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Aberdeen City Health & Social Care Partnership
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To: Members of the Risk, Audit and Performance Committee

Town House,
ABERDEEN 10 June 2025

RISK, AUDIT AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE

The Members of the **RISK, AUDIT AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE** are requested to meet in **Virtual - Remote Meeting on TUESDAY, 17 JUNE 2025 at 2.00 pm.**

ALAN THOMSON
INTERIM CHIEF OFFICER - GOVERNANCE

B U S I N E S S

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS AND TRANSPARENCY STATEMENTS

- 1.1 Members are requested to intimate any declarations of interest or transparency statements

DETERMINATION OF EXEMPT BUSINESS

- 2.1 Members are requested to determine that any exempt business be considered with the press and public excluded

STANDING ITEMS

- 3.1 Minute of Previous Meeting of 30 April 2025 (Pages 3 - 6)
- 3.2 Business Planner (Pages 7 - 8)

GOVERNANCE

- 4.1 Directions Tracker - HSCP.25.043 (Pages 9 - 20)

AUDIT

- 5.1 Approval of Unaudited Accounts - HSCP.25.039 - to follow
- 5.2 Review of Duties and Year End Report - Annual Review of RAPC - HSCP.25.040 (Pages 21 - 46)
- 5.3 Internal Audit Update Report - HSCP.25.050 (Pages 47 - 60)
- 5.4 HSCP Commissioning - Internal Audit - HSCP.25.042 (Pages 61 - 66)
- 5.5 Internal Audit Annual Report - HSCP.25.041 (Pages 67 - 84)

PERFORMANCE

- 6.1 Locality Planning Annual Reports - HSCP.25.037 (Pages 85 - 204)
- 6.2 Primary Care Improvement Plan (Update) - HSCP.25.044 (Pages 205 - 230)
- 6.3 Justice Social Work Service Delivery Plan 2025-29 - HSCP.25.045 (Pages 231 - 252)
- 6.4 Health Improvement Fund Annual Report - HSCP.25.046 (Pages 253 - 282)
- 6.5 Delivery Plan Update - HSCP.25.049 (Pages 283 - 300)

COMMITTEE DATES

- 7.1 Date of Next Meeting - 27 August 2025

Should you require any further information about this agenda, please contact Emma Robertson, emmrobertson@aberdeencity.gov.uk



Risk, Audit and Performance Committee

Minute of Meeting

Wednesday, 30 April 2025
10.00 am Virtual - Remote Meeting

ABERDEEN, 30 April 2025. Minute of Meeting of the RISK, AUDIT AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE. Present: Councillor Martin Greig Chair; and Councillor John Cooke and Ritchie Johnson.

Also in attendance: Calum Leask, Anne MacDonald (Audit Scotland), Vicki Johnstone, Alison MacLeod and Amy McDonald.

Apologies: Hussein Patwa and Jamie Dale.

The agenda and reports associated with this minute can be found [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.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST OR TRANSPARENCY STATEMENTS

1. There were no Declarations of Interest or Transparency Statements.

DETERMINATION OF EXEMPT BUSINESS

2. There was no exempt business.

MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING OF 25 FEBRUARY 2025

3. The Committee had before it the minute of its previous meeting of 25 February 2025, for approval.

The Committee resolved:-

to approve the minute as a correct record.

BUSINESS PLANNER

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

The Committee resolved:-

RISK, AUDIT AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE

30 April 2025

- (i) to note the reasons outlined for the transfer to the IJB of the report at line 8 (Strategic Risk Register and Risk Appetite Statement), the removal of the reports at lines 9, 19, 22, 26 and 28 (Financial Position Update) and the deferral of line 20 (Board Assurance and Escalation Framework); and
- (ii) to otherwise agree the Planner.

EXTERNAL AUDIT - ANNUAL AUDIT PLAN 2024/25 - HSCP.25.027

5. The Committee had before it a report prepared by the Engagement Manager, External Audit (Audit Scotland) presenting the audit plan for 2024/25. The Engagement Officer introduced the report and responded to questions from members.

The report recommended:-

that the Committee note the contents of the report.

The Committee resolved:-

to agree the recommendation.

QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE REPORTS AGAINST THE DELIVERY PLAN - Q4 UPDATE - HSCP.25.026

6. The Committee had before it a report prepared by the Transformation Programme Manager providing assurance and updating on the progress of the Delivery Plan as set out within the Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership Strategy Plan 2022-2025.

The Transformation Programme Manager introduced the report and responded to questions from members.

The report recommended:

that the Committee note the Delivery Plan Quarter 4 Summary, the Tracker and Dashboard as appended to the report.

The Committee resolved:-

to agree the recommendation.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING - 17 JUNE 2025

7. The Committee had before it the date of the next meeting: Tuesday 17 June 2025 at 2pm.

The Committee resolved:-

RISK, AUDIT AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE

30 April 2025

to note the date of the next meeting.

- **COUNCILLOR MARTIN GREIG, Chair.**

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	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
2	RISK and AUDIT PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE BUSINESS PLANNER									
3	The Business Planner details the reports which have been instructed by the Committee as well as reports which the Functions expect to be submitting for the calendar year.									
4	Date Created	Report Title	Minute Reference/Committee Decision or Purpose of Report	Report Number	Report Author	Lead Officer / Business Area	Directorate	Update/Status	Delayed or Recommended for removal or transfer, enter either D, R, or T	Explanation if delayed, removed or transferred
5	17 June 2025									
6	Standing Item	Directions Tracker	To present the six-monthly update on the status of Directions made by the Integration Joint Board (IJB) to Aberdeen City Council (ACC) and NHS Grampian (NHSG).	HSCP.25.043	Alison MacLeod	Alison MacLeod	ACHSCP	On the agenda		
7		Approval of Unaudited Accounts	To present the draft annual accounts.	HSCP.25.039	Amy McDonald	Amy McDonald	ACHSCP	Last presented to RAPC on 4 June 2024		
8		Review of Duties and Year End Report - Annual Review of RAPC	To present a review of reporting for 2025/26 and an early draft intended schedule of reporting for 2024/25 to provide assurance that the Committee is fulfilling all the duties as set out in its terms of reference.	HSCP.25.040	Alison Macleod	Amy McDonald	ACHSCP	On the agenda. Last presented to RAPC on 4 June 2024		
9		Internal Audit Annual Report	To provide the Committee with Internal Audit's Annual Report for 2024/25.	HSCP.25.041	Jamie Dale	Chief Internal Auditor	Governance	On the agenda. Last presented to RAPC on 4 June 2024 - this is an annual requirement.		
10		HSCP Commissioning - Internal Audit	To present the outcome from the planned audit of HSCP Commissioning that was included in the Internal Audit Plan	HSCP.25.042	Jamie Dale	Chief Internal Auditor	Governance	On the agenda		
11		Internal Audit Update Report	To provide an update on Internal Audit's work since the last update. Details are provided of the progress against the approved Internal Audit plans, audit recommendations follow up, and other relevant matters for the RAPC to be aware of.	HSCP.25.050	Jamie Dale	Chief Internal Auditor	Governance	On the agenda		
12	19.09.2023	Locality Planning Annual Reports	To present the locality plan annual reports 2024-25 for approval.	HSCP.25.037	Alison Macleod / Iain Robertson	Lead Strategy and Performance Manager	ACHSCP	On the agenda		
13	02.05.23	Primary Care Improvement Plan (Update)	On 3 December 2024 Members agreed that the Primary Care Improvement Plan would be reported to the IJB annually and also to RAPC annually as an interim report mid-cycle. (Went to IJB 19.11.24)	HSCP.25.044	Alison Penman	Emma King	ACHSCP	On the agenda		
14	24.03.2025	Justice Social Work Service Delivery Plan 2025-29	To provide assurance regarding how the Justice Social Work Service intends to improve service delivery over the period 2025-29.	HSCP.25.045	Val Vertigans	Claire Wilson	ACHSCP	On the agenda		
15	01.05.2025	Health Improvement Fund Annual Report	To present the Health Improvement fund annual report 2023/24 for approval.	HSCP.25.046	Calum Leask	Alison MacLeod	ACHSCP	On the agenda		
16		Delivery Plan Update	To provide assurance and relates to the progress of the Delivery Plan as set out within the ACHSCP Strategy Plan 2022-2025.	HSCP.25.049	Calum Leask	Alison MacLeod	ACHSCP	On the agenda		
17	27 August 2025									
18	23.04.2025	Budget Savings Update			CFO	CFO	ACHSCP			
19	Standing Item	Board Assurance and Escalation Framework (BAEF)	To note the Framework (reviewed by the Committee on an annual basis as per resolution on 26.08.2020)		Martin Allan	Business Manager	ACHSCP			

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
	Date Created	Report Title	Minute Reference/Committee Decision or Purpose of Report	Report Number	Report Author	Lead Officer / Business Area	Directorate	Update/Status	Delayed or Recommended for removal or transfer, enter either D, R, or T	Explanation if delayed, removed or transferred
4		Workforce Plan Annual Update Report	To provide an overview of the current workforce and the progress made against the Workforce Plan Priorities - Members agreed at IJB in November 2022 to instruct the Chief Officer to report progress annually to the Risk, Audit, and Performance Committee. Last reported on 28 November 2023.		Stuart Lamberton / Grace Milne	Sandy Reid	ACHSCP			
20										
21	19 November 2025									
22	19.09.2023	Justice Social Work Delivery Plan update 2024-25 and Performance Report	To present the Risk, Audit and Performance Committee with the updated Justice Social Work Service (JSWS) Annual Performance Report 2024/25. Last reported on 3 December 2024.		Val Vertigans	Chief Social Work Officer	ACHSCP			
23	08.01.2025	Strategic Risk Register			Martin Allan	Business and Resilience Manager	ACHSCP			
24	24 February 2026									
25										
26	2026 and TBC									
27	20.08.2024	Accounts Commission: IJB Finance and Performance Report 2025? (TBC Sarah Gibbon)	To provide a summary of the Accounts Commission's Finance and Performance Report for IJBs in 2025 and to provide assurance across the Accounts Commission's recommendations.		Sarah Gibbon	Amy McDonald	ACHSCP	HSCP.24.072 report reported to RAPC on 10 September 2024.		
28	12.06.2024	Adult Support and Protection - Biennial Report	To share the Adult Protection Committee (APC) Independent Convener's Biennial Report for 2024-26 for assurance purposes, in terms of the delivery and impact of 'adult support and protection' in the City.		Val Vertigans/ Claire Wilson	Claire Wilson	ACHSCP	Last reported 3 December 2024 - due late 2026		
29	Standing Item	External Audit Strategy 2025/26	To provide a summary of the work plan for Audit Scotland's 2025/26 external audit of Aberdeen City Integration Joint Board (IJB).		Anne MacDonald	Audit Scotland	Audit Scotland	Last considered at RAPC 30 April 2025		
30										



RISK AUDIT AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting	17 June 2025
Report Title	Directions Update Report
Report Number	HSCP25.043
Lead Officer	Alison MacLeod, Strategy and Transformation Lead
Report Author Details	Name: Alison MacLeod Job Title: Strategy and Transformation Lead Email Address: alimacleod@aberdeencity.gov.uk
Consultation Checklist Completed	Yes
Directions Required	No
Exempt	No
Appendices	A. Directions Tracker B. Record of Data Protection Impact Assessments (DPIAs)
Terms of Reference	6. Instruct Performance Reviews and related processes.

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1. This report presents the six-monthly update on the status of Directions made by the Integration Joint Board (IJB) to Aberdeen City Council (ACC) and NHS Grampian (NHSG).

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. It is recommended that the Risk, Audit and Performance Committee:
- a) Notes the detail and updates contained within the report and the two appendices.



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3. Strategic Plan Context

- 3.1. Under Section 26 of the Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014, in order to carry out the functions delegated, the IJB must give Directions to a constituent authority. For Aberdeen City IJB the constituent authorities are ACC and NHSG. Monitoring the effectiveness of the Direction process provides assurance that activity is being undertaken to help further the delivery of the Strategic Plan. Many of the Directions made are linked directly to specific programmes or projects as set out in the Delivery Plan.

4. Summary of Key Information

- 4.1. 'Health and Social Care Integration Statutory Guidance - Directions from Integration Authorities to Health Boards and Local Authorities', published in January 2020, states that there should be a log kept of all Directions made. At its meeting on 23 September 2020, the Risk Audit and Performance Committee (RAPC) agreed that a report on Directions would be presented every 6 months to review this log and provide assurance that the Directions were being issued and actioned in accordance with the 2014 Act.
- 4.2. Members agreed at the RAPC on 23rd June 2022 to a new 'traffic lights' system with four classifications to indicate the status of Directions. The classifications are as follows;

GREEN (Ongoing) indicating where the current direction is still valid, in place and not due for renewal or completion.

AMBER (Due) indicating Directions which are due for renewal or completion within the 6 months following the date of the Committee where the report is presented, including those which are at risk of not being completed within the timescale and / or within the allocated budget. In the case of the latter, an update to RAPC is required.

RED (Concern) indicating Directions which have either:

- a) Not been implemented due to issues with implementation e.g. no service available to deliver on the direction; or
- b) Directions which have expired and have not been reported as renewed or completed.



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GREY (Complete) – indicating Directions where the date has expired, and the direction is either no longer required or has been superseded by a new direction. It also includes Directions which have been completed within a set timescale and will not be required to continue beyond that.

- 4.3.** Appendix A shows all 'open' Directions and those Directions which were reported previously to the RAPC meeting in December 2024 but have since had a change in status. Those that are now complete will be archived for future reports. Four Directions have been added to the spreadsheet since the last report – one from the IJB meeting on 18th March 2025 in relation to Grant Funding and three from the IJB meeting on 4th February 2025 in relation to the Annual Procurement Workplan 2025/26. One of these Directions relates to 23 residential services for older people under the national Care Home Contract, another to six Care homes for people with Learning Disabilities, and the third to a service supporting people with substance use issues. The Directions in Appendix A are sorted in chronological order of the 'Effective To' date, starting with the oldest date.
- 4.4.** The total number of 'open' Directions reported is 35. It should be noted that some IJB decisions require a Direction to be made to both ACC and NHSG. Ten (28%) of the 35 Directions are now complete (Grey category) and will be removed from the report for the next iteration. It should be noted that eight of these previously had a timescale of 'ongoing'. As reported to the RAPC meeting on 3rd December 2024 we reviewed these and confirmed that the budgets were part of the Medium-Term Financial Framework which is updated every year and subject to a new Direction each year. There was therefore no need to keep these separate Directions open. 24 of the 35 Directions (69%) are classified as Green (still live within their timescale), and one (6%) as Amber (timescale expiring within 6 months of the date of this meeting). The service that this relates to is currently under review. There are no Directions in the Red (expired) category.
- 4.5.** As part of the 2022/23 Internal Audit Programme an audit was undertaken on Data Sharing. One of the recommendations was to ensure assurance is obtained that Data Protection Impact Assessments (DPIAs) are completed where appropriate and that a register of these is held by each Data Controller. It was agreed to add this assurance to the process of capturing and monitoring Directions. The record of Data Protection Impact Assessments (DPIAs) is attached at Appendix B.



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5. Implications for Risk Audit and Performance Committee

5.1. Equalities, Fairer Scotland and Health Inequality

As this is a report on performance and no changes to service delivery are proposed, there is no requirement for an impact assessment to be undertaken and there are no direct implications in respect of Equality, Fairer Scotland or Health Inequality. The individual reports which prompted the Directions referred to within this report would have been subject to impact assessments where relevant.

5.2. Financial

There are no direct financial implications as a result of the recommendations in this report. The individual reports which prompted the Directions referred to within this report would have noted the financial implications and the budget would have been identified within the Direction.

5.3. Workforce

There are no direct workforce implications as a result of the recommendations in this report. The individual reports which prompted the Directions referred to within this report would have noted the workforce implications and links to the Workforce Plan.

5.4. Legal

The monitoring of the Directions Log ensures that the IJB is discharging the requirement under the Health and Social Care Integration Statutory Guidance- Directions from Integration Authorities to Health Boards and Local Authorities (Jan 2020).

5.5. Unpaid Carers

There are no direct implications for Unpaid Carers as a result of the recommendations in this report.

5.6. Information Governance

There are no direct information governance implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

5.7. Environmental Impacts



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

5.8. Sustainability

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

5.9. Other

None.

6. Management of Risk

6.1. Identified risks(s)

There is a risk that if the Directions Log is not reviewed on a regular basis there would be no assurance that the IJB is discharging the requirement under the Health and Social Care Integration Statutory Guidance- Directions from Integration Authorities to Health Boards and Local Authorities (Jan 2020).

6.2. Link to risks on strategic or operational risk register:

This report links to Risk 4 on the Strategic Risk Register,
Cause: Performance standards/outcomes are set by national and regulatory bodies and those locally determined performance standards are set by the board itself.

Event: There is a risk that the IJB, and the services that it directs and has operational oversight of, fails to meet the national, regulatory and local standards.

Consequence: This may result in harm or risk of harm to people.

6.3. How might the content of this report impact or mitigate the known risks:

The 6 monthly Directions Update Report provides the necessary regular review and assurance.



APPENDIX A

Direction in relation to	Total Budget	Report No. (HSCP)	Lead Officer	ACC/ NHSG	Date Approved	Effective To	Status	Narrative
Grants	£661,227.00	23.005	S Omand-Smith	ACC	31/01/23	31/03/25		Direction closed. Direction related to report HSCP25.021 approved at IJB on 18 th March supersedes. Grant to Scottish Care ceased other grants continuing.
Medium Term Financial Framework (MTFF)	£131,067,000	24.012	Amy McDonald	ACC	01/04/24	31/03/25		Draft MTFF approved at IJB on 18 th March 2025 with instruction to bring a refreshed version alongside the Strategic Plan on 1 st July 2025
Medium Term Financial Framework (MTFF)	£266,000,000 (of which approximately £30M relates to Hosted Services and £53M is set aside for large hospital services)	24.012	Amy McDonald	NHSG	01/04/24	31/03/25		Draft MTFF approved at IJB on 18 th March 2025 with instruction to bring a refreshed version alongside the Strategic Plan on 1 st July 2025
First Contact Mental Health and Wellbeing	£1,462,733.00	21.045	S. Omand-Smith	ACC	25/05/21	31/08/25		Action 15 Funding – service currently under review.
Digital Innovation Programme	£1,250,000	24.071	Fraser Bell		24/09/24	30/09/25		Funding no longer in place to support this



Direction in relation to	Total Budget	Report No. (HSCP)	Lead Officer	ACC/ NHSG	Date Approved	Effective To	Status	Narrative
Rosewell House	Existing Budget	23.054	F. Mitchellhill	NHSG	22/08/23	31/12/25		Further report to be brought to IJB summer 2025 to determine the future of Rosewell House
Rosewell House	Existing Budget	23.054	F. Mitchellhill	ACC	22/08/23	31/12/25		Further report to be brought to IJB summer 2025 to determine the future of Rosewell House
Grants Funding	£438,141	25.021	S. Omand-Smith	ACC	18/03/25	31/03/26		Direct Award of grant funding to 8 organisations for 12 months
Annual Procurement Workplan 2025/26	£42,554,350	25.007	N. Stephenson	ACC	04/02/25	05/04/26		One year contract extension of 23 residential services for older people under the National Care Home Contract
Supplementary Workplan	£3,616,748.00	20.001	N. Stephenson	ACC	09/06/20	30/06/26		Training and Skills commissioned services listed on contracts register which is reviewed at least annually. Review scheduled for January 2026.
Annual Procurement Plan	£56,205,827.00	21.008	S. Omand-Smith	ACC	23/02/21	30/09/26		Various commissioned services only two of which remain open. One of these is reviewed annually and the other is due to end Sept 2026 with a review scheduled to commence Sept 2025
Alcohol and Drugs Partnership (ADP) Investment Programme	ADP Budget	22.037	K. Dawson	NHSG	07/06/22	30/06/27		Scheduled for review a minimum of 12 months in advance of the end date.



Direction in relation to	Total Budget	Report No. (HSCP)	Lead Officer	ACC/ NHSG	Date Approved	Effective To	Status	Narrative
Alcohol and Drugs Partnership (ADP) Investment Programme	ADP Budget	22.037	K. Dawson	ACC	07/06/22	30/06/27		Scheduled for review a minimum of 12 months in advance of the end date.
Morse Community Electronic Patient Record Evaluation and Contract Renewal	£913,042.00	24.030	A. MacLeod	NHSG	07/05/24	01/10/27		Approved at IJB May 2024. Budget is maximum required, could be less if Shire and Moray come on board. Contract review will be undertaken a minimum of 12 months prior to contract end date.
Supplementary Workplan	£42,391,380.00	22.098	N. Stephenson	ACC	29/11/22	31/03/28		Various commissioned services all listed on Contracts Register which is reviewed at least annually. Review date will be noted on 2027/28 Annual Procurement Workplan.
Supplementary Procurement Workplan 2024/25	£146,096,300	24.007	F. Mitchelhill	ACC	01/04/24	31/03/28		Bon Accord Support Services including variation to detail (not timescale) of original Direction in relation to Rosewell House
Aberdeen City Vaccination and Wellbeing Hub	c £300,000	24.047	S. Reid	NHSG	09/07/24	09/05/28		Extension of provision of Wellbeing Hub at current location. Budget in relation to additional rental, maintenance, cleaning, utilities etc. only.
Supplementary Workplan	£12,887,689.00	22.066	N. Stephenson	ACC	30/08/22	30/11/28		ADP and MH commissioned services all listed on Contracts Register which is reviewed at least annually. Review date will be noted on 2028/29 Annual Procurement Workplan.



Direction in relation to	Total Budget	Report No. (HSCP)	Lead Officer	ACC/ NHSG	Date Approved	Effective To	Status	Narrative
Annual Procurement Workplan	£110,536,534.00	23.002	N. Stephenson	ACC	31/01/23	31/03/29		Various commissioned services all listed on Contracts Register which is reviewed at least annually. Review date will be noted on 2028/29 Annual Procurement Workplan.
Independent Advocacy	£2,059,612.00	23.018	N. Stephenson	ACC	25/04/23	30/09/29		On Grants Register which is reviewed at least annually. Review date will be noted on 2029/30 Annual Procurement Workplan.
Procurement Workplan (MH Community Intervention Services)	£4,824,046.00	23.056	N. Stephenson	ACC	22/08/23	31/10/29		Listed on Contracts Register which is reviewed at least annually. Review date will be noted on 2029/30 Annual Procurement Workplan.
Link Practitioner Service	£6,129,974.00	22.062	A. MacLeod	NHSG	30/08/22	31/03/30		Funded by PCIP – on Programme for review prior to end of contract.
Annual Procurement Workplan 2025/26	£18,356,085	25.007	N. Stephenson	ACC	04/02/25	31/03/30		Direct award of six contracts to Care Homes for adults with learning disabilities for a period of five years
Annual Procurement Workplan 2025/26	£5,650,518	25.007	N. Stephenson	ACC	04/02/25	30/06/30		5 year extension for a residential service supporting people with substance use issues
Annual Procurement Workplan 2024/25	£220,737,528	24.004	F. Mitchelhill	ACC	01/04/24	31/03/31		Various commissioned services including NCHC, Housing Support, Complex Care Support Services which are listed on the Contracts Register and Grant Funded Services which are listed on the Grants Register. Both



Direction in relation to	Total Budget	Report No. (HSCP)	Lead Officer	ACC/ NHSG	Date Approved	Effective To	Status	Narrative
								of these are reviewed at least annually. Review date will be noted on 2030/31 Annual Procurement Workplan.
Supplementary Procurement Workplan 2024/25	£117,716,381	24.026	Fiona Mitchelhill	ACC	07/05/24	31/10/31		Care and Support at Home Services. Listed on the contracts Register which is reviewed at least annually. Review date will be noted on 2031/32 Annual Procurement Workplan. – contract will be reviewed a minimum of one year prior to contract expiry date.
Supplementary Procurement Workplan 2024/25	£200,250 (extension) + £7,103,102 (re-tender)	24.066	Fiona Mitchelhill	ACC	24/09/24	31/03/32		Carers Support Services – 4 month extension to Adult Carers Support Service and retendering of both Adult and young Carers Support Services.
Chaplaincy Listening Service	£178,369 p.a.	18.151	K. Dawson	NHSG	26/03/19	Ongoing		The service continues on an ongoing basis and is funded by Action 15 (PCIP) monies. Original Direction indicates the ongoing nature.
Immunisations	£55,558,291.81	21.066	F. Mitchellhill	NHSG	24/08/21	Ongoing		Ongoing business as usual.
Alcohol and Drugs Partnership (ADP) Investment Programme	ADP Budget	21.119	S. Omand-Smith	ACC	15/12/21	Ongoing		Ongoing service with budget reported annually within MTFF and covered by that Direction.
Alcohol and Drugs Partnership (ADP) Investment Programme	ADP Budget	21.119	S. Omand-Smith	NHSG	15/12/21	Ongoing		Ongoing service with budget reported annually within MTFF and covered by that Direction.



Direction in relation to	Total Budget	Report No. (HSCP)	Lead Officer	ACC/ NHSG	Date Approved	Effective To	Status	Narrative
ADP/Blood Borne Viruses (BBV) Partnership Update	£65,000.00	20.068	S. Omand-Smith	ACC	01/12/20	Ongoing		Ongoing service with budget reported annually within MTFF and covered by that Direction.
ADP/Blood Borne Viruses (BBV) Partnership Update	£65,000.00	20.068	S. Omand-Smith	NHSG	01/12/20	Ongoing		Ongoing service with budget reported annually within MTFF and covered by that Direction.
ADP - Tele Healthcare	£70,000.00	20.068	S. Omand-Smith	ACC	01/12/20	Ongoing		Ongoing service with budget reported annually within MTFF and covered by that Direction.
ADP - Tele Healthcare	£70,000.00	20.068	S. Omand-Smith	NHSG	01/12/20	Ongoing		Ongoing service with budget reported annually within MTFF and covered by that Direction.



APPENDIX B

Record of DPIAs

Topic	Service	Partner	Date Submitted	Date Approved	Comments
Adult Mental Health Mapping	MHLD	NHSG	09/02/24	12/02/24	
Community Mental Health Interventions Commissioning	MHLD	ACC	Oct 2023	Oct 2023	
Complex Care	MHLD	ACC	06/06/2024	-	Currently with the DPO for review.
Post Diagnostic Support	MHLD	NHSG	-	-	On Hold
Transitions Survey	MHLD	ACC	06/06/23	06/06/23	
GIRFE Pathfinder (Older People)	ASW	ACC			
GIRFE Pathfinder (Transitions)	MHLD	ACC			
Assisted Care Robots	ASW	ACC	-	-	On Hold
MORSE Integration with TrakCare	Nursing, AHPs	NHSG	June 2023	April 2024	Approved
MORSE Calendar Sync with O365	Nursing AHPs	NHSG	-	-	On Hold
Shared Federated Vision	Primary Care	NHSG	26/08/24		Approval Pending
eMAR	LD	ACC	04/12/24	04/12/24	
Stoneywood TEC	LD	ACC	03/03/25	03/03/25	



RISK, AUDIT & PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting	17 June 2025
Report Title	Review of Remit and Responsibilities - Year End Report
Report Number	HSCP.25.040
Lead Officer	Alison MacLeod, Lead for Strategy and Transformation
Report Author Details	Name: Alison MacLeod Job Title: Strategy and Transformation Lead Email Address: alimacleod@aberdeencity.gov.uk
Consultation Checklist Completed	Yes
Directions Required	No
Exempt	No
Appendices	Appendix A - Risk, Audit & Performance Year End Report
Terms of Reference	6. Instruct Performance Reviews and related processes.

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1. This report presents the Risk, Audit and Performance Committee (RAPC) with a review of reporting for 2024/25 and an early draft of the intended schedule of reporting for 2025/26 to provide assurance that the Committee is fulfilling its remit and responsibilities as set out in its terms of reference.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. It is recommended that the Risk, Audit & Performance Committee:

- a) Note the content of Appendix A – Risk, Audit & Performance Remit and Responsibilities – Year End Report and agree that this report



RISK, AUDIT & PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE

provides assurance to the Committee that the Committee is fulfilling its remit and responsibilities as set out in the Terms of Reference.

3. Strategic Plan Context

- 3.1.** Ensuring that the RAPC is functioning effectively and fulfilling its remit and responsibilities will help ensure that the Integration Joint Board (IJB) achieves the strategic aims and priorities as set out in the Strategic Plan.

4. Summary of Key Information

- 4.1.** The terms of reference list the remit and responsibilities of the Risk, Audit and Performance Committee. Every year a report is produced recording the reports RAPC have considered, listing these against the responsibilities. This allows the Chair and members of RAPC to determine whether they are assured that fulfilling their remit and responsibilities as set out in the Terms of Reference. It should be noted that some responsibilities will be on an 'as required' basis and it is for RAPC to determine how frequently they may wish to consider reports in certain areas.
- 4.2.** In July 2024, the IJB approved a revision to the Terms of Reference for RAPC and this is the first report that relates to these. Appendix A provides the detailed breakdown of reports considered last financial year against the revised responsibilities as well as those reports that are currently listed on the planner for 2025/26. It is expected that additional reports will be agreed for the planner as we progress through the year. The annual review is an opportunity for RAPC Chair and members to consider the reports scheduled and to determine whether the range of topics covered and/or the frequency of reporting is appropriate in line with their responsibilities. It should be noted that, in light of the current financial situation, it has been agreed that regular finance updates will be considered by the IJB.
- 4.3.** Normally we compare the number of reports considered this year against the previous year. This is included below however when reviewing them please bear in mind the revision to the Terms of Reference which may skew any comparisons. The average number of reports per meeting was slightly higher in 2024/25 at 7.0 than it was in 2023/24 when it was 6.5. It should be noted that some reports are only submitted on an as required basis, for example reports relating to national audit findings or inspections and variations in the number of reports considered could also be due to timing of meetings particularly around the turn of the financial year.



RISK, AUDIT & PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE

Area of Remit	Number of Reports Considered	
	2024/25	2023/24
Audit	13	7
Performance	13	12
Risk and Governance	5	4
Financial	3	3
Total	35	26
Average per meeting	7.0	6.5

- 4.4. Comparing the 2024/25 actual reports against those noted in the forward planner last year demonstrates that all reports that were expected at the Risk Audit and Performance Committee were submitted and that additional reports were identified and submitted as the year progressed. It is proposed that the Risk Audit and Performance Committee can be assured that they are fulfilling their duties as set out in its terms of reference.
- 4.5. A similar report will be presented to RAPC at the end of financial year 2025/26.

5. Implications for IJB

5.1. Equalities, Fairer Scotland and Health Inequality

As this is a report on performance and no changes to service delivery are proposed, there is no requirement for an impact assessment to be undertaken and there are no direct implications in respect of Equality, Fairer Scotland or Health Inequality.

5.2. Financial

There are no direct financial implications as a result of the recommendations in this report.

5.3. Workforce

There are no direct workforce implications as a result of the recommendations in this report.

5.4. Legal



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There are no direct legal implications as a result of the recommendations in this report.

5.5. Unpaid Carers

There are no direct implications for Unpaid Carers as a result of the recommendations in this report.

5.6. Information Governance

There are no direct information governance implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

5.7. Environmental Impacts

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

5.8. Sustainability

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

5.9. Other

None

6. Management of Risk

6.1. Identified risk(s):

Good governance and ensuring that the IJB's committees are delivering on their duties are fundamental to the delivery of the strategic plan and therefore applicable to most of the risks within the strategic risk register.

6.2. Link to risk number on strategic or operational risk register:

This report links to Risk 4 on the Strategic Risk Register,

Cause: Performance standards/outcomes are set by national and regulatory bodies and those locally determined performance standards are set by the board itself.



RISK, AUDIT & PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE

Event: There is a risk that the IJB, and the services that it directs and has operational oversight of, fails to meet the national, regulatory and local standards.

Consequence: This may result in harm or risk of harm to people.

6.3. How might the content of this report impact or mitigate the known risks:

The Risk, Audit & Performance Year End Report, as attached at Appendix A, provides assurance that RAPC is reviewing standards and outcomes to help keep people safe.

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Risk, Audit & Performance Committee - Duties & Annual Plan

Review Date: April 2025 (submitted RAPC 17th June 2025)

Purpose of the Document

This document provides an overview of the duties of the Risk, Audit and Performance Committee (RAPC) and indicates when the duty was fulfilled for the financial year 2024/25. It further provides a plan for fulfilment of the same duties for the financial year 2025/26 although it should be noted that some of the detail has still to be finalised.

Duties & When Considered

The Committee will review the overall Internal Control arrangements of the Integration Joint Board (IJB) and make recommendations to the IJB regarding signing of the Governance Statement, having received assurance from all relevant Committees.

Specifically, it will be responsible for the following duties (Crosses refer to when the item was presented or is expected to be presented to the RAPC):



Duty	2024/25					
	020424	040624	100924	031224	250225	
Audit						
1. Ensure there is an effective Internal Audit Function that meets the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards and that it provides appropriate independent assurance to the Committee, Chief Officer and IJB.						
2. Scrutinise, review and approve the annual audit plans (internal and external) on behalf of the IJB, receiving reports, overseeing and reviewing actions taken on audit recommendations and escalating to the IJB as appropriate.	XXXX	XX	X	XXX	XX	External Audit Strategy 020424 Internal Audit Plan 020424 Internal Audit Update Reports 020424 Internal Audit Report – IJB Hosted Services 020424 Internal Audit Update Report 040624



						<p>Internal Audit Annual Report 040624</p> <p>Internal Audit Update Report 100924</p> <p>Internal Audit Update Report 031224</p> <p>Internal Audit Report – Social Care Financial Assessments 031224</p> <p>Internal Audit Report – IJB Counter Fraud 031224</p> <p>Internal Audit Update Report 250225</p> <p>Internal Audit Plan 250225</p>
3. Be aware of, scrutinise, receive assurance and monitor any relevant improvement activity arising from audit findings, inspections and regulatory advice from assurance providers (such as the Care Inspectorate, Audit Scotland,			X			<p>Accounts Commission IJB Finance and Performance Report 100924</p>



Healthcare Improvement Scotland and the Mental Welfare Commission), to ensure the integrity of Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership (ACHSCP) control systems and processes.						
Performance						
4. Approve, monitor and review a performance framework for the IJB in respect of its policy objectives and priorities in relation to all delegated functions of the IJB. This includes ensuring that the Chief Officer establishes and implements satisfactory arrangements for reviewing and appraising service performance against IJB budgets, the National Health and Wellbeing outcomes,	X	X	X	X	X	<p>Quarterly Performance Report against Delivery Plan 020424</p> <p>Quarterly Performance Report against Delivery Plan 040624</p> <p>Quarterly Performance Report against Delivery Plan 100924</p> <p>Quarterly Performance Report against Delivery Plan 031224</p> <p>Quarterly Performance Report against Delivery Plan 250224</p>



the associated core suite of key performance indicators and other appropriate local objectives and priorities.						
5. Receive and scrutinise performance reports and receive assurance that actions in respect of emerging trends are proportionate to the IJB's Risk Appetite Statement.		X	X	XX		<p>Primary Care Improvement Plan Update 040624</p> <p>Navigator Project Evaluation 100924</p> <p>Justice Social Work Delivery Plan Update and Performance Report 031224</p> <p>Adult Support and Protection Biennial Report 031224</p>
6. Instruct Performance Reviews and related processes.		XX		X		<p>Review of Duties and Year End Report 040624</p> <p>Directions Tracker 040624</p> <p>Directions Tracker 031224</p>
7. Support the IJB in delivering and						



expecting cooperation in seeking assurance that hosted services run by Partners are working effectively and efficiently.						
8. Monitor the IJB's work and performance as a Category One Responder under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004.				X		ACHSCP/IJB Emergency Activation Plan 031224
<u>Risk & Governance</u>						
9. Approve the Board Assurance Framework for the IJB.	X					Board Escalation and Assurance Framework 020424
10. Monitor the risk appetite and/or tolerance established by the Board Assurance Framework to ensure effective oversight and governance of the ACHSCP activities.				X		Strategic Risk Register and Appetite Statement 031224
11. Scrutinise and ensure the existence of, and compliance with, an appropriate risk management strategy including: reviewing risk management	X			X		Strategic Risk Register 020424 Strategic Risk Register and Appetite Statement 031224



arrangements; receiving biannual Strategic Risk Management updates and undertaking in- depth review of a set of risks and annually review the IJB's risk appetite document with recommendations being brought to the IJB.						
12. Approve the sources of assurance used in the Annual Governance Statement consider whether it properly reflects the risk environment and supporting assurances, taking into account Internal Audit's opinion on the overall adequacy and effectiveness of the IJB's Scheme of Governance, Risk Management and Control .					X	Annual Review of Financial Regulations and Reserves Policy 250225
13. Review the overall Internal Control						



arrangements of the IJB and make recommendations to the IJB regarding signing of the Governance Statement, having received assurance from all relevant Committees.						
14. Review non material changes to any of the policies of the IJB for ensuring continued compliance with relevant regulatory and legislative requirements, legal and any related reporting.						
Financial						
15. Ensure that the systems for financial reporting to the IJB, including those of budgetary control, are subject to review as to the completeness and accuracy of the information provided.		X				Approval of Unaudited Accounts 040624
16. Ensure the integrity of the Annual Report and			X	X		Quarterly financial monitoring Report 100924



Financial Statements of the IJB before submission to the IJB, and any other formal announcements relating to its financial performance, reviewing significant reporting issues and judgements that they contain, and including the meaning and significance of the figures, notes and significant changes; accounting policies and practices followed, and significant changes; explanation of estimates or provisions having material effect; the schedule of losses and special payments and any reservations and disagreements between internal and external auditors, and the Chief Officer which are not resolved.

Finance Position **031224**



17. Scrutinise, Consider and approve the annual financial accounts and related matters;						
18. Receive and review regular financial monitoring reports, financial statements, significant financial returns to regulators and any financial information contained in other official documents, including the Annual Governance Statement.						
19. Review the methods used to account for significant or unusual transactions where different approaches are possible (including unadjusted mis-statements in the financial statements) and approve budget virements						



Forward Planning:

The Committee will review the overall Internal Control arrangements of the Board and make recommendations to the Board regarding signing of the Governance Statement, having received assurance from all relevant Committees.

Specifically, it will be responsible for the following duties:

Duty	2025/26					
	300425	170625	270825	191125	240226	
Audit						
1. Ensure there is an effective Internal Audit Function that meets the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards and that it provides appropriate independent assurance to the Committee, Chief Officer and IJB.						
2. Scrutinise, review and approve the annual audit plans (internal and external) on behalf of the IJB, receiving reports, overseeing and reviewing actions taken on audit	X	XX				External Audit Annual Audit Plan 300425 Internal Audit Annual Report 170625 Internal Audit – HSCP Commissioning 170625



recommendations and escalating to the IJB as appropriate.						
3. Be aware of, scrutinise, receive assurance and monitor any relevant improvement activity arising from audit findings, inspections and regulatory advice from assurance providers (such as the Care Inspectorate, Audit Scotland, Healthcare Improvement Scotland and the Mental Welfare Commission), to ensure the integrity of Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership (ACHSCP) control systems and processes.						
Performance						
4. Approve, monitor and review a performance framework for the IJB in respect of its policy	X	X				Quarterly Performance Report against Delivery Plan 300425



objectives and priorities in relation to all delegated functions of the IJB. This includes ensuring that the Chief Officer establishes and implements satisfactory arrangements for reviewing and appraising service performance against IJB budgets, the National Health and Wellbeing outcomes, the associated core suite of key performance indicators and other appropriate local objectives and priorities.						Locality Planning Annual Performance Reports 170625
5. Receive and scrutinise performance reports and receive assurance that actions in respect of emerging trends are proportionate to the		XXX		X		Primary Care Improvement Plan Update 170625 Justice Social Work Service Delivery Plan 170625 Health improvement Fund Annual Report 170625



IJB's Risk Appetite Statement.						Justice Social Work Delivery Plan Update and Performance Report 191125
6. Instruct Performance Reviews and related processes.		XX				Directions Tracker 170625 Review of Duties and Year End Report 170625
7. Support the IJB in delivering and expecting cooperation in seeking assurance that hosted services run by Partners are working effectively and efficiently.						
8. Monitor the IJB's work and performance as a Category One Responder under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004.				X		ACHSCP/IJB Emergency Activation Plan 031224
<u>Risk & Governance</u>						



9. Approve the Board Assurance Framework for the IJB.			X			Board Assurance and Escalation Framework 270825
10. Monitor the risk appetite and/or tolerance established by the Board Assurance Framework to ensure effective oversight and governance of the ACHSCP activities.						
11. Scrutinise and ensure the existence of, and compliance with, an appropriate risk management strategy including: reviewing risk management arrangements; receiving biannual Strategic Risk Management updates and undertaking in-depth review of a set of risks and annually review the IJB's risk appetite document with recommendations being brought to the IJB.			X			Strategic Risk Register 270825



12. Approve the sources of assurance used in the Annual Governance Statement consider whether it properly reflects the risk environment and supporting assurances, taking into account Internal Audit's opinion on the overall adequacy and effectiveness of the IJB's Scheme of Governance, Risk Management and Control .						
13. Review the overall Internal Control arrangements of the IJB and make recommendations to the IJB regarding signing of the Governance Statement, having received assurance from all relevant Committees.						
14. Review non material changes to any of the						



polices of the IJB for ensuring continued compliance with relevant regulatory and legislative requirements, legal and any related reporting.						
Financial						
15. Ensure that the systems for financial reporting to the IJB, including those of budgetary control, are subject to review as to the completeness and accuracy of the information provided.		X				Approval of Unaudited Accounts 170625
16. Ensure the integrity of the Annual Report and Financial Statements of the IJB before submission to the IJB, and any other formal announcements relating to its financial performance, reviewing significant reporting issues and judgements that they contain, and including the meaning and						



significance of the figures, notes and significant changes; accounting policies and practices followed, and significant changes; explanation of estimates or provisions having material effect; the schedule of losses and special payments and any reservations and disagreements between internal and external auditors, and the Chief Officer which are not resolved.						
17. Scrutinise, Consider and approve the annual financial accounts and related matters;						
18. Receive and review regular financial monitoring reports, financial statements, significant financial returns to regulators and any financial			X			Budget Savings Update 270825



information contained in other official documents, including the Annual Governance Statement.						
19. Review the methods used to account for significant or unusual transactions where different approaches are possible (including unadjusted mis-statements in the financial statements) and approve budget virements						

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Risk, Audit and Performance Committee

Date of Meeting	17 June 2025
Report Title	Internal Audit Update Report
Report Number	HSCP.25.050
Lead Officer	Jamie Dale Chief Internal Auditor
Report Author Details	Jamie Dale Chief Internal Auditor Jamie.Dale@aberdeenshire.gov.uk
Consultation Checklist Completed	Yes
Directions Required	No
Exempt	No
Appendices	Appendix A – RAPC - Internal Audit Update Report June 2025
Terms of Reference	2. Review and approve the annual audit plans (internal and external) on behalf of the IJB, receiving reports, overseeing and reviewing actions taken on audit recommendations and escalating to the IJB as appropriate.

