



**Community
Planning
Aberdeen**

Aberdeen City - Central Locality

Annual Outcome Performance Report 2025-26



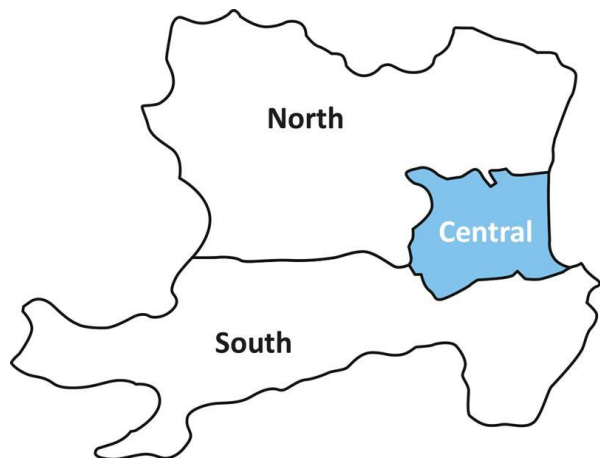
Central Locality Neighbourhoods:

Ashgrove, City Centre, Froghall, George St, Hanover, Hilton, Midstocket,
Old Aberdeen, Powis, Rosemount, Tillydrone, Seaton, Stockethill, Sunnybank,
West End and Woodside

Welcome

This is the fourth annual report on the Central 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 Central 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 Central Locality, including in our priority neighbourhoods of Ashgrove, George Street, Tillydrone, Seaton, Stockethill and Woodside. 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 Central 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 Central Locality.

The Aberdeen City Locality Planning Team, May 2026

This report is split into the following sections

Our Economy – 3

Our People – 13

Our Place – 28

Our Community – 35





OUR PRIORITIES

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

Priority 1. Reduce the number of people living in poverty

PROGRESS MADE DURING 2025/26

Supporting our Communities who Experience Poverty

Fersands and Fountain SCIO - Community Café



This has been a year of real growth. The Café has moved from opening two days a week to four days, allowing them to increase employment hours for our Community Café Manager and expand the volunteer team by 50%. With this extra capacity, the cafe has also extended opening times to better meet the needs of the community. It has been fantastic to see the café busy throughout the week, with a wide mix of people dropping in to meet friends, enjoy a meal, or simply take a break. The Cafe remains committed to offering free meals to those most in need and providing a genuine *warm space* where people feel welcome without any pressure to spend money.

Fersands and Fountain – SCIO – Food Pantry

The last few months have seen the Pantry as busy as ever, with a hundred families per week using the service and saving an average of £18 per visit. Our Partners CFINE who deliver the food from Fareshare have brought good quality food that otherwise would be destined for the skip. This means the residents can have a dignified quality shopping experience at a low cost. With every item they choose, they are saving the item from going to land waste.

If you'd like find out more about these and other activities provided by Fersands and Fountain click [here](#).



Powis Community Centre

Powis Community Centre Association (PCCA) runs a surplus food distribution service five days a week with donations from CFine, Fareshare, and supermarket surplus. To improve sustainability of this service, PCCA were awarded funding for an electric vehicle from the Just Transition Participatory Budgeting fund in 2023, which enables volunteers to make regular collections from supermarkets.

Over 30 households per day use the surplus food distribution service including residents of all ages and backgrounds. Powis Community Centre hosts advice and support services to support residents who may be struggling with debt, utilities, housing and employment issues. If you'd like to find out more about these and other activities provided by Powis Community Centre, click [here](#)



Cairncry Community Centre – Foodbank



Cairncry Foodbank has been open for a number of years and is open twice a week on Tuesdays and Fridays. They receive donations from CFine and collect surplus food from Tesco and the Co-op. There is one employed staff member to oversee the running of the foodbank along with 2 volunteers. On average there are 60 people requiring food items on a weekly basis from very different backgrounds and circumstances.

If you'd like find out more about these and other activities provided by Cairncry Community Centre, they share updates on their Facebook page, click [here](#) If you want to find out more.

Seaton Pantry

The Pantry received two deliveries per week from CFINE Fare Share scheme. Most of this food is at the end of its useful life and so both reduces food waste and hunger in the community. The pantry also provides free period product and other items donated by community members. The pantry serves around 80 people a week who come through the door but we know those community members have families. We estimate we support 240 people a week or 960 people a month at the pantry. We received £400 worth of Lidl vouchers from Seaton and Linkfield Community Council. They were distributed as £25 worth of vouchers per person or a £50 voucher per family.



The Pantry works in partnership with King's Church Aberdeen and occasionally receive generous donations of ambient food to top up the weekly CFINE delivery. The Pantry also use Caboodle initiative through Cooperative Supermarket where volunteers pick up surplus food between Monday-Wednesday. The Vaccination and Wellbeing Hub also donates surplus food and these can be ambient food, fresh fruits, vegetable and eggs. All these donations are valued and well received by the community.

Seaton Soup and Sannies

Seaton Soup and Sannies is run in partnership with the Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership Wellbeing Team, Aberdeen City Council Communities Team and Seaton Community Hub. It has been running now for over four years, initially running once a month and very quickly moved to twice a month due to demand. Up to 35 participants attend each session from the local sheltered housing complexes within the Seaton area. Fleet transport provides a bus for those who are unable to attend independently. A small group of dedicated volunteers help ensure this runs every month, it would not be possible without them.

"I am very satisfied coming here; I am glad I was introduced to it"

"It's lovely enjoying time away from home, meeting other people and not cooking"

If you'd like find out more about these and other activities provided by Seaton Learning Centre, you can do so by clicking [here](#).

Tillydrone Community Campus – Challenge Poverty

For Challenge Poverty Week in October 2025, the Campus organised a Challenge Poverty Open Day where 16 organisations had stalls which delivered relevant information on Home energy, credit union, ACC FIT team etc. Also provided on the day was free lunch for local people who attended.

The Campus, in collaboration with the Tilly Flat and Foodies (the café at the Campus), provided free lunch vouchers over winter to ensure that those in need had a hot meal.

A recent addition to the Campus was asking for donations of warm jackets (adults and children) and this was very successful and much appreciated by recipients.



Cornhill Association Soup and Sandwich Café

This is run in partnership with the Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership Wellbeing Team, Aberdeen City Council Communities Team and Cornhill Community Association. Soup and Sannies was kickstarted via the Health Improvement Fund in January 2025, the cafe has now expanded to twice per month due to high demand. The cafe is regularly attended by local residents and supports challenges such as food poverty within the community. The project is being supported by four volunteers and continues to thrive.

Cornhill Community Centre - Cuppa and Company

Cornhill Community Association's Cuppa and Company is a welcoming weekly social group held every Monday at Cornhill Community Centre from 11:00 to 13:00. The session provides a relaxed space for local residents to come together, enjoy a hot drink, and connect with others in the community. Since its introduction, the group has offered a consistent opportunity for social interaction, helping to reduce social isolation and strengthen community ties. Cuppa and Company continues to play an important role within the local community by promoting wellbeing, encouraging social connection, and providing a supportive space for people to meet each week.



Seaton Community Centre - Women's Health Confidence to Cook



The Aberdeen Health and Social Care Partnership Wellbeing team completed their first Confidence to Cook course at Cornhill Community Centre which ran from the 28th of May to the 2nd July 2025. The six week course was completed by five ladies who grew in confidence as the weeks went on. Week one we started with two soup recipes and scones, we then progressed onto beef and mushroom stroganoff, chicken tray bakes, vegetable curries, keema and noodles, bake tray bakes, dips and homemade snacks. It was a wonderful six weeks, we could not have asked for a better group to deliver our first ever Confidence

to Cook course. If you'd like find out more about these and other activities provided by Cornhill Community Centre, please click [here](#).

