

Fairer Aberdeen Fund Annual Report 2018-19



The Fairer Aberdeen Fund is allocated by Aberdeen City Council to tackle poverty and deprivation. The Fund is dispersed and managed by the Fairer Aberdeen Board, a subgroup of the Community Planning Partnership, made up of representatives from the regeneration areas, the Civic Forum, the Council, NHS Grampian, Police Scotland and ACVO (Aberdeen Council of Voluntary Organisations). In 2018-19 funding of £1,632,000 was made available to support work in regeneration areas and across the City with vulnerable groups and individuals.

Funding was awarded to 43 projects within the main programme, as well as a Community Support Fund to support community engagement, an Employment Support Fund to support costs associated with getting people back into work, and a Participatory Budgeting event.

Grants ranged from £500 to £156,000 in value. A total of 24,315 people were involved in, or benefited from, funded initiatives, 4,087 of them were under 16 years old. 1,044 volunteers contributed 155,000 hours of volunteering time with a value of over 2.2m*, more than doubling the value of the Fund.

*Volunteering time is generally valued as the median hourly pay rate in the area, in Aberdeen this was £14.20. (Office of National Statistics, the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE))

Over the year discussions with Community Planning Aberdeen, Locality Partnerships and the Fairer Aberdeen Board have taken place, aiming to more clearly show the contribution the Fund makes to the LOCAL OUTCOME IMPROVEMENT PLAN and LOCALITY PLANS in priority areas. The Fairer Aberdeen programme is now aligned with the themes of:

**ECONOMY
CHILDREN AND
YOUNG PEOPLE
ADULTS
PLACE**

The Fund focuses on neighbourhoods that the Community Planning Partnership has designated as priority areas, as well as supporting vulnerable groups and individuals across the City.

PRIORITY NEIGHBOURHOODS

Middlefield

Mastrick

Cummings Park

Northfield

Heathryfold

Tillydrone

Seaton

Woodside

Torry

PRIORITY GROUPS

People living in poverty

**Lone parents and families
with children**

Unemployed people

Children and young people

People with health issues

Older people



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Community Planning Aberdeen



FAIRER ABERDEEN FUND

£1.6m invested **43** funded projects

24,315 people supported

1,044 volunteers **155,000** hours of volunteering time

£2.2m value of volunteering

ECONOMY

265 people into work

91 young people moved on to employment, education or training

23 weekly employment support sessions

30 sensory impaired people supported to stay in employment

4287 people receiving money advice and income maximisation advice

£4m client financial gain, an average of £940 per person

5255 Credit Union savers **£2.2m** affordable loans provided

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

4087 children and young people supported

421 parents and families with complex needs supported

256 young people accessed **2529** counselling sessions

268 young people involved in producing youth media

ADULTS

420 people accessed counselling provision provided locally

260 people took part in adult learning

148 people involved in producing community media

106 older people were supported to develop digital skills

170 volunteers provided meals and facilities to rough sleepers

PLACE

461 tonnes of free food distributed, equal to **1.3m** meals

3941 food bank users signposted to other services

1 community pantry established with **150** members

5 community projects/flats supported in disadvantaged areas

ECONOMY

LOCAL
OUTCOME
IMPROVEMENT
PLAN

90% of working people in Living Wage Employment by 2026 –

Promoting inclusive economic growth for our most disadvantaged communities

LOCALITY PLANS

Remove barriers to accessing employment and employment progression

Maximise household incomes

Maximise the employment, education and training opportunities for school leavers

Pathways supports people into employment by providing tailored support for people from the first stages of job seeking through to securing and maintaining employment. They identify and encourage participation of hard to reach residents through weekly drop-ins, work clubs, established links with partner agencies and individually tailored one to one Keyworker support.

461 people received support. Of these 213 moved into work, 171 into full time employment and 42 into part time employment. Weekly drop-ins were delivered in all the priority areas, with additional drop-ins arranged in areas identified as needing extra support. Key workers were in each priority area at least twice a week, offering advice and help with job searches and providing laptops to enable people to complete online applications with their support. 6 volunteers contributed 288 volunteer hours.

shmuTRAIN (Station House Media Unit) offers comprehensive employability support and skills development training to young people aged 14-19, using community & digital media to engage young people, increase motivation and develop core skills such as confidence, communication and team work, and to support young people to move on to a positive destination.