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to provide the Risk, Audit and Performance Committee (RAPC) with an update on Internal Audit's work since the last update. Details are provided of the progress against the approved Internal Audit plans, audit recommendations follow up, and other relevant matters for the RAPC to be aware of.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. It is recommended that the Committee:

- a) Note the contents of the RAPC - Internal Audit Update Report June 2025 ("the Internal Audit Update Report"), as appended at Appendix A, and the work of Internal Audit since the last update;



Risk, Audit and Performance Committee

- b) Note the progress against the approved 2024/25 Internal Audit Plan as detailed in the Internal Audit Update Report.

3. Strategic Plan Context

- 3.1. Internal Audit's role is to provide assurance regarding the adequacy and effectiveness of the Integration Joint Board's framework of governance, risk management and control. Each of these areas helps ensure that the IJB can deliver on all strategic priorities as identified in its strategic plan.

4. Summary of Key Information

- 4.1. Internal Audit's primary role is to provide independent and objective assurance on the Board's risk management, control and governance processes. This requires a continuous rolling review and appraisal of the internal controls of the Board involving the examination and evaluation of the adequacy of systems of risk management, control and governance, making recommendations for improvement where appropriate. Reports are produced relating to each audit assignment and summaries of these are provided to the RAPC.

5. Implications for IJB

- 5.1. **Equalities, Fairer Scotland and Health Inequality** – An equality impact assessment is not required because the reason for this report is for the RAPC to discuss, review and comment on the contents of the Internal Audit Update Report and there will be no differential impact, as a result of this report, on people with protected characteristics.
- 5.2. **Financial** – There are no direct implications arising from this report.
- 5.3. **Workforce** – There are no direct implications arising from this report.
- 5.4. **Legal** – There are no direct implications arising from this report.
- 5.5. **Unpaid Carers** – There are no direct implications arising from this report.
- 5.6. **Information Governance** – There are no direct implications arising from this report.



Risk, Audit and Performance Committee

5.7. Environmental Impacts – There are no direct impacts arising from this report.

5.8. Sustainability – There are no direct impacts arising from this report.

5.9. Other – there are no other impacts arising from this report.

6. Management of Risk

6.1. Identified risks(s): The Internal Audit process considers risks involved in the areas subject to review. Any risk implications identified through the Internal Audit process are as detailed in the resultant report.

6.2. Link to risks on strategic risk register: The Internal Audit Plan, and this output report, is developed following consideration of the Aberdeen City Health and Social care Partnership Risk Register and through consultation with management.

6.3. How might the content of this report impact or mitigate these risks:
Where risks are identified during the Internal Audit process, recommendations are made to management in order to mitigate these risks.

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Aberdeen City Health & Social Care Partnership
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Internal Audit

Risk, Audit and Performance Committee Internal Audit Update Report June 2025

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1 Executive Summary

1.1 Introduction and background

Internal Audit's primary role is to provide independent and objective assurance on the Council's risk management, control, and governance processes. This requires a continuous rolling review and appraisal of the internal controls of the Board involving the examination and evaluation of the adequacy of systems of risk management, control, and governance, making recommendations for improvement where appropriate. Reports are produced relating to each audit assignment and these are provided to the Risk, Audit and Performance (RAP) Committee. Along with other evidence, these reports are used in forming an annual opinion on the adequacy of risk management, control, and governance processes.

This report advises the RAP Committee of Internal Audit's work since the last update. Details are provided of the progress against the approved 2024/25 Internal Audit plan, audit recommendations follow up, and other relevant matters for the Committee to be aware of.

1.2 Highlights

Full details are provided in the body of this report however Internal Audit would like to bring to the Committee's attention that since the last update:

- The 2024/25 Internal Audit Plan has been finalised.
- Work is underway by Management with regards to the implementation of agreed audit recommendations.

1.3 Action requested of the RAP Committee

The Committee is requested to note the contents of this report and the work of Internal Audit since the last update.

2 Internal Audit Progress

2.1 2024/25 Audits

Service	Audit Area	Position
Council Led HSCP Services	HSCP Commissioning	Final Report Issued

2.2 Follow up of audit recommendations

Public Sector Internal Audit Standards require that Internal Audit report the results of its activities to the Committee and establishes a follow-up process to monitor and ensure that management actions have been effectively implemented.

As at 30 April 2025 (the baseline for our exercise), eight audit recommendations were due, seven rated Moderate and one rated Minor.

Appendix 1 – Grading of Recommendations provides the definitions of each of the ratings used. Appendix 2 – Audit Recommendations Follow Up – Outstanding Actions provides a detailed breakdown of the outstanding audit recommendations that will be taken forward and followed up as part of the next cycle.

3 Appendix 1 – Grading of Recommendations

Risk level	Definition
Corporate	This issue / risk level impacts the Council as a whole. Mitigating actions should be taken at the Senior Leadership level.
Function	This issue / risk level has implications at the functional level and the potential to impact across a range of services. They could be mitigated through the redeployment of resources or a change of policy within a given function.
Cluster	This issue / risk level impacts a particular Service or Cluster. Mitigating actions should be implemented by the responsible Chief Officer.
Programme and Project	This issue / risk level impacts the programme or project that has been reviewed. Mitigating actions should be taken at the level of the programme or project concerned.

Net risk rating	Description	Assurance assessment
Minor	A sound system of governance, risk management and control exists, with internal controls operating effectively and being consistently applied to support the achievement of objectives in the area audited.	Substantial
Moderate	There is a generally sound system of governance, risk management and control in place. Some issues, non-compliance or scope for improvement were identified, which may put at risk the achievement of objectives in the area audited.	Reasonable
Major	Significant gaps, weaknesses or non-compliance were identified. Improvement is required to the system of governance, risk management and control to effectively manage risks to the achievement of objectives in the area audited.	Limited
Severe	Immediate action is required to address fundamental gaps, weaknesses or non-compliance identified. The system of governance, risk management and control is inadequate to effectively manage risks to the achievement of objectives in the area audited.	Minimal

Individual issue / risk	Definitions
Minor	Although the element of internal control is satisfactory there is scope for improvement. Addressing this issue is considered desirable and should result in enhanced control or better value for money. Action should be taken within a 12 month period.
Moderate	An element of control is missing or only partial in nature. The existence of the weakness identified has an impact on the audited area's adequacy and effectiveness. Action should be taken within a six month period.
Major	The absence of, or failure to comply with, an appropriate internal control, such as those described in the Board's Scheme of Governance. This could result in, for example, a material financial loss, a breach of legislative requirements or reputational damage to the Board. Action should be taken within three months.
Severe	This is an issue / risk that is likely to significantly affect the achievement of one or many of the Board's objectives or could impact the effectiveness or efficiency of the Board's activities or processes. Examples include a material recurring breach of legislative requirements or actions that will likely result in a material financial loss or significant reputational damage to the Board. Action is considered imperative to ensure that the Board is not exposed to severe risks and should be taken immediately.

4 Appendix 2 – Audit Recommendations Follow Up – Outstanding Actions

Overall Report Area	Report	Grading	Recommendation	Original Due Date	Current Due Date	Committee Update	Status
Financial Assessments	AC2414	Moderate	Processes should be reviewed to ensure assessments can be completed timeously, within available resource.	Mar-25	Jun-25	The Financial Assessment Team are working with greater resource; there have been 2 additional staff recruited into this team to ensure assessments are progressed timeously. Internal Audit is in discussion with officers on the provision of evidence to close the action. Extended briefly to facilitate this work.	In Progress
Financial Assessments	AC2414	Moderate	The Service should set priorities for completing overdue assessments.	Mar-25	Jun-25	The Financial Assessment Team are working with greater resource; there have been 2 additional staff recruited into this team to ensure assessments are progressed timeously. Internal Audit is in discussion with officers on the provision of evidence to close the action. Extended briefly to facilitate this work.	In Progress
IJB Budget Setting and Monitoring	AC2507	Moderate	Partners / the IJB should engage with government bodies to identify opportunities to improve access to Prescribing data and information on Funding, to aid financial planning.	Mar-25	Jun-25	The NHS Grampian Primary Care Prescribing Group are fully across this area. There is extensive review of prescribing data and how this is used to for example, review of items of low clinical value, use of non-licensed drugs etc. This Group works across budget monitoring across all 3 Grampian IJB's. There is also focus on the 10% of prescriptions which are wasted as well as prescribing of over the counter medications. The	In Progress

Overall Report Area	Report	Grading	Recommendation	Original Due Date	Current Due Date	Committee Update	Status
						<p>landscape is complex and is supported by extensive data analysis. Costs in this area continue to grow with volume increase of 3.5% and cost inflation of 1% a year. We are seeing the benefits of the work being carried out, but savings are small against inflationary pressures. Prescribing contributes to prevention so whilst costs grow the value of this expenditure cannot be underestimated.</p> <p>Internal Audit is in discussion with officers on the provision of evidence to close the action. Extended briefly to facilitate this work.</p>	
IJB Budget Setting and Monitoring	AC2507	Moderate	The HSCP should define the level of detail and assurance required from budget holders where a variance is anticipated.	Mar-25	Jun-25	<p>The 2025/26 budget monitoring is well supported by NHS and ACC finance colleagues. Business partner review across both organisations supports budget holders in understanding budget variances. Work is ongoing to ensure budget holders are well supported with information on their expenditure to allow for a better understanding of what costs are driving variance from budget - particularly across ACC were additional reporting is being developed.</p> <p>Internal Audit is in discussion with officers on the provision of evidence</p>	In Progress

Overall Report Area	Report	Grading	Recommendation	Original Due Date	Current Due Date	Committee Update	Status
						to close the action. Extended briefly to facilitate this work.	
IJB Budget Setting and Monitoring	AC2507	Minor	The HSCP should set out its budget/MTFF to more explicitly demonstrate the level of investment planned in delivering each of the Aims set out in the Strategic Plan.	Mar-25	Jun-25	<p>The MTFF was taken to the March 2025 IJB - this document provided the underpinning plan for the draft HSCP strategy delivery. The MTFF will be taken back to the July IJB and provide the link for driving forward the updated strategy - demonstrating how the financial plan drives forward financial sustainability aligned with the strategy while delivering the needs of the local community under the agreed strategic aims.</p> <p>Internal Audit is in discussion with officers on the provision of evidence to close the action. Extended briefly to facilitate this work.</p>	In Progress
IJB Budget Setting and Monitoring	AC2507	Moderate	The HSCP should set out its budget/MTFF to more explicitly demonstrate the level of investment planned in delivering each of the Aims set out in the Strategic Plan.	Mar-25	Jun-25	<p>AS above.</p> <p>Investment in technology is part of the strategic delivery pathway. The AC H&SCP has been fortunate to receive additional funding to assist in this area.</p> <p>Internal Audit is in discussion with officers on the provision of evidence to close the action. Extended briefly to facilitate this work.</p>	In Progress

Overall Report Area	Report	Grading	Recommendation	Original Due Date	Current Due Date	Committee Update	Status
IJB Budget Setting and Monitoring	AC2507	Moderate	The IJB should review plans with the Council and NHS Grampian for the strategic allocation of its resources between partners and activities in the medium term, setting out the case for change in funding and allocation where required. Agreed changes to the balance of funding should be underlined through issue of a formal Direction from the IJB.	Mar-25	Jun-25	<p>Directions were issued to NHS Grampian and ACC when the budget was set at the March 2025 IJB.</p> <p>Internal Audit is in discussion with officers on the provision of evidence to close the action. Extended briefly to facilitate this work.</p>	In Progress
IJB Budget Setting and Monitoring	AC2507	Moderate	The IJB should review the cost base in detail to ensure the current budget is reflective of its ongoing costs.	Mar-25	Jun-25	<p>The cost base was reviewed as part of the March 2025 budget setting process. The budget highlighted the need to make savings of £14.4m after an additional partner contribution was made of £10.9m - partners agreed to protect frontline services and support change as transformation work continues. Work to deliver savings is therefore ongoing during 2025/26 as change work commences to support savings in 2026/27.</p> <p>Internal Audit is in discussion with officers on the provision of evidence to close the action. Extended briefly to facilitate this work.</p>	In Progress





Risk, Audit and Performance Committee

Date of Meeting	17 June 2025
Report Title	Internal Audit Report – HSCP Commissioning
Report Number	HSCP.25.042
Lead Officer	Jamie Dale Chief Internal Auditor
Report Author Details	Jamie Dale Chief Internal Auditor Jamie.Dale@aberdeenshire.gov.uk
Consultation Checklist Completed	Yes
Directions Required	No
Exempt	No
Appendices	No
Terms of Reference	2. Review and approve the annual audit plans (internal and external) on behalf of the IJB, receiving reports, overseeing and reviewing actions taken on audit recommendations and escalating to the IJB as appropriate.

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to present the outcome from the planned audit of HSCP Commissioning that was included in the Internal Audit Plan.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. It is recommended that the Committee:

a) Review, discuss and comment on the issues raised in the report.

3. Strategic Plan Context

- 3.1. Internal Audit's role is to provide assurance regarding the adequacy and effectiveness of the Integration Joint Board's framework of governance, risk



Risk, Audit and Performance Committee

management and control. Each of these areas helps ensure that the JB can deliver on all strategic priorities as identified in its strategic plan.

4. Summary of Key Information

Assurance Assessment

- 4.1. The level of net risk is assessed as **MODERATE**, with the control framework deemed to provide **REASONABLE** assurance over plans and progress with commissioning across the Health and Social Care Partnership.
- 4.2. Commissioning principles are being integrated at the strategic level, within strategic documentation, and in practice through the work of the Commissioning Lead engaging with services and service providers. However, there is limited evidence to demonstrate a planned and coordinated approach to embedding the principles across the HSCP's portfolio of contracts and commissioned services. This does not directly drive a more major risk / limited assurance due to the resource allocated to commissioning (both the Commissioning Lead role and the Commercial and Procurement Shared Service), and the governance arrangements provided by the HSCP's Strategic Commissioning and Procurement Board, which currently address more of the operational aspects and risks.
- 4.3. Areas where controls would benefit from improvement, to more effectively and transparently demonstrate the alignment of commissioning with strategic intent include:
 - **Strategic Planning** –The HSCP has produced Market Position Statements in respect of a selection of requirements, to signal demand and key areas of focus to the market. Although these have indicative end dates, there are no recorded plans for their review and update, or for further statements covering other requirements/areas of activity. Their age and potential for variation could impact on providers' willingness to invest in future development based on them. The statements and plans reference data which in many cases is several years out of date by the time they are published. For example, a Population Needs Assessment was produced in 2023, based on 2021 data, in which there were identified gaps. There is no clear plan for updating and reviewing data to inform future requirements. If supporting data is out of date, and (in line with the HSCP's commissioning principles) services are commissioned for an extended period, there is an increased risk the type and quantity of care commissioned will diverge from the HSCP's actual requirements. Action plans linked to key strategic documents are high level, do not always have clear ownership, and are not all being routinely



Risk, Audit and Performance Committee

monitored. There is therefore a greater risk these will not be prioritised and progressed. This is most pressing in respect of financial savings through reshaping the approach to commissioning, which are not being delivered in 2024/25 as originally planned (£2.6m in 2024/25 and £16.4m cumulatively by 2028/29).

- **Coordination** – The HSCP's Strategic Commissioning and Procurement Board is intended to ensure effective and forward Strategic Planning of commissioning activity. The Board receives regular reports on progress and changes to requirements and contracts. Forward planning is informed by the use of a Commissioning Workplan. However, the current version is largely operational – with planned activity driven by contract expiry dates. There is limited narrative to gauge progress towards review and determination of future options, or wider commissioning activities, and limited detail to demonstrate strategic alignment of each activity/contract. For individual contracts, supporting procurement business cases and requests for extension indicate that commissioning activity is required to establish alternative options, but provide no clear timeline for this to take place. Without a clear commissioning work plan, there is a risk that commissioning activity will not reflect the strategic focus required to transform service delivery and integrate the HSCP's commissioning principles at the scale and pace required.
- **Strategic Alignment** – The Strategic Delivery Plan 2022/25 has a list of strategic aims, strategic priorities and enabling priorities. All subsequent plans should then link back to one or more of these strategic aims or priorities, to confirm actions being taken are fulfilling the needs set out in the Strategic Plan. However, there is generally no consistent, clear, explicit line of sight between contracting, commissioning and Strategic Planning. Consistent referencing and explanations throughout strategies, market position statements, the commissioning workplan, procurement business cases, and contracts, would improve assurance that all activities clearly relate back to and contribute towards delivery of the Strategic Plan.
- **Embedding the Commissioning Principles** – In addition to its own commissioning principles, the HSCP regularly references the eight Ethical Commissioning Principles throughout its strategic and operational commissioning and procurement documentation. There is also a stated intention to embed the Getting it Right for Everyone (GIRFE) principles, which further focus on person centred care, human rights, and information sharing (NB these are still in draft nationally). Whilst these reflect positive aspirations, there is limited evidence of how the principles are being embedded in commissioning and contract activity – documentation and



Risk, Audit and Performance Committee

narrative varies. If the HSCP intends to apply these principles across all of its commissioning activity, it will need a more robust approach to their implementation.

- 4.4. Recommendations have been made to address the above risks through review of planning, scheduling, reporting, and consistency of presentation of key documentation to better demonstrate plans and activities are aligned with, and on target to deliver, the HSCP's strategic aims and commissioning principles.

Management Response

- 4.5. The report provides areas for improvement and redesign to ensure there is transparency and accountability around the risks, planning and reporting which will better demonstrate the plans and activities to ensure effective and efficient delivery. Further details as to how this will be achieved are detailed in the management response in subsequent sections of this report.

5. Implications for IJB

- 5.1. Equalities, Fairer Scotland and Health Inequality – An equality impact assessment is not required because the reason for this report is for the RAPC to discuss, review and comment on the contents of and Internal Audit Report and there will be no differential impact, as a result of this report, on people with protected characteristics.
- 5.2. Financial – There are no direct implications arising from this report.
- 5.3. Workforce – There are no direct implications arising from this report.
- 5.4. Legal – There are no direct implications arising from this report.
- 5.5. Unpaid Carers – There are no direct implications arising from this report.
- 5.6. Information Governance – There are no direct implications arising from this report.
- 5.7. Environmental Impacts – There are no direct impacts arising from this report.
- 5.8. Sustainability – There are no direct impacts arising from this report.
- 5.9. Other – there are no other impacts arising from this report.



Risk, Audit and Performance Committee

6. Management of Risk

- 6.1. **Identified risks(s):** The Internal Audit process considers risks involved in the areas subject to review. Any risk implications identified through the Internal Audit process are as detailed in the resultant report.
- 6.2. **Link to risks on strategic risk register:** The Internal Audit Plan, and this output report, is developed following consideration of the Aberdeen City Health and Social care Partnership Risk Register and through consultation with management.
- 6.3. **How might the content of this report impact or mitigate these risks:** Where risks are identified during the Internal Audit process, recommendations are made to management in order to mitigate these risks.

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Risk, Audit and Performance Committee

Date of Meeting	17 June 2025
Report Title	Internal Audit Annual Report 2024/25
Report Number	HSCP.25.041
Lead Officer	Jamie Dale Chief Internal Auditor
Report Author Details	Jamie Dale Chief Internal Auditor Jamie.Dale@aberdeenshire.gov.uk
Consultation Checklist Completed	Yes
Directions Required	No
Exempt	No
Appendices	Appendix A – Internal Audit Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2025
Terms of Reference	2. Review and approve the annual audit plans (internal and external) on behalf of the IJB, receiving reports, overseeing and reviewing actions taken on audit recommendations and escalating to the IJB as appropriate.

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to provide the Risk, Audit and Performance Committee with Internal Audit's Annual Report for 2024/25.

2. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Risk, Audit and Performance Committee:

- 2.1. Note the Internal Audit (IA) Annual Report 2024/25 as detailed in Appendix A;



Risk, Audit and Performance Committee

- 2.2. Note that the Chief Internal Auditor has confirmed the organisational independence of Internal Audit;
- 2.3. Note that there has been no limitation to the scope of Internal Audit work during 2024/25; and
- 2.4. Note the progress that management has made with implementing recommendations agreed in Internal Audit reports.

3. Summary of Key Information

- 3.1. Public Sector Internal Audit Standards require that Internal Audit produce an annual report on the adequacy and effectiveness of the Board's framework of governance, risk management and control. It is one of the functions of the Risk and Performance Committee to review the activities of the Internal Audit function, including its annual work programme.
- 3.2. This report is designed to meet three objectives; to present to the Risk and Performance Committee, and through them, the IJB:
 - A formal opinion on the adequacy and effectiveness of the Board's arrangements for:
 - Governance
 - Risk Management
 - Internal Control
 - A narrative over the key strategic and thematic findings from the assurance work undertaken by IA during 2024/25, drawing out key lessons to be learned.
 - An account of the assurance activities and resources of IA during the period 2024/25.
- 3.3. This report covers the period from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025 and any work finalised during the 2024/25 assurance period. It also takes account of work undertaken up to the date of the issue of this report. The report is grounded in the whole activity and work of IA, whether in terms of formal audit evidence and work, management assurance and consultancy activity, or evidence gathered throughout wider engagement across the Board and Council overall.



Risk, Audit and Performance Committee

4. Implications for IJB

- 4.1. **Equalities** – An equality impact assessment is not required because the reason for this report is for Committee to discuss, review and comment on the contents of the Internal Audit Annual Report for 2024/25 and there will be no differential impact, as a result of this report, on people with protected characteristics.
- 4.2. **Fairer Scotland Duty** – there are no direct implications arising from this report.
- 4.3. **Financial** – there are no direct implications arising from this report.
- 4.4. **Workforce** - there are no direct implications arising from this report.
- 4.5. **Legal** – there are no direct implications arising from this report.
- 4.6. Other - NA

5. Links to ACHSCP Strategic Plan

- 5.1. Internal Audit's role is to provide assurance regarding the adequacy and effectiveness of the Integration Joint Board's framework of governance, risk management and control. Each of these areas helps ensure that the IJB can deliver on all strategic priorities as identified in its strategic plan.

6. Management of Risk

- 6.1. **Identified risks(s):** The Internal Audit process considers risks involved in the areas subject to review. Any risk implications identified through the Internal Audit process are as detailed in the resultant report.
- 6.2. **Link to risks on strategic risk register:** The Internal Audit Plan, and this output report, is developed following consideration of the Aberdeen City Health and Social care Partnership Risk Register and through consultation with management.
- 6.3. **How might the content of this report impact or mitigate these risks:** Where risks are identified during the Internal Audit process, recommendations are made to management in order to mitigate these risks.

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Aberdeen City Health & Social Care Partnership
A caring partnership



Internal Audit

Annual Assurance Report and Chief Internal Auditor Opinion 2024/25

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1 Executive Summary

1.1 Introduction and background

Internal Audit's (IA) primary role is to provide independent and objective assurance on the Integrated Joint Board's (IJB) risk management, control, and governance processes. This requires a continuous rolling review and appraisal of the internal controls of the Board involving the examination and evaluation of the adequacy of systems of risk management, control, and governance, making recommendations for improvement where appropriate. Reports are produced relating to each audit assignment and presented when finalised to the Risk, Audit and Performance Committee. Along with other evidence, these reports are used in forming an annual opinion on the adequacy of risk management, control, and governance processes.

Internal auditing is an independent, objective assurance and consulting activity designed to add value and improve an organisation's operations. It helps an organisation accomplish its objectives by bringing a systematic, disciplined approach to evaluate and improve the effectiveness of risk management, control, and governance processes.

Public Sector Internal Audit Standards set the mission of IA as to enhance and protect organisational value by providing risk-based and objective assurance, advice, and insight.

1.2 Purpose of this report

Public Sector Internal Audit Standards require that IA produce an annual report on the adequacy and effectiveness of the Board's framework of governance, risk management and control. It is one of the functions of the Risk, Audit and Performance Committee to review the activities of the IA function, including its annual work programme.

This report is designed to meet three objectives; to present to the Risk, Audit and Performance Committee, and through it, the IJB:

- A formal opinion on the adequacy and effectiveness of the Board's arrangements for:
 - Governance
 - Risk Management
 - Internal Control
- A narrative over the key strategic and thematic findings from the assurance work undertaken by IA during 2024/25, drawing out key lessons to be learned.
- An account of the assurance activities and resources of IA during the period 2024/25.

This report covers the period from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025 and any work finalised during the 2024/25 assurance period. It also takes account of work undertaken up to the date of the issue of this report. The report is grounded in the

whole activity and work of IA, whether in terms of formal audit evidence and work, management assurance and consultancy activity, or evidence gathered throughout wider engagement across the Board and Council overall.

1.3 Conclusion

The overall Chief Internal Auditor's opinion is:

In my opinion the Board had an adequate and effective framework for governance, risk management and control, covering the period 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025.

For further commentary see the Annual Assurance Opinion section below.

1.4 Action requested of the Risk, Audit and Performance Committee

The Risk, Audit and Performance Committee is requested to note the contents of this report and the assurance opinion, to inform its annual report and its review of financial statements, in particular the governance statement.

2 Annual Assurance Opinion

2.1 Basis of annual assurance opinion

In accordance with the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards, IA's assessment, and opinion over the framework of governance, risk management and control is based upon the whole activity and work of IA including:

- The results of internal audits completed (in final or draft) up to the date of this report.
- Any follow-up action taken in respect of audits from previous periods.
- The effects of any significant changes in the Board's control environment.
- Matters arising from previous annual reports to the Board.
- Any limitations that may have been placed on the scope of IA – IA has no restrictions to declare in this report.
- Reports issued by the Board's external auditors.
- IA's knowledge of the Board and the Council's governance, risk management and performance monitoring arrangements.
- The assessment of risk completed during the formation of the 2025-28 Audit Plan.
- The results of other assurance activities completed during the year.
- The work of NHS Grampian's Internal Auditors covering those services that the Health Board leads on behalf of the IJB¹.

The Standards also require that IA confirms to the Committee, at least annually, that it is organisationally independent. The organisational independence of IA is established through Financial Regulations (approved by the Board and the Council) and the Internal Audit Charter (approved by the Council's Audit, Risk and Scrutiny Committee). Other factors which help ensure IA's independence are that: the IA plan is approved by the IJB Risk, Audit and Performance Committee; and IA reports its outputs to Committee in the name of the Chief Internal Auditor. The Chief Internal Auditor considers that IA is organisationally independent.

2.2 Annual assurance opinion 2024/25

IA is satisfied that sufficient audit and assurance work has been undertaken to allow a reasonable conclusion to be drawn as to the adequacy and effectiveness of the Board's framework for governance, risk management and control. Aberdeen City IJB had an adequate and effective framework for governance, risk management and control, covering the period 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025.

¹ NHS Grampian delivers a range of HSCP services on behalf of the IJB. The responsibility for auditing these services falls to NHS Grampian's own internal auditors, and as such there will be no reference in this report to actual results, findings and recommendations. This report instead focuses on those services that the IJB's IA has direct oversight over. However, regular catch ups are held between the IJB's IA and NHS Grampian's IA to discuss any relevant issues, with reports shared as necessary. These discussions and reports are factored into the assurance assessment overall.

2.3 Rationale for the opinion

It is the responsibility of management to establish an appropriate and sound system of internal control and to monitor the continuing effectiveness of that system. It is the responsibility of the Chief Internal Auditor to provide an annual overall assessment of the robustness of the internal control system.

The main objectives of the Board's internal control systems are to:

- Ensure adherence to management policies and directives to achieve the organisation's objectives.
- Safeguard assets.
- Ensure the relevance, reliability, and integrity of information, so ensuring as far as possible the completeness and accuracy of records.
- Ensure compliance with statutory requirements.

Any system of control can only ever provide reasonable and not absolute assurance that control weaknesses or irregularities do not exist or that there is no risk of material errors, losses, fraud, or breaches of laws or regulations. Accordingly, the Board is continually seeking to improve the effectiveness of its systems of internal control.

The Board has faced another year of challenges, and its control framework and governance arrangements have come under pressure; primarily financial. These challenges are not localised to Aberdeen City, however the widespread concerns across IJBs does not mitigate the issue being faced. Consideration has been given during the year to the impact on the level of assurance available and IA's work has been and remains cognisant of the risks to internal control from changes introduced in response to the operational needs, staff attrition and also external events.

During 2024/25, IA has completed four reviews across the IJB and Health and Social Care Partnership Services delivered by the Council.

The conclusions from the individual reports are listed below²:

- **Social Care Financial Assessments (HSCP)** – The level of net risk is assessed as **MAJOR**, with the control framework deemed to provide **LIMITED** assurance over the Council's arrangements for completing social care financial assessments. The Non-Residential Charging Policy: "Contributing to your care", was agreed by the Council (City Growth and Resources Committee) on 6 June 2019, updating a previously approved policy from 2015 which had not been implemented pending health and social care integration. The 2019 Policy, which was to be implemented from 1 July 2019, is published on the Health and Social Care Partnership's website and sets out defined methods of calculating required contributions to the cost of service users' care. However, this Policy has not been implemented in practice. The Service has referenced the impact of COVID-19 (March 2020 onwards) and implementing a new Care Management System (October 2022) and bases current practice on Policy originally determined in 2011, amended for changes in costs and benefits. The

² HSCP relates to those reviews of services that the Council delivers on behalf of the IJB. IJB relates to those services that the IJB delivers strategically or through various partners.

Service commenced a review of charging policy implementation in November 2023 with a view to implementing further agreed charges, developing training and practice to support its application, and to update the Policy again to reflect current requirements. It is intended to report to the Finance and Resources Committee in August 2024 with a proposed new Non-Residential Charging Policy. In the interim, and since July 2019, service users continue to be charged based on historic practices rather than published policy. There is a risk this will have an unintended impact on Service and service user finances, presenting a risk to service delivery and the Health and Social Care Partnership's reputation. The implementation of a new Care Management System in October 2022 was a major shift in working practices and development of the system functionality has continued since then, with further development planned. Whilst there are generic practical procedures, and controls built into the system, there are only limited notes on local application, reducing assurance over the application of internal controls throughout the process. The small size of the financial assessment team presents risk to consistent application of working practices in the event of changes. Procedures and training for Social Care practitioners supporting service users in the completion of application forms are still under development, presenting a risk of inconsistent application. As part of its budget approved in March 2024, the Integration Joint Board agreed a saving of £1.5 million related to clearing a backlog of financial assessments. Additional staff resource has been identified to address this. At the time of the audit, data indicated there were 996 overdue assessments. Whilst this is being tracked, further data was not available to assist in prioritising this workload. The Service has noted this has increased to 1237, including 248 non-residential and 989 residential assessments. Although calculations are largely carried out by the System itself, reducing the risk of manual error, this is wholly reliant on the accuracy of the data input. Variations between application form data and system records indicate there are further calculations and adjustments being completed prior to data entry. These further calculations, and the sources of further information, are not being retained along with other supporting documentation on the system. Adjustments are being made regularly to change the values recorded on the system, to effect a desired outcome (e.g. to apply anticipated changes to allowances or capital values in advance, to avoid having to re-perform another assessment in the short term.) Whilst in individual instances the impact would have been minimal, it means a different threshold is being applied to that required, and accurate data is not being recorded. If this is occurring regularly, the financial impact may be more material, and it impacts on transparency and equitable treatment. Given that the Charging Policy being applied does not match what has been published it is unlikely that service users or their representatives will be able to independently confirm the accuracy of what they are being charged. Recommendations have been made to implement and consistently apply the agreed Charging Policy, seeking formal approval for any changes; to develop and implement written procedures clarifying the key

controls to be applied; to set priorities for addressing overdue assessments; and to ensure all supporting evidence is reviewed and retained.

- **Commissioning (HSCP)** – The level of net risk is assessed as **MODERATE**, with the control framework deemed to provide **REASONABLE** assurance over plans and progress with commissioning across the Health and Social Care Partnership. Commissioning principles are being integrated at the strategic level, within strategic documentation, and in practice through the work of the Commissioning Lead engaging with services and service providers. However, there is limited evidence to demonstrate a planned and coordinated approach to embedding the principles across the HSCP's portfolio of contracts and commissioned services. This does not directly drive a more major risk / limited assurance due to the resource allocated to commissioning (both the Commissioning Lead role and the Commercial and Procurement Shared Service), and the governance arrangements provided by the HSCP's Strategic Commissioning and Procurement Board, which currently address more of the operational aspects and risks. Areas where controls would benefit from improvement, to more effectively and transparently demonstrate the alignment of commissioning with strategic intent include: Strategic Planning, Coordination, Strategic Alignment, and Embedding the Commissioning Principles. Recommendations have been made to address the above risks through review of planning, scheduling, reporting, and consistency of presentation of key documentation to better demonstrate plans and activities are aligned with, and on target to deliver, the HSCP's strategic aims and commissioning principles.
- **Counter Fraud (IJB)** – The level of net risk is assessed as **MODERATE**, with the control framework, which relies on the partner organisations, deemed to provide **REASONABLE** assurance over the Health and Social Care Partnership's approach to Counter Fraud. This does not reflect a Moderate level of risk with regards to the occurrence of fraud across the IJB's operations and instead is reflective of the framework of control. The complexity of service delivery by Health and Social Care Partnerships necessitates fraud policies and controls that address different operations, controls and staffing between partners. While the unique nature of IJB operations (e.g., not holding assets, relying on partners' payment systems) limits strategic fraud opportunities, operational-level fraud risks remain where services are delivered by the Council and NHS on behalf of the IJB. A strong Counter Fraud Framework is crucial for safeguarding the IJB's resources. The IJB must have clear measures for fraud prevention, detection, investigation, and reporting. Establishing a clear stance on fraud, in conjunction with consistent and appropriate practice, helps reduce the risk of financial loss and reputational damage which could result from fraud. The IJB relies on the Counter Fraud policies and arrangements of its partners: NHS Grampian and Aberdeen City Council. Each organisation has policies and procedures in place, with ongoing reviews to ensure they meet their counter fraud requirements and, by extension, those of the IJB. However, while IJB Management has considered Counter Fraud in specific cases (e.g.,

procurements), more could be done to address the strategic risks to the IJB and the assurances in place. Counter Fraud is not yet fully integrated across the IJB's partners. Although the IJB can depend on the operations of the Council and NHS Board, it should further formalise its arrangements with partners to ensure strategic assurances over its operations. Without a properly considered control framework, the IJB faces several fraud-related risks, including financial losses, reputational damage, and potential operational impacts. A single overarching recommendation has been made for Management to formally consider and document a Counter Fraud control framework across the IJB's operations. This should include an action plan to address any gaps or areas for improvement, considering all points raised in this report, such as regular Fraud Risk assessments, promotion of Counter Fraud Principles, and proactive measures to identify and prevent fraud. Recognising the IJB's reliance on its partners' controls for most operations, it should seek assurance of the Counter Fraud frameworks in place. Internal Audit can support the IJB in gaining these assurances through ad hoc consultancy or future internal audit reviews on targeted operational areas.

- **Budget Setting (IJB)** – The level of net risk is assessed as **MODERATE**, with the control framework deemed to provide **REASONABLE** assurance over the Health and Social Care Partnership's Budget Setting and Monitoring processes. There is clear governance and reporting lines, roles, and responsibilities. Assurance can also be taken from partners' (Aberdeen City Council (ACC) and NHS Grampian (NHSG)) internal processes. There is extensive scheduling for updating the Medium Term Financial Forecast (MTFF) and Budget - a full project plan, tracker and timeline is in place and is being kept up to date, including timelines for obtaining key information, preparing committee reports, stakeholder workshops and management discussions. There is emerging evidence of enhanced financial planning, and increasing engagement with senior management and budget holders, with regard to the identification and delivery of key savings options required to deliver a balanced budget for 2024/25. However, the review identified some areas of weakness where the framework of control could be strengthened, specifically: Financial Governance, Protocols and Scheduling, Finance and Support Resources, Use of Reserves, Budget Setting and Allocations, Budget Monitoring, and Resource Adjustments. Recommendations have been made for the Partnership to develop its planning and scheduling for financial reporting; to review forecast accuracy and options for obtaining improved data nationally; and ensure the level of detail contained in budget monitoring reports is sufficient to provide assurance over the mitigation of potential overspends; and improved transparency over the use of virements, budget adjustments, and Reserves where required. With regard to budget setting, and development of financial strategy, we have recommended the Partnership review the cost base and allocation of budget between partners, supported by the effective use of business cases, and Directions as appropriate; to include a review of the

provision of, and costs for, support services recharged to the IJB budget. The Reserves Policy should also be updated.

Management has agreed to timebound actions based on the recommendations of IA, with some already implemented in year.

NHS Grampian IA confirmed that in year they completed no dedicated audits over services delivered on behalf of IJB but have feedback on the wider control framework of the Health Board, noting no critical findings identified as part of their work. NHS Grampian IA provided details of their wider control points and risk ratings, and these will be actioned and followed up internally. Where they have been considered as part of this report, they do not directly link to the Annual Opinion for the IJB.

2.4 Areas of risk for future IA focus

In addition to the points above continuing to be areas of focus for the Board, in the year there will be significant new risk areas for us to consider. The specific risk and control areas in the upcoming year that IA intends to focus on to a greater degree include:

- Financial Sustainability
- Staffing
- Other emerging risks identified during the year

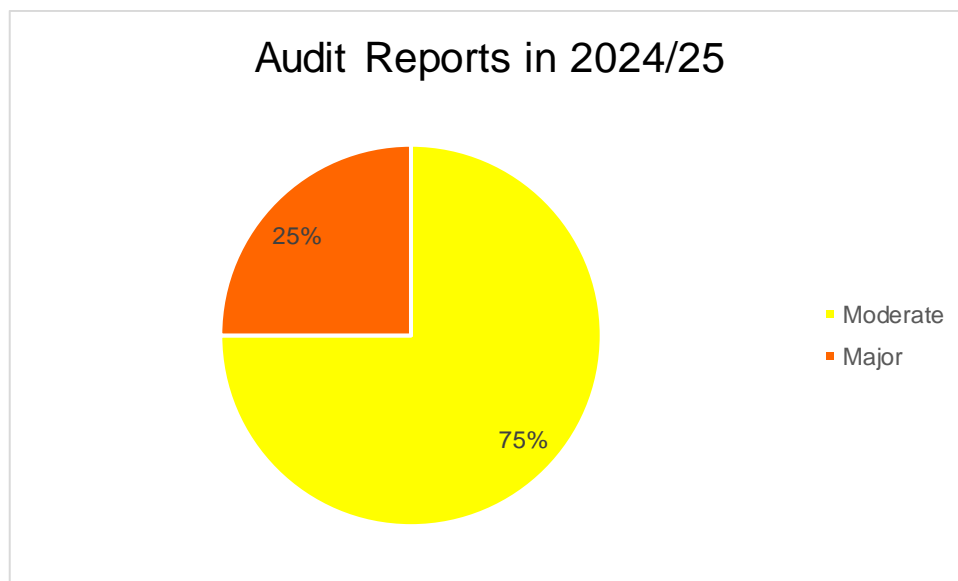
2.5 Follow up of audit recommendations

Public Sector Internal Audit Standards require that IA reports the results of its activities to the Committee and establishes a follow-up process to monitor and ensure that management actions have been effectively implemented. For the recommendations due as at year end, these have been followed up with Management and updates provided as part of standard Committee reporting.

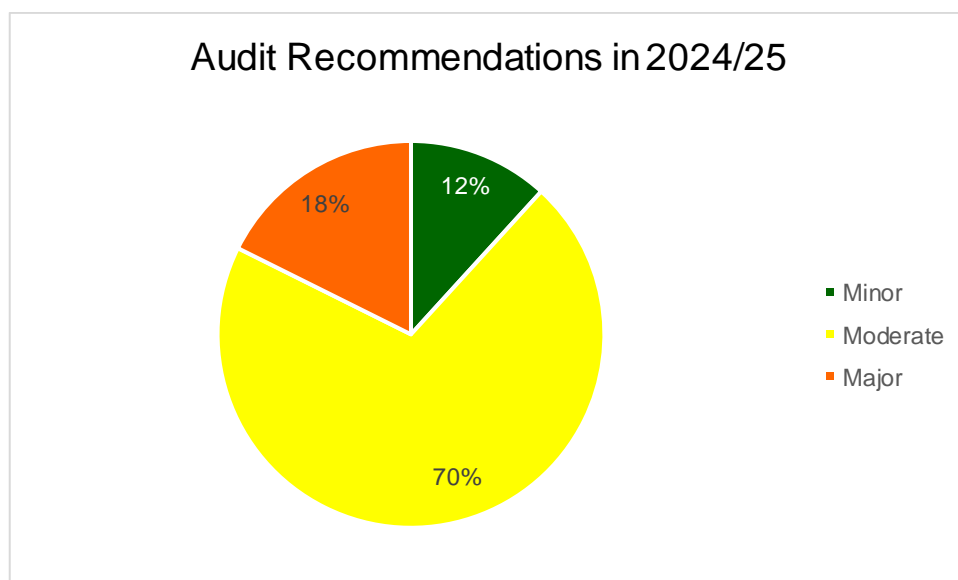
3 Audit Results

3.1 In year audit results

Across the year, irrespective of the period initially planned for the review, IA issued four audit reports. These reviews span the entire breadth of operations, touching on not just the IJB but also the HSCP services delivered by Aberdeen City Council on behalf of the IJB.



Across the four audit reports issued, IA made 17 recommendations: three rated Major, 12 Moderate and two Minor.



3.1.1 Previous year reviews finalised in 2024/25

Service	Audit Area	Overall Rating
Council Led HSCP Services	Social Care Financial Assessments	Major

3.1.2 2024/25 reviews finalised in year

Service	Audit Area	Overall Rating
IJB	IJB Counter Fraud	Moderate
IJB	IJB Budget Setting and Monitoring	Moderate

3.1.3 2024/25 reviews finalised in 2025/26

Service	Audit Area	Overall Rating
Council Led HSCP Services	HSCP Commissioning	Moderate

3.2 Counter Fraud

IA does not have a dedicated responsibility across the Board to lead on Counter Fraud activities, instead this is within the remit of a separate in-house team of Aberdeen City Council, with NHS Grampian utilising NHS Counter Fraud Services. The potential for fraud is however considered as part of all reviews carried out by IA from a control framework perspective.