"I have developed new skills and enjoyed meeting new people"

"I would highly recommend to others especially for gaining confidence"

Cairncry Community Centre - Triple C Café

The Triple C Cafe opened its doors four years ago opening one day a week on a Friday. With growing demand from customers we now open three times per week on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Fridays for breakfast and lunch. We offer a warm welcoming space and a nutritional hot meal. The cafe and kitchen are run by volunteers who prepare breakfast rolls, toast and beverages and cook a homemade meal ranging from mac n cheese, sausage casserole, chicken pie, pasta bake and Sharron's famous soup Friday. If you'd like find out more about these and other activities provided by Cairncry Community Centre please click [here](#).



The Dee Swimming Club Boogie in the Bar:

Boogie in the Bar is a daytime disco for older adults and individuals with learning disabilities who are at risk of loneliness and social isolation. Boogie in the Bar facilitates social interaction, friendships, physical and cognitive exercise to improve health and wellbeing. The Boogie at Dee Swimming Club was set up in 2023 and has been running successfully since then with average numbers attending ranging from 60-80 per month.

"This is a lovely club and the people are so friendly"

Seaton Winter Lunch Club

Seaton winter lunch club is a partnership between Aberdeen Health and Social Care Partnership, Aberdeen City Council Communities Team and Seaton Community Hub. It has been running weekly since November 2025 until March 2026. So far we have supported 305 people since we started in November by providing them with a cooked meal and a friendly environment where they can engage with other individuals from the community. A small group of dedicated volunteers helps ensure this runs smoothly during the year.

Cash First project

"Aberdeen Cash First Network forms part of the Scottish Government pilot - "[Cash-First: Towards Ending the Need for Food Banks in Scotland](#)" –

which sets out a human rights approach to tackling food insecurity. To meet the aims of the pilot project, ACVO co-designed the project with local third-sector organisations alongside 70 lived experience voices. The fund supported single males, aged 18-45, who were in receipt of Universal credit and presenting at food banks as food insecure. Cash First also takes a person-centred approach in identifying and connecting people with additional wrap-around support; by January 2026, monitoring shows that 80% of recipients have experienced an increase in access to wrap-around support. To find out more about Cash First, to view the *Stories from Cash First Aberdeen* project or for the latest updates, click [here](#).



Cash First Aberdeen

Rent Assistance Fund

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

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 Central Locality, 192 households accessed the Rent Assistance Fund, with total awards of £270,259.39 made during the year.

Fuel Poverty

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



English as a Second Language (ESOL) Support



Adult Learning have delivered 247 ESOL activities to 647 learners a total of 17,793 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.

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.

Strengthen Opportunities for Business Growth

Business Gateway's Business Start-up project



Within Business Gateway's Business Start-up project (April 2021–March 2026), the Central locality delivered the highest volume of direct engagement, reflecting strong uptake of local and specialist start-up support. In total, 86 individuals were supported and 37 businesses were established, highlighting the impact of consistent outreach, tailored workshops and ongoing adviser input to help people move from idea to launch. Between April 2025-March 2026, 15 individuals were

supported with 9 businesses established.

Fersands and Fountain SCIO - Charity Shop

The Charity Shop has grown significantly over the past year, and progress has been remarkable. There is a strong team of thirteen volunteers who give up an enormous amount of their time and consistently work hard to keep everything running smoothly. Their weekly tasks include unpacking donations, sorting goods, electrical testing equipment, disposing of rubbish, recycling clothing, pricing every item, cleaning donations, keeping the shop tidy, supporting customers, cashing up, and recording sales.

Thanks to the volunteers commitment, we are now open three days per week, offering eight hours of service each week, with volunteers contributing around 40 hours of free time to keep the shop operating at such a high standard. The volume of clothes and household goods donated continues to be remarkable, and the support we receive from across the city is truly appreciated.



Support Development of Employment Opportunities

In 2025/26, residents in the Central Locality had access to a broad range of employability support through the Local Employability Partnership, including sector-specific IT and digital skills training, customer service and hospitality training, supported employment, and employability-linked mental and physical health support. Basic and one-to-one digital skills support was also available for people facing digital barriers.

Multi-stage employability programmes operated during the year, allowing people to access different types of support as their confidence, skills and readiness for work developed. This flexible approach supported progression at a pace that reflected individual circumstances rather than a one-size-fits-all pathway. Delivery involved community organisations and skills partners, alongside employers hosting work experience placements.

Community-based employability support was strengthened through ABZ Works Development Grants in the Central Locality, including job club provision delivered by The Bridge, offering CV support, interview preparation and confidence-building, and weekly sessions delivered through Rosemount and Midstocket Men's Shed, supporting social connection, confidence and employability readiness.



Youth Volunteering – Saltire Awards (2025–26)



Youth volunteering is a major strength in the Central 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 9246 hours of volunteering logged through the awards over the past year in the Central Locality.
- A total of 1010 volunteers are now registered with the Saltire Awards in the Central Locality.
- 271 Saltire Awards certificates were issued to volunteers in the Central Locality during the year.

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

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."

Family Transitions to Academy

The Supper and Science initiative was successfully delivered at St Machar Academy in partnership with Aberdeen Science Centre. Feeder primary schools nominated P7 families who would benefit from enhanced transition support, particularly those experiencing anxiety about moving to secondary school. The programme enabled families to spend time in the Academy environment, participate in high-quality, parent-child activities, and build relationships with peers. Participants gained practical skills - such as cooking and access to

"This has been the best day of my life." – child participant

"I absolutely despised cooking before, but now I can give my daughter the nutrients she needs."

homemade meals - while structured social activities helped reduce isolation and strengthen community connections. Holding sessions in a familiar local venue supported wellbeing and reduced anxiety for both pupils and parents as they prepared for the move to the Academy.

Printfield Community Project

The crèche delivered 50 weeks of childcare for children aged 1–3, supporting up to 10 children at a time. It secured a three-year £30,000 grant from the Robertson Trust and also received donations from parents in recognition of staff commitment. The community garden was upgraded with support from Aberdeen City Council Environmental Services and Turcan Connell. An annual gala attracted over 100 children and adults, and a family trip to Edinburgh Zoo was delivered for more than 90 participants.

Alongside this, Printfield Community Project provided ongoing food support, with weekly food bags collected or delivered, and further developed the Printfield Food Store with

donations from residents, Woodside Community Council and Asda, Supermarket vouchers from practitioners, and gifts from the Giving Tree and Cash for Kids, enabling over 100 children to

receive toys and winter clothing. Youth services also ran for over 50 weeks each year, offering term-time programmes and holiday playschemes for 40–50 children and young people, while taking part in research with Sheffield and Aberdeen universities on food poverty and resident involvement.



Fersands and Fountain SCIO - Family Centre



The family centre listened to parents needs and responded by introducing a 9:00am–3:00pm term-time-only sessions, offering excellent flexibility for working parents. This initiative has created valuable opportunities for local families seeking employment or training, while ensuring children benefit from a consistent and nurturing routine.

Children have been highly engaged in their learning on a daily basis, supported by a high-quality environment both indoors and outdoors.

As part of their learning topics, children took trips to the beach and the airport, where they were able to explore, ask questions, and learn through hands-on, real experiences. These outings helped to extend children's vocabulary, curiosity, and understanding beyond the classroom, making learning memorable and purposeful. Parental involvement continues to be an important part of the family centres approach. They actively encourage and welcome parents to engage in their children's learning journey, fostering strong partnerships that support children's development both at nursery and at home.



Fersands and Fountain SCIO - Nursery of the Year Award



The staff the Nursery were obviously thrilled and delighted to be nominated as one of the top ones in the country, but to win the award was just brilliant. The staff who worked hard and continue to go the extra mile to improve things for the children. They do so much thinking and creating in their own time and come back to the nursery after the weekend with new ideas for more improvements.

Aberdeen City Council Resettlement Team

The role of the Council's Community Resettlement Team is to provide support to all New Scots living in Aberdeen. This involves a collaborative approach to ensure individuals are well supported in their resettlement and integration journey. We work with individuals to identify what they need to feel welcomed and settled, help them access local facilities and community groups/activities, deliver information sessions to help New Scots understand their rights and entitlements, and support New Scots to engage in local and national strategies.

Some of the activities the Resettlement Team have put on during 2025-26 include board games with those in ESOL classes, women only coffee morning, men only cooking sessions, 22 women only cooking sessions, employability sessions and much more.