152 young people participated in the programme. 87 of them moved into positive destinations, 22 into work, 57 into further education and 8 into training. 23 young people secured an SQA, 144 showed improved communication skills and 100 showed increased readiness for work.

NESS (North East Sensory Services) Employment Service provides an employment service to blind, visually impaired, deaf or hard of hearing people who live in Aberdeen City. They provide specialist support enabling people to access relevant employment, education and training opportunities and to sustain opportunities which have already been accessed.

They worked with 69 clients. 5 people moved into work and 30 were sustained in their current jobs. Clients were also involved with training, work placement and volunteering.

CAB Money Advice Outreach Project provides advice and information using community centres as drop-in centres, assisting clients to maximise their income from welfare benefits and to reduce levels of debt.

743 clients received money advice and income maximisation advice with a total financial gain of £350,370, an average of £472 per client.

St Machar Credit Union improves access to affordable financial services and products and develops credit union membership, by providing and promoting easy access savings accounts for adults and juniors and low-cost loans within the community.

Over the year they gave out affordable loans of over £1.7m, meaning over 3,600 people had access to affordable credit, avoiding payday loans or doorstep lending.

9 volunteers staffed 7 collection points across the priority areas.

Volunteering can give valuable experience and confidence to enable people to get back into work, with appropriate training and support



265 people into work
91 young people moved on to employment, education or training
4287 people receiving money advice
£4m client financial gain

Aberdeen Illness and Disability Advice Service offered confidential, independent and impartial financial advice to anyone affected by illness, disability or a long-term health condition.

Over the year they saw total of 2600 clients, this included 704 home visits, 342 hospital visits and 1518 to their office. The total financial gain was £2,662,000, an average of £1,023 per person.

Social return on investment for every £1 of funding received by Pathways there was a return of £4.67

PATHWAYS

Social return on investment for every £1 of funding received by shmuTRAIN there was a return of £3.69

“Our new building is nearing completion and the snagging process will shortly be finished. The flexible, multi-use spaces, including a ‘creative classroom’, providing needs led services for young people, offers further opportunities to engage with those requiring employability support. The new building will also permit enhanced partnership working with statutory and community organisations.”

**Station House
Media Unit**

Financial Capability at the Foodbank provides financial health-checks and budgeting advice, including welfare benefits advice, to beneficiaries using the CFINE Food Bank.

Money management help was given to 469 beneficiaries resulting in a total financial gain of £255,012, an average of £544 per person. 50 training sessions on financial education and resilience were delivered to 261 people and 196 people were referred on for further support from relevant organisations.

Cash In Your Pocket (CIYP) acted as a central hub for the operation of its financial inclusion partners, delivering a one-stop referral system to allow access to the full range of organisations that can assist with financial inclusion issues, and coordinating provision.

1517 individuals were referred to Cash in Your Pocket and there were 60 organisations involved in dealing with referrals. CIYP attended 16 community events with Network promotional material where 1568 people were engaged. 3035 referral issues were forwarded to partners for action.

Care and Repair provides advice and financial assistance to older people and people with disabilities, to maximise household income and raise charitable funding on behalf of individuals to carry out repairs, improvements and adaptations to the home.

Over the year 886 households were assisted with income maximisation and charitable funding, achieving a total financial gain of £763,873, an average of £862 per household. 697 of the households assisted were in priority areas.

Prince’s Trust Team Programme provides a 12 week personal, social and employability skills development programme for participants aged 16-25 who are disadvantaged, with a high proportion having complex needs including offending behaviour, drug and alcohol issues, behavioural issues, problems with literacy, numeracy, mental health and homelessness.

Over the year 25 people took part in the programme, 4 moved into work and 21 moved into education, training or volunteering.

FINANCIAL CAPABILITY AT THE FOOD BANK

Mr A came to the foodbank for assistance in April as he had not been in receipt of any benefits since January. He should have been able to claim Employment and Support Allowance but as he is deaf he was unable to answer calls from the DWP or call them regarding appointments he needed to attend for his claim. He had no support in the city as his family live elsewhere and asked the Financial Capability Officer for assistance in communicating with the DWP and filling in claim forms for his benefit. He had his benefit reinstated and received a back-dated payment after completing a successful claim with our support.

