

Public Document Pack



To: Councillor Allard, Convener; Councillor Buchanan, Vice-Convener; and Councillors Blake, Brooks, Davidson, Hutchison, Kusznr, Macdonald and Mennie.

Town House,
ABERDEEN 27 February 2026

ANTI-POVERTY AND INEQUALITY COMMITTEE

The Members of the **ANTI-POVERTY AND INEQUALITY COMMITTEE** are requested to meet in **Committee Room 2 - Town House on WEDNESDAY, 11 MARCH 2026 at 10.00 am.** This is a hybrid meeting and Members may also attend remotely.

The meeting will be webcast and a live stream can be viewed on the Council's website. <https://aberdeen.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>

JENNI LAWSON
CHIEF OFFICER – GOVERNANCE

BUSINESS

DETERMINATION OF URGENT BUSINESS

1.1. There are no items of urgent business at this time

DETERMINATION OF EXEMPT BUSINESS

2.1. There are no exempt items

DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS OR TRANSPARENCY STATEMENTS

3.1. Declarations of Interest and Transparency Statements

DEPUTATIONS

4.1. There are no requests for deputations at this time

MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

- 5.1. Minute of previous meeting of 25 November 2025 (Pages 5 - 10)

COMMITTEE PLANNER

- 6.1. Committee Business Planner (Pages 11 - 14)

NOTICES OF MOTION

- 7.1. Notice of Motion by the Partnership - Women and Girls' Sport in Aberdeen

That the Committee –

1. Notes the achievements of Hollie Davidson, from Aboyne, in breaking new ground in elite refereeing and providing an important role model for women and girls in sport;
2. Recognises that access to sport and physical activity can help prevent poverty and inequality by supporting health, skills, confidence, and social connections;
3. Instructs the Executive Director of Corporate Services to undertake a review of how the Council works with Sport Aberdeen and other partners to support and strengthen women and girls' sport in the city; and
4. Requests that the review engages people with lived experience as part of the process, taking account of lessons from Scottish Women's Budget Group citizens' assemblies approach.

REFERRALS FROM COUNCIL, COMMITTEES AND SUB COMMITTEES

- 8.1. There are no referrals at this time

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

- 9.1. Appointment of External Adviser to the Anti-Poverty and Inequality Committee - CORS/26/053 (Pages 15 - 18)
- 9.2. Draft Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2026-2036 - CORS/26/041 (Pages 19 - 36)

- 9.3. [Draft Locality Plans 2026-36: North, South and Central - CORS/26/042](#) (Pages 37 - 94)
- 9.4. [Draft Children's Services Plan - F&C/26/039](#) (Pages 95 - 196)
- 9.5. [Evaluation of the Scottish Women's Budget Group Study on Gender Inequality and Poverty - CORS/26/040](#) (Pages 197 - 206)
- 9.6. [Accessing Money Advice and Advisory Services - CORS/26/038](#) (Pages 207 - 228)
- 9.7. [Report on Visit to the Tillydrone Community Flat, Tillydrone Community Campus and Wallace Tower - CORS/26/043](#) (Pages 229 - 240)

Integrated Impact Assessments related to reports on this agenda can be viewed here [Search Integrated Impact Assessments | Aberdeen City Council](#)

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Anti-Poverty and Inequality Committee

ABERDEEN, 26 November 2025. Minute of Meeting of the ANTI-POVERTY AND INEQUALITY COMMITTEE. Present:- Councillor Allard, Convener; Councillor Buchanan, Vice-Convener; and Councillors Blake, Brooks, Davidson, Kuszniir, Macdonald, Mennie and van Sweeden (as substitute for Councillor Hutchison).

External Advisers:- Kerry Gavin (CFINE), Donna Hutchison (Aberdeen Cyrenians), Dr Rachel Shanks (University of Aberdeen) and Dr Paul Southworth (NHS Grampian).

The agenda and reports associated with this minute can be located [here](#).

Please note that if any changes are made to this minute at the point of approval, these will be outlined in the subsequent minute and this document will not be retrospectively altered.

WELCOME

1. The Convener welcomed new External Adviser Dr Rachel Shanks from the University of Aberdeen, replacing Professor John Bone. Members were advised that Sophy Green had stepped down as External Adviser and that Graeme Robbie from CFINE would be joining as her replacement, representing the charitable sector in Aberdeen. The Committee also heard that this would be Kerry Gavin's last meeting as Lived Experience External Adviser.

The Convener expressed his thanks to Professor Bone, Sophy Green and Kerry Gavin for their valuable contributions.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND TRANSPARENCY STATEMENTS

2. Members were requested to intimate any Declarations of Interest or Transparency Statements in respect of the items on the agenda.

The Committee resolved:-

- (i) to note that the Convener advised he had a connection in respect of item 9.2 (Fairer Aberdeen Fund Annual Report 2024-25) as he was a member of the Fairer Aberdeen Board however, having applied the objective test he did not consider that his connections amounted to an interest which would prevent him from participating in the discussions;
- (ii) to note that the Vice Convener advised he had a connection in respect of item 9.2 as he was a member of the Fairer Aberdeen Board however, having applied the objective test he did not consider that his connections amounted to an interest which would prevent him from participating in the discussions; and
- (iii) to note that Councillor Macdonald advised that she had a connection in respect of item 9.1 (Aberdeen City Council Response to the Scottish Women's Budget Group Study on Gender Inequality and Poverty) as she was Treasurer of Aberdeen

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Women's Alliance however, having applied the objective test she did not consider that her connections amounted to an interest which would prevent her from participating in the discussions.

MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING OF 11 JUNE 2025

3. The Committee had before it the minute of the previous meeting of 11 June 2025.

The Committee resolved:-

to approve the minute.

COMMITTEE BUSINESS PLANNER

4. The Committee had before it the planner of committee business, as prepared by the Chief Officer – Governance.

The Committee resolved:-

- (i) to agree to remove the item at line 26 (Memorandum of Understanding between Aberdeen City Council and the Department of Work and Pensions on preventing homeless);
- (ii) to note that the Committee Visit in January 2026 would be to the Tillydrone Community Flat and Campus; and
- (iii) to otherwise agree the Planner.

CITIZENS' ASSEMBLIES APPROACH - ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL RESPONSE TO THE SCOTTISH WOMEN'S BUDGET GROUP STUDY ON GENDER INEQUALITY AND POVERTY - CORS/25/228

5. The Committee had before it a report prepared by the Strategic Lead - Prevention and Community Empowerment, presenting the Council's response to the Scottish Women's Budget Group Study on Gender Inequality and Poverty in Aberdeen.

The report recommended:-

that the Committee:

- (a) note the Council's planned actions to be taken in response to the Scottish Women's Budget Group Study on Gender Inequality and Poverty in Aberdeen;
- (b) thank members of the Scottish Women's Budget Group Steering Group, Aberdeen Youth Movement and all other stakeholders who participated in the improvement action planning process; and
- (c) instruct the Executive Director of Corporate Services to provide an update on the 52 improvement actions presented in the report by December 2026.

The Convener moved, seconded by the Vice Convener:-

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that the Committee approve the recommendations.

Councillor Blake, seconded by Councillor Macdonald, moved as an amendment:-
that the Committee:

- (1) note the Council's planned actions to be taken in response to the Scottish Women's Budget Group Study on Gender Inequality and Poverty in Aberdeen;
- (2) thank members of the Scottish Women's Budget Group Steering Group, Aberdeen Youth Movement and all other stakeholders who participated in improvement action planning process;
- (3) instruct the Chief Officer - Education and Lifelong Learning and Chief Officer – Data Insights, to review questions in future surveys on early learning and out of school care in order to ensure analysis by socio-economic status is possible, so that any variations can be identified and additional targeted measures can be introduced where required;
- (4) instruct the Executive Director of Corporate Services to map women's groups across the city with a view to highlighting where support might be available;
- (5) note the importance of wrap around childcare to enable women to return to the workforce and to lifting children out of poverty. Notes the expansion of breakfast club provision in 2025/26 through the Bright Starts breakfast fund and instruct the Chief Officer Education and Lifelong Learning to look at external funding opportunities to support expansion for the end of the school day provision; and
- (6) instruct the Executive Director of Corporate Services to provide an update on the 52 improvement actions presented in this report by December 2026.

Councillor Kuszniir, seconded by Councillor Brooks, moved as a further amendment:-
that the Committee:

- (1) agree the recommendations, subject to the following two amendments of improvement actions:
 - a. deletion of "*translations into priority languages and*" from improvement action 30; and
 - b. deletion of "*clear, multilingual information and*" from improvement action 46;
- (2) recognise that English is the UK's primary language;
- (3) believe that government of all levels should prioritise integration by promoting learning English, not entrench disadvantage and damage social cohesion by making it easier to not learn the language while claiming state benefits;
- (4) note that the Scottish Government strongly promotes English learning as essential for integration, funding *English for Speakers of other Languages* classes to develop language skills for work and community life; and
- (5) welcome the comments from the Labour Home Secretary, The Rt Hon Shabana Mahmood MP, affirming that "*This country has always welcomed those who come to this country and contribute. But it is unacceptable for migrants to come here without learning our language, unable to contribute to our national life. If you come to this country, you must learn our language and play your part.*"

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There being a motion and two amendments, the Committee first divided between the amendment by Councillor Blake and the amendment by Councillor Kuszniir.

On a division, there voted:-

For the amendment by Councillor Blake (7) – Convener, Vice Convener and Councillors Blake, Davidson, Macdonald, Mennie and van Sweeden.

For the amendment by Councillor Kuszniir (2) – Councillors Brooks and Kuszniir.

At this juncture, the Convener indicated that he was willing to accept Councillor Blake's amendment.

The Committee resolved:-

- (i) to instruct the Chief Officer - Education and Lifelong Learning and Chief Officer – Data Insights, to review questions in future surveys on early learning and out of school care in order to ensure analysis by socio-economic status is possible, so that any variations can be identified and additional targeted measures can be introduced where required;
- (ii) to instruct the Executive Director of Corporate Services to map women's groups across the city with a view to highlighting where support might be available;
- (iii) to note the importance of wrap around childcare to enable women to return to the workforce and to lifting children out of poverty. Notes the expansion of breakfast club provision in 2025/26 through the Bright Starts breakfast fund and instruct the Chief Officer Education and Lifelong Learning to look at external funding opportunities to support expansion for the end of the school day provision; and
- (iv) to otherwise approve the recommendations contained within the report.

FAIRER ABERDEEN FUND ANNUAL REPORT - CORS/25/229

6. The Committee had before it the Fairer Aberdeen Fund Annual Report for 2024-25 prepared by the Fairer Aberdeen and Anti-Poverty Manager.

The report recommended:-

that the Committee:

- (a) note the Fairer Aberdeen Fund Annual Report for 2024-25, at Appendix 1 of the report and the positive impact that has been made to lives of people in Aberdeen; and
- (b) instruct the Executive Director of Corporate Services to thank all the Fairer Aberdeen Board members, funded partners, and volunteers for the work they have done and their many successes.

The Committee resolved:-

- (i) to request that the Service Manager – Early Years, confirm whether or not the mapping of child care provision across the city included after school care that was

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- provided by community groups such as those funded by Fairer Aberdeen Fund;
and
- (ii) to otherwise approve the recommendations.

SERVICE PROVIDER EQUALITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION ACTION PLAN 2025-2029 - CORS/25/226

7. The Committee had before it a report prepared by the Interim Diversity and Inclusion Lead presenting Aberdeen City Council's Service Provider Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Action Plan 2025-2029.

The report recommended:-

that the Committee note the Service Provider Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Community Action Plan 2025-2029.

The Committee resolved:-

- (i) to approve the recommendation contained in the report;
- (ii) to note that the Interim Diversity and Inclusion Lead would take an action to explore accessibility of committee documents;
- (iii) to note the Hate Crime Awareness Workshop held in the Town House on 17 October 2025 that brought together community members, local authorities, educators, and third sector organisations to raise awareness of hate crimes, share lived experiences and develop strategies to improve prevention and response;
- (iv) to note the Civic Prayer Breakfast which took place on the 26 September 2025, that brought together a range of partners and speakers, who reiterated the need for tolerance and community cohesion in our city;
- (v) to welcome the joint statement from the Co-Leaders and Labour Group Leader, attached to the addendum;
- (vi) to condemn the verbal abuse and intimidation towards staff removing flags from lampposts; and
- (vii) to agree that all who came to Aberdeen to visit, study, work and live were welcome.

COLLABORATION FOR HEALTH EQUITY IN SCOTLAND - CORS/25/230

8. The Committee had before it an update report prepared by the Chief Officer -Data Insights (HDRCA) on the work of the Collaboration for Health Equity in Scotland.

The report recommended:-

that the Committee:

- (a) instruct the Chief Officer - Data Insights (HDRCA) to report to the Committee at the conclusion of the Collaboration for Health Equity in Scotland; and
- (b) otherwise note the report.

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26 November 2025

The Committee resolved:-

to approve the recommendations.

SUPPORTING PEOPLE WITH THE COST OF LIVING 2025/26 – UPDATE ON PROGRESS AND SPEND - CORS/25/231

9. The Committee had before it a report prepared by the Fairer Aberdeen and Anti-Poverty Manager providing an update on the outcomes achieved to date from the Cost of Living Funding allocated for 2025-26.

The report recommended:-

that the Committee:

- (a) note the Supporting People with the Cost of Living Crisis 2025-26 Update Report;
- (b) note that it was expected that allocations would be fully spent by April 2026; and
- (c) agree to reallocate £27,600 underspend in funding awarded to Aberdeen Health And Social Care Partnership for Telecare equipment and Power of Attorney in 2024-25 to the Scottish Welfare Fund.

The Committee resolved:-

to agree the recommendations.

REPORT ON VISIT TO THE FOUNTAIN OF LOVE CHURCH - CORS/25/256

10. The Committee had before it report prepared by the Anti-Poverty Officer following the Committee visit to the Fountain of Love Church on 10 September 2025.

The report recommended:-

that the Committee:

- (a) approve the report; and
- (b) thank all those at Fountain of Love Church who welcomed the Committee and provided an informative and interesting visit.

The Committee resolved:-

to agree the recommendations.

- **COUNCILLOR CHRISTIAN ALLARD, Convener.**

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1	ANTI-POVERTY AND INEQUALITY COMMITTEE BUSINESS PLANNER The Business Planner details the reports which have been instructed as well as reports which the Functions expect to be submitting for the calendar year.								
2	Report Title	Minute Reference/Committee Decision or Purpose of Report	Update	Report Author	Chief Officer	Director	Terms of Reference	Delayed or Recommended for removal or transfer, enter either D, R, or T	Explanation if delayed, removed or transferred
3	11 March 2026								
4	Appointment of External Adviser to the Anti-Poverty and Inequality Committee.	To seek approval of the appointment of a new external adviser, representing lived experience, to the Anti-Poverty and Inequality Committee - CORS/26/053.	On the agenda.	Matthew Lee	People and Citizen Services	Corporate Services	1.3		
5	Draft Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2026-2036	To present the draft Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) 2026-36 for the Committee's feedback as part of the public consultation which ends on 20 March 2026. The final plan is to be considered by the Community Planning Aberdeen Board on 11 June 2026 - CORS/26/041.	On the agenda.	Allison Swanson	People and Citizen Services	Corporate Services	1.1 and 1.10		
6	Draft Locality Plans 2026-36: North, South and Central.	To present the draft Locality Plans for North, South, and Central 2026-36 for the Committee's feedback as part of the consultation which ends on 20 March 2026. The final plans are to be considered by the Community Planning Aberdeen Board on 11 June 2026 - CORS/26/042.	On the agenda.	Jade Leyden and Iain Robertson	People and Citizen Services	Corporate Services	1.1 and 1.10		
7	Draft Children's Services Plan 2026-31	To present the draft Children's Services Plan 2026-31 for the Committee's feedback as part of the consultation which ends on 20 March 2026. The Plan will be taken to Education and Children Services Committee on the 28 April 2026 for formal approval, and will be considered by the Community Planning Aberdeen Board on 11 June 2026 - F&C/26/039.	On the agenda.	James Simpson	Education and Lifelong Learning	Families and Communities	1.1, 2.1		
8	Evaluation of the Scottish Women's Budget Group Study on Gender Inequality and Poverty	To present an evaluation of the citizens' assembly approach to poverty and gender inequality delivered by the Scottish Women's Budget Group (SWBG) on behalf of Aberdeen City Council. The evaluation assesses whether the approach was implemented as originally intended, summarises key activities and engagement outcomes, and identifies lessons to inform the Committee's future deliberative and participatory community exercises - CORS/26/040.	On the agenda.	Michelle Crombie/Deirdre Nicolson	People and Citizen Services	Corporate Services	1.1, 3.1		

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
	Report Title	Minute Reference/Committee Decision or Purpose of Report	Update	Report Author	Chief Officer	Director	Terms of Reference	Delayed or Recommended for removal or transfer, enter either D, R, or T	Explanation if delayed, removed or transferred
2									
9	Accessing Money Advice and Advisory Services	To present an update on progress made since March 2025 to improve equitable access to money advice and advisory services - CORS/26/038.	On the agenda.	Angela Kazmierczak	People and Citizen Services	Corporate Services	1.12		
10	Report on Visit to the Tillydrone Community Flat and Campus	To provide an update on the Committee Visit to the Tillydrone Community Flat and Campus on 28 January 2026 - CORS/26/043.	On the agenda.	Matthew Lee	People and Citizen Services	Corporate Services	1.3, 1.5		
11	4 June 2026								
12	Supporting People with the Cost of Living final report on 2025/26 spend	To provide an update on the Cost of Living final report on 2025/26 spend.		Susan Thoms	People and Citizen Services	Corporate Services	1.1, 3.1		
13	Children's Services Plan Annual Report	To present the Children's Services Plan Annual Report.		Graeme Simpson	Education and Lifelong Learning	Families and Communities	1.1		
14	Local Outcome Improvement Plan Annual Report	To present the Local Outcome Improvement Plan Annual Report.		Allison Swanson	People and Citizen Services	Corporate Services	1.1 and 1.10		
15	2 September 2026								
16	Committee Visit: Instant Neighbour			Susan Thoms	People and Citizen Services	Corporate Services	1.3, 1.5		
17	25 November 2026								
18	Report on the conclusion of the Collaboration for Health Equity in Scotland			Martin Murchie	Data Insights	Corporate Services	1.1, 1.5		
19	Update on the 52 improvement actions presented in Aberdeen City Council Response to the Scottish Women's Budget Group Study on Gender Inequality and Poverty			Matthew Lee	People and Citizen Services	Corporate Services	1.1, 3.1		

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
	Report Title	Minute Reference/Committee Decision or Purpose of Report	Update	Report Author	Chief Officer	Director	Terms of Reference	Delayed or Recommended for removal or transfer, enter either D, R, or T	Explanation if delayed, removed or transferred
2									
20	Fairer Aberdeen Fund Annual Report -	To provide members with the Fairer Aberdeen Fund annual report for 2025/26.		Susan Thoms	People and Citizen Services	Corporate Services	1.14		
21	2027 and TBC								
22	Equality Outcomes Progress Report 2025 - 2029	To provide an update on the progress achieved for Aberdeen City Council's Equality Outcomes for 2025-27. Reported to Committee on 25 March 2025.	March 2027	Baldeep McGarry	People and Citizen Services	Corporate Services	2.2		

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ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Anti-Poverty and Inequality
DATE	11 March 2026
EXEMPT	No
CONFIDENTIAL	No
REPORT TITLE	Appointment of External Adviser to the Anti-Poverty and Inequality Committee
REPORT NUMBER	CORS/26/053
DIRECTOR	Andy MacDonald
CHIEF OFFICER	Michelle Crombie on behalf of Isla Newcombe
REPORT AUTHOR	Matthew Lee, Anti-Poverty Officer
TERMS OF REFERENCE	1.3

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report requests approval of the appointment of a new external adviser, representing lived experience, to the Anti-Poverty and Inequality Committee.

2. RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee:-

- 2.1 Approves the appointment of an external adviser, as named in this report, to the Anti-Poverty and Inequality Committee in line with the Committee's Terms of Reference.

3. CURRENT SITUATION

- 3.1 The Aberdeen City Council Committee Terms of Reference for the Anti-Poverty and Inequality Committee provide as follows:

EXTERNAL ADVISERS

Emphasising the close links with Community Planning Aberdeen's Anti-Poverty Group, the Committee will appoint advisers who are not members of the Council. These external advisers will be appointed by the Committee as follows:-

- *1 resident of Aberdeen with lived experience of poverty;*
- *Up to 2 people representing the charitable sector in Aberdeen;*
- *1 person representing higher and further education in Aberdeen;*
- *1 person representing key interest groups in Aberdeen (that maybe appointed for a defined period of time); and*
- *1 public health professional/practitioner who works in Aberdeen.*

3.2 A nomination was received for Natasha Franklin for appointment to the vacant external adviser role in respect of a person representing lived experience in Aberdeen. Natasha Franklin was a member of the Lived Experience Steering Group formed by the Scottish Women’s Budget Group as part of their study on gender poverty and inequality in Aberdeen.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from the recommendation of this report.

6. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no environmental implications arising from this report.

7. RISK

Category	Risks	Primary Controls/Control Actions to achieve Target Risk Level	*Target Risk Level (L, M or H) *taking into account controls/control actions	*Does Target Risk Level Match Appetite Set?
Strategic Risk	No significant risk identified		L	Yes
Compliance	Risk of not complying with committee terms of reference	Appointment of external adviser will mitigate this risk	L	Yes
Operational	No significant risk identified		L	Yes
Financial	No significant risk identified		L	Yes
Reputational	No significant risk identified		L	Yes
Environment / Climate	No significant risk identified		L	Yes

8. OUTCOMES

<u>COUNCIL DELIVERY PLAN 2024</u>	
	Impact of Report
Aberdeen City Council Policy Statement <u>Working in Partnership for Aberdeen</u>	The appointment of the external adviser will contribute to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Transparent, Accessible and Accountable Council - Aberdeen City Council works for the people of Aberdeen, and it is important that people can access, understand, and take part in the Council's democratic processes.
<u>Local Outcome Improvement Plan</u>	
Prosperous Economy Stretch Outcomes	The appointment of the external adviser will support the work of the Anti-Poverty and Inequality Committee in contributing to stretch outcome 1 - No one will suffer due to poverty by 2026
Prosperous People Stretch Outcomes	There is no proposal in this report

9. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Assessment	Outcome
Integrated Impact Assessment	No assessment is required. I confirm this has been discussed and agreed with Michelle Crombie, Strategic Lead, Prevent and Community Empowerment on 17 February 2026.
Data Protection Impact Assessment	Not required
Other	N/A

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

10.1 N/A

11. APPENDICES

11.1 N/A

12. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

Name	Matthew Lee
Title	Anti-Poverty Officer
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ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Anti-Poverty and Inequality Committee
DATE	11 March 2026
EXEMPT	No
CONFIDENTIAL	No
REPORT TITLE	Draft Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2026-36
REPORT NUMBER	CORS/26/041
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	Andy MacDonald, Corporate Services
CHIEF OFFICER	Michelle Crombie on behalf of Isla Newcombe
REPORT AUTHOR	Allison Swanson, Community Planning and Improvement Manager
TERMS OF REFERENCE	1.1 and 1.10

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report presents the draft Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) 2026-36 for the Committee’s feedback as part of the public consultation which ends on 20 March 2026. The final plan is to be considered by the Community Planning Aberdeen Board on 11 June 2026.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Committee:-

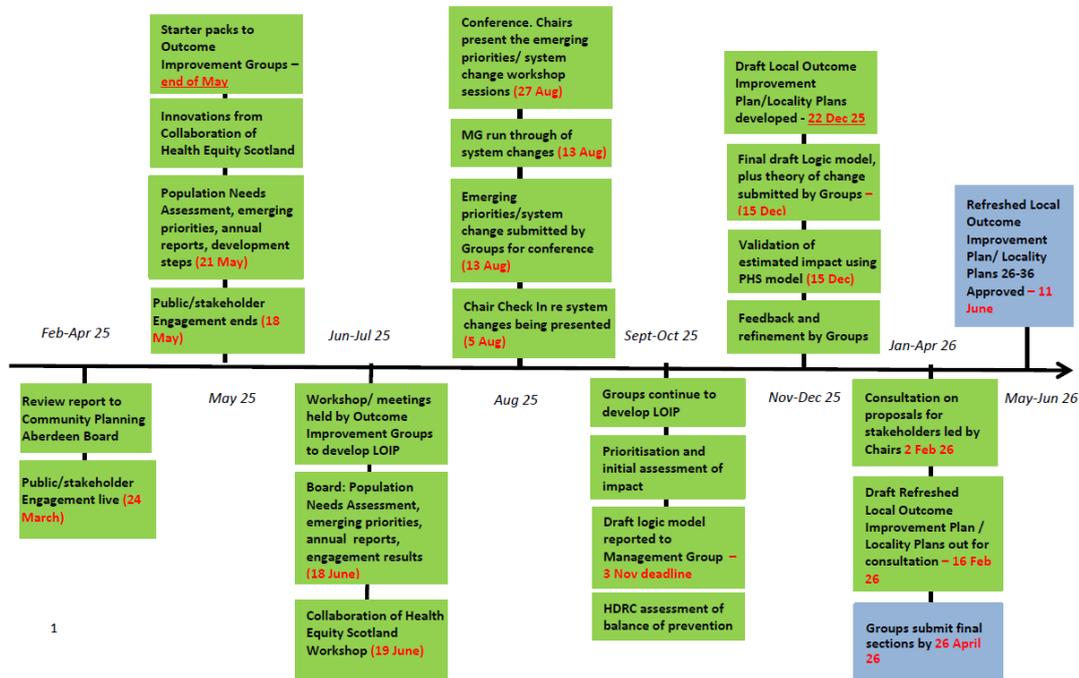
- 2.1 consider and provide feedback on the draft Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) 2026-36 presented at Appendix 1; and
- 2.2 consider the draft Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) 2026-36 in conjunction with the draft Locality Plans for North, South and Central 2026-36 (Item 9.3) which connect the Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2026-2036 to community priorities and assets.

3. CURRENT SITUATION

- 3.1 The current Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2016-2026 is due to end in 2026 marking the end of its 10 year timeframe of 2016-2026. A new Local Outcome Improvement Plan needs to be developed and approved for 2026-2036 in order to continue to meet the requirements of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015.
- 3.2 In preparation for developing a new Local Outcome Improvement Plan, Community Planning Aberdeen undertook a [review of its approach to improving outcomes](#) to ensure the new plan is firmly grounded in what we’ve learned over the last decade. We recognise that in some areas change hasn’t gone far enough. Persistent challenges such as poverty, inequalities in health, and the need for more streamlined, high-impact action remain. This honest reflection gives us a clearer understanding of what works and where we need to be bolder.

3.3 Community Planning Aberdeen began developing the Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2026-36 in March 2025. The development process is summarised in the diagram below.

Timeline to Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2026-36



3.4 Between 24 March to 18 May 2025 the ‘Your Place, Your Plans, Your Future’ public engagement was held to support the evidence base for the development of the Plan. This included:

- An online survey for adults
- An online survey designed for children and young people
- Six locality events, with specific activities designed by the Aberdeen Youth Movement and Aberdeen Ambassadors for children and young people
- An outreach programme where, with the support of third sector partners, we went to 98 groups/schools/locations across Aberdeen.

3.5 A total of 2087 people participated, a 344% increase since our Place Standard engagement as part of the refreshed Local Outcome Improvement Plan in 2023. Participants raised a number of areas where we could improve for the future. This [document](#) details how we’ve taken these forward to date in the Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2026-36.

3.6 The Aberdeen 2036: Towards a Fairer Future Conference was held on 27 August 2025. It gathered leaders, community organisations, businesses, and residents, including young people to inform and provide feedback on the emerging ideas for the draft Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2026-2036. The Aberdeen 2036: Towards a Fairer Future Conference report is available [here](#).

3.7 An online webinar on 2 February 2026 shared updated proposals with stakeholders and gathered further feedback in advance of public consultation which commenced on 16 February. The Committee is being consulted as part of this process which will run until 20 March 2026.

4 DRAFT LOCAL OUTCOME IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2026-36

4.1 Following the development process, the new Local Outcome Improvement Plan focuses on fewer, more strategic system level, high impact changes. The plan reflects a continued commitment to prevention, deeper integrated working with partners, embedding lived experience and human rights principles, and making better use of data to understand and respond to need. See Appendix 1 for the public consultation version of the Local Outcome Improvement Plan.

Vision for 2036

4.2 During engagement, Community Planning Aberdeen sought views on what people wanted Aberdeen in 2036 to look like. The current vision ‘A place where all people can prosper’ regardless of a person’s background or circumstances, is aspirational, however it is recognised that this is not the reality for some and that inequalities exist.

4.3 In light of this and the engagement, the proposed vision is centred on equity of access and opportunity and that Aberdeen in 2036 is:

‘A city where everyone has equitable access to opportunities, services, and support to live healthy, safe, and fulfilling lives, regardless of background or postcode’.

Ten Year Outcomes and System Changes

4.4 To achieve the vision, the draft Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2026-36 proposes five Ten Year Outcomes that Community Planning Aberdeen aims to achieve by 2036. These Ten Year Outcomes focus partners collective energy and direct action towards shifting the city’s focus from managing crisis demand to preventing harm. The proposed Ten Year Outcomes are detailed below with full detail in Appendix 1:

POSITIVE DESTINATIONS 	FAIR WORK 	REDUCE POVERTY 	HEALTHIER, WEALTHIER, GREENER 	HEALTHY LIFE EXPECTANCY 
STRETCH OUTCOME 1 95% of young people in the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 1 and vulnerable groups achieve a positive destination on leaving school by 2036.	STRETCH OUTCOME 2 Reduce to 3% the proportion of people aged 16 and above in Scottish index of Multiple Deprivation 1 that are not in employment by 2036.	STRETCH OUTCOME 3 Reduce the proportion of people living in relative poverty by 6.5% by 2036.	STRETCH OUTCOME 4 Reduce by 84% carbon emissions and increase land managed for nature to 30% by 2036.	STRETCH OUTCOME 5 Increase Healthy Life Expectancy by at least 2 years by 2036 and reduce gap in Life Expectancy between the most and least deprived areas by 20% by 2036.

4.5 The five Ten Year Outcomes come to life through logic models that set out the system changes we’ll test and scale, the short-term outputs we’ll track, and the medium-term outcomes for 2031 we aim to achieve that build toward the 2036 targets. Put simply, the plan shows what we’ll change in the system, who it helps first, and how we’ll know it’s working.

4.6 Across the logic models there are 15 system changes and 13 improvement aims to be achieved by 2031. In this context a system change is described as a change in the way our current systems operate. This can involve:

- Change to structures, policies, pathways, or delivery mechanisms.
- Should address the root cause of the outcomes/areas identified as needing improvement and be sustainable and scalable
- Should not be already implemented and now business as usual
- Testing to prove effectiveness for permanent implementation

4.7 As well as aligning to the Social Determinants of Health, the draft Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2026-36 Ten Year Outcomes and system changes also align with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and the Scottish National Outcomes.

Prevention and Reducing Inequalities: Proportionate Universalism Approach

4.8 Central to the draft Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2026-36 is the ambition to reduce inequalities. While outcomes in Aberdeen have improved overall, there are significant differences across the city, with people living in more deprived areas and vulnerable groups experiencing worse outcomes on average.

4.9 In order to change this, the draft Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2026-2036 makes clear that we need to be honest and that whilst we need to improve the health of all, we need to improve the health of the poorest fastest. Where inequality persists, treating everyone equally may not lead to equitable outcomes and some people will need additional support to make this vision a reality. The draft Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2026-2036 explains what additional support will become available to people who need it. At the same time, everyone will continue to have access to regular services, like education, health care and policing, already provided by the many different organisations working together to deliver the Local Outcome Improvement Plan. This is called proportionate universalism.

4.10 By using proportionate universalism, we reduce the inequality currently experienced; overall outcomes improve; gaps between communities close, fulfilling our vision of a fairer city in which “everyone has equitable access to opportunities, services, and support to live healthy, safe, and fulfilling lives, regardless of background or postcode”.

5 EXPERTISE AND ADVISORY SUPPORT

5.1 Public Health Scotland, the Collaboration for Health Equity in Scotland and the Health Research Determinants Collaboration have played a key role in the development of the Local Outcome Improvement Plan, supporting Community Planning Aberdeen strengthen and accelerate action to improve health and reduce inequity. Contributions have included Public Health Scotland developing new guidance and tools to support prioritisation, including consideration of health inequalities and estimating impact of the system changes in the draft Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) 2026–2036 and the Collaboration for Health Equity in Scotland providing a list of interventions that have worked elsewhere.

6 NEXT STEPS

- 6.1 Finalisation of the Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2026-36 will run parallel with the development of the Locality Plans as per the steps below.

February-20 March 2026	Public Consultation of Draft Locality Plans alongside draft Locality Plans 2026-36
April 2026	Final amendments made based on feedback from public consultation
11 June 2026	Final Local Outcome Improvement Plan submitted to Community Planning Aberdeen Board for approval
1 July 2026	Final Local Outcome Improvement Plan submitted to Council for endorsement

- 6.2 The new Local Outcome Improvement Plan is a rolling ten year plan which, once approved, will be reviewed annually as part of the annual reporting process and fully refreshed every 5 years.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no immediate financial implications involved in the delivery of this Local Outcome Improvement Plan. Any financial implications from investment in scale up and spread of improvement activity will be included with future proposals.

8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 The draft Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2026-36 has been developed in line with the requirements of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015.
- 8.2 The draft Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2026-36 also supports the Council in meeting its duties under the Fairer Scotland Duty (Part 1 of the Equality Act 2010).

9. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 The draft Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2026-36 identifies one Ten Year outcome which will demonstrate positive environmental implications. The draft Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2026-36 Ten Year Outcomes and system changes have been aligned to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

10. RISK

Category	Risks	Primary Controls/Control Actions to achieve Target Risk Level	*Target Risk Level (L, M or H) *taking into account controls/control actions	*Does Target Risk Level Match Appetite Set?
Strategic Risk	There is a risk of the sustainability of Ten Year Outcomes.	The Community Planning Aberdeen Outcome Management and Improvement Framework sets out how Community Planning Aberdeen ensures effective, systematic and collaborative scrutiny of progress towards the achievement of outcomes within the Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2026-36. Community Planning Aberdeen also needs to meet its statutory duties in relation to public outcome reporting. The Community Planning Aberdeen Annual Outcome Improvement Report provides an annual opportunity to review overall progress. Reporting arrangements should ensure that any issues are identified and addressed in advance of annual report.	L	Yes
Compliance	Compliance with the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015	Draft Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2026-36 has been developed in compliance with the requirements of the Act.	L	Yes
Operational	Staff have the skills and knowledge of improvement methodology to deliver the system changes within the draft Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2026-2036	A comprehensive capacity building programme has been developed by experts in improvement methodology across the Partnership and is available to all members of staff from Partner organisations.	L	Yes

Financial	The Council alone is unable to resource the improvement activity required to deliver the outcomes within the draft Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2026-2036	By working in Partnership the Council is able to maximise the use of precious resources. The use of improvement methodology to deliver the Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2026-36 means that changes are tested on a small scale to evidence impact before any serious investment is required. External funding will be considered Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2026-36 improvement teams to support testing of improvements.	L	Yes
Reputational	That the draft Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2026-2036 priorities do not cover all areas of potential improvement which may have a negative impact on the public's perception of the Council and Partnership working.	The Local Outcome Improvement Plan identified priorities for Partnership working based on the needs of the population, customer and community insight and professional opinion of experts across the Community Planning Partnership. A communication plan will be put in place.	L	Yes
Environment / Climate	No significant risks identified			Yes

11. OUTCOMES

Council Delivery Plan 2024	
Impact of Report	
Aberdeen City Council Policy Statement <u>Working in Partnership for Aberdeen</u>	The Community Planning Aberdeen Board recommends that the Council's strategies/delivery plan are reviewed to ensure alignment with the new Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2026-36.

Local Outcome Improvement Plan	
Prosperous Economy Stretch Outcomes	The draft Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2026-36 proposes five Ten Year Outcomes, aligned to the Social Determinants of Health. Proposed Ten Year Outcomes: 2 “Reduce to 3% the proportion of people aged 16 and above in Scottish index of Multiple Deprivation 1 that are not in employment by 2036, 3 “Reduce the proportion of people living in relative poverty by 6.5% by 2036”. The improvement aims and system changes aligned to each of the above Ten Year Outcomes support achieving a Prosperous Economy.
Prosperous People Stretch Outcomes	The draft Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2026-36 proposes five Ten Year Outcomes, aligned to the Social Determinants of Health. Proposed Ten Year Outcomes: 1 “95% of young people in the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 1 and vulnerable groups achieve a positive destination on leaving school by 2036.” 3 “Reduce the proportion of people living in relative poverty by 6.5% by 2036”. 5 “Increase Healthy Life Expectancy by at least 2 years by 2036 and reduce gap in Life Expectancy between the most and least deprived areas by 20% by 2036.” The improvement aims and system changes aligned to each of the above Ten Year Outcomes support achieving Prosperous People.
Prosperous Place Stretch Outcomes	The draft Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2026-36 proposes five Ten Year Outcomes, aligned to the Social Determinants of Health. Proposed Ten Year Outcome 2 “Reduce to 3% the proportion of people aged 16 and above in Scottish index of Multiple Deprivation 1 that are not in employment by 2036, the improvement aims and system changes support achieving a Prosperous Economy.
Regional and City Strategies	The draft Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2026-36 sets out the regional and city strategies aligned to each of the Ten Year outcomes and all partners have been asked to update and submit their strategic plans to show how they align to the draft Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2026-36.

12. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Assessment	Outcome
Integrated Impact Assessment	Integrated Impact Assessment completed and submitted.
Data Protection Impact Assessment	Not required
Other	N/A

13. BACKGROUND PAPERS

[Refreshed Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2016-26](#)

14. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Draft Public Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2026-2036

Appendix 2 – [Draft Full Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2026-2036](#)

15. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

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Draft Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2026-36

Public Version



Community
Planning
Aberdeen



Community Planning Aberdeen (CPA) is working to tackle the root causes of inequality, not just the symptoms. The vision is for

“Aberdeen city to become a place where everyone has equitable access to opportunities, services, and support to live healthy, safe, and fulfilling lives regardless of background or postcode.”

The barriers and inequalities that already exist mean that some individuals and communities will need additional resources and support to turn this vision into a reality. Right now, **you** may not be one of these people, but some of your **family** members, **friends** and **colleagues** will be.

The 2026–36 Local Outcome Improvement Plan, or LOIP for short, explains what extra help will become available to people who need it.

At the same time, **everyone** will continue to have access to regular services, like education, health care and policing, that are already provided in the city, making Aberdeen a healthier and fairer place for all of us to live in.

The 2026–36 Local Outcome Improvement Plan, or LOIP for short, has 5 ambitious ten year targets that have been identified to help achieve this vision by 2036. There are 15 changes being made to our current ways of working to achieve the ten year targets.

Data collected about our lives in Aberdeen right now, and feelings and opinions people have shared about their experiences of living, learning and working in the city have been used to decide what these changes should be.

The changes should improve quality of life in Aberdeen city across these areas:

1. Childhood experiences
2. Working lives and access to work
3. Poverty
4. The natural environment
5. Healthy life expectancy

You can access the [draft Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2026-36 here](#)

You can access the [glossary here](#)



1. Childhood experiences



Aberdeen city today

Children from wealthier areas are reaching developmental milestones, the things that children typically achieve by certain ages like walking, talking, more quickly than children from deprived areas.

Young people from deprived areas have told us they feel less safe and confident.

Pupils from deprived areas are achieving less than half the qualifications of wealthier pupils.



Changes we are making

Ensuring vulnerable families have the same case worker supporting them for as long as they need them; and making it easier for families to get support while waiting for a neurodevelopmental diagnosis.

Local safe spaces created with young people, where young people at risk of harm can get support, try new activities, including help for boys to build positive relationships.

Offering young people at risk of not completing school individual support to meet their needs including ongoing work experience opportunities as part of their school day.



What we want to happen in 5 years

More children from deprived areas meet their developmental milestones.

More young people report they feel safe, resilient and empowered.

More vulnerable young people achieve the same qualifications as their peers.



What we want to happen in 10 years

More vulnerable young people are in work, training or education after school.

95% of young people in the city's most deprived areas and vulnerable groups are achieving a **positive and sustained destination** on leaving school.



2. Working lives and access to work



Aberdeen city today

The number of growth sector businesses and jobs have declined.



More people from our most deprived communities are not in work.



People from ethnic minorities, deprived backgrounds, young people, and those without qualifications have lower employment rates and are less likely to be in work, and if they are in work, are more likely to be employed under unfair conditions.

Changes we are making

Making it easier for people to get jobs in the areas where there is highest demand including access to support and training. This includes developing a network of social enterprises to support job opportunities within local communities.

Putting employment support and training opportunities, such as a hospitality kitchen, in accessible places in the community. Placing greater value on life skills alongside work experience and qualifications during the recruitment process.

Develop a Fair Work Charter and encourage employers to sign up. This means on top of meeting legal requirements like paying the minimum wage, employers would also make voluntary improvements, like paying the real living wage, providing opportunities for people who find it hard to get work and focusing on wellbeing in the workplace.

What we want to happen in 5 years

Increase in people employed in growth and in demand sectors.



Higher employment rates for vulnerable groups.



More people in fair work condition jobs.

What we want to happen in 10 years

Working lives and wages in Aberdeen are fairer for ALL

The proportion of people in the city's most deprived areas who are **not in employment** has reduced to **3%**.



3. Poverty



Aberdeen city today

Too many people in Aberdeen face impossible choices between food and heating their homes.

Too many people living in relative poverty feel powerless and unheard.

Too many people are at risk of homelessness because support for them is not joined up.



Changes we are making

Providing many types of support in the same location or through the same person at the same time, for example, food sharing, financial empowerment, and employability services.

A new approach to help more people, especially those who've experienced problems, help design, decide and deliver the services in their community.

Develop new ways to identify people who may be at risk of homelessness much earlier and once identified providing the support needed and housing options so fewer people experience homelessness.



What we want to happen in 5 years

Fewer people will have to choose between eating and heating.

More people will feel empowered and in control.

Significantly less homelessness.



What we want to happen in 10 years

More people living in Aberdeen city have been lifted out of poverty.

The proportion of people living in relative **poverty** has reduced by 6.5%.



4. The natural environment



Aberdeen city today

The number of green spaces in the city is declining and people in wealthier areas of the city are more likely to take part in nature-based activities.

Fossil fuels are the main energy source in the city.

Climate risks are growing.



Changes we are making

Making Aberdeen a City for Nature. This means creating more little parks, places to grow food and flowers, and green path so more people can enjoy nature and walk and cycle more.