Tillydrone Community Campus

The Tillydrone Campus SCIO is currently working towards undertaking a Licence to Occupy (LTO) for the Community rooms at the Campus.

The Campus presently provides a range of activities which have been requested by local people. We offer weekly classes that are aimed at building community fitness, addressing social isolation, promoting community inclusion and building confidence.

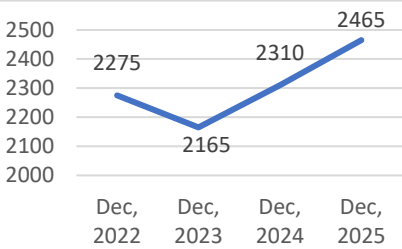
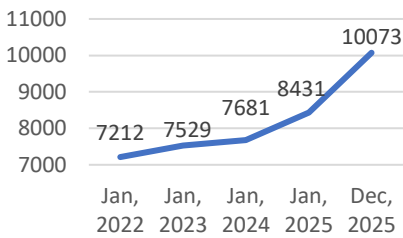
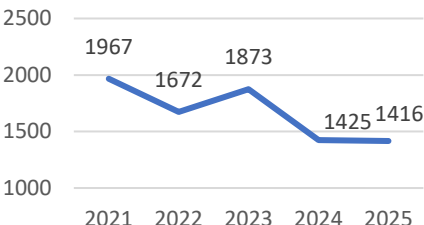


All activities that are offered at the Campus have been asked for by the community and include things like arts & crafts groups, young people groups, skills-based activities and fitness sessions. Classes are on offer for a wide range of ages, from young people aged 7 years to adults and older people.

Along with our core activities, we have been delivering weekly lunch time talks that are based on health and well-being, where we had a different talk each time. Participants were offered a free lunch afterwards. This project has just come to an end with our Women's Day event.

We have delivered activities for young people during the school holidays and also provided free lunches for all attending.

WHAT IMPACT HAVE WE HAD DURING 2025/26?

Food Insecurity  9.1% of people in Central Locality worried they would not have enough to eat, which increased from 7.3% in 2024 (City Voice 55, 2026)	Food Poverty  3.6% of households in Central Locality ran out of food over the past year (City Voice 55, 2026)	Rent Assistance  192 households accessed the Rent Assistance Fund, with total awards of £270,259																						
Fuel Insecurity  27.3% of people in Central Locality worried they would not be able to heat their home, this up significantly from 21.8% in 2024 (City Voice 55, 2026)	Cost of Living  8% of households in Central Locality worried about having to choose between heating their home and eating (City Voice 55, 2026)	English as a Second Language  Community Learning and Development delivered 17,793 learner hours for people learning English as a Second Language during 2025-26, an increase of 3.6% from 2024-25																						
Claimant Count <table><tr><th>Period</th><th>Claimant Count</th></tr><tr><td>Dec, 2022</td><td>2275</td></tr><tr><td>Dec, 2023</td><td>2165</td></tr><tr><td>Dec, 2024</td><td>2310</td></tr><tr><td>Dec, 2025</td><td>2465</td></tr></table>	Period	Claimant Count	Dec, 2022	2275	Dec, 2023	2165	Dec, 2024	2310	Dec, 2025	2465	People on Universal Credit <table><tr><th>Period</th><th>People on Universal Credit</th></tr><tr><td>Jan, 2022</td><td>7212</td></tr><tr><td>Jan, 2023</td><td>7529</td></tr><tr><td>Jan, 2024</td><td>7681</td></tr><tr><td>Jan, 2025</td><td>8431</td></tr><tr><td>Dec, 2025</td><td>10073</td></tr></table>	Period	People on Universal Credit	Jan, 2022	7212	Jan, 2023	7529	Jan, 2024	7681	Jan, 2025	8431	Dec, 2025	10073	Fuel Poverty  13.6% of people in Central Locality have gone without heating for more than one day (City Voice 55, 2026)
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Children in low income families <table><tr><th>Year</th><th>Children in low income families</th></tr><tr><td>2021</td><td>1967</td></tr><tr><td>2022</td><td>1672</td></tr><tr><td>2023</td><td>1873</td></tr><tr><td>2024</td><td>1425</td></tr><tr><td>2025</td><td>1416</td></tr></table>	Year	Children in low income families	2021	1967	2022	1672	2023	1873	2024	1425	2025	1416	Business Start Ups  Business Gateway supported 15 people in Central Locality to start 9 new businesses	Digital Connectivity  2.1% of people in Central Locality said that digital connectivity limited their ability to be more socially active (City Voice 54, 2025)										
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AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT IN NEW LOCALITY PLAN 2026-36

- Deepen employability support and services within our communities
- Support the rollout of the Cash First scheme to maximise income for disadvantaged groups



OUR PRIORITIES

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

Priority 2. Improve mental wellbeing of the population

Priority 3. Ensure people can access services timely through a person-centred approach

Priority 4. Create safe and resilient communities

PROGRESS MADE DURING 2025/26

Improve Mental Wellbeing of Population

Community Learning and Development – Healthy Minds Team

The Community Learning and Development Healthy Minds 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 our learners needs as and when required. In Central Locality, the team supported 63 participants over 608 learning hours.



Rock up and Ride – Sports Aberdeen



The *Rock Up & Ride* programme delivered a wide range of cycling activities across the city, supporting children, young people, families and adults to build confidence, develop skills, and experience the joy of cycling. In the Central locality, weekly Women's Led Rides helped participants gain confidence and support one another, even enjoying the "Type 2 fun" of challenging weather. A major highlight of the year was the Christmas Bikes

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

Community Sports Hubs

The Additional Support Needs (ASN) Table Tennis Project at Westburn has supported over 20 distinct participants, delivering 48 sessions and 294 participant visits, and even seeing the creation of the Aberdeen Amputees and Learning-Disabled Table Tennis Club (AALD). The club progressed from introductory taster sessions to joining the local league in September 2025, demonstrating growing confidence and competitive ambition.

As one participant reflected, the sessions provided “a safe and accessible opportunity to play table tennis and gain confidence,” reinforcing their social and physical impact.



Cornhill Community Art Space

Cornhill Community Art Space delivers a creative and inclusive programme each Monday at Cornhill Community Centre, offering both a Yap and Yarn session from 10:00 to 12:00 and an Open Art Studio from 12:00 to 14:00. These sessions provide local residents with opportunities to explore creativity, learn new skills, and connect with others in a supportive environment.



The Open Art Studio offers a relaxed space for individuals to work on personal creative projects with guidance from a dedicated community artist. The session supports people of all abilities to develop their artistic skills, build confidence, and express themselves creatively. Together, these sessions contribute to improving wellbeing, reducing social isolation, and strengthening community connections, while celebrating the creativity and talents within the Cornhill community.

Forget Me Not Bereavement Support Group

Forget Me Not are a peer-led bereavement support group who meet in Rosemount Community Centre for people who have lost a long-term partner. The group provides a safe space for shared understanding, emotional support and friendship. Drawing on lived experience, the group reduces isolation and supports mental health and wellbeing through mutual support, guest speakers and member-led activities.

Funding from the Health Improvement Fund was awarded to further support the group increase the number of meetings and to facilitate activities such as scam awareness, flower arranging and arts and crafts. All focusing on resilience and empowerment.

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.



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](#).

Sessions and events delivered in Central Locality:

In May as part of the Grampian Wellbeing Festival the team organised a panel discussion and networking event at Woodside Fountain Centre, on supporting young people. This was attended by over 30 people. Talks were delivered by Penumbra's self-harm service, Childline, Cyber Safe Scotland and the service lead for the Middlefield Community Project. Other organisations showcasing the services they offer for young people included Face Youth and Station House Media Unit.

"The session raises my awareness of the importance of conversing with others in identifying risks. I didn't realise striking a casual conversation may mean a lot to people suffering from mental illness or having suicidal thoughts."

Increase knowledge and Understanding of Health Provision

Women's Health and Wellbeing Fair

The annual women's health and wellbeing fair was held on Wednesday the 1 October 2025 and aimed to provide women with a variety of resources and support. There were 50 stall holders from a diverse set of organisations and sectors. Feedback received suggested women were happy to be able to have meaningful conversations rather than feeling rushed.

