor learning through regular Duthie Park Nursery visits, and attracted steady local engagement from people looking to

volunteer, learn, or enjoy outdoor space. As one local participant put it, *“It’s amazing to see a space that was once neglected turned into somewhere people can come together and enjoy.”*

The garden has become a strong example of community-led regeneration, supporting wellbeing, social connection, and shared pride. Residents have used the space to build skills, connect with others, and engage with nature, while children have benefited from hands-on learning — *“a valuable place to explore, play and learn about growing,”* as one quote highlighted. The project’s inclusive design and regular use across age groups show its increasing value as a neighbourhood asset. Community members report that the space has helped bring people together — *“The garden has brought people into the space who might not otherwise have met each other.”* These successes demonstrate how local collaboration can turn an unused area into a sustainable, educational and socially meaningful community resource.

St Fittick’s Edible Garden/Social Juice

It has been a busy year for Social Juice however the project has finally received notice that they can obtain the lease on the St Fittick’s Edible garden Site. Articles were published in the *Torry Vision* in February and May to highlight that Social Juice would be supporting community use of the Edible Garden. A community engagement event was held at Old Torry Community Centre in late April, which attracted strong participation from individuals already active within the community, though attendance from the wider public was limited.



Participation in the JTPB process further increased awareness of the garden, as campaigning for votes involved outreach at the Greyhope Bay Dolphin Watch site, the Golden Tee, and an event at the Bridge Centre attended by Audrey Nicoll MSP. Social Juice has continued to use every available opportunity when engaging with fruit-tree growers and businesses across the North-East to promote the forthcoming mobile juicing unit and its planned location within the Edible Garden.

The Allotment Market Stalls (TAMS)



The 2025 season marked the thirteenth year of The Allotment Market Stall (TAMS), which ran 26 market stalls from mid-July to late September, supported by volunteers, allotment growers, and partner organisations. Favourable weather meant not a single stall was affected by rain, and the team benefitted greatly from collaborating with Mamacita, whose electric van made produce collection far more efficient. Across the season, allotments supplied an impressive range of fruit, vegetables and flowers, with strong yields of rhubarb, gooseberries, blackcurrants, onions, and garlic, as well as honey from partner beekeepers. In total, 2,600 kg of produce was collected, with

80% sold, 10% composted, and 10% donated, while £2,150 was raised in dividends for allotment sites.

The TAMS plot at Grove Nursery continued to grow as a community hub, producing approximately 400 kg of its own harvest and providing space for events such as compost workshops, cooking demonstrations, seed-saving sessions, and a popular apple-pressing day. Volunteer engagement remained central, with 1,600 hours contributed by people of all ages.

Deevale Community Garden, Kincorth



It has been a busy time for this project since it started two years ago. There are eight regular volunteers, aged 8 to 70. The garden now has over a dozen floral displays, seating, a giant bug hotel and hopscotch. The growing plots and the Children's Garden are well used by growers aged 4 to 70. Visitor numbers are increasing and the second garden birthday party was a great success with over 50 attendees. As well as seating, compost for the project's first year, and gardening tools, funding from Nescan enabled them to buy a much welcomed polytunnel. Feedback from the community has been very positive and most local residents are pleased to see the land put to good use. All volunteers and growers feel the benefits from being part of the group which includes being active, being outdoors and improving the local community.

Greyhope Bay

Greyhope Bay has had a year of major growth, increased community engagement, and a strengthened focus on biodiversity. The team hosted 85 events, engaging 1,500+ participants through activities ranging from creative classes to large-scale events such as the Festival of Ideas, BioBlitz, and Dee to the Sea. Their volunteer team of 30 people contributed over 600 hours, enabling a rich programme of environmental, cultural, and wellbeing activities. A standout achievement was the first-ever BioBlitz, where 120 participants recorded 186 species, supporting the organisation's growing community-science work. As the



team reflected, being named a finalist for the RSPB Nature of Scotland Community Initiative Award underscored the impact of their work and the strength of our community partnerships.