Work with communities to develop alternative energy solutions, like heat, power and solar.

People and businesses within the same neighbourhoods working together to reduce waste and carbon emissions, reusing materials, and sharing resources. This could be achieved using incentives, rewards and recognition.



What we want to happen in 5 years

More people feel connected to their neighbourhood and there are fewer barriers to enjoying green spaces.

More people agree that their community has taken steps to prepare for climate change and more people are able to and want to actively participate in making improvements for nature and climate.



What we want to happen in 10 years

Aberdeen is a healthier, wealthier and greener city for ALL.

Reduce carbon emissions by 84% and increase land managed for nature to 30%.



5. Healthy life expectancy

Aberdeen city today

Preventable poor health and deaths are still occurring at an unacceptable level, particularly in the most deprived areas.

Healthy life expectancy in Aberdeen city is declining and people living in the most deprived areas experience poorer health outcomes.

It is difficult to understand how to access the right support at the right time.



Changes we are making

Every service helps prevent health issues linked to poor mental health and wellbeing, substance use, weight, and domestic abuse ensuring everyone takes action to reduce harm as part of their normal work.

Provide more support locally for people with complex or multiple health needs, helping to tackle loneliness, isolation and stigma.

Introducing new treatment and recovery options for people involved in drug and alcohol offences, or gambling.



What we want to happen in 5 years

Preventable poor health deaths have reduced, particularly in the most deprived areas.

More people can manage their own health and wellbeing very well and feel safer in their communities making improvements for nature and climate.



What we want to happen in 10 years

People's lives in Aberdeen city are healthier and happier for longer.

Healthy Life Expectancy has increased by at least 2 years and the gap in Life Expectancy between the most and least deprived areas reduced by 20%.



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Community Planning Aberdeen

What is the Community Planning Partnership?

The Community Planning Partnership, known as Community Planning Aberdeen, is made up of 12 public service organisations - Aberdeen City Council, ACVO (Aberdeen Council for Voluntary Organisations), Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership, NHS Grampian, North East Scotland College, Police Scotland, Skills Development Scotland, Scottish Enterprise, NESTRANS, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, Robert Gordon University, and the University of Aberdeen. It develops and delivers the Local Outcome Improvement Plan. It also works collectively with our communities, third sector and private organisations. It develops and delivers the Local Outcome Improvement Plan.

For further information or to get involved in the Local Outcome Improvement Plan contact the Community Planning Team communityplanning@aberdeencity.gov.uk



ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Anti-Poverty and Inequality Committee
DATE	11 March 2026
EXEMPT	No
CONFIDENTIAL	No
REPORT TITLE	Draft Locality Plans North, South, and Central 2026-36
REPORT NUMBER	CORS/26/042
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	Andy MacDonald, Corporate Services Fiona Mitchellhill, Chief Officer, ACHSCP
CHIEF OFFICER	Michelle Crombie (on behalf of Isla Newcombe), Alison MacLeod, Strategy and Transformation Lead, ACHSCP
REPORT AUTHOR	Jade Leyden, Locality Planning and Community Development Manager Iain Robertson, Transformation Programme Manager- Communities, ACHSCP
TERMS OF REFERENCE	1.1 and 1.10

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report presents the draft Locality Plans for North, South, and Central 2026-36 for the Committee's feedback as part of the consultation which ends on 20 March 2026. The final plans are to be considered by the Community Planning Aberdeen Board on 11 June 2026.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Committee:-

- 2.1 Consider and provide feedback on the three draft Locality Plans 2026-36 presented as Appendix 1, Appendix 2, and Appendix 3; and
- 2.2 Consider the draft Locality Plans for North, South, and Central 2026-36 in conjunction with the draft Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) 2026-36 (Item 9.2) which connects the Locality Plans with citywide system changes and improvement aims.

3. CURRENT SITUATION

- 3.1 The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 states that in preparing and publishing the LOIP and Locality Plans, we must take into account the needs and circumstances of people residing in Aberdeen and consult as it considers appropriate. This report presents revised Locality Plans for 2026-36 which will replace the current Locality Plans 2021-26.

- 3.2 Between 24 March to 18 May 2025, the Your Place, Your Plans, Your Future public engagement was held to support the evidence base for the development of Locality Plans. The engagement included a combination of the following:
- An online survey for adults
 - An online survey designed for children and young people
 - Six locality events, with specific activities designed by the Aberdeen Youth Movement and Aberdeen Ambassadors for children and young people
 - An outreach programme where, with the support of third sector partners, we went to 98 groups/schools/locations across Aberdeen.
- 3.3 A total of 2087 people participated, a 344% increase since our Place Standard engagement as part of the refreshed Local Outcome Improvement Plan and Locality Plans in 2023.
- 3.4 Since the Your Place, Your Plans, Your Future engagement programme in March 2025, Community Planning Aberdeen partners have been working together to host Community Idea Workshops across the city. These workshops brought people together to share ideas to help improve local areas. We've focused on actions we can take together, whether that's building skills and confidence, working in partnership, or finding extra funding. At the heart of this work is a commitment to trust, community ownership, and making sure everyone feels a strong sense of identity and belonging. By listening to lived experiences and using local data, we're supporting communities to shape the future in ways that matter most to them.
- 3.5 The Locality Planning Team prepared a Learning Journey for each for our Locality areas in November 2025 which outlined the emerging priorities and community ideas for improvement which was presented to the Community Planning Board on 19 November 2025.
- 3.6 The Locality Planning Team hosted community engagement sessions in each of our three localities during November 2025 to ask community members to prioritise which ideas they wanted most to be included in our Locality Plans.
- 3.7 Following these events, the Locality Planning Team undertook a prioritisation exercise to assess which ideas would be taken forward into the new Locality Plans. Each idea was assessed using the criteria below:
1. Is the idea similar to another idea, and could be combined?
 2. Would the idea deliver one of the Locality Plan's priority outcomes?
 3. Would it be supported by the local community?
 4. Would it be supported by the Community Planning Partnership?
 5. Does the idea align with a broader system idea within the new 10 year LOIP?
 6. Does the Locality Planning Team have a lead partner from the Community Planning Partnership, the third sector, or our communities we could work with to deliver the idea?
 7. Is the community idea deliverable using existing resources?

4. DRAFT LOCALITY PLANS 2026-36

- 4.1 The new Locality Plans are structured around the social determinants of health to align with Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2026-36 and other local strategies. See Appendices 1,2, and 3 for the North, South and Central Locality Plans.
- 4.2 Actions within Locality Plans focus on both our Priority Neighborhoods and communities within the wider Locality. This aligns with Marmot principles on Proportionate Universalism and takes into account feedback from community members that previous Locality Plans did not have specific actions for non-priority neighborhoods. Test areas were assigned based on community feedback, a willingness from a community partner to work with us to deliver an action, or based on evidence from a data source such as our Population Needs Assessment.
- 4.3 Aberdeen City has been awarded funding through the Pride in Place programme to focus on North Locality Priority Neighbourhoods of Cummings Park, Heathryfold and Middlefield, Northfield, and Mastrick. The programme reflects and complements the priorities of the North Locality Plan and provides a potential mechanism to support related activity.
- 4.4 The Locality Plans are short, concise, and use plain English. This reflects feedback we have received from community members.
- 4.5 Asset Walls have been included in all three Locality Plans to set out the assets and resources community members have identified within their neighborhoods which make a positive contribution to the community's social determinants of health. The intention is for each Asset Wall to be uploaded onto the Communities page of the Community Planning website and be updated as more assets are identified. This will hopefully embed the concept of an asset based approach and continue to build momentum for greater community empowerment within our localities.

5 NEXT STEPS

- 5.1 Finalisation of the three Locality Plans 2026-36 will run parallel with the development of the Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2026-36 as per the steps below.

16 February-20 March 2026	Public Consultation of Draft Locality Plans alongside draft Locality Plans 2026-36
April 2026	Final amendments made based on feedback from public consultation
May 2026	Submission of final Locality Plans to Locality Empowerment Groups and Priority Neighbourhood Partnerships
11 June 2026	Final Local Outcome Improvement Plan submitted to Community Planning Aberdeen Board for approval
30 June 2026	Final North, South and Central Locality Plans submitted to Integration Joint Board for endorsement

1 July 2026	Final Local Outcome Improvement Plan submitted to Council for endorsement
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5.2 The new Locality Plans are rolling ten-year plans which, once approved, will be reviewed annually as part of the annual reporting process and fully refreshed every 5 years.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no immediate financial implications involved in the delivery of Locality Plans. Any financial implications from investment in scale up and spread of improvement activity will be included with future proposals.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 The draft Locality Plans 2026-36 have been developed in line with the requirements of the Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014 and the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015.

7.2 The draft Locality Plans 2026-36 also support the Council to meet its duties under the Fairer Scotland Duty (Part 1 of the Equality Act 2010).

8. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 The draft Locality Plans alignment with the five Social Determinants of Health, particularly the Neighbourhood and Environment determinant will have positive environmental implications. All three Locality Plans are linked to system changes and improvement aims which will help the Council to work towards the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

9. RISK

Category	Risks	Primary Controls/Control Actions to achieve Target Risk Level	*Target Risk Level (L, M or H) *taking into account controls/control actions	*Does Target Risk Level Match Appetite Set?
Strategic Risk	There is a risk of the sustainability of LOIP stretch outcomes impacting on Locality Plans	The draft Locality Plans are closely aligned with the draft LOIP 2026-36 and sustainability of stretch outcomes and system changes would have an impact on delivery of Locality Plans. The Community Planning Aberdeen Outcome Management and	L	Yes

		Improvement Framework sets out how Community Planning Aberdeen ensures effective, systematic and collaborative scrutiny of progress towards the achievement of outcomes within the Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2026-36. Community Planning Aberdeen also needs to meet its statutory duties in relation to public outcome reporting. The Community Planning Aberdeen Annual Outcome Improvement Report and Locality Planning Annual Performance Reports provide an annual opportunity to review overall progress. Reporting arrangements should ensure that any issues are identified and addressed in advance of annual report.		
Compliance	Compliance with Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014; and Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015	Draft Locality Plans 2026-36 have been developed in compliance with the requirements of both Acts.	L	Yes
Operational	Staff have the skills and knowledge, and capacity to support delivery of Locality Plans	An integrated Locality Planning Team was set up in 2023 comprising officers from ACHSCP and Aberdeen City Council to jointly deliver Locality Plans and make best use of limited resource. The integrated team provides more capacity and broader skills to effectively deliver Locality Plans.	L	Yes
Financial	The Council alone is unable to resource the	By working in Partnership the Council is able to maximise the use of resources. The Locality	L	Yes

	improvement activity required to deliver the priorities within the draft Locality Plans 2026-2036	Planning Team will work closely with Community Planning partners, third sector partners, faith groups, the private sectors, and community groups to jointly deliver the Locality Plans.		
Reputational	That the draft Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2026-2036 priorities do not cover all areas of potential improvement which may have a negative impact on the public's perception of the Council and Partnership working.	Following extensive and broad community engagement from March 2025 to the present day, proposed actions within the Locality Plans were derived from community ideas and informed by our data and what our communities were telling us needed to improve. A communication plan covering the new LOIP and Locality Plans will be put in place.	L	Yes
Environment / Climate	No significant risks identified			Yes

10. OUTCOMES

Council Delivery Plan 2024	
Impact of Report	
Aberdeen City Council Policy Statement <u>Working in Partnership for Aberdeen</u>	The Community Planning Aberdeen Board recommends that the Council's strategies/delivery plan are reviewed to ensure alignment with the new Local Outcome Improvement Plan and associated Locality Plans 2026-36.
<u>Local Outcome Improvement Plan</u>	
Prosperous Economy Stretch Outcomes	The draft Locality Plans 2026-36 are aligned to the Social Determinants of Health and will support achievement of proposed Stretch Outcomes: 2 "Reduce to 3% the proportion of people aged 16 and above in Scottish index of Multiple Deprivation 1 that are not in employment by 2036,

	<p>3 “Reduce the proportion of people living in relative poverty by 6.5% by 2036”.</p> <p>The improvement aims and system changes aligned to each of the above Stretch Outcomes support achieving a Prosperous Economy.</p>
Prosperous People Stretch Outcomes	<p>The draft Locality Plans 2026-36 are aligned to the Social Determinants of Health and will support achievement of proposed Stretch Outcomes:</p> <p>1 “95% of young people in the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 1 and vulnerable groups achieve a positive destination on leaving school by 2036.”</p> <p>3 “Reduce the proportion of people living in relative poverty by 6.5% by 2036”.</p> <p>5 “Increase Healthy Life Expectancy by at least 2 years by 2036 and reduce gap in Life Expectancy between the most and least deprived areas by 20% by 2036.”</p> <p>The improvement aims and system changes aligned to each of the above Stretch Outcomes support achieving Prosperous People.</p>
Prosperous Place Stretch Outcomes	<p>The draft Locality Plans 2026-36 are aligned to the Social Determinants of Health and will support achievement of proposed Stretch Outcomes:</p> <p>2 “Reduce to 3% the proportion of people aged 16 and above in Scottish index of Multiple Deprivation 1 that are not in employment by 2036,</p> <p>3 “Reduce the proportion of people living in relative poverty by 6.5% by 2036”.</p> <p>The improvement aims and system changes aligned to each of the above Stretch Outcomes support achieving a Prosperous Place.</p>
Regional and City Strategies	<p>The draft Locality Plans are designed to align with regional and city strategies and the Locality Planning Team are currently engaging with key partners to formalise these links.</p>

11. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Assessment	Outcome
Integrated Impact Assessment	Integrated Impact Assessment completed and submitted.
Data Protection Impact Assessment	Not required
Other	N/A

12. BACKGROUND PAPERS

[Refreshed Locality Plans 2016-26](#)

13. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Draft North Locality Plan
Appendix 2 – Draft South Locality Plan
Appendix 3 - Draft Central Locality Plan

12. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

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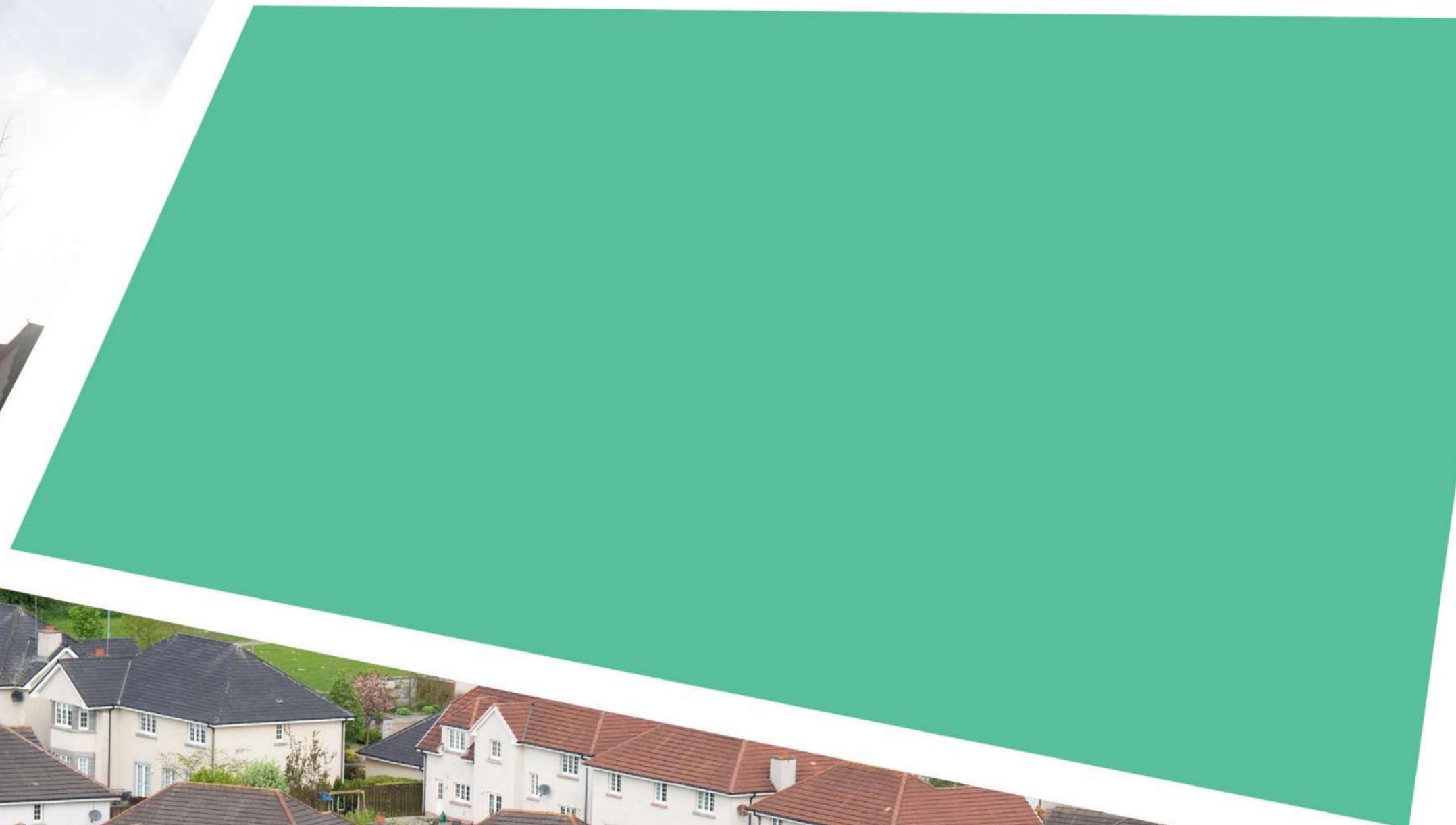
**Community
Planning
Aberdeen**

North Locality Plan

2026-2036

North Locality Neighbourhoods:

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



Introduction

What is Locality Planning?

Locality Planning means working together with local communities to create plans that make life better for everyone. Community Planning Aberdeen believes these plans succeed when shaped and delivered with the people who live here. Locality Planning will support the conditions for greater partnership working to maximise the strengths of our partners, communities, local groups, businesses, and faith organisations around common goals.

By law, Community Planning Aberdeen and the Health & Social Care Partnership must create plans for Aberdeen's three localities: North, Central, and South. These plans show where we'll focus our efforts and resources. Times are challenging, we have less resources and funding at our disposal, we are an ageing society with growing health inequalities who have experienced significant disruption to our local economy caused by the oil and gas downturn, and we are all feeling the impact of climate change. Success depends on us all working together.

What are Priority Neighbourhoods and why do they require additional focus and resources?

Some neighbourhoods face bigger challenges and unfair barriers, so they need more support. Focusing extra resources in Northfield, Mastrick, Cummings Park, Middlefield and Heathryfold helps make sure people who need the most help get it. In addition, these neighbourhoods have also been awarded [Pride in Place](#) funding, which will work with the community to support and enhance the sense of pride and ownership amongst residents.

This targeted support sits alongside the **universal services everyone can access**:



What's the North Locality Plan?

Our plan sets out what we want to achieve over the next 10 years to reduce inequalities and improve life for everyone in the North Locality. It includes:

- Where we are now – facts, figures, and what communities told us matters most
- Our Ideas – the changes we'll focus on
- How We'll Deliver – working together with partners and communities

Our Journey

Developing the North Locality Plan

March - May 2025

We invited local people to share what they thought was good and what could be improved in their community.

Engagement activities included:

- An online survey for adults.
- An online survey designed for children and young people
- Six locality events with activities created by Aberdeen Youth Movement and Aberdeen Ambassadors for children and young people.
- An outreach programme where we visited 98 groups, schools, and locations across Aberdeen to facilitate participation.

We reached out through services, community and third sector groups, personal networks, and social media. Press releases and newsletter stories were issued to encourage involvement.

October - November 2025

We hosted a final North Locality event at Northfield Community Centre with the local community to share findings and gain further insight.

May-October 2025

We explored key areas for improvement identified across the North Locality.

Community members identified existing strengths and assets—such as people, places, and groups—and brainstormed practical ideas to make a difference.

Sessions encouraged collaboration and community-led solutions, supported and co-delivered by Community Planning partners.

Outreach sessions and a digital option were offered for those unable to attend full workshops.

All contributions were valued and recorded to help shape the North Locality Plan.

November - June 2025-26

Draft Locality Plans developed and out to public consultation before approval.

...Start working together on delivering our North Locality Plan!

North Community Asset Wall

Our Asset Wall is a visual way of showing all the great things that people value in the North Locality. We use the Asset Wall to celebrate what's good, and to help us build on these strengths as we work towards better outcomes for everyone across the North Locality.

Byron Square

shmu

Volunteers

Middlefield
Hub

Jacqui
Innes

Community
Buildings

North PNP

The Cubby

Byron Football
Club

Northfield Pool
and Gym

Centre Based
Staff

Mugga

Dyce Knit &
Natter

Dyce Church

Cummings
Park
Centre

Byron Boxing
Club

Northfield
Community
Centre

Pathways

Mastrick
Community Council

Northfield
Academy
the Crew

Northfield
Church

North LEG

Mastrick
Community
Centre

Food
Banks

Safe Space

Skate Park

Andys Mans
Club

Mastrick
Library

Bridge of Don
Mens Shed

The People

Dyce
Community
Centre

Community
Spirit

Youth
Groups

Mastrick
Pensioners
Club

Uniformed
Organisations

Our Priorities for the North Locality

Following consultation and engagement with our communities across the North Locality we have identified 6 priority outcomes and have aligned these to the Social Determinant of Health below:

Economic Stability <i>Helping people feel more financially secure</i>	Health and Social Care <i>Making it easier for everyone to look after their health</i>	Children, Families and Lifelong Learning <i>Helping people learn, grow and thrive at any age</i>	Neighbourhood and Environment <i>Making sure the places people live feel safe, clean and enjoyable</i>	Communities and Housing <i>Creating friendly, connected communities where people feel they belong</i>
Reduce the number of people living in Poverty Support local employers to find staff	Improve the physical health and wellbeing of people	Widen low cost access to learning, creativity, and safe active living	Maximise use of outdoor space	Increase the number of people and groups involved in making improvements and decisions in their community

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What are the Social Determinants of Health?

Social determinants of health are the everyday things in our lives that affect how healthy we are. They are not about hospitals or medicine, but about the conditions we live in. People living in priority neighbourhoods may face more health-related challenges due to a range of reasons such as low income, poor quality housing, or a lack of access to community facilities. These communities often show great strengths, but can experience inequalities in access to healthcare, healthy environments, and other supports that influence wellbeing.

Why It Matters

Understanding social determinants helps us see that health is about more than just doctors and medicine. To improve health for everyone, we need to:

- Make sure people have good jobs, homes, and education.
- Support communities and reduce poverty.

Our Plan

Economic Stability

Priority 1: Reduce the number of people living in poverty

Priority 2: Support local employers to find staff

What the data is telling us...

- **Energy Insecurity:** 10.3% of people in North Locality worried they would not be able to heat their home compared to 16% of people living in Priority Neighbourhoods
- **Unemployment:** As at July 2025, there were 1,260 unemployment claimants in the North Locality which is up 1% from July 2024
- **Food Insecurity:** 10.4% of people in North Locality worried they would not have enough food to eat, compared to 10.9% of people living in Priority Neighbourhoods
- **Children in low income households:** 2,011 children under 15 years of age from North Locality live in low income households

Our ideas about how we will achieve this together	Universal or Targeted Provision	Where we will test our ideas	Community Partners we will work with (TBC)	Data that will tell us if we are improving	Link to the Local Outcome Improvement Plan
Deliver skill building workshops and more work experience opportunities to strengthen employability	Targeted	North Priority Neighbourhoods: Northfield, Mastrick, Cummings Park, Heathryfold and Middlefield	Northfield Men's Shed Middlefield Hub Pathways Aberdeen Cyrenians Skills Development Scotland Aberdeen City Council Local Employability Partnership Northfield Community Centre Mastrick Community Centre Danestone Community Centre SHMU SAMH	Number of individuals supported with employability within the community outreach model No. of people (by locality) with the local accreditation % of people with accreditation in employment	LOIP System Change: Clear Routes Into Growth and In Demand Sectors and Network for Social Enterprises
Increase intergenerational learning opportunities such as 'Try out the trades'	Targeted	Middlefield Northfield	Northfield Men's Shed Touch of Love Middlefield Hub/Bike Hub Pathways Aberdeen City Council CLD Youth Work Team	Number of young people attending 'try out the trades' sessions Number of learning networks established	LOIP 2031 Improvement Aim: Increase by 5% the percentage of residents from Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) 1 who report feeling connected to their neighbourhood
Deliver a North Locality Jobs Fayre	Targeted	North Priority Neighbourhoods: Northfield, Mastrick, Cummings Park, Heathryfold and Middlefield	Middlefield Hub Touch of Love Cummings Park Centre Pathways Skills Development Scotland	Number of people attending the Jobs Fayre Number of individuals supported with employability within the community outreach model	LOIP System Change: Clear Routes Into Growth and In Demand Sectors and Network for Social Enterprises

			Aberdeen City Council Local Employability Partnership Northfield Community Centre Mastrick Community Centre		
Roll out Cash First scheme to maximise income of people really struggling with cost of living	Targeted	North Priority Neighbourhoods: Northfield, Mastrick, Cummings Park, Heathryfold and Middlefield	Middlefield Hub Cummings Park Centre ACVO Aberdeen Cyrenians Aberdeen City Council Northfield Community Centre Mastrick Community Centre Danestone Community Centre SHMU	Number of households receiving direct cash support	LOIP System Change: Community Support and Hub Network
Post current opportunities on job noticeboards in community venues across the wider Northfield priority neighbourhood	Universal	North Priority Neighbourhoods: Northfield, Mastrick, Cummings Park, Heathryfold and Middlefield	Cummings Park Centre Mastrick, Sheddocksley, and Summerhill Community Council Pathways Northfield Community Centre Mastrick Community Centre	Number of job noticeboards across Northfield priority neighbourhood area which are kept up to date Number of individuals supported with employability within the community outreach model.	LOIP 2031 Improvement Aim: Increase the number of people employed in priority areas in targeted sectors to 10,000 by 2031.
Increase access to healthy, community grown food	Universal	North Priority Neighbourhoods: Northfield, Mastrick, Cummings Park, Heathryfold and Middlefield	CFINE Touch of Love Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership Middlefield Hub Cummings Park Centre University of Aberdeen Rowett Institute Springhill Community Garden	Number of people who report they have access to a variety of nutritious and healthy food % of people at a healthy weight in North Locality	LOIP System Change: All partners policies and service delivery to include harm prevention practice to reduce harm and support healthy lifestyles

Our Plan

Health and Social Care

Priority 3: Improve the physical health and wellbeing of people

What the data is telling us...

- **Drug related hospital stay rate** in North Locality is 147 people per 100,000 of the population, lower than the City average of 181 people per 100,000
- **Mental Health** 20.5% of people in North Locality are prescribed drugs for anxiety, depression or psychosis, this is higher than the Aberdeen City figure of 17.4%
- **Life Expectancy** in the North Locality for 2021-23 was on average 81 years for women and 77 years for men
- **Suicide** The rate of death from suicide in the North Locality is 12.6 people per 100,000 of the population, this is above the Aberdeen City average of 11.1 people per 100,000 of the population

Our ideas about how we will achieve this together	Universal or Targeted Provision	Where we will test our ideas	Community Partners we will work with (TBC)	Data that will tell us if we are improving	Link to the Local Outcome Improvement Plan
Establish a Northfield Health Matters Network to provide access to more local health and wellbeing support for the wider Northfield area	Targeted	North Priority Neighbourhoods: Northfield, Mastrick, Cummings Park, Heathryfold and Middlefield	Sport Aberdeen Middlefield Hub Cummings Park Centre Touch of Love Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership Northfield Community Centre SHMU	Number of partners actively engaged in Northfield Health Matters Network Number of events delivered by the Network to reduce health inequalities across the Northfield Priority Neighbourhood area	LOIP 2031 Improvement Aim: By 2031, 10% reduction in deaths in Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 1 from alcohol and drugs and coronary heart disease and a 10% reduction in suicide rate city wide
Enable more people to attend GP appointments	Targeted	North Priority Neighbourhoods: Northfield, Mastrick, Cummings Park, Heathryfold and Middlefield	Middlefield Hub Nestrans via Transport to Healthcare Information Centre (THInC) Touch of Love Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership King's Community Foundation	Number of community volunteers recruited by neighbourhood Number of local services supporting people to attend GP appointments	LOIP 2031 Improvement Aim: By 2031, achieve a 17% increase in the proportion of adults reporting that they are able to manage their own health and wellbeing 'very well' and a 15% increase in the proportion of residents who report feeling safe in their communities.
More chair based sessions in communities catering for children and young people with disabilities and special needs	Targeted	Bucksburn Middlefield Cummings Park	Sport Aberdeen Middlefield Hub Cummings Park Centre Danestone Community Centre	Number of chair based sessions for children and young people with disabilities and special needs delivered by neighbourhood across North Locality	LOIP 2031 Improvement Aim: By 2031, achieve a 17% increase in the proportion of adults reporting that they are able to manage their own health and wellbeing 'very well' and a 15% increase in the proportion of residents who report feeling safe in their communities.

Our Plan

Children, Families and Lifelong Learning

Priority 4: Widen low-cost access to learning, creativity, and safe active living

What the data is telling us...

- **Youth Volunteering:** 1622 young people from North Locality received a Saltire Award for volunteering
- **Counselling:** 100% of schools in North Locality offer counselling and Active School activities
- **Anti-Social Behaviour:** 3,303 Youth Anti-Social Behaviour calls were reported to the police (2024)
- **Crimes:** The most common crimes and offences in Aberdeen City were crimes of dishonesty (234 offences per 10,000 of the population), Road Traffic Offences (4,769 offences per 10,000 of the population), and non-sexual crimes of violence (3,412 offences per 10,000 of the population)
- **Road Safety:** In 2023, there were 109 reported road casualties in Aberdeen City of which, 4 were fatalities and 53 were serious injuries. The number of people injured in road traffic accidents has increased in each of the last two years (up from 64 in 2021 which is a 70% increase)

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Our ideas about how we will achieve this together	Universal or Targeted Provision	Where we will test our ideas	Community Partners we will work with (TBC)	Data that will tell us if we are improving	Link to the Local Outcome Improvement Plan
Create more opportunities for Additional Support Need (ASN) family members to participate and learn to become independent	Targeted	Bucksburn Middlefield Mastrick	Middlefield Hub Northfield Community Centre Mastrick Community Centre Touch of Love Danestone Community Centre SHMU	Number of sessions delivered in North Locality to support ASN family members' participation and independence	LOIP 2031 Improvement Aim: By 2031, achieve a 17% increase in the proportion of adults reporting that they are able to manage their own health and wellbeing 'very well ' and a 15% increase in the proportion of residents who report feeling safe in their communities.
Greater promotion of healthy eating in primary schools to help pupils identify, taste, and learn how to make different things with different fruit and vegetables	Universal	Dyce Northfield	Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership NHS Grampian Aberdeen City Council Northfield Community Centre	% of P7 pupils at a healthy weight % of P7 pupils with no obvious signs of tooth decay	LOIP System Change: All partners policies and service delivery to include harm prevention practice to reduce harm and support healthy lifestyles
Designate space for graffiti and free art walls for murals	Universal	North Priority Neighbourhoods: Northfield, Mastrick, Cummings Park, Heathryfold and Middlefield	Middlefield Hub Northfield Men's Shed Outlines Creative Aberdeen City Council CLD Youth Work Team Befriend a Child	Number of spaces in North Locality made available for graffiti or murals	LOIP 2031 Improvement Aim: Increase by 5% the number of young people who report always feeling safe in their school, community and home by 2031

			Northfield Community Centre Danestone and Persley Community Council SHMU		
More cycling proficiency tests to encourage safe cycling from an early age	Universal	Oldmachar, Middlefield	Cycling Scotland Aberdeen City Council Sport Aberdeen Walk Wheel Cycle Trust Nestrans Northfield Community Centre	Number of North Locality children who've passed cycling proficiency test	LOIP System Change: City For Nature Movement - Expanding Access to Nature Through Pocket Parks, Growing Spaces and Green Travel Routes
Set up an intergenerational group to enable access to musical instruments and tuition to provide mentorship, improve wellbeing and develop lifelong learning	Targeted	North Priority Neighbourhoods: Northfield, Mastrick, Cummings Park, Heathryfold and Middlefield	Middlefield Hub Touch of Love King's Community Foundation	Number of young people attending the music group % of 12-18 year old boys reporting sense of belonging or connection to peers % of young people engaged in the safe space report a 'strong' relationship with trusted professionals	LOIP System Change: Safe, co-designed spaces for at-risk young people offering onsite support, person centred activities, and healthy relationship programme
Organise community events, groups, and networks to support men and teenage boy's mental health and wellbeing	Universal	Bridge of Don Kingswells Middlefield Northfield	Middlefield Hub/Bike Hub Northfield Men's Shed Sport Aberdeen Aberdeen Football Club Community Trust Touch of Love Police Scotland Aberdeen City Council CLD Youth Work SAMH Men in Mind Befriend a Child Northfield Community Centre Mastrick Community Centre Danestone Community Centre King's Community Foundation SAMH	Number of events and groups set up to support men and teenage boys' mental health and wellbeing % of 12-18 year old boys reporting sense of belonging or connection to peers % of young people engaged in the safe space report a 'strong' relationship with trusted professionals	LOIP System Change: Safe, co-designed spaces for at-risk young people offering onsite support, person centred activities, and healthy relationship programme
Create a platform to celebrate young peoples' skills and achievements	Universal	Danestone	Sport Aberdeen Touch of Love Aberdeen City Council CLD Youth Work Team Befriend a Child King's Community Foundation	Number events set up by community partners to showcase young people's skills and achievements	LOIP Improvement Aim: Increase by 5% the number of young people who report always feeling safe in their school, community and home by 2031
Provide information to help parents and carers swap school uniforms to save money	Universal	Summerhill Sheddocksley Middlefield	Middlefield Hub Touch of Love Sport Aberdeen Cummings Park Centre University of Aberdeen King's Community Foundation	Number of Associated School Groups which provide information to parents/carers on how to swap their children's school uniforms cost effectively	LOIP Improvement Aim: Reduce the proportion of people choosing between eating food and heating homes by 6.5% by 2031
Increase opportunities for relaxed youth work which is not provided by uniformed services	Targeted	Dyce Middlefield	Middlefield Hub Touch of Love Police Scotland Aberdeen City Council CLD Youth Work Team Befriend a Child Northfield Community Centre Mastrick Community Centre Danestone Community Centre SAMH	Number of young people (by locality) using the safe spaces % of young people engaged in the safe space report a 'strong' relationship with trusted professionals	LOIP System Change: Safe, co-designed spaces for at-risk young people offering onsite support, person centred activities, and healthy relationship programme

Our Plan

Neighbourhood and Environment

Priority 5: Maximise use of outdoor space

What the data is telling us...

- **Severe Weather** 51.8% of people in North Locality were worried about severe weather on their homes and local community. This compares to 60% of people who live in priority neighbourhoods
- **Greenspace Satisfaction** 65% of North Locality respondents to the city voice survey reported being satisfied with the overall quality of greenspace/open space compared to 45% of people living in North Priority Neighbourhoods
- **Active Travel** 4.4% of people in the North Locality cycled compared to the citywide average of 9.5%

Our ideas about how we will achieve this together		Where we will test our ideas	Community Partners we will work with (TBC)	Data that will tell us if we are improving	Link to the Local Outcome Improvement Plan
Support communities to improve local areas through litter picks and clean ups	Targeted	Danestone Middlefield	Middlefield Hub Nestrans Northfield Community Centre Danestone and Persley Community Council King's Community Foundation	% of neighbourhoods with community groups supporting nature & environment	LOIP System Change: City For Nature Movement - Expanding Access to Nature Through Pocket Parks, Growing Spaces and Green Travel Routes
Improve access to play parks, equipment, and greenspaces for people with disabilities	Universal	North Priority Neighbourhoods: Northfield, Mastrick, Cummings Park, Heathryfold and Middlefield Bridge of Don	Mastrick, Summerhill and Sheddocksley Community Council Cummings Park Centre Nestrans Aberdeen City Council Northfield Community Centre Mastrick Community Centre	% of people who agree that lack of accessible greenspaces is a barrier to accessing nature	LOIP System Change: City For Nature Movement - Expanding Access to Nature Through Pocket Parks, Growing Spaces and Green Travel Routes
Create more art for our greenspaces	Universal	Dyce Middlefield Northfield	Middlefield Hub Northfield Men's Shed Northfield Community Centre Mastrick Community Centre King's Community Foundation	Number of new art pieces added to parks and greenspaces across North Locality	LOIP 2031 Improvement Aim: Increase by 5% the percentage of residents from Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) 1 who report feeling connected to their neighbourhood and reduce by 10% the percentage reporting barriers to accessing nature by 2031

Our Plan

Communities and Housing

Priority 6: Increase the number of people and groups involved in making improvements and decisions in their community

What the data is telling us...

- **Community Information:** Just over half (51%) of City Voice respondents from North Locality agreed they would know where to find information about what is happening in their community
- **Identity and Belonging:** North Locality's sense of identity and belonging scored 3.8 out of 7 during the Place Standard community engagement exercise (2025)
- **Community Cohesion:** 39.4% of City Voice respondents in North Locality agreed they felt part of the community they live in

Our ideas about how we will achieve this together	Universal or Targeted Provision	Where we will test our ideas	Community Partners we will work with (TBC)	Data that will tell us if we are improving	Link to the Local Outcome Improvement Plan
Support communities to provide more outdoor recreational equipment such as outdoor gyms	Universal	North Priority Neighbourhoods: Northfield, Mastrick, Cummings Park, Heathryfold and Middlefield	Sport Aberdeen Middlefield Hub Northfield Community Centre (Boxing Club)	Number of places in North Locality with outdoor recreational equipment % increase in walking and cycling	LOIP 2031 Improvement Aim: Increase by 5% the percentage of residents from Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) 1 who report feeling connected to their neighbourhood and reduce by 10% the percentage reporting barriers to accessing nature by 2031
Support communities to hold more community galas and neighbourhood picnics	Targeted	North Priority Neighbourhoods: Northfield, Mastrick, Cummings Park, Heathryfold and Middlefield	Mastrick Community Centre Mastrick, Summerhill and Sheddocksley Community Council Cummings Park Centre Middlefield Community Hub Touch of Love Northfield Community Centre King's Community Foundation SHMU	Number of community galas and picnics held by community partners across North Locality % increase in local volunteering	LOIP 2031 Improvement Aim: Increase by 5% the percentage of residents from Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) 1 who report feeling connected to their neighbourhood and reduce by 10% the percentage reporting barriers to accessing nature by 2031
Set up local Tool Shed Libraries	Targeted	North Priority Neighbourhoods: Northfield, Mastrick, Cummings Park, Heathryfold and Middlefield	Mastrick, Summerhill and Sheddocksley Community Council Cummings Park Centre Nescan Danestone and Persely Community Council	Number of tool shed/gardening libraries set up	LOIP System Change: City For Nature Movement - Expanding Access to Nature Through Pocket Parks, Growing Spaces and Green Travel Routes

Base as many key services all under one roof i.e. post office, pharmacy, community centre - close to schools and housing. Increase wraparound support for local people	Universal	Across North Locality – locations of Community Assistance Hubs	Aberdeen City Council Aberdeen Cyrenians Danestone Community Centre	Number of community assistance hubs set up across North Locality Number of people receiving support at community assistance hubs	LOIP System Change: Community Support and Hub Network
Support communities to set up neighbourhood groups with a focus on community safety	Universal	Across North Locality	Police Scotland Community Safety Partnership	Number of active community safety neighbourhood groups across North Locality	LOIP 2031 Improvement Aim: Increase proportion of people that score positively for feelings of influence and sense of control by 7% by 2031 LOIP 2031 Improvement Aim: Achieve a 15% increase in the proportion of residents who report feeling safe in their communities.
Support funding applications and encourage cross neighbourhood funding applications from community groups	Universal	Across North Locality	ACVO Aberdeen City Council Locality Planning Team Northfield Community Centre	Number of successful applications to Fairer Aberdeen Fund from community groups across North Locality Number of successful applications for Participatory Budgeting from community groups across North Locality	LOIP 2031 Improvement Aim: Increase proportion of people that score positively for feelings of influence and sense of control by 7% by 2031
Set up forums to facilitate community conversations between New Scots, asylum seekers, refugees and local people	Universal	North Priority Neighbourhoods: Northfield, Mastrick, Cummings Park, Heathryfold and Middlefield	Middlefield Hub Touch of Love Mastrick, Summerhill and Sheddocksley Community Council Cummings Park Centre Aberdeen City Council King's Community Foundation SHMU	Number of community conversation forums held Number of people with diverse lived experience engaged	LOIP System Change: Community Collaborative Approach
Tenant feedback loops supported by Locality Partnerships and Tenant Participation	Targeted	Across the North Locality	Aberdeen City Council Aberdeen Tenants and Residents Partnership	% of tenant feedback actions addressed	LOIP 2031 Improvement Aim: Increase proportion of people that who feel they have influence and sense of control by 7% by 2031

Get Involved!

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

What's in it for you?

Our existing community representatives had this to say about what they get from participating:



Interested in finding out more? Our Locality Planning Team are happy to help! contact us on:

Localityplanning@aberdeencity.gov.uk

Your North Locality Planning Team

We understand the importance of working with communities to build a thriving environment for everyone. By engaging with local communities through our dedicated Locality Planning team, we aim to become more receptive, supportive and action oriented. Community input is extremely valuable to this work. The Locality Planning Team includes staff from Aberdeen City Council and the Aberdeen City Health and Social Care partnership working together to support improved outcome across all our localities and neighbourhoods. In the North Locality your locality planning contacts are Cath and Kev.

Cath McLeish
Health Improvement Officer
Aberdeen Health and Social Care Partnership
Tel. 01224 045671

Kev Donald
Community Development Officer
Aberdeen City Council
Tel. 01224053906



Stay Updated!



Join the Journey!

There are a number of ways to stay updated on what is going on in your neighbourhood. You can find out more, including our performance data on our Community Planning Aberdeen [website](#) here you will find:

- How we report back on our progress
- How to get involved in your next local community meeting
- Minutes of previous meetings
- Annual Reports
- Information and support around getting involved and making a difference to your local community

You can find out what's on your local area by visiting the ACVO [Events Calendar](#) or on Facebook by clicking [here](#)!

Supporting Information

Not every idea could be included, and here's why:

- Some improvements are already happening—we'll let services know if people weren't aware.
- Ideas outside locality planning's remit were shared with the right teams, like citywide plans or education services.
- Others couldn't progress yet due to limits on budget, time or resources, or they would impact on other plans for the City

Every idea matters - Even if something couldn't be included this time, your input helps shape priorities and conversations for the future.