Powis Women's Health Walk

This Women's Health Walk began in 2023 in Powis and still runs successfully, with a break over the winter period. Aberdeen Health and Social Care Partnership Wellbeing Team worked in collaboration with Powis Community Centre to get this walk started. The walk runs twice a month on Wednesday evenings from Powis Community Centre between 6-7:30pm, the first hour is a gentle walk followed by a cup of tea and a yap!

"Love it. Really good just to meet other women going through the same thing to share experiences and have a safe place to talk." – Powis participant

Menopause goals: Enjoy the 2nd half



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

Smoking Cessation

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

Smoking in Pregnancy

Since March 2025, pregnant women in Aberdeen City have been proactively offered support to address tobacco dependency as part of routine maternity care. Local data shows that 37 pregnant women were supported to set a quit date, with the clear majority living in communities experiencing the greatest disadvantage.



Over four-fifths of women supported (31 out of 37) lived in SIMD 1 and 2 areas, demonstrating that support is reaching those at highest risk of tobacco-related harm. The approach focuses on non-judgemental, wellbeing-focused conversations that recognise different levels of readiness to change and reduce barriers to engagement.

Hearing Aid Batteries Uptake

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

School Sport Awards

The School Sport Award recognises schools' commitment to high-quality physical education, physical activity, and school sport. Engagement with the award supports improvement planning, strengthens learner leadership in sport and develops partnerships with community organisations. Sport Aberdeen Active School Co-ordinators have played and continue to play a pivotal role in supporting and encouraging engagement. However, engagement at any level with the Award remains the choice of each individual school. In 2025/26, 20 schools held either Gold, Gold Qualified, Silver or Bronze status with a further 10 schools working towards an award level.



Give Peas a Chance!

The award-winning Give Peas a Chance! pilot project, funded by Bridging the Gap, demonstrates the power of public procurement, and shows organic peas are a viable ingredient for school meals. It's a partnership between Soil Association Scotland, Aberdeen City Council, Moray Council, The Highland Council, Phil Swire at Balmakewan Farm in Aberdeenshire, Royal Highland Educational Trust and Royal National Countryside Initiative.

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.

Innovative approaches to addressing health issues

Community Appointment Days (CADs)

These 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, podiatry, 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.

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 improve 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.

"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

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.

Mental Health in the Community – A partnership approach



Mental Health in the Community (MitC) was created in response to an increase in various mental health indicators within the Central Locality. These showed that 16.4% of the population Central Locality were prescribed medication for anxiety, depression or psychosis in 2021/22. The rate of psychiatric hospitalisations was 283.9 people per 100 000 of population, higher than the national average.

The Locality Planning Team pulled together a range of partners (SHMU, SAMH, Communities Team, HSCP and Tillydrone Community Campus) who helped support a programme of activities and events to increase the number of people within communities who have an understanding of Mental Health. The target areas were Woodside, Tillydrone and Seaton. Funding was sourced via the Health Improvement Fund (HIF) and the following courses were offered to participants: Emergency First Aid, ASIST, Mental Health First Aid, and Safety Planning.

'Allows me to have more open conversations with others'

'I enjoyed it (ASIST) very much and feel confident to help others and ask the right questions'

There was a total of 117 sign-ups across all the courses with 80 people on waiting lists. This demonstrated the urgent need to get more people in the community trained on a range of topics and feel more confident to have conversations around Mental Health.

Tillydrone Community Flat SCIO



Tillydrone Community Flat SCIO has long provided a safe, welcoming space where anyone struggling with loneliness can find company. Many of the service users live with poor mental health, or have issues with substance misuse which can further exacerbate social isolation. Visitors have their own space in the community flat, with computer access and a sofa where they can always find someone to talk with over a cuppa. There is a Christmas lunch that provides much needed festive cheer for lonely adults who can gather for food, company, a gift, and a food parcel containing seasonal extras. The busy foodbank is often the first route by which those in need engage with the Community Flat, and through this initial contact the Flat is able to provide wraparound support, assisting the service users through advocacy in maximising household income and alleviating the stresses caused by poverty.

Volunteering in the Community

Rosemount & Midstocket Men's Shed

The Rosemount & Midstocket Men's Shed is a community-led initiative supported through Community Learning and Development (CLD) to address social isolation, promote wellbeing, and support skills development among men in the Rosemount and Midstocket area. Work this year has focused on supporting the Shed's establishment, governance, programme development and partnership building, enabling the group to move from concept to an active, sustainable community organisation.



Support has included facilitating local engagement, supporting the formation of a management committee, developing a co-produced activity programme, securing funding, and linking the Shed with local and citywide partners, including the Scottish Men's Shed Association and other established Men's Sheds. Some achievements during 2025-26 were 20 regular attendees, £6,400 secured funding, 1 permanent community workshop, 3 schools support kits and registered charity achieved.

Create local safe spaces to support outside activities

Youth Work in the City Centre

Allison Hutcheon and Mathew Reed are Street-based Youth Workers who cover the city centre area. They have been in post since September 2025 and in quite a short space of time have become recognised and popular figures with young people and adults.

Alli and Mathew's role is to build relationships with young people who use the city centre with the aim of making it a safer place for them. They target areas of the city centre where young people hang out and use information from partners such as Police Scotland to help them with this. Another of Alli and Mathew's roles is to signpost young people to other services that can offer specialist help and support such as in health and employment.



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.

Aberdeen Carers Support Service

In 2024–25, Aberdeen Carers Support Service, delivered by Quarriers, continued to offer flexible and inclusive support for unpaid carers across Aberdeen, including significant provision within the Central Locality.



“The most helpful gatherings for support and laughter – very important in my moving on journey.”
— Unpaid Carer

Central locations played a key role in delivering accessible services. The service’s base at Gilcomston Park supported face-to-face meetings with carers, Listening Service appointments, and group activity, while also acting as a safe and welcoming space for carers who may otherwise struggle to attend support elsewhere. The expansion of the Listening Service created additional capacity to provide confidential emotional support for carers experiencing stress, grief or anxiety related to their caring roles. A Social Isolation Wee Blether group at Rosemount Community Centre was launched to support carers aged 60+ whose caring roles had changed, for example following bereavement or a loved one entering full-time care.

Creative, social and festive activities held throughout the year, alongside access to short breaks funding, helped carers maintain a life alongside caring. Feedback across the reporting period consistently highlighted improved wellbeing, reduced isolation and increased confidence, demonstrating the importance of accessible, central community-based support for unpaid carers.

Seaton Taking Action For Regeneration – S.T.A.R.



The Star Community Flat offers various services including Trussell Trust Food Bank Vouchers, Fareshare Food and in conjunction with Mrs Murrays Rehoming Centre Emergency Pet Food Vouchers. Pathways provide back to work sessions, monthly Scarf Drop Ins, Aberdeen City Council Housing Drop Ins, and also general help and advice. The community flat has become a vital resource for the local community offering a range of services and support, with telephone and internet access available. There is also a vibrant weekly sewing group. The Chill Out Room is currently getting upgraded but provides a safe space for all ages and abilities, helping reduce stress and improve mental health. The project supported 414 individuals during 2025-26.

St George's Community Centre

St Georges has become a vital anchor for Tillydrone community (over 500 individuals per week come through our door), offering a warm, inclusive space where people can connect, learn and improve their wellbeing.

St Georges programme is shaped by local needs and includes a wide range of activities such as the walking group, Electronic Fund Transfer and Reiki sessions, the history group, international cooking course and Chair Zumba class, which continues to be extremely popular. These activities help reduce isolation, build confidence and create meaningful social connections - directly supporting the Central Locality Plan's priorities around mental wellbeing and accessible community-led support. Our foodbank attracts a further 100 – 200 people who also enjoy the interaction with staff and volunteers.



St George's is also actively working towards purchasing the building to ensure it remains in community ownership. Securing the future of St George's will protect a trusted, well-used space that supports wellbeing, learning and resilience across the Central Locality.