4 IA Performance

4.1 Quality assurance and improvement plan

The Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (PSIAS) require that the annual report must also include a statement on conformance with the PSIAS and the results of the quality assurance and improvement programme (QAIP).

In previous reports IA has updated the Committee on work to address previously noted issues; the main driver for these being the internal quality assessment, any external quality assessments and recommendations made by External Audit.

IA is pleased to confirm an internal review of the control framework has concluded that IA fully conforms with PSIAS.

Complete details of the QAIP (including KPIs) have been presented to the Audit, Risk and Scrutiny Committee as part of the Council's overall Annual Audit Report and Opinion. This includes details of Internal Audit's work to ensure compliance with the Global Internal Audit Standards (GIAS), which were introduced in 2025.

4.2 Staffing

At present IA is operating with a 12.8 FTE, 0.2 FTE under budget. This 0.2 variance is reflective of flexible working within the Service.

5 Appendix 1 – Grading of Recommendations

Risk Level	Definition
Corporate	This issue / risk level impacts the Partnership as a whole. Mitigating actions should be taken at the Senior Leadership level.
Function	This issue / risk level has implications at the functional level and the potential to impact across a range of services. They could be mitigated through the redeployment of resources or a change of policy within a given directorate.
Cluster	This issue / risk level impacts a particular Service or Cluster. Mitigating actions should be implemented by the responsible Chief Officer.
Programme and Project	This issue / risk level impacts the programme or project that has been reviewed. Mitigating actions should be taken at the level of the programme or project concerned.

Net Risk Rating	Description	Assurance Assessment
Minor	A sound system of governance, risk management and control exists, with internal controls operating effectively and being consistently applied to support the achievement of objectives in the area audited.	Substantial
Moderate	There is a generally sound system of governance, risk management and control in place. Some issues, non-compliance or scope for improvement were identified, which may put at risk the achievement of objectives in the area audited.	Reasonable
Major	Significant gaps, weaknesses or non-compliance were identified. Improvement is required to the system of governance, risk management and control to effectively manage risks to the achievement of objectives in the area audited.	Limited
Severe	Immediate action is required to address fundamental gaps, weaknesses or non-compliance identified. The system of governance, risk management and control is inadequate to effectively manage risks to the achievement of objectives in the area audited.	Minimal

Individual Issue / Risk Rating	Definitions
Minor	Although the element of internal control is satisfactory there is scope for improvement. Addressing this issue is considered desirable and should result in enhanced control or better value for money. Action should be taken within a 12 month period.
Moderate	An element of control is missing or only partial in nature. The existence of the weakness identified has an impact on the audited area's adequacy and effectiveness. Action should be taken within a six month period.
Major	The absence of, or failure to comply with, an appropriate internal control, which could result in, for example, a material financial loss. Action should be taken within three months.
Severe	This is an issue / risk that could significantly affect the achievement of one or many of the Partnership's objectives or could impact the effectiveness or efficiency of the Partnership's activities or processes. Action is considered imperative to ensure that the Partnership is not exposed to severe risks and should be taken immediately.



RISK, AUDIT AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting	17 June 2025
Report Title	Locality Planning Annual Reports
Report Number	HSCP25.037
Lead Officer	Alison Macleod, Strategy and Transformation Lead, ACHSCP Michelle Crombie, Community Planning Manager, Aberdeen City Council
Report Author Details	Name: Iain Robertson Job Title: Transformation Programme Manager, Communities, ACHSCP Email Address: iairobertson@aberdeencity.gov.uk Jade Leyden, Locality Planning and Community Development Manager, Aberdeen City Council jleyden@aberdeencity.gov.uk
Consultation Checklist Completed	Yes
Directions Required	No
Exempt	No
Appendices	1. Central Locality Plan Annual Report 2. North Locality Plan Annual Report 3. South Locality Plan Annual Report
Terms of Reference	Risk, Audit and Performance Committee 5. Receive and scrutinise performance reports and receive assurance that actions in respect of emerging trends are proportionate to the IJB's Risk Appetite Statement.



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1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To present the locality plan annual reports 2024-25 for approval.
- 1.2 The Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership (ACHSCP) has a statutory duty under the Public Bodies (Joint Working) Scotland Act 2014 to deliver a locality planning system. ACHSCP has three locality areas in Central, North and South of the city. These localities are aligned with Community Planning Aberdeen's locality areas to better enable joint planning, delivery, and reporting.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. It is recommended that the Committee:
 - a. Approve the 2024-25 annual reports attached as **Appendices 1,2 and 3**;
 - b. Instruct the Chief Officer to submit the 2025-26 Locality Planning Annual Reports to this Committee by June 2026;
 - c. Note that new Locality Plans would be prepared alongside the new 10 year Local Outcome Improvement Plan during the winter of 2025-26 in a collaborative way with our Locality Empowerment Groups (LEGs) and Priority Neighbourhood Partnerships (PNPs); and
 - d. Note that the Committee would continue to receive regular updates on locality planning through its regular Performance Report and to the IJB through the Chief Officer's Report.

3. Strategic Plan Context

- 3.1. ACHSCP has a commitment within the Strategic Plan under the Caring Together strategic aim to support community empowerment, deliver Locality Plans and report on progress.

4. Summary of Key Information

- 4.1 Since 2021, Aberdeen City Council and ACHSCP have been working together to facilitate and deliver an integrated locality planning model on behalf of Community Planning Aberdeen. The approach ensures that Community Planning partners are meeting their locality planning duties in



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respect of both the Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014 and the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015. At the same time, this joint working enables more efficient and effective working between partner staff and communities to secure better outcomes for the economy, people and place. Integrated locality planning is an innovative approach in Scotland and during 2024-25, Locality Planning Co-Leads have met with other local authorities, health and social care partnerships, and community planning partnerships who have expressed interest in learning from our approach.

- 4.2 In April 2024 following an extensive period of community engagement and consultation, Community Planning Aberdeen published its new Locality Plans for the North, South and Central [Localities of the City](#). This approach sees every neighbourhood in Aberdeen covered by a Locality Plan. The plans incorporate improvement activity for the whole locality and/or targeted neighbourhoods, in most cases priority neighbourhoods. Priority neighbourhoods are those areas within the North, South and Central localities which experience poorer outcomes as a result of their socio-economic status, as identified by SIMD data. These include: for the North, **Heathryfold, Middlefield, Northfield, Cummings Park and Mastrick**; for South, **Torry and Kincorth**; and for Central, **Tillydrone, Seaton, Woodside, Ashgrove, Stockethill and George Street**.
- 4.3 This report presents annual reports against the new Locality Plans for 2024-25 and reflects inclusion of a new theme covering Community Empowerment which was strongly recommended by community members throughout the engagement and consultation period. Each of the annual reports attached as **Appendices 1-3** will provide IJB members and the public with an overview of progress made in the last 12 months to address priority issues outlined in our reports. A summary of highlights and challenges from each annual report are set out below against the Economy, People, Place, and Community themes:

NORTH, SOUTH AND CENTRAL KEY HIGHLIGHTS AND CHALLENGES 2024-25

4.4 Central Locality

- 4.4.1 **Economy** – ABZ Works supported **28 people** living in Central Locality to set up their own business during 2024-25.



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- 4.4.2 **21.8%** of people in Central Locality worried they would not be able to heat their home compared to **26.3%** of people living in Central priority neighbourhoods.
- 4.4.3 **People** – **13** Health Improvement Fund (HIF) projects were funded across Central Locality during 2024-25, with a collective value of **£48,240** for health improvement activities which delivered outcomes within the IJB Strategic Plan, the Local Outcome Improvement Plan, and/or the Central Locality Plan.
- 4.4.4 **127** people attended the Community Appointment Day on Chronic Pain at the Aberdeen Vaccination and Wellbeing Hub on 5 February 2025, with 61 people pre-booking their place, and 66 walk ins. **86% of pre-booked attendees** had no previous contact with the Chronic Pain Team, highlighting the importance of taking an preventative, population level approach.
- 4.4.5 In 2023, the rate of drug related hospital stays for Central Locality was **248.5 people per 100,000** of the population, this was a slight improvement on 2022's data, where the rate stood at **250 admissions**. Central Locality continues to have the highest rate of drug related hospital stays across Aberdeen City.
- 4.4.6 **Place** – **87%** of Central Locality respondents to the City Voice survey reported being satisfied or fairly satisfied with the overall quality of green/open spaces. **81.3%** of respondents from the Central priority neighbourhoods reported being satisfied or fairly satisfied with the overall quality of green/open spaces.
- 4.4.7 **74.6%** of Central Locality residents regularly walk compared to **68.8%** of people living in Central priority neighbourhoods. People in Central Locality are most likely to walk regularly in Aberdeen City.
- 4.4.8 **Community** - Overall attendance at Central LEG meetings **increased by 35.8%** between 2023-24 and 2024-25. Overall attendance at the Central PNP **decreased by 37.1%** between 2023-24 and 2024-25.
- 4.4.8 **Eight** community led projects were funded in Central Locality through the UDecide participatory budgeting scheme in March 2025, with a collective value of **£20,000**.

4.5 North Locality



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- 4.5.1 **Economy** – ABZ Works’s Development Fund has supported several employability projects across North Locality during 2024, such as Future Focus CV Workshop sessions for unemployed people in Mastrick, Sheddocksley, and Summerhill; and they worked in partnership with Middlefield Community Project to provide volunteers with qualifications for REHIS (food hygiene), First Aid, and Customer Service, along with mentoring, resilience, and mental health support.
- 4.5.2 Danestone Community Centre delivered a Community Nappy Exchange providing nappies to families in need. The project has helped reduce the financial burden on families and promote sustainability. The project supported **545** people during 2024.
- 4.5.3 **People** – **98** people attended Aberdeen City’s first Community Appointment Day for Chronic Pain at GetActive@Northfield on 27 November 2024. The purpose of the Community Appointment Day was to bring all key health, social care, and wellbeing services all under one roof to support people who are living with chronic pain. This included primary care and secondary care services, as well as key partners such as the DWP, Sport Aberdeen, and third sector organisations which provided advice on sleep, medication, and social connectiveness. Feedback received during the event was very positive from both attendees, staff, and stall holders.
- 4.5.4 The Saltire Awards are the Scottish Government's way of celebrating, recognising and rewarding the commitment, contribution and achievements of volunteers aged 12-25 in Scotland. Of the 3623 Aberdeen Saltire Award recipients during 2024, **1622** young people were from North Locality. This is the highest number by locality area in Aberdeen City.
- 4.5.5 **Place** – **65.2%** of North Locality respondents reported being satisfied or fairly satisfied with the overall quality of green/open spaces, compared to **45%** of people who live in North priority neighbourhoods.
- 4.5.6 Heathryburn Primary School created a community garden to engage families in the cycle of food growing and encourage positive mental wellbeing through outdoor activities. The garden has provided a space for families to learn about gardening and enjoy outdoor activities together. The project supported over **50 pupils**. The garden has become a popular spot for families to gather and learn about gardening.



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4.5.7 **Community** - Overall attendance at North LEG meetings **increased by 8%** between 2023-24 and 2024-25. Overall attendance at the Northfield PNP **decreased by 25.8%** between 2023-24 and 2024-25.

4.5.8 **22** community led projects were supported by the Health Improvement Fund in the North Locality during 2024-25 with a collective value of **£61,372**. **8** community led projects were funded in North Locality through the UDecide participatory budgeting scheme in March 2025, with a collective value of **£20,000**.

4.6 South Locality

4.6.1 **Economy** – The number of children in low income households decreased from **1900** in 2022, to **1864** in 2023, an improvement of **1.8%**. However this is still significantly higher than the 1616 children in low income families from before the pandemic in 2019.

4.6.2 According to the City Voice Survey carried out in 2024, **10.3%** of people in South Locality worried they would need to choose between heating and eating, compared to **16%** of people living in Torry and Kincorth.

4.6.3 **People** – **94.2%** of South Locality school leavers achieved an initial positive destination. With **91.4%** of Lochside Academy leavers also achieving a positive destination.

4.6.4 Alcohol related mortality rates in South Locality have been improving since 2018, with a rate of **14.4 deaths** per 100,000 recorded in 2023, compared to **17.3 deaths** per 100,000 in 2018.

4.6.5 **Place** –**69.6%** of South Locality respondents reported being satisfied or fairly satisfied with the overall quality of green/open spaces, compared to **47.4%** of people who live in South priority neighbourhoods.

4.6.6 **64.2%** of South Locality residents regularly walk compared to **47.4%** of people living in South priority neighbourhoods

4.6.7 **Community** - Overall attendance at South LEG meetings **increased by 29.2%** between 2023-24 and 2024-25. Overall attendance at the Torry Partnership **decreased by 19.5%** between 2023-24 and 2024-25.

4.6.8 **14** community led projects were supported by the Health Improvement Fund in the South Locality during 2024-25 with a collective value of **£49,701**. **Ten** community led projects were funded in South Locality through



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the UDecide participatory budgeting scheme in March 2025, with a collective value of **£20,000**.

NEXT STEPS

- 4.8 The Locality Planning Team will work with our Community Planning and community partners to focus on areas for improvement during 2025-26. These include increasing the number of Community Resilience Groups across the City; improving community health and wellbeing, particularly weight management and mental health; and supporting people living in poverty to achieve better outcomes.
- 4.9 The Locality Planning Team will lead on planning and community engagement for the three new Locality Plans which will be published alongside the new 10 year Local Outcome Improvement Plan, expected in June 2026. The Locality Planning Team will report to the IJB with the new plans, alongside the new 10 year LOIP in 2026.
- 4.10 The Locality Planning Team will ensure locality planning and community empowerment are effectively embedded into the new IJB Strategic Plan ensuring LEG and PNP members can contribute towards evaluation, planning, and delivery of projects, with an increased focus on co-production and co-delivery wherever possible.
- 4.11 Engagement between Community Planning, third sector, and community partners will continue. [Stretch Outcome 16](#) projects aim to connect, support, build capacity, and promote community activity within localities.
- 4.12 The Locality Planning Team will continue to work with Community Planning Outcome Improvement Groups and ACHSCP's Strategic Planning Group to ensure more locality level data is produced, and can be used to make targeted interventions.
- 4.13 The Locality Planning Team will continue to consolidate funding streams which support Locality Planning such as the Health Improvement Fund, participatory budgeting, Community Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund, and the Fairer Aberdeen Fund to improve efficiency, reduce duplication, and ensure our key community led priorities are being supported.
- 4.14 Progress reporting on locality planning will continue on a monthly basis through ACHSCP's Strategic Planning Group and through the LOIP Stretch Outcome 16.3 improvement project group which reports to the



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CPA Management Group and Community Empowerment Group. Updates on locality planning will also be reported to the IJB through the Chief Officers Report and the ACHSCP Annual Performance Report.

5. Implications for IJB

5.1. Equalities, Fairer Scotland and Health Inequality

This report will have a minor positive impact on people with protected characteristics as defined in the Equality Act (2010), and those affected by socio-economic disadvantage. The LEGs and PNPs provide an opportunity for those with protected characteristics to fully participate in the locality planning process and have their voice and views taken into account. Locality Planning team leads also co-project manage the LOIP Stretch Outcome 16.3 project group on community participation which aims to increase the number and diversity of Locality Empowerment Group members. LEGs and PNPs have a good gender balance, and its members include those from ethnic minority backgrounds, priority neighbourhoods, and people with disabilities. Outreach activity continues to increase the number of young people engaging with locality planning. An Integrated Impact Assessment has been prepared for this report.

5.2. Financial

There are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

Integration of locality planning between Aberdeen City Council and ACHSCP, along with the creation of an integrated Locality Planning Team in February 2023 has enabled the ACHSCP Public Health Team and Community Planning's Community Learning and Development Team to share workload and resources which has cut down on duplication of effort, led to a more efficient delivery of locality planning, and freed up officer time to focus on other strategic priorities.

5.3. Workforce

There are no direct workforce implications arising from the recommendations of this report.



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5.4. Legal

Section 29(3) of the Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014 states that the “*provision required to be included in a strategic plan by virtue of subsection (2)(a) is to include provision—*

*(a) dividing the area of the local authority into two or more localities, and
(b) setting out separately arrangements for the carrying out of the integration functions in relation to each such locality*”.

ACHSCP is currently fulfilling its statutory obligations as it has three locality areas across Aberdeen City.

5.5. Unpaid Carers

The annual reports for all three of our localities have reported an increase in the number of unpaid carers accessing support over the previous year. The annual reports have a positive impact on unpaid carers as they help to promote the invaluable work they do to support our health and social care colleagues. Each report also sets out where unpaid carers can access dedicated services and support.

5.6. Information Governance

There are no direct information governance implications arising from the recommendations.

5.7. Environmental Impacts

All three Locality Plans have priorities to improve use of greenspace for food growing and health and wellbeing; as well as initiatives to make the local environment cleaner, safer, and more welcoming. ACHSCP’s Health Improvement Fund has supported several community led initiatives which will have a positive impact on the environment across all three locality areas.

5.8. Sustainability

There are no direct sustainability implications arising from the recommendations of this report.



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5.9. Other

As integrated locality planning arrangements are in place with Community Planning Aberdeen, the annual reports were reported to the Community Planning Management Group on 21 May 2025 and will be presented to the Community Planning Aberdeen Board on 18 June 2025.

6. Management of Risk

6.1. Identified risks

- 6.1.1 During a citywide locality planning workshop session on 30 January 2025, community members told us significant barriers prevented people from volunteering in the community. The included work commitments, timings of meetings, cost of living challenges, lack of confidence or anxiety, childcare and/or caring responsibilities, and other family or leisure commitments were the most common reasons why community members found it difficult to support a community group.

Likelihood of occurrence – High

Impact if the risk does occur - Medium

- 6.1.2 This is a known risk and being mitigated through the Locality Planning Team's ongoing community outreach and engagement programme, and through citywide events such as 2025's *Your Place, Your Plans, Your Future* community engagement programme, and May's Wellbeing Festival. Community Planning Aberdeen published its Community Empowerment Strategy in November 2022 with the creation of Stretch Outcome 16 and its seven dedicated Improvement projects to deliver the Strategy. LOIP Improvement Project 16.3 aims to increase participation and diversity in locality planning and reports are presented to the Community Empowerment Group on a monthly basis. Locality Planning updates are also a standing item on ACHSCP's Strategic Planning Group which is attended by LEG members from across all three of our locality areas.

6.2. Link to risks on strategic or operational risk register:

- 6.2.1 This links to Risk 6 on the **Strategic Risk Register**:

Cause: Need to involve lived experience in service delivery and design as per Integration Principles



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Event: IJB fails to maximise the opportunities created for engaging with our communities

Consequences: Services are not tailored to individual needs; reputational damage; and IJB does not meet strategic aims

- 6.2.2 The Locality Planning Team has been put in place to facilitate LEG and PNP meetings and to support delivery of the three Locality Plans. Performance updates are reported to this Committee, ACHSCP's Strategic Planning Group, and the Community Empowerment Group on a cyclical basis.
- 6.2.3 LEG and PNP meetings are held on an eight weekly cycle, and hosted in accessible community venues across Aberdeen City. A hybrid option to join meetings are also provided for those unable to attend meetings in person. Meetings alternate between mornings and early evenings to enable as many people to participate as possible. The LOIP 16.3 improvement project group is tasked with increasing the number and diversity of LEG and PNP members which helps ACHSCP meet its Delivery Plan and statutory duties to deliver a locality planning system.
- 6.2.4 LEG and PNP members, in addition to Outcome Improvement Groups and locality based services were fully consulted on the annual reports and had the opportunity suggest changes for improvement.
- 6.2.5 During 2024-25, two LEG members joined the Integration Joint Board as service user representatives and are a key link between the Board and our locality groups.

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Aberdeen City - Central Locality

Annual Outcome Improvement Report 2024-25



Central Locality Neighbourhoods:

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



Community
Planning
Aberdeen

Welcome

Welcome to the third annual report against the Central Locality Plan first published in 2021, and the first report since our Locality Plan was refreshed in April 2024. The Central Locality plan sets out how Community Planning Aberdeen and its member organisations will work together with communities to deliver improved outcomes for the sixteen neighbourhoods in the locality and for the locality as a whole. The Locality Plan was prepared by the Locality Planning Team following engagement activity between March-April 2025 and with oversight and support from our Central Locality Empowerment Group and Central Priority Neighbourhood Partnership.

The report provides an update on progress made against the six priorities identified by community members in the Central Locality Plan. It includes information on key activities and the impact these have had across the Central Locality and in our priority neighbourhoods of Ashgrove, George Street, Tillydrone, Seaton, Stockethill, and Woodside. Importantly the report sets out areas for improvement and further attention which the Locality Planning Team will focus on over the next year.

Our focus is always on delivery of outcomes to improve the economy, place, and lives of people across the Central Locality. We have adopted a community led approach and want to take every opportunity to empower and celebrate our communities. This is particularly important as we find ourselves in a very challenging financial environment with public bodies, third sector partners, and community groups all under pressure; it is essential we all work together to deliver the key findings of the Christie Commission (2011) to collaborate more effectively and shift the balance of public services from a demand based model towards prevention. This report provides a baseline for how we are currently performing in the Central Locality, with a commitment to continuous improvement moving forward.



This report is split into the following sections:

Our Economy – Page 3

Our People – Page 11

Our Place – Page 26

Our Community – Page 30





OUR PRIORITIES

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

Priority 1. Reduce the number of people living in poverty

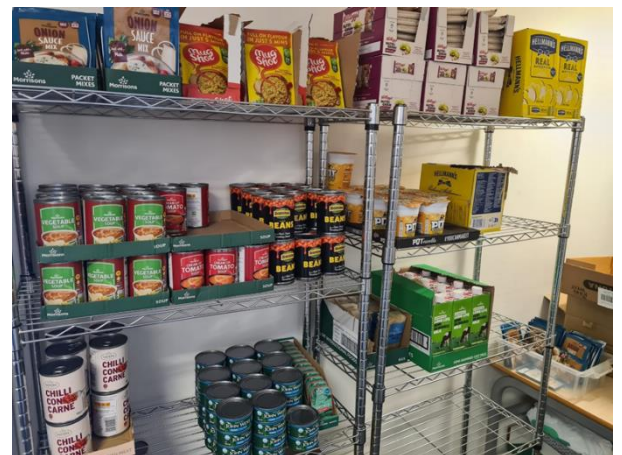
PROGRESS MADE DURING 2024/25

Supporting our Communities who Experience Poverty

Community food provision and community pantries

The **Seaton Pantry** receive two deliveries per week from CFINE's Fare Share scheme. Most of this food is at the end of its useful life; the principle being to reduce food wastage. Our principal aim however was to reduce hunger in the community. The pantry also provides free period products and sometime toiletries, cleaning product and baby products.

The pantry serves around 60 people a week but we know those community members have families. We estimate that up to **8640 people** were supported through the Seaton Pantry during 2024-25. The Pantry also works closely with the Council's Family Learning Team, Co-Operative Supermarket's Coboodle initiative, the Russell Trust, the Vaccination and Wellbeing Hub, Aberdeen in Recovery (AiR), Family Learning groups, Adult Learning ESOL classes and counselling service, Abernecessities, Community Outreach Group (C.O.G), Citizen Advice Bureau, and the Cash First Project.



The Pantry provides volunteering opportunities, we currently have **eight volunteers** who have been a great asset to the pantry for the past year.

The pantry has had a significant impact on the local community. Local people have reported it has been life change knowing they can access food and other items at the centre without being questioned or judged.

Seaton Soup and Sannies is jointly delivered by ACHSCP, Aberdeen City Council, and Seaton Community Hub. It has been running for over three years, initially starting once a month however very quickly moved to twice a month. Up to **30 participants** attend each session from sheltered housing complexes within the Seaton area. Fleet transport provide a bus for those who are unable to attend independently. A small group of dedicated volunteers help ensure this runs every month as it would not be possible without them.

Feedback from Attendees:

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

"The food is excellent, and the staff are very helpful"

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



Cornhill Soup and Sannies is jointly delivered by ACHSCP, Aberdeen City Council, and Cornhill Association. This was established on 16 January 2025 following a successful application to the Health Improvement Fund. The number of attendees has increased each month, with 23 people attending during May 2025. Due to the awarding of UDecide participatory budgeting, the project team is now able to increase these sessions to twice a month which started in May 2025. This will give more local people the ability to attend. The kitchen is currently run by a dedicated volunteer, and a new volunteer joined the team in April. As part of the dedicated Stay Well Stay Connected LOIP project, Sport Aberdeen will periodically deliver chair based exercises at these sessions to increase the mobility of attendees



Cash First Aberdeen

Our **Cash First project** is testing a flexible cash first crisis fund for people facing financial emergencies. Using funding from the Scottish Government Cash First Pilot, ACVO and partners launched the fund on the 4th of

November 2024 for single males, aged 18-45, who are in receipt of Universal credit and are presenting at food banks as food insecure. The fund is co-designed by local third-sector organisations alongside 70 lived experience voices; including those from CFINE's lived experience group. Between January to April 2025, the fund has supported 57 individuals. Of those 57 people, **31 Cash First recipients were from Central Locality**, with 52% of those recipients being from priority neighbourhoods. In the Central Locality, **£16,700.00** of Cash First Funding was distributed.

Distribution of the **Rent Assistance Fund** has been far reaching and utilised by families who need assistance to keep on top of their rent payments. The Pilot Rent Assistance Fund aims to assist Council tenants who may be facing financial hardship and through no fault of their own can't afford an increase in the rent they currently pay. The £500,000 fund is funded through Aberdeen City Council's Housing Revenue Account budget. During 2024-25, **185 people from Central Locality** received support from the Rent Assistance Fund.

Enhancing Financial Inclusion To further support families, ABZ Works hosted a secondment of a dedicated financial inclusion officer within the employability team. This role provided invaluable assistance to families in identifying and accessing their full range of benefit entitlements, including childcare support. This proactive measure helps ensure that eligible families have the support needed to access the support they are entitled to. In Central Locality, **44 families** have been supported.

Fuel Poverty & Affordable Heating

Scarf is a social enterprise, based in Aberdeen which delivers free advice to householders and businesses including advice on how to reduce heating costs. In Central Locality **1,032 enquiries** were received, of these 390 households were in fuel poverty. As a result of support received from Scarf, including help to heat their home, general and energy advice, home visits and onwards referrals, **19% of households were removed from fuel poverty.**



The NESFit project, funded through Health Improvement fund, "Campaign for Warm Healthy Homes," aims to improve the health and wellbeing of householders by providing health monitoring equipment for their homes. This equipment will be lent out to monitor environmental factors that affect health, helping individuals to better understand and manage their living conditions. The project focuses on creating healthier home environments, which can significantly impact overall physical and mental health. By empowering residents with the tools and knowledge to monitor their home environments, NESFit seeks to foster a proactive approach to health and wellbeing.



English as a Second Language (ESOL) Support Adult Learning have delivered 487 ESOL activities to 996 learners a total of 28,739 learner hours. Core ESOL classes follow a communicative approach focusing on developing learners' basic English skills to a level which will allow them to function in society.

Classes start at literacy level, where learners are taught how to read and write the roman alphabet and go up to Pre-Intermediate level (A2, National 3).

Learners are able to prepare for SQA ESOL awards at National 2 and 3 Level. They also have the opportunity to complete SQA Core Skills Numeracy Level 2 awards.

As well as core classes, ESOL learners also have the opportunity to participate in short courses on a range of topics, such as Scottish culture and visit places around Aberdeen, such as the Art Gallery or Old Aberdeen. Weekly board games sessions at the Maritime Museum also provide learners with an opportunity to develop their speaking skills in a different setting.

The Culture Cafe at Fersands and Fountain offers a safe place for people to come and practice their English language. Our workers and volunteers organise a programme that encourages discussion about various subjects. Often guest speakers come from agencies with useful information about their services. **Twenty four people** attended one of the meetings which usually ends up with a meal being served. Its nice to see people making new friends and the mix of nationalities is great too. Several of the attendees have started volunteering and many others now use other community services.

Sport Aberdeen provided football sessions for asylum seekers and refugees housed in Aberdeen. The football sessions have provided participants with access to high-quality facilities and kit, helping them stay active and integrate into the community. The project has been successful in promoting physical fitness and social inclusion. The project supported **100 people with 6 volunteers contributing 80 hours**. Several participants have been scouted by local football clubs and are now playing in local leagues.

Strengthen Opportunities for Business Growth

Business Gateway's business start-up project has supported 45 individuals across Aberdeen City to start their own businesses during 2024-25. This initiative has enabled participants to either come off universal credits or significantly reduce their reliance on them.

28 new businesses were set up in Central Locality through deployment of dedicated community business advisors; targeted funding from ABZWorks' seed funding to remove financial barriers; and a partnership referral pathway. The transition from benefit dependency to business ownership has been life-changing for many participants, who have gained financial independence and confidence, underscoring the importance of dedicated and localised support.



Selkies Wonders: Case Study

Michelle Grey founded Selkies Wonders, a business specializing in handcrafted potion bottles and "nerdy" cross-stitch art inspired by fictional literature. She first engaged with Business Gateway in 2023 at the Tillydrone Community Campus, seeking support to launch her creative enterprise.

Facing her own health challenges, Michelle saw starting her own business as a path to recovery and self-reliance. With the help of Business Gateway and ABZWorks, she developed her business plan and financial forecasts, and secured startup funding for materials.

Michelle's participation in ABZWorks workshops and mentoring sessions boosted her confidence and capability. Encouraged to reach out to author Sarah J. Maas, Michelle became an official merchandiser for the author—a significant milestone for her business.

Additionally, she secured a £450 "Give It a Go" grant from The King's Trust, aiding her early growth. Michelle now regularly attends craft fairs and has a stockist in Banff, where she also hosts successful "make your own potion" workshops. Michelle's story highlights the importance of accessible, community-based business support services in turning visions into reality.

Support for entrepreneurial initiatives which recognises the importance of flexible working arrangements to balance family and career, ABZ Works has allocated Seed Fund grants of up to £5,000 per person which supported 19 parents in 2024-25. This support has enabled them to launch their own business, promoting self-employment and offering new pathways for income generation that can accommodate their childcare needs. In Central Locality, **seven parents** have benefited from this initiative.

Support Development of Employment Opportunities



Paid Work Experience Placements in Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) Settings ABZ Works' initiative to support career pathways in the ELC sector has seen the successful placement of 10 paid work experience opportunities which

have supported parents. These placements not only provide practical, on-the-job experience for parents but also contribute to building a robust workforce in the ELC sector. The placements have been flexible to work around existing childcare arrangements. In Central Locality, **four placements** have been provided.

Sunnybank Community Centre provided affordable yoga, employability skills for non-native English speakers, and a book challenge for primary age children. The yoga classes and employability skills workshops have been well-attended, helping participants improve their physical health and job prospects. The book challenge has incentivized children to read at home, promoting literacy and learning. The project supported **28 people with 1 volunteer contributing 16 hours**. The yoga classes have helped participants manage stress and improve their overall wellbeing.

St Machar Academy pupils participated in the Careers in Health event, a collaborative effort between Nescol and RGU, held over two days (29-30 October 2024). This event aimed to raise awareness of career pathways in the health sector. The S4 pupils, along with students from 11 other schools, visited both Nescol's City Campus and RGU's campus at Garthdee. They engaged in various activities related to careers in Health, exploring pathways in Healthcare, Fitness Health and Exercise, and Life Sciences.

On Tuesday, 8 October 2024, Nescol's City Campus hosted the **Promoting Positive Pathways event**, organised in partnership with Robert Gordon University, the University of Aberdeen, Scotland's Rural College, Skills Development Scotland, Developing the Young Workforce North East, and Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Councils. The event aimed to upskill around 100 teachers from Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire by improving their knowledge of regional education pathways

through workshops and a lunchtime learning marketplace. Workshops focused on pathways from school to further and higher education, employment, and apprenticeships, based on teacher feedback. The learning marketplace provided an opportunity for attendees to interact with stallholders from educational institutions and organisations, enhancing their understanding. Following the event, teachers shared their newly acquired knowledge with colleagues in their respective schools, contributing to a better understanding of educational and career pathways for students in the region.

The Digital Skills Project led by **ABZ Works** aimed to upskill people who needed both basic and sector specific digital skills to enhance their employment opportunities. As at 31 March 2025, **58** people have accessed digital support, with **20 now in positive destinations** (6 in employment, 4 in education, 8 in further training and 2 volunteering). In addition, **27** people have received a laptop to apply for jobs, with **11 from Central Locality**. These laptops were issued by ABZWorks and funded via **No One Left Behind**. The laptops have provided participants with the suitable resources to help apply and interview for jobs from home, participate and complete online employability courses and support them to complete home tasks set out by employability training providers to help move them towards gaining employment.

ABZ Works also funded a programme in January 2024, where **seven** participants engaged in digital and employability activities, resulting in **four** participants moving into positive destinations. Based on this success, two new programmes were funded by ABZ Works, a digital and media skills, delivered by **SHMU in Woodside**, and a specific IT training programme, delivered by **Aberdeen Foyer** have been delivered during 2024 to offer an enhanced range of digital activities. **Seven people** from the Central Locality completed sector specific training and one person gained employment. This programme has also just received a 12 month extension that offers **40 more places** for 2025-26.



The **Saltire Awards** continue to recognise and enhance volunteering by young people aged between 12-25 in Aberdeen City. The awards are co-ordinated by Aberdeen Council of Voluntary Organisations (ACVO) and contribute positively to development of employability skills. During 2024, 3623 young people across the city registered with the Saltire Awards, including **878 young people from Central Locality**.

Affordable and Accessible Childcare

Financial Support for Childcare Costs ABZ Works has continued its commitment to helping parents remain or enter the workforce by providing targeted financial support towards childcare costs. This initiative is designed to alleviate one of the largest barriers to parental employment, ensuring that families can pursue or sustain meaningful work without the overwhelming weight of unaffordable childcare expenses. In the Central Locality, **six families** have benefited from this support.

Printfield Community Project have been making childcare more affordable and accessible to increase parental employment. **27 children** have registered with Woodside Partnership After School Club. Parents and Carers are charged £8 and £7 per session respectively.

Sector-Based Training for Expanded Childcare Access To address long-term capacity issues in the childcare sector, ABZ Works has commissioned training activities targeted at enhancing skills and broadening access. This programme has reached **29 individuals, including 10 parents**, providing them with specialised sector-based training. The goal is to empower participants with the skills needed to support and expand high-quality childcare services in our communities. In Central Locality, **14 individuals** have received training.

Fersands and Fountain's Afterschool Club provide a nurturing environment and pick children up from Kittybrewster and Woodside Primary Schools ensuring they arrive at our centre where qualified staff are ready to care for them and offer healthy snacks. Our programme is designed to be fun and engaging, involving a variety of activities that include cooking, dancing, arts and crafts, team games, board games, quizzes, and sports games in our gym hall. Children love joining in Zumba and fitness sessions, participating in musical games, facing exciting challenges, and enjoying movie nights. This is a Joint Partnership with Printfield Community Project.









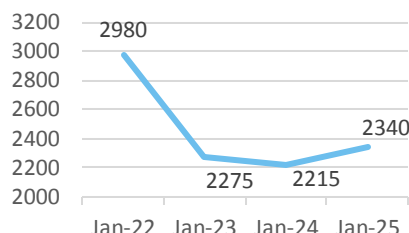
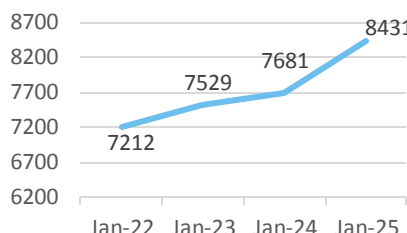

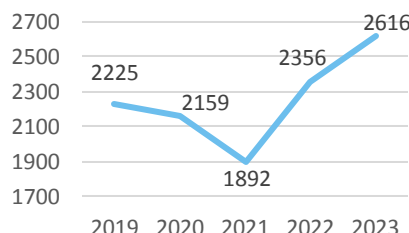


Supporting priority families via Fit Like hubs

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

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

The **Family Learning Team** have delivered four courses with a focus on readiness to work, incorporating key employability skills such as confidence building and working with others. Learners has completed approx. **10 SQA Awards** in session 2024-25 across the Central Locality. The team are developing SQA accreditation for all of their universal courses



<div>Food Insecurity</div> <div><div></div><div><p>7.3% of people in the Central Locality worried they would not have enough to eat compared to 8.1% of people living in priority neighbourhoods (City Voice 50, 2024)</p></div></div>	<div>Food Poverty</div> <div><div></div><div><p>4.1% of households in the Central Locality went without food for a day compared to 8.1% of households in priority neighbourhoods (City Voice 50, 2024)</p></div></div>	<div>Rent Assistance</div> <div><div></div><div><p>185 people from Central Locality received support from the Rent Assistance Fund</p></div></div>																				
<div>Fuel Insecurity</div> <div><div></div><div><p>21.8% 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 (City Voice 50, 2024)</p></div></div>	<div>Fuel Poverty</div> <div><div></div><div><p>5.7% of households in Central Locality had to seek support to pay for heating, compared to 8.1% of households in priority neighbourhoods (City Voice 50, 2024)</p></div></div>	<div>Digital Employability Support</div> <div><div></div><div><p>11 people in Central Locality received a laptop to support them to apply for jobs</p></div></div>																				
<div>Claimant Count</div> <div><table><tr><th>Period</th><th>Claimant Count</th></tr><tr><td>Jan-22</td><td>2980</td></tr><tr><td>Jan-23</td><td>2275</td></tr><tr><td>Jan-24</td><td>2215</td></tr><tr><td>Jan-25</td><td>2340</td></tr></table></div>	Period	Claimant Count	Jan-22	2980	Jan-23	2275	Jan-24	2215	Jan-25	2340	<div>People on Universal Credit</div> <div><table><tr><th>Period</th><th>People on Universal Credit</th></tr><tr><td>Jan-22</td><td>7212</td></tr><tr><td>Jan-23</td><td>7529</td></tr><tr><td>Jan-24</td><td>7681</td></tr><tr><td>Jan-25</td><td>8431</td></tr></table></div>	Period	People on Universal Credit	Jan-22	7212	Jan-23	7529	Jan-24	7681	Jan-25	8431	<div>Fuel Poverty</div> <div><div></div><div><p>74 households in Central Locality were supported out of fuel poverty by Scarf</p></div></div>
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AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT IN 2025-26

- Utilise more empty buildings and visually improve local areas
- Strengthen relationships with local businesses
- Visually improve the area to encourage use/business
- Encourage more employers to sign up to the real living wage



OUR PRIORITIES

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

Priority 2. Improve mental wellbeing of the population

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

Priority 4. Create safe and resilient communities

PROGRESS MADE DURING 2024/25

Improve Mental Wellbeing of Population

The Community Learning and Development **Youth Work Team** has been in the St Machar and Aberdeen Grammar Associated School Group (ASG) Primary and Secondary schools since 2021. The team offers a range of informal learning activities such as 1-2-1 support, Youth Awards and drop-in sessions to support and improve young people's emotional and mental wellbeing.

246 youth work activities were delivered in the Central ASG during 2024. **165 participants** gained a Hi5/Dynamic Youth Award.



Cairncry Community Centre hosted a number of festive celebrations during December 2024 to support those who may not otherwise be able to join in with Christmas meals and parties, due to financial or personal constraints. The main event included a 3-course Christmas Day lunch which



was open to local residents who could not access food or were lonely or isolated. A free meal was provided, along with entertainment and a gift. The celebrations reduced social isolation, improved mental health and aimed to reduce the stigma around food access.

"The day really emphasised community spirit and the importance of coming together."

Fersands and Fountain SCIO supported adults in the Woodside community to reduce isolation, anxiety, and stress through positive activities. The project has successfully kick-started a range of adult services, helping participants make new friends, enjoy positive activities, and reduce fear, anxiety, and stress. Community spirit has increased, and participants have access to more information and advice. The project supported **72 people with 7 volunteers contributing 800 hours**.

A participant who was previously isolated now actively participates in community events and activities.

Grampian Society for the Blind, operating as **North East Sensory Services (NESS)**, delivered yoga classes for adults with serious sight and/or hearing loss to improve physical and emotional wellbeing. The yoga classes have been highly beneficial, helping participants manage the impacts of their sensory loss and improve their physical and emotional wellbeing. The project provided accessible exercise opportunities for those with serious sight and hearing loss. The project supported **nine people with two volunteers contributing 52 hours**. A participant reported improved balance and reduced anxiety after attending the classes.



S.T.A.R. - Seaton Taking Action For Regeneration runs a community hub offering various services including food bank vouchers, work support, and general help and advice. The community hub has become a vital resource for the local community offering a range of services and support. The Chill Out Room has provided a safe space for all ages and abilities, helping reduce stress and improve mental health. The project supported **70 people** during 2024-25.



In 2024 Betty Simpson, a tenant who now lives in Sheltered Housing, **won a National award from Tenant Information Service (TIS)**. She was the first winner of the Lifetime Achievement award. This award recognises an extraordinary individual tenant who has demonstrated an exceptional commitment to effecting positive change across the Scottish social housing sector, during their lifetime. Betty is a real ambassador for building strong and resilient communities, she has championed tenant participation for over 25

years, she has had a profound impact on the lives of many tenants as a tenant living in Greig Court and now Loch Court Sheltered Housing.

Lewis McGill, one of the City's Council's tenants from Seaton has won two National awards during 2024. The first award was from the Tenant Participation Advisory Service (TPAS) – the Alan Ferguson Tenant of the year; and Lewis was also runner up for the Frances Nelson MBE Award for outstanding contribution to Tenant Participation. Lewis has developed the Facebook pages for the Seaton Multi story housing units and has set up Citywide Sheltered & Amenity Housing



and Tenants & Resident Partnership pages in various communities across the City. There are now over **4,000 members**. Lewis encourages engagement and participation wherever he goes and is a true Tenant Participation Champion.

Music 4 U based at **Ivories Coffee Shop** provided music-based social activity for those with additional support needs, health conditions, and the wider community. The Music Café has provided a welcoming environment for participants to enjoy music and social interaction. The project has helped improve mental health and build friendships among those with additional support needs. The project supported **35 people with two volunteers contributing 20 hours**. A participant performed their first solo at the Music Café, boosting their confidence and self-esteem.