The access to technology is an increasing problem we are seeing as people move on to Universal credit. Having the skills to maintain a claim is new and people often lack the skills required. The fall in face to face services is also forcing people online to pay bills when they do not have the skills to do so.

We have seen an increase in sanctions as people struggle to maintain an online claim or simply missing phone calls as many appointments are now on the phone or messaged to a mobile phone number.

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

LOCAL OUTCOME
IMPROVEMENT PLAN

95% of children (0-5years) will reach their expected developmental milestones by the time of their child health reviews by 2026 –

*Ensuring that families receive the parenting and family support they need
Improving health and reducing inequalities*

90% of children and young people will report that they feel mentally well by 2026 –

Increasing children's knowledge and understanding of their own physical and mental wellbeing

LOCALITY
PLANS

Improve outcomes for families with the most complex needs

Facilities and services that meet the needs of young people

Fersands Family Centre Support Worker and Twos Group provides a safe, welcoming and stimulating environment to deliver good quality play and learning experiences to encourage motivation, and enthusiastic learning.

Over the year 44 families received support and 22 children attended the weekly pre-nursery group. More intensive, long term support was provided to 11 families who have social work involvement.

Middlefield Youth Flat and Under 11s work supports young people, especially those with low self-esteem and lack of confidence.

Over the year 176 young people participated in 1802 sessions at the Youth Flat, as well as 20 outreach sessions, 151 of them were under 16.

120 young people were involved in Under 11s Work, there were 137 club and small group work sessions. 9 volunteers contributed 972 hours of volunteer time.

Fersands Youth Work Support provides a wide range of youth work services to encourage young people to experience new activities, gain new skills, build relationships and learn about health issues, employment and other issues relevant to them.

Over the year 104 young people participated, all of them under 16 years old. 10 volunteers contributed 524 hours of volunteer time.

Mental Health Aberdeen provides ACIS Youth Counselling, where 215 young people accessed 1722 counselling sessions. ACIS Youth also operates in Torry, where 41 young people accessed 807 counselling sessions in Primary and Secondary schools.

Choices Relationship Revolution delivers an early intervention programme to break the cycle of gender-based violence and sexual exploitation and to raise awareness, challenge prejudice and stereotypes amongst young people.

Over the year 987 participants were involved, 132 educational workshops and 120 drop in clubs were held. 89% of young people reported being able to identify violent and exploitative relationships and an increased knowledge of existing support services following participation in the workshops.

There were 20 young people trained and supported to volunteer and 501 volunteer hours contributed.

SHMU Youth Media provides creative opportunities for young people (between the age of 12-19), primarily from the regeneration areas of Aberdeen, to train and take part in all aspects of the production of regular radio programmes

A total of 268 young people participated, 264 of them under 16 years old. 25 volunteers contributed 14,834 hours of volunteering time.

4,087 children and young people supported

421 parents and families with complex needs supported

256 young people accessed

2529 counselling sessions

268 young people involved in producing youth media



Services for young people support their personal, social and educational development, enabling them to develop their voice, influence and place in society and to reach their full potential

St Machar Parent Support Project Positive Lifestyles provides support to young parents, helping them identify issues and to engage with the relevant agencies before they reach crisis point, preventing future long term need for statutory services.

381 people participated in the programme and 46 parents were referred on to relevant agencies for further support. 74 people were supported to claim grants totalling £13,868. 63 young people under the age of 16 were helped by the support provided to their parents.

Tillydrone ACT Attack provides drama classes as a means to help promote a sense of value, self-worth, and self-confidence in young people, and give them an appreciation of Arts, drama and music while having fun and enjoying themselves.

Average weekly attendance at classes was 52, with a further 12 attending Easter and Summer holiday clubs.

Befriend A Child provide accessible group activities for children involved in the Befriend A Child scheme. One is based at Woodside Primary School, accessible to children from Tillydrone, Seaton, Fersands, Woodside and the other is in Cummings Park.