If you'd like to find out more about St Georges activities please click [here](#)

Peep in Aberdeen

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

peep
supporting parents and
children to learn together

Key Data (2025–26):

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

Programme Highlights:

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

Family Feedback (2025 Survey, 106 responses):

Empowering families

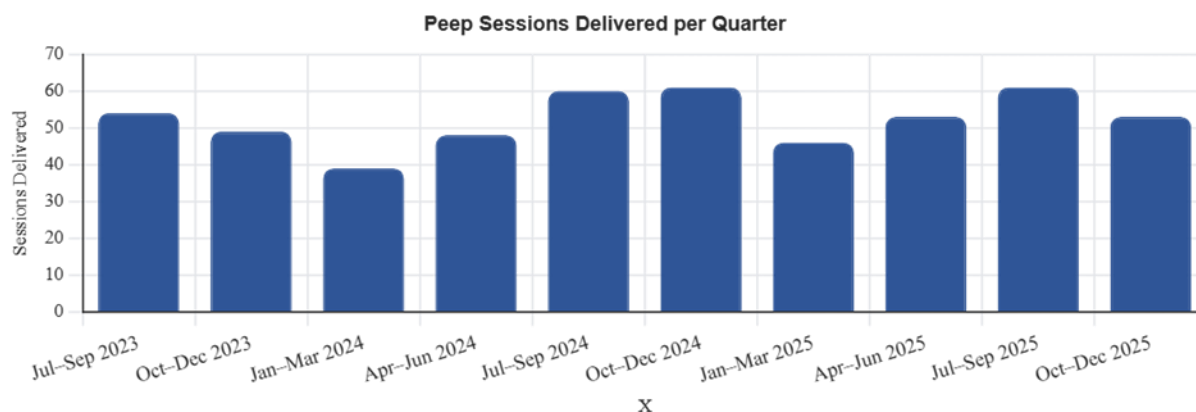


- 73.3% felt more confident as parents
- 77.1% felt more confident supporting their child's learning
- 69.6% sang more songs and rhymes with their children
- 64.7% reported more conversations at home
- 58.1% felt their relationship with their child had improved

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

Overall

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



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.

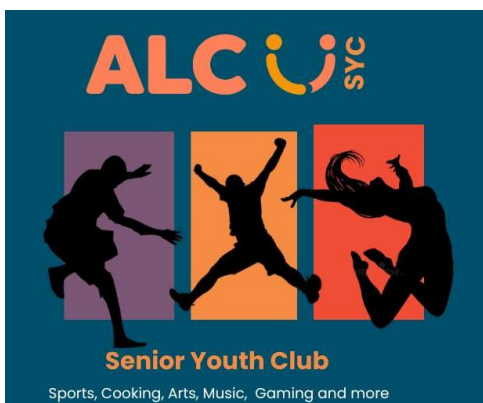
ALC Aberdeen

ALC plays a central role in the local community through a wide range of charitable initiatives and support services designed to strengthen wellbeing, inclusion, and opportunity for people of all ages.



As a community-focused charity, we respond to local need by delivering accessible programmes that support families, reduce isolation, and promote positive mental health and wellbeing. Our work is rooted in partnership and collaboration, working alongside local organisations, schools, and services to make sure support is joined up and meaningful. Whether through community events, outreach activities, or targeted support, ALC is committed to building a stronger, more connected community where everyone feels valued, supported, and able to participate.

Alongside this, our youth work programmes provide a vital space for young people to



connect, grow, and develop. We deliver a range of engaging projects and activities that encourage participation, leadership, and personal development, while also supporting wellbeing and resilience. From informal drop-in sessions to structured group work and targeted support, our youth work helps young people build positive relationships, develop new skills, and have their voices heard within their community. Through both our ASN and youth work provision, ALC continues to strengthen community connections and empower children and young people to reach their full potential.

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.

WHAT IMPACT HAVE WE HAD DURING 2025/26?

Youth Anti-Social Behaviour  There were 1396 reported youth anti-social behaviour incidents across Central Locality during 2024. This is a 8.6% improvement on the 1527 incidents reported during 2023. Central Locality recorded the highest number of a youth anti-social behaviour incidents across Aberdeen City. 679 incidents took place in the city centre which was the highest per area.	Supporting Recovery  The Council's Healthy Minds Team supported 63 adults over 608 learning hours to aid their recovery from an enduring and diagnosed mental condition	Mental Health  15.9% of people who live in Central Locality have been prescribed drugs for anxiety, depression, or psychosis. This is below the Aberdeen City figure of 17.4%
Teenage Pregnancies In Central Locality, 21.9 per 1000 girls and young women recorded pregnancies. This is just above the Aberdeen City average rate of 19.8 per 1000 girls and young women.	Counselling for Young People  100% of schools in Central Locality offer counselling and Active School activities	Working Together with Parents  77.1% of parents felt more confident supporting their child's learning having attended a PEEP group
Young People Volunteering  1010 young people are now registered with Saltire Awards in Central Locality. The young people have logged 9246 hours of volunteering, a 46% increase on 24/25. With 271 Saltire Awards issued to volunteers, a 36% increase on 24/25	Healthy Eating  8.9% of people in the Central Locality said they were unable to eat healthy and nutritious food due to poverty. This compares to 10.5% of people in priority neighbourhoods (City Voice 50, 2024)	Cancer Registrations  The rate of new cancer registrations in Central Locality was 656 people per 100,000. This is higher than the city average of 624 per 100,000. Central Locality had the highest rate of new cancer registrations in Aberdeen City
Alcohol Awareness  49.5% of people in the Central Locality said they didn't know the maximum number of alcohol units recommended per week. This is only a marginal increase from 49.1% in 2024 (City Voice 54, 2025)	Preventative Healthcare  80.8% of people who live in Central Locality priority neighbourhoods are aware of what vaccinations they are eligible for.	Drug Related Hospital Stays  The rate of drug related hospital stays for the Central Locality was 265.2 per 100,000 population. This increased from 250.6 per 100,000 in 2023. The Central Locality continues to have the highest rate of drug related hospital stays across Aberdeen.
Alcohol Related Mortality  Alcohol related mortality rates in Central Locality are now 34.1 people per 100,000. This is significantly higher than the Aberdeen City rate of 19.9 people per 100,000. Central Locality has the highest proportion of alcohol related mortality rates across Aberdeen City	Deaths from Suicide  The rate of death from suicide in the Central Locality is 10.5 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 68.1 years in Old Aberdeen (lowest) to 83.2 years in West End North (city average: 76.9). For women, it ranges from 74.4 years in Woodside to 88.1 years in West End North (city average: 80.9).

AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT IN NEW LOCALITY PLAN 2026-36

- Improve access to community health services post diagnosis
- Increase outdoor exercise opportunities
- Support delivery of community led skills workshops
- Provide opportunities and safe spaces for young people



OUR PRIORITIES

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

Priority 5. Maximise the spaces in communities to create opportunities for people to connect and increase physical activity.

WHAT PROGRESS HAVE WE MADE DURING 2025/26?

Supporting greenspace development

Grow Well Choices



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

What Grow Well Choices delivered in 2025-26

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



Early Years engagement

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

Mounthooly Food Forest

The vision is to create a food forest on Mounthooly Roundabout, The Project started by planting fruit trees and fruit bushes. The aim is to create a greenspace that produces food for the local community with activities being beneficial for physical health, mental health & wellbeing, as well as promoting biodiversity. The strategy prioritises partnership working with North East Scotland College (NESCOT), Aberdeen City Council, the resettlement team and local community groups and organisations. Outcomes include supporting community cohesion by working together with all sections of our diverse community.





Building on this principle, a development plan was created which led to three successful planting days where fruit trees, fruit bushes, and bulbs were planted. The events were well attended, with over 30 attendees including participants from (NESCOL) and the wider community. Alongside this, litter picks were organised, helping to clean up the roundabout and surrounding area.

It's been great to build on our partnership with NESCOL, who have adopted an area of the roundabout and continue to be actively involved in both planting events and the planning group. Plans for the year ahead include installing benches, expanding our planting of food-producing species, and developing a wildflower meadow area to increase habitat for wildlife and for the community to enjoy.