Local Place Plans – these are different to locality plans!

[Local Place Plans](#) give communities a say in shaping where they live, work, and play. Introduced by planning legislation, they let communities create their own plans to influence the next Local Development Plan. These plans set out local ideas and aspirations for how *land* is used and developed—and they're created by the community, for the community.

It's important to us that everyone's voice is heard—including our young people. Through the **Aberdeen Youth Movement**, their ideas are not only reflected in the locality plan, but they're also helping to drive real change across our city. Want to find out more? Check out their [Linktree](#)!

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**Community
Planning
Aberdeen**

South Locality Plan

2026-2036

South Locality Neighbourhoods:

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



Introduction

What is Locality Planning?

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By law, Community Planning Aberdeen and the Health & Social Care Partnership must create plans for Aberdeen's three localities: North, Central, and South. These plans show where we'll focus our efforts and resources. Times are challenging, we have less resources and funding at our disposal, we are an ageing society with growing health inequalities who have experienced significant disruption to our local economy caused by the oil and gas downturn, and we are all feeling the impact of climate change. Success depends on us all working together.

What are Priority Neighbourhoods and why do they require additional focus and resources?

Some neighbourhoods face bigger challenges and unfair barriers, so they need more support. Focusing extra resources in Torry and Kincorth helps make sure people who need the most help get it.

This targeted support sits alongside the **universal services everyone can access**:



What's the South Locality Plan?

Our plan sets out what we want to achieve over the next 10 years to reduce inequalities and improve life for everyone in the South Locality. It includes:

- Where we are now – facts, figures, and what communities told us matters most
- Our Ideas – the changes we'll focus on
- How We'll Deliver – working together with partners and communities

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March - May 2025

We invited local people to share what they thought was good and what could be improved in their community.

Engagement activities included:

- An online survey for adults.
- An online survey designed for children and young people
- Six locality events with activities created by Aberdeen Youth Movement and Aberdeen Ambassadors for children and young people.
- An outreach programme where we visited 98 groups, schools, and locations across Aberdeen to facilitate participation.

We reached out through services, community and third sector groups, personal networks, and social media. Press releases and newsletter stories were issued to encourage involvement.

October - November 2025

We hosted a final South Locality event at Greyhope Community Hub, with the local community to share findings and gain further insight.



May-October 2025

We explored key areas for improvement identified across the South Locality.

Community members identified existing strengths and assets—such as people, places, and groups—and brainstormed practical ideas to make a difference.

Sessions encouraged collaboration and community-led solutions, supported and co-delivered by Community Planning partners.

Outreach sessions and a digital option were offered for those unable to attend full workshops.

All contributions were valued and recorded to help shape the South Locality Plan.

November - June 2025-26

Draft Locality Plans developed and out to public consultation before approval.

...Start working together on delivering our South Locality Plan!

South Community Asset Wall

Our Asset Wall is a visual way of showing all the great things that people value in the South Locality. We use the Asset Wall to celebrate what's good, and to help us build on these strengths as we work towards better outcomes for everyone across the South Locality.

PNP

Kincorth
Community Centre

Torry Community
Garden

Kincorth
Community Centre

Greyhope
Bay

Skate Parks

Libraries

Fishing
Industry

Cults
Community
Centre

Torry Battery

HALLA

The People

Balnagask
Community Centre

shmu

In your Power
(CIC)

Nigg Bay

Cults Community
Council

Swimming Pool

St. Fitticks
Park

Torry sea,
landscape and
parks

Neale Cooper
Cruyff Court

Deeside
Rotary Club

Old Torry
Community
Centre

Torry
Heritage

Bridge
Centre

Volunteers

Community
Spirit

Greyhope
Community Hub

Mens Groups

Deeside Way

Torry
Dancers

Big Noise

Our Priorities for the South Locality

Following consultation and engagement with our communities across the South Locality we have identified 6 priority outcomes and have aligned these to the Social Determinant of Health:

Economic Stability <i>Helping people feel more financially secure</i>	Health and Social Care <i>Improve the physical health and wellbeing of people</i>	Children, Families and Lifelong Learning <i>Helping people learn, grow and thrive at any age</i>	Neighbourhood and Environment <i>Making sure the places people live feel safe, clean and enjoyable</i>	Communities and Housing <i>Creating friendly, connected communities where people feel they belong</i>
Reduce the number of people living in Poverty Improve and create job opportunities	Focus on early intervention, prevention, and physical and mental wellbeing outcomes	Support children and young people to achieve their potential	Identify and maximise the use of greenspace and community food growing	Increase the number of people and groups involved in making improvements and decisions in their community

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What are the Social Determinants of Health?

Social determinants of health are the everyday things in our lives that affect how healthy we are. They are not about hospitals or medicine, but about the conditions we live in. People living in priority neighbourhoods may face more health-related challenges due to a range of reasons such as low income, poor quality housing, or a lack of access to community facilities. These communities often show great strengths, but can experience inequalities in access to healthcare, healthy environments, and other supports that influence wellbeing.

Why It Matters

Understanding social determinants helps us see that health is about more than just doctors and medicine. To improve health for everyone, we need to:

- Make sure people have good jobs, homes, and education.
- Support communities and reduce poverty.

Our Plan

Economic Stability

Priority 1: Reduce the number of people living in poverty

Priority 2: Improve and create job opportunities

What the data is telling us...

- **Energy Insecurity:** 10.3% of people in South Locality worried they would not be able to heat their home compared to 16% of people living in Priority Neighbourhoods
- **Unemployment:** As at July 2025, there were 1260 unemployment claimants in South Locality which is up 5% from July 2024
- **Food Insecurity:** 10.4% of people in South Locality worried they would not have enough food to eat, compared to 10.6% of people living in Priority Neighbourhoods
- **Children in low income households:** 1506 children under 15 years of age from South Locality live in low income households

Our ideas about how we will achieve this together	Universal or Targeted Provision	Where we will test our ideas	Community Partners we will work with (TBC)	Data that will tell us if we are improving	Link to the Local Outcome Improvement Plan
Improve access to food to create meals	Targeted	Torry and Kincorth	Aberdeen City Council Touch of Love CFINE Aberdeen Cyrenians Church of Scotland Torry Health Matters Balnagask Community Centre Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership NHS Grampian Ruthrieston Community Centre University of Aberdeen Rowett Institute	Number of community meals served Increase in number of people who report they have access to a variety of nutritious and healthy food	LOIP System Change: Community Support and Hub Network
Hold an accessible jobs fayre in South Locality	Universal	Garthdee	Pathways Skills Development Scotland Aberdeen City Council Local Employability Partnership SAMH	Number of people attending the Jobs Fayre Number of individuals supported with employability within the community outreach model	LOIP System Change: Clear Routes Into Growth and In Demand Sectors and Network for Social Enterprises
Support the roll out of Cash First scheme to	Targeted	Torry and Kincorth	ACVO	Number of households receiving	LOIP System Change: Community

maximise income of people really struggling with cost of living in South Locality			Aberdeen Cyrenians Aberdeen City Council	direct cash support	Support and Hub Network
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Our Plan

Health and Social Care

Priority 3: Focus on early intervention, prevention, and physical and mental wellbeing outcomes

What the data is telling us...

- **Drug related hospital stay rate** in South Locality is 116 people per 100,000 of the population, lower than the City average of 181 people per 100,000
- **Mental Health** 16.9% of people in South Locality are prescribed drugs for anxiety, depression or psychosis, this is lower than the Aberdeen City figure of 17.4%
- **Life Expectancy** in South Locality for 2021-23 was on average 82 years for women, and 79 years for men
- **Suicide** The rate of death from suicide in South Locality is 10.4 people per 100,000 of the population, this is below the Aberdeen City average of 11.1 people per 100,000 of the population

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Our ideas about how we will achieve this together	Universal or Targeted Provision	Where we will test our ideas	Community Partners we will work with (TBC)	Data that will tell us if we are improving	Link to the Local Outcome Improvement Plan
Increase drug alert messages in the community	Universal	Cove, Garthdee, Leggart and Nigg, Torry	Aberdeen Drugs Action Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership SHMU	Number of drug alert messages on roadway signs and billboards in South Locality	LOIP 2031 Improvement Aim: By 2031, 10% reduction in deaths in Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 1 from alcohol and drugs and coronary heart disease and a 10% reduction in suicide rate city wide.
Support the development of a Torry Men's Shed	Targeted	Torry	Torry Men's Shed Torry Health Matters SHMU	Number of men attending the Torry Men's Shed	LOIP 2031 Improvement Aim: Increase by 5% the percentage of residents from Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) 1 who report feeling connected to their neighbourhood

Our Plan

Children, Families and Lifelong Learning

Priority 4 : Support children and young people to achieve their potential

What the data is telling us...

- **Youth Volunteering:** 1123 young people from South Locality received a Saltire Award for volunteering
- **Counselling:** 100% of schools in South Locality offer counselling and Active School activities
- **Anti-Social Behaviour:** 3,303 Youth Anti-Social Behaviour calls were reported to the police (2024)
- **Crimes:** The most common crimes and offences in Aberdeen City were crimes of dishonesty (234 offences per 10,000 of the population), Road Traffic Offences (4,769 offences per 10,000 of the population), and non-sexual crimes of violence (3,412 offences per 10,000 of the population)
- **Road Safety:** In 2023, there were 109 reported road casualties in Aberdeen City of which, 4 were fatalities and 53 were serious injuries. The number of people injured in road traffic accidents has increased in each of the last two years (up from 64 in 2021 which is a 70% increase)

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Our ideas about how we will achieve this together	Universal or Targeted Provision	Where we will test our ideas	Community Partners we will work with (TBC)	Data that will tell us if we are improving	Link to the Local Outcome Improvement Plan
Explore funding and opportunities for local youth led activities such as street work, music projects and a youth cafe	Targeted	Torry, Kincorth	Big Noise Torry CLD Strategic Partnership Torry Dancers Touch of Love Aberdeen City Council CLD Youth Work Team Kincorth Community Centre Police Scotland Balnagask Community Centre Befriend a Child Jesus House Aberdeen Youth Movement Ruthrieston Community Centre Church of Scotland King's Community Foundation SAMH	Value of successful external funding applications to support youth projects in Kincorth Number of youth led activities active in Kincorth	LOIP System Change: Safe, co-designed spaces for at-risk young people offering onsite support, person centred activities, and healthy relationship programme
More free/low cost groups for people with young families	Universal	Torry, Kincorth, Cove	Big Noise Torry Torry Dancers Touch of Love	Number of new free/low cost community groups set up by community partners	LOIP 2031 Improvement Aim: Reduce the proportion of people choosing between eating food and heating homes by 6.5% by 2031

			<p>Balnagask Community Centre Aberdeen City Council Kincorth Community Council Church of Scotland Balnagask Community Centre Befriend a Child Jesus House SHMU Ruthrieston Community Centre King's Community Foundation</p>		
More safe places for children	Universal	Ferryhill, Torry	<p>Aberdeen City Council Touch of Love Sport Aberdeen Aberdeen City Council CLD Youth Work Team Police Scotland Balnagask Community Centre Befriend a Child Jesus House Lochside Associated School Group SHMU King's Community Foundation SAMH</p>	<p>% of young people engaged in the safe space report a 'strong' relationship with trusted professionals</p> <p>Number of young people using the safe spaces</p>	<p>LOIP System Change: Safe, co-designed spaces for at-risk young people offering onsite support, person centred activities, and healthy relationship programme</p>

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Our Plan

Neighbourhood and Environment

Priority 5: Maximise use of outdoor space

What the data is telling us...

- **Severe Weather** 49.6% of people in South Locality were worried about severe weather on their homes and local community. This compares to 73.7% of people who live in priority neighbourhoods
- **Greenspace Satisfaction** 69.6% of South Locality respondents to the City Voice survey reported being satisfied with the overall quality of greenspace/open space compared to 47.4% of people living in Priority Neighbourhoods
- **Active Travel** 15.6% of people in South Locality cycled compared to the citywide average of 9.5%

Our ideas about how we will achieve this together	Universal or Targeted Provision	Where we will test our ideas	Community Partners we will work with (TBC)	Data that will tell us if we are improving	Link to the Local Outcome Improvement Plan
Support communities to set up neighbourhood groups with a focus on community safety	Targeted	Across the South Locality	Police Scotland Community Safety Partnership Lochside Associated School Group	Number of active community safety neighbourhood groups across North Locality	LOIP 2031 Improvement Aim: Achieve a 15% increase in the proportion of residents who report feeling safe in their communities.
Develop a tool/gardening equipment library	Targeted	Garthdee, Torry and Kincorth	Torry Health Matters Social Juice Aberdeen Cyrenians Nestrans Ruthrieston Community Centre	Number of tool/gardening libraries set up	LOIP System Change: City For Nature Movement - Expanding Access to Nature Through Pocket Parks, Growing Spaces and Green Travel Routes
Support community groups to develop underused greenspace in Torry and Kincorth	Targeted	Torry and Kincorth	Friends of St. Fitticks Park Social Juice Aberdeen City Council Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership Nestrans Balnagask Community Centre University of Aberdeen	Number of new pocket parks Number of areas of new land for growing food % Satisfied with local Greenspace	LOIP System Change: City For Nature Movement - Expanding Access to Nature Through Pocket Parks, Growing Spaces and Green Travel Routes

			King's Community Foundation		
Support communities to improve local areas through litter picks and clean ups	Targeted	Hazlehead, Seafield, Ferryhill, Torry	Friends of St. Fitticks Park Nestrans Jesus House Ruthrieston Community Centre Church of Scotland King's Community Foundation	% of neighbourhoods with community groups supporting nature & environment	LOIP System Change: City For Nature Movement - Expanding Access to Nature Through Pocket Parks, Growing Spaces and Green Travel Routes
Increase cycle tracks in neighbourhoods to encourage cycling	Universal	Culter, Torry	Cycling Scotland Nestrans NHS Grampian Ruthrieston Community Centre	Number of new cycling tracks across South Locality % of people who currently cycle % of people prepared to cycle more	LOIP System Change: City For Nature Movement - Expanding Access to Nature Through Pocket Parks, Growing Spaces and Green Travel Routes
Improve safety of cycling and e-bikes	Universal	Braeside, Broomhill Mannofield, Garthdee, Torry, Seafield	Cycling Scotland Touch of Love Walk Wheel Cycle Trust Nestrans	% of casualties at A&E involving a bike or e-bike	LOIP 2031 Improvement Aim: Increase by 5% the percentage of residents from Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) 1 who report feeling connected to their neighbourhood and reduce by 10% the percentage reporting barriers to accessing nature by 2031.
Maintain benches along the Deeside Way	Universal	Bielside, Culter, Ferryhill, Garthdee, Milltimber and Countesswells	South Locality Community Councils on Deeside Way Nestrans	Number of good condition benches along the Deeside Way % of people who currently walk	LOIP 2031 System Change: City For Nature Movement - Expanding Access to Nature Through Pocket Parks, Growing Spaces and Green Travel Routes

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Our Plan

Communities and Housing

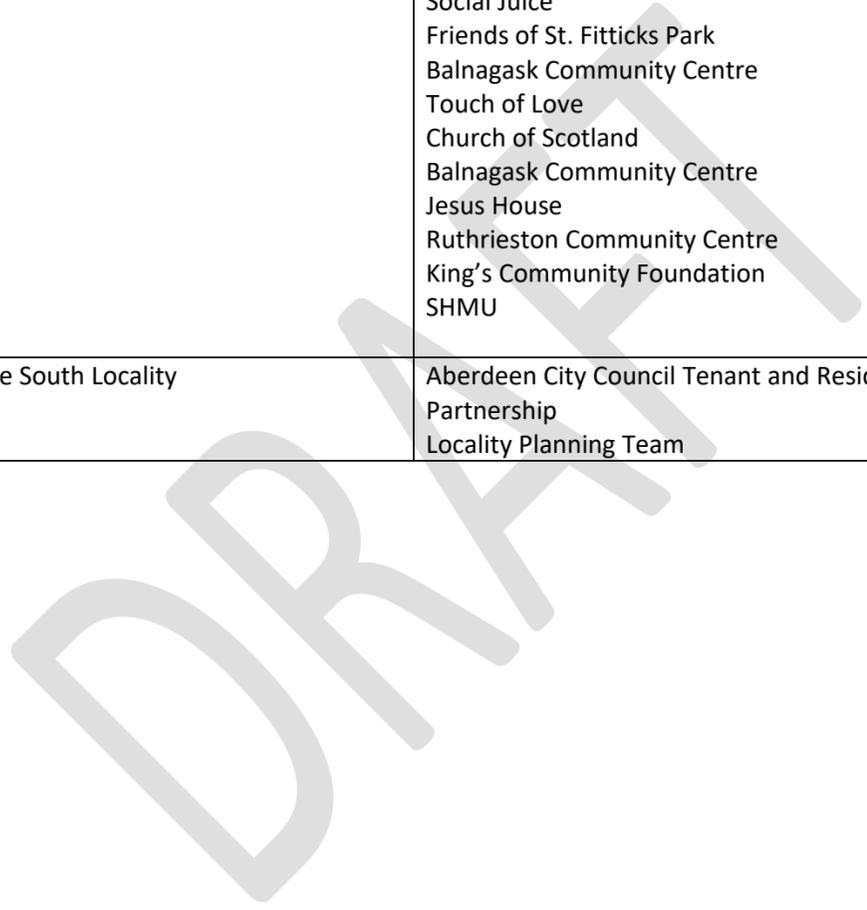
Priority 6: Increase the number of people and groups involved in making improvements and decisions in their community

What the data is telling us...

- **Community Information:** Just over half (50.4%) of City Voice respondents from South Locality agreed they would know where to find information about what is happening in their community
- **Identity and Belonging:** South Locality's sense of identity and belonging scored 4.2 out of 7 during the Place Standard community engagement exercise (2025)
- **Community Cohesion:** 46% of City Voice respondents in South Locality agreed they felt part of the community they live in

Our ideas about how we will achieve this together	Universal or Targeted Provision	Where we will test our ideas	Community Partners we will work with (TBC)	Data that will tell us if we are improving	Link to the Local Outcome Improvement Plan
Repurpose underused community spaces as co working hubs	Universal	Across the South Locality Community Assistance Hubs	Aberdeen City Council Aberdeen Cyrenians Ruthrieston Community Centre	Number of Community Assistance Hubs across South Locality Number of people receiving support at community assistance hubs	LOIP System Change: Community Support and Hub Network
Recruit and support more local volunteers	Universal	Across the South Locality	Pathways Aberdeen Cyrenians Befriend a Child ACVO Jesus House King's Community Foundation	% increase in local volunteering	LOIP 2031 Improvement Aim: Increase by 5% the percentage of residents from Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) 1 who report feeling connected to their neighbourhood and reduce by 10% the percentage reporting barriers to accessing nature by 2031.
Police to give talks in schools, along with local people and those with lived experience	Universal	Cults, Hazlehead, Torry, Kincorth, Cove (Lochside ASG)	Police Scotland Aberdeen Cyrenians Schools	Number of talks delivered by Police in South Locality schools % of 12-18 year old boys reporting sense of belonging or connection to peers Number of misogynistic incidents in schools	LOIP System Change: Safe, co-designed spaces for at-risk young people offering onsite support, person centred activities, and healthy relationship programme
Strengthen communication with our communities through updated noticeboards, more community websites and you said, we did updates	Universal	Across the South Locality	Connect Torry SHMU Aberdeen Cyrenians	% of people who are aware of Locality Planning % of people who know where to find information about what is	LOIP 2031 Improvement Aim: Increase proportion of people that score positively for feelings of influence and sense of control by 7% by 2031

				happening	
Set up forums to facilitate community conversations between New Scots, asylum seekers, refugees and local people	Universal	Garthdee, Ferryhill, Torry	Aberdeen City Council Church of Scotland King's Community Foundation SHMU	Number of community conversation forums held Number of people with diverse lived experience engaged	LOIP System Change: Community Collaborative Approach
Support Communities to host Community Galas	Targeted	Torry and Kincorth	Torry Health Matters Kincorth Community Council Torry Dancers Social Juice Friends of St. Fitticks Park Balnagask Community Centre Touch of Love Church of Scotland Balnagask Community Centre Jesus House Ruthrieston Community Centre King's Community Foundation SHMU	Number of community galas hosted by community partners across South Locality	LOIP 2031 Improvement Aim: Increase by 5% the percentage of residents from Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) 1 who report feeling connected to their neighbourhood and reduce by 10% the percentage reporting barriers to accessing nature by 2031.
Tenant feedback loops supported by Locality Partnerships and Tenant and Resident Groups	Targeted	Across the South Locality	Aberdeen City Council Tenant and Resident Partnership Locality Planning Team	% of tenant feedback actions addressed	LOIP 2031 Improvement Aim: Increase proportion of people that who feel they have influence and sense of control by 7% by 2031



Get Involved!

The South Locality Empowerment Group and the Torry Priority Neighbourhood Partnership are two ways we connect with our local communities in the South Locality. As a member of a Locality Empowerment Group or the Priority Neighbourhood Partnership you will be able to provide a voice on behalf of the people and communities across your

What's in it for you?

Our existing community representatives had this to say about what they get from

Staying mentally and physically active	Learning new skills and gaining self confidence	Receiving support from staff	Building a stronger sense of community and improving the neighbourhood
Making new connections with like-minded people	Participating in social events and local projects	Strengthening local knowledge and sharing important information	Increasing trust in communities

Interested in finding out more? Our Locality Planning Team are happy to help! contact us on:

Localityplanning@aberdeencity.gov.uk

Your South Locality Planning Team

We understand the importance of working with communities to build a thriving environment for everyone. By engaging with local communities through our dedicated Locality Planning team, we aim to become more receptive, supportive and action oriented. Community input is extremely valuable to this work. The Locality Planning Team includes staff from Aberdeen City Council and the Aberdeen City Health and Social Care partnership working together to support improved outcome across all our localities and neighbourhoods. In the South Locality your locality planning contacts are Emma and Teresa.

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

Teresa Dufficy
Community Development Officer
Aberdeen City Council
Tel. 01224 069477

Image TBA



Stay Updated!



Join the Journey!

There are a number of ways to stay updated on what is going on in your neighbourhood. You can find out more, including our performance data on our Community Planning Aberdeen [website](#) here you will find:

- How we report back on our progress
- How to get involved in your next local community meeting
- Minutes of previous meetings
- Annual Reports
- Information and support around getting involved and making a difference to your local community

You can find out what's on your local area by visiting the ACVO [Events Calendar](#) or on Facebook by clicking [here](#)!



Supporting Information

Not every idea could be included, and here's why:

- Some improvements are already happening—we'll let services know if people weren't aware.
- Ideas outside locality planning's remit were shared with the right teams, like citywide plans or education services.
- Others couldn't progress yet due to limits on budget, time or resources, or they would impact on other plans for the City

Every idea matters - Even if something couldn't be included this time, your input helps shape priorities and conversations for the future.

Local Place Plans – these are different to locality plans!

[Local Place Plans](#) give communities a say in shaping where they live, work, and play. Introduced by planning legislation, they let communities create their own plans to influence the next Local Development Plan. These plans set out local ideas and aspirations for how *land* is used and developed—and they're created by the community, for the community.

It's important to us that everyone's voice is heard—including our young people. Through the **Aberdeen Youth Movement**, their ideas are not only reflected in the locality plan, but they're also helping to drive real change across our city. Want to find out more? Check out their [Linktree](#)!

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**Community
Planning
Aberdeen**

Central Locality Plan

2026-2036

Central Locality Neighbourhoods:

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



Introduction

What is Locality Planning?

Locality Planning means working together with local communities to create plans that make life better for everyone. Community Planning Aberdeen believes these plans succeed when shaped and delivered with the people who live here. Locality Planning will support the conditions for greater partnership working to maximise the strengths of our partners, communities, local groups, businesses, and faith organisations around common goals.

By law, Community Planning Aberdeen and the Health & Social Care Partnership must create plans for Aberdeen’s three localities: North, Central, and South. These plans show where we’ll focus our efforts and resources. Times are challenging, we have less resources and funding at our disposal, we are an ageing society with growing health inequalities who have experienced significant disruption to our local economy caused by the oil and gas downturn, and we are all feeling the impact of climate change. Success depends on us all working together.

What are Priority Neighbourhoods and why do they require additional focus and resources?

Some neighbourhoods face bigger challenges and unfair barriers, so they need more support. Focusing extra resources in Ashgrove, George Street, Seaton, Stockethill, Tillydrone and Woodside helps make sure people who need the most help get it.

This targeted support sits alongside the **universal services everyone can access:**



What’s the Central Locality Plan?

Our plan sets out what we want to achieve over the next 10 years to reduce inequalities and improve life for everyone in the Central Locality. It includes:

- Where we are now – facts, figures, and what communities told us matters most
- Our Ideas – the changes we’ll focus on
- How We’ll Deliver – working together with partners and communities

Our Journey

Developing the Central Locality Plan

March - May 2025

We invited local people to share what they thought was good and what could be improved in their community.

Engagement activities included:

- An online survey for adults.
- An online survey designed for children and young people
- Six locality events with activities created by Aberdeen Youth Movement and Aberdeen Ambassadors for children and young people.
- An outreach programme where we visited 98 groups, schools, and locations across Aberdeen to facilitate participation.

We reached out through services, community and third sector groups, personal networks, and social media. Press releases and newsletter stories were issued to encourage involvement.

October - November 2025

We hosted a final Central Locality event at Tillydrone Community Campus with the local community to share findings and gain further insight

May-October 2025

We explored key areas for improvement identified across the Central Locality.

Community members identified existing strengths and assets—such as people, places, and groups—and brainstormed practical ideas to make a difference.

Sessions encouraged collaboration and community-led solutions, supported and co-delivered by Community Planning partners.

Outreach sessions and a digital option were offered for those unable to attend full workshops.

All contributions were valued and recorded to help shape the Central Locality Plan.

November - June 2025-26

Draft Locality Plans developed and out to public consultation before approval.

...Start working together on delivering our Central Locality Plan!



Central Community Asset Wall

Our Asset Wall is a visual way of showing all the great things that people value in the Central Locality.

We use the Asset Wall to celebrate what's good, and to help us build on these strengths as we work towards better outcomes for everyone across the Central Locality.



Our Priorities For the Central Locality

Following consultation and engagement with our communities across the Central Locality we have identified 6 priority outcomes and have aligned these to the Social Determinant of Health:

Economic Stability <i>Helping people feel more financially secure</i>	Health and Social Care <i>Making it easier for everyone to look after their health</i>	Children, Families and Lifelong Learning <i>Helping people learn, grow and thrive at any age</i>	Neighbourhood and Environment <i>Making sure the places people live feel safe, clean and enjoyable</i>	Communities and Housing <i>Creating friendly, connected communities where people feel they belong</i>
Reduce the number of people living in Poverty	Improve mental health and wellbeing of population	Ensure people can access services in good time through a person centred approach	Maximise use of spaces in communities to create opportunities for people to connect and physical activity	Create safe and resilient communities Increase the number of people and groups involved in making improvements and decisions in their community

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What are the Social Determinants of Health?

Social determinants of health are the everyday things in our lives that affect how healthy we are. They are not about hospitals or medicine, but about the conditions we live in. People living in priority neighbourhoods may face more health-related challenges due to a range of reasons such as low income, poor quality housing, or a lack of access to community facilities. These communities often show great strengths, but can experience inequalities in access to healthcare, healthy environments, and other supports that influence wellbeing.

Why It Matters

Understanding social determinants helps us see that health is about more than just doctors and medicine. To improve health for everyone, we need to:

- Make sure people have good jobs, homes, and education.
- Support communities and reduce poverty.

Our Plan

Economic Stability

Priority 1: Reduce the number of people living in Poverty

What the data is telling us...

- **Energy Insecurity:** 21% of people in Central Locality worried they would not be able to heat their home compared to 26.3% of people living in Priority Neighbourhoods
- **Unemployment:** As at July 2025, there were 2610 unemployment claimants in Central Locality which is up 6.1% from July 2024
- **Food Insecurity:** 7.3% of people in Central Locality worried they would not have enough food to eat, compared to 8.1% of people living in Priority Neighbourhoods
- **Children in low income households:** 2,094 children under 15 years of age from Central Locality live in low income households

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Our ideas about how we will achieve this together	Universal or Targeted Provision	Where we will test our ideas	Community Partners we will work with (TBC)	Data that will tell us if we are improving	Link to the Local Outcome Improvement Plan
Help community organisations work closely with the city’s employability services so they can support people to find and access the right employment support	Universal	Priority Neighbourhoods: Ashgrove, George Street, Seaton, Stockethill, Tillydrone, Woodside	Fersands and Fountain Pathways Aberdeen Cyrenians Aberdeen City Council SHMU Cornhill Community Centre St Georges Community Centre Lighthouse Tillydrone Community Flat Star Flat Local Employability Partnership ABZ Works SAMH	Number of individuals supported with employability within the community outreach model.	LOIP System Change: Inclusive Employment Support with Outreach, Practical Training and Life Skills Accreditation
Support the roll out of Cash First scheme to maximise income of people really struggling with cost of living in Central Locality	Targeted	Priority Neighbourhoods: Ashgrove, George Street, Seaton, Stockethill, Tillydrone, Woodside	ACVO Aberdeen Cyrenians Aberdeen City Council SHMU	Number of households receiving direct cash support	LOIP System Change: Community Support and Hub Network

Our Plan

Health and Social Care

Priority 2: Improve mental health and wellbeing of population

What the data is telling us...

- **Drug related hospital stay rate** in Central Locality is 248.5 people per 100,000 of the population, significantly higher than the City average of 181 people per 100,000
- **Mental Health** 15.9% of people in Central Locality are prescribed drugs for anxiety, depression or psychosis, this is lower than the Aberdeen City figure of 17.4%
- **Life Expectancy** in Central Locality for 2021-23 was on average 80.5 years for women, and 75.2 years for men
- **Suicide** The rate of death from suicide in Central Locality is 10.5 people per 100,000 of the population, this is below the Aberdeen City average of 11.1 people per 100,000 of the population

Our ideas about how we will achieve this together	Universal or Targeted Provision	Where we will test our ideas	Community Partners we will work with (TBC)	Data that will tell us if we are improving	Link to the Local Outcome Improvement Plan
Improve access to health and social care services by introducing community-based opportunities and providing clear information on where to access support following a medical diagnosis.	Universal	Tillydrone, Seaton, Woodside, Old Aberdeen, George Street	Fersands and Fountain Aberdeen Health and Social Care Partnership NHS Grampian Aberdeen Cyrenians St Georges Community Centre Lighthouse Tillydrone Community Campus SCIO Star Flat SAMH	Number of people receiving support at community assistance hubs	2031 LOIP Improvement Aim - By 2031, achieve a 17% increase in the proportion of adults reporting that they are able to manage their own health and wellbeing 'very well'
Increase outdoor exercise opportunities	Universal	Tillydrone, Seaton, Powis, Cornhill	Aberdeen Gurudwara Fersands and Fountain Sport Aberdeen Aberdeen Football Club Community Trust Powis Residents Group (Health Improvement Fund) Police Scotland Friends of St Machar Park Tillydrone Community Flat Cornhill Community Centre Tillydrone Community Campus SCIO	Number of young people (by locality) using the safe spaces % of 12-18 year old boys reporting sense of belonging or connection to peers. % increase in walking and cycling	LOIP System Change: Safe, co-designed spaces for at-risk young people offering onsite support, person centred activities, and healthy relationship programme 2031 LOIP Improvement Aim :By 2031, achieve a 17% increase in the proportion of adults reporting that they are able to manage their own health and wellbeing 'very well'

Our Plan

Children, Families and Lifelong Learning

Priority 3: Ensure people can access services in good time through a person centred approach

What the data is telling us...

- **Youth Volunteering:** 878 young people from Central Locality received a Saltire Award for volunteering
- **Counselling:** 100% of schools in Central Locality offer counselling and Active School activities
- **Anti-Social Behaviour:** 3,303 Youth Anti-Social Behaviour calls were reported to the police (2024)
- **Crimes:** The most common crimes and offences in Aberdeen City were crimes of dishonesty (234 offences per 10,000 of the population), Road Traffic Offences (4,769 offences per 10,000 of the population), and non-sexual crimes of violence (3,412 offences per 10,000 of the population)
- **Road Safety:** In 2023, there were 109 reported road casualties in Aberdeen City of which, 4 were fatalities and 53 were serious injuries. The number of people injured in road traffic accidents has increased in each of the last two years (up from 64 in 2021 which is a 70% increase)

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Our ideas about how we will achieve this together	Universal or Targeted Provision	Where we will test our ideas	Community Partners we will work with (TBC)	Data that will tell us if we are improving	Link to the Local Outcome Improvement Plan
Develop more youth work opportunities	Targeted	Tillydrone, Woodside, Powis, Sunnybank, Froghall, George Street, Cornhill	Fersands and Fountain CLD Strategic Partnership Touch of Love Police Scotland Tillydrone Network Lighthouse Cornhill Community Centre Tillydrone Community Campus SCIO SHMU Aberdeen Youth Movement King's Community Foundation	Number of young people (by locality) using the safe spaces Number of young people engaged in the safe space report a strong relationship with trusted professionals	LOIP System Change: Safe, co-designed spaces for at-risk young people offering onsite support, person centred activities, and healthy relationship programme.

			SAMH		
Community led skills workshops (e.g. digital skills, trades, creative industries) run by local volunteers or retired professionals	Targeted	Rosemount, City Centre, West End, Woodside, Seaton, Tillydrone	Fresh Fersands and Fountain Aberdeen Cyrenians St George's Community Centre Cornhill Community Centre Tillydrone Community Campus SCIO Star Flat SHMU	% increase in local volunteering Number of learning networks established	LOIP 2031 Improvement Aim: Increase by 5% the percentage of residents from Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) 1 who report feeling connected to their neighbourhood
Explore ways to make children feel safer walking to and from school, such as a Walking bus or more volunteer crossing patrollers	Targeted	Priority Neighbourhoods: Ashgrove, George Street, Seaton, Stockethill, Tillydrone, Woodside	NESTRANS Aberdeen City Council Touch of Love Tillydrone Community Council Aberdeen Youth Movement	% increase in walking and cycling	LOIP 2031 Improvement Aim: Increase by 5% the number of young people who report always feeling safe in their school, community and home by 2031
More access to mentoring programmes for vulnerable young people	Targeted	Priority Neighbourhoods: Ashgrove, George Street, Seaton, Stockethill, Tillydrone, Woodside	MCR Pathways Pathways Aberdeen City Council – CLD Youth Work Team Police Scotland Befriend a Child Tillydrone Community Campus SCIO SHMU King's Community Foundation SAMH	% of 12-18 year old boys reporting sense of belonging or connection to peers	LOIP System Change: Safe, co-designed spaces for at-risk young people offering onsite support, person centred activities, and healthy relationship programme.

Our Plan

Neighbourhood and Environment

Priority 4: Maximise use of spaces in communities to create opportunities for people to connect and physical activity

What the data is telling us...

- **Severe Weather** 55.7% of people in Central Locality were worried about severe weather on their homes and local community. This compares to 46.9% of people who live in priority neighbourhoods
- **Greenspace Satisfaction** 87% of Central Locality respondents to the City Voice survey reported being satisfied with the overall quality of greenspace/open space compared to 81.2% of people living in Priority Neighbourhoods
- **Active Travel** 13.1% of people in Central Locality cycled compared to the citywide average of 9.5%

Our ideas about how we will achieve this together	Universal or Targeted Provision	Where we will test our ideas	Community Partners we will work with (TBC)	Data that will tell us if we are improving	Link to the Local Outcome Improvement Plan
Explore a social enterprise to improve tidiness and cleanliness of local neighbourhoods	Targeted	Priority Neighbourhoods: Ashgrove, George Street, Seaton, Stockethill, Tillydrone, Woodside	Fresh Skills Development Scotland Aberdeen City Council Nescan Tillydrone Community Council Lighthouse	Number of Co-operatives and Community Enterprises per SIMD 1 community Number of residents (by locality) working in and/or supported by co-operatives and community enterprises	LOIP System Change: Clear Routes Into Growth and In Demand Sectors and Network for Social Enterprises
Encourage more local people, along with community groups and local payback schemes to improve and maintain public parks and greenspaces	Universal	Across Central Locality	Aberdeen Gurudwara Friends of Seaton Park Fresh NHS Grampian Nestrans Mounthooley Forrest Garden Friends of St Machar Park Earth and Worms Tillydrone Community Flat Cornhill Community Centre Aberdeen Youth Movement King's Community Foundation SHMU	Number of neighbourhoods with community groups supporting nature & environment % increase in green jobs and microbusinesses No. of areas of new land for growing food	LOIP System Change: City For Nature Movement - Expanding Access to Nature Through Pocket Parks, Growing Spaces and Green Travel Routes
Establish more community ice crews to increase community resilience against severe	Targeted	Hilton, Midsocket, Ashgrove, Stockethill, Seaton, Woodside, Tillydrone	Fersands and Fountain St George's Community Centre	% of neighbourhoods with community groups supporting nature & environment	LOIP 2031 Improvement Aim: Increase by 20% the percentage of people from Scottish

winter weather			Tillydrone Community Council	Number of community ice crews	Index of Multiple Deprivation 1 who (1) agree that their community has taken steps to prepare for climate change and (2) are able to and want to actively participate in making improvements for nature and climate by 2031.
Explore external funding opportunities to improve and open up walking pathways in Tillydrone	Targeted	Tillydrone	ACVO Aberdeen City Council Walking Scotland SHMU	Value of external funding secured to support delivery of the walking pathway	LOIP 2031 Improvement Aim: Increase by 5% the percentage of residents from Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) 1 who report feeling connected to their neighbourhood and reduce by 10% the percentage reporting barriers to accessing nature by 2031.
Support the local community to develop an activity/skatepark in Tillydrone	Targeted	Tillydrone	Tillydrone Community Council Friends of St Machar Park Aberdeen Youth Movement	Activity/skatepark delivered in Tillydrone	LOIP 2031 Improvement Aim: Increase by 5% the number of young people who report always feeling safe in their school, community and home by 2031
More community art projects in common spaces and greenspaces	Universal	Rosemount, Seaton, Sunnybank, Woodside, Tillydrone, Cornhill	Tillydrone Community Council Tillydrone Network Tillydrone Community Flat Cornhill Community Centre Tillydrone Community Campus SCIO SHMU King's Community Foundation	Number of new community art projects in public parks and common spaces % Satisfied with local greenspace	LOIP 2031 Improvement Aim: Increase by 5% the percentage of residents from Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) 1 who report feeling connected to their neighbourhood and reduce by 10% the percentage reporting barriers to accessing nature by 2031.

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Our Plan

Communities and Housing

Priority 5: Create safe and resilient communities

Priority 6: Increase the number of people and groups involved in making improvements and decisions in their community

What the data is telling us...

- **Community Information:** Just under half (48%) of City Voice respondents from Central Locality agreed they would know where to find information about what is happening in their community
- **Identity and Belonging:** Central Locality's sense of identity and belonging scored 3.4 out of 7 during the Place Standard community engagement exercise (2025)
- **Community Cohesion:** 45.1% of City Voice respondents in Central Locality agreed they felt part of the community they live in

Our ideas about how we will achieve this together	Universal or Targeted Provision	Where we will test our ideas	Community Partners we will work with (TBC)	Data that will tell us if we are improving	Link to the Local Outcome Improvement Plan
Better utilise community assets for local groups and social use	Universal	Across Central Locality	Fersands and Fountain Aberdeen City Council Aberdeen Cyrenians St Georges Community Centre Tillydrone Community Flat Cornhill Community Centre Tillydrone Community Campus SCIO SHMU	Number of people receiving support at community assistance hubs	LOIP System Change: Community Support and Hub Network
Recruit and support more community volunteers	Universal	Across Central Locality	ACVO Lighthouse King's Community Foundation	% increase in local volunteering	LOIP 2031 Improvement Aim: Increase by 5% the percentage of residents from Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) 1 who report feeling connected to their neighbourhood and reduce by 10% the percentage reporting barriers to accessing nature by 2031.
Create community-led multi-cultural learning and skills programmes to strengthen inclusion and cohesion, with activities and campaigns that welcome and support people new to the area	Universal	City Centre, Froghall, George Street, Powis, Sunnybank, Seaton, Tillydrone	Aberdeen Gurudwara Touch of Love Fresh Aberdeen City Council Sunnybank Community Association St George's Community Centre Lighthouse SHMU King's Community Foundation	Number of community conversation forums held Number of people with diverse lived experience engaged	LOIP 2031 Improvement Aim: Increase proportion of people that who feel they have influence and sense of control by 7% by 2031

Support community groups to provide local transport to enable recreational trips	Targeted	Seaton, Woodside, Old Aberdeen, Tillydrone	Fersands and Fountain Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership Sport Aberdeen Tillydrone Community Council St George's Community Centre King's Community Foundation	Number of recreational trips supported by community partners	LOIP 2031 Improvement Aim: By 2031, achieve a 17% increase in the proportion of adults reporting that they are able to manage their own health and wellbeing 'very well ' and a 15% increase in the proportion of residents who report feeling safe in their communities.
Develop a blended approach to community communications including notice board, booklets, newsletters, events, community websites, and social media	Universal	Across Central Locality	Locality Planning Team Fersands and Fountain SHMU Aberdeen City Council Aberdeen Cyrenians Tillydrone Community Council Lighthouse Tillydrone Community Campus SCIO	Number of community organisations leading delivery of locality plan items	LOIP 2031 Improvement Aim: Increase proportion of people that score positively for feelings of influence and sense of control by 7% by 2031
Tenant feedback loops supported by Locality Partnerships and Tenant Participation	Targeted	Across Central Locality	Aberdeen City Council Aberdeen Tenants and Residents Partnership Locality Planning Team	% of tenant feedback actions addressed	LOIP 2031 Improvement Aim: Increase proportion of people that who feel they have influence and sense of control by 7% by 2031

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Get Involved!

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

What's in it for you?

Our existing community representatives had this to say about what they get from



Interested in finding out more? Our Locality Planning Team are happy to help! contact us on:

Localityplanning@aberdeencity.gov.uk

Your Central Locality Planning Team

We understand the importance of working with communities to build a thriving environment for everyone. By engaging with local communities through our dedicated Locality Planning team, we aim to become more receptive, supportive and action oriented. Community input is extremely valuable to this work. The Locality Planning Team includes staff from Aberdeen City Council and the Aberdeen City Health and Social Care partnership working together to support improved outcome across all our localities and neighbourhoods. In the Central Locality your locality planning contacts are Suzanne, Chris, and Graham.