The Dee Swimming Club Boogie in the Bar is a daytime disco for older adults and people with learning disabilities who are at risk of loneliness and social isolation. Boogies facilitate social interaction, friendships, and physical and cognitive exercise. The Boogie at Dee Swimming Club was set up in 2023 and has only grown in popularity. The ladies on the Dee Swimming Club Committee have been amazing as they do all the catering, pre-disco set up, and serving every month. This Boogie has wonderful DJs that volunteer their time to make it a real afternoon disco. This boogie is extremely busy, each month with around **70-80 people attending**. Boogie in the Bar also received National Lottery community funding in 2024 which will ensure Boogies can continue to be delivered into 2026 and hopefully beyond.

Feedback from participants:

"Thank you for giving your time to this"

"I will definitely be back"

"Please keep the boogie going"



Maggie Keswick Jencks Cancer Caring Centres Trust (Maggie's Aberdeen) ran free exercise groups including Qigong and yoga for people with cancer and their families. The exercise groups have been well-attended, providing participants with a chance to build confidence, energy, and enjoy activities they may not otherwise have had access to. The project has made a positive impact on the physical and mental health of people with cancer and their families. The project supported **120 people**. A participant shared that the Qigong classes helped them cope better with their cancer treatment.

Suicide Prevention

During 2024-25, SAMH's Community Engagement Officer specialising on suicide prevention **delivered 50 training sessions** across Aberdeen City which were **attended by 663 people**. This included to groups that have reach into all our localities such as DWP work coaches, Aberdeen Vaccination and Wellbeing Hub staff, various NHS Grampian teams, Council Housing Officers, Aberdeen in Recovery and Alcohol and Drugs Action staff, and other third sector organisations. There were four Introduction to Suicide Prevention training sessions delivered within Central Locality. This included the Lighthouse Women's group and community based sessions in Seaton, Woodside and Tillydrone. A total of **27 people attended these sessions**.



SAMH's Community Engagement Officers across the North East Suicide Prevention Team also delivered 32 online sessions reaching another 450 people. Evaluation data has shown **80%** of people attending the training feel more confident to ask about suicide. **90%** reported the training has been useful in both their personal and professional lives.

A sample of attendee feedback is noted below:

"Great training, really enjoyed this refresher of information. Trainer was interesting to listen to and engaged well with the group."

"Powerful piece of training that resonated at so many different levels and with so many different people on the call. Thank you"

"Thank you for a thought provoking session. I am telling anyone who will listen about it."

The Council's Community Learning and Development **Healthy Minds Team** works with adults in recovery of an enduring, diagnosed mental illness to access learning opportunities within their community to promote their recovery. They work on a 1:1 basis to offer guidance, develop a learning plan and support the learner to participate in learning opportunities. They also offer short engagement courses to meet our learners needs as and when required. In 2024-25, Healthy Minds supported **49 participants** in Central Locality with a total of **664 learner hours**. One local person from Central Locality had an art installation displayed in Edinburgh as part of the Scottish Mental Health Arts and Film Festival and went on to run art workshops for other Healthy Minds users.



Increase knowledge and Understanding of Health Provision in Central Locality

Women's Health and Wellbeing Fair:

The annual women's health and wellbeing fair took place on Tuesday 26th November 2024 with **61 people in attendance**, with an additional 32 stall holders from a very diverse set of organisations across the public and third sectors. As part of our Women cycling programme, Sport Aberdeen fitted up a bike in the anti-room of the Towns House for women to try. This was well received with eight women expressing an interest in cycling more after testing out the bike.



Community Feedback

"I have found quite a few services I didn't know about. Thank you for organising"

"Lot's of time to speak to the people on the stalls, didn't feel rushed"

Grampian Gathering (Living Well, Ageing Well, Dying Well)

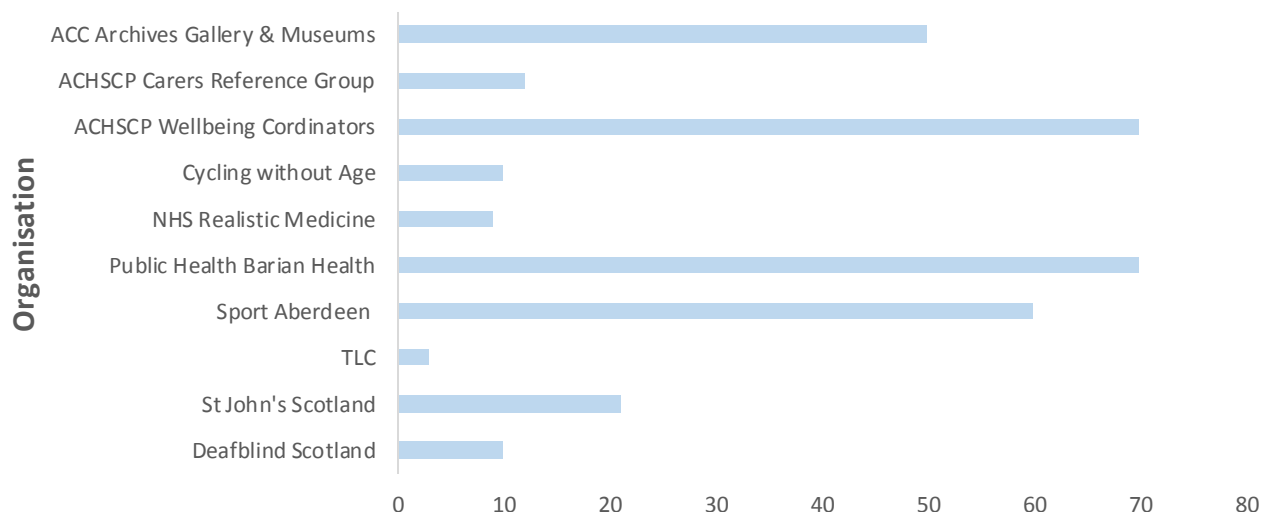


The second annual **Grampian Gathering** event was held at the Beach Ballroom on Saturday 12 October 2024. The event promoted active ageing and aimed to improve population health and wellbeing, with a view to reduce demand and pressures on the wider health and social care system through preventative approaches, whilst encouraging community empowerment and greater self-management of health and wellbeing. The Gathering also provided an opportunity to have open conversations on planning for end of life, and having a good death – topics which are often uncomfortable and sometimes stigmatised. The event programme included five celebrated speakers, taster sessions, live musical performances, and community information stalls. Evaluation data from the event is outlined below:

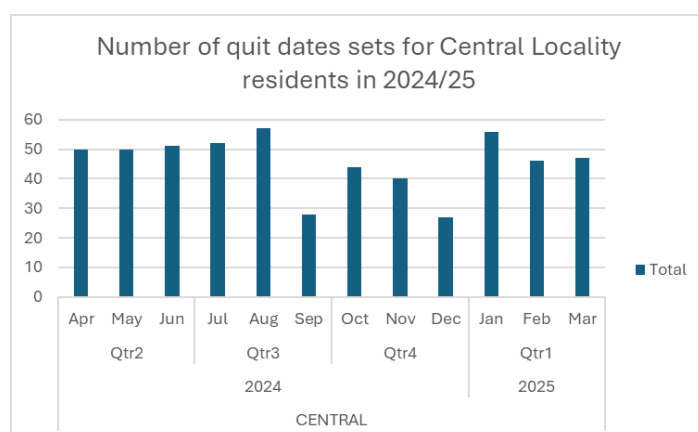
- 369 people attended the Gathering, including 60 community delegates from the Central Locality
- 8 speakers
- 61 stall holders from across private, public, third, independent, and community sectors
- 84% of community delegates who took part in the evaluation graded their experience at the Gathering to be 8/10 or greater
- The number of community delegates who signed up for activities, groups, or training at the Gathering is recorded below



STALL HOLDERS SIGN UP / TRAINED/ REFERRAL



Smoking Cessation



There are three Gold Standard pharmacies in Central Locality providing advanced public health services and have in-house public health champions who can help with all aspects of health and social care using referral pathways. **548 people** from Central Locality accessed smoking cessation support during 2024-25. A breakdown on the number of quit days they set during the year is shown in the chart opposite.

Healthy Weight Aberdeen and Whole Systems Approach

Over 20% of Primary 1 children in Aberdeen are at risk of being overweight, with higher rates in more deprived areas. Half of pregnant women in Aberdeen were overweight in 2022, and continues to rise year-on-year. Deprivation plays a significant role with those in the most deprived areas nearly twice as likely to be at risk of being an unhealthy weight. Trends also show inequalities based on gender, age, and ethnicity, with men and boys showing higher obesity rates compared to women and girls. Poor diets, low physical activity, and the severe health and economic consequences of obesity highlight the need for urgent, comprehensive public health interventions.

In response to this position, on 30th August 2024, the Healthy Weight Aberdeen approach event held. **111 people** from a range of sectors attended. The event provided a shared understanding of the reality of the challenge to address healthy weight consider how the local system is operating and where there are the greatest opportunities for change. The event report is available at [Healthy Weight Aberdeen Report-30 Aug 2024](#) and visit [Aberdeen City HSCP](#) for event highlights. Following the event we have now established a healthy Weight Aberdeen Systems Network Group to take the approach forward.



Through **our Healthy Life Choices project** we supported 59 adults, **23** from low income families in Central Locality to improve healthy eating behaviours and adopt good life choices to support healthy weight during 2024-25. During this period, 170 young people from priority neighbourhoods were also supported to improve healthy eating behaviours and adopt good life choices.

Innovative approaches to addressing health issues

What Moves You CIG ran dance sessions to improve physical and mental health for people with Cancer, and their families. The dance sessions have been well-received, with participants reporting improved physical fitness and mental wellbeing. The project has provided a fun and engaging way for people to stay active and connected. The project supported **30 people** with **three volunteers contributing 90 hours**. A participant with mobility issues showed significant improvement in their movement and confidence.

ACHSCP's Wellbeing Team and Aberdeen Football Club Community Trust (AFCCT) delivered the Scottish Football Association's Power of Football training programme at Pittodrie Stadium between September-November 2024. The eight week programme uses football to enhance participants' knowledge about menopause and their personal journeys, helping them comprehend the impact on their well-being, relationships, and professional lives. **Seven women completed the training** programme in November 2024, and a further 24 women have signed up to the programme waiting list for 2025. Two co-ordinators from ACHSCP & AFCCT are currently undergoing training to become accredited facilitators and are on track to be ready by June 2025. Feedback from women who completed the programme has been very positive, **a small sample of participant feedback is outlined below:**



"Definitely feel more educated and equipped with techniques."

"Keep doing what you're doing. You're all doing a fantastic job. You all made me feel very welcome and comfortable."

"I've enjoyed each week because I've learned something new each time and spent time with a lovely bunch of ladies."



The Stay Well Stay Connected show on SHMU radio first broadcast in 2024 with co-hosts Carol Baig and Hayley Ross from ACHSCP's Wellbeing Team. It is a monthly radio show which goes live on the second Monday of every month from 1pm-2pm. The radio show contains information on wellbeing

opportunities within the local area, as well as having guest speakers talking about a variety of different health and wellbeing topics.

Fersands and Fountain After School Club



At our Afterschool Club, we prioritize the safety and happiness of children by providing a nurturing environment. We pick children up from Kittybrewster and Woodside Primary Schools, ensuring they arrive safely at our centre where qualified staff are ready to care for them and offer healthy snacks. Our programme is designed to be fun and engaging, involving a variety of activities that include cooking, dancing, arts and crafts, team games, board games, quizzes, sports games in our gym hall and more. Children love joining in Zumba and fitness sessions, participating in musical games, facing exciting challenges, and enjoying movie nights. This is a Joint Partnership with Printfield Community Project.

Community Appointment Day – Aberdeen Vaccination and Wellbeing Hub – 5 February 2025

Community Appointment Days (CADs) are an innovative way of improving population health, social care, wellbeing by focusing on prevention and early intervention. CADs are centred around the simple concept of understanding what matters to someone, then working alongside them to make that happen. CADs promote patient empowerment and encourages them to learn more so they can more effectively self-manage chronic conditions, the idea is that this improves patient outcomes and overall population health, and helps to protect primary and secondary care services which are under severe pressure from growing waiting lists. CADs bring together a range of health, social care, and wellbeing services across private, public, and third sectors all under one roof in a community venue and allows attendees to have personalised conversations on what matters most to them. This recognises that the current system is set up to manage one condition at a time, whereas CADs take a more person-centred and holistic approach to treat such as complex issue. Chronic pain was assessed as being appropriate to trial a CAD in Aberdeen City as local waiting lists and times have increased in recent years and patients on the chronic pain waiting list, are also likely to be on other waiting lists for services such as podiatry or mental health. The 2023 Scottish Health Survey found that 38% of Scottish adults experienced chronic pain, this highlighted

Chronic Pain Support

Just Walk In

**5th February 2025
10.00am - 4.00pm
Vaccination & Wellbeing
Hub, Bon Accord Centre**

**Chronic Pain Community
Appointment Day - Free to Attend**

Come along to our Chronic Pain Community Appointment Day - Everyone welcome. Have a chat with our team about "What Matters to You" and take part in an Information and Q&A session delivered by NHS Grampian Chronic Pain Management Team. Gain some peer support in our Pain Cafe, speak to Allied Health Professionals (i.e. Physiotherapy, Dietitian, Occupational Therapists etc) and visit our community partner stalls which will include the following:

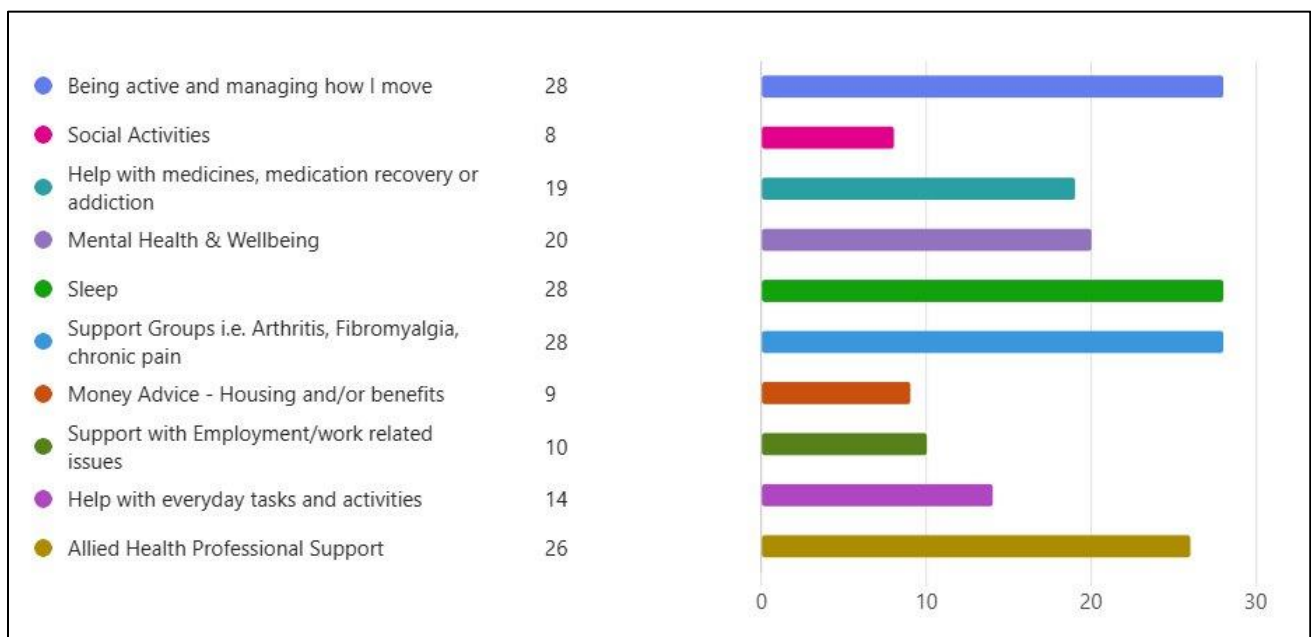
NHS Grampian Chronic Pain Team	Sport Aberdeen
Aberdeen Fibromyalgia Support Group	Versus Arthritis
University of Aberdeen Pain Research Team	Pain Concern
Aberdeen Action on Disability	Employability Support
Nuffield Sport Pain Programme	Aberdeen in Recovery
Department of Work & Pensions	Alcohol & Drugs Action
Mental Health & Wellbeing Support	Financial Support
Carers Support	Wellbeing Co-ordinators
Allied Health Professionals	Housing Support

Information available in other languages and formats by contacting Equality and Diversity on 01224 551116 or emailing gram.communications@nhs.scot

the importance of focussing not just on current waiting lists, but taking a more population level approach to prevent people from experiencing so much pain that they need referred to the hospital's Chronic Pain Team. There is a widespread recognition across all sectors supporting the Chronic Pain CAD that chronic pain cannot be resolved in hospitals, instead the most appropriate interventions need to be made in our communities.

The second Community Appointment Day in Aberdeen was held at the Aberdeen Vaccination and Wellbeing Hub on 5 February 2025, following the first CAD in Northfield on 27 November 2024. Evaluation data compiled by NHS Grampian Public Health and patient feedback is outlined below:

- **127 people attended** the CAD, with 61 people pre-booking their place, and 66 walk ins
- 77% of pre-booked attendees were female, which is largely reflective of the chronic pain waiting list
- The median age of pre-booked attendees was 64 years, although attendees ranged between 24-83 years
- **86% of pre-booked attendees had no previous contact with the Chronic Pain team**, highlighting the importance of taking a preventative, population level approach
- 37% of pre-booked attendees learned about the CAD via social media and 23% via their GP
- The chart below shows which support pre-booked attendees received at the CAD



"It's been a relief to talk to people who understand and can offer help and support. Chronic pain has affected my confidence, as I don't go out and I'm unable to work, so to speak with people who are empathetic has been amazing."

"Well worthwhile. Hope there are more of these types of programmes."

"Grateful to attend this much needed event and for giving some fresh knowledge and contacts. A morale booster as well!"

Volunteering in the Community

Supporting Young Carers

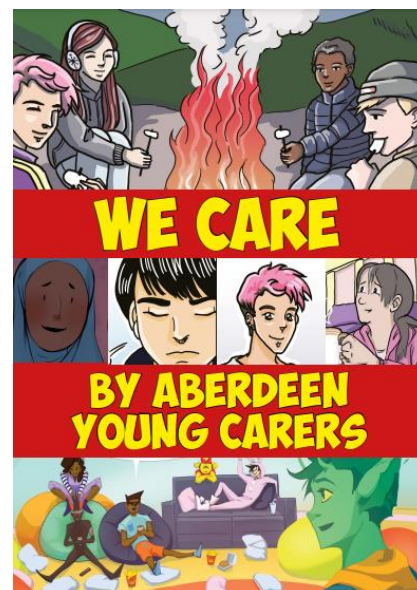
Despite the substantial support available for **young carers** in Aberdeen, identifying and referring them to this support can be challenging, as many do not recognise themselves as carers. The Young Carers project has aimed to increase the identification and support of young carers throughout the city. Since early last year, the city wide project has seen continued success, with a 20% increase in the number of young carers accessing support, rising from 126 in June 2023 to 151 in December 2024. As of March 2025 there were **60 young carers** supported in Central Locality.

Young Carer Case Study

A 12-year-old student at St Machar Academy, was referred to Barnardos Young Carer service in July 2021 through self-referral. The young carer (YC) cares for their brother with Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD), providing emotional, practical, and personal support. While the family had support for the parents and brother, YC lacked support. To address this, YC was registered for group activities and engaged well with others. YC was also assigned a volunteer befriender to provide social opportunities beyond their brother's interests.

The volunteer befriender noted that YC enjoys their outings, expresses opinions, and shows increased confidence. YC also participated in residential opportunities, including the Outward Bounds residential in April 2023 and the Scottish Young Carers Festival in August 2023, demonstrating teamwork, motivation, and resilience. YC's favourite activities were the crate climb and leap of faith.

Regular contact is maintained with YC's family to monitor the impact of the brother's ASD on YC and ensure YC receives adequate support. The family is also directed to additional support organisations like Quarriers Adult Carers Service and receives regular financial support opportunities.



Create local safe spaces to support outside activities

Activities for Children and Young People



PEEP is a programme delivered by Aberdeen City Council, in partnership with ACHSCP which offers early intervention to families who may require some additional support for a short period of time to prevent escalation to more intensive support. Peep can also support families back into their community as part of, or following social work intervention. In 2024, ACHSCP and the Council set

up a **PEEP Group at Lord Hay's Court**, which is a sheltered housing complex in Seaton. The sessions involve fun activities with the children, parents and older adults that attend. The group generally

has 3-4 parents and children, and a small group of residents from Lord Hay's Court. The group has been part of the Creating Intergenerational Communities pilot toolkit this year, with planning in place to extend these sessions into the South Locality.

Fersands Summer Holidays

A youth work summer programme was organised for and by 12-18 year olds. **Thirty two young**



people signed up to 13 activities and outings including Balmedie , Dundee Swimming, Paddleboarding ,Go Karting, Bowling, Hill Walking and Mountain Biking, as well as a Wellbeing week of relaxing and stress free activities including a Fishing Trip and Yoga. The kids had great new experiences diving off high boards and sand dunes, learning about coping strategies such as Yoga and conversations for good mental health.

Raise awareness of substance use service and provision

Healthy Beginnings is a resource that was created to highlight the effects of alcohol and smoking in pregnancy and was adapted from #Drymester and ASH Scotland resources. Three sessions have been delivered to ascertain how the resource was received, and its potential use. The sessions reinforced information on alcohol in pregnancy but highlighted the higher prevalence of those with Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) than attendees initially thought. Inclusion of short videos on the effect of alcohol on an egg, and the effects of smoke on an unborn child, were perceived as being impactful and useful in conjunction with other resources such as posters, leaflets, peer support and social media posts.

Attendees reported having more confidence in advising a pregnant mother to stop drinking alcohol than smoking, as smoking was seen as an addiction and more stressful to quit than alcohol. The effects of smoking on the mother-to-be and the growing foetus were understood but less was known of the effects of second-hand and third-hand smoke.

The resource provided information of support services for both alcohol and smoking during pregnancy, and the free Nicotine Replacement Treatment with behavioural support available from HealthPoint and Quit Your Way programme from community pharmacies across Grampian.

The Community Planning Partnership through our **fatal drug overdose projects** are focused on reducing drug related deaths (DRDs) through innovative developments and by increasing the distribution of naloxone. Naloxone is an emergency medication that can reverse the effects of an overdose of opioids like heroin or methadone and can save someone's life. During 2024-25, the project has focused on interventions in our priority neighbourhoods to increase public awareness and access to the life saving drug to people at risk of overdose, as well as to family members/friends of those in need.

The Aberdeen Protects app launched in December 2024 promotes the uptake and use of naloxone. The app is for anyone - whether parents, staff or people using substances. Whether its young people at a party, people out at the weekend or people who have used substances for a long time, we can all reduce harm by understanding the risks and how to respond. It enables people to:

- find nearest stockists of naloxone
- videos on how to use naloxone and respond to an overdose
- understand signs and symptoms of overdose
- harm reduction advice
- order postal naloxone kit online
- links to support services
- links to national drug alerts
- local push notifications of drug alerts, harms and local support














We're also getting out in the community and running community learning and development event to raise awareness of naloxone and support available. It is important that training on naloxone is available for everyone. Our young people are a key part of this. We are delighted to report that all secondary schools in Central Locality have staff members trained to administer naloxone and that from 2024-25, all S4 pupils had been trained in administering naloxone; in addition to the Level 6 first aid course. This provides them with a qualification, as well as the ability to save someone's life. Overall **276 naloxone kits** were supplied across Central Locality during 2024-25




Recovery from drug and alcohol-related harm is crucial for creating healthier communities. We know that each person's recovery journey is unique, and that providing a range of supportive opportunities helps sustain their recovery, reduce stigma, and increase resilience. Through our recovery project we are committed to building on the treatment, support and community peer led initiatives available and providing recovery support for individual, family, and community levels to help people live free from the potential harm of alcohol and drugs.

We have also increased support available over the weekend, with Aberdeen In Recovery (AiR) now running sessions on Sundays and Alcohol & Drugs Action open on Saturdays and Sundays, to ensure that when people need support they can access it. There were 126 members of Aberdeen In Recovery during Q1-2 of 2024-25. Of which **45%** were from Central Locality. On average AiR are running 14 different groups per week with the aim of providing a variety of options to meet the individuals interest and needs. Through Aberdeen In Recovery activities, between 4 April and 22 November, there were 9326 SAFE (Stable Addiction-Free Engagement) hours which equates to 1243.5 days.



WHAT IMPACT HAVE WE HAD IN 2024/25?

Youth Anti-Social Behaviour  <p>There were 1396 reported youth anti-social behaviour incidents across Central Locality during 2024. This is a 8.6% improvement on the 1527 incidents reported during 2023. Central Locality recorded the highest number of a youth anti-social behaviour incidents across Aberdeen City.</p> <p>679 incidents took place in the city centre which was the highest per area across the Central Locality</p>	Positive destinations  <p>94.3% of Central Locality school leavers achieved an initial positive destination, this is the highest in Aberdeen City. With 92.05% of St Machar Academy leavers achieving a positive destination</p>	Mental Health  <p>15.9% of people who live in Central Locality have been prescribed drugs for anxiety, depression, or psychosis. This is below the Aberdeen City figure of 17.4%</p>
Teenage Pregnancies <p>In Central Locality, 21.90 per 1000 girls and young women recorded pregnancies. This is just above the Aberdeen City average rate of 19.8 per 1000 girls and young women.</p>	Counselling for Young People  <p>100% of schools in Central Locality offer counselling and Active School activities</p>	Working Together with Parents  <p>27 new PEEP practitioners trained during 2024-25 to support parents with young children</p>
Young People Volunteering  <p>878 young people from Central Locality received a Saltire Award. 3623 young people received a Saltire Award across Aberdeen City</p>	Healthy Eating  <p>8.9% of people in the Central Locality said they were unable to eat healthy and nutritious food due to poverty. This compares to 10.5% of people in priority neighbourhoods (City Voice 50, 2024)</p>	Community Empowerment  <p>369 people attended the Stay Well Stay Connected – Grampian Gathering, held at the Beach Ballroom on 12 October 2024 which celebrated active ageing. 60 attendees were from Central Locality.</p>
Alcohol Awareness  <p>49.1% of people in the Central Locality said they didn't know the maximum number of alcohol units recommended per week. 28.7% of people who live in Central Locality do not drink alcohol. This figure is 29.1% across Aberdeen City</p>	Drug Related Deaths  <p>276 naloxone kits supplied in Central Locality during 2024-25</p>	Drug Related Hospital Stays  <p>The rate of drug related hospital stays for the Central Locality was 248.5 per 100,000 population. This is a slight improvement from 250 per 100,000 in 2022. The Central Locality continues to have the</p>

(City Voice 49, 2024)		highest rate of drug related hospital stays across Aberdeen City
Alcohol Related Mortality Rates	Deaths from Suicide	Life Expectancy
 <p>Alcohol related mortality rates in Central Locality are now 34.1 people per 100,000. This is significantly higher than the Aberdeen City rate of 19.9 people per 100,000. Central Locality has the highest proportion of alcohol related mortality rates across Aberdeen City</p>	 <p>The rate of death from suicide in the Central Locality is 10.5 per 100,000, this is below the citywide average of 11.1 per 100,000 of the population.</p>	 <p>Men who live in West End North can expect to live 83.2 years, whereas men in Old Aberdeen can expect to live 68.1 years – This is the area with the lowest life expectancy for men in Aberdeen City. The average life expectancy for a man in Aberdeen City is 76.9 years.</p> <p>Women who live in West End North can expect to live 88.1 years, whereas women in Woodside can expect to live 74.4 years. The average life expectancy for a woman in Aberdeen City is 80.9 years.</p>

AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT IN 2025/26

- Work with Community Safety Partnership to expand the no. of community safety initiatives
- Promote road safety
- Increase the number of people who have access to nutritious food

Our Place



OUR PRIORITIES

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

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

WHAT PROGRESS HAVE WE MADE DURING 2024/25?

Supporting greenspace development

Encourage community growing spaces

Mounthooly Roundabout

The idea for the Mounthooly Garden was born out of the George Street Masterplan, which highlighted a lack of developed green spaces in the area. In response, we engaged with the community to identify their aspirations and needs, leading to the concept of a Forest Garden - a sustainable, edible ecosystem that serves both environmental and social purposes.



Aberdeen Community Planning, CFine Community Growing team, students from NESCOL and residents of George St and surrounding area held meetings over a year which culminated in a planting day. Mounthooly will be used as a community space, a location for learning, socialising and gardening. **22 participants** came to the planting day which saw 12 sapling apple and pear trees planted and there are plans to plant a further 8 more mature apple trees. These trees will form the basis of the Forest Garden. This project will contribute to improved access to healthy food in this area which has a lack of accessible green spaces.

The phased approach to planting allows project participants to dip their toes in, and find their way as they go along. As the project develops, we hope participants - particularly local residents will be eager and excited to take the lead in developing the garden further, choosing whether to incorporate more complex elements or components that may require additional maintenance. This approach aims to ensure the garden project is sustainable, genuinely community-informed and led, and a healthy, welcoming, safe space for everyone.



Rosemount Community Garden

A group of volunteers have come together to transform a previously unused area of greenspace within the Rosemount Community Centre grounds into a community garden. The group meets weekly to design and develop the garden into an attractive and educational space. Over the course of the



project Skene Square Primary School and Midstocket Play Group have used the area and supported the creation of the



community garden. The volunteers also collaborated with the Rosemount Community Centre Association for support with storage and access to the garden-site, and local Men's Sheds to borrow and share tools. The project aims to increase physical activity, improve mental health and wellbeing and reduce social isolation, as well as providing education around gardening and growing.

Mile End Primary School created a sensory garden in the school grounds to support learning and engagement. The sensory garden has been completed, providing a safe and inclusive outdoor environment for children. The garden has supported learning and engagement, helping children with additional needs feel more regulated and connected. The project supported **600+ people** with **20 volunteers contributing 45 hours**. The garden has become a favourite spot for children to explore and learn about nature.

Encouraging the Use of Greenspaces for Healthy Benefits

Mighty Oaks Menopause Health Walks began in 2023 in Powis, and is a group which empowers women to take control of the menopause through walking, talking, laughing and supporting each other. The walks take place twice a month on Wednesday evenings from Powis Community Centre between 5:30pm-7pm. The first hour is a gentle walk followed by a cup of tea and a natter. The group size varies throughout the year, however there is now a core group that continue to do this walk led by a volunteer from Powis Community Centre. Participants have reported they now walk multiple times a week which is a fantastic outcome.

Feedback from participants:

“Love it. Really good just to meet other women going through the same thing to share experiences and have a safe place to talk.”

“You are doing great job, keep it up. It is good to come along sharing experiences and coping mechanisms.”



Women's Health Social Bike Rides began in 2024 with ACHSCP's Wellbeing Team working in partnership with Sport Aberdeen to set up a social bike ride for women once a week. The group started off small but eventually had **six women attending weekly**, the group can only accommodate eight people, so this was a great achievement, we are hoping it will be as successful in 2025!

Over the last year **Sport Aberdeen** have also developed a cycling hub at the Raymond Kelly Pavilion in Seaton, which currently hosts the Grampian Inclusive Cycle Bothy programme for Aberdeen (twice a week) – designed to provide cycling opportunities which are more accessible to adults and young people with disabilities and additional support needs. Adult & Family Learn to Bike and Cycle confidence sessions have also been based there through our partnership with Scottish Cycling's Rock Up and Ride programme. Strong partnerships have also been formed with Sustrans, who have used the pavilion as a base for their iBike Schools programme which has focused on the St Machar Associated School Group area over the last two years



Tackle Waste in our Communities

With the winds that blow from the beach and the through the high rises there is a steady stream of litter being blown in Seaton. This was seen as an opportunity to bring the community together, **Fresh Community Wellness, Seaton management team and the Community Council** came together and organised a litter pick Barbeque day.






In total there were **30 volunteers** from the local community came together to enjoy the barbeque, connect with their community and help in picking litter. In total **25 bags of rubbish** were picked over the course of a few hours. There are plans to make this a regular community event.



ALC Aberdeen have received, refurbished and distributed **28 bikes** in Tillydrone over the last twelve months. They are given to children and young people who do not have access to a bike. The bikes are donated to the ALC as owners think they have come to the end of their usefulness.

Young people are supported to learn about bike maintenance to support them to look after the bikes they receive free of charge.

WHAT IMPACT HAVE WE HAD IN 2024/25?

Satisfaction with Green Space	Community Growing Spaces	Community Managed Green Spaces
 <p>87% of Central Locality respondents reported being satisfied or fairly satisfied with the overall quality of green/open spaces. This is significantly higher than the 74% of respondents for Aberdeen City collectively (City Voice 51, 2024)</p>	 <p>12 supported community food growing projects happening across Central Locality</p>	 <p>6 community groups being supported to look after community green space in priority neighbourhoods</p>
Cycling	Walking	Community Resilience
 <p>13.1% of people in the Central cycled in the last year as a sustainable travel choice (City Voice 51, 2024)</p>	 <p>74.6% of people in the Central Locality walk as one mode of transport. However this number falls to 68.8% in priority neighbourhoods (City Voice 51, 2024)</p>	<p>There are 0 Community Resilience Groups currently operating within Central Locality</p>

AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT IN 2025/26

- Work with community partners to deliver more litter picks
- Establish Community Resilience Groups across the Central Locality

Our Communities



OUR PRIORITIES

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

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

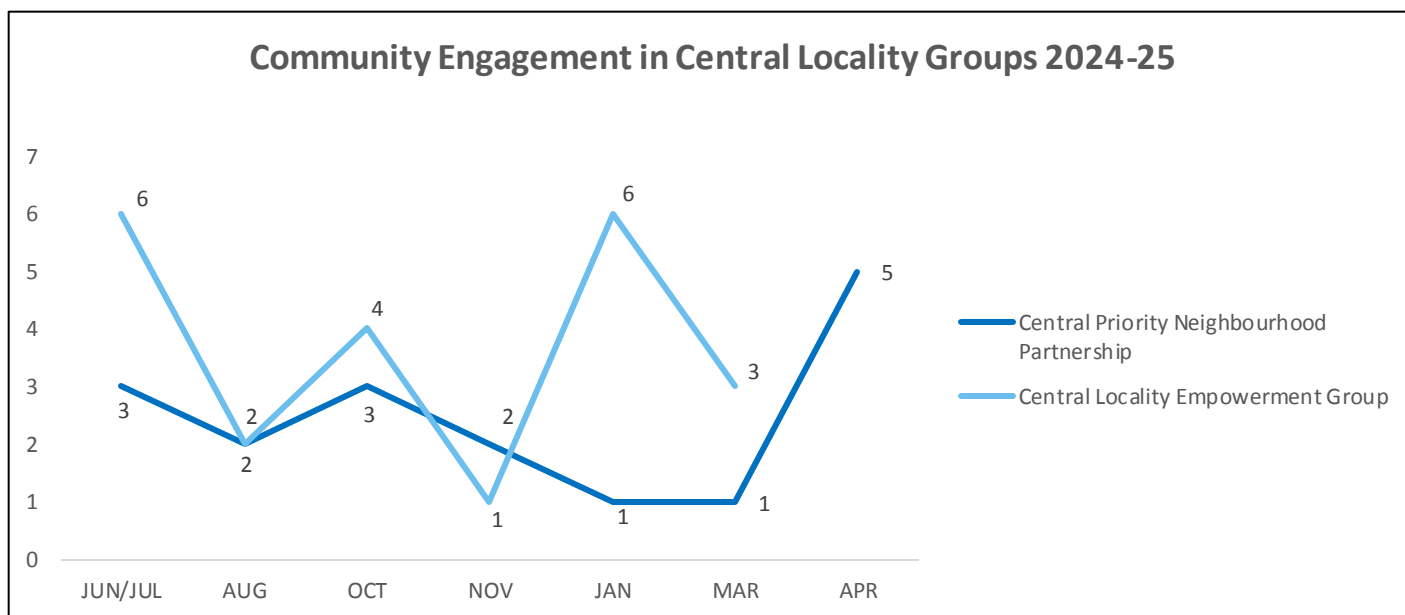
PROGRESS MADE DURING 2024/25

Community Participation

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

Community members in Central Locality can get involved through a range of methods:

- Central Locality Empowerment Group (LEG)
- Central Priority Neighbourhood Partnership (PNP)
- UDecide Participatory Budgeting
- Fairer Aberdeen Board
- Place Standard Community Engagement



Stay updated

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

As well as this, we have a number of ways to stay updated on what is going on in your neighbourhood.

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

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

Get Involved

Following a citywide meeting with our existing community representatives, they had the following to say about what they gain from involvement:



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

[Our Communities - Community Planning Aberdeen](#)

localityplanning@aberdeencity.gov.uk

Community Funding



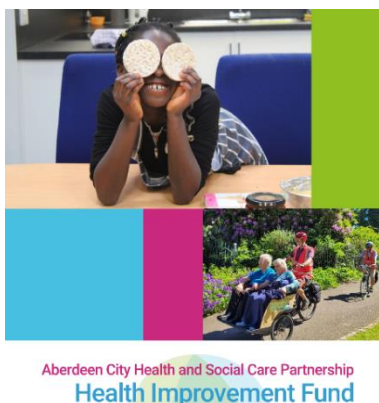
The Locality Planning team led the delivery of a **UDecide Participatory Budgeting** process. There was £60,000 of funding available to community groups, £40,000 from Community Planning Aberdeen and a further £20,000 from the Fairer Aberdeen Fund. This provided a total of £20,000 available for each of the three localities.

Applications were open to community groups in Tillydrone, Woodside, Seaton, Stockethill, Ashgrove and George Street who were able to demonstrate how their projects and activities related to one or more of the community ideas detailed within the Central Locality Plan.

Funding was awarded to 7 projects across those areas and 1 projects was partially funded. You can read more about the process here: [UDecide Report 2025](#).



Funded UDecide Projects
ALC School Breakfast Club Safe, warm breakfast Club for Academy and younger students. <i>Locality Plan Priority Link: Sustain and develop community food provision including food pantries</i>
Tillydrone Community Flat Foodbank A lifeline for vulnerable residents supplying emergency food <i>Locality Plan Priority Link: Sustain and develop community food provision including food pantries</i>
Soup and sandwich Club Free nutritious meal club reducing social isolation and ensuring people don't go hungry <i>Locality Plan Priority Link: Sustain and develop community food provision including food pantries</i>
The Aberdeen North Foodbank Helping put food on the table and ensuring people do not go hungry, <i>Locality Plan Priority Link: Sustain and develop community food provision including food pantries</i>
U-Band Community band introducing people to Ukrainian culture. <i>Locality Plan Priority Link: Support English as Second Language (ESOL) families to access services</i>
Fun in the Sun! Four weeks of free, welcoming activities for 8-12 year olds in the Summer. <i>Locality Plan Priority Link: Create indoor and outdoor opportunities for activities (young people).</i>
Empowher Providing a safe, supportive space for women to discuss mental health <i>Locality Plan Priority Link: Develop programmes of activities to informally support mental wellbeing</i>
Schools First Aid Training Services CIC First Aid training covering basic and essential skills for P5-7. <i>Locality Plan Priority Link: Upskilling communities and partners' knowledge of health and wellbeing, weight management, services, and training</i>



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

Funded Health Improvement Fund Projects	
SCIO Activities Group - Tillydrone Community Campus	Intergenerational Arts & Crafts sessions. Chair based yoga/fitness sessions.
Sports & Exercise at the Breadmaker - The Breadmaker	Sporting activities and exercise for Adults with learning disabilities
Developing the Team and Garden of Bonnymuir Green Community Trust.	Adding a greenhouse to the Bonnymuir Green garden, & refreshing staff First Aid at Work training.
Food for all - Seaton Community Hub	Providing a new approach to providing food for people in Seaton.
Knit and Chatter intergenerational sessions - Your Love Rara	Integrated craft and mental health sessions to build bridges between generations.
Soup and Sandwich Club - Aberdeen City Council	Soup and Sandwich lunch club once a month at Cornhill community Centre.
Aberdeen Foyer Winter Wellbeing Project - Aberdeen Foyer	Provide inclusive space to share food, reduce isolation, increase employability through learning
Initial training for Grampian Birth Buddies - Grampian Birth Buddies	Training a group of women to support their peers through the perinatal period.
Cornhill Community Art Space Programme - Cornhill Community Association	Develop the community art space programme and add groups and classes to support local people struggling with their Mental Health through creative means.
Time for Me – Building skills and resilience – Quarriers	Project will help carers gain skills, build confidence and have a break from caring.
Campaign for warm healthy homes – NESFit	Aim to support and empower communities by giving them data to understand how their housing conditions affect their health. We will do this by purchasing health monitoring equipment to lend out to householders to monitor environmental factors that affect health.
Happy Children, Happy Families - Sunnybank Community Centre Association	Messy Play and Playgroup sessions for families with young children. Youth Club for Primary age children.

Health and Diversity Network – GREC

The Grampian Health and Diversity Network (GH & DN) is an initiative by the Grampian Regional Equality Council (GREC) aimed at empowering ethnic minority community members to improve their own health and wellbeing.

The Fairer Aberdeen Fund is allocated by Aberdeen City Council to tackle poverty and deprivation. The Fund is allocated by a deliberative participatory budgeting approach, with a Board made up of Elected Members, Community Planning Partners, and community representatives with lived experience. The Fund supports initiatives and services in priority areas, as well as vulnerable groups across the city. In Central Locality, **27 initiatives** were funded to deliver activities with a **value of £520,000**. In addition, the Fairer Aberdeen Fund allocated £25,000 to undertake a PB event in the Rosehill, Stockethill and Cornhill area during October 2024. A steering group made up of partners and community representatives prioritised the funding for initiatives to improve the community, support social inclusion, and tackle isolation and loneliness. Funding was awarded to six initiatives supporting parents and toddlers, youth work, and community activities.

Through the **Woodside Decides** initiative, Shmu and the Woodside Network have been testing how small funding pots can be utilised to encourage local residents to have a greater sense of control and influence within their community, and therefore to become more actively involved in Community Planning activity in their local area. Funding for this test of change was sourced from Community Planning Aberdeen, ACVO, North East Culture Collective and NESCAN Hub.