Friends of Errol Place

Friends of Erroll Place Community Garden is a new fenced off area just off King St/Erroll Street. It is 50% allotments and 50% community garden. The community garden plans to grow an orchard, fruit, vegetables, herbs, etc. which can help with local food banks and social justice projects. Around the perimeter area there are plans to provide pollination through floral and fauna routes for the bees. Charitable and community groups get in touch and grow their own produce in our space. There are two pedestrian gate areas which are open for the public to get access. It is intended to have dedicated green space for people to sit, enjoy the peace and quiet of the area and improve their well-being.



Bonnymuir Green Community Trust



This project supports the improvement of mental health and wellbeing through meaningful volunteering and community growing activities. Utilising funds awarded from the Health Improvement Fund, a greenhouse was purchased and successfully erected by volunteers. Since then, it has been used year-round to grow a wide range of vegetables, herbs and flowers, including lettuce, leeks, cucumbers, coriander and parsley.

The project has run as planned and continues to be well used, with 10 volunteers and 3 staff supporting delivery, contributing approximately 60 volunteer hours, and welcoming around 18,000 visits since January 2025. Part of the funding was also awarded to support volunteers to complete first aid training.

Off the Rails

In the last 12 months Off the Rails have added a wellbeing garden to their community garden, this new area is 8m². It is a large u-shaped area against the railway wall, walking through an arch to enter a space surrounded by trees and bushes, with a large u-shaped bench on decking taking up one side and wood chip space. Over the next few years, the trees and bushes will grow to surround the benches, creating a separate space cut off from buildings, where you can go to read, catch up with friends or just sit and smell the beautiful flowers all around. It was built to create a space where people can feel like they have escaped the city and can take a moment to relax, calm and think. It was built by 19 members of the community and funded by NESCAN and Woodside matters.



Friends of Sunnybank SCIO

The community-managed greenspace is host to a range of activities and accommodates food growing, dog walking, physical exercise, nature and biodiversity, cultural and artistic expression. The community-run allotment holders include food growers with years of experience and those who are just starting out. Those who come to spend time in nature can relax with the sound of birdsong including chiffchaffs, goldcrests, woodpeckers and blackcaps. The popular Wall spot graffiti wall provides an ever-changing display of street art. A group of young people have adopted the callisthenics rig and organise twice-weekly sessions for mutual training, encouragement and support for all ages under the name "Gravity Off".



CFINE Growing programme

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



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

CFINE Grow Indoor Edible Garden



The CFINE Grow Indoor Edible Gardens project, funded by the Scottish Government's Investing in Communities Fund and the 2025 Food in Focus Fund, delivered three programmes aimed at improving food education, confidence, and wellbeing among children and young adults. The five-week partnership with Young Adults Helping Young Asylum Seekers and Earth & Worms Community Garden supported 27 young adults, six of whom completed the full programme and received certificates.

The course also promoted cultural exchange, helping local young adults better understand the experiences of those seeking asylum, while asylum-seeking participants learned UK social norms and practiced conversational English. The project delivered a five-week programme with 8 children at Muirfield Out of School Club, where staff noted the activities were simple, practical and easy to replicate. Children enjoyed watching their seeds grow, vegetable-printing, and especially making apple crumble with local produce. A condensed training session for over 16 Community Link Childcare staff followed, equipping practitioners city-wide with replicable gardening activities.

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.

Encouraging the Use of Greenspaces for Healthy 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. Furthermore, Nestrans were able to support Sport Aberdeen in the surfacing of Core Path 17, connecting Aulton

Bothy to the Beach. This has improved accessibility for adaptive cycle users and provided an important connection for communities with the beach front area.

Additionally, funding has also supported Aberdeen City Council to expand its residential cycle parking at multi-story housing blocks. A communal bicycle storage shelter with a capacity for 30 bicycles has also been installed within a car park managed by the Housing Service, located on Seaton Drive, to provide a secure facility for residents living in low-rise flatted properties (typically 6 in a block) to store their bicycles. The provision of new (and extensions to existing) secure cycle shelters at the locations outlined above has provided an additional 150 secure spaces for Council tenants to store their bicycles, which increases the overall capacity across Seaton and Tillydrone to 440 spaces. More information on all of the projects funded can be found - [here](#).

Cycling UK Connecting Communities Project

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

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

Case Study: Ruth's Story

Ruth was keen to return to cycling but a change in health made it difficult to simply pick up where she had left cycling several years ago.



"In Spring 2025, I longed to get back on the saddle of a bike; to use my bike like my car, which I had done during my student days when living in Edinburgh.. Various health issues over the past few years had dropped my fitness and exercise tolerance and I'd really struggled to return to cycling. I was emailing back and forth with the Active Travel coordinator of my employer, frustrated that there was no one who stocked the type of trike that I needed that would accept my work's Cycle to Work Scheme. That's when the Active Travel Coordinator introduced me to the Development Officer (Cycling UK) who asked if I would be interested in borrowing an electric trike. I

was delighted! Before I knew it, the trike was dropped off with me!" The opportunity to loan the trike, with support from the Development Officer, has helped Ruth regain her confidence cycling and confirm that the trike she borrowed is the right one for her. She has also noticed the benefits to her physical and mental wellbeing that cycling offers compared to driving and has now managed to arrange the same trike through the Cycle to Work scheme.

I look forward to when I can go a little bit further e.g. cycling to an evening class at college, or to church. It doesn't feel like exercise going from A to B and it's so good for me. [As the loan is free] any trips I make with the trike are saving money. I'd say the impact on my mental health is probably one of the most significant. I've struggled with depression since 2017 and it has really impacted on my general well-being. Cycling brings me that child-like joy of the wind in my hair and making my body move to get me from A to B. After setting my heart on getting back in the saddle it was really disheartening to see how many barriers were in the way to me getting my own trike. Cycling UK's loan has meant I can experience that joy! Thank you!" **Ruth**

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, aimed at reducing antisocial behaviour, improving wellbeing and providing 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 our programmes have supported over 30,000 participations.



Printfield 10 – Denis Law Legacy Trail (Opened May 2025)



A significant achievement during the reporting period was the opening of the Printfield 10 – Denis Law Legacy Trail, a collaborative project created with local residents, Robert Gordon University's Gray's School of Art, Aberdeen City Council, and members of the Law family. The ten-stop walking trail celebrates Denis Law's life and legacy in the community where he grew up. Launch-day activities included community workshops, family

sessions, and Streetsport-led games and participation opportunities, marking the culmination of years of community-oriented design and collaboration.

RSPB Nature Social Prescribing



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

From April 2025 onwards, activity has continued to increase as awareness and confidence among practitioners has grown. Data from the Aberdeen Links Service shows 29 nature-based social prescribing referrals between April and December 2025, contributing to a total of 48 referrals since April 2024.

Community Clean Ups

With Support from Aberdeen City Council Environmental Services, people showed they were committed to keeping the city clean by taking part in Community Clean Ups. They braved all the seasons and weather throughout the year. Central Locality had 75 sessions with 994 attendees picking up 731 bags of rubbish.

Environmental Services also held the annual 24Hour 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 Central Locality there were 12 sessions with 106 people picking up 84 bags of rubbish.



Winter/Flood Resilience – Community Councils

In the Central Locality, Community Resilience activity has focused on a more flexible, single-task approach that allows communities to respond to specific local risks without the commitment required to operate a full resilience group. Engagement with communities such as Footdee and Tillydrone reflects this approach, with activity shaped around local priorities and existing community capacity.

Winter resilience has been a key area of progress, with a single-task winter resilience group supported in Stockethill and Ashgrove. This included funding for salt provision for winter 2025/26 and the provision of secure storage to support local equipment and volunteer activity. Community resilience awareness and engagement has also been supported through Cornhill Primary School, helping to strengthen links between local communities, schools and resilience activity.



WHAT IMPACT HAVE WE HAD DURING 2025/26?