Chris Smillie

Public Health Co-ordinator
Aberdeen Health and Social Care Partnership
Tel. 01224045735

Suzanne Thomson

Health Improvement Officer
Aberdeen Health and Social Care Partnership
Tel. 01224069421

Graham Donald

Community Development Officer
Aberdeen City Council
01224053321



Stay Updated!



Join the Journey!

There are a number of ways to stay updated on what is going on in your neighbourhood. You can find out more, including our performance data on our Community Planning Aberdeen [website](#) here you will find:

- How we report back on our progress
- How to get involved in your next local community meeting
- Minutes of previous meetings
- Annual Reports
- Information and support around getting involved and making a difference to your local community

You can find out what's on your local area by visiting the ACVO [Events Calendar](#) or on Facebook by clicking [here](#)!



Supporting Information

Not every idea could be included, and here's why:

- Some improvements are already happening—we'll let services know if people weren't aware.
- Ideas outside the remit of locality planning were shared with the right teams, like citywide plans or education services.
- Others couldn't progress yet due to limits on budget, time or resources, or they would impact on other plans for the City

Every idea matters - Even if something couldn't be included this time, your input helps shape priorities and conversations for the future.

Local Place Plans – these are different to locality plans!

[Local Place Plans](#) give communities a say in shaping where they live, work, and play. Introduced by planning legislation, they let communities create their own plans to influence the next Local Development Plan. These plans set out local ideas and aspirations for how *land* is used and developed—and they're created by the community, for the community.

It's important to us that everyone's voice is heard—including our young people. Through the **Aberdeen Youth Movement**, their ideas are not only reflected in the locality plan, but they're also helping to drive real change across our city. Want to find out more? Check out their [Linktree](#)!

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ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Anti Poverty and Inequality Committee
DATE	11 March 2026
EXEMPT	No
CONFIDENTIAL	No
REPORT TITLE	Draft Aberdeen City Children's Services Plan 2026-31
REPORT NUMBER	F&C/26/039
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	Eleanor Sheppard, Executive Director, Families and Communities
CHIEF OFFICER	Graeme Simpson, Chief Social Work Officer
REPORT AUTHOR	James Simpson, Performance and Strategy Development Officer
TERMS OF REFERENCE	1.1, 2.1

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report presents the draft Children's Services Plan 2026-31 for the Committee's feedback as part of the consultation which ends on 20 March 2026. The Plan will be taken to Education and Children Services Committee on the 28 April 2026 for formal approval, and will be considered by the Community Planning Aberdeen Board on 11 June 2026.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee: -

- 2.1 Provide feedback on the draft Aberdeen City Children's Services Plan 2026-31 presented in Appendix 1

3. CURRENT SITUATION

- 3.1 Part 3 (Children's Services Planning) of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 requires every local authority and its relevant health board to jointly prepare a Children's Services Plan in respect of a three-year period.
- 3.2 The Children's Services Planning process aims to improve outcomes for all children and young people in Scotland by ensuring that local planning and delivery of services is integrated, focussed on quality and prevention, and dedicated to safeguarding and the promotion of child wellbeing to prevent need from escalating.
- 3.3 Recognising the greater challenges faced by some children and young people in achieving their potential, the plan also provides information on the targeted work we intend to provide to support those most in need including those living in Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation Quintile 1 and those children and young people who are Care Experienced or have Additional Support Needs/Disabilities.

- 3.4 While overall responsibility for children's services planning rests with a Local Authority and its relevant Health Board, it is expected that Community Planning Partnership partners, as well as with children, young people, and their families, will help inform the development of the Plan.
- 3.5 Staff from across the Community Planning Partnership have consistently raised concerns about delivering multiple plans with different timescales for delivery. To ensure coherence across plans, the decision has been taken to extend the time period of the Children's Services Plan from 3 to 5 years so that the Plan dovetails seamlessly, thanks to the flexibility afforded to use through our participation in the Fairer Futures Partnership, to the refresh point of the Local Outcome Improvement Plan. This will ensure that the reporting cycle of the Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2026-36 and Children's Services Plan 2026-31, are directly aligned.
- 3.6 The actions, activities and outcomes of the Plan will remain under review through our Children's Services Plan Annual Reporting cycle.

Developing the Children's Services Plan priorities

- 3.7 The draft Children's Services Plan 2026-31 (presented in Appendix A) is the product of work started in June 2025 when the Children's Services Board first began developing priorities for inclusion in the Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2026-36.
- 3.8 The gathering and analysis of evidence has been directly aligned with the development of the Local Outcome Improvement Plan, drawing from the [Aberdeen City Population Needs Assessment](#) published in May 2025, and community feedback from the [Your Place, Your Plan, Your Future](#), including the views of 587 children and young people. Views from Care Experienced children and young people have been drawn from the Bright Spots Survey undertaken in 2024. Further support to evaluate evidence and data has also been provided through, Community Planning Aberdeen's ongoing involvement with the Collaboration for Health Equality in Scotland and the Aberdeen City Health Determinants Research Collaborative.
- 3.9 Using the analysis, two Children's Services Board workshops were held across June and July to identify core priorities and system changes that would provide maximum impact on improved outcomes for children and families. These draft priorities/system changes were presented to the Fairer Futures Conference on 27 August 2025 for wider stakeholder feedback.
- 3.10 More extensive detail on the process and procedure for the development of the Local Outcome Improvement Plan Stretch Outcome is provided in the cover report for the Draft Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2026-36, also on the agenda so not repeated.
- 3.11 Following review of data, public and stakeholder feedback the following priorities, system changes and improvement aims were identified for the Children's Services Board:

Children, Families and Life Long Learning		
Priority	Improvement Aim	System Change
Best Start in Life	Increase by 12% the percentage of children reviewed in Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) 1 neighbourhoods meeting their developmental milestones by 2031	Personal Case Workers for Vulnerable Families and Support for Families Awaiting Neurodevelopmental Diagnosis. Provide personal case workers for vulnerable families who need help to access the services they are entitled to, and a better co-ordinated support experience for families waiting for a neurodevelopmental diagnosis
Empowered and Resilient	Increase by 5% the number of young people who report always feeling safe in their school, community and home by 2031	Safe, co-designed spaces for at-risk young people offering onsite support, person centred activities, and healthy relationship programme. Co-design an integrated programme that provides safe, supportive spaces, targeted interventions and individual support opportunities for young people who are at risk of harm from substance use or child criminal exploitation, including support for boys to form healthy and respectful relationships.
Attainment and Transitions	Increase by 10% the tariff scores for pupils in Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 1 neighbourhoods and other vulnerable groups by 2031	Individualised support for young people at risk of not completing school and sustained work experience. Support programmes for young people at risk of not completing school and sustained work experience opportunities as part of the curriculum offer

3.12 The Plan has a core focus on supporting families from Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation Quintile 1 communities, in addition to those who are Looked After or Care Experienced, disabled and minority ethnic groups. Each of the system changes noted above are interventions intended to maximise our targeted support to those families in or at risk of poverty by adopting a prevention/early intervention approach.

Content of the Children's Services Plan

- 3.13 In line with the [statutory guidance part 3](#) of the Children and Young Peoples (Scotland) Act 2014 the Children's Services Plan expands on the summary content provided in the draft Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2026-36 to provide more detail on the specific system changes and how they will be implemented.
- 3.14 Many of the system changes are currently being driven through the our developing Support Model through our Fairer Futures Partnership.

Delivery of the Plan

- 3.15 Delivery of the Plan will be overseen by the Children's Services Board with progress against the system changes and preparations for legislation being reported to Community Planning Aberdeen. Initiation of the multi-agency improvement aims, and progress reporting will align with Community Planning Aberdeen 2026-36 reporting arrangements as they develop, with our established annual review of progress continuing over the lifetime of the Plan.
- 3.16 At this time, the Children's Services Board will retain its current governance structure to ensure that remaining Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2016-26/Children's Services Plan 2023-26 activity is effectively transitioned into the new Local Outcome Improvement Plan.
- 3.17 The Children's Services Board will undergo a review of its role, remit, and wider governance arrangements in line with the proposed Community Planning Aberdeen governance review scheduled for March/April 2026, to ensure that relevant partners at an appropriate strategic level are present at the Board and any associated delivery subgroups.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no financial implications arising from the recommendations in this report. Closer alignment of services could help realise efficiency in the longer term.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Section 8 of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 requires each local authority and the relevant health board to jointly prepare a Children's Services Plan for the area of the local authority in respect of each 3 year period. Section 9 of the Act provides that a children's services plan should be prepared with a view to achieving the aims of providing children's services in the area in a way which: best safeguards, supports or promotes the wellbeing of children; ensures that any action to meet needs is taken at the earliest appropriate time and that, where appropriate, action is taken to prevent needs arising; is most integrated from the point of view of the recipients; and constitutes the best use of available resources.

5.2 Section 11 of the 2014 Act states that local authorities and the relevant health board must jointly keep the children’s services plan under review and as a consequence of that review may prepare a revised plan whereas section 12 of the Act deals with implementation of the Plan and provides that, during the period to which the children’s services plan relates, the local authority, the relevant health board, the Scottish Ministers and each of the other service providers in an area must, so far as reasonably practicable, provide services in accordance with the children’s services plan for that area. Section 13 requires publication of an annual joint report on the extent to which children's services and related services have in that period been provided in accordance with the Plan.

6. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 No negative environmental Impacts have been identified

7. RISK

Category	Risks	Primary Controls/Control Actions to achieve Target Risk Level	*Target Risk Level (L, M or H) *taking into account controls/control actions	*Does Target Risk Level Match Appetite Set?
Strategic Risk	Risk of not aligning our local systems to reflect national policy and local priorities set out through the Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2026-36	Delivery of the Children’s Services Plan	L	Yes
Compliance	Risk of not meeting our statutory duties	The Plan ensures that we comply with the Statutory Guidance.	L	Yes
Operational	Risk that we make less of an impact by working to a high number	The plan draws on and links to all of our strategic plans, ensuring joint resource and planning is aligned	L	Yes

	of Strategic Plans	to the same core priorities		
Financial	Risk that we do not have sufficient resource to meet the needs of priority groups	The Plan will help us make best use of available resource by ensuring partners work to a common purpose. Community Aberdeen Partners have committed to resourcing delivery of the priorities set out in this Plan and the associated Local Outcome Improvement Plan	L	Yes
Reputational	Risk that we do not prioritise those in greatest need	Mitigated by undertaking extensive review of evidence and data on our current population and service's needs. In addition to wide public and stakeholder consultation (which remains on going) This will be further mitigated as the plan progresses through the ongoing evaluation and Annual Reporting cycle noted in section 3 of this report	L	Yes
Environment / Climate	No risks identified			

8. OUTCOMES

COUNCIL DELIVERY PLAN 2025-26	
Impact of Report	
<p>Aberdeen City Council Policy Statement</p> <p><u>Working in Partnership for Aberdeen</u></p>	<p>The Plan will aid in the delivery of the following aspects of the Aberdeen City Council Policy Statement:</p> <p>Improving Educational Choices:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commit to realising the potential of each individual, by seeking to widen curriculum choice and implement progressive choices.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with the city’s universities, Northeast Scotland College, and businesses to increase educational and training options and the number of care experienced young people and young people from deprived communities, going onto positive destinations, including further and higher education, vocational training, and apprenticeships <p>Creating a Better Learning Environment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work to ensure that every school community provides a safe and respectful environment for young people and staff. <p>Caring for Young People:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure the Council follows best practice as a corporate parent to get the best outcomes for looked after young people, those in kinship care and those with additional support needs such as autism, developmental disorders, or mental health problems. • Ensure local education services identify young people with mental health problems and help them get early support and help, where appropriate, to transfer to adult services. • Continue to seek to support young people to receive care in Aberdeen, through fostering, adoption and other services and seek to reduce “out of authority” placements. • Work with the Scottish Government to expand free early learning and childcare to one- and two-year-olds from low-income households.
Local Outcome Improvement Plan	
<p>Prosperous People: Children</p>	<p>Development of the Children’s Services Plan 2026-31 has included review of the Stretch Outcomes from the Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2016-26. Taking into account the actions and improvement the associated projects have made in achieving the outcomes, to inform the revised proposals for new Stretch Outcome in the draft Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2026-36</p> <p>As indicated in section 3 of this report the Plan provides extensive and expanded detail on the priorities and system changes identified in the draft Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2026-36 under the Children Families and Lifelong Learning Section.</p>

	<p>In particular the proposed, revised Stretch Outcome for the Children, Families and Lifelong Learning Section:</p> <p>“95% of young people in the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 1 and vulnerable groups achieve a positive destination on leaving school by 2036”</p> <p>The plan as a whole focusses heavily on the delivery of the actions to achieve this Stretch Outcome.</p> <p>Additionally, much of the additional work and strategic priorities outlined in the Plan will directly link to or support the delivery of the Local Outcome Improvement Plan</p>
<p>Regional and City Strategies Regional Cultural Strategy Prevention Strategy The Children’s Services Plan National Improvement Framework Plan</p>	<p>The Children’s Services Plan prioritises prevention and is closely aligned with the National Improvement Framework. The Plan is designed to link all of our Plans for children to improve service delivery</p>

9. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Assessment	Outcome
Integrated Impact Assessment	New Integrated Impact Assessment has been completed
Data Protection Impact Assessment	Not Required
Other	None

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

10.1 None

11. APPENDICES

11.1 Appendix A Children’s Services Plan 2026-31

12. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

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CHILDREN'S SERVICES PLAN 2026-2031

Draft February 12 February 2026



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Foreword

It is my privilege, as Chair of the Children's Services Board, to introduce the Children's Services Plan 2026–31—a blueprint for real and lasting change for Aberdeen's children, young people, and families. This plan is rooted in our commitment to ensure that, by 2036, every child and young person in Aberdeen has the opportunity to fulfil their potential, regardless of background or circumstance. Our vision is bold but clear: to close the gaps that persist in our city, particularly for those living in our most deprived communities. Rather than following the usual 3-year cycle, this Plan has been established to direct our shared work over the next 5 years. Amending timescales has enabled the closer alignment of the Children's Services Plan with our Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2026-36 and other related strategies and plans.

We recognise that too many of our children still face barriers that prevent them from fulfilling their potential. The data shows us that: almost one in five children in Aberdeen live in poverty, and the impacts of deprivation are felt most acutely in our priority neighbourhoods. Our Plan sets out a determined response, emphasising early intervention, whole-family support, and to challenge the structural inequalities that hold families back. We will focus our efforts where they are needed most, ensuring that resources, expertise, and compassion reach those living in our priority neighbourhoods.

Ensuring a children's rights are at the heart of all we do our approach is shaped by the voices of children, young people, families, and communities. Through extensive engagement, we have listened carefully to what matters most to them—safety, opportunity, belonging, and a genuine say in shaping their future. This feedback, coupled with robust local data and the expertise of our partners, underpins the three central priorities of this plan:

- **Best Start in Life:** We will ensure that our most vulnerable families are supported from the earliest stages and are empowered to access joined-up, proactive support, especially to families in SIMD1 areas. We aim to break the cycle of disadvantage and give every child the foundation they deserve and improving pathways for those awaiting neurodevelopmental assessment.
- **Empowered and Resilient:** We will work alongside children and young people to co-create safe spaces and provide access to support and activities that foster resilience. Our focus will be on those at greatest risk of exploitation, substance use, and disconnection, ensuring that no child is left behind.
- **Attainment and Transitions:** We are committed to closing the attainment gap by offering tailored support to young people at risk of disengaging from education, enhancing work experience opportunities.

Challenging Child Poverty

Central to our vision is our focus to reduce child poverty. We will use data-driven tools to identify and support families facing hardship, expand financial inclusion initiatives, and address barriers to access to healthcare, affordable childcare, housing, and food security. Our whole-family approach means support will not be piecemeal, but coordinated, timely, and empowering—helping families to build resilience and stability for the future.

Real change will only be achieved through meaningful collaboration across all sectors—local government, health, education, the voluntary sector, and, most importantly, families themselves. We are committed to transparency and accountability, with clear measures to track progress and a governance structure that ensures every partner plays their part.

Let's work together, to challenge ourselves and each other, and to make Aberdeen a city where every child is valued, supported, and able to flourish. The Children's Services Plan 2026–31 is not just a document, it is our shared promise to the children and families of Aberdeen to enable them grow up loved, safe, and respected, realising their full potential. Together, we can deliver on that promise.



Graeme Simpson

Children's Services Board Chair,

Chief Social Work Officer, Aberdeen City Council



Our Vision

By 2036 we want to make sure that all children and young people in Aberdeen achieve their potential. To achieve this, we have set ourselves a 10-year goal that:

95% of young people in the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 1 and vulnerable groups achieve a positive destination on leaving school by 2036

Why is this a priority?

It is clear that the life circumstances of children and the impact of poverty affects their educational attainment, and that educational inequality can lead to inequalities of health and wellbeing in early adulthood and beyond. In Aberdeen, increasing numbers of children live in poverty, have disabilities, have additional support needs, or have developmental concerns before starting school.

Children from deprived areas are more likely to experience poor health, miss developmental milestones, and face barriers such as parental smoking and being overweight. By age 16–19, participation in education, employment, or training is significantly lower in the 20% most deprived areas (83.5%) compared with the least deprived areas (95.9%). Young people who have experienced trauma in early life are at greater risk of disengaging from school and require targeted support to prevent lifelong disadvantage. Community feedback highlights the need for safe, affordable, youth-focused spaces, activities, and accessible lifelong learning opportunities. Without intervention, these inequalities will continue to limit positive destinations and long-term outcomes for children and young people.

Our Response

We will adopt a whole-family approach, providing early, proactive support to children and families before and after birth. Families will be offered a trusted case worker to navigate services, build connections, and address risks to wellbeing. We will also support families with children awaiting neurodevelopmental diagnoses to ensure early access to tailored support.

Children and young people will be empowered through co-created, safe, and welcoming spaces, with access to trusted adults, and initiatives to build confidence and emotional skills. We will improve early identification and coordinated multi-agency responses for those affected by exploitation, substance use, or developmental delays, ensuring timely and effective support.



Where We Are Heading

By 2036, through collaborative planning and our system changes across the life course, from early years support to empowering young people and supporting their attainment and transition, we aim to break cycles of deprivation, foster resilience, and ensure every child and young person in Aberdeen has the opportunity to achieve a positive destination on leaving school.



Introduction

This Children's Services Plan explains our goals to supporting all children and young people in Aberdeen by the year 2036 and outlines the steps we will take over the next 5 years to reach those goals. We have organised the plan into four simple sections so you can see what we are focusing on and how we will make a difference. Here is what you will find inside:

- **About Aberdeen's Children and Families:** This section shares some main facts and figures about local children, young people, and families. It also includes what our communities, children and young people have told us about what matters most to them and what they think we should work on over the next ten years.
- **Our Main Focus Areas:** Here, we explain the three main priorities we have chosen, based on the information we have gathered. We will describe what these are and what we plan to do to achieve them.
- **Supporting Our Children, Young People and Families:** This part goes into detail about our work to support national priorities, such as education, involving children and young people in important decisions, supporting those affected by poverty, and helping children and young people who are or who have been in care.
- **How We will Make It Happen:** The last section explains who will be leading the work and how we will make sure these plans turn into real action. It also includes a clear list of the main activities we will carry out to achieve our goals.

We hope this plan makes it clear what we aim to achieve for children and young people in Aberdeen, and how we will work together to make these changes happen.

About Aberdeen's Children and Families

This section of our Plan is a summary of statistics on children and young people in Aberdeen and will give you highlights of key information about their current situation. This information is part of a much wider and detailed set of documents, if you would like to find out more you can find the links to these here:

Aberdeen City Population Needs Assessment

Our Population Needs Assessment (PNA) has up-to-date statistics about everyone in the city, including children and young people: [PNA-2025-draft-health-determinants.pdf](#)

Children's Services Plan Annual Report

Our Children's Services Plan Annual Report offers a more detailed evaluation of the work we have used to inform the priorities set out in this Plan: **TBA June 2026**

The details in the PNA and the Annual Report form what we refer to as a Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, helping to identify our key priorities.

Your Place, Your Plans Your Future

You can find the full report on what our children, young people and communities told us were a priority in our Your Place Your Plans Your Future Final Report: [Your Place, Your Plan, Your Future,](#)

Community Planning Aberdeen

There are also plenty of other useful resources and links on our Community Planning Aberdeen Website: [Home - Community Planning Aberdeen](#)

What do we know about our Under 5s?

Maternal Health in Aberdeen

How healthy a mum is during and just after pregnancy can have a significant effect on a baby's start in life. In Aberdeen, there are some positive signs, but also areas that need more attention:

Smoking during pregnancy: Around 9.6% of pregnant women in Aberdeen smoked when they first saw a midwife. This is slightly better than Scotland's average (10.7%), and the number has gone down over time. However, in our priority neighbourhoods in the city, 25% of pregnant women smoke, compared to just 2.8% in the most affluent areas, indicating a large gap impacted by poverty.

Maternal obesity: 25% of pregnant women in Aberdeen are classed as obese (BMI of 30 or above), which is slightly lower than the Scottish average (27.5%). Like smoking, obesity is more common in our priority neighbourhoods (32.7%) than in the most affluent areas (19.8%).

Drug use during pregnancy: Between 2021/22 and 2023/24, 121 mothers were recorded as having drug misuse, about 20.2 cases per 1,000 pregnancies, higher than the Scottish average of 17.9. Thirteen babies were affected by their mothers drug use, though this number has gone down in recent years.

Breastfeeding: 43% of babies were exclusively breastfed at their 6–8-week check-up, much higher than the Scottish average of 32.3%. However, this also varies a lot across the city – from just 16.5% in Northfield to 73.6% in Cults, Bieldside & Milltimber East.

Premature births and low birth weight: 8.7% of babies are born before 37 weeks (slightly higher than the Scottish rate of 8.3%). About 82% of full-term babies are born at a healthy weight, which is slightly better than Scotland as a whole.

Infant deaths: The infant death rate in Aberdeen is 4.2 per 1,000 live births, which is higher than the Scottish average of 3.5. This rate has increased compared to previous years.



How Children Are Doing by Primary 1

By the time children reach Primary 1, the difference in health outcomes for certain children becomes clearer. We are doing well in some areas, but there are still some children and communities that would benefit from more support:

Healthy weight: In Primary 1, 77.3% of children in Aberdeen are a healthy weight, slightly higher than the Scottish average (76.5%). But in priority neighbourhoods, only 72.9% are a healthy weight compared to 82% in the wealthiest areas of Aberdeen.

Immunisation: By age 2, 95.1% of children in Aberdeen have had their main vaccines, meeting the national target for the '6-in-1' jab. But the rate for the MMR (measles, mumps, rubella) vaccine is only 90.1%, below the 95% target, and some parts of the city have much lower rates.

Developmental checks: At the age of 27-30 months, nearly 90% of children had no concerns at their development check. However, the number of children with at least one concern ranged from just 1% in some neighbourhoods to 18% in others.

Dental health: 71.1% of Primary 1 children have no obvious tooth decay, a little below the Scottish average (73.9%), and again, priority neighbourhoods had a lower percentage of children with no obvious signs of tooth decay.

Exposure to second-hand smoke: 8% of babies are exposed to second-hand smoke at 6-8 weeks, higher than the Scottish average of 6.4%.

Areas for Improvement

- The gap between our most and least affluent areas is large for many health measures, including smoking in pregnancy, obesity, breastfeeding, and child health.
- The rate of infant deaths is higher than the national average and rising.
- Some areas have low rates of healthy weight, good dental health, and vaccination uptake.



What do we know about our School Age Children and Young People

School Attendance and Positive Destinations: Aberdeen maintains strong overall attendance rates, with primary school attendance at 92.9% and secondary schools at 89.7% for the 2023/24 academic year. The combined attendance rate of 91.6% is higher than the Scottish average of 90.3%. Additionally, 93.6% of school leavers achieved a positive initial destination in 2023/24, matching the previous year's result and reflecting robust post-school pathways, though slightly below the national rate of 95.7%. For those with additional support needs, the positive destination rate was 89.4%.

Attainment and Qualifications: Achievement of Curriculum for Excellence Levels (ACEL) compares favourably with the Scottish average in many areas. In 2023/24, 81% of primary one pupils achieved the expected Early Level in reading and writing (equal to or better than Scotland's 81% and 79%, respectively). Numeracy attainment was also strong, with 86% of P1 pupils meeting the expected level, above the Scottish average of 85%. In secondary education, 84% of school leavers achieved literacy and numeracy at SCQF Level 4 or better, and 65% achieved Level 5 or better. The proportion of pupils gaining five or more awards at Level 5 increased to 66%.

Inclusion and Additional Support: We have a strong commitment to inclusion with 36.6% of primary and 48.1% of secondary pupils identified as having Additional Support Needs in 2024. The most common reasons for support were English as an additional language and social, emotional, and behavioural difficulties. Notably, 23.6% of all pupils did not have English as their main home language, reflecting the city's diversity. The rate of pupils with declared disabilities (18.2 per 1,000) is lower than the Scottish average (37.1 per 1,000).

Persistent Inequalities: Despite overall successes, significant disparities persist, particularly linked to deprivation. In all subject areas, a smaller proportion of pupils from the most deprived 20% achieved expected levels compared to those from the least deprived 20%. For example, attendance for pupils registered for Free School Meals was 83.5%, compared to 92.1% for non-registered pupils. Exclusion rates were also higher among the most deprived quintile (33.4 per 1,000 pupils) and those on Free School Meals (51.7 per 1,000).



Persistent Absence and Exclusions: The rate of persistent absence (10% or more sessions missed) in 2024 was 27.5%, with secondary schools experiencing the highest levels (33.6%). Exclusion cases increased to 646 in 2022/23, up from 408 in 2020/21. It should be noted school rolls increased by 1 600 in the same time period. However, these figures underscore the need for continued focus on attendance and behaviour support

Achievement Gap and Destinations: The attainment gap between the most and least deprived remains pronounced. The average total tariff score for pupils in the most deprived quintile was 481, compared to 1,198 for those in the least deprived. Positive follow-up destinations for school leavers were lower in the most deprived areas (82.9%) than in the least deprived (95.3%)

Support for Looked After Children: Educational outcomes for looked after children lag behind the wider population. In 2022/23, 68.8% of looked after children left school with one or more qualifications at SCQF Level 4, compared to 87% for all pupils. Attendance rates for looked after children were 88.4%, above the national average, but exclusion rates were significantly higher (164 per 1,000 looked after pupils versus 96.9 nationally). Positive destination rates for looked after children, while improving, remain lower than the general population (81.3% vs 90.1%)

Mental Health and Wellbeing: Levels of mental health and wellbeing among children and young people require ongoing attention. SHINE Mental Health Surveys indicate that 1 in 5 P6 & P7 and 1 in 3 S1-6 pupils experience low mood, with higher prevalence among those from less affluent backgrounds and those who do not disclose their gender. Suicide rates among young people aged 11–15 have increased from 6.2 per 100,000 (2016–20) to 8.2 per 100,000 (2018–22), highlighting the importance of tailored mental health support within school.

Areas for Improvement

- Some children from our priority neighbourhood families or those who need extra help aren't achieving as well as their peers, with a significant gap between their results and those from more affluent families.
- A proportion of pupils are missing periods of school or being excluded, especially in secondary schools and among those in priority neighbourhoods.
- Mental health concerns like feeling sad or worried are becoming more common in young people, and more support is needed to help them feel better and safe at school.



What do we Know About Our Care Experienced Children and Young People

How Many Children Are Looked After? On 31 July 2024, there were 454 looked after children in Aberdeen City. This is about 1.8% of all children aged 0-17 in the city, which is a bit less than the Scottish average (2.2%). More boys than girls are looked after (60.1% boys), and nearly 1 in 5 (18.7%) are under 5 years old.

Where Do Looked After Children Live? Most looked after children in Aberdeen live with foster carers (46%). Some are looked after children who live within their family network. (called kinship care), but this is less common in Aberdeen (34.1%) than in Scotland overall (54.1%). Sometimes, children have to move homes more than once in a year. In 2023-24, 20% of looked after children had more than one placement—this is higher than the Scottish average.

Why Do Placements Change? Children may change homes for positive reasons, like moving to live with adoptive families or being reunited with brothers and sisters. Sometimes, if a child needs safety quickly, they might have to move again until a suitable place is found. Social workers and carers work hard to make sure changes are as smooth as possible, and extra support is given to help children settle. Nationally, we know, there is a significant shortage of foster care placements, and this can also contribute to placement moves.

Education and School Life Looked after children face extra challenges in school. In 2023/24, 70.3% of looked after school leavers in Aberdeen got at least one qualification at SCQF level 4). This is somewhat lower than the Scottish average but is improving.

Attendance at school for looked after children was 88.4% (better than the Scottish average), but their exclusion rate (when pupils are sent home because of behaviour) was much higher in Aberdeen (164 per 1,000 pupils) than the rest of Scotland (96.9 per 1,000).

What Happens After Leaving School? After leaving school, young people hope to move into jobs, more education or training. In 2023/24, only 60% of looked after school leavers in Aberdeen had a positive outcome (like getting a job, starting college, or training). This is lower than in the rest of Scotland and has dropped compared to previous year



What do we know about Child Poverty in Aberdeen

Poverty in Aberdeen City: Poverty is still a significant concern in Aberdeen, with big differences depending on where people live and their backgrounds. The Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation shows things have got worse recently: the number of neighbourhoods among the 20% poorest in Scotland went up from 22 in 2016 to 29 in 2020, and the number in the poorest 40% rose from 28% to 33.2%. On the other hand, 36.7% of areas are still among the 20% best-off.

The city has usually had better than average wages and a strong economy, mainly because of the oil and gas industry. However, as the city moves away from oil and gas, and with prices rising and the cost of living going up, low-income families and vulnerable people have been hit harder than others.

The Working Population: Poverty is closely connected to having a job and having the right skills. Aberdeen's economy is expected to grow more slowly than other UK cities, with less than 1% growth each year. Even so, the city is working to improve things by investing in new skills, green energy, and different types of businesses to help the economy recover.

In 2024, people working full-time in Aberdeen earned an average of £721.70 a week, less than the Scottish average of £740.00. The pay gap between men and women has become smaller, but some differences remain. Even with these issues, people in Aberdeen still earn more on average than people in other parts of Scotland and the UK.

Fewer people from ethnic minority backgrounds and young people are in work. In 2023, 16.2% of households in Aberdeen had no one working, which is about 13,700 households. One in seven homes had nobody in employment, and ethnic minority groups were especially affected, with 28.5% not working.



Families Living in the 20% Least Affluent Areas: By the middle of 2022, 20,893 people in Aberdeen were living in the least affluent 20% of areas, including 3,770 children. In 2023/24, 5,615 children were living in families with low incomes (before housing costs), which is less than the 6,163 in 2022/23. Most of these children (66.7%) were in families where someone worked, and nearly a quarter (23.2%) were under five years old. More than half (58.2%) of children in low-income families lived with just one parent. The percentage of children aged 0-15 in low-income families was 12.3%, down from 14.5% in 2022/23, and lower than the Scotland average of 16.3%. However, these numbers changed a lot depending on the area, from none in wealthy neighbourhoods to 31% in City Centre East.

Child Poverty: According to the End Child Poverty coalition, in 2023/24 about 7,825 children (aged 0-15 or 16-19 in full-time education) in Aberdeen were living in poverty after paying for housing, which is 19.1% of children, compared to 23% for Scotland overall.

Child poverty is especially high in families where no one works or where incomes are very low. In 2023/24, 12% of low-income households had children aged 15 or under—about 3,600 children. The city has responded by offering more support to help people find jobs, providing cheaper childcare, and opening more community food pantries.

Food and Fuel Concerns: Worries about having enough food are rising. In May 2024, 20.7% of people who answered a City Voice survey said they only ate a few types of food, 13.6% couldn't eat healthy meals, 13.3% ate less than they thought they should, and 9.4% were concerned about not having enough food. Foodbank use has gone up, with 55,522 parcels given out in 2023/24—over 4,600 a month.

Heating costs are also a big worry, especially for people in social housing, disabled people, single-person households, and minorities. The latest official figures (2017-19) say that 26.1% of households struggled to pay for heating, which is up from 23% in 2016-18, and more than the Scottish average of 24.4%. In May 2024, 24.6% of people said they worried about heating their homes, which is much higher than the 10% in 2021.



Rise in homelessness: In 2024-25, there were 1,778 homelessness presentations to the council, an increase of 1.8% (1,747) on the previous year, whilst still high, a less sharp rise than the 25% reported in 2022-23.

In March 2025, 376 households were in temporary accommodation (down from 442 in March 2024), 80 of these households had either pregnant women or children in them. 492 young people (aged 16 - 24 years old) applied for homeless assistance in 2024/25, a slight increase of 1.9%, since 2021/22 there has been a more significant increase of 55% (from 318)

Areas for Improvement

Financial Support for Families: Families living in Aberdeen's most deprived communities face significant challenges linked to child poverty. Financial support is crucial: families need help to access benefits, grants, and free school meals, with streamlined referrals and clear information and access to community food pantries.

Employability Support for Parents: Support for parents in finding jobs, affordable childcare, offering joined-up, proactive support and listening to families' experiences

Health and Wellbeing Support: for healthy pregnancies, healthy weight, and breastfeeding, as well as easier access to dental care and immunisations. The data shows the importance of early intervention, ensuring families get help before problems escalate, and co-designing services with community input

Health Care Costs: Local health professionals have told us that many parents have difficulties attending healthcare appointments due to lack of transport or not being able to get time off work. While services are trying to reduce the number of appointments, or offering digital appointments if appropriate, sometimes people do need to be seen in person, and not everyone has easy access to the internet.



Your Place, Your Plans Your Future: What have our Communities Told Us:

People of Aberdeen and our communities are at the heart of Community Planning Aberdeen. 2087 people across Aberdeen, including 587 children and young people, shared what matters most to them through our Your Place, Your Plans, Your Future engagement.

The engagement ran from 24th March to 18th May 2025 and was a combination of the following:

- online survey for adults
- online survey designed for children and young people.
- Six local 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.

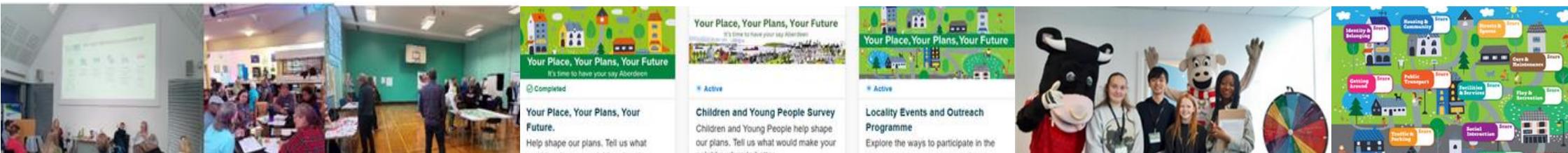
Engagement Results

Mean scores - all participants



Participants rated a range of place-and-community-related themes on a scale of 1–7 and contributed more than 13,000 comments about what they think is working well in Aberdeen and the areas they felt needed to improve. The data and comments have been considered alongside the Population Needs Assessment in making decisions about which priorities and system changes should be within the Local Outcome Improvement Plan. Read the full engagement report [here](#).

The five highest ranking themes were:	The five lowest ranking themes were:
Natural space (5)	Influence and sense of control (3.3)
Play and recreation (4.3)	Traffic and parking (3.4)
Facilities and services (4.2)	Work and Economy (3.7)
Social interaction (4.2)	Care and Maintenance (3.8)
Feeling safe (4.2)	Public Transport (3.8)



Our Main Areas of Focus

Taking into consideration all the information above as well as the wider data and evidence from our Population Needs Assessment, Consultation, feedback from our workforce and key stakeholders, we have developed our Strategic Priorities for our Children's Services Plan. The Plan will involve making 6 major system changes organised under three broad themes that we will make to our services to support those children, young people and families most in need of our support to improve their outcomes, these include:

Best Start in Life

- We will make sure our most vulnerable families have a key link worker with them from before their child is born to support them in their first years.
- Making sure families and their child awaiting a diagnosis of neurodivergence get help as soon as possible.

Empowered and Resilient

- Developing a Co-Located City Centre Safe space for our children and young people where they can get access to all the activities and professional supports they need.
- Building a youth-focused system that offers early, holistic, and trauma-informed support to young people at risk of substance use and exploitation.
- Develop a programme to support 12–18-year-old boys to become positive citizens.

Attainment And Transitions

- Supporting young people who have disengaged or are who at risk of disengaging with school, to achieve.
- Improving our Work Experience Offer and wider post school support.

These priorities also form the core of the Children, Families and Lifelong Learning Section of our Local Outcome Improvement Plan for further details on the LOIP you can find information here: **ADD LINK WHEN PUBLISHED**

How are we going to achieve our vision?

BEST START IN LIFE	EMPOWERED AND RESILIENT	ATTAINMENT AND TRANSITIONS
Why is this a priority?		
<p>Every child deserves the best start in life. Supporting parents and babies in the first 1000 days is crucial. This period shapes brain development, physical health, and emotional wellbeing. During this time of heightened vulnerability, the foundations of a child's lifelong health and development are established. If a baby's development falls behind during the first year of life, it is more likely they will fall even further behind in subsequent years. Early support lays the foundation for resilience, reduced risk of future health and social problems, and better outcomes.</p>	<p>The challenges of childhood aren't restricted to the early years, navigating teenage years is challenging for many young people as well as their parents and carers. Feeling safe and included in their community and not stigmatised, enables children and young people to develop self-confidence and trust. This nurturing environment fosters resilience, helping them face challenges, build strong relationships, and grow into empowered individuals.</p>	<p>Every young person has the right to have the best possible opportunity to achieve a positive and sustained destination on leaving school. Young people in the most deprived areas and in vulnerable groups often face more barriers that make it harder to stay engaged in education and achieve positive outcomes. Over time, these challenges can affect attendance, motivation, and confidence, increasing the risk of disengagement.</p>
What will we do?		
<p>Using shared data, we will support professionals to identify vulnerable children and families early, before birth, so that support is proactive rather than reactive. Families will be provided with a trusted case worker who will build lasting relationships and help them access the services and receive the support they need. This will also support parents to make connections within their communities and build a network of support beyond the link worker. We will go further to identify and support families with children awaiting a diagnosis to ensure they are provided with support earlier.</p>	<p>We will work with children and young people to create a safe, welcoming city centre space where they can take part in activities, connect with trusted adults, and get support when needed. We'll make it easier for professionals and communities to share concerns about child exploitation through a new online portal, helping to spot and prevent problems early. Services will work more closely together to support young people affected by substance use or exploitation, ensuring they get the right help at the right time. Finally, a new programme will support boys build confidence and emotional skills</p>	<p>We will provide bespoke support for young people at risk of leaving school without a positive destination such as care experienced young people, those in our more deprived communities and those with Additional Support Needs or disabilities. The new work experience programme offers young people, particularly those disengaged from school, the chance to gain practical workplace skills alongside classroom studies, bridging the gap between education and employment readiness.</p>

What System Changes We Will Make

TBA – This section will provide a detailed summary of the planned activities each System Change once confirmed at the Community Planning Board (March 2026), the system changes are summarised in the following section below

How We'll Know the System Changes Have Made a Difference

In the table below we outline the key measures we will use to track our improvement

CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND LIFELONG LEARNING					
Input			Output		Outcome
System Change	Target population	Lead Partner	Output Measure	Medium Term 2031	Longer Term 2036
Best Start in Life					Stretch Outcome 1 95% of young people in the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 1 and vulnerable groups achieve a positive destination on leaving school by 2036. Baseline: Citywide: 90.1% SIMD 1: 84.5% SIMD 5: 94.7% Gap: 10.2 p.p. (2023/24) Looked After Children: 60% (2023/24) Additional Support Needs/ Disability: 89.4% (2023/24)
1.1 Personal Case Workers for Vulnerable Families and Support for Families Awaiting Neurodevelopmental Diagnosis Provide personal case workers for vulnerable families who need help to access the services they are entitled to, and a better co-ordinated support experience for families waiting for a neurodevelopmental diagnosis	Vulnerable families in Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 1 neighbourhoods Children and Families of children awaiting a neurodevelopmental diagnosis	Aberdeen City Council	% of vulnerable families with children under five have a case worker % of families engaged reporting no concerns %. of children with neurodevelopmental differences and their families with a support plan in place, irrespective of diagnosis, within 12 weeks of identification within identified Schools	Increase by 12% the percentage of children reviewed in Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) 1 neighbourhoods meeting their developmental milestones by 2031 Baseline: 79.9% with no developmental concerns (SIMD1) SIMD5 89.6% SIMD 5 20.1% in SIMD1 with developmental concerns (2023/24)	

CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND LIFELONG LEARNING

Input			Output		Outcome
System Change	Target population	Lead Partner	Output Measure	Medium Term 2031	Longer Term 2036
Empowered and Resilient					<p>Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 1 and vulnerable groups achieve a positive destination on leaving school by 2036.</p> <p>Baseline: Citywide: 90.1% SIMD 1: 84.5% SIMD 5: 94.7% Gap: 10.2 p.p. (2023/24) Looked After Children: 60% (2023/24) Additional Support Needs/ Disability: 89.4% (2023/24)</p>
<p>1.2 Safe, co-designed spaces for at-risk young people offering onsite support, person centred activities, and healthy relationship programme. Co-design an integrated programme that provides safe, supportive spaces, targeted interventions and individual support opportunities for young people who are at risk of harm from substance use or child criminal exploitation, including support for boys to form healthy and respectful relationships.</p>	<p>Young people in Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 1 neighbourhoods and Vulnerable Groups of C&YP</p> <p>Children and young people at risk of Child Criminal Exploitation and risk of substance use</p> <p>12–18-year-old boys in Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 1 neighbourhoods</p>	<p>Police Scotland</p>	<p>No. of young people (by locality) using the safe spaces</p> <p>% of young people at risk of substance use harm or exploitation who are actively supported through a multi-agency wraparound model, reporting improved SHANNARI measures</p> <p>No. of youth anti-social behaviour calls</p> <p>% of 12–18-year-old boys reporting sense of belonging or connection to peers.</p>	<p>Increase by 5% the number of young people who report always feeling safe in their school, community, and home by 2031</p> <p>Baseline: Safe at school – 41% Safe in community -40% Safe at home - 82% All settings -27%</p>	

CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND LIFELONG LEARNING

Input			Output		Outcome
System Change	Target population	Lead Partner	Output Measure	Medium Term 2031	Longer Term 2036
Attainment and Transitions					
1.3 Individualised support for young people at risk of not completing school and sustained work experience Support programmes for young people at risk of not completing school and sustained work experience opportunities as part of the curriculum offer	Young people in Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 1 neighbourhoods and Vulnerable Groups of C&YP	Aberdeen City Council/ Skills Development Scotland	Percentage increase in school engagement/ attendance No. of young people in sustained work (by locality and group) % of young people in sustained work experiencing engaging with school and achieving a positive destination. % of Young people receiving tailored support transition to a positive destination	Increase by 10% the tariff scores for pupils in Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 1 neighbourhoods and other vulnerable groups by 2031. Baseline: SIMD1 tariff score: 55% of the overall tariff rate. SIMD1 tariff score: 486, SIMD 5 tariff score: 1203 Tariff score overall: 886.	Stretch Outcome 1 95% of young people in the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 1 and vulnerable groups achieve a positive destination on leaving school by 2036. Baseline: Citywide: 90.1% SIMD 1: 84.5% SIMD 5: 94.7% Gap: 10.2 p.p. (2023/24) Looked After Children: 60% (2023/24) Additional Support Needs/ Disability: 89.4% (2023/24)

Helping to Support Our Children, Young People and Families

Our Children's Services Plan priorities in the previous section, highlighted the main changes we will make to our systems and services to improve overall outcomes for children and young people in the city. However, our Plan also has the responsibility of explaining how we are going to address national priorities for children and young people. The section that follows provides an explanation of what we will do to support these national priorities, specifically on the topics of:

Getting it Right for Every Child, how we are supporting our services and families to help children reach their full potential

Improving Education in Aberdeen, linked to the National Improvement Framework

Keeping the Promise, ensuring sustained multi agency attention to improving the outcomes for children and young people who care experienced to deliver on the commitments set out in The Promise by 2030.