£18,000 of funds across 4 themes, and a range of community engagement events and activity has taken place over the past year. This has included open events, advertised widely, bringing together people from across the community, as well as more targeted events for women and older people. There have also been outreach activities within sheltered housing complexes, and a youth project at Printfield Community Project. So far around £8,000 has been allocated, whilst other initiatives are under way to allocate the remaining funds and approximately **170 people** have taken part or participated in Woodside Decides.



Consultation & Engagement



Participation of communities and people's rights lie at the heart of community planning and our communities are key to informing and shaping our plans and strategies. Using the steps within the community empowerment toolkit, and the Participation, Accountability, Non-discrimination and equality, Empowerment and Legality (PANEL) principles, Community

Planning Aberdeen launched its "Your Place, Your Plans, Your Future" engagement in March 2025. This builds on the community engagement which took place in 2023 using the Place Standard tool to inform the refresh of the Local Outcome Improvement Plan in 2024, engaging 465 people. This year the approach has been enhanced and adapted to enable the single engagement to help inform a number of plans and strategies being developed by the Partnership.

We know that different people will have different needs. We wanted to make sure that everyone has the opportunity to share their views, including those that are seldom heard, and those who may be experiencing any form of inequality or disadvantage. As well as an online version, we held six locality events, including one at Aberdeen Sports Village and another at Rosemount Community Centre a children and young people's version, and took the conversation into schools and communities across Aberdeen, capturing thoughts and feelings about life in Aberdeen.

Our [outreach programme](#) details all the groups and locations we attended to help support people have their say.



The engagement closed on 18 May 2025 and analysis of participation and results is underway. The data will be used to inform the multiple plans and strategies, including the Local outcome Improvement Plan 2026-36 and Locality Plans for North, South and Central. Using the results, we will work with communities to co-create solutions through the development of the next Plans, ensuring that local people are at the heart of community planning.

In addition, the Locality Planning Team continues its outreach work, and engages on a regular basis with individual community members, and community groups and organisations such as community councils and the local third sector.

During May 2024, the Council's Community Learning and Development (CLD) service was inspected by His Majesty's Inspectorate of Education (HMIE). HMIE inspectors reviewed the City's locality planning arrangements and interviewed LEG and PNP community members. In their inspection

report, HMIE reported that CLD's **"Successful engagement of community representatives is starting to ensure that their [community member] views are included in locality planning and the refresh of the LOIP"**.

AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT IN 2025/26

- Host more citywide locality planning engagement sessions
- Add more content to the Locality Planning section of the Community Planning Aberdeen website
- Prepare an induction pack for community members joining a LEG or PNP
- Increase the number and diversity of people engaging in locality planning meetings, activities, and projects. Participation in Priority Neighbourhood Partnerships has declined, particularly in the North and Central Localities. To address this, we are exploring new methods to boost engagement, acknowledging that each neighbourhood has unique needs. Our focus has been on hyper-local engagement. A recent test of change in Seaton tested the idea that holding area focused meetings within neighbourhoods could increase attendance. Additionally, by concentrating on area specific priorities from the Locality Plan, we aimed to encourage those with a particular interest in those issues to participate. You can read more about the test [here](#).

Your Locality Planning Team

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

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



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Transformation Programme
Manager

Aberdeen City Health and
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Jade Leyden

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Aberdeen City Health and
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Graham Donald

Community Development
Officer

Aberdeen City Council

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Aberdeen City - North Locality

Annual Outcome Improvement Report 2024-25



North Locality Neighbourhoods:

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



**Community
Planning
Aberdeen**

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Welcome

Welcome to the third annual report against the North Locality Plan first published in 2021, and the first report since our Locality Plan was refreshed in April 2024. The North Locality plan sets out how Community Planning Aberdeen and its member organisations will work together with communities to deliver improved outcomes for the 14

neighbourhoods in the locality and for the locality as a whole. The Locality Plan was prepared by the Locality Planning Team following engagement activity between March-April 2025 and with oversight and support from our North Locality Empowerment Group and North Priority Partnership.

The report provides an update on progress made against the six priorities identified by community members in the North Locality Plan. It includes information on key activities and the impact these have had across the North Locality and in our priority neighbourhoods of Middlefield, Northfield, Cummings park, Sheddocksley, Mastrick, Summerhill, and Heathryfold. Importantly the report sets out areas for improvement and further attention which the Locality Planning Team will focus on over the next year.

Our focus is always on delivery of outcomes to improve the economy, place, and lives of people across the North Locality. We have adopted a community led approach and want to take every opportunity to empower and celebrate our communities. This is particularly important as we find ourselves in a very challenging financial environment with public bodies, third sector partners, and community groups all under pressure; it is essential we all work together to achieve the key findings of the Christie Commission (2011) to collaborate more effectively and shift the balance of public services from a demand based model towards prevention. This report provides a baseline for how we are currently performing in the North Locality, with a commitment to continuous improvement moving forward.

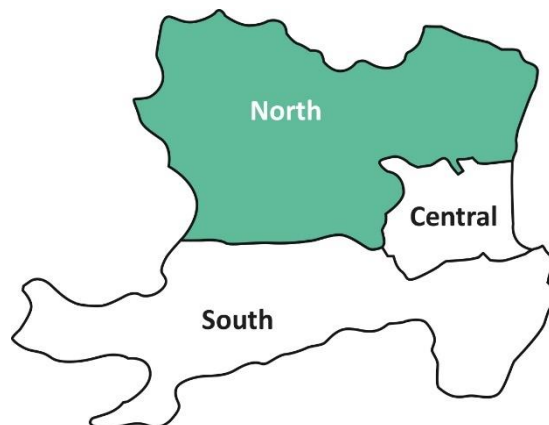
This report is split into the following sections:

Our Economy – Page 3

Our People – Page 11

Our Place – Page 25

Our Community – Page 28





OUR PRIORITIES

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

Priority 1. Reduce the number of people living in poverty

PROGRESS MADE DURING 2024/25

Create Opportunities for Fair Work

Social Enterprises and small businesses

Business Gateway's business start-up project has supported 45 individuals across Aberdeen City to start their own businesses during 2024-25. This initiative has enabled participants to either come off universal credit or significantly reduce their reliance on them. **15 new businesses were set up** in North Locality through deployment of dedicated community business advisors; targeted funding from ABZ Works' seed funding to remove financial barriers; and a partnership referral pathway. The transition from benefit dependency to business ownership has been life-changing for many participants, who have gained financial independence and confidence, underscoring the importance of dedicated and localised support.



Enchanted Elements: Case Study Shantelle first engaged with Business Gateway in February 2024 at the Cummings Park Community Centre, aiming to launch a party hire business from a retail unit. Her plan included offering equipment like popcorn and candy floss machines for events, retailing children's costumes and party bags, and providing food and party services.

Realising the financial impracticality of a shop unit, we reassessed her business model, focusing on online sales and event-based trading. With support from ABZWorks and successful Seed Fund Start Up funding, Shantelle launched her business. Her first major initiative, renting a stall at the Trinity Centre, did not yield sales or bookings. Viewing this as a learning opportunity, Shantelle appreciated not committing to a permanent retail unit prematurely. We held follow-up meetings to adjust her strategy, and she remains engaged with Business Gateway for ongoing support.

Support for Entrepreneurial

Initiatives Recognising that flexible working arrangements are often key to balancing family and career, ABZ Works has allocated Seed Fund grants of up to £5,000 per person

which has supported 19 parents in 24-25. This support has enabled them to launch their own business, promoting self-employment and offering new pathways for income generation that can accommodate their childcare needs. In North Locality, **seven parents** have benefited from this initiative.



Paid Work Experience Placements in ELC Settings: ABZ Works' initiative to support career pathways in the early learning and childcare (ELC) sector has seen the successful placement of **10 paid work experience opportunities** which have supported parents. These placements not only provide practical, on-the-job experience for parents but also contribute to building a robust workforce in the ELC sector. The placements have been flexible to work around existing childcare arrangements. In North Locality, **two placements** have been provided.

Sector-Based Training for Expanded Childcare Access: To address long-term capacity issues in the childcare sector, ABZ Works has commissioned training activities targeted at enhancing skills and broadening access. This program has reached 29 individuals, including 10 parents, providing them with specialised sector-based training. The goal is to empower participants with the skills needed to support and expand high-quality childcare services in our communities. In North Locality, **13 individuals** have received training.



Northfield Academy pupils participated in the **Careers in Health event**, a collaborative effort between Nescol and RGU, held over two days (29-30 October 2024). The event aimed to raise awareness of career pathways in the health sector. The S4 pupils, along with students from 11 other schools, visited both Nescol's City Campus and RGU's campus at Garthdee. They engaged in various activities related to careers in Health, exploring pathways in Healthcare, Fitness Health and Exercise, and Life Sciences.

Middlefield Community Project supports local employability through partnership working with ABZ Works. Activities within Middlefield include: Arts and crafts, local history, coping skills, sign language, gardening and food growing, cooking groups, youth work groups, men's groups, Pathways support, WorkingRite, apprenticeships in the nursery, and volunteering

and job opportunities through the community café.

ABZ Works Development Fund is a grant programme to support local organisations in building their capacity to deliver employability-related activities, with a focus on those facing barriers to employment, and aims to help residents gain access to employability programmes and work. Some of the recipients of the Development Funds are noted below:

Mastrick Community Centre and **Mastrick, Sheddocksley, and Summerhill Community Council** are actively involved in employability initiatives funded through the ABZ Works Development Fund (Phase 3). These projects are taking place between January and March 2025.

The **'Future Focus: CV Workshop' Series** supports unemployed individuals in **Mastrick, Sheddocksley, and Summerhill** by equipping them with essential job market skills. It offers workshops and one-on-one sessions for CV improvement, application tailoring, and cover letter writing. Workshops are held in local venues to reduce logistical and financial barriers, ensuring accessibility for care-experienced individuals, parents in poverty, and those over 50.

Mastrick Community Centre has been funded to establish an employability café, providing a welcoming environment for individuals to enjoy coffee, chat with staff, and explore training and job opportunities. The café aims to build meaningful relationships and offer comprehensive support, including CV building, interview training, job search assistance, and guidance on training opportunities and funding. Individuals can identify and overcome barriers at their own pace with dedicated staff assistance. The focus is on boosting confidence and skills, enabling local people to connect with employers and other organisations for further training or employment opportunities.

Middlefield Community Project, funded by the ABZ Works Development Fund (Phase 2), supported two areas of work during 2024-25. Firstly, it increased support for volunteers by providing a budget for qualifications like REHIS, First Aid, and Customer Service courses, along with mentoring and management time. Secondly, it funded two, year-long adult learning classes and offers coping skills sessions to help people access these opportunities and support their mental health.



Build Your Future event @The Hub attracted 25 local people to access support from Robertson Construction, ABZ Works, SHMU, Pathways, and Middlefield Community Project at an Employability Morning hosted at the Middlefield Hub. **Two local people** who attended the event are now in full time employment or have started an apprenticeship. Several other attendees have accessed additional training or are now in sessional staff roles hoping to increase their hours. The event was a huge success.

ABZ Works has also been working alongside Sport Aberdeen at **Get Active @ Northfield** where we have set up an information stand targeting mainly parents who are attending the centre with their children. We provided information on our employability service and what support is available to Northfield residents. We spoke to approximately **80 people** over four weeks in March 2025. We are exploring the possibility of continuing the information sessions at The Middlefield Community Project.

ABZWorks conducted a **city-wide skills audit** in Aberdeen during April 2025, surveying residents to improve employability services. The aim was to identify desired skills, training and support needed for entering or returning to work. Feedback is gathered through various methods, including door-to-door visits in Northfield and other priority neighbourhoods to reach those digitally excluded or not in touch with local services. Currently, 45% of survey respondents are from Northfield.



The **Saltire Awards** continue to recognise and enhance volunteering by young people aged between 12-25 in Aberdeen City. The awards are co-ordinated by Aberdeen Council of Voluntary Organisations (ACVO) and contribute positively to development of employability skills. During 2024, 3623 young people across the city registered with the Saltire Awards, including **1622 young people** from North Locality. The North Locality had the highest number of young people achieving a Saltire Award across Aberdeen City.

The **Family Learning team** have delivered four courses with a focus on readiness to work, incorporating key employability skills such as confidence building and working with others. Learners has completed approx. **36 SQA Awards** in session 2024/25 across the North Locality. The team are developing SQA accreditation for all of their universal courses. In addition, Family Learning have supported parents and carers with over £15,000 worth of childminding hours through the Scottish Childminding Association, providing placements for **16 children** across the North Locality. As well as linking families to childcare funding support via ABZ Works. This has reduced barriers to engagement with our universal courses or 1:1 targeted support to families.



Affordable Childcare

Financial Support for Childcare Costs: ABZ Works continued its commitment to support parents to remain or enter the workforce by providing targeted financial support towards childcare costs. This initiative is designed to alleviate one of the largest barriers to parental employment, ensuring parents can pursue or sustain meaningful work without the overwhelming weight of unaffordable childcare expenses. In North Locality, **five families** benefited from this support.

Danestone Community Centre ran a **Community Nappy Exchange**, providing nappies to families in need. The project has helped reduce the financial burden on families and promote sustainability. The project supported **545 people**. Families have expressed gratitude for the support provided by the nappy exchange.

Support our Most Vulnerable Families

Community food provision and community pantries

The Cubby was created in 2019 as a response to households struggling with everyday costs, The Cubby is based in Cummings Park Community Centre to alleviate food poverty and food anxiety. Different models were looked at including the Food Bank and Pantry models. The Pantry model was initially chosen to reduce any stigma, give a shopping experience, and promote social interaction.

Traditionally, the pantry model involved membership and session fees as people like to contribute, however, it was quickly recognised some did not have the fees so could not contribute. The fees were replaced with an honesty box with no expectation to contribute.

Currently The Cubby opens fortnightly and supports between **15-20 households** each session. Funded by Cummings Park Community Association, Health Improvement Funding, and the Trade Widows Project, the Cubby has purchased fridge freezers, and Fairshare via Cfine. The Cubby provides dried goods, tins, frozen foods, plus fresh vegetables and fruit while encouraging healthy eating as an option to members. It also signposts to other services as the need arises.

"It's handy knowing it's there if I need it, it's accessible to me and a fall back if things are getting tight."



Four volunteers at a time run each Cubby with shopping, registration, stock taking, setting out the food, dealing with customers and tidying up some of the duties entailed. Each session uses **18 volunteer hours giving a total of 432 volunteer hours a year** supporting the initiative. Volunteers have gained confidence, met new friends and been given renewed purpose. They are all enthusiastic and willing to contribute more.



"Volunteering helps my motivation and gives some purpose, rather than being stuck in the house. It's helped my confidence as I have to speak to people, even though I'm not at my best. It's helped me reflect on how I deal with things and learn to listen to people around me more."

"I like volunteering at the Cubby, I feel I'm helping out and gives me a chance to speak to folk."

During 2024-25 however, the rising cost of food prices has meant fewer food and domestic items have been donated, which unfortunately has impacted on the budget of the Cummings Park Association.

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

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

There is a Fit Like Hub based in Manor Park Community Hub in the North Locality.



Cash First Aberdeen

Our **Cash First project** is testing a flexible cash first crisis fund for people facing financial emergencies. Using funding from the Scottish Government Cash First Pilot, ACVO and partners launched the fund on the 4th of

November 2024 for single males, aged 18-45, who are in receipt of Universal credit and are presenting at food banks as food insecure. The fund is co-designed by local third-sector organisations alongside 70 lived experience voices; including those from CFINE's lived experience group. Between January to April 2025, the fund has supported 57 individuals. Of those 57 people, **15 Cash First recipients were from North Locality**, with 47% of those recipients being from priority neighbourhoods. In North Locality, **£7,360.79** of Cash First Funding was distributed.

Financial Inclusion

Funded by Multiply Funding, The Council's Family Learning Team supported **16 people** to take part in a four session Managing Money course at Cummings Park Community Centre. Content included creating a household budget, taking control of your money, the cost of credit and when debt becomes a problem, plus advice on how to help your child learn money skills. St Machar Credit Union also came along to speak to the groups, after which many of those attending joined the Credit Union. Twelve of the participants completed a level 2 SQA module in numeracy, and one of the groups visited the Money Museum in Edinburgh. The Money Museum have decided to develop family activities due to the visit from Aberdeen residents.

"I'm keeping track of my budgeting more"

"I'm planning ahead and understand more about interest rates"

"Very informative and engaging!"

Distribution of the **Rent Assistance Fund** has been far reaching and utilised by families who need assistance to keep on top of their rent payments. The Pilot Rent Assistance Fund aims to assist Council tenants who may be facing financial hardship and through no fault of their own can't afford an increase in the rent they currently pay. The £500,000 fund is funded through Aberdeen City Council's Housing Revenue Account budget. During 2024-25, **177 people from North Locality** received support from the Rent Assistance Fund.

Enhancing Financial Inclusion To further support families, ABZ Works supported a secondment for a dedicated financial inclusion officer within the employability team. This role provided invaluable assistance to families in identifying and accessing their full range of benefit entitlements, including childcare support. This proactive measure helps ensure eligible families have the help needed to access the support they are entitled to. In North Locality, **40 families have been assisted**.

Fuel poverty & Affordable heating

Scarf is a social enterprise, based in Aberdeen, that delivers free advice to householders and businesses including advice on how to reduce heating costs. In North Locality, **542 enquiries** were received, of these 193 households were in fuel poverty. As a result of support from Scarf, including help to heat homes, energy advice, home visits, and onwards referrals, **11% of households** were removed from fuel poverty.



English as a Second Language Support




The Community Learning and Development **Adult Learning team** have delivered 55 ESOL activities to 330 learners most of whom have reported an increase in confidence (awaiting information to provide more context). Core ESOL classes follow a communicative approach focusing on developing learners' basic English skills to a level which will allow them to function in society.




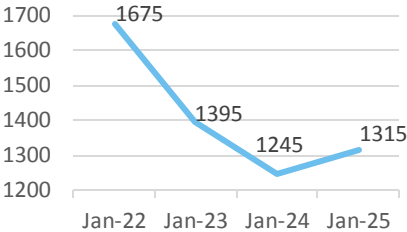
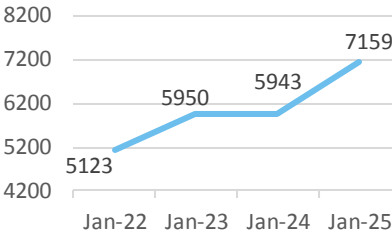

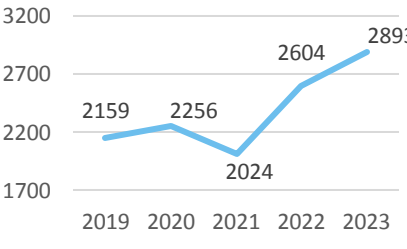


Classes start at literacy level, where learners are taught how to read and write the roman alphabet and go up to Pre-Intermediate level (A2, National 3). Learners are able to prepare for SQA ESOL awards at National 2 and 3 level. They also have the opportunity to complete SQA Core Skills Numeracy Level 2 awards.

As well as core classes, ESOL learners also have the opportunity to participate in short courses on a range of topics, such as Scottish culture and visit places around Aberdeen, such as the Art Gallery or Old Aberdeen. Weekly board games sessions at the Maritime Museum also provide learners with an opportunity to develop their speaking skills in a different setting.



WHAT IMPACT HAVE WE HAD DURING 2024/25?

Food Insecurity	Food Poverty	Rent Assistance
 <p>10.7% of people in the North Locality worried they would not have enough to eat compared to 26.7% of people living in priority neighbourhoods</p>	 <p>4.5% of households in the North Locality went without food for a day compared to 6.7% of households in priority neighbourhoods (City Voice 50, 2024)</p>	 <p>177 people from North Locality received support from the Rent Assistance Fund</p>

(City Voice 50, 2024)																						
<div>Fuel Insecurity</div> <div> 25.4% of people in the North Locality worried they would not be able to heat their home compared to 62.5% of people living in priority neighbourhoods (City Voice 50, 2024)</div>	<div>Fuel Poverty</div> <div> 5.4% of households in the North Locality have had to seek support for paying for heating, compared to 20% of households in priority neighbourhoods (City Voice 50, 2024)</div>	<div>Digital Employability Support</div> <div> 8 people in the North Locality received a laptop to support them to apply for jobs</div>																				
<div>Claimant Count</div> <div><table><tr><th>Period</th><th>Claimant Count</th></tr><tr><td>Jan-22</td><td>1675</td></tr><tr><td>Jan-23</td><td>1395</td></tr><tr><td>Jan-24</td><td>1245</td></tr><tr><td>Jan-25</td><td>1315</td></tr></table></div>	Period	Claimant Count	Jan-22	1675	Jan-23	1395	Jan-24	1245	Jan-25	1315	<div>People on Universal Credit</div> <div><table><tr><th>Period</th><th>People on Universal Credit</th></tr><tr><td>Jan-22</td><td>5123</td></tr><tr><td>Jan-23</td><td>5950</td></tr><tr><td>Jan-24</td><td>5943</td></tr><tr><td>Jan-25</td><td>7159</td></tr></table></div>	Period	People on Universal Credit	Jan-22	5123	Jan-23	5950	Jan-24	5943	Jan-25	7159	<div>Fuel Poverty</div> <div> 21 households in North Locality were supported out of fuel poverty by Scarf</div>
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<div>Children in low income families</div> <div><table><tr><th>Year</th><th>Children in low income families</th></tr><tr><td>2019</td><td>2159</td></tr><tr><td>2020</td><td>2256</td></tr><tr><td>2021</td><td>2024</td></tr><tr><td>2022</td><td>2604</td></tr><tr><td>2023</td><td>2893</td></tr></table></div>	Year	Children in low income families	2019	2159	2020	2256	2021	2024	2022	2604	2023	2893	<div>Business Start Ups</div> <div> Business Gateway and ABZ Works supported 15 people in North Locality to start their own business</div>	<div>Digital Access and Skills</div> <div> 93.6% of North Locality households had access to the internet at home, compared with 91.6% across Aberdeen City (City Voice 49, 2024)</div>								
Year	Children in low income families																					
2019	2159																					
2020	2256																					
2021	2024																					
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2023	2893																					

AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT IN 2025-26

- Strengthen relationships with local businesses as part of their Corporate Social Responsibility
- Encourage more people to start their own business and promoting local business gateway services across the wider locality
- More English as a Second Language (ESOL) services across the North Locality

Our People



OUR PRIORITIES

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

Priority 2. Improve the physical health and wellbeing of people

Priority 3. Support local volunteering

Priority 4. Early Intervention Approach

PROGRESS MADE DURING 2024/25

Upskill knowledge and understanding to improve health and wellbeing



Boogie in the Bar provides an opportunity for people at risk of social isolation to meet up at a local venue to have a blether and a dance. The Boogie in the Bar held at **New Greentree's in Dyce** continues to grow in numbers and popularity. Health Improvement Funding has enabled organisers to provide a hot meal for those attending. On average around **30 people** attend each month and come from a mix of those living in residential housing or living independently in the community.

Boogie in the Bar at Sunnybank Football Club also provided social activity for older adults, helping reduce social isolation and improve mental health. During 2024-25, the Boogie **supported 411 people with five volunteers contributing approximately 140 hours**. Participants look forward to the event each month, and it has become a highlight for many.

Dyce and Stoneywood Association ran a **lunch club** for up to **25 elderly people** living alone or in sheltered accommodation. The lunch club provided nutritious meals, quizzes, entertainment, and simple exercises, helping reduce isolation and improve mental health. The project supported **25 people with 14 volunteers** contributing approximately **288 hours**.

Aberdeen North Parish Church provided a **hearing loop system** within the Aberdeen North Church building, increasing the accessibility of the weekly service for those who attend, many of whom use a hearing aid. The project has improved the accessibility of the church services, allowing more

people to participate fully. The project supported **40 people with 2 volunteers contributing approximately 208 hours** to support ensure people can access the loop. Participants have expressed gratitude for the improved accessibility.



Lewis and Taransay sheltered housing complexes (Sheddocksley) now take part in the **Compassionate Buildings and Spaces** project and have made significant progress resident health and wellbeing. Both complexes now host a monthly Boogie in the Hoose, which is something residents greatly look forward to. Between the two complexes, an **average of 60 people attend these sessions**. Feedback has been very positive and residents have said how their confidence has grown. Both complexes took part

in Dementia Awareness sessions run by Age Scotland and a few residents took part in a Fun Activities Leader Training course which enables them to run Body Boosting Bingo sessions with their neighbours. Dementia friendly signage has also been purchased and will be fitted during April 2025. The next steps for this project will be to evaluate the work, share learning, and encourage other sheltered housing complexes to get involved.

Occupational Therapy Student Led Groups – Robert Gordon University

Occupational Therapy Students at Robert Gordon University received funding from the Health Improvement Fund to design, create and run activity sessions within Sheltered Housing Complexes within the North Locality of Aberdeen City. The students were able to work with residents to facilitate and adapt the sessions as appropriate. This intergenerational project supported the Students to learn through real-life scenarios which they may face when working within the health and social care sector upon graduation. Furthermore, the project supported the active aging of residents through meaningful activities. The project has involved **32 students**, who visit the sheltered housing complexes for 2 hours per week, over an 8 week period.



“This allows social integration for the residents through purposeful holistic activities.”

Len Ironside Centre installed a basket-style swing for clients with good mobility and some independence skills, and another swing that is wheelchair accessible for clients who are not able to access a swing in any other way. The swings have provided a fun and inclusive activity for clients, improving their physical and mental wellbeing. The project supported **45 service-users** who have expressed joy and appreciation for the new swings.

Grampian Gathering (Living Well, Ageing Well, Dying Well)

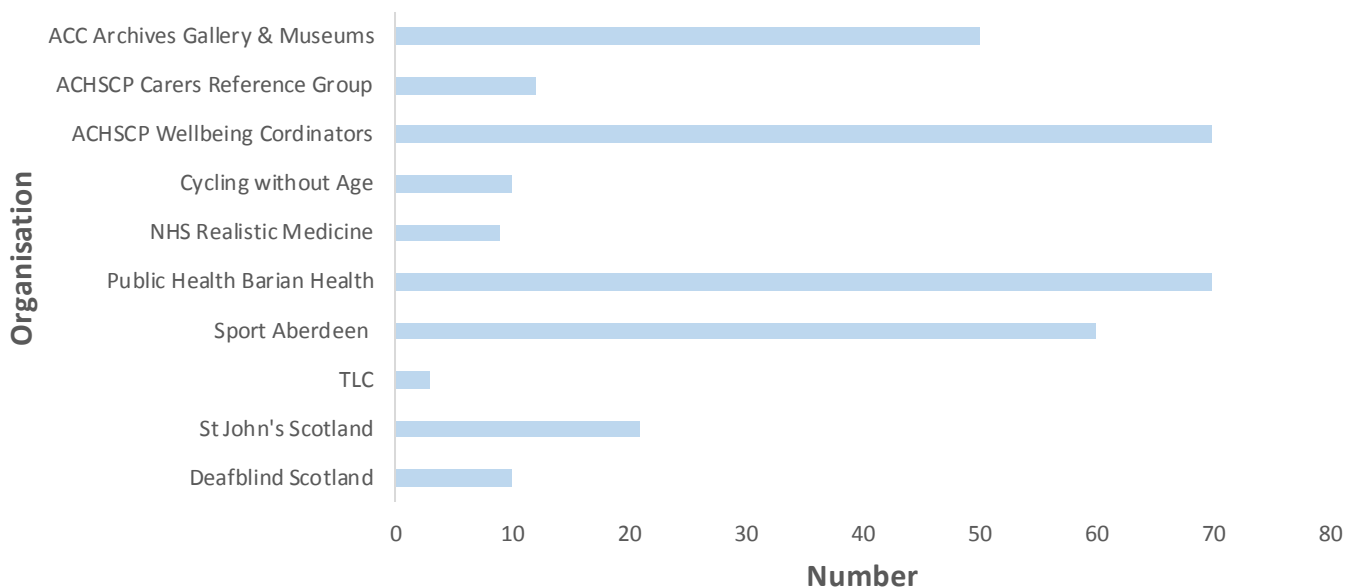


The second annual **Grampian Gathering** event was held at the Beach Ballroom on Saturday 12 October 2024. The event promoted active ageing and aimed to improve population health and wellbeing, with a view to reduce demand and pressures on the wider health and social care system through preventative approaches, whilst encouraging community empowerment and greater self-management of health and wellbeing. The Gathering also provided an opportunity to have open conversations on planning for end of life, and having a good death – topics that are often uncomfortable and sometimes stigmatised. The event programme included five celebrated speakers, taster sessions, live musical performances, and community information stalls. Evaluation data from the event is outline below:

- 369 people attended the Gathering, including **58 community delegates** from the North Locality
- 8 speakers
- 61 stall holders from across private, public, third, independent, and community sectors
- 84% of community delegates who took part in the evaluation graded their experience at the Gathering to be 8/10 or greater
- The number of community delegates who signed up for activities, groups, or training at the Gathering is recorded below:



STALL HOLDERS SIGN UP / TRAINED/ REFERRAL



The Stay Well Stay Connected show on SHMU radio first broadcast in 2024 with co-hosts Carol Baig and Hayley Ross from ACHSCP's Wellbeing Team. It is a monthly radio show which goes live on the second Monday of every month from 1pm-2pm. The radio show contains information on wellbeing

opportunities within the local area, as well as having guest speakers talking about a variety of different health and wellbeing topics.

Women's Health and Wellbeing Fair:

The annual Women's Health and Wellbeing Fair took place on Tuesday 26th November 2024 with 61 people in attendance, with an additional 32 stall holders from a very diverse set of organisations across the public and third sectors. As part of our Women cycling programme, Sport Aberdeen fitted up a bike in the anti-room of the Towns House for women to try. This was well received with eight women expressing an interest in cycling more after testing out the bike.

"I have found quite a few services I didn't know about. Thank you for organising"

"Lot's of time to speak to the people on the stalls, didn't feel rushed"



Healthy Weight Aberdeen and Whole Systems Approach



Currently **over 20% of Primary 1 children in Aberdeen are at risk of being overweight**, with higher rates in more deprived areas. Half of pregnant women in Aberdeen were overweight in 2022, and this continues to rise year-on-year. Deprivation plays a significant role, with those in the most deprived areas nearly twice as likely to be at risk of being an unhealthy weight. Trends also show inequalities based on gender, age, and ethnicity, with men and boys showing higher obesity rates compared to women and girls. Poor diets, low physical activity, and the severe health and economic consequences of obesity highlight the need for urgent, comprehensive public health interventions.

In response to this position, on 30th August 2024, a Healthy Weight Aberdeen event held at the Town House. 111 people from a range of sectors attended. The event provided a shared understanding of the reality of the challenge to address healthy weight consider how the local

system is operating and where there are the greatest opportunities for change. The event report is available at [Healthy Weight Aberdeen Report-30 Aug 2024](#) and visit [Aberdeen City HSCP](#) for event highlights. Following the event we have now established a healthy Weight Aberdeen Systems Network Group to take the approach forward.

Promoting Healthy Life Choices

Through our **Healthy Life Choices project** we supported **16 adults from low income families in North Locality priority neighbourhoods** to improve healthy eating behaviours and adopt good life choices to support healthy weight in 2024-25. During this period, 170 young people from priority neighbourhoods were also supported to improve healthy eating behaviours and adopt good life choices.

Strikers based in Bridge of Don delivered a **Walking Football Wellbeing project** to help older men maintain their fitness and stay active. The project provided a fun and engaging way for participants to stay fit and socially connected. The project supported **64 older men, with six volunteers contributing approximately 90 hours**. Participants have reported improved physical fitness and social interaction from the walking football sessions.

Community Appointment Day on Chronic Pain – Get Active @ Northfield on 27 November 2024

Community Appointment Days (CADs) are an innovative way of improving population health, social care, wellbeing by focusing on prevention and early intervention. CADs are centred around the simple concept of understanding what matters to someone, then working alongside them to make that happen. CADs promote patient empowerment and encourages them to learn more so they can more effectively self-manage chronic conditions, the idea is that this improves patient outcomes and overall population health, and helps to protect primary and secondary care services which are under severe pressure from growing waiting lists. CADs bring together a range of health, social care, and wellbeing services across private, public, and third sectors all under one roof in a community venue and allows attendees to have personalised conversations on what matters most to them. This recognises that the current system is set up to manage one condition at a time, whereas CADs take a more person-centred and holistic approach to treat such as complex issue. Chronic pain was assessed as being appropriate to trial a CAD in Aberdeen City as local waiting lists and times have increased in recent years and patients on the chronic pain waiting list, are also likely to be on other waiting lists for services such as podiatry or mental health. The 2023 Scottish Health Survey also found that 38% of Scottish adults experienced chronic pain, this highlighted the importance of focussing not just on current waiting lists, but taking a more population level approach to prevent people from experiencing so much pain that they need to be referred to the hospital's Chronic Pain Team. There is a widespread recognition across all sectors supporting the Chronic Pain CAD that chronic pain cannot be resolved in hospitals, instead the most appropriate interventions need to be made in our communities.

The first Community Appointment Day in Aberdeen was held in Northfield as it is one of our priority neighbourhoods and takes into account the health inequalities affecting this area of the city. Evaluation data compiled by NHS Grampian Public Health found:

- 8/10 patients felt that the CAD either mostly or completely addressed what mattered most to them
- 94% of people felt a positive impact on their wellbeing from having fewer time-constraints
- 100% of people felt positive about accessing multiple services in one day
- 9/10 people felt positive about learning about community groups
- 9/10 people would recommend this event to friends or family
- 9/10 people felt the venue was easy to find and accessible
- Attendance data and patient feedback is outlined below

The poster features a large yellow speech bubble with the text 'Chronic Pain Support' in white. Below it, a blue box contains the date and time: '27th November 2024 9.00am - 12.00pm' and the location: 'Get Active @ Northfield Kettlehills Crescent'. The background shows a cityscape with a person on a bicycle and a person in a wheelchair. Logos for Aberdeen City Health & Social Care Partnership, NHS Grampian, and Sport Aberdeen are visible. The title 'Chronic Pain Information & Support Session' is followed by a description of the event and a list of participating organizations.

Chronic Pain Information & Support Session

A Chronic Pain Community Appointment Day will be running on Wednesday 27th November 2024. Part of this event will be open to the Public between 09:00 - 12:00pm for anyone to pop in, join the Pain Cafe for peer support and browse the stalls of information. Just walk in - no appointment necessary. Support from the following organisations:

NHS Grampian Chronic Pain Team	Sport Aberdeen
Aberdeen Fibromyalgia Support Group	Versus Arthritis
Aberdeen University Pain Research Team	Pain Concern
Aberdeen Action on Disability	Pathways Employment
Nuffield Sport Pain Programme	Aberdeen in Recovery
Department of Work & Pensions	Alcohol & Drugs Action
Mental Health & Wellbeing Support	Financial Inclusion
Wellbeing Co-ordinators	
Working Health Scotland	

Information available in other languages and formats by contacting Equality and Diversity on 01224 551116 or emailing gram.communications@nhs.scot

80

Sessions
Available

124

Letters Sent

38

Declined
(30%)

59

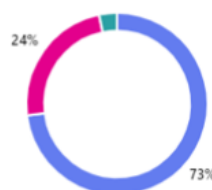
Booked
(48%)

27

No Answer
to calls (22%)

Attendance Rate

● Attended	46
● DNA	15
● Cancelled (Prior to event)	2



98

Total Attenders
46 – Info Session
52 - Walks ins during
Public Session

"I didn't expect so much help today. I've got many helpful advices. Great event! 5 star!"

"Really positive experience. I've felt "written off" by NHS and government, and today really helped me see a way forward."

"I got the letter and thought what is this? Today has been magic, you've got to take ownership. This CAD is wonderful, without this you can feel no-one cares and you just have to get on with it"

Danestone Community Centre ran an Active Aging programme to improve health and wellbeing for less active and socially isolated members of the local community. The project successfully engaged participants in various activities, promoting physical fitness and social interaction. The project supported **21 people**. Participants have reported improved physical health and reduced isolation.

Dyce and Stoneywood Association Community Association bought two benches for Central Park in Dyce as part of the EncourAGE programme. The benches have provided a place for residents to rest and enjoy the park, promoting social interaction and outdoor activity. The project **supported over 500 people with 12 volunteers contributing approximately 6 hours**. The benches have become popular spots for community members to gather and chat.

Supporting Mental Wellbeing

Let's All Talk North East Mums (LATNEM) offered a free mental health peer support service for mums and birthing people, meeting fortnightly in Aberdeen. The project trained four new

volunteers to meet demand and provide trauma-informed support and resources for service users. The project **supported 220 people with 22 volunteers contributing approximately 195 hours**. Participants have reported improved mental health and support from the peer support service.

The Community Learning and Development **Healthy Minds team** works with adults in recovery of an enduring, diagnosed mental illness to access learning opportunities within their community to promote their recovery. They work on a 1:1 basis to offer guidance, develop a learning plan and support the learner to participate in learning opportunities. They also offer short engagement courses to meet our learners needs as and when required. In 2024-25, Healthy Minds **supported 22 participants in North Locality with a total of 81 learner hours**.

Suicide Prevention

During 2024-25, SAMH's Community Engagement Officer specialising on suicide prevention delivered 50 training sessions across Aberdeen City which were attended by 663 people. This included to groups that have reach into all our localities such as DWP work coaches, Aberdeen Vaccination and Wellbeing Hub staff, various NHS Grampian teams, Council Housing Officers, Aberdeen in Recovery and Alcohol and Drugs Action staff, and other third sector organisations. A good example of this training being delivered within the North Locality was at the Middlefield Community Project where a suicide prevention workshop was delivered to **10 staff members**.



SAMH's Community Engagement Officers across the North East Suicide Prevention Team also delivered 32 online sessions reaching another 450 people.

Evaluation data has shown that **80%** of people attending the training feel more confident to ask about suicide. **90%** reported the training has been useful in both their personal and professional lives.

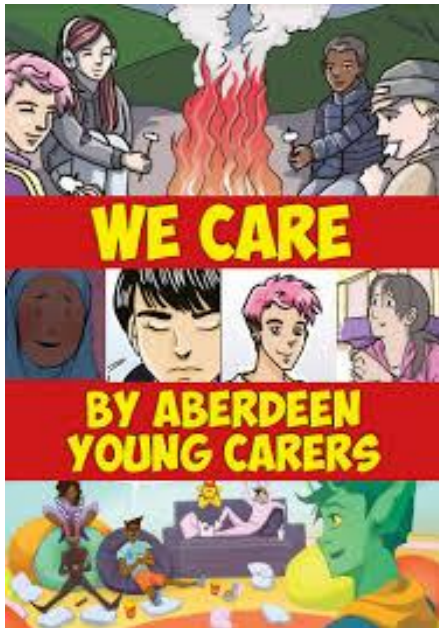
A sample of attendee feedback is noted below:

"Great training, really enjoyed this refresher of information. Trainer was interesting to listen to and engaged well with the group."

“Powerful piece of training that resonated at so many different levels and with so many different people on the call. Thank you”

“Thank you for a thought provoking session. I am telling anyone who will listen about it.”

Support for Young Carers



Despite the substantial support available for young carers in Aberdeen, identifying and referring them to this support can be challenging, as many do not recognise themselves as carers. The Young Carers project has aimed to increase the identification and support of young carers throughout the city. Since early last year, the city wide project has seen continued success, with a 20% increase in the number of young carers accessing support, rising from 126 in June 2023 to 151 in December 2024. As of March 2025 there were **66 young carers supported in North Locality**

Case Study

A 14-year-old Young Carer (YC) was referred to Barnardo's Young Carers Service due to his significant caring role for his Mum, who suffers from advancing Emphysema, ADHD, poor mental health, and chronic pain. YC's responsibilities include household chores, emotional support, and helping with meals. The family

has limited support, with no contact with YC's father and only a maternal grandfather who cannot assist due to his own health issues. YC struggles with school attendance and forming peer relationships, partly due to his caring responsibilities and bullying. Barnardo's Young Carers Service provides YC with opportunities for positive experiences, including 1-1 sessions, group activities, residential breaks, and a Befriender. YC has built a positive relationship with his volunteer befriender and enjoys group activities with other Young Carers. Various grants have been secured to support YC's participation in activities like karate lessons, coding classes, and trips, as well as accessing foodbanks and other financial aids due to the family's financial strains.

Activities for Children and Young People

The Community Learning and Development **Youth Work Team** has been in Northfield, Dyce, Oldmachar and Bridge of Don Associated School Group (ASG) primary and secondary schools since 2021. The team offers a range of informal learning activities such as 1-2-1 support, Youth Awards, drop-ins and school holiday programmes. These



activities support and improves young people's emotional and mental wellbeing.

267 youth work activities were delivered in North ASG's during 2024, with participants gaining either a Hi5 or Dynamic Youth Award.

A pupil from Northfield academy who takes part in youth work programmes had this to say:

"youth work has helped me with my confidence, help me make new friends, talk about stuff I haven't told anyone".

Roots of Empathy P2, P3 at Quarryhill and Bramble Brae Primary Schools

The Community Learning and Development Family Learning Team worked with staff at Quarryhill and Bramble Brae Schools using an evidence programme for ages 5-13 in order to develop respect and understanding for themselves and others, as well as build relationships. A supported volunteer parent and their infant visited each school for 9 of the 27 sessions at each school throughout the year. The baby's development was observed, it's feelings labeled and the children were encouraged to reflect on their own and others feelings. **25 children from each school** took part.

"the children really enjoyed having the baby visits, teachers noticed a difference on how the children expressed their feelings."

Family Learning Worker

Oldmachar Youth Club identified a need for a social space for secondary school-age young people to avoid social isolation and have a safe club to enjoy games and activities. The youth club has provided a safe and engaging environment for young people, helping them build confidence and social skills. The project supported **30 people with 10 volunteers contributing approximately 468 hours**. Participants have expressed appreciation for the safe and fun environment provided by the youth club.

As a result of successful funding bids, **Sport Aberdeen** have been able to complete the refurbishment of the tennis courts at **Northfield Outdoor Sports Centre**, with new surface, fencing and floodlighting installed during 24-25. A successful launch event was held in June 2024, which attracted over **200 people**. Play & fitness equipment have also been installed as part of the phase 2 improvements. Total investment in the project was over £60,000.



Northfield Climbing Wall Sport Aberdeen's Active Schools team and Community Sport team recently reactivated the indoor climbing wall at Northfield Academy as a result of a successful funding application. The teams joined forces and secured £3900 in November 2024 from Aberdeen City Health & Social Care Partnership's Health Improvement Fund, covering the cost of inspection and recertification of the wall and helping to **train 32 people to**

deliver bouldering sessions. Bouldering is a discipline of rock climbing, performed at a low height without ropes or harnesses, and has many benefits for physical and mental health.