42 children and young people benefitted from regular use of the youth club, and in actively participating in organising activities. 12 volunteers contributed 1440 hours of volunteering time.

Home-Start coordinate home visiting support to families identified as at risk and hard to reach, working to prevent further crisis and family breakdown.

40 families in priority areas were supported. 36 families reported reduced isolation, 26 reported reduced levels of family conflict or stress, and 5 families no longer required Social Work support. 21 families were supported with financial issues, 11 people moved into work, volunteering or training and 44 volunteers contributed 2620 volunteering time.

Aberdeen Lads Club Big Bang Drumming Group provides percussion workshops for young people, to create a performance band to enhance participants' confidence, self-esteem and social skills.

17 young people participated regularly throughout the year.

“Referred to us due to concerns about her isolation and mental health, Mum was agoraphobic and rarely left the house. The volunteer supported her initially by accompanying her to shops, nursery picks ups, GP appointments and the Job Centre but this developed over time to mum going out locally unsupported and managing to attend appointments on her own.”

Home-Start Aberdeen

ST MACHAR PARENT SUPPORT PROJECT



Staff have been supporting a kinship care group, this was delivered due to an identified need of referrals within the areas we work within. There is a need to highlight the struggles that these carers and the children go through. These carers are aged between 44-78 and are going back to second time parenting. Things have changed over the years and they are struggling to play the role of the parent rather than the grandparent. The group meets every second week in the new community hub in Middlefield. The group has gone from strength to strength with numbers increasing all the time. We have used outside agencies to come in such as Sunrise partnership who deal with grief and loss, and the sexual exploitation/internet safety worker has also met with the group. The carers have formed a good bond with one another and have managed to really link with each other and get support due to their similar experiences. We are also able to help them look at whether they are entitled to extra money through the kinship care allowance. The group now has around 15-18 members, the peer support is invaluable, and they feel they can speak to us without being judged.

ADULTS

LOCAL OUTCOME
IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Healthy life expectancy (time lived in good health) is five years longer by 2026 –

Supporting vulnerable and disadvantaged people, families and groups

Encouraging adoption of healthier lifestyles

2% fewer people reconvicted within one year of receiving a community or custodial sentence by 2026–

Ensuring people on community sentences and liberated from prison have better access to services

LOCALITY
PLANS

Improve health, mental health and wellbeing

Access to learning opportunities to develop digital skills and use the internet safely

Enhance social cohesion and socially sustainable communities

Increased opportunities to influence decision making

Improve community safety to keep people safe

Prevent and reduce levels of substance misuse

420 people accessed counselling provision provided locally
260 people took part in adult learning
148 people involved in producing community media
106 older people supported to develop digital skills
170 volunteers provided meals and facilities to rough sleepers
45 ex-offenders supported in the community after release

Mental Health Aberdeen provides adult counselling in Torry, where 159 clients accessed the service and 1,012 counselling sessions were provided; and in Calsayseat Surgery, where 156 clients accessed 1,089 counselling sessions. 4 volunteers were involved in delivery of service, contributing 428 hours.

Pathways to Wellbeing provides locally based, easily accessible counselling services.

They provided counselling in 7 priority areas; 105 people accessed 1023 counselling sessions delivered. 7 volunteers contributed 290 hours of volunteering time.

SHMU Community Reintegration Support Service works with ex-offenders, following their release, to create strong, supportive community networks and develop effective community based multi-agency working.

180 offenders participated in the programme within prison and 39 in the pre-release programme. 45 participants engaged with appropriate support services post release. 29 participants secured a positive destination after release, 18 volunteering in the community, 2 into education, 14 into training and 9 into employment.

Cyrenians Street Alternatives

provides a volunteer led service offering practical support to people in Aberdeen City who are sleeping rough or who have no access to cooking or personal care facilities.

Over the year 26 people attended sessions held 4 times per week. 16 community awareness raising events were held to promote the service and volunteering opportunities. 170 volunteers contributed 7,150 hours of volunteering time.

SHMU Connecting Communities

Through Community Media supports the production of community media in regeneration areas, exploring and addressing local community issues and developing skills by providing training and support, developing opportunities for underrepresented voices to be heard across the city; creating a wide range of benefits for individuals and communities, fostering a spirit of engagement and partnership working; developing transferrable skills in participants; and contributing towards increased social capital.