A major milestone was bringing the Greyhope Bay Café in-house, doubling the staff team and creating a community-centred gateway to the organisation’s mission. As Café Manager Andy shared, “*Our inhouse team champion Greyhope Bay’s mission... building connections with visitors to cultivate a sense of community and connection to the coast.*” The year also celebrated record-breaking public engagement during the Tall Ships Race, where both café and charity sales hit new highs. Fundraising highlights included the inaugural 32 km Dee to the Sea walk, raising £12,060, while creative and educational projects—from heritage guides to clothes-repair workshops continued to broaden community participation. With 2025 described as their ‘*best year yet*’, Greyhope Bay looks ahead to 2026 with momentum, expanded programmes, and renewed commitment to connecting people with nature, place, and each other.

WHAT IMPACT HAVE WE HAD DURING 2025/26?

Satisfaction with Green Space	Anti-Social Behaviour	Access to Nature
 69.6% of South 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)	 There has been an 80% reduction in anti-social behaviour calls from Torry since the Cruyff Court was installed in 2019	 72% of people in the South Locality exercise in the natural environment (City Voice 54, 2025)
Cycling	Walking	Community Resilience
 9% of people in the South Locality cycle as a form of physical activity, this fell from 10.6% in 2024 (City Voice 54, 2025)	 76% of people in the South Locality walk as a form of physical activity, this increased from 64.2% in 2024 (City Voice 54, 2025)	 There are two Community Resilience Groups in the South Locality. These groups cover Culter; and Cults, Bieldside, and Miltimber

AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT IN NEW LOCALITY PLAN 2026-36

- Develop a Tool/Gardening Library in the community
- Develop underused greenspaces
- Support more community clean ups and litter picks
- Focus on increasing walking and cycling, and make cycling saf



OUR PRIORITIES

The South 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 South of the city can get involved through a range of methods:

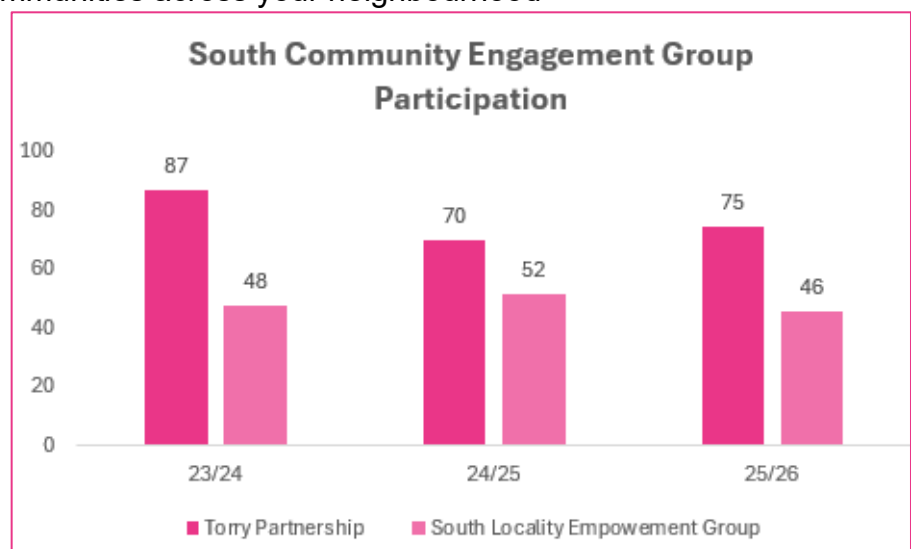
- South Locality Empowerment Group (LEG)
- Torry Priority Neighbourhood Partnership (PNP)
- UDecide Participatory Budgeting
- Fairer Aberdeen Board

Stay updated

The South Locality Empowerment Group and the Torry Partnership are two of the main ways we connect with our local communities in the South Locality. As a member of a Locality Empowerment Group or Torry 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 month our partner ACVO pulls 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](#)



As well as this, council tenants can also find out about updates in the Tenant Participation Newsbite magazine and hard copies are sent to all council tenancies.