Making sure we uphold Children's Rights in line with the incorporation of the United Nations Convention on Rights of the Child into Scots law.

And Tackling Child Poverty, our strategic approach to tackling child poverty over the next 5 years

Getting it Right for Every Child

How We Create and Maintain Effective Getting It Right for Every Child (GIRFEC) Practice

Getting it right for every child (GIRFEC) is Scotland's long standing, national commitment to provide all children, young people, and their families with the right support at the right time, so that every child and young person can reach their full potential. GIRFEC is both an approach and framework used by services across Scotland to improve and uphold the wellbeing of children and their families.

In Aberdeen we are deeply committed to ensuring that every child and young person grows up loved, safe, heard, and respected, so they can reach their full potential. Our approach, known as Getting It Right for Every Child (GIRFEC), guides everything we do to support children, young people, and their families, especially those who are most vulnerable. Below, we explain how we put this into practice and how we work together to create positive outcomes for all.

Placing Children and Families at the Centre

We always put children, young people, and their families at the heart of our work. This means listening to their voices and respecting their rights, while encouraging them to participate fully in decisions that affect them. By promoting choice and inclusion, and by recognising the strengths within families, we ensure that our support is personal and meaningful.

Working in Partnership

We believe that the best outcomes happen when services work together. Our teams across health, education, social work, and the voluntary sector collaborate closely, sharing information and expertise. We involve families at every stage, making sure they are informed, respected, and included in planning for their child's wellbeing.

Understanding and Supporting Wellbeing

Our understanding of wellbeing covers all aspects of a child's life, including their health, development, family, and community. We use the Wellbeing Wheel (SHANARRI indicators: Safe, Healthy, Achieving, Nurtured, Active, Respected, Responsible, Included) to see what is going well and where extra support might be needed. We also use tools like the My World Triangle and Resilience Matrix to guide our assessment and planning, ensuring a thorough and holistic understanding of each child's world.

Early and Proportionate Support

We aim to offer help as early as possible before problems have a chance to grow. Our Universal Services (like schools and health visitors) provide most of the support children and families need. Where more complex needs arise, we put together a plan with the child, their family, and other professionals, making sure everyone's views are included and that support is targeted and effective.

Clear Processes and Roles

Every child has a named person—someone familiar, such as a health visitor or teacher—who is their main point of contact and support. If a child needs help from more than one agency, we appoint a lead professional to coordinate support and ensure everyone is working towards the same outcomes. We review and update plans regularly, always keeping the child's best interests in mind.

Information Sharing and Record Keeping

We take great care to share relevant information appropriately and securely, always following data protection laws. Our staff explain to families why information needs to be shared and with whom, seeking consent where possible. In situations where there is a risk of harm, we act quickly and share information without delay to keep children safe. We also keep detailed records and chronologies, documenting significant events and actions, which help us spot patterns and respond quickly to any emerging concerns.



Managing Transitions

We plan carefully for key changes in a child's life, such as starting school or moving between schools, to ensure continuity of support. We make sure that information is passed on smoothly and that families know who their new named person or lead professional will be.

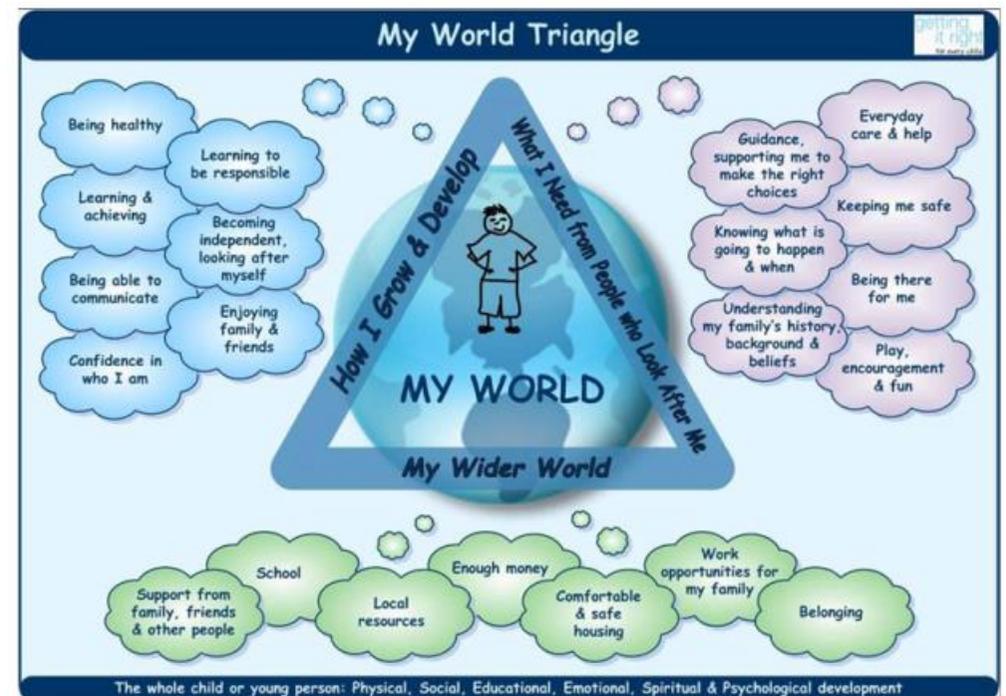
Valuing Diversity and Tackling Inequality

Our services are inclusive and accessible to all. We actively celebrate diversity and work to make sure that every child and young person gets the support they need, when they need it, regardless of their background or circumstances.

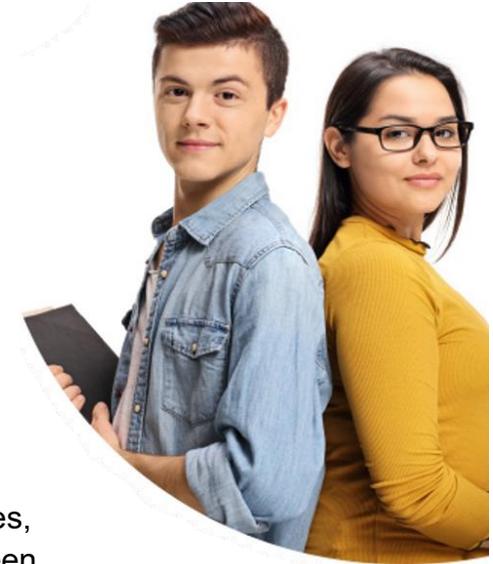
Continuous Improvement and Family Involvement

We regularly review our practice, seek feedback, and involve children, young people, and families in shaping the support we provide. Our aim is always to build positive, respectful relationships, and to empower families as expert partners in their children's lives.

The full details of our approach to GIRFEC practice can be found here in our [GIRFEC Operational Guidance](#)



Improving Educational Outcomes



National Improvement Framework

We are strongly committed to making sure every child and young person in the city gets the best possible education. We work closely with schools, parents, community groups, and national partners to tackle challenges, celebrate successes, and strive to make school a positive and rewarding experience for everyone. The Aberdeen City National Improvement Framework (NIF) Action Plan is reviewed and updated annually to reflect the priorities of the education service. Below is a summary of the action we are undertaking and what we are planning in the years to come. If you would like further detail, you can find the latest evaluation here: [Aberdeen City National Improvement Framework Plan Evaluation 2024/25](#)

Primary Schools

Current Achievements and Improvements

Attainment across P1, 4 and 7 are consistent with national patterns. Marginal differences in literacy will be addressed through continued roll out of Cypic writing. By March 2026 staff from all schools will have accessed the professional learning offer ensuring consistent delivery across the city. Young people continue to have opportunities to participate in performance opportunities through established creative events bringing pupils from across all school communities together such as the Big Sing. School attendance rates are continuing to rise and remain above the national average. Schools continue to welcome pupils from different backgrounds, making classrooms more diverse and vibrant

Plans for Improving Learning Environments

As part of the school estate plan improvements continue to be made to the school estate to make sure there are enough good spaces for learning. In the last session we opened the new Riverbank School in May 2025, offering excellent facilities for pupils in Tillydrone. Work has begun on renovations for both St Peter's and Ferryhill to provide welcoming and modern spaces with access to the outdoors providing the best possible learning environments for our young people.

Support for Teachers and Leadership

Supporting teachers and school leaders is a key priority. Training programmes, such as Aspire2Lead and LeadWise, help both new and experienced leaders develop their skills. Every primary school has access to professional learning opportunities, including workshops on maths, literacy, and how to make lessons engaging and effective. Middle leaders take part in quality improvement visits to learn from each other and share what works well. We are also working to help more teachers become leaders, especially in areas where it's harder to recruit staff.

A Focus on Literacy, Numeracy and Wellbeing

Primary schools are focusing on making sure every child can read, write, and use numbers confidently. We have rolled out a writing programme that has boosted achievement in writing at P4 and P7. There's a big push on maths too, with schools taking part in a new research project called MathsBURST, using fun activities to help children understand maths better.

Wellbeing is just as important as learning. Schools check in regularly with pupils about their mental health and happiness, and there's been a drop in children reporting low mood or loneliness. Programmes like "Being Me" help children feel good about themselves and learn about healthy habits. Free breakfast clubs and after-school activities support families and make school a welcoming place.

Inclusion and Additional Support for Learning

In Aberdeen we continue to work hard to make sure all children, including those with additional support needs, get the help they need to succeed. The CIRCLE framework gives teachers practical tools and training to support children with learning or emotional difficulties. There are more places available for early learning and childcare, especially for children from low-income families or those who need extra support. Staff are offered ongoing training in supporting children with trauma or behaviour challenges through our annual learning festival.

Secondary Schools

Current Achievements and Improvements

Secondary schools in Aberdeen have also made strong progress. The number of pupils gaining qualifications has reached record highs, with more entries for National 5, Higher, and Advanced Higher exams than ever before. Attainment (the number of pupils passing these exams) is increasing, and more young people are achieving one or more passes at SCQF Level 5 and 6. Schools are also seeing improvements in attendance.

Plans for Curriculum Development Pathways

Aberdeen's secondary schools continue to offer a wide range of subjects and courses, so every young person can find something that interests them and prepares them for their future. The ABZ Campus project has increased the number of courses available, including foundation apprenticeships, skills-based subjects, and options for pupils with additional needs. Along with our system change to develop more work experience opportunities and partnerships with local employers, this will better equip our young people for their future careers.

Support for Teachers and Leadership

Just like in primary schools, secondary teachers and leaders are supported in professional learning. Networks for learning and teaching, as well as subject-specific groups, will continue to help staff share ideas and best practice. Leadership programmes and mentoring for new head teachers and deputies are being expanded. We are also working to attract more teachers to subjects where it's hard to recruit, like STEM (science, technology, engineering, and maths).

Focus on Attainment, Skills, and Positive Destinations

We aim to help every young person achieve their best and move into a positive destination after school, whether that's college, university, training, or employment. Schools use data to track progress and target support for pupils who need it most. There's a focus on closing the attainment gap between the most and least advantaged pupils, with targeted interventions and extra support for those who need it. With youth work and family learning teams supporting both family and pupils' wellbeing, confidence, and skills, helping them prepare for life beyond school.

Inclusion and Additional Support for Learning

Secondary schools are committed to being inclusive. The CIRCLE framework and other support systems help staff meet the needs of all pupils. All schools work closely with partners with a particular focus on closing the gap for pupils who are care-experienced, young carers, or from families facing poverty.

Looking to the Future

By improving school buildings, supporting teachers, focusing on literacy, numeracy, and wellbeing, expanding the curriculum, and making the most of technology, we will help pupils enjoy learning and prepare for their futures. Collaborating with families, community partners, and national organisations is at the heart of this work.

Key to ensuring this will be our focus on the Attainment and Transitions System Changes Identified in this Plan. Focussing support to those children and families in SIMD1 and in particular those children who are at risk of disengaging from school, will struggle to achieve a positive destination and those awaiting a diagnosis for their Additional Support Needs, we will maximise our support offer at the earliest possible stage.

United Nations Rights of the Child



Children's rights as our common thread across all priorities

Children's rights are the organising principle of this Plan. Across Best Start in Life, Empowered and Resilient, and Attainment & Transitions, we remove practical barriers so rights can be realised in daily life, through early, whole-family support, financial inclusion and employability, accessible health and neurodevelopmental pathways, and safe spaces that protect from harm and exploitation.

We embed participation so that children and young people shape decisions that affect them, and we commit to child-friendly information and clear "you said, we did" feedback. With a sharp focus on equity for children in SIMD1, care-experienced children and young people, those awaiting assessment, and those at risk of homelessness, we align supports to need, uphold non-discrimination and best interests, and strengthen positive destinations.

Our multi-agency, data-informed approach, rooted in GIRFEC, corporate parenting duties, and contextual safeguarding, ensures coordinated delivery and measurable accountability, so that every child in Aberdeen can grow up safe, healthy, included, and ready to thrive.

For a more detailed outline of how the various articles of the UNCRC are embedded throughout our Plan you can find in the 'Children's Services Plan Priorities Linked UNCRC Articles' section on page 93.

How Aberdeen Includes Young People in Decisions

Our Partnership aims to ensure that children and young people have a say in what happens in their city. We have groups such as the Aberdeen Youth Movement (AYM) and Young Ambassadors, where young people can share their ideas with city leaders. These groups help make important choices about things like money for community projects and protecting Aberdeen's history. There is also currently a new Shadow Board in development which will aim to let young people help with important decisions even more.

We run events in different neighbourhoods, bringing information to schools, and use fun campaigns to get young people's opinions. The "Your Place, Your Plans, Your Future" consultation let young people help design how the city looks and works. Young people can be peer leaders, helping others join in and speak up. The Youth Activity Grants programme gives young people money to run their own projects about creativity, inclusion, and leadership. Young people themselves decide which projects get money, so their voices really matter.

We also have programmes to teach everyone about children's rights, including toolkits and training for people who work with young people. We have collaborated on and shared our ideas with other places in Scotland and around the world. Altogether, these projects make sure young people are listened to and their ideas help shape the city.

What Young People Think

Young people in Aberdeen say it's important they get to share their views and that adults really listen. In the "Your Place, Your Plans, Your Future" consultation young people asked for safer paths for walking and cycling, better buses, and more places and activities they can use. They want their neighbourhoods to be safer, with better lighting and play areas for everyone. They also want to know that what they say changes things, so they like to see "you said, we did" reports showing how their ideas are used.

When we asked about budgets, young people talked about how decisions affect things they care about, like youth clubs, buses, and arts events. They like being able to help decide where money goes, and they want these choices explained simply, in ways

they understand. The main thing is, young people want adults to be honest, make changes that help them, and give them a chance to shape what happens in Aberdeen—both locally and across the whole city.

Youth-Led Funding & Innovation: Aberdeen’s Commitment to Meaningful Youth Participation

The Youth Activity Grants programme lets young people decide which projects get funding. This means they have real power to create new clubs, events, or activities that are creative, welcoming, and help others learn to be leaders. By making these decisions themselves, young people help build a better community and learn important skills.

Helping Develop Children’s Services Plan

Young people have helped shape the plan for children’s services by joining special workshops. At one meeting (the Children’s Services Board LOIP Development Workshop on 15/07/25), young people from AYM gave feedback about what could be better:

- **Making it Easier to Join In:** The workshops and information were sometimes hard to understand, with lots of big words and abbreviations. Young people want things explained clearly, with simple language and chances for everyone to help design meetings and reports.
- **Fairness and Representation:** Some groups, like those not in school, don’t get asked what they think as much. Young people want different ways to share ideas, so people from all backgrounds can have their say.
- **Bigger Changes:** Young people suggested creating goals that they design themselves, making sure their voice is heard in every part of the plan, and writing easy-to-follow guides for how to get help from services.

Representatives from AYM took part in the Aberdeen 2036: Towards a Fairer Future conference. They spoke up about how young people are often misunderstood and shared ideas on how things could be better. They made it clear that it’s important for young people’s voices to be heard and that changes should make Aberdeen a fairer place for everyone.

Keeping Children’s Rights at the Heart of What We Do

To make sure we keep up with children’s rights and the UNCRC, we’re helping staff learn more by offering regular training and sharing toolkits, aimed at helping services to embed UNCRC in their work and involving children and young people to the greatest extent they can. We check our policies often to make sure they put children first, and we make sure our complaints process is clear and child-friendly, so everyone knows how to speak up if something isn’t right. When we buy services or work with partners, we follow rules that protect children’s rights. We use smart tools to look at data and see where we can do better, and we share updates so everyone can see the progress we’re making. This way, we keep improving and make sure children and young people are always at the heart of what we do.

Planned Activity

Shaping Decision Making

We remain serious about involving young people in planning and running community learning and development (CLD) activities. The city’s CLD Plan for 2025–2030 was created together with young people and other groups. Its main goal is to help young people shape the services and decisions that affect them, making sure their voices are heard and acted on in all important areas. Young people are involved through groups like Aberdeen Youth Movement, Young Ambassadors, and other youth forums, which give them regular chances to share ideas, take the lead, and be part of making decisions.

The CLD plan focuses on youth work to help young people feel better about themselves, get involved in volunteering (over 3,000 Saltire Awards have been earned), and find positive paths after leaving school, especially for those who need the most support. Success is measured by things like the number of partners reporting progress, how many young people are involved in different groups, and the impact of youth-led projects. These achievements are checked by our CLD Strategic Partnership, using regular reviews and clear reports, to make sure young people’s voices are central to shaping Aberdeen’s future.

Children and Young Peoples Shadow Board

As we mentioned above, we are also working to establish the Children's Services Board (CSB) Shadow Board, a key move in making sure children and young people are part of important decisions. The Shadow Board will include young people from different backgrounds, like youth groups, school councils, and groups for young people with care or justice experience, working to ensure the voices of all children and young people are represented. The board will help make decisions, design services, and keep leaders accountable, with options like projects during term time, mentoring, and awards or internships for recognition.

At first, the Shadow Board will focus on Children's Services Board goals, but the plan is to support our wider Community Planning Aberdeen Partnership. The Shadow Board will begin by learning from experts, mapping out how youth voices are included, and making sure its role is clear compared to other youth voice groups. Activities like workshops, mentoring, and joint planning have been underway from June 2025 to April 2026, ending with a big launch and telling everyone about it. The whole process is about making sure young people help shape the board and the CSB plan, with ongoing ways to check and improve things. This means children and young people will have a lasting way to share ideas and help make Aberdeen better, with their views helping to guide decisions and changes across the city.

Keeping the Promise



The Promise was established as a response to the findings of the Independent Care Review. The Promise is “that all Scotland’s children and young people will grow up loved, safe and respected so they can realise their full potential.” To keep this promise, all the conclusions of the Independent Care Review must be implemented, in full, by 2030. Here is a summary of the work we have been undertaking and have planned in order to ensure we keep The Promise in Aberdeen:

Bright Spots - Listening to Care Experienced Children and Young People

We took time to listen to children and young people in care and those who have left care. In 2024, we worked with Coram Voice and CELCIS to run a survey called Bright Spots. This survey asked children and young people about their wellbeing and how they feel about their lives. We heard from a large number of children and young people, which helped us to better understand what is working and what needs to change.

We also worked hard to ensure that we could hear from children and young people who might find it harder to share their views, such as those in secure care, with disabilities, or living outside Aberdeen, so that everyone had a chance to have their voice heard.

In total we heard from - **72% of our children and young people in care and 69% of our care leavers.**

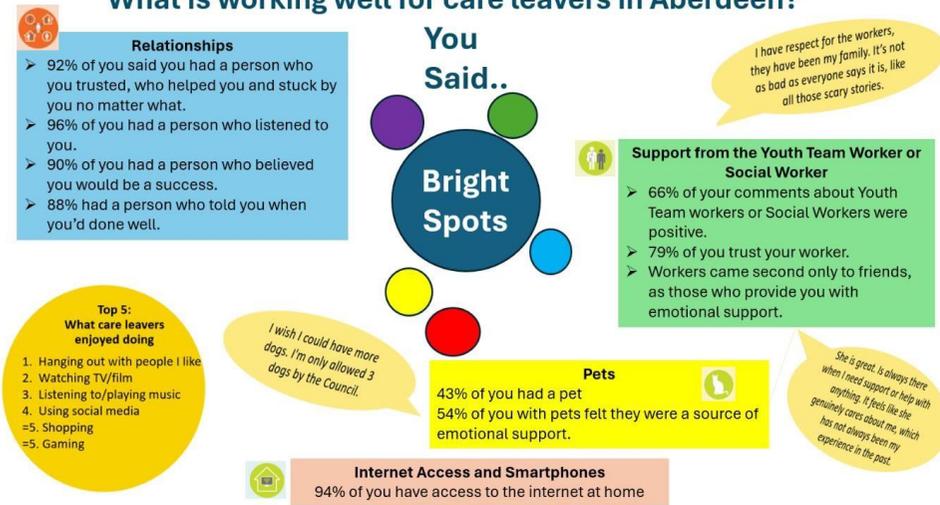
What is working well for children in care aged 4 – 17 in Aberdeen City?



What could be better for children 4 – 17 years in care in Aberdeen City?



What is working well for care leavers in Aberdeen?



What could be better for care leavers in Aberdeen?



Working Together: Collaboration and Participation

In addition to Bright Spots, we have created fun and safe ways for children and young people to share their thoughts. For example, there are focus groups, filmmaking projects, and social activities like “Soup and Sweet” sessions, where young people and adults can chat over a meal. At the request of young people, food is always provided, helping everyone feel welcome and valued.

For children and young people who are new to Scotland (“New Scots”), we make sure activities are inclusive and match their cultural and language needs.

We’ve also started an online magazine called “The Loop” where we share what children and young people have said and show what actions have been taken. Helping everyone to see that their voices are making a difference

Turning Feedback Into Action

We are now using what our care experienced children and young people said to shape our plans as well as continue to listen to their views and options to inform our actions. This feedback helps us decide what needs to be improved, and what is already going well. For example, findings from the Bright Spots survey are being used to inform the development of the Corporate Parenting Plan.

Examples of Positive Changes

Improving life for care experienced children and young people requires all of our partner organisations to work together, such as schools, health workers, the police, housing, and charities. Since 2022 our Promise Pilot has taken a whole family approach, helping children stay in school, and making sure families get help before things become a crisis. Here are some examples of what we have achieved:

- **Bairns' Hoose:** This is a new space designed with help from children, young people, and their families. They helped decide how it looks and how it works, making sure it meets their needs.
- **Rights Service:** Young people are helping to redesign materials and shape the future of this service, making sure it fits what they want and need.
- **Recruitment:** Young people help with hiring staff for Children's Social Work Services. They help design interviews and some even co-lead them, especially for jobs working with children with disabilities.
- **Kinship Service:** Feedback from carers, children, and young people led to more support groups, better information for carers, and new roles to help families spend time together.
- **Intensive Support Service (Craigielea):** This service works closely with families to make sure support is personal, caring, and based on what each child or family needs. Families help plan and review the support they get

Making Sure the Improvement Lasts – Fairer Futures

We know that problems like poverty and housing crisis can make life harder for children and young people in care and their families. That's why they are always reviewing what our priorities should be. For example, we have been awarded extra funding through the Fairer Futures programme, which will provide more resources to support families earlier, help reduce crisis situations, and build stronger communities, so that we can reduce the risk of children and young people being taken into care or reducing the amount of time they remain in it.

Checking Progress and Staying Accountable

The Corporate Parenting Strategic Improvement Group is responsible for ensuring that we meet all of our key responsibilities to children, young people and families experiencing the care system as well as ensuring we continue to do all we can to Keep the Promise. This group reviews feedback, oversees changes, and makes sure improvements are practical and ambitious. The group also makes sure children and young people know what is happening and can see how their input leads to change.

Looking to the Future

Our Partnership remains fully committed to keeping “The Promise” We will keep listening, keep working together, and keep making changes so that every child and young person in Aberdeen feels safe, valued, and able to achieve their best.

By working together with children, young people, families, and partners, and by making sure everyone's voice is heard, we are making real progress—and we are determined to do even more in the future.

Corporate Parenting – How our Services Support Care Experienced Children and Young People?

A Corporate Parent is any organisation legally required to look after, support, and advocate for children and young people in care or who have been in care. Partner organisations work together to ensure care-experienced young people receive the same chances, support, and encouragement as any good parent would provide. Being a good Corporate Parent is essential to our commitment Keeping the Promise.

The number of children who are looked after by the local authority continues to reduce year on year. This shows that we are supporting more children to stay within their family. These children will often have considerable and complex needs which requires partners to work collaboratively together to manage the risk, vulnerability and ensure the child's needs are met. When children do enter care, they may live at home with support, with relatives (kinship care), foster carers, or in residential homes. There's been a small rise in kinship care, which helps keep family connections strong. Foster and kinship carers are supported with activities, training, and practical help.

Aberdeen also supports children and young people arriving from other countries, especially those who come alone, ensuring they have safe places to live, education, and opportunities to connect with their new community. Unaccompanied children and young people seeking asylum and refuge unit (CYPSAR-U) are offered a health assessment delivered through a specialist clinic. This means that their health needs can be addressed as completely as possible without multiple visits to various professionals and onward referrals can be made swiftly if required.

Challenges remain, such as high demand for support and not enough foster carers or residential places, which increases costs. The council is working to recruit more carers and improve residential homes, especially for children with complex needs.

Looking ahead, the focus is on reducing the number of children needing care, supporting families earlier, and ensuring every child in care gets the best possible help. There's a strong commitment to helping young people leaving care succeed as adults and to building a system that puts their needs first for happy, healthy lives.

For a more detailed overview of the work underway to support Care Experienced Young People you can find this in the: [Chief Social Work Officers Annual Report](#)

Our Approach to Corporate Parenting

Aberdeen City's corporate parenting priorities are embedded within the Children's Services Plan 2026–31 and the Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) 2026–36, particularly through work aimed at improving health, wellbeing, and attainment for care-experienced children and young people. This approach ensures that statutory duties and The Promise commitments are delivered through collaborative improvement projects and annual reporting cycles.

As we have shown in this Plan, we gather a wide range of information and data about care-experienced children and young people as well as listening and acting on their views through the Bright Spots Survey, which underpins our Corporate Parenting Priorities, helping us understand their needs and informing us how we respond shaping our everyday practice and Strategic Corporate Parenting Plan (*The 2026-2029 Corporate Parenting Plan will be linked in full here once published, April 2026*).

Our Guiding Principles

The priorities identified through data and lived experience are delivered through a set of guiding principles. These principles form the foundation of our Corporate Parenting Plan, shaping its design and implementation. They ensure that every action reflects our commitment to collaboration, rights, and continuous improvement.

Partnership Working: We work collaboratively across health, education, housing, police, higher education, and the third sector to provide joined-up support and shared accountability.

Rights and Trauma-Informed Practice: Our plan is rooted in the UNCRC, The Promise, and trauma-informed principles, ensuring that rights are upheld and support is sensitive to individual experiences.

Young People's Voice: Participation is central to our approach. We actively listen and act on the views of children and young people so they can influence priorities and shape services.

Continuous Improvement: Corporate parenting priorities are embedded within the Children's Services Plan and LOIP. Progress is reviewed annually, with data and lived experience driving ongoing refinement and improvement.

Our Key Corporate Parenting Plan Priorities

1. Health and Wellbeing

Care-experienced children and young people are more likely to experience mental health challenges, including anxiety and depression, than their peers. Bright Spots data shows that only 4% of care leavers reported high happiness, compared to 75% of the general population.

Many live with long-term health conditions or disabilities, and health inequalities are often compounded by poverty and housing instability. The Mental Health of Children and Young People in Aberdeen (2025) report highlights significant disparities linked to deprivation and care status.

Priority: We will ensure that care-experienced children and young people have access to timely, high-quality physical and mental health support, promote emotional wellbeing, reduce health inequalities, and embed trauma-informed approaches across all services.

2. Education, Attainment and Employability

Care-experienced children and young people consistently achieve lower educational outcomes than their peers. In Scotland, only 47% of looked-after children leave school with one or more SCQF Level 5 qualifications, compared to 86% of all school leavers. University progression remains very low, with only 6% of care leavers entering higher education, and most leaving school at the earliest opportunity (age 16 or younger) (Scottish Government 2019 and 2023).

Bright Spots data shows half (48%) of care leavers are not in education, employment, or training.

Priority: Improve attendance and achievement while expanding pathways into further and higher education, training, and employment through personalised support that removes barriers to learning and employability.

3. Housing and Transitions

Research consistently highlights that care leavers are more likely than other young people to become homeless or experience housing instability. These young people continue to leave care at an earlier age, with less preparation, and less support than young people leaving home without care experience, and often before they are ready. These factors combine disproportionately to increase the risk and occurrence of homelessness for care leavers. (CELCIS 2019)

Bright Spots data demonstrated that.

- 1 in 4 care leavers did not feel where they lived right now was right for them.
- 30% did not always feel safe in their home.
- 36% did not always feel safe in their neighbourhood.
- 41% of care leavers did not always feel settled in their home.

Priority: Strengthen support for young people moving into adulthood, ensuring safe, stable housing and smooth transitions from care, reducing homelessness risk.

4. Participation and Voice

Participation and engagement are essential to fulfilling the commitments of The Promise and the UNCRC, as both frameworks uphold the right of children to be heard, actively involved, and treated with respect in all decisions that impact their lives. Participation improves wellbeing when young people feel their views shape decisions about care, housing, education, and relationships. (CoramVoice 2021)

Priority: Embed meaningful participation in planning and service delivery, ensuring young people influence decisions and hold us accountable.

5. Relationships and Belonging

Positive relationships are essential for emotional resilience, identity development, and mental health. A sense of belonging reduces isolation and stigma, helping young people feel valued and included. Strong, stable relationships act as a buffer against adversity, improving outcomes in education, health, and life chances. Research and local engagement show that care experienced individuals who feel connected and supported have better long-term outcomes.

Priority: Prioritise stable, nurturing relationships and a sense of belonging, supporting family connections and trusted adult relationships.

6. Rights and Advocacy

Embedding UNCRC principles ensures decisions are made in the best interests of children and young people. Advocacy empowers experienced individuals to have their voices heard, challenge decisions, and navigate complex systems. The Promise calls for lifelong advocacy and participation, ensuring care experienced people are partners in shaping services, not passive recipients.

Priority: Uphold rights in line with the UNCRC and The Promise and strengthen access to advocacy for all care-experienced young people in line with the proposed legislative change.

How These Priorities Will Be Delivered

Each priority will be supported by clear actions, measurable outcomes, and annual progress reviews. Delivery will be embedded within the Children's Services Plan and LOIP, ensuring accountability through collaborative improvement projects and reporting cycles.

It is also recognised that implementation of changes is taking place in a context where care-experienced children, young people and families often face significant financial pressures, which can affect their stability and wellbeing. This means our approach must be sensitive to these realities, ensuring that reforms are practical, inclusive, and supported by measures that reduce poverty-related barriers and promote long-term security.

Measuring Success

Annual Reporting: Progress against each priority reviewed and reported annually.
Data and Lived Experience: Quantitative and qualitative feedback inform evaluation.
Bright Spots and Other Surveys: Regular engagement tools track improvements.
Performance Indicators: Clear metrics agreed for each priority.

Governance and Reporting

The Corporate Parenting Strategic Improvement Group provides strategic oversight and is responsible for delivering the Corporate Parenting Plan. This group brings together representatives from all corporate parents and acts as the central forum for implementing plans, monitoring progress, and ensuring accountability.

Key responsibilities include:

- Strategic Oversight: Ensuring priorities are delivered effectively and aligned with statutory duties and The Promise.
- Action Reporting: Members report on progress against agreed actions, enabling shared accountability.
- Collaborative Implementation: Coordinating improvement projects across agencies to deliver joined-up support.

To achieve the priority aims set out by the Group, the following high-level actions have been agreed:

- Embed corporate parenting principles across all services and decision-making processes.
- Deliver mandatory workforce development programmes that promote trauma-informed and rights-based practice.
- Align all improvement work with The Promise Plan 24–30 and UNCRC incorporation.
- Use Bright Spots data and lived experience insights to inform planning and service redesign.
- Strengthen accountability and monitoring through a structured evaluation process within the improvement framework.
- Incorporate feedback from care-experienced children and young people to ensure their voices influence decisions.
- Provide transparent reporting to keep stakeholders informed and promote shared responsibility.

Through this governance structure and agreed actions, we will ensure corporate parenting is a shared responsibility, with progress that is transparent, measurable, and driven by continuous improvement.

Child Poverty



The current situation

The Scottish Government wants fewer than one in ten (10%) children to be growing up in relative poverty by 2030. Relative poverty is defined as households having less than 60% of the UK median income after housing costs. The UK Department for Work and Pensions publish the percentage of children living in low-income families, defined as below 60% of median income, before housing costs. In 2023/24 they report that one in eight children (12%) in Aberdeen City are growing up in low-income families. Loughborough University use the DWP data to estimate the number of children living in low-income families after housing costs, and these are published by End Child Poverty. Once housing costs are taken into account, around one in five children are growing up in relative poverty in Aberdeen City (19%). These figures have not changed much over the past ten years.

Not everyone who grows up in poverty is harmed by it, and strong family relationships and friendships can really help. But not having enough money limits where we can live, it makes it difficult to pay bills, to eat well and healthily, to take part in things, to travel or go on holiday, to manage when things break down, to keep up with everyone around us, or to feel good about ourselves. For all these reasons and more is why poverty is bad for health and wellbeing.

Poverty forces people to focus on short-term survival, making it harder to plan for the future. It limits choices in food, activities, and energy levels. As some of the data in other sections of this Plan indicate, children born into poverty often face health and development challenges and may struggle with taking part in social activities. They might miss out on events, trends, and friendships, leading to feelings of shame or exclusion. Growing up in poverty can reduce future job prospects and earning potential. Adults who experienced poverty as children tend to earn less and need more public support. Poverty can also pass down through generations, making it difficult to break the cycle.

Our Children's Services Plan 2026-31 and Local Child Poverty Action Reports

In line with statutory guidance under the Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017. We produce a Local Child Poverty Action Report each year detailing our current and planned actions for Child Poverty. You can find it here in our **Children's Services Plan Annual Report (Updated on publication June 2026)**. The sections below explain how our Children Services Plan actions align with our vision to support children, young people, and families to reduce child poverty over the next 5 years.

Fairer Futures - Our Partnership Approach to Supporting Vulnerable Families

Community Planning Aberdeen is working with the Scottish Government to help make life better for children and families who are struggling, such as those in or at risk of poverty in order to:

- Make sure families who need help can get support easily, when and where they need it.
- Change how services work, so they work together better and support families as a team.

A big part of this plan is the Caseworker System Change mentioned at the first section of our Plan, which means one person or team will help families get all the support they need. This way, families do not have to keep asking different people for help.

Fair Futures aims to ensure:

- There will be less child poverty.
- Fewer families will need emergency help.
- There will be fewer cases where the government has to step in to protect children.
- Children will be safe and able to stay with their families.
- Families will feel stronger and more able to ask for help if they need it.

Our Guiding principles are:

Voice and Full Participation:

Children and families should help plan, make, check, and improve services. Support should be given by people who listen, care, and work together as a team.

Responsiveness and Person Centred:

Services should focus on people's needs and help everyone, no matter where they go for help. Support should match what each person or family needs and work with adults too, so everyone gets help together.

With People for People:

Help should be given without judging anyone or making them feel bad. Families should get help quickly when they need it, and for as long as they need it, with help changing if their needs change. All the help should fit together so families don't have to keep asking different people and get mixed messages.

Co-Design and Community Involvement:

Communities should work together to help each other and feel better. Support should help families use their strengths and also get help from their neighbours and friends. Families should be able to ask for help themselves and get it in places that are close and easy for them.

Experts in Their Own Situation:

Families should know how to get help easily. They should feel confident to ask for help and be able to choose the kind of help that suits them best.

Unique Community Responses:

Support should be tailored to fit around each individual family and community, not be driven by rigid services or structures. It should cover the spectrum of support from universal services, more tailored support, and intensive support (to prevent or in response to statutory interventions).

What Have Our Young People Experiencing Poverty Told Us About Their Needs?

Young people have told us that tackling poverty in schools is vital. They want equal opportunities, including access to free school meals, uniforms, and school trips. Going hungry affects their ability to focus on school. Feeling socially isolated because of lack of money is stigmatising. Worrying about money affects their mental health:

'Free school lunches for everyone so we don't feel broken and outcast.'

'If we do have to wear uniform make it affordable.'

Young people recognise the additional costs that can come from making these changes but believe it is an important investment.

'Increase taxes to help everyone by making necessities free, or if not free then cheap'

'Donate money to local charities to help everyone'

Free and accessible public transport is important for young people to get to school and college. While bus travel is free in Scotland until you are 22, young people attending college explain that buses can be infrequent and getting the train is often faster, so they sometimes opt for this, but it is expensive.

'All your money goes on travel. Public transport should be free.'

Providing Financial Support to Families

Low Income Family Tracker Project

Aberdeen City Council and partners in the Health Determinants Research Collaboration Aberdeen secured funding from Scottish Government's Child Poverty accelerator fund for the low-income families tracker project.

This project has linked administrative data from different sources to allow a more strategic and targeted approach to tackling child poverty and wider financial insecurity in the city. This has improved the accuracy and granularity of our intelligence on the prevalence and nature of child poverty in Aberdeen.

Using this tool, we have identified:

- 96 households claiming Universal Credit who were affected by the benefit cap and so far, 29 of these households have received DHP awards totalling £63,485.77.
- 63 families who were affected by the under-occupancy charge and had not claimed a Discretionary Housing Payment (DHP).
- 76 households experiencing both relative poverty and fuel poverty were targeted for Rent Assistance Fund, resulting in £69,125.28 being awarded to clear their rent arrears and 106 children no longer in a household with the threat of legal action due to rent arrears.
- additional households eligible for Free School Meals (**1,282 children**) and the School Clothing Grant (**2,016 children**).
- **£141,993** in Pension Credit for pensioners

The Health Equity and Learning Project

The **Health Equity & Learning Project (HELP)**, run by NHS Grampian, is funded by Scottish Government's Child Poverty accelerator fund and is intended to benefit families across Aberdeen, Aberdeenshire, Moray, and the Island Communities. The aim is to help families avoid being pushed into poverty due to the costs of attending healthcare appointments. Several tests of change have proved successful within the HELP project. HELP aims to understand how NHS systems and processes are causing additional financial pressure to families. By working with a lived experience panel, we can understand what needs to change.

What is being heard:

- Transport to appointments can be difficult – costly, time consuming, not disability friendly, not always available or reliable and not appropriate for certain health conditions. Some families experience forced car ownership as they have no alternative way of attending appointments.
- Food and drinks – are expensive for family members who are in hospital with a child. The child is provided for but the parent/carers are not. This may also include siblings if there is no alternative care for them.
- Information and support around income maximisation – can be lacking or inconsistent.

In response to what we have heard:

- A flexible fund has been established (through short-term CPAF funding) to reduce barriers for families accessing hospital appointments. There is an opportunity to work with Cash First Teams to consider how a cash first approach could be taken to support families, to remove up-front costs and the need to wait for reimbursement.
- Expanding support for families who are accessing planned or emergency appointments through the Archie Foundation and hospital-based teams to consider how food and refreshments for families could be managed within the hospital.
- Various options are being explored for colleagues to feel confident in supporting families in regard to financial support needs, providing good information, offering support directly and making warm handovers where appropriate.

There are **financial inclusion pathways** in place to support midwives, health visitors and family nurses routinely ask all pregnant women and families about money worries and refer to income maximisation services where this is needed. An **infant feeding in a crisis pathway** provides low-income families with a 'cash first approach' to support with First Stage Formula and for food when they need it. All families that require this pathway are offered a full financial health check to ensure that they are aware of all financial support available to them to maximise household income. **Co-locating services with food banks** also increases access for those who require support. For example, Royal Aberdeen Children's Hospital hosts a foodbank that is open to those in need.

Youth Homelessness – Homewards Aberdeen Coalition

Homewards is a five-year, locally led programme, launched by Prince William and The Royal Foundation of the Prince and Princess of Wales in June 2023. The aim of Homewards is to demonstrate that together, it is possible to end homelessness – making it rare, brief, and unrepeatable. Homewards aims to do this by preventing homelessness for at risk groups, whilst challenging stigma, inspiring optimism and ensuring this work is sustainable and replicable. The Homewards in Aberdeen coalition aims to support all of those at risk of homelessness, details of this work can be found in the [Homewards Aberdeen Local Action Plan](#). But there are also some specific actions targeted at young people who present as/or are at risk of becoming homeless including young people:

In Aberdeen, the number of young people presenting as homeless continues to rise, up 6.6% on the same period the previous year. However, there has been a sharp decline in the number of 16- and 17-year-olds applying. The number fell 38% year-on-year in the first quarter of 2025/26, from 24 in 2024/25 to 15 in 2025/26.

Homewards aims to make a real impact by focusing support on young people. This includes opportunities for further education, employment, and training. This will also include teaching life skills, such as managing household bills.

Family relationship breakdown – including being asked to leave – is the main reason for homelessness among young people. There is a need to improve data, so that we can better understand why young people are being asked to leave their family home so that we can better give them the right support at the right time, to prevent them from becoming homeless in the first place.