The indoor climbing wall at Northfield Academy was originally installed in 2017, unfortunately, the wall fell out of use due to staff turnover at the school and the loss of qualified teaching staff to support climbing sessions. A bustling opening event was held on Thursday 27 March 2025 to celebrate the facility being back in action. This was all made possible through close partnership working between Sport Aberdeen, Northfield Academy staff and a range of community groups via the priority neighbourhood partnership that is active in the area. As at March 2025, **50 young people have taken part** in school taster sessions and there are plans for setting up school lunch club sessions, and an all-girls bouldering group.

Looking ahead to the future, plans include attracting further support and funding to reactive roped rock climbing, embedding the activities as a regular part of the curricular offering at the school, supporting local clubs to develop performance pathways and enabling other external groups within the community to use the climbing wall out with school hours.



"Through bouldering you get to know different people better. Bouldering makes me feel supported and lets me trust others. I have been able to do a lot more than I thought I could. At the start of the year, on the residential trip, I nearly cried when we went climbing so bouldering has really helped my confidence. Now that I've tried it, it would be really good to be able to climb more regularly and have others try it out too." **Northfield Academy pupil**

Raise awareness of substance service and provision

The Community Planning Partnership through our **fatal drug overdose projects** are focused on reducing drug related deaths (DRDs) through innovative developments and by increasing the distribution of naloxone. Naloxone is an emergency medication that can reverse the effects of an overdose of opioids like heroin or methadone and can save someone's life. During 2024-25, the project has focused on interventions in our priority neighbourhoods to increase public awareness and access to the life saving drug to people at risk of overdose, as well as to family members/friends of those in need.



The Aberdeen Protects app launched in December 2024 promotes the uptake and use of naloxone. The app is for anyone - whether parents, staff or people using substances. Whether its young people at a party, people out at the weekend or people who have used substances for a long time, we can all reduce harm by understanding the risks and how to respond. It enables people to:

- find nearest stockists of naloxone
- videos on how to use naloxone and respond to an overdose
- understand signs and symptoms of overdose
- harm reduction advice
- order postal naloxone kit online
- links to support services
- links to national drug alerts
- local push notifications of drug alerts, harms and local support

We're also getting out in the community and running community learning and development event to raise awareness of naloxone and support available. It is important that training on naloxone is available for everyone. Our young people are a key part of this. We are delighted to report that all secondary schools have staff members trained to administer naloxone, and during the 2024-25 school year all S4 pupils were trained in administering naloxone, in addition to the Level 6 first aid course. This provides them with a qualification, as well as the ability to save someone's life. Overall, **81 naloxone kits** were supplied across North Locality during 2024-25.

Recovery from drug and alcohol-related harm is crucial for creating healthier communities. We know that each person's recovery journey is unique, and that providing a range of supportive opportunities helps sustain their recovery, reduce stigma, and increase resilience. Through our recovery project we are committed to building on the treatment, support and community peer led

initiatives available and providing recovery support for individual, family, and community levels to help people live free from the potential harm of alcohol and drugs.

















We have also increased support available over the weekend, with Aberdeen In Recovery (AiR) now running sessions on Sundays and Alcohol & Drugs Action open on Saturdays and Sundays, to ensure that when people need support they can access it. There were 126 members of Aberdeen In Recovery during Q1-2 of 2024-25. Of which **18%** were from the North Locality. On average AiR are running 14 different groups per week with the aim of providing a variety of options to meet the individuals interest and needs. Through Aberdeen In Recovery activities, between 4 April and 22 November, there were 9326 SAFE (Stable Addiction-Free Engagement) hours which equates to 1243.5 days.

Alcoholic Anonymous at Northfield Community Centre

Alcoholic Anonymous meet at Northfield Community Centre weekly with between **16-20 attendees** each session. Northfield Community Centre was chosen as a venue as participant's privacy is respected and members can attend from throughout the city.

WHAT IMPACT HAVE WE HAD IN 2024/25?

Youth Anti-Social Behaviour	Positive destinations	Mental Health
 <p>There were 1014 reported youth anti-social behaviour incidents across North Locality during 2024. This is a 1.8% improvement on the 1033 incidents reported during 2023.</p> <p>173 incidents took place in Northfield and 171 incidents in Bucksburn, these were the highest neighbourhoods across the North Locality</p>	 <p>92.6% of North Locality school leavers achieved an initial positive destination, this is the lowest in Aberdeen City. With 85.29% of Northfield Academy leavers achieving a positive destination</p>	 <p>20.5% of people who live in North Locality have been prescribed drugs for anxiety, depression, or psychosis. This is higher than the Aberdeen City figure of 17.4% and the highest per locality in Aberdeen City</p>
Teenage Pregnancies	Counselling for Young People	Working Together with Parents
<p>In North Locality, 35 per 1000 girls and young women recorded pregnancies. This is above the Aberdeen City average rate of 19.8 per 1000 girls and young women. The North Locality has the highest</p>	 <p>100% of schools in North Locality offer counselling and Active School activities</p>	 <p>27 new PEEP practitioners trained during 2024-25 to support parents with young children</p>

proportion of teenage pregnancies across in Aberdeen City.		
Young People Volunteering	Healthy Eating	Community Empowerment
 <p>1622 young people from North Locality received a Saltire Award. 3623 young people received a Saltire Award across Aberdeen City.</p>	 <p>15.9% of people in North Locality said they were unable to eat healthy and nutritious food due to poverty. This compares to 40% of people in priority neighbourhoods (City Voice 50, 2024)</p>	 <p>369 people attended the Stay Well Stay Connected – Grampian Gathering, held at the Beach Ballroom on 12 October 2024 which celebrated active ageing. 58 attendees were from North Locality.</p>
Alcohol Awareness	Drug Related Deaths	Drug Related Hospital Stays
 <p>48.6% of people in North Locality said they didn't know the maximum number of alcohol units recommended per week. 20.2% of people who live in North Locality do not drink alcohol. This figure is 29.1% across Aberdeen City (City Voice 49, 2024)</p>	 <p>81 naloxone kits supplied across North Locality in 2024</p>	 <p>The rate of drug related hospital stays for the North Locality was 163.1 per 100,000 population. This is an improvement from 175.2 per 100,000 in 2022</p>
Alcohol Related Mortality Rates	Deaths from Suicide	Life Expectancy
 <p>Alcohol related mortality rates in North Locality are now 13.9 people per 100,000. This is below the Aberdeen City rate of 19.9 people per 100,000. North Locality had the lowest proportion of alcohol related mortality deaths across Aberdeen City</p>	 <p>The rate of death from suicide in North Locality is 12.6 per 100,000, this is higher than the citywide average of 11.1 per 100,000 of the population. The North Locality has the highest rate of deaths from suicide in Aberdeen City</p>	 <p>Men who live in Balgownie and Donmouth East can expect to live 81 years, whereas men in Heathryfold and Middlefield can expect to live 73.2 years. The average life expectancy for a man in Aberdeen City is 76.9 years.</p> <p>Women who live in Balgownie and Donmouth East can expect to live 85.6 years, whereas women in Heathryfold and Middlefield can expect to live 74.7 years – this is the area with the lowest life expectancy for women in Aberdeen City. The average life expectancy for a woman in Aberdeen City is 80.9 years.</p>

AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT IN 2025/26

- Explore options for a Northfield Pump Track
- Develop a support package for volunteers
- Support and celebrate local heritage

Our Place



OUR PRIORITIES

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

Priority 5. Maximise use of disused outdoor space

WHAT PROGRESS HAVE WE MADE DURING 2024/25?

Supporting greenspace development

Health Issues in the Community, a community development programme was delivered by ACHSCP at Middlefield Community Hub during 2024 to empower the local community to support health and wellbeing needs in the Middlefield area. Part of the course required attendees to research a health issue that was of concern to them or their community. Littering was raised as an issue and this led to the establishment of a community group to improve the local environment, **Keep Middlefield Clean** promotes upcoming litter picks, and information on recycling.

These litter picks were organised and attended by two community members, along with staff and volunteers from the Middlefield Community Hub and Middlefield area. Between March and June 2024, **nine litter picks over 16.5 hours were organised**, with an average of six adults and children collecting a total of **66 bags of rubbish** along with larger items such as mattresses, carpets, bikes,

trampolines and traffic cones. Regular litter picks now take place and cover the Middlefield area including the Scatter Burn.

"We want to make it a safe place for people to be able to walk about and enjoy"

"... and know that there are people who care about the area we live in."

"... let's keep it litter free and looking nice."

Cummings Park Flat have a garden which is maintained by volunteers and occasionally by the Community Payback Team. Part of the garden is allocated to grow fruit and vegetables including strawberries, apples, plums, raspberries, rhubarb, potatoes and tomatoes in their greenhouses. The fruit and vegetables contribute to participants having a healthy diet and encourages people to grow their own. The flat garden is an open garden in which welcome to help themselves to the produce, with local children often getting the fruit. The volunteers report working in the garden contributes to their wellbeing and gain satisfaction from seeing the results of their work. One of the volunteers is in their 80s and said they missed working in the garden during a recent illness. The thought of coming back to the garden inspired her to get better.

"I get a sense of making an effort and contributing, even though I don't like gardening! I also pick up litter on my way and from the garden and recycle it where possible. It's helped me grow as a person. I like recycling as it can turn a useless item in to something useful. I wish people wouldn't drop litter though!"

Heathryburn Primary School created a **community garden** to engage families in the cycle of food growing and encourage positive mental wellbeing through outdoor activities. The garden has provided a space for families to learn about gardening and enjoy outdoor activities together. The project supported **over 50 pupils**. The garden has become a popular spot for families to gather and learn about gardening.

Middlefield Community Project run a **Bike Hub** every Thursday. This is where local people can come and get their bikes repaired, or be taught how to do it themselves thus encouraging people to develop new skills and to recycle as opposed to throwing away and buying new. The project also accepts donations of bikes to repair, clean, and hand out to children in the area who perhaps couldn't afford a bike. The project **repairs 20 bikes per month** at The Middlefield Hub, and during 2024-25 handed out over **50 bikes** to local children and families.







Northfield Community Centre members have taken part in **two litter picks** during 2024. One was part of the Aberdeen 24 hour litter pick. **30 children collected 35 bags of rubbish** from around the centre using equipment allocated from Aberdeen City Council. They were supported by six centre volunteers, a local Councillor, and a Community Planning member of staff. The second litter pick was around Lintmill shops, with **12 children and six volunteers collecting 23 bags of rubbish**.



“The kids loved it and they didn’t want it to finish” – Northfield Litter Pick Volunteer

During the Covid-19 pandemic, the Council’s Family Learning Service supported groups from **Cummings Park** on outside **wellbeing walks** due to social contact restrictions. The parents enjoyed this way of interaction so much they have continued since. In the past year, the group meets at Cummings Park Centre and have enjoyed walks in Auchmill Woods and Aberdeen beach. At the end of each walk the group have a coffee and a supportive chat as a debrief on how their week has been. If the weather was poor, the group took part in activities inside the community centre, and this led to the creation of the Cummings Park Boccia Group. The group understands how taking part in outdoor activities contributes to their general wellbeing and mental health. Attendance varies between **2-8 people per session**.

WHAT IMPACT HAVE WE HAD IN 2024/25?

Satisfaction with Green Space	Community Growing Spaces	Community Managed Green Spaces
 <p>65.2% of North Locality respondents reported being satisfied or fairly satisfied with the overall quality of green/open spaces. This is lower than the 74% of respondents for Aberdeen City collectively (City Voice 51, 2024)</p>	 <p>4 Supported community food growing projects happening across North Locality</p>	 <p>2 community groups being supported to look after community green space in priority neighbourhoods</p>
Cycling	Walking	Community Resilience Group in North Locality
 <p>4.4% of people in the North Locality cycled in the last year as a sustainable travel choice, this is the lowest in Aberdeen City (City Voice 51, 2024)</p>	 <p>53.1% of people in North Locality walk as one mode of transport. However this number falls to 42.1% in priority neighbourhoods (City Voice 51, 2024)</p>	 <p>There is one Community Resilience Group in North Locality which serves Bridge of Don and Danestone</p>

AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT IN 2025/26

- We will support communities to collaborate food growing efforts with schools and workplaces
- We will support and encourage people to walk and cycle more
- Work with local communities on improving traffic management

- Establish more Community Resilience Groups
- More initiatives which promote responsible dog ownership.

Our Communities



OUR PRIORITIES

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

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

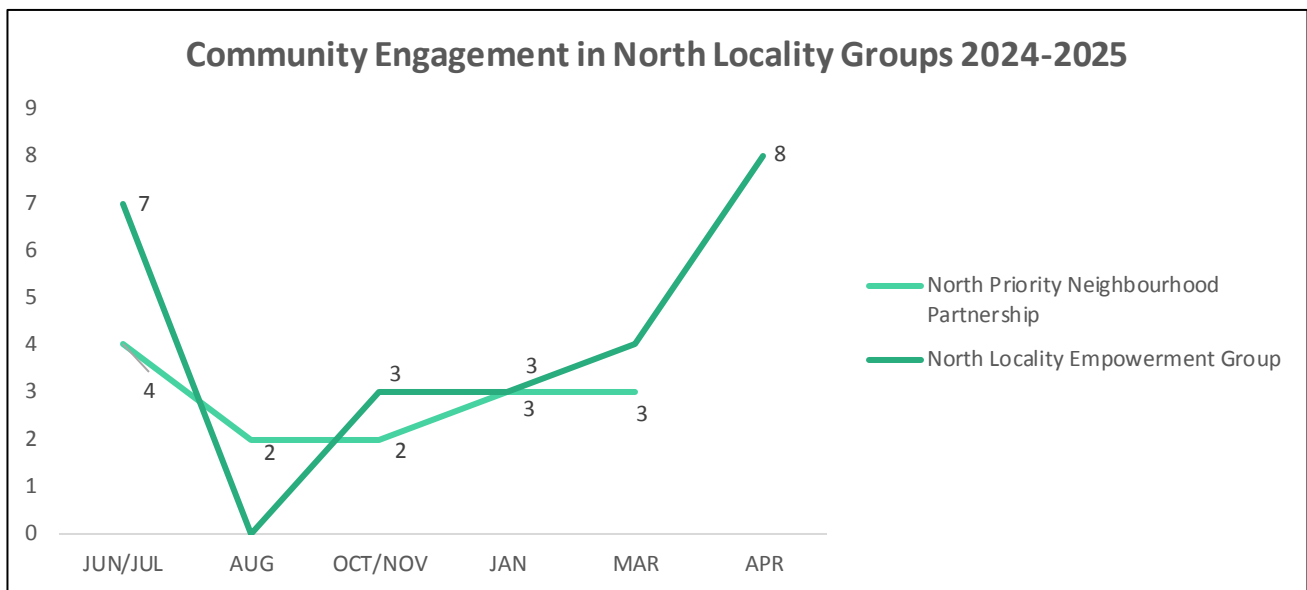
PROGRESS MADE DURING 2024/25

Community Participation

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

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

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



Stay updated

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

As well as this, we have a number of ways to stay updated on what is going on in your neighbourhood.

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

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

Get Involved

Following a citywide meeting with our existing community representatives, they had the following to say about what they gain from involvement:



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

[Our Communities - Community Planning Aberdeen](#)

localityplanning@aberdeencity.gov.uk

Community Funding



The Locality Planning Team led the delivery of a **UDecide Participatory Budgeting process**. There was £60,000 of funding available to community groups, £40,000 from Community Planning Aberdeen and a further £20,000 from the Fairer Aberdeen Fund. This provided a total of £20,000 available for each of the three localities.

Applications were open to community groups in Cummings Park, Heathryfold, Northfield, Mastrick and Middlefield who were able to demonstrate how their projects and activities related to one or more of the community ideas detailed within the North Locality Plan.



Funding was awarded to **seven projects across those areas and 1 project was partially funded**. You can read more about the process here: [UDecide Report 2025](#).

Funded UDecide Projects

Generation Games

Intergenerational activities to bring people of all ages together combatting loneliness

<p><i>Locality Plan Priority Link: Creating opportunities for those who identify as socially isolated or vulnerable to take part in activities</i></p>
<p>Play Later Lights Portable lighting allowing young people to do safe positive games/activities at night <i>Locality Plan Priority Link: More activities/spaces for children and young people to participate in/be together</i></p>
<p>Cummings Park Gamers Unite Gaming nights for the local community – social interaction and teamwork <i>Locality Plan Priority Link: More activities/spaces for children and young people to participate in/be together</i></p>
<p>Aberdeen North Toddler Group Resources to make a Toddler group more child friendly. <i>Locality Plan Priority Link: Creating opportunities for those who identify as socially isolated or vulnerable to take part in activities</i></p>
<p>Try Wellbeing Activities 2025 Physical and arts & Crafts sessions supporting mental health with fun activities. <i>Locality Plan Priority Link: Support Community groups to know about Health and Wellbeing and Health and Social Care Services in the Community</i></p>
<p>The Flourish Project Sessions supporting Wellbeing and mental health for young people <i>Locality Plan Priority Link: Creating opportunities for those who identify as socially isolated or vulnerable to take part in activities</i></p>
<p>Community Cycle Maintenance Training Vocational Qualification for young people to fix and maintain bicycles. <i>Locality Plan Priority Link: Develop programmes to encourage outdoor activity</i></p>
<p>Project Strive Dance performance and theatre for young people sharing the joy of live performance. <i>Locality Plan Priority Link: Diversionary Activities for young people</i></p>



Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership
Health Improvement Fund

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

Funded Health Improvement Fund Projects
<p>Active Schools Football Festivals - Sport Aberdeen The project will allow football festivals across Bridge of Don, Oldmachar and Northfield ASGs.</p>

Grandmas Group - Danestone Community Centre A peer support group for Grandmas
ASN Floor Curling - Active Schools (Dyce ASG) to support ASN Floor Curling groups.
Football Pitch Costs - Stoneywood Parkvale FC Engaging local community through football.
Nurturing Young Minds - Bridge of Don and District Men's Shed 'Intergenerational working' project, between the above two groups, to educate the children
Blast From The Past - Bucksburn and Newhills Community Council Blast From The Past Leading to the Future - historical community engagement group.
Blossoming Brambles at Bramble Brae School - Bramble Brae School A nurture space within a school aims to provide a safe, supportive environment where children can develop their emotional well-being, social skills, and resilience through tailored, relationship-based interventions.
Walking Football - Beacon & Bucksburn Community Learning Association Walking football (with instruction). Improve Health and Mental wellbeing.
The Flourish Project - The King's Community Foundation Our Flourish project is an 8 week training programme, for young people aged 10-14, supporting and promoting positive mental and emotional health. It equips them with skills to develop a healthy self-esteem, allowing them to uncover inner strengths that they didn't know they had.
Family Fun Activities - Children 1st This project will provide recreational and wellbeing opportunities to children, young people and families who face a range of barriers to equal participation in their community.
Compassionate Buildings and Spaces - Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership Creating Dementia Friendly environments and meaningful engagement within Sheltered Housing
Childhood Multi-Sport Activity - Danestone Community Centre Multi-sport activities tackling childhood obesity
The Bridges Choir - Absafe SCIO Intergenerational Community Choir
Bucksburn Initiative - Beacon and Bucksburn Community Learning Association Fostering Community Connections and providing Mental Health Support
Northfield Academy Climbing Wall reactivation - Sport Aberdeen The re-activation of the Northfield Academy Indoor Climbing Wall.
Physic and Sensory Gardens - Springhill Community Garden Creating physic and sensory garden areas in Springhill Community Garden, which currently maintains food growing beds, ornamental borders, and natural habitats for pollinators and wildlife. The garden is located on a former bowling green, with ample space to create educational and therapeutic areas.
Afristyle "Peer Support Dance" - Afristyle Dance Club A peer support dance project
Food, Finance, Facts & Fun – Cfine Local Charity partners working together to support their beneficiaries nutritionally and financially through education. The aim is for staff within the different orgs to be given the opportunity to attend and take part in a full day basic cooking on a budget class in order to promote classes to their own service users.

<p>Health Diversity Network – GREC Network of volunteers to increase health literacy among ethnic minority Gypsy/Traveller community</p>
<p>Pillow Maah - Aberdeen City Health & Social Care Partnership Maah, currently functioning as a pillow-type companion sensor, measures individuals’ behaviour over a month while its soft, comforting form supports well-being. Although this initial version does not feature actuation, it lays the groundwork for a future, fully interactive Maah equipped with dashboards and data-driven feedback.</p>
<p>Boxing for All - Byron Boxing Byron Boxing Club is a not for profit Aberdeen based Boxing Club, lead and managed by passionate volunteers, offering expert tuition in boxing, fitness, promoting discipline, peak fitness, physical well-being, support and general well-being whilst also offering a diversionary project to reduce anti-social behaviour and crime in the community.</p>
<p>Postnatal Pathways - Mastrick, Sheddocksley & Summerhill Community Council Weekly support groups for postnatal mothers, offering expert advice and emotional support.</p>

The Fairer Aberdeen Fund is allocated by Aberdeen City Council to tackle poverty and deprivation. The Fund is allocated by a deliberative participatory budgeting approach, with a Board made up of Elected Members, Community Planning Partners, and community representatives with lived experience. The Fund supports initiatives and services in priority areas, as well as vulnerable groups across the city. In the North Locality, **20 initiatives** were funded to deliver activities with a **value of £390,000**.

Consultation & Engagement



Participation of communities and people’s rights lie at the heart of community planning and our communities are key to informing and shaping our plans and strategies. Using the steps within the community empowerment toolkit, and the Participation, Accountability, Non-discrimination and equality, Empowerment and Legality (PANEL) principles, Community

Planning Aberdeen launched its “Your Place, Your Plans, Your Future” engagement in March 2025. This builds on the community engagement which took place in 2023 using the Place Standard tool to inform the refresh of the Local Outcome Improvement Plan in 2024, engaging 465 people. This year the approach has been enhanced and adapted to enable the single engagement to help inform a number of plans and strategies being developed by the Partnership.

We know that different people will have different needs. We wanted to make sure that everyone has the opportunity to share their views, including those that are seldom heard, and those who may be experiencing any form of inequality or disadvantage. As well as an online version, we held six locality events, including one at Get Active @ Northfield and another at Kings Community Church, we prepared a children and young people's version and took the conversation into schools and communities across Aberdeen, capturing thoughts and feelings about life in Aberdeen.

Our [outreach programme](#) details all the groups and locations we attended to help support people have their say.



The engagement closed on 18 May 2025 and analysis of participation and results is underway. The data will be used to inform the multiple plans and strategies, including the Local outcome Improvement Plan 2026-36 and Locality Plans for North, South and Central. Using the results, we will work with communities to co-create solutions through the development of the next Plans, ensuring that local people are at the heart of community planning.

In addition, the Locality Planning Team continues its outreach work, and engages on a regular basis with individual community members, and community groups and organisations such as community councils and the local third sector.

During May 2024, the Council's Community Learning and Development (CLD) service was inspected by His Majesty's Inspectorate of Education (HMIE). HMIE inspectors reviewed the City's locality planning arrangements and interviewed LEG and PNP community members. In their inspection report, HMIE reported that CLD's **"Successful engagement of community representatives is starting to ensure that their [community member] views are included in locality planning and the refresh of the LOIP"**

AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT IN 2025/26

- Host more citywide locality planning engagement sessions
- Add more content to the Locality Planning section of the Community Planning Aberdeen website
- Prepare an induction pack for community members joining a LEG or PNP
- Increase the number and diversity of people engaging in locality planning meetings, activities, and projects. Participation in Priority Neighbourhood Partnerships has declined, particularly in the North and Central Localities. To address this, we are exploring new methods to boost engagement, acknowledging that each neighbourhood has unique needs. Our focus has been on hyper-local engagement. A recent test of change in Seaton tested the idea that holding area focused meetings within neighbourhoods could increase attendance. Additionally, by concentrating on area specific priorities from the Locality Plan, we aimed to

encourage those with a particular interest in those issues to participate. You can read more about the test [here](#).

Your Locality Planning Team

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

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



Iain Robertson

Transformation Programme
Manager

Aberdeen City Health and
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Jade Leyden

Locality Planning and
Community Development
Manager

Aberdeen City Council



Kev Donald

Community Development
Officer

Aberdeen City Council

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Aberdeen City - South Locality

Annual Outcome Improvement Report 2024-25



South Locality Neighbourhoods:

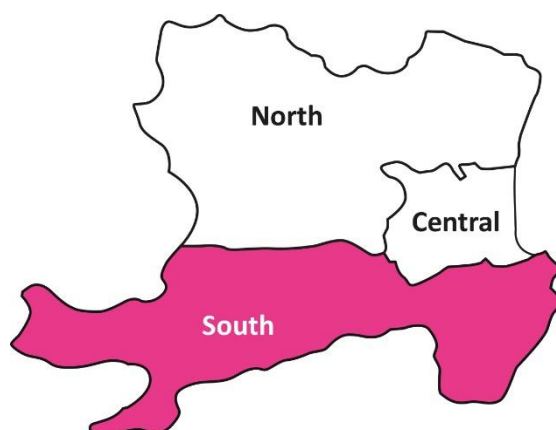
Culter; Cults, Bieldside, Milltimber & Countesswells; Hazlehead; Braeside, Mannofield, Broomhill, Seafield; Garthdee; Ferryhill; Torry; Cove; Kincorth, Leggart & Nigg



**Community
Planning
Aberdeen**

Welcome

Welcome to the third annual report against the South Locality Plan first published in 2021, and the first report since our Locality Plan was refreshed in April 2024. The South Locality plan sets out how Community Planning Aberdeen and its member organisations will work together with communities to deliver improved outcomes for the nine neighbourhoods in the locality and for the locality as a whole. The Locality Plan was prepared by the Locality Planning Team following engagement activity between March-April 2025 and with oversight and support from our South Locality Empowerment Group and Torry Partnership.



The report provides an update on progress made against the six priorities identified by community members in the South Locality Plan. It includes information on key activities and the impact these have had across the South Locality and in our priority neighbourhoods of Torry and Kincorth. Importantly the report sets out areas for improvement and further attention which the Locality Planning Team will focus on over the next year.

Our focus is always on delivery of outcomes to improve the economy, place, and lives of people across the South Locality. We have adopted a community led approach and want to take every opportunity to empower and celebrate our communities. This is particularly important as we find ourselves in a very challenging financial environment with public bodies, third sector partners, and community groups all under pressure; it is essential we all work together to achieve the key findings of the Christie Commission (2011) to collaborate more effectively and shift the balance of public services from a demand based model towards prevention. This report provides a baseline for how we are currently performing in the South Locality, with a commitment to continuous improvement moving forward.

This report is split into the following sections:

Our Economy – Page 3

Our People – Page 9

Our Place – Page 22

Our Community – Page 27





OUR PRIORITIES

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

Priority 1. Reduce number of people living in poverty

Priority 2. Improve and create employment opportunities.

PROGRESS MADE DURING 2024/25

Supporting our most vulnerable families

Community food provision and community pantries



Following a successful Health Improvement Fund application, the **Greyhope Soup and Sannies** began in November 2024. It has gone from strength to strength with numbers growing each month. On average **35 people** come along to Greyhope Community Hub to enjoy a free nutritious lunch, while meeting up with old and new friends. The soup and sandwiches are made on site in the community café, where four amazing volunteers serve the food.

Attendee Feedback:

“Delicious food, will be back again”

“The soup was nice but really loved the chocolate cake”

Our **Cash First project** is testing a flexible cash first crisis fund for people facing financial emergencies. Using funding from the Scottish Government Cash First Pilot, ACVO and partners launched the fund on the 4th of November 2024 for single males, aged 18-45, who are in receipt of Universal credit and are presenting at food banks as food insecure. The fund is co-designed by local third-sector organisations alongside 70 lived experience voices; including those from CFINE’s lived experience group. Between January to April 2025, the fund has supported 57 individuals. Of those 57 people, **11 Cash First recipients were from South Locality**, with 64% of those recipients being from priority neighbourhoods. In the South Locality, **£5,510.00** of Cash First Funding was distributed.



Cash First Aberdeen

Benefit uptake

Distribution of the **Rent Assistance Fund** has been far reaching and utilised by families who need assistance to keep on top of their rent payments. The Pilot Rent Assistance Fund aims to assist Council tenants who may be facing financial hardship and through no fault of their own can't afford an increase in the rent they currently pay. The £500,000 fund is funded through Aberdeen City Council's Housing Revenue Account budget. During 2024-25, **95 people from South Locality** received support from the Rent Assistance Fund.

To further support families, ABZ Works hosted the secondment of a dedicated financial inclusion officer within the employability team. This role provided invaluable assistance to families in identifying and accessing their full range of benefit entitlements, including childcare support. This proactive measure helps ensure eligible families have the help they need to access support. 25 families have been supported through this project in 2024-25.

The Bridge Centre partnered with the Aberdeen North Foodbank and by extension the foodbank networks around the city, The centre signposts people to food poverty groups. The Bridge Centre also runs an 'Intro to Electrics course'. From this course, **five people have moved into employment or education**, and all 14 participants have left with improved CVs and stronger networks. The Bridge Centre also runs cooking classes which helps people to budget better and improve their confidence to cook. Finally, the Coffee Bar in the Bridge Centre had a number of volunteers go on to employment or further education and even more upskill and be trained in the hospitality industry

Fuel Poverty & Affordable heating

Scarf is a social enterprise, based in Aberdeen which delivers free advice to householders and businesses including advice on how to reduce heating costs. In South Locality, 433 enquiries were received, of these 128 households were in fuel poverty. As a result of the support from Scarf, including support to heat their home, general and energy advice, home visits and onwards referrals, **19% of households were removed from fuel poverty.**





The Aberdeen Trusted Trader scheme is a local business partnership scheme aimed at increasing consumer confidence, promoting good practice within local business, and helping protect citizens from doorstep crime. Trading Standards Trusted Traders have been vetted by Aberdeen Trading Standards and the scheme is supported by Police Scotland and consumeradvice.scot (a part of Advice Direct Scotland).

All Trusted Traders have agreed to trade fairly and sign-up to a Code of Practice. The Code covers:

- Transparent procedures for quoting and carrying out work
- Only charging a fair and reasonable price
- Dealing with complaints promptly

All residents of Aberdeen City can access the scheme by searching <https://www.trustedtrader.scot/Aberdeen/>

Improve and create employment opportunities

Social Enterprises and small businesses

Souperb are a social enterprise based in Torry and funded through UDecide participatory budgeting in March 2025 to offer soup and a roll in a warm and friendly safe space with no cost to entry to people at risk of food poverty. The social enterprise aims to build up a pool of volunteers and collaborate with Lochside Academy and other community partners to help young people gain experience in running a community cafe. Souperb endeavours to source quality produce from CFINE, supermarkets and other suppliers at no cost.

Support for Entrepreneurial Initiatives Recognising that flexible working arrangements are often key to balancing family and career, ABZ Works has allocated Seed Fund grants of up to £5,000 per person which has supported 19 parents in 24-25. This support has enabled them to launch their own business, promoting self-employment and offering new pathways for income generation that can accommodate their childcare needs. In South Locality, **five parents** benefited from this initiative.

Business Gateway's business start-up project has supported 45 individuals across Aberdeen City to



start their own businesses during 2024-25. This initiative has enabled participants to either come off universal credits or significantly reduce their reliance on them. **11 new businesses were set up in South Locality** through deployment of dedicated community business advisors; targeted funding from ABZWorks' seed funding to remove financial barriers; and a partnership referral pathway. The transition from benefit dependency to business ownership has been life-changing for many participants, who have gained financial independence and confidence, underscoring the importance of dedicated and localised support.

"This is an extremely important service as some people can't travel, for me having business support on my doorstep is perfect. My support adviser has helped me get my business up and running advising me on things I didn't know existed, helping me through my business plan and financial plan, and without this support I would never have managed to get to where I am today" – A new business owner from Torry

Financial Support for Childcare Costs ABZ Works has continued its commitment to helping parents remain or enter the workforce by providing targeted financial support towards childcare costs. This initiative is designed to alleviate one of the largest barriers to parental employment, ensuring parents can pursue or sustain meaningful work without the overwhelming weight of unaffordable childcare expenses. In the South Locality, five families have benefited from this support.

Paid Work Experience Placements in ELC Settings ABZ Works' initiative to support career pathways in the early learning and childcare (ELC) sector has seen the successful placement of 10 paid work experience opportunities which have supported parents. These placements not only provide practical, on-the-job experience for parents but also contribute to building a robust workforce in the ELC sector. The placements have been flexible to work around existing childcare arrangements. In the South Locality, **four placements** have been provided.

On Tuesday, 8 October 2024, NESCol's City Campus hosted the **Promoting Positive Pathways** event, organised in partnership with Robert Gordon University, the University of Aberdeen, Scotland's Rural College, Skills Development Scotland, Developing the Young Workforce North East, and Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Councils. The event aimed to upskill **100 teachers** from Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire by improving their knowledge of regional education pathways through workshops and a lunchtime learning marketplace. Workshops focused on pathways from school to further and higher education, employment, and apprenticeships, based on teacher feedback. The learning marketplace provided an opportunity for attendees to interact with stallholders from educational institutions and organisations, enhancing their understanding. Following the event, teachers shared their newly acquired knowledge with







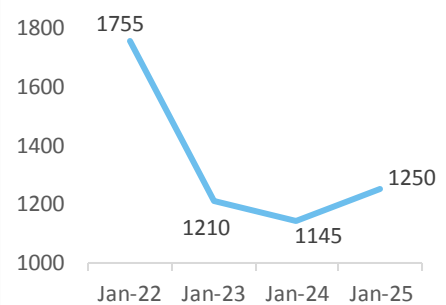
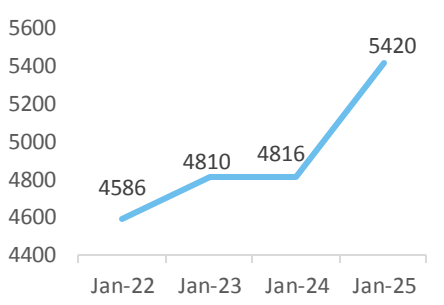

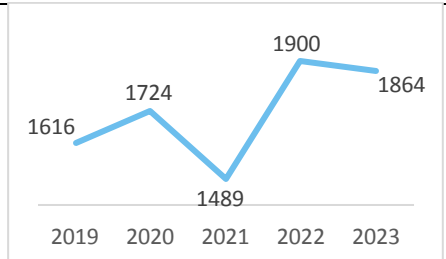




colleagues in their respective schools, contributing to a better understanding of educational and career pathways for students in the region.

The **Saltire Awards** continue to recognise and enhance volunteering by young people aged between 12-25 in Aberdeen City. The awards are co-ordinated by Aberdeen Council of Voluntary Organisations (ACVO) and contribute positively to development of employability skills. During 2024, 3623 young people across the city registered with the Saltire Awards, including **1123 young people** from South Locality.



The **Family Learning team** have delivered four courses with a focus on readiness to work, incorporating key employability skills such as confidence building and working with others. Learners has completed approx. **14 SQA Awards** in session 2024/25 across the South Locality. The team are developing SQA accreditation for all of their universal courses.

<div>Food Insecurity</div> <div><p>10.4% of people in the South Locality worried they would not have enough to eat compared to 10.9% of people living in Torry and Kincorth. (City Voice 50, 2024)</p></div>	<div>Food Poverty</div> <div><p>4.9% of households in South Locality went without food for a day compared to 5.1% of households in Torry and Kincorth (City Voice 50, 2024)</p></div>	<div>Rent Assistance</div> <div><p>95 people from South Locality received support from the Rent Assistance Fund</p></div>																				
<div>Fuel Insecurity</div> <div><p>10.3% of people in South Locality worried they would need to choose between heating and eating, compared to 16% of people living in Torry and Kincorth. (City Voice 50, 2024)</p></div>	<div>Fuel Poverty</div> <div><p>5.6% of households in the South Locality have had to seek support for paying for heating, compared to 6% of households in Torry and Kincorth (City Voice 50, 2024)</p></div>	<div>Digital Employability Support</div> <div><p>8 people in South Locality received a laptop to support them to apply for jobs</p></div>																				
<div>Claimant Count</div> <div><table><thead><tr><th>Period</th><th>Count</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>Jan-22</td><td>1755</td></tr><tr><td>Jan-23</td><td>1210</td></tr><tr><td>Jan-24</td><td>1145</td></tr><tr><td>Jan-25</td><td>1250</td></tr></tbody></table></div>	Period	Count	Jan-22	1755	Jan-23	1210	Jan-24	1145	Jan-25	1250	<div>People on Universal Credit</div> <div><table><thead><tr><th>Period</th><th>Count</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>Jan-22</td><td>4586</td></tr><tr><td>Jan-23</td><td>4810</td></tr><tr><td>Jan-24</td><td>4816</td></tr><tr><td>Jan-25</td><td>5420</td></tr></tbody></table></div>	Period	Count	Jan-22	4586	Jan-23	4810	Jan-24	4816	Jan-25	5420	<div>Fuel Poverty</div> <div><p>24 households in South Locality were supported out of fuel poverty by Scarf</p></div>
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<div>Children in low income families</div> <div><table><thead><tr><th>Year</th><th>Count</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>2019</td><td>1616</td></tr><tr><td>2020</td><td>1724</td></tr><tr><td>2021</td><td>1489</td></tr><tr><td>2022</td><td>1900</td></tr><tr><td>2023</td><td>1864</td></tr></tbody></table></div>	Year	Count	2019	1616	2020	1724	2021	1489	2022	1900	2023	1864	<div>Business Start Ups</div> <div><p>Business Gateway and ABZ Works supported 11 people in South Locality to start their own business</p></div>	<div>Digital Access and Skills</div> <div><p>89.1% of South Locality households had access to the internet at home, compared with 91.6% across Aberdeen City (City Voice 49, 2024)</p></div>								
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AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT IN 2025-26

- Strengthen relationships with local businesses as part of their Corporate Social Responsibility
- Work with partners to improve housing insulation and retrofitting opportunities
- Work with partners to make public transport more accessible and affordable across the South Locality
- Utilise more empty buildings

Our People



OUR PRIORITIES

South Locality Plan 2021-26 sets out two priorities to improve outcomes for our people

Priority 3. Support children and young people

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

PROGRESS MADE DURING 2024/25

Providing activities for Children and Young People

Opportunities and activities

Denis Law Legacy Trust organised a free-to-attend family fun day in Torry packed with activities to support active lifestyles and fun while bringing young people to the fore of leadership in their own community. The event was a great success, engaging the community in various activities and promoting physical fitness and leadership skills among young people. The project **supported 480 people with 20 volunteers contributing 90 hours**. Families have expressed appreciation for the fun and engaging activities provided at the event.

Community Food Initiatives North East ran Families Cooking Together (FCT), providing cooking and information sessions for families where adults and children can come together to learn new skills, build confidence, and improve health and wellbeing. The sessions have been well-attended, helping families develop healthier eating habits and improve their overall wellbeing. The project **supported 147 people with 4 volunteers contributing to the work**. Families have reported enjoying the sessions and feeling more confident in their cooking abilities.

The Torry Dancers have had a successful year with great attendance across all five dance classes. The dancers have been out in the community performing for several groups, including June's Bench opening, Provost Hogg Court, Balnagask Community Centre, Brimmond Court and for two community events in the Greyhope Community Hub. We are returning to Provost Hogg in May 2025 for another performance and the last time we were there, the girls took time to mix with elderly residents which was very much enjoyed on both sides. The dancers gain confidence when out dancing for events and the feedback from parents is positive too as they agree it's very beneficial for their



children. At the moment we are busy rehearsing for our summer show in June 2025 which the dancers and families are very excited about.

Big Noise Torry

Big Noise Torry plays a vital role in providing freely available/low cost facilities for children and young people across Torry. **Around 800 children and young people engage in Big Noise weekly** and are supported through **1,024 hours of musical provision** across three schools and the Greyhope Community Hub. Big Noise have welcomed over **1,500 audience members when attending 30+ community events** and performances, strengthening local pride and participation. The Big Noise Holiday clubs annually provided **192 hours** of free childcare, meals, and engaging activities to support families facing poverty, directly aligned with the South Locality Plan's priority of reducing child poverty.



Other noteworthy support provided by Big Noise included:

- The Big Noise Youth Voice and Young Leaders programmes with **27 older young people** participating, building employability and leadership skills,
- Sustained early intervention through weekly "Little Noise" baby music sessions (**19 families signed up**) and inclusive support for children with additional needs reinforced early prevention aims.
- Community musical groups, such as "The Noise" and monthly care home concerts, promoted social connections for people across generations.
- More than **100 additional community members** joined activities like Big Sing sessions, drumming, and ceilidhs, promoting inclusion and wellbeing.

Big Noise's work directly supports the South Locality Plan's focus areas of reducing poverty, improving employability, supporting children and young people, and increasing community involvement, while promoting mental wellbeing, healthy choices, and inclusion throughout Torry and beyond. Find out more about Big Noise Torry [here](#).

Young People's Mental Wellbeing

Gray Street Allotment Association applied for funding to purchase equipment for an intergenerational gardening project with Broomhill Primary School;. The project **supported 300+ people with three volunteers contributing approximately 300 hours**. Children have expressed excitement about gardening and have learned valuable skills through the projects.



Inchgarth Community Centre provided several pre-school activities which benefited both children and parents, while offering opportunities for P1 and P2 children which also brought parents together. The activities have successfully engaged children and parents, helping them build stronger connections and improve their overall wellbeing. The project supported **680 people** with **two**

volunteers contributing 96 hours. Families have expressed appreciation for the engaging activities and the opportunity to connect with others.

Cults Academy ran **Confidence to Cook** sessions, allowing young people the opportunity to gain a certificate, improve confidence in cooking, and learn about healthier eating on a budget. The sessions have been well-attended, helping young people develop essential cooking skills and confidence. The project **supported 10 people.** Participants have reported feeling more confident in their cooking abilities and enjoying the sessions.

The Community Learning and Development **Youth Work Team** has been in the Lochside, Hazlehead and Cults Associated School Group (ASG) Primary and Secondary schools since 2021. The team delivers a range of informal learning activities such as Confidence to Cook, Youth Awards, 1-2-1 support and the AMPED project. These activities support and improves young people's emotional and mental wellbeing.

279 youth work activities were delivered in the South ASG during 2024. **44 participants** gained either a Hi5 or Dynamic Youth Award. **23 participants** took part in the Confidence to Cook programme during 2024 and received a certificate on completion.