In March 2025, with help from SHMU, a group of community members launched the Connected Torry website so that local people can find out more about what's on in the area, connect with local groups and read local news stories.

Get Involved

Following a citywide meeting with our existing community representatives, they had the following 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 £20,000 of funding available for each of the Priority Areas of North, South and 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 six 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 8 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 eight 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 was 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 South Locality, 383 people voted for 10 initiatives totalling £20,000.

Kincorth Youth Community Group – Ferryhill Rainbows

The group was able to avoid having to put up the term fee to cover the cost of paying for the let of the community centre which benefits all of the families. This helps keep costs affordable for everyone. This benefits 25 girls and their families. They were able to purchase uniforms to give to girls who did not have a uniform which made them feel the same as everyone else who has a uniform. They also ran a sleepover at the HQ in town.

Souperb – Old Torry Community Centre Association SCIO



Souperb prepared and set up the Centre to offer hot soup, and bread or toasties as a lunchtime snack to which there was tea/coffee and biscuits as needed. This was managed by a group of Centre Trustees and volunteers supported by students from Lochside Academy. Both trustees and all volunteers involved completed on-line tuition for Level 2 Food Hygiene Certificates, and shared briefings on the related health and safety

practices required at the Centre as a City Council Registered Food Premise. Approximately 500 people benefited from this funding.

Christmas Celebration and Lights Switch on Event - Kincorth & Leggart Community Council



Approximately 200 residents and carers from Mark Bush Court, Margaret Clyne Court and the Affinity Trust attended the Christmas Light Switch On. Parents and pupils from all the local schools also attended as well as local groups such as the Boys & Girls Brigade, the local football teams and members from the South Church of Scotland.

A joint Christmas Party Event was held with Abbotswell School PTA to celebrate switching on the lights. It was held on 27th November in Mark Bush Court from 4-6pm. Residents from the whole community attended. The Community Council paid for the erection of the Christmas lights on Provost Watt Drive and provided teas/coffees/cakes for those attending. There was a raffle and a Santa who gave out a small gift to all the children who attended the event.

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.

Funded by

**Aberdeen City
Health & Social Care
Partnership**



Health Improvement Fund

CENTRAL LOCALITY PROJECTS		FUNDING
Health Improvement Fund Projects (25/26)		
CITYWIDE PROJECTS		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
SOUTH LOCALITY PROJECTS		AMOUNT AGREED (£)
Confidence to Cook - Young people - Aberdeen City Council (Cults ASG Youth Team)		£996.26
Grow our own food from seed on site - Tullos Crescent Allotment association		£3,000.00
Raised Bed for Wheel Chair Use - Gray Street Allotment and Broomhill Primary School		£2,188.00
Come and enjoy a good meal and a blether - Mark Bush Court Residents Association		£2,000.00
Garden Connections: Art, Growth and Community - Gairn Community Garden		£5,000.00
Gardening for All - Albury Community Sports Hub		£1,256.48
Threaded Together - Aberdeen Ethnic Minority Women's Group CIC		£5,000.00
Community developed well-being walk resource - Greyhope Bay		£2,078.00
Inclusive Cycling Group - Newton Dee Camphill Community		£4,500.00
North Point Multi-Use Hall - Camphill Wellbeing Trust (CWT)		£3,069.79
shmuFM in Torry - Station House Media Unit		£3,500.00
Nether Loirston Growers Association - Nether Loirston Growers Association		£340.44
Healthy Heritage Kitchen - Igbo Cultural Association SCIO		£2,000.00
Torry Community Bird Story Walk - Sport Aberdeen		£2,347.00
Torry Health Matters: connecting the dots, from the ground up - Torry Health Matters Network		£5,000.00

The Fairer Aberdeen Fund



The Fairer Aberdeen 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 South Locality, 23 initiatives were funded to deliver activities

with a value of 360,769. Support included income maximisation, employability, youth and adult activities, community media and food provision.