Analysis shows that many young people with low support needs are turning to the Council for homelessness assistance, simply because they have no other realistic path to leave the parental home. Existing support options, such as the Foyer and Nightstop, were primarily designed for young people experiencing homelessness. They are not accessible until a crisis point is reached, often when homelessness is already imminent. This gap leaves many young people without appropriate support at a crucial transition in their lives. To address this, we have identified several targeted interventions for young people, further detail can be found in our delivery plan below.

Supporting Families Into Employment

Child Poverty Employability Plan

A Child Poverty Employability Plan is in development and will complement the Local Employability Partnership Delivery Plan (currently undergoing refresh).

Led by the Council's Employability and Skills Service, the Child Poverty Employability Plan is being co-designed by parents from across the city, with input from Council services, as well as from public, private and third sector partners and aligned to the No One Left Behind strategy, with a focus on supporting parents into sustained fair work and supporting those experiencing in-work poverty to increase their income via a variety of means including training, upskilling, support to take on more hours and/or higher paid work, and via financial advice and support from the Financial Inclusion Team.

No One Left Behind

No One Left Behind is the Scottish Government's employability strategy. It provides local authorities with ringfenced money to provide employability support to 16-17-year-olds resident in local authority areas, with a proportion of that money dedicated for parental employability support.

A broad range of contracts funded by annual Scottish Government No One Left Behind monies have been awarded on a one year + one + one basis, subject to performance and funding. This includes multi-stage courses specifically for parents and for under 25s, as well as for care experienced young people. In addition, there is all-age, all-stage provision which is open to all employability programme participants who wish to participate in it, and sector-specific activity covering industries such as hospitality, construction, early learning and childcare, digital skills, and green skills.

No One Left Behind monies are also used to provide paid work experience placements across a range of industries and sectors, including placements specifically for parents in local authority early learning and childcare settings, and these continue not only to be popular, but also successful in terms of parents securing sustainable employment at the end of the placement. These placement opportunities will continue, subject to funding and the agreement of the Local Employability Partnership.

Regional Economic Strategy Skills Action Plan

A Skills Action Plan has been developed to underpin the Regional Economic Strategy. Inclusion is among the core principles of the Plan, ensuring that those in need of support to access training and jobs in the region's volume sectors, including parents and young people, can do so, in line with the Just Transition approach.

Looking to the future

Our Children's Services Plan 2026-31 as a whole focusses on our commitment to reducing child poverty, looking to 2031 our plan will seek to:

- Improve access to support services, ensuring families can receive help as soon and as easily as possible.
- Improving the way our partnership collaborates ensuring that services work together seamlessly and holistically.
- Address the root causes of poverty by supporting employment, education, and training opportunities for parents and young people.
- Promote healthy eating, physical activity, and mental wellbeing among children and families.
- Reduce social exclusion by increasing participation in community and cultural activities.
- Help to break the cycle of poverty through targeted interventions and early years support.

Our Delivery Plan

Our Delivery Plan is a summary of the key actions, in addition to the system changes described above, that we are going to undertake over the next 5 years to deliver against the priorities and goals set out in our Plan. Below we provide

- The Plan on a page,
- Governance, which outlines how we will manage the improvement work
- A section showing the resources we have allocated to achieve our priorities
- Full list of actions we will undertake to achieve the Plan

Actions against the Plan will be reviewed on an annual basis and updated to show our progress through our Children's Services Plan Annual Reports, you'll be able to find these on our Community Planning Website: [Our Children's Services Board](#)

Our Plan on a Page

Our Vision

Priorities

System Changes

Supporting Actions

Best Start in Life

Personal Case Workers for Vulnerable Families and Support for Families Awaiting Neurodevelopmental Diagnosis

Maternal Health Supports: Breastfeeding; Smoking; Healthy Weight; Dental Health etc.

Early Speech and Language

Empowered and Resilient

Safe, co-designed spaces for at-risk young people offering onsite support, person centred activities, and healthy relationship programme.

Diversion from Prosecution

Whole Family Support to those impacted by crime

Victim Support

Addressing Child Criminal Exploitation

Attainment and Transitions

Individualised support for young people at risk of not completing school and sustained work experience

ABZ Campus

Behaviour Policies

Improving support to those with ASN/Disabilities

Employability Support

95 % of young people in the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 1 and vulnerable groups achieve a positive destination on leaving school

How we will make sure we are achieving our aims - Governance

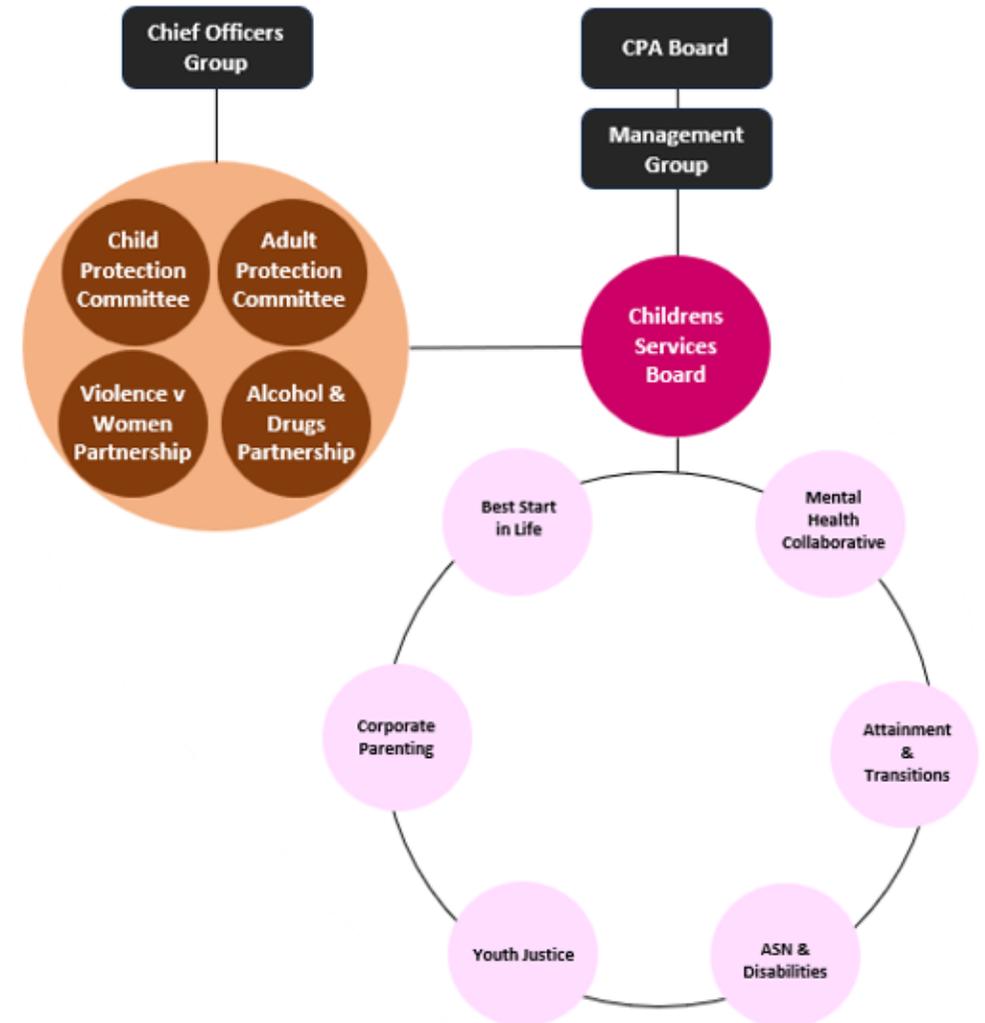
The Children's Services Board is governed by and accountable to the Community Planning Management Group, which in turn is accountable to the Community Planning Aberdeen Board.

The Children's Services Board ensures our partnership meets its responsibilities set out by the government in the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 and ensure we provide the information it requires through its statutory guidance.

In particular the board does this by:

- Ensuring we deliver this Children's Services Plan and 6 System Changes we have identified in it
- Working together as a Community Planning Partnership to improve outcomes for children and young people within Aberdeen City
- Leading the implementation of national drivers and requirements relating to children and young people (Such as UNCRC, Child Poverty and Corporate Parenting)
- Ensuring we deliver on our commitment to Keep the Promise by 2030.

This page will be updated after the Community Planning Governance Review is completed



Resourcing Our System Changes

The table below provides a summary of the key resources, funds, and organisations we will use to deliver our proposed system changes over the next 5 years:

TBA -Pending review and approval of resource proposals at Community Planning Board (March 2026)

Best Start in Life

Best Start in Life					
Input		Outcome			Outcome
Key Local or National Drivers	Lead Partner	Target Population/ Prevention Teir	Key Action/ Deliverable	Output Measure	Medium Term 2031
GIRFEC, Best Start Bright Futures	Aberdeen Health and Social Care Partnership	SIMD 1 Communities	<p>Improving Health Outcomes</p> <p>Introduce prevention measures and education to reduce health risks during pregnancy, support mums with making healthier decisions by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introducing the Antenatal visit within the health visiting pathway for support and education. • Providing support through the Best Start in Life System Change (Case Worker). 	Increased number of parents supported in each activity	<p>In SIMD1 Communities:</p> <p>Reduction in smoking during pregnancy</p> <p>Reduction in Child/Maternal Obesity</p> <p>Increased Breastfeeding Rates</p> <p>Increased number of P1s with no</p>

Best Start in Life					
Input		Outcome			Outcome
Key Local or National Drivers	Lead Partner	Target Population/ Prevention Teir	Key Action/ Deliverable	Output Measure	Medium Term 2031
			<p>This will include activity on the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Smoking During Pregnancy • Maternal/Childhood Obesity • Breast Feeding • Dental Health 		obvious signs of tooth decay
National Early Language and Communication Project	ACHSCP/NHS Grampian Speech and Language Therapy team in conjunction with Aberdeen City Early Years Team	SMID 1/2 Early Years prevention/early intervention	<p>Supporting Early Language and Communication development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing an early years workforce which is knowledgeable and confident in supporting speech, language, and communication • Families receive consistent national messaging in relation to developing speech, language, and communication 	<p>Percentage of EYP completing SLC Knowledge and Skills Matrix</p> <p>% of families receiving national SLC messaging at key touchpoints</p> <p>% of settings using approved national materials</p>	% of children in (Scope Area) from SIMD quintiles 1 and 2 with SLC concerns at 27-30 months by 25% by 2030

Best Start in Life					
Input			Outcome		Outcome
Key Local or National Drivers	Lead Partner	Target Population/ Prevention Teir	Key Action/ Deliverable	Output Measure	Medium Term 2031
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase understanding of shared responsibility for early speech language and communication development across the system 		
UNCRC					
UNCRC and Feedback from YP	CSB/ACC E&LL teams/shadow board/Young Ambassadors	Children at 0-5 in SIMD Communities	Develop methods for Primary 1s and under 5s, to have their views heard	Number of 0-5, assessed on participation on ladder of empowerment	Adults and young people are making joint decisions in environments set up to support young people's contribution
Keeping the Promise					
The Promise Scotland Transforming how Scotland cares for children, families, and care-experienced adults	Aberdeen Health and Social Care Partnership	SIMD 1 Communities	Working With Families of Children at Risk of being taken into care <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementing universal pathway to ensure early intervention. 	Increase in number of families being supported at an earlier stage, reducing requirement for CPR.	Number of under 2s on the CPR
The Promise Scotland Transforming how	Family Nurse Partnership	Care Experienced Parents	Supporting Care Experienced Young Mums to be confident	Number of young mums supported	Increase in the number of Young

Best Start in Life					
Input			Outcome		Outcome
Key Local or National Drivers	Lead Partner	Target Population/ Prevention Teir	Key Action/ Deliverable	Output Measure	Medium Term 2031
Scotland cares for children, families, and care-experienced adults			parents, by providing tailored support	through the programme	Care Experienced Mums that feel confident as a result of the intervention
Child Poverty					
UNCRC GIRFEC Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017	ACC	SIMD 1 Communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Streamlined benefit check referral process, making it easier for families. Information pack available for families and professionals to support signposting and increasing awareness of eligibility. 	Increased number of referrals to Financial Inclusion. % or £ increase in benefit uptake by families offered financial health check.	All families' eligible for Financial Inclusion are receiving it.
Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017 United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (Incorporation) (Scotland) Act 2024	Local Authority and Health Board	Priority families as set out in the Child Poverty Delivery Plan. Single parent, child under age 1, parent under age 25, large families, minority ethnic	Established lived experience panels to inform and influence solutions to poverty proofing services. Panels to be configured with families living in SIMD1 communities. Opportunity to link with Torry Health Matters and Primary Care Services in Torry initially.	Evidence of community voice reflected in planning and decision-making processes (IIA's, for example)	Low-income families and those experiencing financial hardship are informing solutions to reduce detrimental financial impacts.

Best Start in Life					
Input		Outcome			Outcome
Key Local or National Drivers	Lead Partner	Target Population/ Prevention Teir	Key Action/ Deliverable	Output Measure	Medium Term 2031
The Promise Scotland Transforming how Scotland cares for children, families, and care-experienced adults		families, families with a disabled child or adult.	<p>Better understanding financial barriers to accessing services and exploring approaches to mitigate this, including cash first options. Families valued and empowered as partners in finding solutions.</p> <p>Increase uptake of financial health check through widening existing financial inclusion/ income max pathways.</p>	<p>Qualitative – families report feeling valued and empowered. Number of lived experience panel solutions being explored/ implemented.</p> <p>Number of households receiving full benefits check.</p>	
No One Left Behind strategy	ACC Employability and Skills Team	Priority families as set out in the No One Left Behind strategic plan. Single parent, child under age 1, parent under age 25, large families (3+ children), minority ethnic families, families with a disabled child or adult.	Targeted employability support for parents seeking to enter the workforce or re-enter the workforce after a career break.	<p>Number of parents supported by ABZWorks</p> <p>Number of parents completing accredited training</p> <p>Number of parents entering employment</p>	<p>This activity is entirely externally funded and subject to annualised funding.</p> <p>Families in need of employability support are aware of and can access it.</p>

Best Start in Life					
Input			Outcome		Outcome
Key Local or National Drivers	Lead Partner	Target Population/ Prevention Teir	Key Action/ Deliverable	Output Measure	Medium Term 2031
				Number of parents sustaining employment for 12 months.	% increase in number of parents engaging in employability support.

Empowered and Resilient

Empowered and Resilient					
Input			Output		Outcome
Key Local or National Drivers	Lead Partner	Target Population/ Prevention Teir	Key Action/ Deliverable	Output Measure	Medium Term 2031
Introduction - Justice for children and young people: vision and priorities 2024-26 - gov.scot – Priority 1 / Children (Care and Justice) (Scotland) Act 2024 / Standards for those working with children in conflict with the law 2021 – standard 9 / Bairns' Hoose standards – Healthcare Improvement Scotland	Scottish Children's Reporter Association (SCRA)/ Victim Information Advice (VIA)/ Bairns Hoose	Children referred to reporter. Any person utilising the support from the Single Point of Contact (SPOC).	Victims are supported, their rights upheld, with specific attention paid to child victims and their families including: Creating a Single Point of Contact. Police Scotland Youth Engagement Officers working with schools to explore use of restorative practice in school settings. Workforce development will be established to increase knowledge, understanding and application of the Standards for those Working with Children in Conflict with the Law.	Number of people who take up offer of support from SPOC. Number of Individuals trained, (reviewing quality of delivery through evaluation)	SPOC is developed and understood in city.

Empowered and Resilient					
Input			Output		Outcome
Key Local or National Drivers	Lead Partner	Target Population/ Prevention Teir	Key Action/ Deliverable	Output Measure	Medium Term 2031
Introduction - Justice for children and young people: vision and priorities 2024-26 - gov. scot – Priority 2 / Children (Care and Justice) (Scotland) Act 2024 / Standards for those working with children in conflict with the law 2021 – standard 2, 3, 4, 5.	WSA Lead Officer Police Scotland CSW Includem/3 rd Sector	CICWL – 12-18. Those children who cannot be held criminally responsible (under12s) but would benefit from early intervention to prevent CWL when older.	Children are diverted away from formal justice system to appropriate alternative support through the continued delivery of the Whole System Approach by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increasing access to diversionary activity (EEI) in the community as early intervention measure. Ensure Guidance on Diversion from Prosecution is known and understood, Increasing knowledge and understanding of the Sentencing Guidelines for under 25's and how we write about this group for purpose of reports. Where a child is involved in court processes there are appropriate robust 	EEI and diversionary opportunities for all children being accessed, increased awareness, and uptake, of diversionary opportunities.	Increased number of young people engaged in diversionary activity

Empowered and Resilient					
Input			Output		Outcome
Key Local or National Drivers	Lead Partner	Target Population/ Prevention Teir	Key Action/ Deliverable	Output Measure	Medium Term 2031
			supports in place to ensure the child understands what is happening and their rights upheld at all stages.		
Introduction - Justice for children and young people: vision and priorities 2024-26 - gov. scot – Priority 2	WSA Lead Officer Police Scotland	Initially Children from SIMD1 Communities	<p>Protecting children online from all forms of exploitation. CEC Framework and Screening tool: workforce to be trained in its use and utilising as part of work with all children (all under 18s).</p> <p>Co-creation with children and young people of safe spaces in city (and communities) as a contextual safeguarding response to Criminal Exploitation of Children (CEC) and Risks Outside The Home (ROTH).</p> <p>Whole Family Support to those impacted on by harms of crime. Reduce impact of OCGs/SOCGs in targeted areas by making information for parents, children and communities about CEC and responses and where to find</p>	<p>Data from duty to notify and NRM referrals indicate use of the framework and screening tool.</p> <p>Numbers charged with CEC offences, prosecuted</p> <p>Increase CEC marker being appropriately applied to VPD (data shared with CEG)</p>	All relevant staff trained in use of the framework

Empowered and Resilient					
Input			Output		Outcome
Key Local or National Drivers	Lead Partner	Target Population/ Prevention Teir	Key Action/ Deliverable	Output Measure	Medium Term 2031
			assistance by developing contextual safeguarding approaches with the multiagency partnership.	Increase in CEC being marked as a referral reason on D365 (including initial and secondary referral reasons) (data shared with CEG) Numbers engaging with specialist support for CEC/ROTH.	
Introduction - Justice for children and young people: vision and priorities 2024-26 - gov. scot – Priority 3	WSA Lead Officer Health Community learning	Young people who are/or are at risk of coming into conflict with the law	Increase early identification and proportionate support for children in conflict with the law, ensuring responses are timely, rights-based, and reduce unnecessary entry into formal systems.	Increase early identification and proportionate support for children in conflict with the law,	Children’s wellbeing and mental health needs assessed as are being met
Working with children in conflict with the law 2021: standards - gov. scot – updated standards expected to be published early 2026.	ACC CSW	Initially Children from SIMD1 Communities	Linking closely with CPC Lead to ensure CEC Framework and Screening Tool are fully embedded into practice into the city. Workforce development	Increase in NRM referrals for children where there are indicators for exploitation.	Reduction in the number of young people reported as involved in criminal activity

Empowered and Resilient					
Input			Output		Outcome
Key Local or National Drivers	Lead Partner	Target Population/ Prevention Teir	Key Action/ Deliverable	Output Measure	Medium Term 2031
			<p>needs are considered and delivered.</p> <p>CARM processes monitored / reviewed to ensure the needs of children being exploited who are/have also caused harm to others are meeting the needs of the child being exploited and responses are rights respecting and child centred.</p>		
Standards for those working with children in conflict with the law 2021 – standard 6 / Scottish government response to "reimagining secure care" report - gov. scot / Children (Care and Justice) (Scotland) Act 2024	Police	Young people who are/or are at risk of coming into conflict with the law	Children will only be arrested, detained, or imprisoned as a measure of last resort and for the shortest appropriate period of time: Community alternatives to secure accommodation Places of safety as alternative to being held in police station will be fully developed removing children from police stations where possible.	Number of young people arrested	Reduction in the number of young people arrested
UNCRC					
UNCRC and Feedback from YP	Children's Services Board/ACC Youth Work team/AYM	Children and young people who have life	Make sure young people help make choices in the Children's Services Plan, so adults and	-Level of participation from	-adults and young people are making joint

Empowered and Resilient					
Input			Output		Outcome
Key Local or National Drivers	Lead Partner	Target Population/ Prevention Teir	Key Action/ Deliverable	Output Measure	Medium Term 2031
		experience of things that are in the Children Services Plan 12-18 years	young people can decide things together and everyone's ideas are listened to and matter	ladder of empowerment	decisions in environments set up to support young people's contribution
UNCRC and Feedback from YP	Children's Services Board /ACC Youth Work team/AYM/shadow board	children and young people who have life experience of things that are in the Children Services Plan 12-15 years	Take what works well from the Children's Services Board and trying it in other parts of our city plans (LOIP)	--Level of participation from ladder of empowerment	Number of CSP outcomes represented by young people
UNCRC and Feedback from YP	Children's Services Board / all CPA partners / AYM and other youth participation groups	All Children and Young People	Information for and about children and young people is shared in language and ways that is easy for them to find and understand. When children and young people are asked their views, they are told why, what will happen to the information and what will or has happened as a result.	-% of CPA plans are written in child/people friendly language or have an easy read version. -Evidence of consultation with young people on public materials produced	All Community Planning Aberdeen Plans and Strategies have friendly language or have an easy read version

Empowered and Resilient					
Input			Output		Outcome
Key Local or National Drivers	Lead Partner	Target Population/ Prevention Teir	Key Action/ Deliverable	Output Measure	Medium Term 2031
Keeping the Promise					
Local Corporate Parenting Plan, The Promise UNCRC Children (Scotland) Act 1995 Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 Housing Options Protocols for Care Leavers (Scottish Government, 2013)	CSW, Housing	Care Experienced Young People aged 16 – 26	Develop and implement a revised Care Leavers Housing Protocol that ensures clear, consistent, and collaborative processes to improve outcomes for care leavers. The protocol will focus on reducing tenancy breakdown by sharing relevant information, meeting individual needs, and promoting the wellbeing of young people.	Up-dated Care Leavers Housing Protocol published and implemented Number of care leavers supported through revised protocol Number of staff aware of and implementing revised protocol Number of staff trained on the revised protocol	Improved housing stability for care leavers. Reduction in tenancy breakdown Young people reporting that they feel safer and more secure in their tenancies Housing protocols fully embed trauma-informed and rights-based approaches
Local Corporate Plan The Promise UNCRC Incorporate Act Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014	CSW Corporate Parents across Partnership	Care experienced children and young people	Develop and maintain a Young Person's Participation Network that strengthens engagement and provides structured opportunities for care experienced young people to influence corporate parenting	Young people report accessible opportunities to provide feedback Percentage of corporate	Young people actively involved in shaping corporate parenting priorities and strategies

Empowered and Resilient					
Input			Output		Outcome
Key Local or National Drivers	Lead Partner	Target Population/ Prevention Teir	Key Action/ Deliverable	Output Measure	Medium Term 2031
			<p>decisions, with formal mechanisms to feed directly into the Corporate Parenting Strategic Improvement Group.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Care experienced young people have regular, accessible opportunities to share views. Formal feedback loops created between the Network and the Strategic Improvement Group. Deliver workforce development sessions to build understanding of participation methodologies 	<p>parenting actions influenced by young people</p> <p>Increased awareness of participation principles and rights-based approaches.</p> <p>Workers report improved confidence in applying participation methodologies.</p>	<p>Engagement embedded as routine practice</p> <p>Participation principles embedded in all corporate parenting plans</p> <p>Young people report feeling their views shape decisions</p> <p>engagement practices standardised across services.</p>
Child Poverty					
Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017	Aberdeen Foyer	Young people who are or are at risk of Homelessness	<p>Youth Led Housing Pathway</p> <p>Design dedicated housing pathway, developed with and for young people. It will allow them to access affordable housing</p>	Youth housing pathway designed and implemented	Reduce Number of Young People in Temporary Accommodation

Empowered and Resilient

Empowered and Resilient					
Input			Output		Outcome
Key Local or National Drivers	Lead Partner	Target Population/ Prevention Teir	Key Action/ Deliverable	Output Measure	Medium Term 2031
			<p>options immediately and, in a trauma, -informed way. The aims are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce youth homelessness • Minimise reliance on temporary accommodation • Provide smoother transitions for those leaving home with lower support needs 	<p>Number of young people using the pathway</p> <p>Impact on youth homelessness (assessed through evaluation process)</p>	

Attainment and Transitions

Attainment and Transitions					
Key Local or National Drivers	Input		Outcome		Outcome
	Lead Partner	Target Population/ Prevention Teir	Key Action/ Deliverable	Output Measure	Medium Term 2031
The Curriculum Improvement Cycle (CIC) About Curriculum for Excellence Curriculum for Excellence Education Scotland	ACC Education	SIMD1 Schools	<p>Increase the number of pathways available to young people through expansion of ABZ Campus</p> <p>Support schools to review their curriculum offer in light of the new curriculum</p>	Number of ABZ Campus Pathways	% increase in the number of pathways available to young people through ABZ Campus
Relationships and behaviour in schools: national action plan 2024 to 2027 - gov. scot	ACC Education	SIMD1 Schools	Support schools to ensure relationship and behaviour policies are in line with national plan	Number of incidents recorded	Reduced number of incidents recorded in schools
Children and young people - national neurodevelopmental	Health	Children with ASN in SIMD1 schools	Ensure formulated support is offered as early as possible.	Child's plans reflecting ND support	Children and families receive the support that

Attainment and Transitions					
Input		Outcome			Outcome
Key Local or National Drivers	Lead Partner	Target Population/ Prevention Teir	Key Action/ Deliverable	Output Measure	Medium Term 2031
specification: principles and standards of care - gov. scot			<p>Improve assessment processes and referral quality by removing duplication and designing a joint assessment process to avoid repetition.</p> <p>Improve knowledge and confidence of the workforce to recognise ASN and respond appropriately, to know the support options available, to present for pre-assessment MDT discussion where appropriate and to make good quality referral with all pre-assessment work completed.</p>	<p>Reduction in rejected referrals Reduced repetition of assessment processes. Overall reduction in time from referral to diagnosis.</p> <p>Annual qualitative survey. Referrals audit – appropriateness and quality.</p>	<p>they need at the earliest opportunity to enable them to participate fully at school and in the community.</p> <p>Children and families will experience a smoother assessment process where they will not need to repeat their story or be passed between services.</p> <p>Staff will be aware of support options for children with ASN and their families They will be confident in making appropriate</p>

Attainment and Transitions					
Input		Outcome			Outcome
Key Local or National Drivers	Lead Partner	Target Population/ Prevention Teir	Key Action/ Deliverable	Output Measure	Medium Term 2031
					referrals with all pre-assessment work completed.
No One Left Behind strategy	ACC Employability and Skills Team	Young people (16+) not in employment, education, or training	<p>Employability support for young people aged 16+ not in employment education or training.</p> <p>Employability support for young people leaving school without a positive destination.</p>	<p>Number of young people being supported by ABZWorks</p> <p>Number of young people supported by ABZWorks completing accredited training</p> <p>Number of young people supported by ABZWorks entering employment</p> <p>Number of young people supported by ABZWorks into further education</p> <p>Number of young people supported by ABZWorks sustaining a</p>	<p>This activity is entirely externally funded and subject to annualised funding.</p> <p>Young people, their families, and partner agencies will be aware of and able to easily access and engage in employability activity.</p>

Attainment and Transitions					
Input			Outcome		Outcome
Key Local or National Drivers	Lead Partner	Target Population/ Prevention Teir	Key Action/ Deliverable	Output Measure	Medium Term 2031
				positive destination for 12 months	
UNCRC					
UNCRC and Feedback from YP	CLD city wide partners	Young people who take part in youth work	Young people will help make decisions about things that matter to them by taking part in activities and groups made for their age, where their ideas are listened to and make a difference	% of young people being supported by youth work who achieve a nationally recognised award	% of young people being supported by youth work who report that their physical and mental wellbeing has improved.
Keeping the Promise					
Local Corporate Parenting Plan North East of Scotland College (NESCOL) Corporate Parenting Plan The Promise UNCRC Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 Scottish Care Leavers Covenant (2015)	CSW, Corporate Parenting Lead, NESCOL	Care Experienced Young People aged 16 -26	Develop and implement a multi-agency NESCOL Forum that co-ordinates support for care leavers by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enabling care leavers to access, sustain, and succeed in education opportunities offered by NESCOL Promoting inclusive educational pathways and improving outcomes through multi-agency collaboration 	Forum established and meeting regularly with active multi-agency participation. Referral systems and information-sharing protocols in place and used effectively. Care leavers report improved	Improved alignment with national standards and local strategic plans for corporate parenting Sustained improvement in college enrolment and retention rates for care leavers.

Attainment and Transitions					
Input		Outcome			Outcome
Key Local or National Drivers	Lead Partner	Target Population/ Prevention Teir	Key Action/ Deliverable	Output Measure	Medium Term 2031
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensuring student voices are central to planning and decision-making. Facilitating information sharing to support individual students in sustaining and completing courses. Working collaboratively to prevent financial disadvantage, including avoiding unnecessary suspension of bursaries. 	<p>access to advice and guidance for education and training. Increased awareness among staff and partners of support pathways and financial entitlements.</p> <p>Early evidence of reduced disruption to bursary payments through collaborative intervention.</p>	<p>Reduction in the number of care experienced young people not in education, employment, or training (NEET)</p> <p>Enhanced educational attainment and progression into employment or further study</p> <p>Student voice embedded in planning and decision-making processes across NESCOL and partner agencies</p> <p>Multi-agency collaboration becomes standard practice for supporting</p>

Attainment and Transitions					
Input		Outcome			Outcome
Key Local or National Drivers	Lead Partner	Target Population/ Prevention Teir	Key Action/ Deliverable	Output Measure	Medium Term 2031
					care leavers, ensuring financial stability and continuity of learning.
Child Poverty					
Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017	Aberdeen Foyer	Young people who are or are at risk of Homelessness	<p>Build on Upstream Pilot:</p> <p>Rationale: Northfield Academy has piloted Upstream, a preventative approach that spots young people who are at greater risk of homelessness. Homelessness prevention still depends, however, upon getting the right support to these young people at the right time.</p> <p>Action: Building on the pilot, Homewards Aberdeen will increase the wraparound support that is available for young people who have self-identified through the initial survey.</p>	<p>Track improvements in wellbeing outcomes for young people identified through the survey</p> <p>Monitor how many participants avoid homelessness following early intervention</p> <p>Assess feedback from young people and schools on the support received</p>	Increased number of young people supported by the programme

Attainment and Transitions					
Input		Outcome			Outcome
Key Local or National Drivers	Lead Partner	Target Population/ Prevention Teir	Key Action/ Deliverable	Output Measure	Medium Term 2031
				Use learning to inform and encourage wider rollout of the Upstream model across Aberdeen	
Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017	Shelter Scotland	Young people who are or are at risk of Homelessness	<p>Train Young People in Housing Skills</p> <p>Rationale: Housing instability is greater for young people who lack the skills to get and keep a home. Survey information shows that many young people in Aberdeen don't currently have these skills.</p> <p>Action: Homewards Aberdeen will deliver material and lesson plans to local schools. It will focus on housing options, tenancy rights, and essential life skills for maintaining a home.</p>	Material and lesson plans designed and piloted	At least 90% of young people in Aberdeen know where to seek guidance on housing
Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017	The Royal Foundation, Burgesses of Guild and Seven	Young people who are or are at risk of Homelessness	Unlock job opportunities for young people in Aberdeen:	Number of employers signed up to the Crisis	At least four Aberdeen-based employers supported to

Attainment and Transitions					
Input		Outcome			Outcome
Key Local or National Drivers	Lead Partner	Target Population/ Prevention Teir	Key Action/ Deliverable	Output Measure	Medium Term 2031
	Incorporated Trades		<p>Rationale: Getting and keeping a job is crucial to avoiding homelessness.</p> <p>Action: Homewards Aberdeen will work with private-sector partners to create inclusive, sustainable jobs for young people who are at risk of, or experiencing, homelessness. Target sectors will be guided by local labour market analysis, including insights from Hays, and will recognise the changing economy of Aberdeen.</p> <p>We will also encourage employers across Aberdeen to sign up to the Crisis Homelessness Alliance’s framework. Our particular focus will be on helping employers to meet the pledge of “supporting employees who may be at risk of homelessness.” This includes supporting employers to:</p>	<p>Homeless Alliance</p> <p>Number of employers signed up that receive support to implement the CHA pledge</p>	begin hiring 18- to 25-year-olds who are at risk of, or experiencing, homelessness

Attainment and Transitions					
Input			Outcome		Outcome
Key Local or National Drivers	Lead Partner	Target Population/ Prevention Teir	Key Action/ Deliverable	Output Measure	Medium Term 2031
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify staff who are at risk of, or experiencing, homelessness • Provide information and guidance • Signpost, and give access to, timely support 		

Appendices

The following appendices provide some key information about our Plan:

National Performance Framework: This section provides an overview of how our Plan aligns with the National Performance Framework Outcomes

UNCRC Articles: This section expands on our UNCRC chapter, showing how each of the elements of our Plan align with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Glossary: a handy list that helps explain some of the acronyms that are used in the Plan

National Improvement Framework

Scotland National Performance Framework

The National Performance Framework (NPF) is Scotland's wellbeing framework and sets the vision for the kind of Scotland we all want to live in. The NPF provides key outcomes that Children's Services Plans such as ours should aspire to achieve for our children, young people, and families.

Our Plan has been developed with these outcomes in mind, as you should see from the details in each chapter our Plan aligns closely with these outcomes. Currently the NPF is under review, and a revised version is due to be published later in 2026

In the meantime, for the development of this Plan in the table that follows provides a helpful summary of how each the 11 indicators here aligned to the various sections of our Plan. This list is not exhaustive but is intended to help indicate the overall aims of the activities in each section of the Plan

National Performance Framework Outcomes	
	We have a globally competitive, entrepreneurial, inclusive and sustainable economy
	We are open connected and make a positive contribution internationally
	We tackle poverty by sharing opportunities, wealth and power more equally
	We live in communities that are inclusive, empowered, resilient and safe
	We grow up loved, safe and respected so that we realise our full potential
	We are well educated, skilled and able to contribute to society
	We have thriving and innovative businesses, with quality jobs and fair work for everyone
	We are healthy and active
	We value, enjoy, protect and enhance our environment
	We are creative and our vibrant and diverse cultures are expressed and enjoyed widely
	We respect, protect and fulfil human rights and live free from discrimination

Plan Priority	What the Priority Focuses On	National Performance Framework Outcomes	Why These Outcomes Apply
Best Start in Life	Early help, whole-family support, pregnancy & early years health, speech & language development, financial inclusion		Focuses on healthy starts, parental support, tackling inequality, early intervention, and removing poverty-related barriers to development, to make sure all children grow up loved safe and respected
Empowered and Resilient	Safe spaces, youth participation, protection from exploitation, boys' citizenship programme, online safety, diversion from criminalisation		Safe environments, co-designed youth support, contextual safeguarding, and diversionary approaches all protect and empower young people. This helps young people and families feel safe in all of our community spaces
Attainment and Transitions	Closing attainment gap, supporting disengaged learners, work experience, and improving, employability		Ensures equal access to education, support for all learners, and fair chances for positive post-school destinations.
Keeping the Promise / Corporate Parenting	Rights-based support for care-experienced children; stability, relationships, advocacy, transitions, housing		Ensures care-experienced young people are safe, heard, supported, and able to thrive with strong relationships and stable homes.
Child Poverty	Financial inclusion, employability for parents, cash-first approaches, reducing cost barriers, food, and fuel security		Removes poverty-related barriers to rights, ensuring families have enough money for essentials and children can participate fully.

Plan Priority	What the Priority Focuses On	National Performance Framework Outcomes	Why These Outcomes Apply
Embedded Across the Plan	The following Outcomes can be seen to be spread across the Plan as a whole		<p>Understandably there is much cross over between the various outcomes. Our Plan as a whole seeks to ensure that we respect and uphold human rights for all, that we can share our contributions and examples of practice locally, nationally, and internationally. As well as ensuring that our children and young people and families can contribute to Scotland's wider international links.</p> <p>The Plan's links to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child are explained comprehensively in the following section</p>



Children's Services Plan Priorities Linked to UNCRC Articles

The following list provides a how the different parts of our Plan with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child Articles:

Plan Priority	What the Priority Focuses On	UNCRC Articles Supported	Why These Articles Apply
Best Start in Life	Early help, whole-family support, pregnancy & early years health, speech & language development, financial inclusion	Article 2 – Non-discrimination Article 3 – Best interests of the child Article 6 – Life, survival & development Article 12 – Right to be heard (participation for under-5s) Article 18 – Support for parents Article 24 – Health and health services Article 26 – Social security Article 27 – Standard of living	Focuses on healthy starts, parental support, tackling inequality, early intervention, and removing poverty-related barriers to development.
Empowered and Resilient	Safe spaces, youth participation, protection from exploitation, boys' citizenship programme, online safety, diversion from criminalisation	Article 12 – Right to be heard Article 13 – Freedom of expression Article 15 – Freedom of association Article 19 – Protection from violence & abuse Article 31 – Rest, play, leisure activities Article 33 – Protection from drugs Article 34 – Protection from sexual exploitation Article 36 – Protection from exploitation Article 40 – Justice system protections	Safe environments, co-designed youth support, contextual safeguarding, and diversionary approaches all protect and empower young people.

Plan Priority	What the Priority Focuses On	UNCRC Articles Supported	Why These Articles Apply
Attainment and Transitions	Closing attainment gap, supporting disengaged learners, work experience, neurodevelopmental pathways, employability	Article 2 – Non-discrimination Article 3 – Best interests Article 12 – Voice in decisions Article 23 – Rights of children with disabilities Article 28 – Right to education Article 29 – Aims of education Article 42 – Knowledge of rights	Ensures equal access to education, support for ASN/neurodivergent learners, and fair chances for positive post-school destinations.
Keeping the Promise / Corporate Parenting	Rights-based support for care-experienced children; stability, relationships, advocacy, transitions, housing	Article 2 – Non-discrimination Article 3 – Best interests of the child Article 12 – Voice in decisions Article 20 – Children deprived of family environment Article 21 – Adoption (where relevant) Article 25 – Review of care placements Article 27 – Standard of living Article 39 – Recovery & reintegration	Ensures care-experienced young people are safe, heard, supported, and able to thrive with strong relationships and stable homes.
Child Poverty	Financial inclusion, employability for parents, cash-first approaches, reducing cost barriers, food, and fuel security	Article 2 – Non-discrimination Article 3 – Best interests Article 6 – Development Article 24 – Health Article 26 – Social security Article 27 – Standard of living	Removes poverty-related barriers to rights, ensuring families have enough money for essentials and children can participate fully.
Youth Justice / Whole System Approach <i>(within Empowered & Resilient)</i>	Early and effective intervention, diversion, rights-respecting justice, reducing arrest/detention	Article 37 – Protection from torture or deprivation of liberty Article 40 – Rights in justice system Article 39 – Recovery & reintegration	Ensures young people are treated fairly, detention is a last resort, and support focuses on wellbeing.
The following articles are not		Article 4 – Implementation of rights	Why these articles were not included Most of these rights relate to:

Plan Priority	What the Priority Focuses On	UNCRC Articles Supported	Why These Articles Apply
<p>specifically referenced because they do not directly align with the priorities, or they relate to areas not covered in the plan (e.g., international law, asylum procedures, identity documents, etc.)</p>		<p>Article 5 – Parental guidance and evolving capacities Article 7 – Birth registration, name, nationality Article 8 – Identity, name, family ties Article 9 – Separation from parents (except care experience aspects, but not fully) Article 10 – Family reunification across borders Article 11 – Protection from kidnapping Article 14 – Freedom of thought, belief, religion Article 16 – Right to privacy Article 17 – Access to reliable information/media Article 22 – Refugee children <i>(there is some related content in the Plan re “New Scots”)</i> Article 30 – Minority & Indigenous children’s cultural rights Article 32 – Protection from child labour Article 35 – Protection from trafficking Article 38 – War and armed conflict Article 41 – More favourable laws already in place</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • international protection (Articles 10, 11, 22, 38) • identity and nationality (Articles 7, 8) • privacy and media (Articles 16, 17) • child labour or trafficking (Articles 32, 35) • general legal implementation (Articles 4, 5, 41) <p>Some are indirectly supported—for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Article 4 (the Plan as a whole demonstrates our activities in line with our local responsibilities for UNCRC Implementation)</i> • <i>Article 5 (parental guidance)</i> relates to family support; the Plan focuses more on early help and whole-family support. • <i>Article 22 (refugee children)</i> is aligned with the “New Scots” inclusion work.

Glossary of Acronyms

Acronym	Meaning / Definition
ACC	Aberdeen City Council
ACEL	Achievement of Curriculum for Excellence Levels
AYM	Aberdeen Youth Movement
BAM	Becoming a Man (Programme)
CAMHS	Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services
CARM	Care and Risk Management
CEYP	Care Experienced Young People
CIC	Curriculum Improvement Cycle
CLD	Community Learning and Development
CPA	Community Planning Aberdeen
CPR	Child Protection Register
CCH	Community Child Health
CCE	Child Criminal Exploitation
CSB	Children's Services Board
CSW	Children's Social Work
DHP	Discretionary Housing Payment
EEI	Early and Effective Intervention (Justice context)
ESSENCE-D	Early Symptomatic Syndromes Eliciting Neurodevelopmental Clinical Examinations – Diagnostic (specialist assessment)
GIRFEC	Getting It Right For Every Child (Scottish policy framework)
HELP	Health Equity & Learning Project
LOIP	Local Outcome Improvement Plan
MDT	Multi-Disciplinary Team
MMR	Measles, Mumps, Rubella (vaccine)
NIF	National Improvement Framework
NHS	National Health Service

Acronym	Meaning / Definition
NHSG	NHS Grampian
PNA	Population Needs Assessment
ROTH	Risks Outside The Home
SCQF	Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework
SIMD	Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation
SLC	Speech, Language and Communication
SQA	Scottish Qualifications Authority
UNCRC	United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
VPD	Vulnerable Persons Database
WSA	Whole System Approach
YJMU	Youth Justice Management Unit
YPYPYF	Your Place, Your Plans, Your Future (consultation/engagement)



Community Planning Aberdeen

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Anti-Poverty and Inequality
DATE	11 March 2026
EXEMPT	No
CONFIDENTIAL	No
REPORT TITLE	Evaluation of the Citizens' Assembly Approach to Poverty and Gender Inequality and Poverty delivered by the Scottish Women's Budget Group during 2024-2025
REPORT NUMBER	CORS/26/040
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	Andy MacDonald
CHIEF OFFICER	Michelle Crombie on behalf of Isla Newcombe
REPORT AUTHOR	Michelle Crombie, Strategic Lead, Prevention and Community Empowerment Deirdre Nicolson, Solicitor
TERMS OF REFERENCE	1.1, 3.1

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report presents an evaluation of the citizens' assembly approach to poverty and gender inequality delivered by the Scottish Women's Budget Group (SWBG) on behalf of Aberdeen City Council. The evaluation assesses whether the approach was implemented as originally intended, summarises key activities and engagement outcomes, and identifies lessons to inform the Committee's future citizen engagement exercises.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Committee:-

- 2.1 Notes the findings of the process evaluation, including engagement levels, outputs generated and lessons learned;
- 2.2 Thanks members of the Scottish Women's Budget Group Steering Group and wider community members for sharing their insights on the process; and
- 2.3 Instructs the Strategic Lead, Prevention and Community Empowerment to incorporate lessons learned into the design of future citizen engagement exercises.