Satisfaction with Green Space	Community Growing Spaces	Access to Nature
 87% of Central Locality respondents reported being satisfied or fairly satisfied with the overall quality of green/open spaces. This is significantly higher than the 74% of respondents for Aberdeen City collectively (City Voice 51, 2024)	 CFINE's community growing programme has enabled 135 community growers to save money on food during 2025-26	 77.9% of people in the Central Locality exercise in the natural environment (City Voice 54, 2025)
Cycling	Walking	Community Resilience
 10.5% of people in the Central Locality cycle as a form of physical activity, this increased from 7.9% in 2024 (City Voice 54, 2025)	 83.2% of people in the Central Locality walk as a form of physical activity, this increased from 74.6% in 2024 (City Voice 54, 2025)	ACC Environmental Services supported 75 community clean up sessions during 2025-26 with 994 participants picking up 731 bags of rubbish across Central Locality

AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT IN NEW LOCALITY PLAN 2026-36

- More community litter picks and clean ups
- Increase access to greenspaces, including more community art projects



OUR PRIORITIES

The Central 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

Woodside Decides

Woodside Decides is a community-led approach to engagement and decision-making developed through the Woodside Network in Aberdeen. It emerged from a shared frustration that traditional consultation methods often fail to give people meaningful influence over what happens in their communities. At its core, Woodside Decides is about shifting power. It creates space for residents to identify priorities, explore ideas together and influence how resources are used. The approach is grounded in relationships, trust and ongoing dialogue, with creativity used as a key tool for inclusion and participation.

The work was designed as a test of change, exploring how community engagement and commissioning could operate differently in practice. It followed a staged, relationship-based approach:

- listening to identify community priorities
- bringing residents together to shape ideas and explore how funding could be used
- supporting the development of community-led activity



This approach differs from participatory budgeting models by starting with people rather than projects. Instead of groups competing for funding through a voting process, Woodside Decides focuses on shared priorities developed through dialogue.

- new activities and projects shaped by community priorities
- increased confidence and ongoing involvement among participants
- a stronger and more active Woodside Network
- growing influence within community planning and locality structures

Woodside Decides is not a quick funding scheme or a finished model. It is a relationship-based approach that relies on time, trust and skilled facilitation. A consistent message emerges. Community-led approaches are not simple, but they create the conditions for more meaningful, inclusive and sustainable change. Woodside Decides should therefore be understood as a set of principles and practices that can inform future approaches to community engagement, commissioning and long-term investment.

Rosemount and Mile End Community Council

Rosemount and Mile End Community Council is a very active Community Council supporting the Rosemount and Midstocket/Mile End areas of the city. This area covers over 14,000 people, three primary schools and one secondary.

In 2024 the Community Council agreed that its purpose would be to:

- Represent the community voice
- Engage with local community
- Ensuring the community view is represented at full council
- Action orientation within the community
- Pride of living in the community

The centre piece of this has become the Victoria Park Market Day, which connects artisan stall holders, local businesses, charities, community organisations and everyone in the area and wider Aberdeen. Over 10,000 people attend and pass through Victoria Park to enjoy music, food, over 45 stall holders and then move onto enjoy businesses in the Rosemount area. The event is recognised as a connector of our community and one of the best trading days of the year in Rosemount.

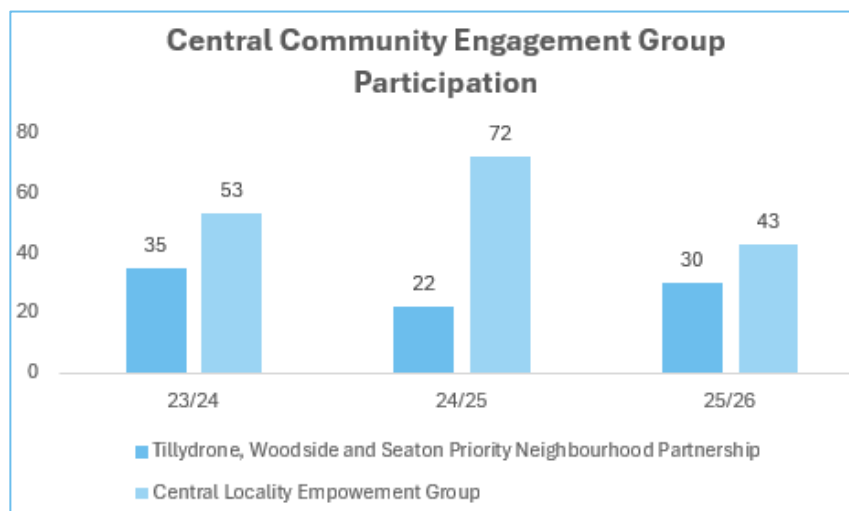
In 2025 in partnership with RCC and RCCA we introduced the Festive Market, highlighting the work of groups using the community centre and ending with our light switch on around our 20ft centre piece Christmas Tree. Both these events will be happening on 2026 on 9th August 2026 and TBC at the end of November 2026. Anyone interested in becoming involved as a community councillor or volunteering at events is welcome to get in touch with them by clicking [here](#)

Stay updated

Central Locality Empowerment Group and the Tillydrone, Woodside and Seaton Priority Neighbourhood Partnership are two of the main ways we connect with our local communities in the Central Locality. As a member of a Locality Empowerment Group or Tillydrone, Woodside and Seaton Priority Neighbourhood Partnership you will be able to provide a voice on behalf of the people and communities across your neighbourhood.

Every month our partners ACVO pull together a funding and events update, so you can find out what's on and have up to date access on locally available funding opportunities. See the latest update [here](#)

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



Get Involved

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



If you are interested in getting involved in helping achieve these aims in your local community, follow this link to find out more or contact the Locality Planning Team:

[Our Communities - Community Planning Aberdeen](#)

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. In 2024/25, the Locality Planning Team Led a project across the City with £60,000 of funding available to community groups, £40,000 from Community Planning Aberdeen and a further £20,000 from the Fairer Aberdeen Fund. This provided a total of £20,000 available for each of the Priority Areas of North, South, Central Localities.

UDecide was the branding used for the process as other PB projects run by the city had used the name. To ensure there was community involvement across the planning and decision making process, a steering consisted of 6 community members in total from each of the three localities.

The steering group decided on the application process, the voting process and scrutinised applications to make sure they related to one or more of the community ideas within the Locality Plans. They also decided voters must be aged eight or over to vote at the in-person events. People had to be 16 or over to vote online. Throughout the voting period, there were around 8 voting roadshows held at various community locations in each locality to maximise the opportunity for people to get involved and vote.

Events were also held in each Priority Neighbourhood for voters to meet those bidding for the UDECIDE funding before they voted for their favourite proposals. Each voter selected three projects. Voters had to be aged eight or over to vote at the in-person events and 16 or over to vote online. Anyone that was unable to attend one of the in-person events were welcome to vote online. Schools within the Priority neighbourhoods were invited to participate and ballot papers were issued to schools that were interested.

In Central Locality, 213 people voted for 8 initiatives totalling £20,000 of funding awarded.

U-Band - U-Band (Ukrainian Music Band)

Throughout the year, U-band actively represented Ukrainian music within the cultural landscape of Aberdeen, contributing to intercultural dialogue, supporting the Ukrainian community, and promoting the heritage of Ukrainian musical traditions to an audience of around 1000 people.



After getting this grant U-band bought new equipment which now also serves not only U-band, but also the Ukrainian HUB in Aberdeen for meetings, concerts, and community events. The grant supports 24 band members. U-band took part in numerous cultural events organised by Aberdeen City Council, Woodside Community Centre, Ukrainian HUB Aberdeen, Art Gallery Aberdeen, and other partners.

If you would like to hear U-Band please click on the link [here](#)

Aberdeen North Foodbank - The King's Community Foundation

195 people directly benefited from the food we distributed. People who attended our foodbank also got the opportunity to access our Financial Inclusion project in partnership with Aberdeen Citizen Advice Bureau. Over the year, we gave out 449 parcels to feed 842 people with over 7,500 meals. The UDecide funding paid for 100 of these parcels, feeding around 195 people.