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
- Six 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:

[South Engagement Summary Report](#)

and

[Population Needs Assessment \(PNA\)](#)

Community Ideas Workshops



At the workshops, we explored the key areas for improvement identified across the South 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.

South Community Ideas Workshops Delivered:

- Torry Partnership
- South 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
- Torry Soup and Sannies
- Cutler Men's Shed
- Deeside Rotary Club
- Inchgarth Community Centre
- Bridge Centre Toddlers Group
- Knit and Natter Torry
- Men's South Church
- Souperb Torry
- Kincorth Community Centre

Developing the South Locality Plan

All information was collated from the workshops and organised into the 5 Determinants 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 gathered at the Community Ideas workshop earlier in the year. The South event took place at Greyhope Community Campus 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 saw as a priority within the locality. These were then added up at the end to give partners an indication as to what the community was seeing as priorities for them.

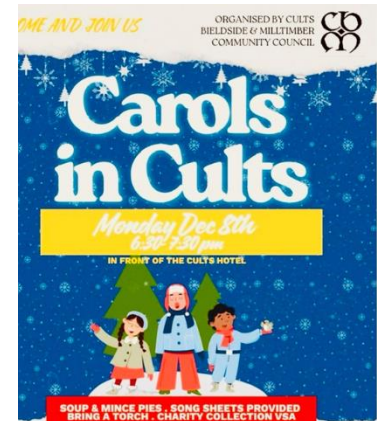
The plan, as it goes through various drafts, will be reflected back to groups and organisations to ensure that feedback captured the essence of conversations on how the plan looks, reads and feels in terms of accessibility.

Cults, Bieldside, and Milltimber Community Council

In 2025, Cults, Bieldside & Milltimber Community Council (CBMCC) placed significant focus on strengthening local community safety, emergency preparedness, and public protection. The Resilience Team grew to 19 members, with up to 9 available for call-out, and received new emergency equipment, including a portable SSN power pack and walkie-talkies, ensuring rest centres can operate during outages. Although major weather events such as Storm Floris and Storm Goretti prompted precautionary alerts, no full mobilisation was

required. The council also continued key safety partnerships: the Gritting Team received £11,448 in SSEN funding for new, non-corrosive spreaders to ensure safer winter pavements, while volunteers maintained over 9 km of footpaths and addressed flooding risks through joint work with Aberdeen City Council and Newton Dee. Safety initiatives extended into schools, where all local primaries and Cults Academy implemented new requirements under the Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Act 2025, alongside cyber-security campaigns and policies to reduce antisocial behaviour.

Community safety also featured prominently in planning and advocacy work, particularly around developments with potential safety impacts. Traffic safety remained a priority, with CBMCC reviewing major transport changes: the introduction of 20mph limits across 88 residential streets, analysis showing up to 2,900 vehicles per weekday using key “rat-run” roads, and continued work to improve bus reliability. Overall, the council credits volunteers and residents for maintaining a safe and resilient community, noting that the gritting volunteers and footpath teams continue to be as resilient as ever, and celebrating high engagement, including a record £665.57 raised for charity at the Christmas Carols event.



AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT IN NEW LOCALITY PLAN 2026-36

- Strengthen communication with our communities, including new arrivals into the city and housing tenants
- Support communities to host more community galas

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 Emma and Teresa. You can get in touch with the team on localityplanning@aberdeencity.gov.uk.

Emma Dobson

Health Improvement Officer
Aberdeen Health and Social Care Partnership
Tel. 01224 045990

Teresa Dufficy

Community Development Officer
Aberdeen City Council
Tel. 01224 069477