35 volunteers were supported to produce community magazines 3 times a year in 7 regeneration areas.

In all 322 organisations worked in partnership with SHMU over the year and a total of 516 participants were



Services for adults focus on improving health, mental health and wellbeing, learning and skills development, community capacity building, volunteering and reducing isolation

involved, 255 of them under 16 years old. 160 volunteers contributed 22,758 hours of volunteer time.

Aberdeen Foyer Reach delivers personal, social, wellbeing and employability skills development programmes, aimed at participants who are in recovery from any long-term condition e.g. substance misuse, mental illness or physical illness.

27 clients participated in the course and 9 secured employment, training or education as a result. 3 volunteers contributed 480 hours of volunteer time.

Printfield Feel Good Project and Tillydrone Health & Well Being Project provide Complementary Health sessions to increase relaxation and wellbeing.

84 people accessed 485 sessions and 2 volunteers contributed 40 hours of volunteering time.

Seaton Recovery Project provides support to those recovering from alcohol/drug misuse and access to specialist support services.

Over the year they worked with 9 clients at the drop-in service. They also received support with personal development and life skills, and took part in activities that enhance physical/mental health and wellbeing, 3 people attended classes to improve their employability skills and 5 were referred to specialist debt and financial support and advisory services.

WEA Reach Out provides literacy opportunities for non-traditional learners, which are accessible and inclusive and appropriate to learner needs, offering flexible literacy programmes and routes to volunteering and employment.

128 people took part in 32 Skills Programme courses provided, 9 moved into employment and 16 progressed onto further training. 8 volunteers contributed 324 hours of volunteering.

Police Scotland Operation Begonia provides dedicated, directed patrols with the aim of tackling prostitution. It was set up to reduce harm to females involved in the sex industry and to protect communities from the threat, risk and harm caused by prostitution. This is done by effective partnerships between Police and other agencies to work with individuals involved in the sex trade and divert them to partner agencies who can assist them with whatever their needs may be.

During the year 25 new women were encountered through street work patrols. 6 women were referred to partner agencies and Begonia patrols now also have access to, rape alarms, toiletries and snacks to give out to the women when needed. There were 952 hours of additional patrol time undertaken. 87 males were stopped, educated or charged regarding kerb crawling offences to try and discourage males from frequenting identified areas.

Silver City Surfers provide one to one computer tutoring for over 55s in the City Centre, and Northfield/Cummings Park areas, so they can confidently learn how to use the computer and surf the internet safely in a welcoming and social environment.

102 people registered as new learners in the City Centre. 157 sessions were offered, and 46 volunteers contributed 2,708 hours of volunteer time.



“One of our learners was able to keep in touch with her daughter who was living overseas and chart the progress of her first grandchildren. The twins were premature and in a special nursery for 2 months and she was in constant touch with her daughter through Skype on her tablet.”

Silver City Surfers

TILLYDRONE COMMUNITY CAMPUS

New Community Hubs have been provided in Middlefield and Tillydrone. These provide a wide range of facilities and services in communities, including access to free or affordable food, help with welfare reform issues, adult learning and youth activities. Many Fairer Aberdeen initiatives are delivered in Hubs as well as existing Community Projects and Flats, where they are accessible for local people.



PLACE

LOCAL
OUTCOME
IMPROVEMENT
PLAN

No one in Aberdeen will go without food due to poverty by 2026–

Increasing food resilience at individual and community level by establishing self-governing community co-operatives to offer further supportive ways of providing food

LOCALITY
PLANS

Increased opportunities to access high quality, fit for purpose facilities

Appropriate spaces and facilities to support play and recreational activities

Celebrate and promote heritage and culture

Tidy and well-maintained communities

Support community capacity building

through the use of technology

Cummings Park Community Flat, Printfield Community Project Tillydrone Community Flat and Seaton Community Flat provide resources for community activity; venues for a range of organisations that offer support, information and advice; and support community capacity building and adult learning. They support people with welfare reform issues and help to address isolation.