Youth Group – Cornhill Community Association

30 young people and two Trainee Youth Workers benefited from the UDecide funding. The weekly drop-in gave them a safe and welcoming place to spend time, meet others, and take part in positive activities, helping to reduce isolation and steer them away from anti-social behaviour.



The project established a weekly youth drop-in session in the Cornhill area of Aberdeen, an area identified as having limited youth provision and elevated levels of antisocial behaviour among young people. The activity took place every Wednesday evening over a two-hour period and was designed to provide a safe, welcoming, and structured environment for local young people.

Empowher – Empowher

30 Women benefited from attending Empowher, particularly around the Woodside area. It offered a consistently safe space for women to come together & talk openly & honestly about mental health. Empowher is a peer-to-peer mental health support group for women aged 21+ in Aberdeen. It offers a safe space to have open & honest conversations around mental health & suicide. What makes it unique from most other mental health services is its accessibility - there is no referral needed, no criteria needing met, no waiting lists - it is simply a case of turning up.

The group has had regular attendees and those who come along to 1 or 2 sessions for signposting. The aim is to be that space for people to use to help them feel safe if only for just the duration of the session.

Tillydrone Community Flat Foodbank – Tillydrone Community Flat

486 adults and children benefited in Tillydrone from the foodbank. There has been a shift in the demographic makeup of those who access our foodbank service over the past few years.



Previously, the majority of our food bank users were single men. We have seen a huge increase in families needing support, including Ukrainian families who were resettled in the area and African students living in Tillydrone who have no recourse to public funds. The funding enabled us to support a large number of individuals and families who were struggling to purchase an adequate supply of food and household essentials such as household cleaning products and nappies. It was especially useful in that we were able to purchase culturally appropriate food, to offer an element of dignity for our international service users.

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
ALC Neuro-Inclusion Programme - ALC Aberdeen	£4,870.00
Winter Soup Club - Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership	£1,694.17
Cornhill Community Local history project - Cornhill Community Association	£3,500.00
Denburn Court Loneliness and activities group - Denburn Court Tenants and Residents Association	£1,500.00
Get fit in Tilly - Tillydrone Community Campus SCIO	£4,287.50
Enhancing our school's clubs - Skene Square Parent Council	£1,542.00
Sunnybank Health and Wellbeing - Sunnybank Community Centre Association	£3,460.00
Great Western "Sit to be Fit" - Great Western Community Centre	£1,500.00
Women's Drop In and Peaced Together - The Lighthouse	£1,500.00
WayWORD Festival Wellbeing Programme - WayWORD Festival	£2,000.00
Mental Health in the Community - Aberdeen City Council	£3,175.00
Envirolution Aberdeen - Earth and Worms	£2,500.00
Self-care for Women in the COG Community - COG (Community Outreach Group) Aberdeen	£3,830.00
Substance Recovery Programme - Phoenix Futures	£4,938.00

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

The Fairer Aberdeen Fund

The fund is allocated by Aberdeen City Council to tackle poverty and deprivation. The Fund is allocated by a deliberative participatory budgeting approach, with a Board made up of Elected Members, Community Planning Partners, and community representatives with lived experience. The Fund supports initiatives and services in priority areas, as well as vulnerable groups across the city. In the Central Locality, 28 initiatives were funded to deliver activities with a value of £552,135. 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:

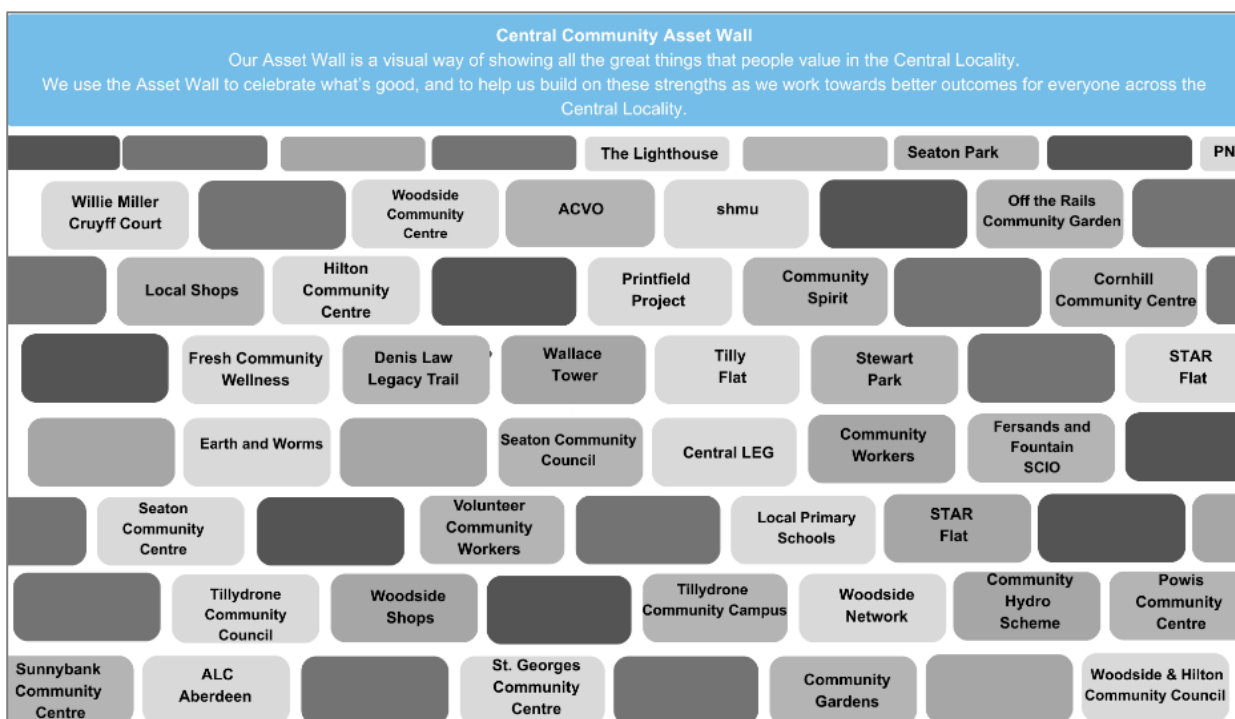
- online survey for adults
- online survey designed for children and young people
- 6 locality events, with specific activities designed by the Aberdeen Youth Movement and Aberdeen Ambassadors for children and young people
- outreach programme where we went to 98 groups/schools/locations across Aberdeen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

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

To see all of the data and responses to the engagement, you can view our:
[Central Engagement Summary Report](#)
 And
[Population Needs Assessment \(PNA\)](#)

Community Ideas Workshops

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



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

- Tillydrone, Woodside and Seaton Priority Neighbourhood Partnership
- Central Locality Empowerment Group
- Cornhill Soup and Sannies
- 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
- Fersands and Sandilands SCIO
- ALC Aberdeen
- Tillydrone Community Campus
- Woodside and Hilton Community Council
- ACC Sheltered Housing Tenant Participation Group
- Aberdeen Skate Park Group
- Rosemount and Midsocket Mens Shed
- Tillydrone Community Council
- Powis Community Council
- Ashgrove and Stockethill Community Council
- Woodside Network

Developing the Central Locality Plan

All Information was collated from the workshops and organised into the 5 Determinates of Health (Economic Stability, Health and Social Care, Children, families and Lifelong



Learning. Neighbourhood and Environment and Communities and Housing) in preparation of reflecting back to the community the ideas gather at the Community Ideas workshop earlier in the year.

The Central event took place at Tillydrone 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 see has a priority within the locality. These were then added up at the end to give partners an indication as to what the community were seeing as priorities for them.

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

AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT IN NEW LOCALITY PLAN 2026-36

- Develop a Community Hub Network
- Recruit and support more community volunteers
- Strengthen communication with our communities, including new arrivals to the City and housing tenants

Your Locality Planning Team

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

The Locality Planning Team consists of staff from both Aberdeen City Council and the Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership, working together to enhance outcomes across all local areas and neighbourhoods. In Central Locality, your key locality planning contacts are Chris, Graham, and Suzanne. Contact the team on localityplanning@aberdeencity.gov.uk

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