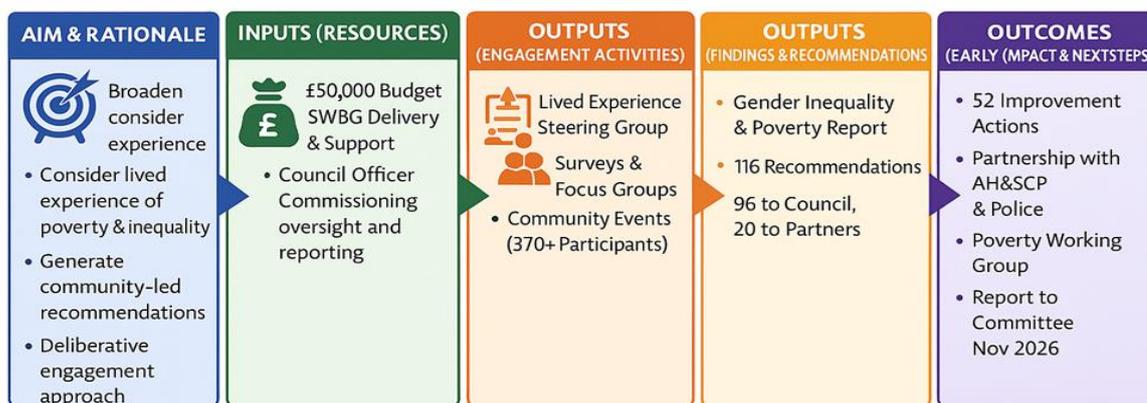
3. CURRENT SITUATION

- 3.1 On 12 June 2024, the Anti-Poverty and Inequality Committee approved a proposal for delivering a citizen's assembly approach on poverty and gender inequality. Due to its expertise in gender analysis and participatory engagement, the Scottish Women's Budget Group was commissioned to deliver the approach between June 2024 and June 2025. Using the principles of citizens' assemblies – particularly deliberation, inclusion, lived experience and independent facilitation – an approach was agreed which was suitable given available resources, time and policy context. This report provides an evaluation of the process and lessons learned.

4. PROCESS EVALUATION

4.1 This process evaluation considers:

- The original aim and rationale of the citizens' assembly approach
- Inputs, including financial and officer resources
- Outputs, including activities and methods used to deliver the engagement and the findings and recommendations of the study
- Outcomes, including actions planned by the Council as a result of the study and recommendations



4.2 Aim and Rationale

4.2.1 The aim of the citizens assembly approach was to broaden engagement on poverty and gender inequality beyond traditional consultation, centring lived experience to inform policy. The ambition was to generate credible, community-lead evidence and recommendations with potential to influence Council practice. Evidence from deliberative democracy practice suggests that approaches where participants engage with information, share experiences and collectively identify priorities produce richer insight than one-off surveys or conventional consultations.

4.3 Inputs: Resources

4.3.1 The project was delivered within the approved budget of £50,000. Scottish Women's Budget Group (SWBG) direct delivery costs were £27,400, with the balance allocated to participation support measures, including vouchers, childcare, travel and venue hire.

SWBG Staff Time	£24,400
Design & publishing costs	£3,000
Local Organisation Costs	£2,400
Participation Vouchers	£1,280
Steering Group Participation Costs	£3,600
Travel/ Device Costs	£1,920
Childcare Costs	£2,500
Food Costs	£960
Room Hire	£2,400
Event Costs	£5,840
Resources	£500
Total	£48,800

Best practice indicates that the success of deliberative processes depends on time and resources, political mandate and problem suitability. While sufficient for a substantial engagement exercise, resources did not allow for a full assembly model. Council officer involvement focused on commissioning, governance oversight and committee reporting.

4.4 **Outputs: Engagement Activities and Participation**

In total, approximately 370-390 people were engaged. Recruitment prioritised women with lived experience rather than demographic representativeness through random selection. Engagement included:

- Steering Group - A lived experience steering group of nine women from diverse backgrounds (including carers, disabled people, migrants and low-income households) met approximately nine times throughout the process. They were remunerated and played a substantive co-design and interpretive role throughout.
- Community Survey - A city-wide online survey was co-designed and delivered, receiving 262 responses. Respondents were predominantly women (approximately 82%), with around 22% reporting incomes under £20,000 per year.
- Targeted Focus Groups - engaging approximately 40–50 participants from groups often excluded from formal processes, including survivors of domestic abuse, disabled women, young women, Gypsy/Traveller women, migrant women, and frontline practitioners.
- Community Events and Outreach - Two World Café-style community events engaged approximately 40 participants, and informal outreach conversations engaged an estimated 20–30 additional individuals in community settings.

4.5 **Outputs: Findings and Recommendations**

- 4.5.1 The [Aberdeen Gender Inequality and Poverty Report](#), produced by the Scottish Women's Budget Group, met the original aim of taking the citizens assembly approach by improving understanding of the lived experiences of poverty and gender inequality in Aberdeen. The detailed findings report, considered by the Anti-Poverty and Inequality Committee on 11 June 2025, documented those experiences and presented 116 practical, community informed recommendations. Of these, 96 were directed to Aberdeen City Council, with the remaining 20 made to the Aberdeen Health and Social Care Partnership, Scottish and UK Government, Police Scotland and Financial Services Ombudsman. The recommendations covered key areas including childcare, kinship and unpaid care, violence against women, community safety, in-work poverty, benefits and income maximisation, council tax reduction and debt, accessing services and support, housing, and transport.

4.6 Outcomes: Improvement Actions and Ongoing Collaboration

As a result of the Scottish Women's Budget Group report, the Council has identified [52 key improvement actions](#) to be taken forward by the Council in partnership with the Aberdeen Health and Social Care Partnership and Police Scotland to address the issues raised. The Council has established a Gender Inequality and Poverty Working Group to implement the actions and progress will be reported to the Anti-Poverty and Inequality Committee on 25 November 2026. Council officers will continue to work with the Scottish Women's Budget Group during the implementation stage. Longer-term impacts on policy and service outcomes will be realised over time as these actions are implemented.

5. LESSONS LEARNED FOR FUTURE PRACTICE

5.1 Strengths to be Retained

- 5.1.1 Mixed Engagement Methods - The approach used by the Scottish Women's Budget Group combined breadth and depth of engagement using mixed-methods and strong partnership with local organisations. Co-design with lived-experience participants, supported by remuneration, enabled meaningful involvement and strengthened both the credibility and depth of insight.
- 5.1.2 Engagement Approach, Safe Space and Flexibility – Members of the Scottish Women's Budget Group Steering Group emphasised that the project's relational, community-centred engagement approach was central to their positive experience. Creative, non-intrusive activities allowed participants to explore complex issues without needing to disclose painful personal details. This helped create a 'safe enough' space where women felt valued, listened to and able to contribute authentically. The women-only environment and the emphasis on trust, transparency and continuous feedback strengthened psychological safety and encouraged sustained participation. Flexibility was also a major factor. Participants were supported to engage as much as their lives allowed, with advance notice of meetings and updates when they could not attend. A WhatsApp group helped maintain connection and continuity.
- 5.1.3 Participant Support – Participation vouchers, reimbursement of travel, and provision of refreshments reinforced that the women's lived experience was recognised as a form of expertise requiring emotional labour. This material acknowledgment contributed significantly to sustained involvement. Participants also highlighted the vital role of the project leader and facilitator, in particular their relational skill set, community development experience, respectful coordination, and transparent approach were repeatedly named as reasons the group felt confident, organised and motivated. Collaboration with trusted community organisations further strengthened engagement by supporting recruitment of diverse women and creating an environment shaped by relationships rather than formality.
- 5.1.4 Practical, Community Informed Recommendations - The project captured rich, detailed data on lived experiences of poverty and gender inequality, and the outputs – including a detailed findings report, executive summary, thematic analysis, and 116 practical, community informed recommendations – directly addressed the original aim of improving understanding and informing Council action.

5.2 Areas for Further Development

- 5.2.1 Scope and Focus - The broad thematic scope of the study enabled the project to generate a rich and comprehensive evidence base on lived experience across multiple aspects of poverty and gender inequality. A learning for future exercises is that, where the Council wishes to support deeper deliberation on specific policy choices, a more tightly defined remit may be beneficial. In particular, future exercises could include an early scoping phase to identify one or two priority policy questions, alongside clearer opportunities for participants to explore relevant Council policies, service models and constraints. This would support more focused deliberation and help generate recommendations that are more closely aligned with Council levers for action.
- 5.2.2 Understanding and Visibility of Current Council Practice – The citizen assembly approach appropriately prioritised independent engagement and the capture of lived experience. As noted by the Scottish Women’s Budget Group, limited awareness of existing services or policies among participants is itself a valuable finding, highlighting issues of accessibility and communication. A learning for future exercises is the potential benefit of complementing this insight with opportunities for participants to develop a clearer understanding of current Council practice. Where appropriate, this could include accessible explanations of how services operate to support informed discussion and enable more targeted recommendations to improve both awareness and service design. Such an approach may help participants to explore specific service areas, identifying barriers, gaps or unintended consequences, and strengthen the link between engagement and service improvement.
- 5.2.3 Strengthening Engagement Reach and Project Timeframes – While the project successfully created a supportive and inclusive process, the Scottish Women’s Budget Group felt that the tight timescales restricted the ability to reach a wider cross-section of seldom-heard groups, including care-experienced women, women with addictions, and those involved in selling or exchanging sex. Extending the engagement period and building in more lead-in time with partner organisations would help widen participation and deepen the evidence base. Longer timescales would also support earlier and more sustained collaboration with council officers, providing better access to data needed to inform and refine recommendations.
- 5.2.4 Enhancing Participant Support and Emotional Safety – The steering group’s experience also suggests opportunities to strengthen emotional safety and readiness for public-facing elements of the process. Although presenting to the Anti-Poverty and Inequality Committee was largely positive, some participants found the political nature of questioning upsetting. More structured preparation and debriefing, along with additional trauma-informed safeguards, would help protect wellbeing at these stages. Finally, while communication methods such as WhatsApp proved effective, future projects could benefit from a more formal communication framework and clearer feedback loops to ensure all participants—regardless of availability or digital access—remain informed, included, and confident in how their contributions shape the work.
- 5.3 See Appendix 1 for more detailed reflections and learning from the Scottish Women’s Budget Group (SWBG) Steering Group.

6. NEXT STEPS

6.1 This evaluation will be shared with partners of Community Planning Aberdeen, including the Anti-Poverty and Community Empowerment Group, that are currently developing proposals for people panels to be taken forward as part of the Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2026–36. These panels will involve individuals with a range of lived experiences to help influence multi-agency decisions about services and policies. By taking on board the findings of this evaluation in involving people with direct experience of poverty and inequality, people panels can support more joined up decision making, strengthen the relevance and effectiveness of solutions, and ensure partner policies reflect how people experience multiple services.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendations in this report. Future citizen engagement exercises are subject to the Council's annual budget setting process.

8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.

9. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

9.1 There are no direct environmental implications arising from this report.

10. RISK

Category	Risks	Primary Controls/Control Actions to achieve Target Risk Level	*Target Risk Level (L, M or H) <small>*taking into account controls/control actions</small>	*Does Target Risk Level Match Appetite Set?
Strategic Risk			L	Yes
Compliance			L	Yes
Operational			L	Yes
Financial			L	Yes
			L	Yes
Reputational			L	Yes
Environment / Climate			n/a	n/a

11. OUTCOMES

Council Delivery Plan 2024	
	Impact of Report
Aberdeen City Council Policy Statement Working in Partnership for Aberdeen	The proposals within this report support the delivery of the following aspects of the policy statement within the context of tackling poverty:- A Transparent, Accessible and Accountable Council

	Aberdeen City Council works for the people of Aberdeen, and it is important that people can access, understand, and take part in the Council's democratic processes. To make Aberdeen City Council more transparent, accessible, and accountable we will 'Explore options to establish local Citizens' Assemblies – with the first remit of a Citizens' Assembly being to advise the council on what's needed to tackle gender inequality in Aberdeen'
<u>Local Outcome Improvement Plan</u>	
Prosperous Economy Stretch Outcomes	Stretch outcome 1: 20% reduction in the percentage of people who report they have been worried they would not have enough food to eat and/ or not be able to heat their home by 2026.
Prosperous People Stretch Outcomes	Stretch outcome 12: Reduce homelessness by 10% and youth homelessness by 6% by 2026, ensuring it is rare, brief and non-recurring with a longer term ambition to end homelessness in Aberdeen City.

12. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Assessment	Outcome
Integrated Impact Assessment	No assessment required.
Data Protection Impact Assessment	Not required.
Other	N/A

13. BACKGROUND PAPERS

13.1 [Aberdeen City Council Response to the Scottish Women's Budget Group Study on Gender Inequality and Poverty 26 November 2025](#)

[Citizens' Assemblies Approach - Final Report on the Scottish Women's Budget Group Study on Gender Inequality and Poverty 11 June 2025](#)

[Citizen Assemblies 12 June 2024.pdf](#)

[Citizen Assemblies 11 January 2023.pdf](#)

11. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Reflections and Learning

12. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

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Appendix 1 Aberdeen Gender Equality and Poverty Project Reflections and Learning

Background

The Scottish Women's Budget Group (SWBG) were commissioned by Aberdeen City Council's Anti-Poverty and Inequality Committee to explore the impact of poverty and gender inequality on women and their families in the city. The project also aimed to identify with participants solutions that could address these issues for individuals, families and the wider community.

The project began in September 2024 with the recruitment of a steering group to oversee the project. The final report was provided to Aberdeen City Council in April 2025. A presentation was made to the Anti-Poverty and Inequality Committee in June 2025, and the response was discussed by the committee in November.

The project took a mixed-methods approach, using the principles of a citizens assembly combined with a gender budgeting approach to guide the research. Key principles included:

- Participative: the challenges and the solutions were identified by the community;
- Intersectional: ensuring we involved and heard from a diverse range of people;
- Informed: the steering group were supported to build on their experiences and understanding of poverty and inequality.

The mixed-methods approach enabled us to hear from those who have experience of living on a low income, those who work in organisations that provide support, as well as those who have experience of both.

Underpinning this approach was a commitment to ethical, non-extractive knowledge gathering, which tried to ensure that participation was proportionate and meaningful. We aimed to co-create a safe enough space that allowed participants to bring their authentic selves in a way that was supported, celebrated and encouraged.

The intention was to create a robust and fuller understanding of how gender inequality impacts on women and their families by engaging with a representative sample from across Aberdeen.

What the steering group told us about their involvement

As part of this project, we recruited a group of 9 women to act as a steering group to help oversee the project¹. The steering group were involved in:

- Designing the research questions and data collection methods;
- Analysing the data collected and identifying areas for improvements;
- Developing recommendations;
- Presenting the findings to the anti-poverty and inequality committee;
- Engaging with council officers to help them develop their response to the report.

Through engaging with community organisations in Aberdeen, we were able to recruit a diverse range of women to the steering group. Steering group members told us that receiving information from a trusted person/organisation encouraged them to get involved in the project.

¹ One woman stopped their involvement in the steering group after 2 sessions

Building a safe enough space which valued the contributions of all group members was key to sustaining the involvement of 8 out of 9 of the participants. This was despite several participants experiencing life events that could have led to their involvement ending). The fact that the group was for women only was identified as another factor which helped maintain involvement. This played a role in creating a safe enough space for participants.

'The group recognised the importance of lived experience and created a safe, inclusive space where my voice was valued. This support gave me confidence to contribute openly, helped shape discussions, and ensured that real experiences were reflected in the group's work and recommendations.'

Understanding that the women involved in the project were balancing their own lives and families and providing options that allowed people to participate as much or as little as they were able to was crucial, as well as helping the women involved balance competing demands on their time.

Steering group members highlighted that the flexible approach to their involvement helped them stay engaged. A WhatsApp group was set up at the start of the project, with everyone's consent, to allow the group to communicate with each other and to share updates. The majority of the group found this extremely helpful in maintaining their involvement.

'Having a clear schedule of meetings, agreed upon as much as possible, and being notified of appointments with enough advance notice to add them to our calendars. Also, if you couldn't attend a meeting, the coordinator would send us a summary of what was discussed, what was agreed upon, and the next steps. I found the coordination to be excellent. Although this was not my first experience as a volunteer or collaborator, it was, in my opinion, the best-organized one.'

Providing participation vouchers was an important way of recognising the value participants brought to the group and the wider participation activities. These vouchers acknowledged that participants' knowledge was a unique, valuable form of expertise and that sharing it required emotional labour. In addition, we reimbursed travel costs and provided refreshments, all of which aimed to demonstrate the value the participants brought to the project.

The design of the project recognised that sharing their experiences could be difficult for the women involved. We aimed to use activities which did not involve women having to share the detail of their experiences. Using creative methods allowed us to explore issues in a non-threatening, fun way. All steering group members highlighted this as a factor in maintaining their involvement. This approach also helped highlight the commonality of the group's experiences, despite the diversity within the group.

Benefits

All steering group members told us that they felt like they had been listened to and that they had learnt new skills by being involved in the steering group. The majority also felt they had hope that things could change:

'It was my first experience in a group of women, and I found it very enriching. It has changed my perspective, as I realized that many of the problems I believed were personal, or in some cases related to my condition as an immigrant, are in fact mostly challenges we face as women. Furthermore, I came to understand that many of these gender-related problems are systemic and caused by failures in the social system.'

'It has also helped me better understand how my city works, its social fabric, and the city council. It has provided me with information about resources that I can now share to help others. It has strengthened my conviction that being socially active is positive and has rekindled my desire to volunteer, to find a place from which I can help and give back what I have received.'

'My involvement had an impact both personally and collectively. Personally, it increased my confidence and strengthened my ability to speak up about issues affecting women. My lived experience helped shape discussions and influenced how issues affecting women in poverty were understood. My contributions supported the group's work by adding real-world insight, ensuring that policies and recommendations considered the realities faced by women.'

SWBG reflections

This project took a feminist approach to research, grounded in an ethic of care. We aimed to build relationships (on a human-to-human level) creating a space where people wanted to share their knowledge and insights knowing that they can trust those in the group to hold those insights with care.

The facilitative approach taken was a relational one, recognising that the steering group members were the experts in the room. The role of SWBG's facilitator was to support the group, helping them to participate and share their truths, while acknowledging both the commonalities and the differences in their experiences.

'The continuous feedback we have received at every step of the project, always being taken into account and asked for our opinion. The wonderful way the group coordinator has led the project, always respectful, facilitating participation, and open to suggestions. In one word, the transparency.'

The timescales of the data-gathering phase of the project were tight. With more time, it is possible we could have been engaged a greater number of people and reached other seldom-heard groups (i.e. care experienced people, women with addiction issues, women involved in selling or exchanging sex, etc).

Additional time would also have allowed for engagement with council officers to access data to help inform recommendations.

Attending and presenting their findings to the Anti-Poverty and Inequality Committee was, on the whole, a positive experience for the group, building on earlier work to help them feel heard. However, for two steering group members, the political nature of some of the questions and the way they were framed was upsetting.

Finally, tight timescales and the holiday period affected the group's ability to engage fully in helping inform the response from council officers. Despite this, the group were appreciative of the efforts made to engage with them.

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Anti-Poverty and Inequality
DATE	11 March 2026
EXEMPT	No
CONFIDENTIAL	No
REPORT TITLE	Accessing Money Advice and Advisory Services
REPORT NUMBER	CORS/26/038
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	Andy MacDonald
CHIEF OFFICER	Michelle Crombie on behalf of Isla Newcombe
REPORT AUTHOR	Angela Kazmierczak
TERMS OF REFERENCE	1.12

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To update Anti-Poverty and Inequality Committee on progress made since March 2025 to improve equitable access to money advice and advisory services.

2. RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee: -

- 2.1 Note progress achieved in implementing actions to improve access to Money Advice and Advisory Services.

3. CURRENT SITUATION

- 3.1 In March 2025, the Committee considered findings from the city-wide *Accessing Money Advice and Advisory Services* questionnaire, which had been commissioned following earlier Committee direction and set out in previous reports, including *Accessing Money Advice Services* (June 2024) and *Accessing Money Advice and Advisory Services* (July 2024). These earlier papers established the need to better understand how residents navigate the advice system, the barriers they encounter, and the improvements required to support more equitable access. The survey confirmed that while overall awareness of support is low, the more significant challenges related to the complexity of navigating services, limited access routes and opening hours, long waiting times, and digital exclusion. Residents expressed a clear preference for face-to-face, walk-in and mobile outreach provision, indicating that traditional communication and digital pathways do not meet the needs of many households.

- 3.2 It is important to emphasise that advice services across the city remain extremely busy, and many residents do reach the help they need, reflecting the commitment and effectiveness of staff across the Council and partner organisations. The challenge is therefore not lack of demand, but the need to remove practical barriers, simplify pathways and ensure residents can move through the system more easily, with fewer repeat contacts and more timely, appropriate support.
- 3.3 Advertising services plays an important role in raising awareness, but evidence shows that this alone does not overcome the structural barriers residents face. Without simplified pathways, trusted points of contact and joined-up services, increased awareness risks generating additional demand without improving outcomes or reducing repeat contacts.
- 3.4 The findings from the citywide *Accessing Money Advice and Advisory Services* work are consistent with evidence from the Scottish Women's Budget Group, including its report on gender inequality and poverty in Aberdeen. This highlights that access to support is often gendered, with women, particularly those with unpaid caring responsibilities, more likely to experience financial insecurity and barriers navigating advice, benefits and support systems. This reinforces the importance of accessible, trusted and simplified routes into advice and income-related support.
- 3.5 While this report focuses on access to money advice and income maximisation, access to legal advice, including legally aided services, also forms part of the wider advice landscape, particularly where financial issues intersect with housing, debt or family circumstances. The Scottish Government has announced a [13 per cent increase in legal aid fees and fixed payments](#) from September 2026, alongside additional investment in traineeships and digital support for providers, intended to help stabilise the legal aid system. However, national partners continue to highlight ongoing pressures on legal aid provision, and any improvement in local availability is likely to take time as reforms are implemented.

4. WHAT HAS BEEN DELIVERED

4.1 Data-led Targeting to Support Early Intervention and Prevention

4.1.1 The Low-Income Family Tracker (LIFT) is being used as the Council's primary tool for proactive income-maximisation and early intervention. LIFT brings together Local Authority and Department of Works and Pension data to identify households who are likely to be entitled to financial support but not currently receiving it. Since March 2025, LIFT has been used to identify and contact households in relation to:

- Pension Credit
- Free School Meals
- Education Maintenance Allowance
- School Clothing Grants
- Discretionary Housing Payment

- Rent Assistance Fund

This has resulted in:

- 768 households contacted
- £497,660.37 in additional income

4.1.2 These outcomes demonstrate the value of moving from a reactive, self-referral model to a proactive, data-led approach. The Council has secured a further two years of Scottish Government Child Poverty Accelerator Funding, enabling continued operation of LIFT and the development of a locally owned, integrated intelligence system. This includes creating an internal version of the LIFT approach and intelligence model, which will expand the range of datasets that can be matched, strengthen alignment with the emerging Family Support Model, and provide a sustainable long-term approach to data led prevention. The funding will also support a targeted test of change for families with children who have Additional Support Needs (ASN), combining secure education data matching, codesign with families, and development of a prototype “Tell Us Once” model to reduce duplication and improve navigation for households who often face the greatest barriers to accessing support. The approach we are developing in Aberdeen has captured interest nationally for scalability across other Local Authority areas in Scotland.

4.2 Community, Outreach and Accessible Communication

Strengthening Access Through Place-Based Delivery

4.2.1 Access to money advice and income maximisation support has continued to improve through a combination of place-based delivery and trusted community channels. This approach enables residents to engage with services in ways that reflect their needs, preferences and personal circumstances, and supports earlier intervention to prevent financial issues from escalating. This reflects wider evidence, including from the Scottish Women’s Budget Group, which highlights the importance of accessible, trusted and relationship-based delivery models in supporting women and unpaid carers who may face greater barriers engaging with complex or centralised advice systems.

4.2.2 Analysis of service-user data, alongside Low-Income Family Tracker (LIFT) intelligence, shows a strong alignment between areas of highest need and areas of highest engagement with advice services. This provides assurance that the current place-based model is well targeted and supports continued development of outreach in priority locations.

4.2.3 Key developments include:

- Expanded outreach and walking provision, delivered directly in local community and partner venues.
- Growing the Financial Inclusion Team’s footprint across the city, making support more visible and easier to reach.
- Embedding provision in trusted, everyday locations, enabling earlier engagement and reducing stigma.

- 4.2.4 The Financial Inclusion Team has expanded its presence beyond existing community settings (Tilly Flat, Tillydrone Community Campus, Instant Neighbour and Greyhope Community Centre) to include the:
- Northfield Community Centre
- 4.2.5 The introduction of outreach at Northfield Community Centre directly responds to evidence of sustained demand in the Northfield/Mastrick North area, identified through both service-user data and LIFT analysis. This strengthens local access to face-to-face, relationship-based support and reduces reliance on city-centre provision.
- 4.2.6 In addition, the Team is exploring outreach through trusted city-centre partners such as Cyrenians on Summer Street. Although city-centre based, Cyrenians is a trusted third-sector partner with established relationships with individuals least likely to engage with statutory or locality-based services. This would support trauma-informed, relationship-based engagement, complementing ward-based outreach rather than duplicating it. If effective, the approach could be replicated with other trusted partners to further strengthen access for those who are hardest to reach.
- 4.2.7 This place-based approach operates alongside, and in partnership with, the wider advice network across Aberdeen, including Citizens Advice, CFINE SAFE, housing provider welfare services, national debt charities and other third-sector partners. Strong referral pathways ensure residents can access the most appropriate support, while targeted community delivery helps reach those who may otherwise face barriers to engagement.

Targeted and trusted Communications Channels

- 4.2.8 Alongside in-person advice, the service has continued to use targeted, trusted and accessible communication channels to reach residents who may not engage with formal Council communications. This includes:
- SHMU radio advice slots, enabling accessible, conversational advice in a format residents recognise and trust.
 - Targeted email campaigns, including messaging for families, income maximisation and benefit entitlement reminders.
 - Use of community newsletters, which reach households who rely on local sources rather than Council webpages.
 - Short advice videos, such as the unclaimed benefits, with further topics currently in development to support wider awareness and take-up.
- 4.2.9 This multi-channel approach ensures that information is reaching people who may not access Council websites or respond to traditional communications.

Improving Online Access Through the Council Website

- 4.2.10 In parallel, Aberdeen City Council's website is being updated to improve the user experience and discoverability of financial, benefits and cost-of-living support information.

4.2.11 Changes include:

- Organising information by life event or situation (e.g. having a baby, becoming unwell, losing a job), rather than by department.
- Embedding direct links to Easy Read, plain-language and alternative-format materials, ensuring people can immediately access formats that meet their needs.
- Improved navigation and searchability, supporting both residents and partner organisations to find accurate information quickly.
- A dedicated webpage bringing together information on [money advice and wider advice agencies operating across Aberdeen](#), providing a single, trusted access point and supporting clearer navigation into appropriate services. The page is used within targeted email benefit take-up campaigns.

Targeted Digital Communications and Entitlement-Check Campaigns

4.2.12 Targeted digital communications have demonstrated a strong and consistent association with increased engagement in benefit entitlement checks, particularly when messages are tailored to specific groups such as tenants and parents/carers.

4.2.13 In the week following targeted email campaigns, use of the online benefits calculator increased by an average of 829%, completed calculations increased by 1,024%, and the weekly value of benefits identified increased by 1,008% compared to the preceding weeks. Entitlement rates were already high and increased further, with an average uplift of 11.4 percentage points, indicating that communications were effectively reaching households likely to be entitled, rather than generating low-quality or speculative activity. The benefits calculator is hosted on the Aberdeen City Council website within the cost-of-living and financial support pages and is accessed directly through links included in targeted email, social media and digital campaigns.

4.2.14 This evidence is reinforced by social media activity. A targeted campaign delivered in January 2026 generated 832 clicks, significantly above typical engagement levels for Council posts, with over 92% of clicks directed to the benefits calculator. This demonstrates the effectiveness of clear, targeted messaging in prompting residents to take action.

4.2.15 Building on this evidence, a new 12-month communications plan will continue to proactively promote benefit entitlement checks and wider financial support. Activity will focus on targeted emails and digital campaigns designed to encourage early engagement, maximise household income, and support the Council's wider poverty prevention and financial inclusion objectives.

4.3 Financial Literacy and Capability Support

4.3.1 The Council continues to strengthen financial literacy and capability across the city through integrated employability, learning and financial inclusion activity. This work supports residents to better manage money, understand income from work, and improve financial resilience.

4.3.2 Recent developments include:

- Stronger links between employability and money advice, with ABZWorks keyworkers offering referrals to the Financial Inclusion Team as standard, and Financial Inclusion staff attending jobs fairs and training events.
- Financial literacy embedded within employability programmes, including finance modules, developed with input from the Financial Inclusion Team.
- Targeted support for parents, with all participants in the Grow, Save, Multiply programme completing certificated numeracy training and progressing to positive destinations, including employment and further education.
- Financial capability embedded in commissioned employability activity, including practical learning such as understanding payslips and managing income.
- Early financial capability for young people, with 16–17-year-olds engaged with ABZWorks supported to access bank accounts and manage a weekly training allowance.
- Community-based engagement with parents, informing the development of a Child Poverty Employability Plan and improving awareness of available financial support.
- Ongoing partnership working with specialist providers, including Money Ready, to deliver financial education sessions as required.

4.3.3 This coordinated approach ensures financial literacy and capability support is embedded across employability and learning provision, contributing to wider prevention and child poverty objectives.

4.4 Ensuring Resident Voice: Accessible Communication Survey

4.4.1 To ensure future service development reflects lived experience, the Financial Inclusion Team has completed an Accessible Communication Survey with residents and service users.

4.4.2 The findings confirm that residents value choice, clarity and trust when accessing information about money, benefits and financial support. They also reinforce the importance of delivering information through trusted organisations and familiar community settings, alongside clear and accessible formats.

4.4.3 The survey explored:

- Preferred information formats (e.g. print, video, Easy Read, audio, BSL)
- Trusted channels and organisations
- Where residents currently look for information
- Where they would prefer to receive information

- Which topics need to be explained in clearer or more accessible ways

Survey findings

4.4.4 A total of 216 residents and service users responded to the survey.

Key findings include:

- Multiple formats are required – no single format meets all needs.
 - 54% prefer online webpages
 - 51% prefer printed materials
 - 43% value plain-language formats
 - 41% prefer Easy Read information
 - 34% value captioned video or animation
- Trusted sources strongly influence engagement – residents are most likely to engage with information shared through organisations they already trust:
 - 92% trust Aberdeen City Council websites and services
 - 56% trust health partners (e.g. GPs and NHS services)
 - 55% trust Citizens Advice and other third-sector organisations
 - 25% trust community groups and word of mouth
 - 24% trust schools, and 18% trust libraries
- Accessibility remains essential – while fewer respondents rely on formats such as audio (6%) or British Sign Language (3%), these remain critical to ensure information is inclusive.

4.4.5 Overall, the findings reinforce the importance of delivering clear, accessible information through trusted statutory, health and third-sector organisations, supported by familiar community settings and relationship-based engagement.

4.4.6 These findings will inform the design and delivery of improvement activity being taken forward through the Fairer Futures Pathfinder and Community Planning Aberdeen.

4.4.7 To support ongoing monitoring and trend analysis, these questions will be incorporated into current and future City Voice questionnaires, enabling the Council to track changes over time, assess impact, and continuously improve how information and advice is communicated to residents.

5. NEXT STEPS

5.1 Improving access to money advice and income maximisation is an ongoing priority for Aberdeen City Council and Community Planning Aberdeen. Building on the improvements that have been made by the Council over the last six months, further work is planned through the following Council and partner initiatives, with a particular focus on earlier identification of need, clearer access routes and reducing barriers that prevent residents from moving from awareness to effective support.

5.2 Fairer Futures Pathfinder (Family Support Model)

- 5.2.1 Funded by the Scottish Government, the Council is piloting a family-centred, place-based model of support that integrates advice, education and lifelong learning, employability, health, housing, social work and third-sector services. The programme will introduce shared referral and triage pathways, strengthen early-help approaches, and support the co-location of multidisciplinary teams in community settings. The approach prioritises tackling inequalities by addressing underlying social determinants of health, improving access to money advice and income maximisation, and embedding community-led design.
- 5.2.2 Through the Pathfinder, the Council will build on the evidence outlined in this report by embedding money advice and income maximisation more consistently within early help and family support activity, strengthening warm handover and referral pathways, and supporting more joined up, place-based access to support.

5.3 Ask & Act: Integrated Prevention Pathways

- 5.3.1 Aberdeen City Council is working with Cyrenians, as lead delivery partner, and other key stakeholders including Health and Police Scotland to develop the Integrated Prevention Pathways pilot to support the forthcoming Ask and Act duties within the Housing (Scotland) Act 2025. As a national test, the pilot will identify what works, understand barriers, and inform an approach that can be scaled nationally.
- 5.3.2 The first phase will focus on housing advice, testing trauma-informed proactive enquiry and clearer referral pathways. Learning from this phase will inform a second phase exploring how the approach could strengthen access to financial advice and income-related support. Learning from this phase will inform a second phase exploring how earlier identification of risk and clearer pathways could also strengthen access to financial advice and income-related support, particularly where financial pressure is contributing to housing instability or wider wellbeing concerns.
- 5.3.3 The pilot is supported by the development of Ask:Enact, a digital tool, developed to support the pilot, which should enable frontline workers to identify risks earlier, make trauma-informed enquiries, and support clearer, more consistent connections into appropriate advice services through defined local referral pathways. The tool is intended to guide practitioners to existing partner agencies and their established referral systems, rather than capture personal data itself, with any required information recorded within those organisations' own systems. Through structured testing, the pilot is intended to generate practical evidence on different training approaches, effective protocols, and the conditions needed for successful national rollout, aligning with Aberdeen's wider prevention-focused approach.

5.4 Local Outcome Improvement Plan and Locality Plans 2026-36

5.4.1 Money advice and income maximisation will be integral to many of the system changes being proposed as part of the revised Local Outcome Improvement Plan and Locality Plans 2026-36, ensuring that households are better supported to achieve financial security as part of a whole-system, preventative approach. Embedding high-quality, accessible money support across priority areas will strengthen early intervention, reduce financial strain on low-income families, and enable partners to respond more effectively to the underlying drivers of poverty and inequality. By aligning income-related support with wider system redesign, Community Planning Aberdeen can maximise the impact of collective action, improve outcomes for residents, and ensure that financial wellbeing is recognised as a foundation for achieving improved outcomes for people and communities.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 Section 52 of the Housing (Scotland) Act 2025 amends the duties contained in Housing (Scotland) Act 1987 in relation to homelessness. While these provisions are not yet in force, this report reflects some of the preparatory work being undertaken to ensure the Council complies with these duties.

8. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 There are no environmental implications arising from this report.

9. RISK

Category	Risks	Primary Controls/Control Actions to achieve Target Risk Level	*Target Risk Level (L, M or H) *taking into account controls/control actions	*Does Target Risk Level Match Appetite Set?
Strategic Risk	Failure to improve access to advice and income-maximisation services may increase financial hardship, widen inequalities, and undermine delivery of LOIP priorities.	Implementation of place-based delivery, targeted take-up through LIFT, simplified navigation, warm handovers, and ongoing performance monitoring.	L	Yes
Compliance	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Operational	Capacity pressures across advice services may impact ability to meet increased demand generated by data-led outreach, community-based provision, and the new ASN test of change.	Phased delivery model, use of triage pathways, improved referral quality, partnership deployment across FIT, ABZWorks, Pathfinder teams, and ongoing monitoring of caseloads.	M	Yes
Financial	Reliance on external grant funding (CPAF) for LIFT development and the ASN test of change may affect long-term sustainability.	Two-year confirmed Scottish Government funding; development of an internal LIFT model to reduce long-term costs; embedding data-led practice into core Council and Pathfinder structures.	L	Yes
Reputational	Failure to simplify access or to deliver the improvements expected may damage trust among residents and partner organisations.	Co-design with communities, transparent monitoring, strong partnership governance, improvement-methodology reporting.	L	Yes
Environment / Climate	No environmental risks identified	N/A	N/A	N/A

10. OUTCOMES

COUNCIL DELIVERY PLAN 2025-26	
Impact of Report	
<p>Aberdeen City Council Policy Statement</p> <p><u>Working in Partnership for Aberdeen</u></p>	<p>The proposals within this report contribute to the delivery of the following aspects of the policy statement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve access to fair and affordable financial support and advice, through expanded place-based availability of money advice, improved navigation, and targeted take-up via LIFT. • Reduce financial insecurity and cost-of-living pressures by ensuring residents receive the full range of financial entitlements and targeted early intervention.
<u>Local Outcome Improvement Plan</u>	

Prosperous Economy Stretch Outcomes	Stretch outcome 1: 20% reduction in the percentage of people who report they have been worried they would not have enough food to eat and/ or not be able to heat their home by 2026.
Prosperous People Stretch Outcomes	Stretch outcome 12: Reduce homelessness by 10% and youth homelessness by 6% by 2026, ensuring it is rare, brief, and non-recurring with a longer-term ambition to end homelessness in Aberdeen City.
Regional and City Strategies	The proposals within this report support several City Strategies, particularly the Children’s Services Plan and Local Housing Strategy, by strengthening early intervention, improving income maximisation for families, and reducing the risk of homelessness through targeted support. The expansion of place-based delivery aligns with the Council’s ambitions for accessible community services and optimising the use of existing assets. The programme also supports the Medium-Term Financial Strategy through preventative action that reduces crisis demand.

11. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Assessment	Outcome
Integrated Impact Assessment	No assessment required. I confirm this has been discussed and agreed with Michelle Crombie, Strategic Lead, Prevention and Community Empowerment on 20 January 2025.
Data Protection Impact Assessment	Not required.
Other	N/A

12. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 12.1 [Accessing Money Advice Services June 2024](#)
- 12.2 [Accessing Money Advice and Advisory Services Aug 2024](#)
- 12.3 [Accessing Money Advice and Advisory Services March 2025](#)
- 12.4 [Scottish Women’s Budget Group – Aberdeen Gender Inequality and Poverty: Report and Recommendations November 2025](#)

13. APPENDICES

- 13.1 Appendix 1 – Full response to questionnaire along with demographics

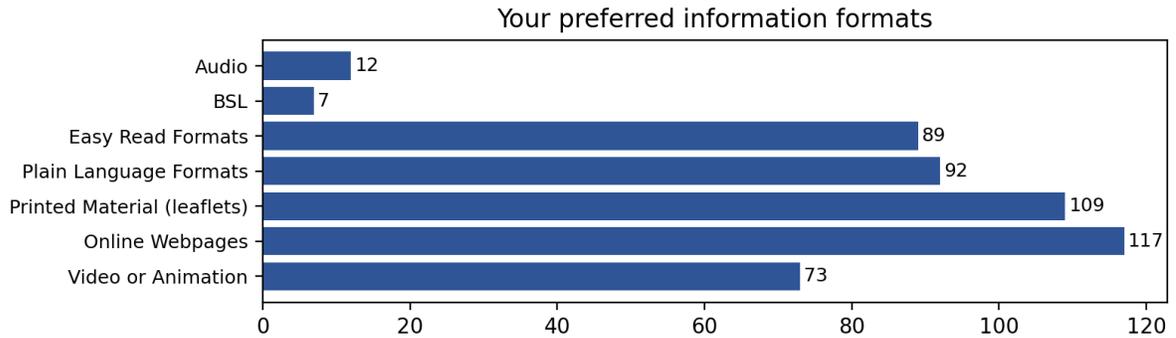
14. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

Name	Angela Kazmierczak
Title	Financial Inclusion Team Leader
Email Address	akazmierczak@aberdeencity.gov.uk

Accessible Survey Results Appendix

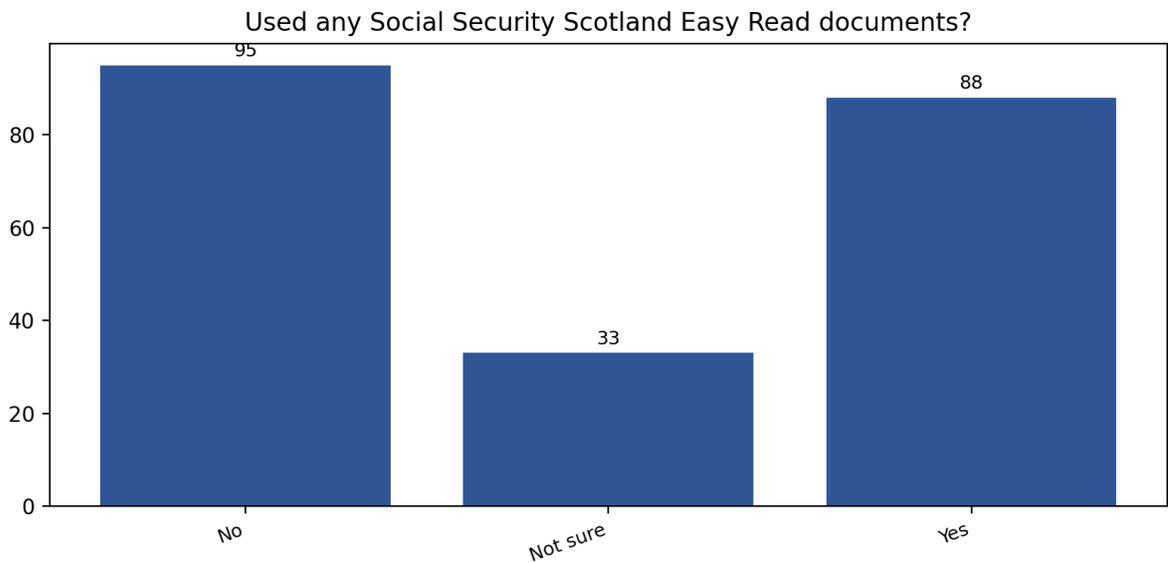
Your preferred information formats

n = 216 respondents (multiple responses allowed)



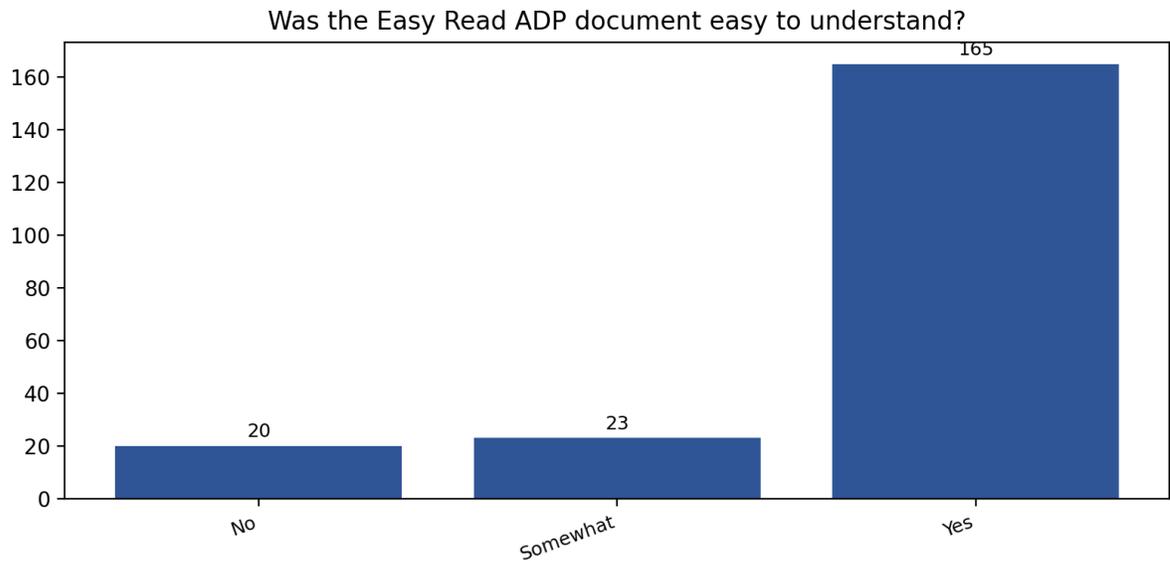
Have you ever looked at or used any Social Security Scotland Easy Read documents?

n = 216 respondents



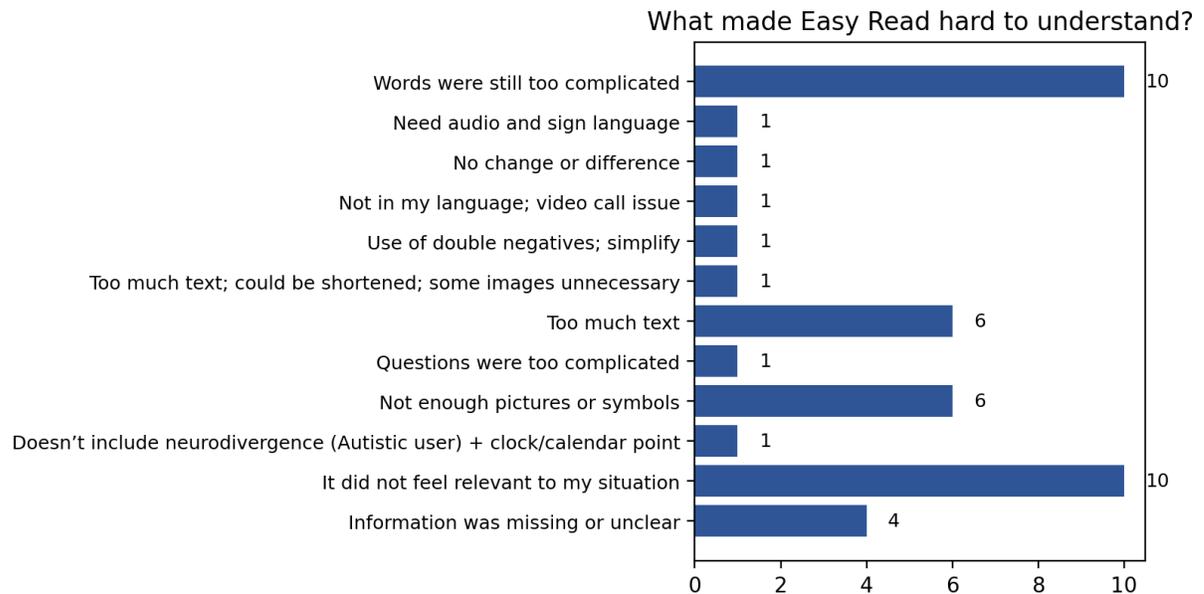
Did you find the Easy Read document about Adult Disability Payment easy to understand?

n = 208 respondents



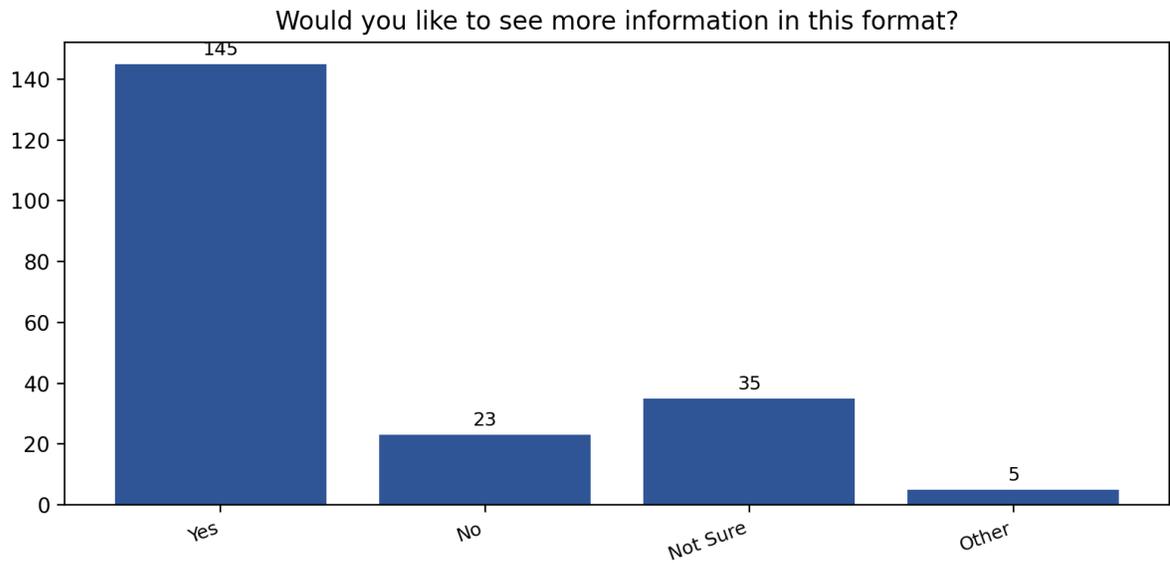
What made the Easy Read documents hard to understand?

n = 43 respondents (multiple responses allowed)



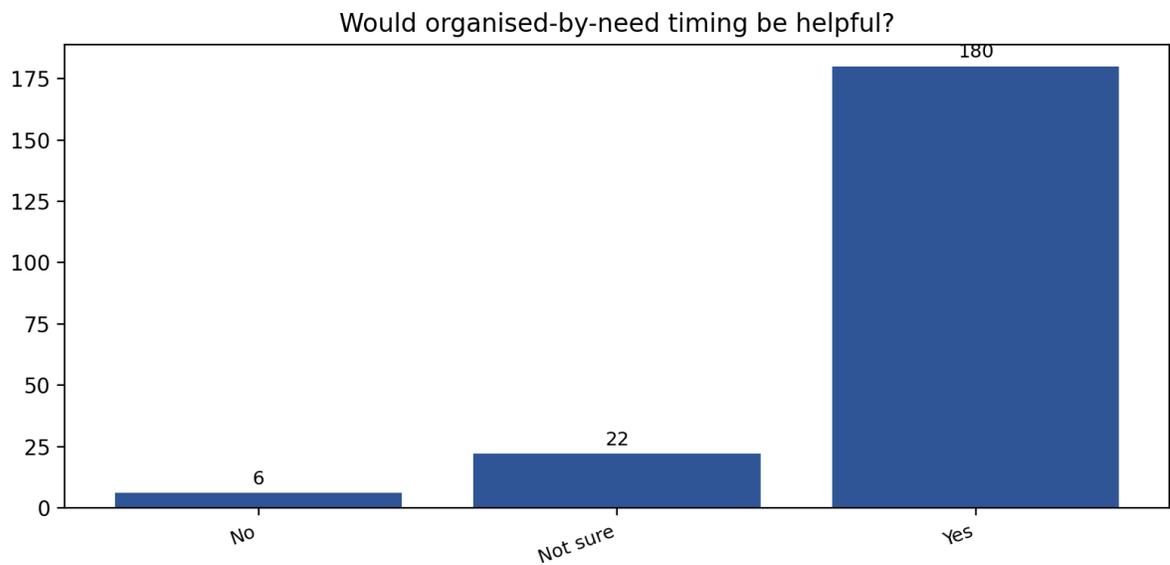
Would you like to see more information presented in this format?

n = 216 respondents



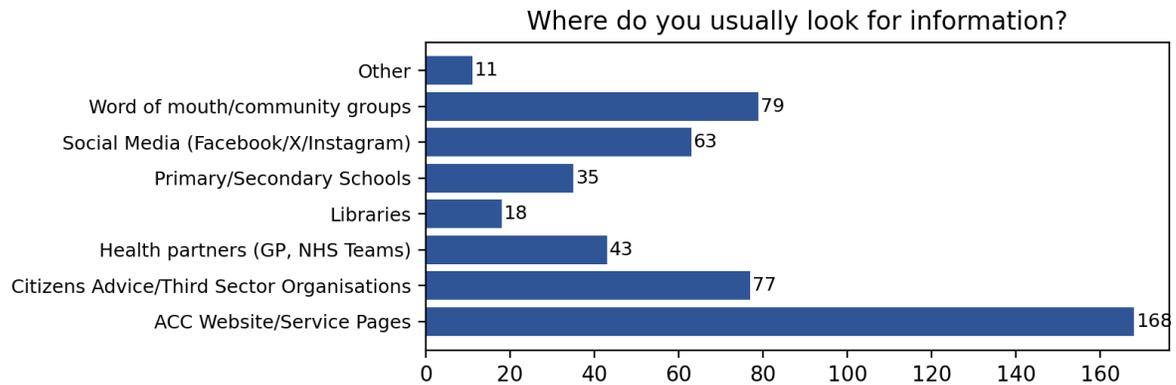
Would it be helpful if information was organised by what you need at different points in time?

n = 208 respondents



Where do you usually look for information about money and advice services?

n = 216 respondents (multiple responses allowed)



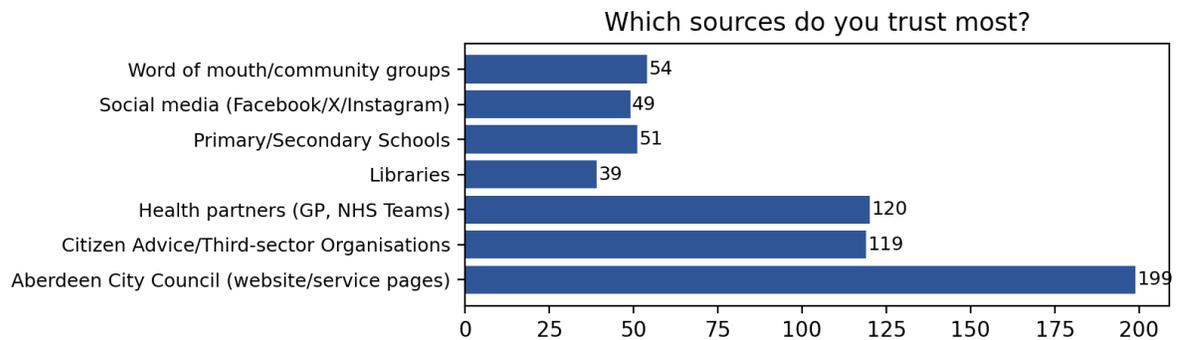
Other responses (n = counted from raw) — Where do you usually look for information?

Comment	Count
Google	4
Online	3
online	2
Advocacy services	1
Family	1
Financial advisor council	1
google	1
Google AI	1
Google search	1
Gov.	1
Government webpages.	1
I don't	1
I don't see any.	1

Mse website	1
My experience	1
mygov.scot	1
On the Internet.	1
Online but doesn't always give correct information	1
Others money advice and bank online webpage	1
Search phrases	1
Support Groups or charities like Barnardos	1

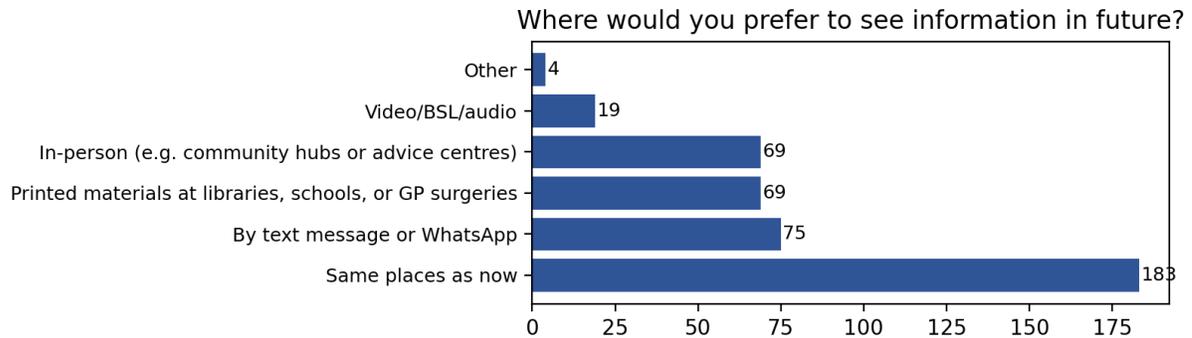
Which sources do you trust most for this information?

n = 216 respondents



Where would you prefer to see information in the future?

n = 216 respondents (multiple responses allowed)

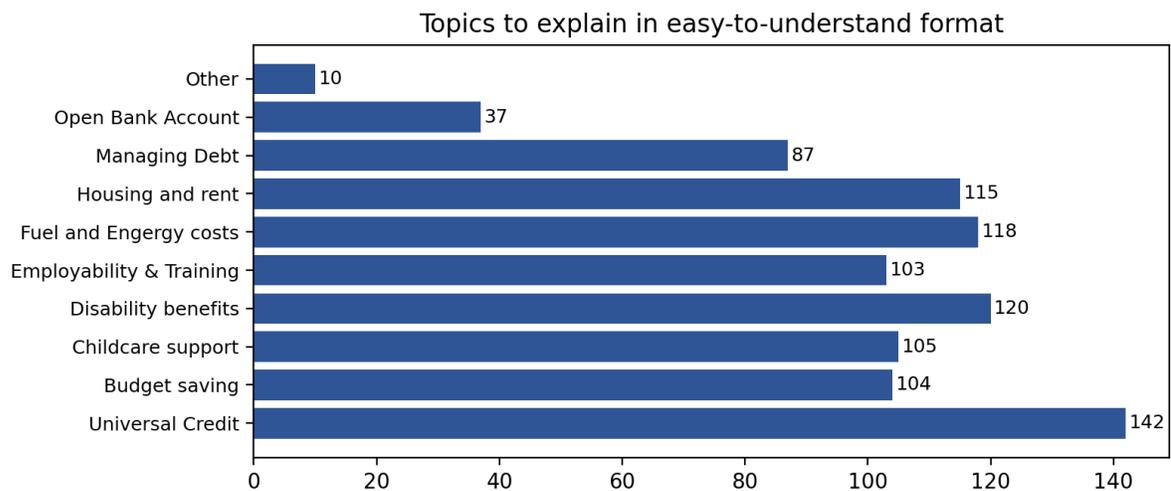


Other responses (n = counted from raw) — Where would you prefer to see information in the future?

Comment	Count
Email with links	1
on tv	1
Online	1

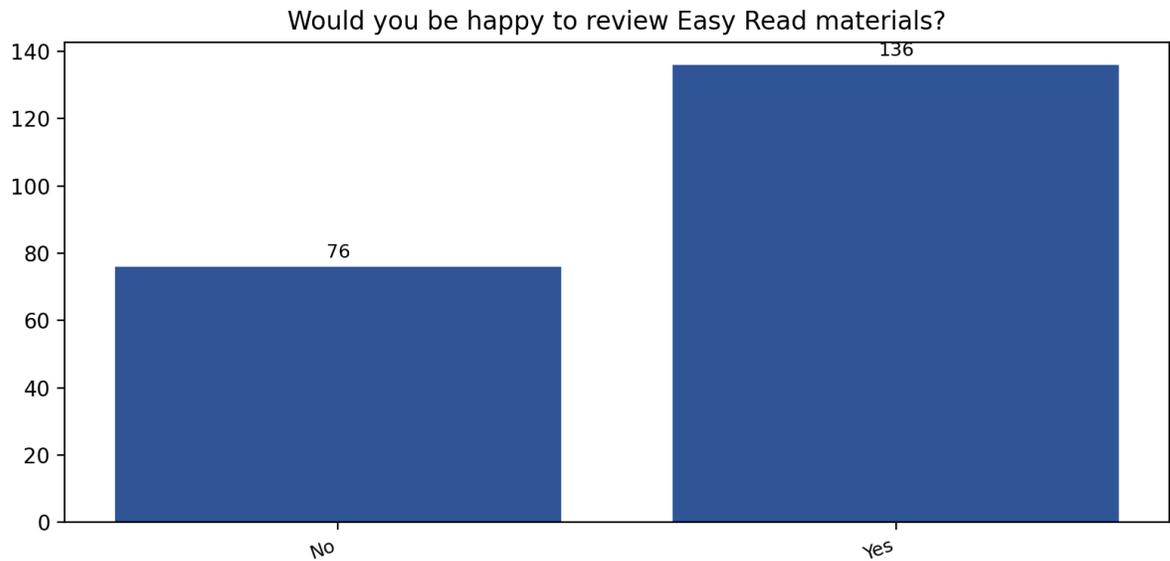
Which topics would you like to see explained in an easy-to-understand format?

n = 130 respondents (multiple responses allowed)



Would you be happy to look at the Easy Read materials we create and share your feedback with us?

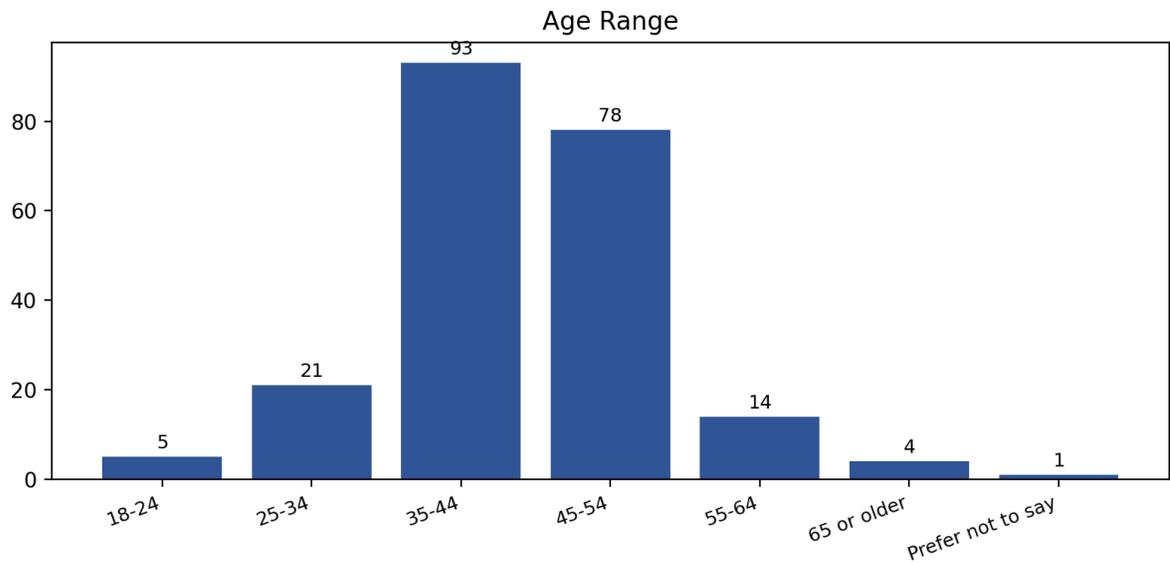
n = 212 respondents



Demographics

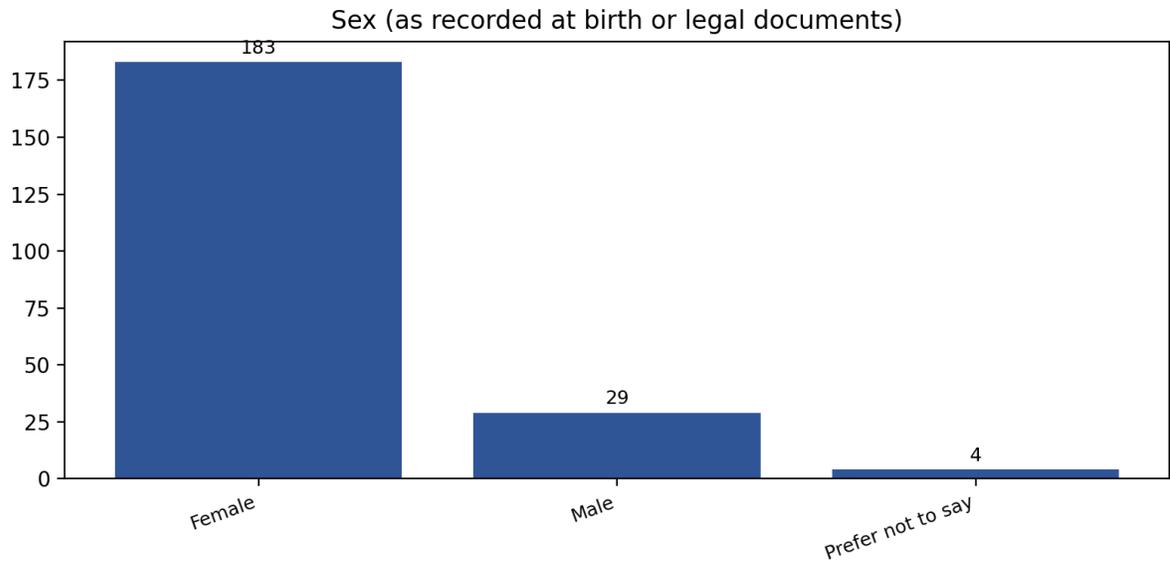
Age Range

n = 216 respondents



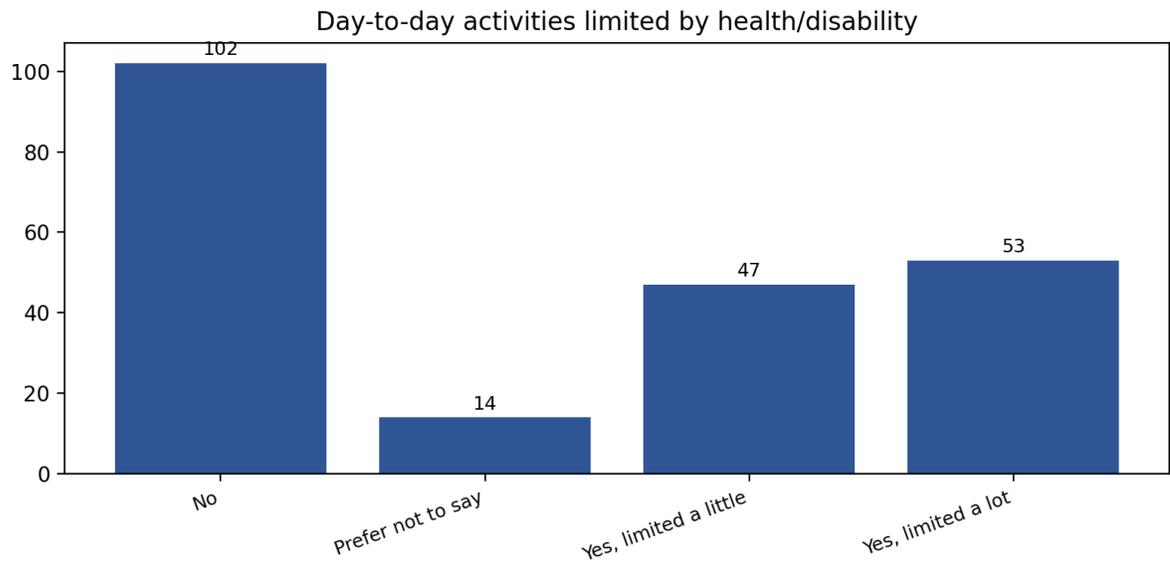
What is your sex? (as recorded at birth or on legal documents)

n = 216 respondents



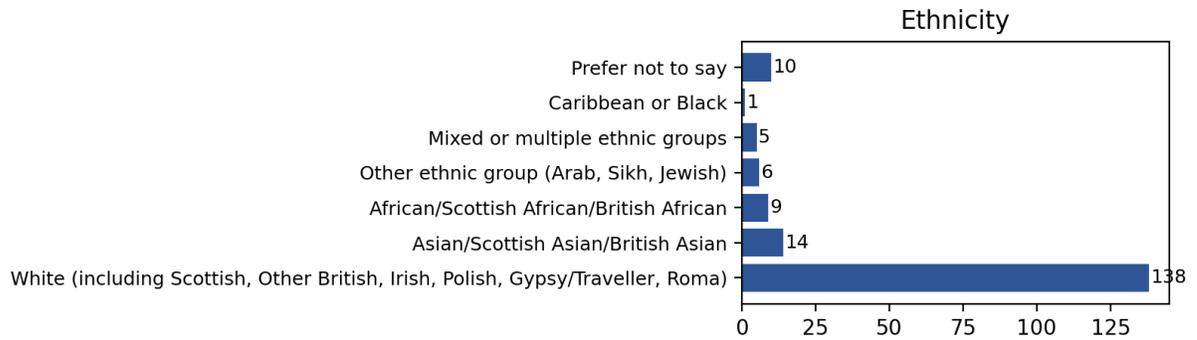
Are your day-to-day activities limited because of a health problem or disability (12+ months)?

n = 216 respondents



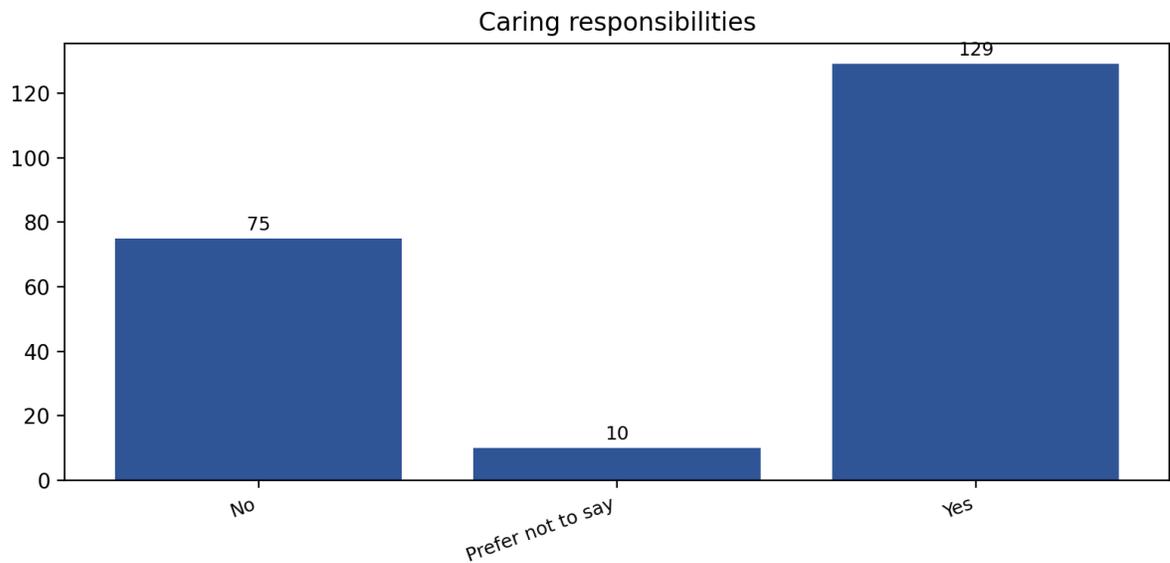
Ethnicity

n = 183 respondents



Do you have caring responsibilities?

n = 214 respondents



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ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Anti-Poverty and Inequality
DATE	11 March 2026
EXEMPT	No
CONFIDENTIAL	No
REPORT TITLE	Report on Visit to the Tillydrone Community Flat, Tillydrone Community Campus and Wallace Tower
REPORT NUMBER	CORS/ 26/043
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	Andy MacDonald
CHIEF OFFICER	Michelle Crombie on behalf of Isla Newcombe
REPORT AUTHOR	Matthew Lee, Anti-Poverty Officer
TERMS OF REFERENCE	1.3 and 1.5

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. To provide the Committee with a report following the visit to Tillydrone Community Flat, Tillydrone Community Campus and the Wallace Tower on 28 January 2026.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Committee:-

- 2.1 Notes the report; and
- 2.2 Thanks all those at Tillydrone Community Flat, Tillydrone Community Campus and the Wallace Tower who welcomed the Committee and provided an informative and interesting visit.

3. CURRENT SITUATION

3.1 Tillydrone Community Flat

3.1.1 Tillydrone Community Flat is a local community-based organisation that offers support services and activities aimed at supporting residents and strengthening community connections in Tillydrone.

3.1.2 The Anti-Poverty and Inequality Committee visited Tillydrone Community Flat to find out about the work it is doing for and with the local community. This visit is part of a wider programme of engagements the Committee is making to organisations supporting people in poverty across the City.

3.2 Issues Raised and Actions Required

3.2.1 During the visit, Committee members held a discussion with Fiona Young, Community Development Worker, and Sarah Jack, Administrator/Benefits Advice Worker.

3.2.2 The discussion highlighted issues that Tillydrone Community Flat has encountered:

3.2.3 **Funding and demand for services**

Tillydrone Community Flat receives funding from the Fairer Aberdeen Fund. It has two paid part-time members of staff, plus volunteers, who facilitate around 7200 service accesses per year. Demand for support has risen significantly in recent years. As a result, Tillydrone Community Flat is experiencing increasing pressure on its services.

Actions

- Completed – Tillydrone Community Flat has been invited to apply for additional funding available from an underspend in the Fairer Aberdeen Fund.
- Completed – Officers will continue to share the Council’s monthly External Funding Newsletter that provides updates on opportunities for organisations and businesses in Aberdeen. It includes information on current grant programs, application deadlines, upcoming workshops, and tips for writing successful grant applications. The newsletter aims to help organisations find and apply for funding to support their projects and objectives. [Organisations can sign up here.](#)

3.2.4 **Employability support**

The flat offers general employability advice but there is no formal employability scheme operating there currently. Pathways hold drop-in sessions in the Community Campus and people looking for support to get into employment are directed there.

Actions

- Completed – Officers will signpost the employability services available from ABZ Works to support Tillydrone Community Flat having additional capacity to help people with employability queries.

3.2.5 **Choice-based letting and housing stock**

The organisation noted that both they and people seeking support from them find the online system for choice-based letting difficult to navigate. They also highlighted issues with the quality of the Council housing stock in Tillydrone, particularly in terms of problems with damp and mould.

Actions

- Ongoing – Tillydrone Community Flat staff have been offered an in-person session on the use of the Choice Based Letting system. This session will include an opportunity for feedback shared previously by service users to be discussed and response provided around any future changes that could be considered.
- Ongoing – As outlined in the Local Housing Strategy 2025-2030, Aberdeen City Council will prioritise a sufficient supply of housing to meet the varying needs of the people of Aberdeen and improve energy efficiency of existing homes across all tenures to help to alleviate fuel poverty.

3.2.6 **Partnership working**

Tillydrone Community Flat undertakes partnership working with a range of organisations. A housing officer attends weekly and the Financial Inclusion Team offers a fortnightly drop-in service. Additionally, the flat engages with Grampian Regional Equality Council and has used No Recourse North East Partnership's 'myth buster' material to promote community cohesion.

3.3 **Tillydrone Community Campus**

3.3.1 The Anti-Poverty and Inequality Committee also visited Tillydrone Community Campus on 28 January 2026.

3.3.2 Tillydrone Community Campus is a multi-purpose community facility that provides a range of services to support residents in the Tillydrone area.

3.4 **Issues Raised and Actions Required**

3.4.1 During the visit, Committee members met Marie Strang, Project Coordinator at the Community Campus; Aileen Davidson, Chairperson of the Tillydrone Community Campus Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO); and Trustees Jane Fullerton and Anne Knight.

3.4.2 The discussion highlighted a number of matters relating to the Tillydrone Community Campus:

3.4.3 **Licence to Occupy**

The charity is seeking a Licence to Occupy several rooms within the Community Campus building. The charity views obtaining a Licence to Occupy as a way to gain more flexibility and autonomy over the services offered at the Community Campus.

Actions

- Ongoing – Officers are supporting the charity to get a Licence to Occupy, with potential to explore a Community Asset Transfer in future.

3.4.4 **Youth space**

One of the rooms within the Community Campus is used as a youth space, providing young people in Tillydrone with a place to connect with each other.

Actions

- Pending – Officers to highlight the youth space within the Community Campus to the Children's Service Board as an example that aligns with the Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2026–36 proposals to develop safe, co-designed spaces for young people.
- Pending – Officers to organise the removal of fixed tables within the youth space to improve accessibility and flexibility of use. The date set for this to happen is 2 March.

3.4.5 **Transport links**

Older residents, including people living in care homes, have visited events staged at the Community Campus previously. There was a suggestion during the discussion that access to transport had made this more difficult recently.

Actions

- Completed – Officers to clarify the exact nature of this problem and investigate if Aberdeen City Council can offer further assistance.

3.4.6 **Sharing information in the community**

Representatives of the charity and Committee members discussed the importance of people having access to information about what is happening in their communities.

Actions

- Completed – Officers to cascade a request for volunteers to contribute to the Tilly Tattle: a community magazine supported by SHMU.

3.4.6 **Community cohesion and perceptions of Tillydrone**

Trustees of the charity stressed the importance of community cohesion and their view that the Community Campus helps to correct negative perceptions of Tillydrone. These comments echoed the views expressed at the Community Flat, emphasising the importance that people in Tillydrone place on community cohesion.

3.5 **Wallace Tower**

- 3.5.1 Committee members concluded their visit to Tillydrone at the Wallace Tower in Seaton Park, now owned by the Tillydrone Community Development Trust following a Community Asset Transfer from Aberdeen City Council. Members received information from Jane Fullerton, Secretary of Tillydrone Community Development Trust and Linda Barclay, Trustee of Tillydrone Community Development Trust, on the recent improvements to the building and the Trust's plans to develop further community space in the tower's upper floors. The Trust are currently seeking funding to complete the work.

Actions

- Completed – Officers will continue to share the Council's monthly External Funding Newsletter that provides updates on opportunities for organisations and businesses in Aberdeen.
- Ongoing – Officers to continue to highlight funding opportunities, and some support has recently been secured from the Localities PB process.

- 3.6 See Appendix 1 for full overview of the visit.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendation in this report.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

6. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no environmental implications arising from this report.

7. RISK

Category	Risks	Primary Controls/Control Actions to achieve Target Risk Level	*Target Risk Level (L, M or H) *taking into account controls/control actions	*Does Target Risk Level Match Appetite Set?
Strategic Risk	None	None	L	Yes
Compliance	None	None	L	Yes
Operational	None	None	L	Yes
Financial	None	None	L	Yes
Reputational	None	None	L	Yes
Environment / Climate	None	None	L	Yes

8. OUTCOMES

Council Delivery Plan 2024	
Impact of Report	
Aberdeen City Council Policy Statement Working in Partnership for Aberdeen	There is no proposal in this report
Local Outcome Improvement Plan	
Prosperous Economy Stretch Outcomes	There is no proposal in this report
Prosperous People Stretch Outcomes	There is no proposal in this report

9. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Assessment	Outcome
Integrated Impact Assessment	No assessment required. I confirm this has been discussed and agreed with Michelle Crombie, Strategic

	Lead, Prevention and Community Empowerment on 3 February 2026.
Data Protection Impact Assessment	Not required.
Other	N/A

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

10.1 N/A

11. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Overview of Visit to Tillydrone Community Flat, Tillydrone Community Campus and the Wallace Tower

12. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

Name	Matthew Lee
Title	Anti-Poverty Officer
Email Address	matlee@aberdeencity.gov.uk



Anti-Poverty and Inequality Committee
Visit to Tillydrone Community Flat, Tillydrone
Community Campus and the Wallace Tower

Date: 28 January 2026

Attending:

Councillor Allard
 Councillor Blake
 Councillor Buchanan
 Councillor Davidson
 Councillor Hutchison
 Councillor Macdonald
 Councillor van Sweeden
 Dr Rachel Shanks, External Adviser
 Donna Hutchison, External Adviser
 Michelle Crombie, Aberdeen City Council
 Susan Thoms, Aberdeen City Council
 Matthew Lee, Aberdeen City Council

The Committee visit included three venues within Tillydrone, all offering facilities for local residents. The Committee began their visit at 10am at Tillydrone Community Flat, then visited Tillydrone Community Campus, and the newly reopened Wallace Tower.

At each venue committee members met with staff, committee members, trustees and volunteers. There was an opportunity to hear about the services and for them to raise issues and concerns that are affecting the community.

Tillydrone Community Flat

Committee members met Fiona Young, Community Development Worker, and Sarah Jack, Administrator/Benefits Advice Worker. Additionally, Committee members undertook a tour of the flat to see the numerous services it offers to local residents.

Tillydrone Community Flat is a local community-based organisation that offers support services and activities aimed at supporting residents and strengthening community connections in Tillydrone. It receives funding from the Fairer Aberdeen Fund, which provides core funding for the flat's activities.



The flat has around 7200 service accesses per year. Although the flat caters to a range of cohorts, working-age single men and single-parent households are a considerable proportion of the service user base. Building relationships with service users is a key goal and the informal or 'unofficial' nature of the flat is a draw for people who visit it.

Over time, the flat has moved from delivering adult learning to providing support services. The increasing complexity of people's circumstances and the changing landscape of the social security system has driven increased demand for help from the flat. It is common for people to request crisis support because they have experienced a benefit sanction.



Tillydrone Community Flat is a partner in Food Poverty Action Aberdeen, and receives food through CFINE. Each week, the flat provides between 75 and 100 food parcels to a variety of groups, including people who have no recourse to public funds. People can get one parcel per fortnight and can access food that conforms to their cultural and religious needs. Food insecurity is a problem that leads people to visiting the flat. Often, access to food is the first step towards deeper engagement between staff and service users.



The flat has a community room, which provides a warm space for people to meet and interact with others. There is also a computer available for people to access online services. The community room helps to tackle social isolation and digital exclusion.

The flat works in partnership with Aberdeen City Council staff. A housing officer attends weekly and the Financial Inclusion Team offers a 20-minute drop-in service.

Tillydrone Community Campus

Committee members met Marie Strang, Project Coordinator at the Community Campus alongside Aileen Davidson, Chairperson of the Tillydrone Community Campus Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO), and Trustees Jane Fullerton and Anne Knight. Members received a tour of the building and were able to see the various rooms that the charity intend to run after the Licence to Occupy process is completed.

Tillydrone Community Campus is a multi-purpose community facility that hosts classes, volunteer groups and events. Classes are free to people living in the AB24 postcode area, which includes Tillydrone.

The campus also has a café, run by a local resident and volunteers, which offers low-cost food. The café operator offers a main course and pudding for £5 every fortnight. Customers also have a 'pay it forward' option where they can buy a hot drink for themselves and pay for someone else to get a free drink subsequently.



Members of the charity have helped to get the building into its current form. The charity is in the process of obtaining a Licence to Occupy the community areas within the campus. Having a Licence to Occupy will provide greater flexibility over the classes and events run within the building. Currently, Aberdeen City Council organises the timetable and booking system for activities. The Council is supporting the charity with the Licence to Occupy process.

Marie and charity members highlighted specific classes available at the Community Campus, including fortnightly talks on health and wellbeing funded by NHS Grampian, Make Do and Mend, and a forthcoming Repair Café.

Charity members underlined that the Community Campus is one of a number of community facilities located in Tillydrone, contributing to a keen sense of local pride. The Campus offers classes to people who do not have English as a first language as part of wider efforts to reduce social isolation and foster community cohesion.



The Wallace Tower

The Wallace Tower is a seventeenth-century building located originally in Nether Kirkgate. It was moved to Seaton Park in the 1960s and had fallen into disrepair after lying empty for over 25 years. For many years the local community wanted to have it reopened for community use. Tillydrone Community Development Trust has implemented plans to redevelop the building through a Community Asset Transfer.

The ground floor of the building is now open and operating as a café, following community consultation on its use. Since opening in December it has been very popular with local residents and visitors to Seaton Park. Contingent on securing funding, the Development Trust plans to undertake further work on the upper floors, providing additional community space for activities and events.



The Trust is keen to provide free spaces for the community, working in partnership with other local organisations, and to add benefit to the facilities already available in Tillydrone. They see the Wallace Tower as a positive element in developing community capacity and improving perceptions of the area.



Issues raised

Tillydrone Community Flat

- Demand for services is increasing.
- Organisations are experiencing increasing pressures
- Employability support – capacity in communities could be increased
- Housing – there are issues with damp and mould in some properties
- Housing – the online system for Choice Based Lettings is difficult to navigate

Tillydrone Community Campus

- Licence to Occupy in progress to provide more flexibility over spaces
- Youth space – issues with use of space due to unsuitable furniture
- Access to transport affecting older people attending events
- Provision of information on activities and support available for residents
- Community cohesion and perceptions of Tillydrone

The Wallace Tower

- Tillydrone Development Trust have received support from Aberdeen City Council in obtaining a Community Asset Transfer of the Tower to enable them to undertake development of the ground floor
- Funding is being sourced to complete the upper floors to provide more community space
- Perceptions of the Tillydrone community can be negative, and the Trust hopes that the development of the Wallace Tower can improve this and add to the community facilities available

Officers are looking into these issues and actions are listed in the cover report.

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