Positive Destinations for Care Experienced young people

The ACHSCP Public Health Team train practitioners to deliver the PEEP (Parents as Early Education Partners) programme. PEEP recognises that parents and carers are children's first and most important educators.

The Peep Learning Together programme supports parents and carers to:

- Value and build on the home learning environment by making the most of everyday learning opportunities.
- build and strengthen attachment relationships with their child through listening, talking, playing, singing and sharing books together.
- help babies and children to make the most of their opportunities by becoming confident communicators and active learners, ready for school

Hazlehead Primary School ran **Peep sessions** for young families to promote positive parenting and make connections with others in the local community. The sessions have provided valuable support and information for families, helping them build stronger connections and improve their parenting skills. The project **supported 80 people**. Families have expressed gratitude for the support and connections made through the PEEP sessions.

Supporting priority families via Fit Like hubs

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

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

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

Supporting People to Make Healthy Choices

Grampian Gathering (Living Well, Ageing Well, Dying Well)



The second annual **Grampian Gathering** event was held at the Beach Ballroom on Saturday 12 October 2024. The event promoted active ageing and aimed to improve population health and wellbeing, with a view to reduce demand and pressures on the wider health and social care system through preventative approaches, whilst encouraging community empowerment and greater self-management of health and wellbeing. The Gathering also provided an opportunity to have open conversations on planning for end of life, and having a good death – topics that are often uncomfortable and sometimes are stigmatised. The event programme included five celebrated speakers, taster sessions, live musical performances, and community information stalls. Evaluation data from the event is outline below:

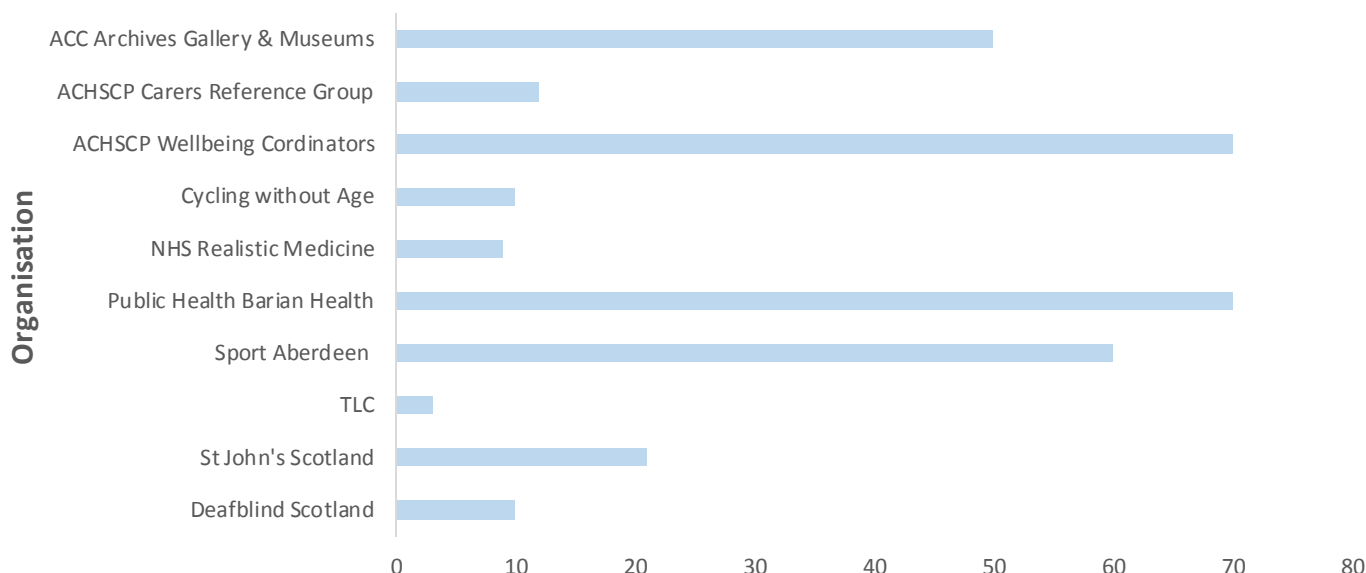
- 369 people attended the Gathering, including **46 community delegates** from the South Locality
- 8 speakers

61 stall holders from across private, public, third, independent, and community sectors

- 84% of community delegates who took part in the evaluation graded their experience at the Gathering to be 8/10 or greater
- The number of community delegates who signed up for activities, groups, or training at the Gathering is recorded below:



STALL HOLDERS SIGN UP / TRAINED/ REFERRAL



The Stay Well Stay Connected show on SHMU radio first broadcast in 2024 with co-hosts Carol Baig and Hayley Ross from ACHSCP's Wellbeing Team. It is a monthly radio show which goes live on the second Monday of every month from 1pm-2pm. The radio show contains information on wellbeing

opportunities within the local area, as well as having guest speakers talking about a variety of different health and wellbeing topics.

Women's Health and Wellbeing Fair:

The annual Women's Health and Wellbeing Fair took place on Tuesday 26th November 2024 with 61 people in attendance, with an additional 32 stall holders from a very diverse set of organisations across the public and third sectors. As part of our Women cycling programme, Sport Aberdeen fitted up a bike in the anti-room of the Towns House for women to try. This was well received with eight women expressing an interest in cycling more after testing out the bike.

Community Feedback

"I have found quite a few services I didn't know about. Thank you for organising"

"Lot's of time to speak to the people on the stalls, didn't feel rushed"



Healthy Weight Aberdeen and Whole Systems Approach



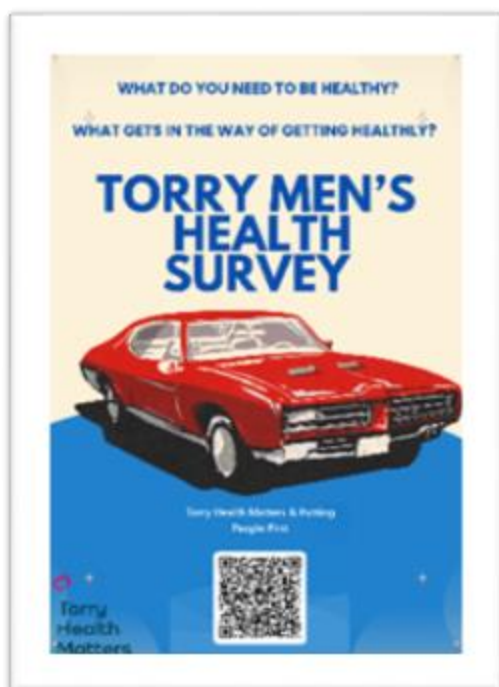
Currently over 20% of Primary 1 children in Aberdeen are at risk of being overweight, with higher rates in more deprived areas. Half of the pregnant women in Aberdeen were overweight in 2022, and continues to rise year-on-year. Deprivation plays a significant role, with those in the most deprived areas nearly twice as likely to be at risk of being an unhealthy weight. Trends also show inequalities based on gender, age, and ethnicity, with men and boys showing higher obesity rates compared to women and girls. Poor diets, low physical activity, and the severe health and economic consequences of obesity highlight the need for urgent, comprehensive public health interventions.

In response to this position, on 30th August 2024, a Healthy Weight Aberdeen event was held with 111 people from a range of sectors in attendance. The event provided a shared understanding of the reality of the challenge to address healthy weight consider how the local system is operating and where there are the greatest opportunities for change.

The event report is available at [Healthy Weight Aberdeen Report-30 Aug 2024](#) and visit [| Aberdeen City HSCP](#) for event highlights. Following the event we have now established a Healthy Weight Aberdeen Systems Network Group to take the approach forward.

Through **our Healthy Life Choices project** we supported **12 adults** from low income families in South Locality priority neighbourhoods to improve healthy eating behaviours and adopt good life choices to support healthy weight in 2024-25. During this period, 170 young people from priority

neighbourhoods were also supported to improve healthy eating behaviours and adopt good life choices.



The Torry Health Matters network was established in 2024 to strengthen working relationships and increase communication between services, organisations, and community members to specifically focus on the health and wellbeing of the Torry community.

During 2024, the Torry Health Matters set up the following community projects:

- A thriving weekly Knit and Natter group **10-15 people** attend on regular basis
- A monthly Soup and Sannie event where **30-45 people** attend
- A weekly Bumps to Bairns parent and child group **5-8 families** attend

The network's focus in 2025 will be on two specific themes: Men's health and wellbeing, and Family Health and Wellbeing. Torry Health Matters will work closely with NHS Grampian's Putting People First initiative to plan a

series of Torry Men's Health MOT events as part of Men's Health week 9th -15th June. Other projects in the pipeline include Jog Torry; and developing health and wellbeing activities within Provost Hogg Court.



Boogie in the Bars are day time discos which aim to support older people and people with learning disabilities at risk of social isolation, physical & cognitive decline, and loneliness. The Boogies always provide attendees with a light lunch.

The Boogie in the Bar at the **Abbott Bar, Kincorth** has been running for just over two years with **1750** people attending. There have been several friendships made over that time with friends meeting up outside the Boogies to socialise which is great to hear!

Feedback:

"I have made some lovely new friends since coming here. I feel happy again"

"Love coming here, everyone is so friendly"

The Boogie in the Bar at the White Cockade, Torry was established in June 2024 and was initially the first Monday of every month but unfortunately did not get high numbers of people attending. This prompted the ACHSCP Wellbeing Team to reach out to local care homes and sheltered housing units in Torry which allowed residents to find out what suited them, and a decision was taken to move the Boogie to the first Thursday of every month starting on 6 February 2025. Between

February and March 2025, **97 local people** attended the Boogie at the White Cockade, with very positive feedback. The South Locality is fortunate to have Natalie, a community volunteer who DJs at both the White Cockade and Abbott, she is very appreciated by all staff members, volunteers, and attendees.



Attendee Feedback:

"My husband, who has dementia wasn't sure about coming. He now can't wait to come along. We now go to The Abbott as well."



Are you worried about how RAAC housing issue is affecting your health and wellbeing?

Join the Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership for a free coffee and chat!

Date- Tuesday 25th June 2024, 3pm-5pm

Wednesday 26th June 2024, 10.30am-2.30pm

Location- Bridge Centre, 258 N Balnagask Rd, AB11 8LQ

In partnership with Penumbra

If you have any questions please contact
HealthImprovement@aberdeencity.gov.uk



Venue- Wheelchair and buggy friendly

Penumbra

Aberdeen City
Health & Social Care
Partnership
Joining partnerships

Health and Wellbeing Support for Households Affected by RAAC

On 24 and 25 June 2024, health and wellbeing drop-in sessions were held in the Bridge Centre, Torry to offer health and wellbeing support for households affected by Raac housing in Balnagask. Key officers and workers from ACHSCP, Aberdeen City Council, Penumbra, SAMH's Link Practitioner Service, and Mental Health Aberdeen **supported 10 local people** through signposting to Penumbra 1st Response, Well Aberdeen, and Self-harm services; Mental Health Aberdeen's Raac support group held during August-September 2024, and Mental Health Aberdeen's Torry Counselling service; and the Peep Families Learning Together programme.

Issues discussed and addressed at the sessions included:

- Mental health and anxiety
- Children's mental health
- Family support
- The Council's response and how they had been communicating with affected households
- Lack of stability and inconsistency of information shared with regards to RAAC housing
- Timing of moves
- School transitions and worries about additional costs such as school uniform costs
- Transition and anxiety associated with re-location
- Future of Torry and the local community

Support for Young Carers

Despite the substantial support available for young carers in Aberdeen, identifying and referring them to this support can be challenging, as many do not recognise themselves as carers. The Young Carers project has aimed to increase the identification and support of young carers throughout the city. Since early last year, the city wide project has seen continued success, with a 20% increase in the number of young carers accessing support, rising from 126 in June 2023 to 151 in December 2024. As of March 2025 there were **40 young carers** supported in the **South Locality**

Young Carer Case Study

An 18-year-old student was referred to the Barnardos Young Carers Service in August 2020 for support due to their substantial caring role for their mother, who has Myalgic Encephalomyelitis (M.E). The Young Carer (YC) provides emotional support, assists with shopping, personal care, and household activities. They also manage their own health needs and have faced mental health challenges throughout their childhood.

Initially, YC received fortnightly one-to-one sessions to understand the impact of their caring role and to access breaks from caring. Over time, the focus shifted to exploring healthy coping strategies, building self-esteem and confidence, developing peer relationships, and managing poor mental health. Regular communication with professionals and the family helped support YC comprehensively. The YC's mother also engaged with Adult Support Groups, becoming more independent in accessing her own support. YC has participated in social opportunities through various groups and activities, accessed financial support, and used their experience to help create an in-school Young Carers group, raising awareness and establishing a Young Carers lead at their school.



The Council's **Community Learning and Development Healthy Minds Team** works with adults in recovery of an enduring, diagnosed mental illness to access learning opportunities within their community to promote their recovery. They work on a 1:1 basis to offer guidance, develop a learning plan and support the learner to participate in learning opportunities. They also offer short engagement courses to meet our learners needs as and when required. In 2024-25, Healthy Minds supported **15 participants in the South Locality with a total of 42 learner**

hours.

Raise awareness of substance service and provision

The Community Planning Partnership through our **fatal drug overdose projects** are focused on reducing drug related deaths (DRDs) through innovative developments and by increasing the distribution of naloxone. Naloxone is an emergency medication that can reverse the effects of an overdose of opioids like heroin or methadone and can save someone's life. During 2024-25, the project has focused on interventions in our priority neighbourhoods to increase public awareness and access to the life saving drug to people at risk of overdose, as well as to family members/friends of those in need.

The Aberdeen Protects app launched in December 2024 promotes the uptake and use of naloxone. The app is for anyone - whether parents, staff or people using substances. Whether its young people at a party, people out at the weekend or people who have used substances for a long time, we can all reduce harm by understanding the risks and how to respond. It enables people to:

- find nearest stockists of naloxone
- videos on how to use naloxone and respond to an overdose
- understand signs and symptoms of overdose
- harm reduction advice
- order postal naloxone kit online
- links to support services
- links to national drug alerts
- local push notifications of drug alerts, harms and local support



We're also getting out in the community and running community learning and development events to raise awareness of naloxone and support available. It is important that training on naloxone is available for everyone. Our young people are a key part of this. We are delighted to report that all secondary schools have staff members trained to administer naloxone and from the 2024-25 school year, all S4 pupils trained in administering naloxone, in addition to the Level 6 first aid course. This provides them with a qualification, as well as the ability to save someone's life. Overall **94 naloxone kits** were supplied across South Locality during 2024-25.



Recovery from drug and alcohol-related harm is crucial for creating healthier communities. We know that each person's recovery journey is unique, and that providing a range of supportive opportunities helps sustain their recovery, reduce stigma, and increase resilience. Through our recovery project we are committed to building on the treatment, support and community peer led initiatives available and providing recovery support for individual, family, and community levels to help people live free from the potential harm of alcohol and drugs.

We have also increased support available over the weekend, with Aberdeen In Recovery (AiR) now running sessions on Sundays and Alcohol & Drugs

Action open on Saturdays and Sundays, to ensure that when people need support they can access it. There were 126 members of Aberdeen In Recovery during Q1-2 of 2024-25. Of which 19% were from South Locality. On average AiR are running 14 different groups per week with the aim of providing a variety of options to meet the individuals interest and needs. Through Aberdeen In Recovery activities, between 4 April and 22 November 2024, there were 9326 SAFE (Stable Addiction-Free Engagement) hours which equates to 1243.5 days.

Suicide Prevention

During 2024-25, SAMH's Community Engagement Officer specialising on suicide prevention delivered 50 training sessions across Aberdeen City which were attended by 663 people. This included to groups that have reach into all our localities such as DWP work coaches, Aberdeen Vaccination and Wellbeing Hub staff, various NHS Grampian teams, Council Housing Officers, Aberdeen in Recovery and Alcohol and Drugs Action staff, and other third sector organisations. In the South Locality, SAMH's Link Practitioner Service participated in a dedicated outreach event on 25 June 2024 to support the wellbeing of tenants and owners affected by RAAC concrete in their homes in Balnagask.



SAMH's Community Engagement Officers across the North East Suicide Prevention Team also delivered 32 online sessions reaching another 450 people.

Evaluation data has shown that **80%** of people attending the training feel more confident to ask about suicide. **90%** reported the training has been useful in both their personal and professional lives.









A sample of attendee feedback is noted below:







“Great training, really enjoyed this refresher of information. Trainer was interesting to listen to and engaged well with the group.”

“Powerful piece of training that resonated at so many different levels and with so many different people on the call. Thank you”

“Thank you for a thought provoking session. I am telling anyone who will listen about it.”

WHAT IMPACT HAVE WE HAD IN 2024/25?

Youth Anti-Social Behaviour  <p>There were 893 reported youth anti-social behaviour incidents across South Locality during 2024. This is a 1.9% improvement on the 910 incidents reported during 2023.</p> <p>213 incidents took place in Torry, this was the highest per neighbourhood across South Locality.</p>	Positive destinations  <p>94.2% of South Locality school leavers achieved an initial positive destination. With 91.44% of Lochside Academy leavers achieving a positive destination</p>	Mental Health  <p>16.9% of people who live in South Locality have been prescribed drugs for anxiety, depression, or psychosis. This is slightly lower than the Aberdeen City figure of 17.4%</p>
Teenage Pregnancies <p>In South Locality, 20.9 per 1000 girls and young women recorded pregnancies. This just above the Aberdeen City average rate of 19.8 per 1000 girls and young women.</p>	Counselling for Young People  <p>100% of schools in South Locality offer counselling and Active School activities</p>	Working Together with Parents  <p>27 new PEEP practitioners trained during 2024-25 to support parents with young children</p>
Young People Volunteering  <p>1123 young people from South Locality received a Saltire Award. 3623 young people received a Saltire Award across Aberdeen City</p>	Healthy Eating  <p>15.4% of people in South Locality said they were unable to eat healthy and nutritious food due to poverty. This has increased from last year's figure of 10.1% (City Voice 50, 2024)</p>	Community Empowerment  <p>369 people attended the Stay Well Stay Connected – Grampian Gathering on 12 October 2024 which celebrated active ageing. 46 attendees were from South Locality.</p>
Alcohol Awareness	Drug Related Deaths	Drug Related Hospital Stays

 <p>51.1% of people in South Locality said they didn't know the maximum number of alcohol units recommended per week. The South Locality has the highest proportion of people (31.9%) who do not drink alcohol across Aberdeen City (29.1%) (City Voice 49, 2024)</p>	 <p>94 naloxone kits supplied in South Locality during 2024-25</p>	 <p>The rate of drug related hospital stays for South Locality was 118.1 per 100,000 population. This is an improvement from 135.3 per 100,000 in 2022</p>
Alcohol Related Mortality Rates	Deaths from Suicide	Life Expectancy
 <p>Alcohol related mortality rates in South Locality are now 14.4 people per 100,000. This is below the Aberdeen City rate of 19.9 people per 100,000</p>	 <p>The rate of death from suicide in the South Locality is 10.4 per 100,000, this is below the citywide average of 11.1 per 100,000 of the population.</p>	 <p>Men who live in Braeside can expect to live 84.2 years, whereas men in Torry East can expect to live 71.5 years. The average life expectancy for a man in Aberdeen City is 76.9 years.</p> <p>Women who live in Braeside can expect to live 84.7 years, whereas women in Torry East can expect to live 76 years. The average life expectancy for a woman in Aberdeen City is 80.9 years.</p>

AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT IN 2025/26

- Increase positive destinations for vulnerable learners
- Work with partners to make childcare accessible and affordable for all



OUR PRIORITIES

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

Priority 6. Identify and maximise use of green space

WHAT PROGRESS HAVE WE MADE DURING 2024/25?

Supporting greenspace development



Encourage community growing spaces

Inchgarth Community Garden was created in 2018 by volunteers at Inchgarth Community Centre, and has grown in size and beauty ever since. With lovely areas to sit and enjoy the world go by, to enjoy reading a book or lunch, or learning and volunteer, there's something for all at the garden. With lots of food growing there is plenty of free food too. There is also can access to toilets, a cafe, an excellent playpark, and picnic benches.

It's a truly lovely space for all to enjoy, and a warm welcome is assured to all.

Tullos Community Garden

In 2024, the garden had a successful year with numerous events and community collaborations. Highlights include the Big Garden Bird Watch, two well-attended family events, and the formation of the Aberdeen Community Garden Network (ACGN), which helped with garden improvements. The garden celebrated its sixth birthday with a local turnout and activities, while volunteers from various groups, including Barnardo's and Ashted Technology, contributed to significant projects. The CFINE HOPE team enhanced the garden's compost system, and a memorial was held for a founding member. Regular volunteering sessions continued, though turnout was sometimes low. A CFINE songwriting course also took place, linking



the garden with the community. The garden group wishes to extend their thanks to key supporters and volunteers.

Cook and Create – Freelance Creative Practitioners

Cook and Create was a project targeted at primary aged children to encourage food skills and healthy eating within a creative and inclusive environment. The project was run over three sessions, each session consisted of cooking and eating a healthy meal together and participating in some arts and crafts to finish the day. While eating the meal, the participants were able to speak about the ingredients used within the meal and explore the importance of healthy eating together. The work undertaken during the art sessions was utilised to create a recipe book for all



participants to share with their families upon Cook and Create project finishing.



“.. a portion of the recipe for each child to take away at the end of the session. This ensured that participants had adequate access to healthy food whenever we were able to support this and it also supported sharing of what was learnt in the sessions with family and friends after the session ended.”

Safe and Welcoming Environment

Asylum and Refugee Care ran an eight-week program for asylum seekers using social and therapeutic horticulture practices to enable integration into the local community by improving English language skills, horticultural skills, and wellbeing through meaningful gardening and outdoor activities. The programme has successfully helped asylum seekers integrate into the community and improve their overall wellbeing. Participants have reported improved language skills and a sense of belonging in the community.

During 2024-25, **Greyhope Bay** have organised **nine litter pick events**, which was attended by **130 volunteers**. It is estimated that **1170 bags of rubbish** were collected during the litter picks. Aberdeen City Council supported the local litter picks by providing Greyhope Bay with the kit and equipment.



Support people to make healthy choices

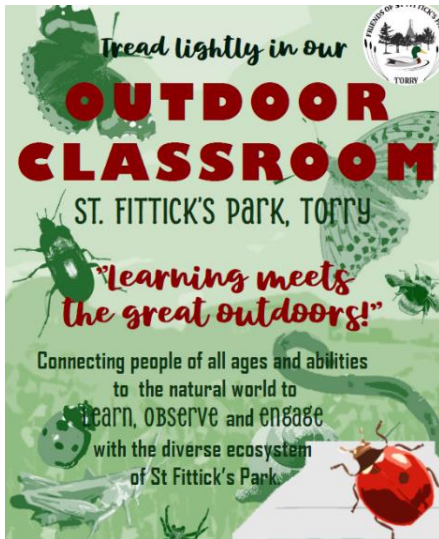
Jog Torry was funded through **UDecide participatory budgeting** in March 2025 to organise a community fitness celebration day to motivate the wider community to improve their health and wellbeing. The aim is to kickstart jogging in Torry with two blocks of coach-led sessions, with encouragement for two participants from each group of 20 to go on and complete the Jog Scotland training enabling them to run the Torry group as volunteers, helping the programme to be self-sustaining.

It is envisaged the fitness day will take place at St Fitticks Park and include a 5km round the park for the first couch to 5km course completers. The fitness day will also provide refreshments for the community and will host information stalls on various themes including community walking groups (paths for all), chair based aerobics, Sport Aberdeen offers, and other fitness opportunities in the area. Local parents at Greyhope Primary School have already expressed interest in linking up with the project. The project is supported by the Torry Health Matters Group as it helps to meet one of its core aims to improve adult fitness, mental health, and prevent diabetes.

St Fitticks Park Walking Group started in June 2024 through support and encouragement from Sport Aberdeen.

The walks start at the Bridge Centre in Torry at 11am on Fridays. Up to **10 people** participate regularly on the walks.





The **Friends of St Fittick's Park** have had a busy and successful year, offering family workshops, community gatherings, and environmental activities in Torry. Highlights include nature-based events like "Build a Bee Hotel," mammal detection workshops, and regular litter picks, collecting around **50 bags of litter and five shopping trolleys**. The classroom, which celebrates its first birthday in June, has been a hub for community engagement and will continue to host events in 2025, including a bioblitz and citizen science activities. The group has received support from various local and national organisations, and they look forward to a busy summer season.

"Mum, we were at the nature park and it was brilliant!"

One of the comments from an excited child after a recent Friends of St Fittick's Park family event.

Kaimhill School Enhanced Provision created a sensory garden for children with additional support needs. The garden has provided a safe and engaging environment for children to explore and learn, helping them feel more regulated and connected. The project **supported 50 children** and has become a favourite spot for them to explore and learn about nature.

Deevale Greenspace Growers

The Community Development team identified and surveyed the greenspace area is behind flats on Deevale Gardens, Cairnvale Place, Cairngorm Drive and Faulds Gate in Kincorth in May 2023. 90 homes were visited and **59 responded**.

Residents were surveyed to find out if they would like to see the development of the greenspace at the back of their homes for the benefit of the local community. We held two garden meetings with interested residents to explore residents ideas. The project focussed on developing a growing plot for the garden. The project has been successful in growing a range of vegetables throughout the summer 2024.

One grower has started documenting the progress through poetry.







The growers supported hosted a 1st birthday celebration to showcase the garden with residents with tea and homemade cakes. At the event, residents were asked for ideas for Phase 2 for example flower planting, seating options to make it a welcoming and social space and extending the growing space.



Social Juice is a community interest company dedicated to upcycling surplus fruit to invest in new community orchards and environmental projects. This year Social Juice has created its first batch of cider and perry from surplus apples and pears to start building an income stream to support community projects. We are inviting donations of surplus fruit from the gardens and orchards across Aberdeen to expand what we do. During 2024 we have been able to supply locally grown apples and pear trees for five community groups in Aberdeen, with orchard planting projects at Torry, Cove, Mounthooly, Woodside and Tillydrone. These will provide locally grown apples and pears for people in those areas, flowers for pollinators and a rich environment for wildlife. In Torry, Social Juice was honoured to receive three grant awards to revive St Fittick's Edible Garden and transform it into community biodiversity hub to help our local wildlife including pollinators. The grants from the Just Transition Participatory Budget, the Coast and Communities Fund, and Nature Hubs Fund Social Juice has secured so far are half the battle and we need help from the Torry community to create a community garden for the benefit of all. Contact us if you are interested on info.socialjuicecic@gmail.com.



WHAT IMPACT HAVE WE HAD IN 2024/25?

Satisfaction with Green Space	Community Growing Spaces	Community Managed Green Spaces
 <p>69.6% of South Locality respondents reported being satisfied or fairly satisfied with the overall quality of green/open spaces. This is lower than the 74% of respondents for Aberdeen City collectively (City Voice 51, 2024)</p>	 <p>12 supported community food growing projects happening across South Locality</p>	 <p>5 community groups being supported to look after community green space in Torry and Kincorth</p>
Cycling	Walking	Community Resilience
 <p>10.6% of people in the South cycled in the last year as a sustainable travel choice (City Voice 51, 2024)</p>	 <p>64.2% of people in South Locality walk as one mode of transport. However this number falls to 47.4% in Torry and Kincorth (City Voice 51, 2024)</p>	 <p>There are 2 Community Resilience Groups in the South Locality. These groups cover Culter; and Culter, Bieldside, and Miltimber</p>

AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT IN 2025/26

- We will support communities to collaborate food growing efforts with schools and workplaces
- Review the impact of cyclists and other users on the Deeside Line

Our Communities



OUR PRIORITIES

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

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

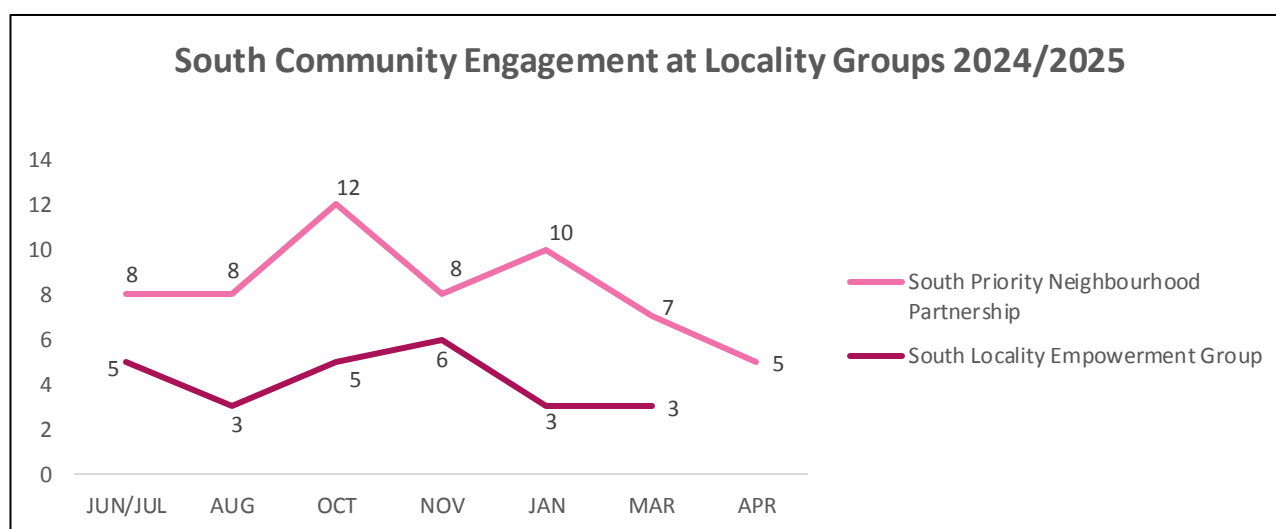
PROGRESS MADE DURING 2024/25

Community Participation

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

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

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



Stay updated

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

As well as this, we have a number of ways to stay updated on what is going on in your neighbourhood.

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

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

In March 2025, with help from SHMU, a group of community members launch the [Connected Torry](#) website, for local people to find out more about what's on in the area, about local groups and read local news stories.

Get Involved

Following a citywide meeting with our existing community representatives, they had the following to say about what they gain from involvement:

Staying mentally and physically active	Learning new skills and gaining self-confidence	Receiving support from staff
Recognition through local and national awards	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

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

[Our Communities - Community Planning Aberdeen](#)

localityplanning@aberdeencity.gov.uk

Community Funding



The Locality Planning team led the delivery of a UDecide Participatory Budgeting process. There was £60,000 of funding available to community groups, £40,000 from Community Planning Aberdeen and a further £20,000 from the Fairer Aberdeen Fund. This provided a total of £20,000 available for each of the three localities.



Applications were open to community groups in Torry and Kincorth who were able to demonstrate how their projects and activities related to one or more of the community ideas detailed within the South Locality Plan.

Funding was awarded to 9 projects across Torry and Kincorth and 1 project was partially funded. You can read more about the process here: [UDecide Report 2025](#).

Funded UDecide Projects
Schools First Aid Training Services CIC – South Training children the essentials and basics of First Aid. <i>Locality Plan Priority Link: Upskilling communities and partners' knowledge of health and wellbeing, weight management, services, and training</i>
Christmas Lights for Provost Watt Drive in Kincorth Christmas lights and a light switch on celebration, bringing the community together <i>Locality Plan Priority Link: Celebrate and increase awareness of community led projects</i>
Gardner Green Space Creating safe and welcoming green spaces for residents to socialise and enjoy nature. <i>Locality Plan Priority Link: Promote use of greenspace and improve access to greenspace</i>
Kincorth Rainbows Youth Community Group Providing a safe, girls only space for the members to be themselves, learn and develop. <i>Locality Plan Priority Link: More freely available/low cost facilities for children and young people, including sports facilities</i>
51st Aberdeen Brownies Inspiring and empowering girls aged 7-10, helping them develop valuable life skills <i>Locality Plan Priority Link: More freely available/low cost facilities for children and young people, including sports facilities</i>
Souperb Free soup and roll, giving young people the experience of running a community Café. <i>Locality Plan Priority Link: Sustain and develop community food provision including food pantries</i>
Peep TALK group Family group supporting young children's speech, language and communication. <i>Locality Plan Priority Link: Upskilling communities and partners' knowledge of health and wellbeing, weight management, services, and training</i>

Recreation Club (Our Lives Our Community) A club helping mental resilience, health and wellbeing, healthy relationships, community spirit. <i>Locality Plan Priority Link: Identify and develop actions to address the mental wellbeing of young people</i>
JOG TORRY Kickstarting Jogging in Torry with a community fitness celebration day. <i>Locality Plan Priority Link: Develop opportunities/spaces for more physical activity in the area- Torry 10k.</i>
Torry Clean & Green Initiative Revitalising Torry, fostering clean, safe public spaces through school roadshows <i>Locality Plan Priority Link: Increase litter bins</i>



Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership
Health Improvement Fund

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

Funded Health Improvement Fund Projects
Young Carers Confidence to Cook skills – Barnardos Confidence to Cook skills Sessions will be offered to Young Carers.
Sporting Equipment for All – Albury Sports Hub Replacing and renewing worn equipment and provided extra equipment for young users.
Project Netball – Active Schools (Lochside ASG) A safe and encouraging club for young girls to play netball recreationally and competitively.
Unleash Your Drive – Golf & Mental Toughness Tools – Active Schools (Cults ASG) Using golf in schools as a context for pupils learning mental toughness tools.
Intergenerational Gardening Project – Gray Street Allotments Association Creating a garden in a designated area at Broomhill Primary School Play Ground. Helping children.
Torry Dance Group – Torry Dance Group Free zumba and highland dance tuition.
Confidence to cook for menopause and women’s health – Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership A project to equip women with the skills, knowledge and confidence to cook, eat and prepare healthy meals that will have a positive impact on their health and wellbeing especially in preparation for the menopause and hormonal changes.
Torry's Bumps & Babies - NHS Childsmile To provide a warm and welcoming setting where new Mums / Mums to be, can meet

<p>Connecting the Dots From the Ground Up -Torry Health Matters Network</p> <p>Torry Health Matters –promoting community health & wellbeing activities, improving communication between and access to services, directed by the community’s priorities.</p>
<p>Walk and Talk therapy in St. Fittick’s Park - Friends of St Fittick's Park</p> <p>Improving mental health and wellbeing by supporting people to get access to being outdoors in nature and the opportunity for conversations during nature walks. We will offer creative workshops for people to participate in arts and crafts activities, as well as individual outdoor walk and talk sessions with a qualified counsellor.</p>
<p>Community Media for Change (Torry) – SHMU</p> <p>A community media project, which will deliver positive health outcomes for individuals and the wider community of Torry.</p>
<p>Hope and Meal Project - North East Black Ethnic Minorities</p> <p>We will establish a monthly dinner club in Aberdeen, providing nutritious meals and support for the homeless and those in need. This safe space will foster community spirit and social interaction. Our goal is to improve the well-being of vulnerable individuals by addressing hunger and isolation.</p>
<p>Unity in Wellness Project - Pillar of Hope A free, culturally sensitive befriending service for BAME adults in Aberdeen with long-term health conditions, who face a higher risk of social isolation, poor health outcomes, and marginalization. The service is delivered by trained volunteers, providing tailored befriending support to help improve their well-being.</p>
<p>Gairn Community Garden - Gairn Community Garden</p> <p>Garden with raised beds, play areas, and seating to promote social interaction and health.</p>
<p>Get fit for Project - Inchgarth Community Centre. Provide free fitness and wellbeing activities for those facing the barriers and challenges to participation listed above, with the view to improving people’s health and wellbeing across a wide section of our community.</p>
<p>Step Ahead – In Your Power</p> <p>A person-centric ‘one-stop-shop’ that helps individuals: 1. understand who they are 2. Identify what support they need to realise their potential 3. find the right delivery method 4. and deliver that support to them, enabling them to live a healthy, empowered life within our community.</p>

The Fairer Aberdeen Fund is allocated by Aberdeen City Council to tackle poverty and deprivation. The Fund is allocated by a deliberative participatory budgeting approach, with a Board made up of Elected Members, Community Planning Partners, and community representatives with lived experience. The Fund supports initiatives and services in priority areas, as well as vulnerable groups across the city. In the South Locality **20 initiatives** were funded to deliver activities with a **value of £370,000**

Consultation & Engagement



Participation of communities and people's rights lie at the heart of community planning and our communities are key to informing and shaping our plans and strategies. Using the steps within the community empowerment toolkit, and the Participation, Accountability, Non-discrimination and equality, Empowerment and Legality (PANEL) principles, Community Planning

Aberdeen launched its “Your Place, Your Plans, Your Future” engagement in March 2025.

This builds on the community engagement which took place in 2023 using the Place Standard tool to inform the refresh of the Local Outcome Improvement Plan in 2024, engaging 465 people. This year the approach has been enhanced and adapted to enable the single engagement to help inform a number of plans and strategies being developed by the Partnership.

We know that different people will have different needs. We wanted to make sure that everyone has the opportunity to share their views, including those that are seldom heard, and those who may be experiencing any form of inequality or disadvantage. As well as an online version, we held six locality events, including one at Greyhope Community Hub and another at Airyhall Library, a children and young people's version, and took the conversation into schools and communities across Aberdeen, capturing thoughts and feelings about life in Aberdeen. Our outreach programme details all the groups and locations we attended to help support people have their say.



The engagement closed on 18 May 2025 and analysis of participation and results is underway. The data will be used to inform the multiple plans and strategies, including the Local outcome Improvement Plan 2026-36 and Locality Plans for North, South and Central. Using the results, we will work with communities to co-create solutions through the development of the next Plans, ensuring that local people are at the heart of community planning.

In addition, the Locality Planning Team continues its outreach work, and engages on a regular basis with individual community members, and community groups and organisations such as community councils and the local third sector.

During May 2024, the Council's Community Learning and Development (CLD) service was inspected by His Majesty's Inspectorate of Education (HMIE). HMIE inspectors reviewed the City's locality planning arrangements and interviewed LEG and PNP community members. In their inspection report, HMIE reported that CLD's **“Successful engagement of community representatives is starting to ensure that their [community member] views are included in locality planning and the refresh of the LOIP”**

- Host more citywide locality planning engagement sessions
- Add more content to the Locality Planning section of the Community Planning Aberdeen website
- Prepare an induction pack for community members joining a LEG or PNP
- Increase the number and diversity of people engaging in locality planning meetings, activities, and projects. Participation in Priority Neighbourhood Partnerships has declined, particularly in the North and Central Localities. To address this, we are exploring new methods to boost engagement, acknowledging that each neighbourhood has unique needs. Our focus has been on hyper-local engagement. A recent test of change in Seaton tested the idea that holding area focused meetings within neighbourhoods could increase attendance. Additionally, by concentrating on area specific priorities from the Locality Plan, we aimed to encourage those with a particular interest in those issues to participate. You can read more about the test [here](#).

Your Locality Planning Team

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

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



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RISK, AUDIT AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting	17 June 2025
Report Title	PCIP Update report
Report Number	HSCP.25.044
Lead Officer	Emma King, Primary Care Manager
Report Author Details	Name: Alison Penman Job Title: PCIP Programme Manager Email Address: alison.penman1@nhs.scot
Consultation Checklist Completed	Yes
Directions Required	No
Exempt	No
Appendices	Appendix A – ToR for the PCIP review Appendix B – Evaluation frame diagram for the PCIP review Appendix C – Project progress
Terms of Reference	4 & 5

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1. This report presents the Risk, Audit & Performance Committee (RAPC) with an update regarding progress implementing the Primary Care Improvement Plan (PCIP).

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Committee:

- a) Note the update presented on the PCIP, as outlined in this report; and



RISK, AUDIT AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE

- b) Note that the annual PCIP Update report was presented to the meeting of the Integration Joint Board at its meeting on 19 November 2024.

3. Strategic Plan Context

The PCIP is identified as a key priority within the IJB's Strategic Plan 2022-2025. The delivery of PCIP is recognised as an important transformational tool for creating capacity and improving patient experience of General Practitioner (GP) services. It seeks to add additional capacity in the form of alternative professional roles to support GPs as well as delivering some services in a different way, improving access for patients and improving outcomes.

4. Summary of Key Information

- 4.1. An agreement between the Scottish Government (SG) and the Scottish General Practitioners Committee of the British Medical Association (SGPC) known as the Revised Memorandum of Understanding 2021-2023 (MoU2), is designed to enable improvement within primary care as envisaged by the General Medical Services (GMS) contract. It was published in July 2021, taking into account the learning and experience from previous iterations of the contract.

The MoU2 identifies three priority workstreams:

- Pharmacotherapy;
- Community Treatment and Care Services (CTAC)
- Vaccination Transformation Programme (VTP)

- 4.2. The Aberdeen City PCIP was agreed and approved by the IJB in 2018 in collaboration with the Local Medical Committee (LMC) and the GP Sub-committee (which sits within the governance structures of NHS Grampian).

The PCIP sets out how the Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership (ACHSCP) intends to transform general practice services, utilising the Primary Care Improvement Fund (PCIF) to release capacity of General Practitioners (GPs). The PCIP seeks to deliver the three priority areas set out in the MoU2 to enable GPs to undertake their role as Expert Medical Generalists as envisaged in the General Medical Services (GMS) Contract.



RISK, AUDIT AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE

The last update was provided to the IJB at its meeting in November 2024 as part of the PCIP annual report.

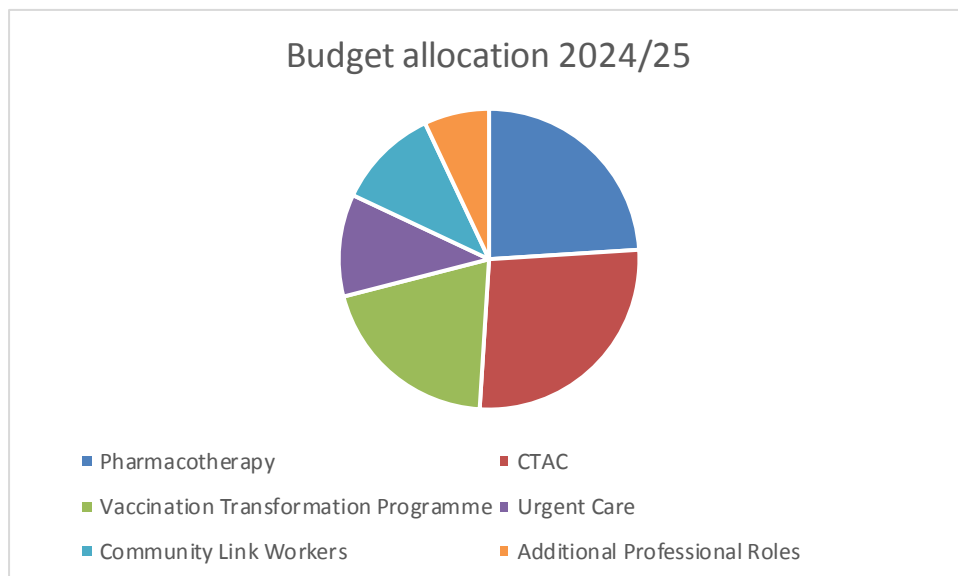
4.3. Primary Care Improvement Plan (City) Update

4.3.1 General Update

It has been seven years since the PCIP was agreed.