In **Cummings Park Community Flat** 13 partner agencies used the Flat to deliver advice and support for a range of issues including employability and financial inclusion. The total number of contacts accessing activities was 2,809 and the number of uses of the Flat facilities, including phone, computers and enquiries was 50. The Flat was open for 5 days a week and 22 volunteers contributed 2,909 hours.

In **Printfield Community Project** 100 young people aged 5-16 participated in activities in the project and 58 in the After School Club. 12 children under 3 years were registered.

50 people got support with welfare reform issues and 60 volunteers contributed 600 volunteer hours in the Project Management Committee, Printfield Area Forum and Woodside Network.

Tillydrone Community Flat had 25 agencies using the flat to deliver advice and support services for a range of issues including Health, Education, Employability and Financial Inclusion. There were 3,346 recorded uses of the Flat facilities, including use of washing machine, phone and access to computers.

There were 78 Learning Support creche sessions with 38 children attending creche sessions. 55 people were involved in adult learning activities, and 146 people got support with welfare reform issues. A total of 439 participants were involved, 59 of them under 16 years old 16 volunteers contributed 750 hours of volunteer work.

In **Seaton Community Flat** there were 1,748 attendances at sessions provided by 14 partner agencies. 15 people attended sessions supporting people back into work and 49 people attended sessions aimed at increasing skills and creativity. A total of 493 people attended the flat and 5 volunteers contributed 340 hours of volunteer time.

CFINE (Community Food Initiatives North East) maintain and develop Community Food Outlets to provide healthy, affordable food and raise awareness of healthy cooking and eating.

Affordable food provision is being increased by the development of community pantries, to deliver a more sustainable approach to food poverty



461 tonnes of free food distributed equal to **1.3m** meals
3941 food bank users signposted to other services
1 community pantry established with **150** members
5 community projects/flats supported in priority areas

Over the year they supported 81 Community Food Outlets, 46 of these in sheltered housing complexes, with a total of £58,500 sales. They provided work experience for 43 people and 215 volunteers were supported.

Food Poverty Action Aberdeen provides food for those in food poverty, as well as coordination and networking between organisations involved in food poverty work. They also provide support to address issues around health and well-being, financial capability and employment.

461 tonnes of free produce were distributed, and 17,869 food parcels were given out to 5,325 beneficiaries. 2,433 people were referred to other agencies and 471 people accessed financial support. 311 volunteers contributed 74,640 hours of volunteer time.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

“Being on the Fairer Aberdeen Board is an important role; it has a big impact on the City. We need to represent our own communities but also see the bigger picture.”



Regeneration Matters is a forum of community representatives from all the regeneration and priority neighbourhoods in Aberdeen City who nominate 7 members to sit on the Fairer Aberdeen Board along with 3 representatives from the Civic Forum. The group meets monthly to discuss issues of interest across all the communities, as well as managing the Community Support Fund to support community engagement and empowerment. Over the year the Fund supported Community Networks, printing and distribution of Community Newsletters, research trips, engagement events and meetings, training and purchasing fridges for Community Food Outlets.

PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING



£25,000 was allocated to undertake a Participatory Budgeting (PB) process, which is a way for local people to have a direct say in how funds can be used to address local needs.

A steering group was set up to organise the process, made up of community and partner representatives. It was decided to hold the event in Kincorth.

18 proposals were presented and then voted on by residents at the voting event in March 2018. Funding was awarded to 15 projects that were most popular.

FAIRER ABERDEEN

“It gives people the chance to directly influence how funding is allocated.”

Successful projects included:

- 46th Aberdeen (Kincorth) Boys Brigade coding skills and Christmas activities
- 55th (Kincorth) Scout Group hall refurbishment and camping equipment
- Kincorth Community Centre café, outdoor storage and creche resources
- Mark Bush Court residents' outings and exercise bike
- Margaret Clyne Court residents' outings
- Outdoor Community Play
- Sensory Stay and Play
- TLC Food Bank
- Mikey's Charity
- Crafty Lassies

“I really enjoyed finding out about all the things that are going on in my area and to see so many interesting proposals.”



“PB is community empowerment at its best.”

Jenny Laing, Council Leader



*Thank you to all the participants,
staff and volunteers who have
contributed to this report and to
the Fairer Aberdeen programme
over the year.*