Currently all city practices receive at least a partial PCIP allocation from one or more of the workstreams and this is in terms of the original blue print plans for each individual workstream and in line with the MoU2. It was agreed by the Aberdeen City PCIP Project Delivery group that there would be work undertaken to ensure equity and best use of resources by reviewing the levels of input for all practices on an ongoing basis i.e. how much of each workstream has been allocated to each practice. The PCIP allocations are based on individual workstream models and varies in terms of how the original calculations were done for each plan.

The prioritised services, as stated in the MoU2 are Pharmacotherapy, CTAC and the Vaccination Transformation Programme and the graph below shows the funding split for the 6 workstreams.





RISK, AUDIT AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE

4.3.2 The MoU2 ended in 2023 and the Scottish Government have stated that there is no plan to replace it at this time, the three priority areas referred to in paragraph 4.1 remain the focus. The role of the PCIP is also the subject of consideration by a Grampian General Practice Vision Programme Board which is looking at longer term options for a more sustainable general practice model.

4.3.3 In response to current sustainability challenges and evolving needs within the NHS Grampian area, a vision statement has been articulated as follows:

“A sustainable General Practice across Grampian which enables people in their communities to stay well through the prevention and treatment of ill health”

4.3.4 A set of objectives that capture the changes required to move towards a more sustainable general practice sector within the area were approved by the three Grampian Integrated Joint Boards (IJBs) in March, 2024 and an update was presented to the IJB in February 2025.

4.3.5 The vision and objectives are being progressed via the GP Visioning Programme Board which in turn are supported by project sub groups. Existing resource within the three Health and Social Care Partnerships (HSCP) has been identified and allocated to deliver on the prioritised objectives.

4.3.6 As part of the work around the key objectives, a review of the PCIPs across Grampian will be undertaken and a project sub group has been set up to take this work forward.



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4.4. PCIP Review update.

4.4.1 The PCIP review project gained momentum in June 2024 following a period of consultation with key stakeholders across the three HSCPs in Grampian. The aim of the project is to highlight any areas that are working well and examples of good practice and to also demonstrate areas where a change to how a service could be delivered would be an advantage to GP's and patients. The Vision Board have frequent meetings with Scottish Government representatives and will use these opportunities to influence any potential changes to how the MoU2 is delivered in NHS Grampian. The review of all workstreams delivered by PCIP is one of the priority outputs from the GP Visioning and the project is being resourced from within the partnerships with existing personnel. The project has representation from the Public Health Scotland (PHS) Local Intelligence Support Team (LIST), HSCP leads, NHS Grampian Finance colleagues as well as primary care clinical and management representation. A copy of the Terms of Reference for a new PCIP Review Project Group, established under the GP Visioning work, is attached in **Appendix A**.

4.4.2 A short life working group (SLWG) as part of the review project group has been established and meets every two weeks and feeds into the wider PCIP project delivery group which, in turn, presents progress reports at the GP Visioning Working Group and the GP Visioning Programme Board meetings. The purpose of the SLWG is to plan how the data and information can be collated and create the processes required to do so.

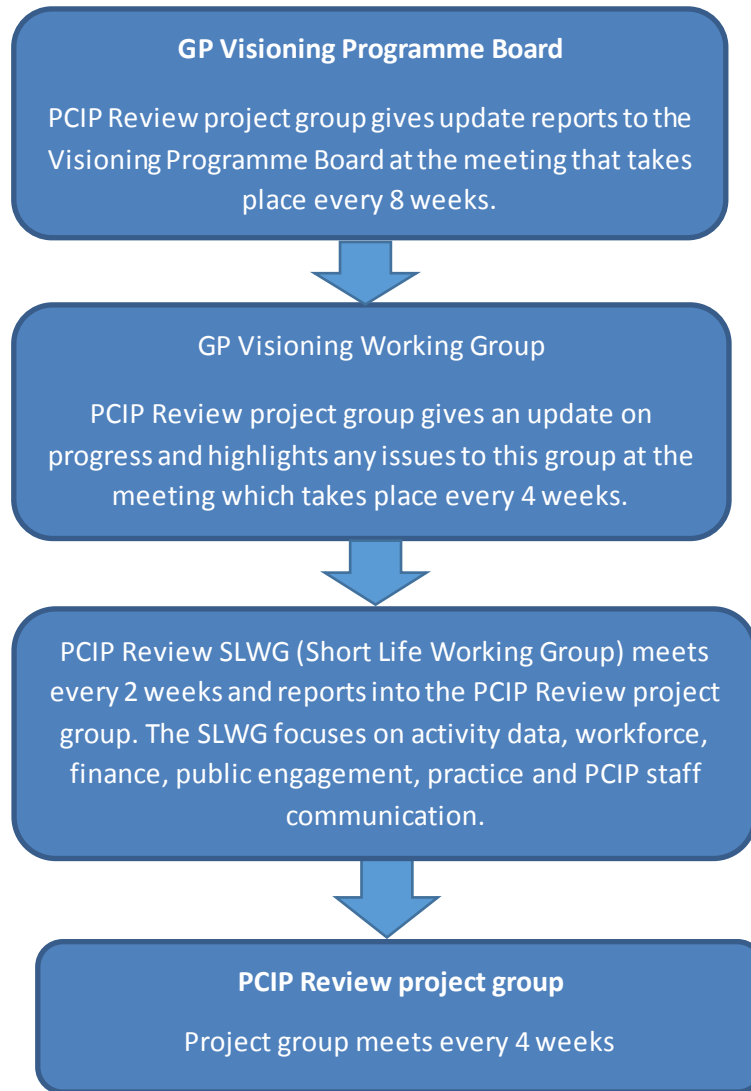
The project group are looking at 3 measures:

- Quality - How well is PCIP being delivered in terms of services to patients?
- Quantity - What is the overall PCIP resource?
- Efficiency - What does PCIP do to support practices, patients and staff?



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PCIP Review project reporting structure:



4.4.3 The work progresses at a steady pace despite the many complexities encountered during the process due to variances across the HSCPs. The need is to ensure that a full, thorough and complete review is undertaken and the approach is to do this objectively and fairly. Constructive feedback from the review group is also challenging at this time as services cannot be reviewed in isolation. The working group will present the wider PCIP review group with all information when completed with a report for each workstream and an overarching report to be presented to the GP Vision Programme Board.



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4.4.4 Methodology

The review of PCIPs across Grampian in the context of the GP Vision is based on the PDSA (Plan Do Study Act) methodology to progress this work as follows:

- 4.4.5 An Evaluation Framework has been agreed to provide a structure and systematic tool to assess whether PCIP has achieved its intended results. The Evaluation Framework visual summary attached in **Appendix B**.
- 4.4.6 Finance: The working group has gathered budget data for Moray, Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire to compare the budget breakdown of each service and discussions will take place in terms of how each budget is utilised to provide the services required in each.
- 4.4.7 The review group will be gathering information on the six MoU2 workstreams and all six are progressing. The benefit of this work will be the ability to compare how the services are delivered across Grampian and identify examples of good practice that may be transferable across the HSCP's.
- 4.4.8 The PCIP review group is part of a GP Vision sub group that will take forward a plan for public engagement. The progress around this work is being considered so that it dovetails with the detailed PCIP review information as it becomes available. Taking this approach will determine the most meaningful feedback requested and take cognisance of any variance and differences highlighted during the data gathering.
- 4.4.9 A newsletter from the GP Visioning is periodically distributed to practices and PCIP staff across Grampian and recently an update from the PCIP review group formed part of a communication to all GP practices across Grampian. Recent discussion at the GP Visioning working group has been around a communication strategy and how this should be structured and incorporate the PCIP review.

4.5 Engagement and Communication

All points below have been or are continuously delivered.

- PCIP Newsletter – A regular newsletter has been developed with relevant updates and this is distributed to all city GP Practices and the



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PCIP Project delivery group. CTAC (Community Treatment and Care) share a newsletter on a regular basis with updates on any changes to the city practices. The remaining workstreams communicate by e-mail with the practices to give updates and these are sent via the PCIP group e-mail address.

- Citywide events – The PCIP has the opportunity to use the Bi-monthly citywide event as a platform to deliver updates and to engage with GP practice staff and a forthcoming date is June 2025.
- GP Visioning Newsletter – Distributed to all GP Practices in Grampian, PCIP delivery groups and Board members.

4.6 PCIP Workstream Updates

The SG confirmed via the MoU2 that there are three workstreams of priority which are CTAC (Community Treatment and Care), Pharmacotherapy and the VTP (Vaccination Transformation Programme).

Operationally, each workstream presents activity data using capacity and demand as a measure and if relevant the waiting times. This is to enable the monitoring of service delivery and to form part of the planning process going forward. The data is presented at the monthly PCIP Delivery group meeting.

Please see updates for these workstreams below:

4.6.1 CTAC workstream

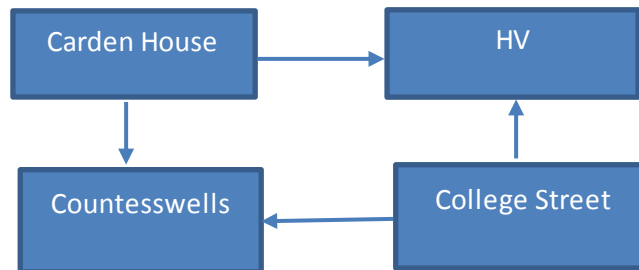
CTAC clinics have achieved a significant milestone and have seen over 100,000 patients. This highlights the growth of the service, now spanning multiple locations across the city, as well as CTAC staff integrated within most practices. The service is delivering the original blue print plan and continues to deliver service improvement initiatives within the limitation of the available funding received from the SG.

- 4.6.2** A review of activity in the hubs has been completed and in light of lower demand in certain locations, the service has made a decision to move out of the Torry Neighbourhood Centre, releasing the room to podiatry which will better serve the population in the area. Similarly, a review of the services at the College Street hub has concluded lower appointments uptake being identified. As a result of understanding the



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levels of efficiency and utilisation at the hubs CTAC have moved staff to other locations to maximise the capacity. CTAC is part of the new development at Countesswells and have capacity within the new hub which opened in February 2025. The hub will also provide childhood vaccinations, Health Visitor and Speech and Language Therapy support to the population in this area. The CTAC service provided at Carden House has moved to the Aberdeen Community Health and Care Village (HV). These moves took place in tandem to minimise any disruption to patients and GP Practices and with no loss of capacity. The capacity has not increased and is monitored on an on-going basis with activity reports presented at the monthly CTAC project meeting and the wider PCIP Delivery group monthly meeting to enable any changes to be agreed and planned.



The other hubs across ACHSCP are Bridge of Don, Inverurie Road in Bucksburn, Northfield, Airyhall, Kincorth and the Aberdeen City Vaccination and Wellbeing Hub.

Collectively, between the hubs and practice-based teams, CTAC provide approximately 1,000 clinical hours each week and this was outlined in the original CTAC blueprint plan. This translates to 4,000 appointments if 1,000 hours is delivered.

The majority of the practices have CTAC staff embedded within their practice with the exception of three practices, one practice has chosen not to have a CTAC member of staff and uses the hubs and the remaining 2 are small practices and the capacity available in the hubs is a more efficient use of the service.

4.6.3 Waiting times

Due to rising patient demand an increase in waiting times for appointments has been identified and to help address this the service has introduced 10 minute venepuncture appointments at CTAC hubs instead of the original 15 minutes per appointment. The change to 10



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minute appointments excludes trained nurse procedures due to the more complex nature of the procedures they undertake.

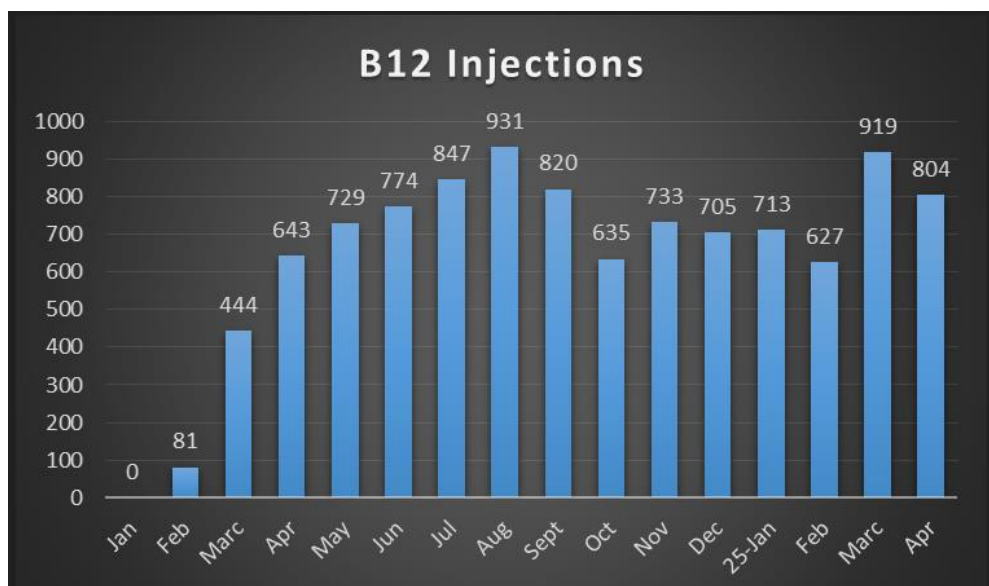
As part of the change, CTAC share wait times information for the clinics with practices on a regular basis to inform and assist in identifying capacity across the ACHSCP.

The availability of venepuncture appointments is currently being reviewed to assist in meeting the increasing demand for the support of patients on a practice chronic disease register. CTAC support the practices with the management of patients in this cohort and demand has increased by up to 4 weeks for some procedures. A number of options will be considered to assist in the improvement of the availability of appointments and assist with patient flow.

4.6.4 Vitamin B12 Injections (Vitamin B12 deficiency anaemia).

The CTAC workstream, as requested by a number of GP practices, has implemented a service to deliver B12 injections to patients and this was launched at the Aberdeen City Vaccination and Wellbeing Hub. This has been possible with the support of the Vaccination staff and they have successfully administered over 10,000 injections to patients from the majority of city practices since implementation in February 2024.

Practices can choose to opt in and also have the option for CTAC staff embedded within the practices to receive B12 administration training. This option allows patients to have their B12 injection within the practice if they choose this option or if the patient would receive the





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best care by visiting the practice. This option is available to all practices with CTAC embedded staff should they choose to proceed.

The trend in the graph represents the demand based activity currently delivered in the Aberdeen City Vaccination and Wellbeing Hub.

4.6.6 Chronic Disease Management

CTAC support the practices with the management of patients on a Chronic Disease register. An update was shared at a recent Diabetic Executive Group meeting in terms of the Grampian position for foot screening and a 70% uptake was reported. This compares favourably against the Scottish national figure of 60% and attributed to the work CTAC have done to improve the figures.

4.7 Pharmacotherapy workstream

- 4.7.1 The Pharmacotherapy service provides support to GP Practices and this includes medicines reconciliation. The service also supports the practices by proactively taking actions from hospital discharge letters, medication reviews and this includes acute and repeat requests. The model is flexible in terms of what individual practices choose to use the service to deliver.
- 4.7.2 The Pharmacotherapy hub continues to deliver support to cover annual leave and any sick leave and this is available to all practices across the ACHSCP (Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership).
- 4.7.3 The service is delivered by Pharmacy Technicians and Pharmacists based on a ratio of 1.25 WTE PCIP staff per 10,000 patients. However, the service model approved by the IJB in the 2018 PCIP has been identified as insufficient to deliver all the demands on the service. Nationally and locally it is recognised that a model that is closer to being able to deliver the full remit of the MoU2 would realistically need to be a ratio of 2.5 WTE PCIP staff per 10,000 patients (double the current capacity). This is due to the long term trends nationally with patients living longer and use of medicines to support chronic disease management. In addition longer outpatient waiting lists also impact medication requirements in the community as people await treatment.
- 4.7.4 The service had faced challenges in terms of recruitment and pharmacist posts are currently going through the recruitment process. However, this has improved and higher levels of applications are now



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being received. The service has also managed a high level of maternity leave that has improved recently with the reduced number of 2.4 WTE staff currently on maternity leave.

4.8. Vaccination Transformation Programme (VTP)

- 4.8.1 The VTP has been delivered in line with the MoU2 and continues to be delivered from the Vaccination and Wellbeing Hub based in the city centre, Bridge of Don and Airyhall bases.
- 4.8.2 The service maintains the delivery of the range of vaccines and two new respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) programmes were introduced in August 2024 and successfully vaccinated 71% of the eligible population. The service also supports the CTAC B12 programme for injections delivered in the hub when staff are available out with the vaccination programmes, in particular the delivery of the winter programme. The same arrangement is in place for vaccination staff to cross cover and deliver CTAC procedures following any required training.
- 4.8.3 The Vaccination and Wellbeing Hub facilitates the delivery of a number of support services including 3rd sector providers with a programme of events available to the city population to take the MEOC (Making Every Opportunity Count) approach. The hub also contributes to the delivery of the Community Appointment Days.
- 4.8.4 The service is part of the Countesswells project and has space allocated to deliver childhood vaccinations which commenced in February 2025.

Under the MoU2, the remaining Multi-disciplinary Team services updated below should be maintained but progressed at a slower pace in accordance with the Scottish Government Primary Care Improvement Fund annual funding letter for 2024/25 received 5 July 2024.

4.9. MSK (Musculoskeletal): First Contact Physiotherapists (FCP's)

- 4.9.1 The FCP service is a primary care model that provides patients with direct access to a physiotherapist and most commonly for the assessment and management of musculoskeletal disorders, without the need for prior assessment or referral from a GP.
- 4.9.2 Although recruitment has been challenging, all practices have some FCP input. The team have recruited to the senior FCP posts and have



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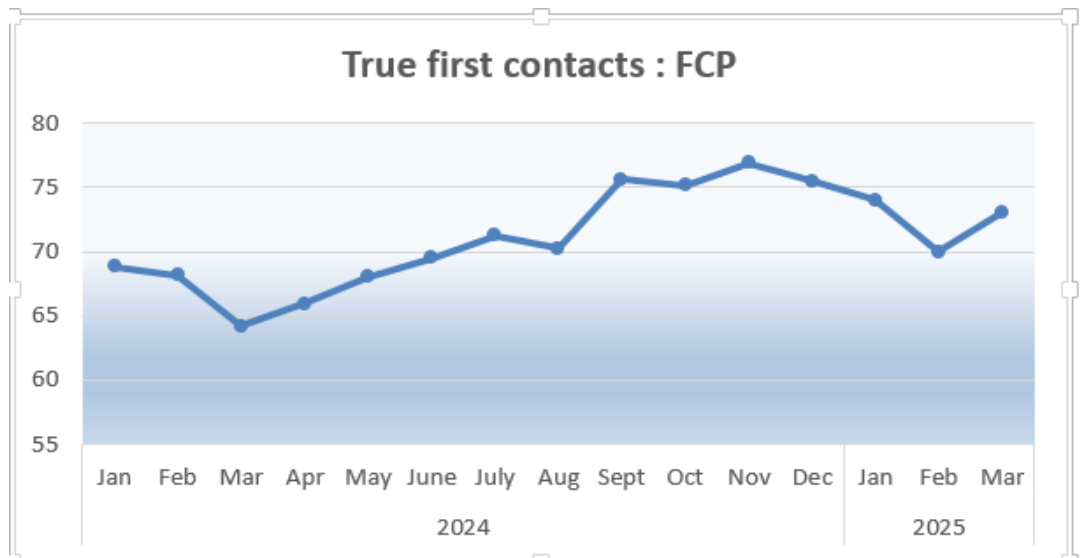
recruited within the level of their budget for the remaining posts which are Band 7 physiotherapists.

Regular reviews of the current delivery model are on-going and enable an equitable allocation across the practices. Following a successful recruitment process in October 2024, for the first time, all available posts have been filled. Regular reviews of the current delivery model continue ensuring equity across the city.

- 4.9.3 The FCP team have taken a pragmatic approach and have created a document called "*Top Tips on how to improve use of your FCP service*" and this is to support GP Practices to maximise their referral capacity.
- 4.9.4 The FCP team are currently reviewing their service agreement that is shared with the practices and the aim to create a like for like document across the 3 HSCPs in Grampian. This also ties in with the on-going PCIP review.
- 4.9.5 Comparative data has shown that the percentage of contacts being true first contact appointments has risen from a lower figure of 55% in 2023 to an average of 71% in 2024/25 which has freed up appointments for GP's, more appropriate use of the service and improved the patient journey. This continues to be the trend with a current figure of 71%. The term First Contact represents how many patients have seen an FCP as their first point of contact for a particular problem. The waiting time to see an FCP averages 2-3 weeks or sooner if the request is urgent and >75% of patients seen are self referrals and not referred by a GP.



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4.10 Urgent Care/City Visits (Advanced Practitioners)

4.10.1 The service is delivered within the patient's own home and the team have their base at Woodend Hospital. The service provides assessment, diagnosis and initial management in patients' own home for on the day urgent consultations. This includes phlebotomy, clinical observations, ECG monitoring and bladder scanning. The service is delivered by a team of qualified and trainee Advanced Clinical Practitioners.

4.10.2 As part of the improvement work identified in a review of the service undertaken in 2023 activity information is collated on a monthly basis and is broken down to practice level. A "Time and Motion" study was carried out recently and over a period of 4 weeks. The results along with the ongoing activity and demand data is forming part of the PCIP Review and the City Visits service consistently delivers an average of 500 home visits per month.

The study looked at the following:

- Direct patient intervention time
- Acute admissions
- Total number of visits achieved



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- Immediate life threatening SAS (Scottish Ambulance Service) response.
- Indirect patients intervention time
- Travel time between visits

4.10.3 City Visits workstream received positive feedback from GP practices as part of the 2024 contract monitoring visits undertaken by the primary care management team.

4.11. Community Link Workers

4.11.1 The contract with SAMH is monitored closely since its implementation in April 2023 with formal quarterly meetings in place. Working in collaboration with SAMH there has been agreement in the type of data that is presented and includes a dashboard. The data includes activity, patient outcomes and patient and practice opinions. The information is broken down by localities and by practice so gives an in-depth level of detail.

4.11.2 Regular meetings take place to plan any service development opportunities and recent improvement work has been undertaken for the PDS (Post Diagnostic Support) for dementia patients. This element of the service has been streamlined in terms of the referral process and by doing so has implemented a more equal spread of capacity and an improvement to the waiting times. As part of this work the waiting times are monitored in terms of the management of the contract.

Activity snapshot taken from Q4, 2024/25 report



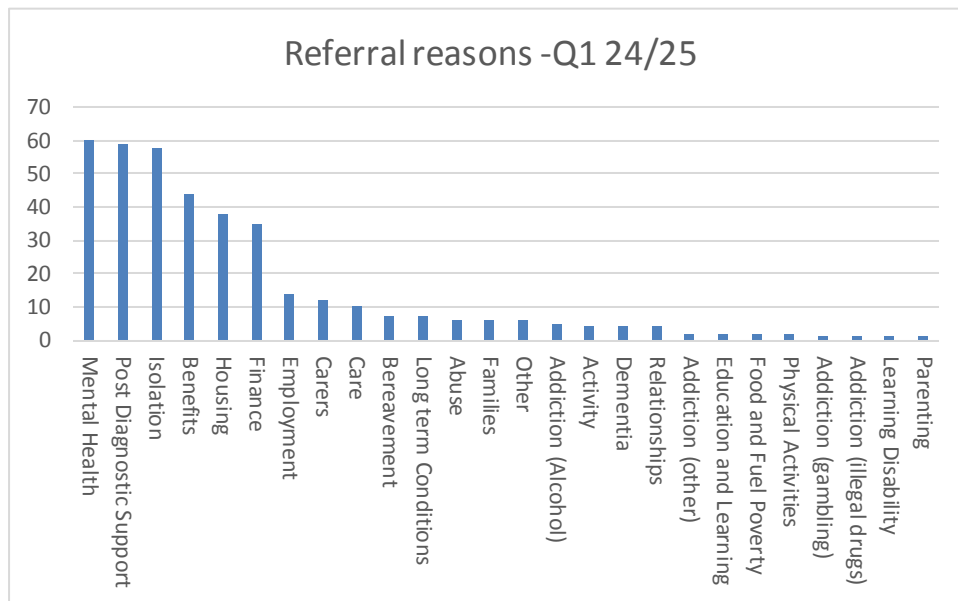
4.11.3 The Link Worker service has engaged with practices that have lower referral rates and looking to gain access to space where none has been available previously. An outcome of the work has enabled the



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Link Workers to gain some access to all practices with the exception of 4 practices that struggle with space and alternative capacity is provided in the HV.

The referral criteria remains unchanged i.e. GP practice referrals and the main criteria by referral type is shown in the graph below:



5. Implications for IJB

5.1 Equalities, Fairer Scotland and Health Inequality

The National Health Service (General Medical Services Contracts) (Scotland) Regulations 2018 (GMS) has had a comprehensive, nationally led Equalities Impact Assessment completed and can be accessed [here](#)

This is applicable to the PCIP Programme.

5.2 Financial



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- 5.2.1 There is specific ring-fenced funding provided by the SG to the Primary Care Improvement Fund in respect of the implementation of the PCIP.
- 5.2.2 Whilst the funding is currently non-recurring, HSCPs have been advised by the SG to plan delivery as if the funding was recurrent. This information was included in a communication received in March 2025 and under the heading Planning Assumptions for 2024-25.

Funding allocations from the Scottish Government

£'000	23/24	24/25
SG allocation of funding	£7,156	£7,156
% used for PCIP activities	100%	100%

Funding is closely monitored and updates presented at the monthly PCIP Programme Board meetings. A plan is being developed for the 2025/26 financial year on the assumption that the SG funding allocation will remain the same and each individual workstream will have an indicative budget allocation.

Our plan will operate on the assumption that the financial years' allocation of funding will be released in 1 tranche and is for 12 months from 1st April 2025 until 31st March 2026.

- 5.2.3 The SG requires a performance monitoring tracker to be completed bi-annually and this includes workforce and financial updates. The most recently completed (version 8) was submitted on 9 May 2025.
- 5.2.4 As there is no uplift expected in terms of allocation of SG funding, the workstreams will continue to manage their service delivery within the current financial envelope and focus on service improvement initiatives. With increasing pressures on the budget the plan going forward will need to consider the Agenda for Change pay awards and the inflated costs for non-pay items e.g. consumables.

5.3 Workforce

There is ongoing recruitment to acquire the appropriately skilled workforce to support the implementation of the PCIP. This is progressed by each workstream with an overview by the PCIP



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Project Delivery group and the outcomes from the recruitment process and scrutiny.

5.4 Legal

The PCIP seeks to provide the capacity within General Practice to support the implementation of the new GMS Contract. Any commissioning and procurement of services required to implement the plan has and will continue to be progressed in a compliant manner.

5.5 Unpaid Carers

There are no direct implications as this is a noting report.

5.6 Information Governance

As part of the Shared Services project a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) is in place to enable staff to access GP practices systems. There has been engagement with NHS Grampian's Head of Information Governance and a process was agreed to take this forward at an early stage in the project plan. The DPIA currently in place is due to be reviewed in 2025.

5.7 Environmental Impacts

There are no direct environmental implications arising from the recommendations of this noting report.

5.8 Sustainability

There are no direct sustainability implications arising from the recommendations of this noting report.

6.0 Management of Risk

6.1 The key risks to delivering the PCIP have been identified as Financial and Workforce

Financial Risk – Insufficient funding available to deliver the MOU2 and



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SG funding for the financial year, 2024/25 did not have any uplift on the previous year's funding. Confirmation of the funding for the financial year, 2025/26 has not been confirmed as yet. Additional non pay costs is a consideration and also Agenda for Change pay awards.

Workforce Risk – Inability to recruit to essential posts with the required skills, length of time to process any vacancies and budget constraints all for part of the risk to workforce.

6.2 Link to risks on strategic or operational risk register:

As recorded in the strategic risk register, delivery of the PCIP (and subsequently the implementation of the GMS contract) is a mitigating action against the risk identified above.

Category	Description of risk	Mitigations
Finance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Insufficient funding available to deliver the MoU 2021-2023 Additional pressures in terms of AfC pay increases and a shortfall in the funding allocation to cover this. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review options for the PCIP in terms of service delivery as part of the Visioning programme. Close monitoring of budget spend and forecasting. Planning towards a baselined budget for current financial year, 25/26 to maximise spend. Close monitoring of non-pay elements and rising costs with a process in terms of stock levels and rotation.
Workforce	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inability to recruit to posts with the required level of skills and restricting the ability to progress service delivery. Financial constraints in 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continually advertising posts through the recruitment process. Opportunity to review how services are delivered and may be part of a redesign process as outputs from the Visioning programme.



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	terms of budget constraints	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore opportunities to develop technology.
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Terms of Reference

Appendix A

Title	Grampian General Practice Vision : PCIP review project		
Lead	SRO – Senior Responsible Officer		
Date	April, 2024	Version	1

Purpose & Scope
<p>Project Scope: The project aims to evaluate the implementation of the 2018 Scottish GP contract Primary Care Improvement Plan (PCIP) across Grampian. It will focus on assessing the operational delivery of PCIP work streams at both Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP) and Practice levels, with the goal of identifying strengths, weaknesses, and areas for further evaluation.</p> <p>Project Deliverables:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide an overview of PCIP staff resources. Present an analysis of clinical activity within PCIP work streams. Evaluate the costs associated with PCIP work streams. Offer recommendations for areas where variation should be evaluated. Identify outcome measures suitable for monitoring ongoing implementation.



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Approach: The project will achieve its objectives through the following steps:

- Gather comprehensive data on PCIP resources and clinical delivery and this should include quantifying PCIP work still being carried out by practices.
- Analyse the collected data to identify trends and variations.
- Conduct a comparative analysis across the three HSCPs within Grampian.
- Evaluate the efficiency and value of PCIP delivery.
- Develop a framework to assess user experience and outcome data.
- Establish mechanisms for ongoing monitoring of PCIP implementation.

Outcome: By following this approach, the project will facilitate a thorough review of the Primary Care Improvement Plan. It will identify areas for enhancement, provide valuable insights for further evaluation, and ultimately contribute to the improvement of PCIP delivery across Grampian.

Meeting frequency		
Grampian PCIP review project group	4 weekly	Quorum - 1 SRO, 2 Clinical Leads, LMC rep, 2 HSCP rep from different HSPCs.
SLWG's	As and when	N/A

Remit and Responsibilities
<p>Roles and Responsibilities for the Grampian PCIP Review Project:</p> <p>Resource Management:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure necessary resources are available to facilitate timely progress on project actions. • Monitor resource allocation and utilisation to optimise efficiency. <p>Project Planning and Implementation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oversee the development and review of the project plan.



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- Implement any Short Life Working Groups (SLWGs) to advance specific pieces of work as needed.

Stakeholder Engagement:

- Conduct a stakeholder analysis to identify key stakeholders from across the three Integration Joint Boards (IJBs), General Practice, service users and the NHS Board.
- Ensure stakeholders are engaged effectively throughout the review process.

Meeting Facilitation and Documentation:

- Chair regular meetings and ensure they are conducted efficiently and effectively.
- Provide high-quality meeting minutes and maintain an updated project tracker for sharing with the project group to monitor progress.

Risk Management

- Take responsibility for identifying and managing risks within the programme.
- Escalate significant risks, when necessary, to the Grampian General Practice Vision Programme Board for resolution.

Communication and Collaboration:

- Share project updates and relevant information with the Grampian General Practice Vision Board.
- Engage regularly with stakeholders to foster collaboration and ensure alignment with project objectives.

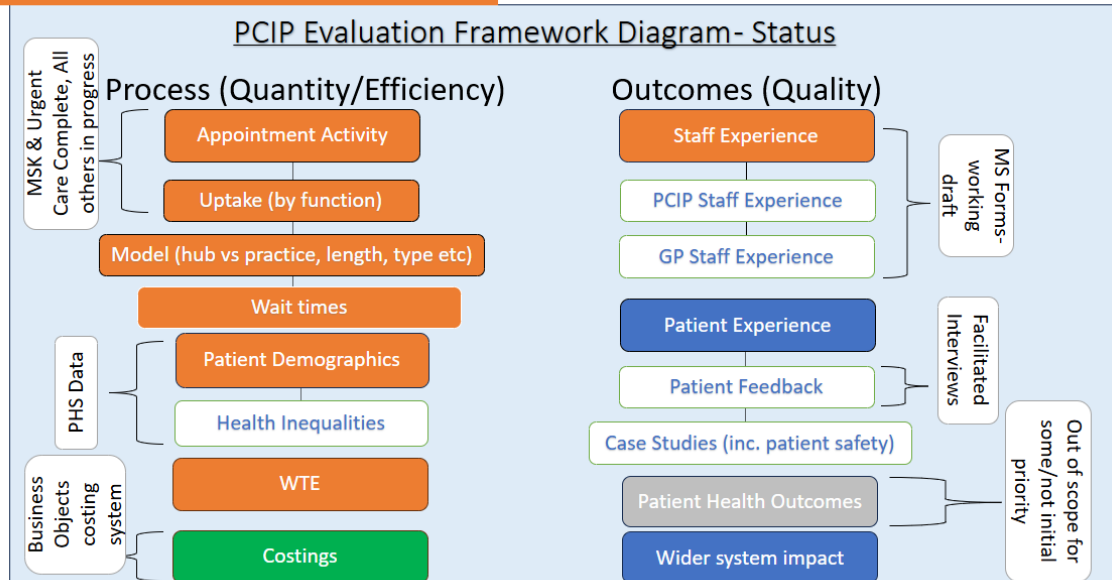
By fulfilling these roles and responsibilities, the project team will effectively oversee the Grampian PCIP review, ensuring smooth progress, stakeholder engagement, risk management, and communication throughout the process.



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Appendix B

Current work in progress – 30/4/25

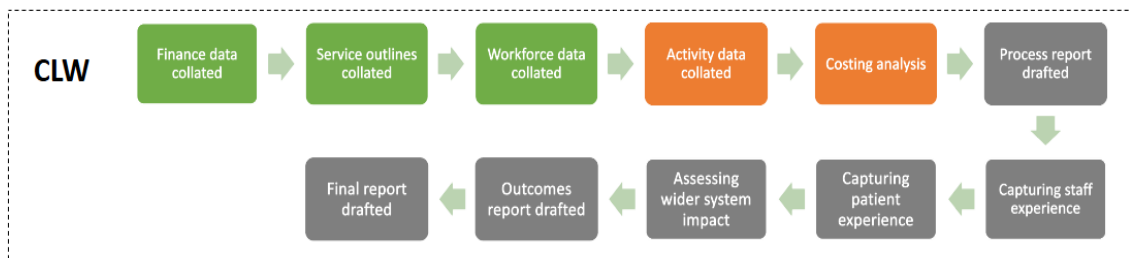
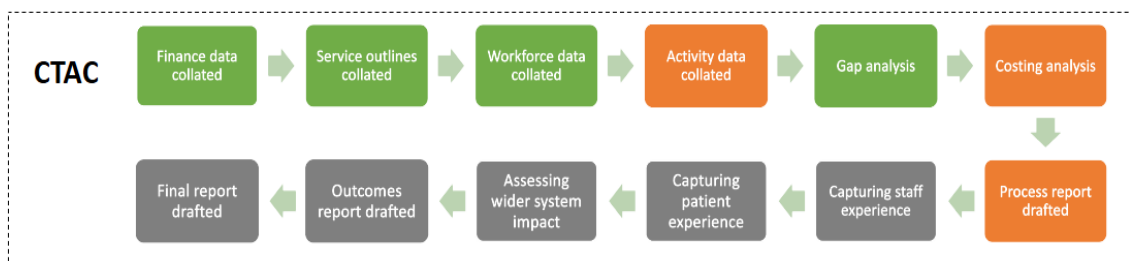
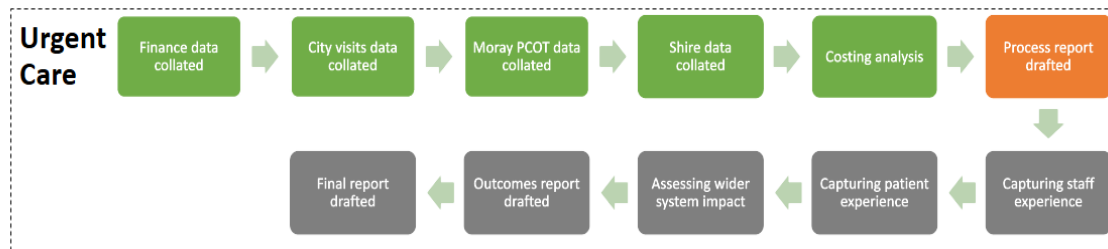
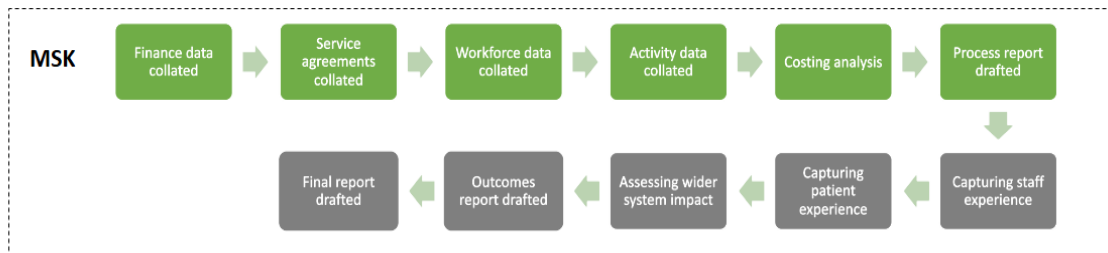




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Appendix C

Process and Outcomes Evaluation Progress by Workstream





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INTEGRATION JOINT BOARD

Date of Meeting	17 th June 2025
Report Title	Justice Social Work Service Delivery Plan 2025 - 29
Report Number	HSCP.25.045
Lead Officer	Claire Wilson, Chief Officer Adult Social Work
Report Author Details	Name: Val Vertigans Job Title: Strategic Service Manager, Justice Social Work Service, HSCP Email Address: vavertigans@aberdeencity.gov.uk
Consultation Checklist Completed	Yes
Directions Required	No
Exempt	No
Appendices	A – Justice Social Work Service Delivery Plan 2025-29
Terms of Reference	To ensure that the IJB has robust arrangements for: • risk management; • financial management; • service performance; and • governance.

1. Purpose of the Report

The purpose of the report is to provide assurance regarding how the Justice Social Work Service intends to improve service delivery over the period 2025-29.

2. Recommendations

2.1. It is recommended that the RAP Committee:

- a) Notes the Justice Social Work Service Delivery Plan 2025-29 (Appendix 1)



INTEGRATION JOINT BOARD

3. Strategic Plan Context

The draft HSCP Strategic Plan 2025-29 sets out two Strategic Aims which underpin the contents of this Delivery Plan:

- Shift our focus towards Prevention and Early Intervention.
- Modernise our approach to service delivery

These strategic aims have a strong relevance to the work of the Justice Social Work service.

4. Summary of Key Information

- 4.1.** Justice Social Work is delegated by Aberdeen City Council to the Integration Joint Board (IJB) as set out in the Aberdeen City Integration Scheme created under the Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014. The Justice service is diverse, complex and busy and consists of a number of different service areas / teams: Pre-Disposal, Community Payback Orders (CPO) x 3, Unpaid Work, Throughcare, Caledonian, Women's Service, Support Work and Admin teams. Its primary remit is to provide statutory supervision and support to individuals who have offended, using interventions which are proportionate to risk and need. This supervision ranges from low level for those on Diversion to very high level, usually with multi-agency support, for the "critical few" who pose significant public protection concerns.
- 4.2.** The refreshed Service Delivery Plan 2025-29 replaces the Delivery Plan 2021-24, and outlines a coherent overview of the operation and ambitions of the Justice service; it details key strategic outcomes and objectives, and sets out how we aim to achieve these in order to improve the experiences and outcomes of the individuals who use the service.
- 4.3.** The Plan has been refreshed taking into account the following:
- Outstanding actions from the previous Delivery Plan;
 - Feedback from staff, clients and partners;
 - Key data, including comparison with other areas;
 - Findings from a Self Evaluation of Performance and Quality Assurance (as part of a national exercise led by the Care Inspectorate), and from Quality Assurance of case records;



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- Alignment with the local Health & Social Care Partnership Strategic Plan and Community Planning Aberdeen Local Outcome Improvement Plan priorities; and
- Alignment with national Community Justice priorities.

4.4. The Delivery Plan is a strategically coherent plan showing how a justice social work service that is already effective in many ways will strive to improve further individual and statutory outcomes for the people that it works with.

4.5. The planned actions align with National Outcomes and Standards for Justice Social work, and Care Inspectorate Quality Indicators, as well as our local JSWS Objectives. The planned actions will be reviewed on an annual basis to ensure that those which are still to be completed remain relevant and fit-for-purpose.

5. Implications for IJB

5.1. Equalities, Fairer Scotland and Health Inequality

There are no direct implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

5.2. Financial

There are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendations of this report. The primary remit of Justice Social Work is to provide statutory support and supervision to those who have offended. The Service is funded by statutory ring-fenced funding for this purpose.

5.3. Workforce

There are no direct workforce implications arising from the recommendations of this report. The funding described above enables the Service to ensure appropriate staffing and resources are in place to undertake its role.

5.4. Legal

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

5.5. Unpaid Carers



INTEGRATION JOINT BOARD

There are no direct implications relating to unpaid carers arising from the recommendations of this report.

5.6. Information Governance

There are no direct information governance implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

5.7. Environmental Impacts

There are no direct environmental implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

5.8. Sustainability

There are no direct sustainability implications arising from the recommendations of this report”.

5.9. Other

There are no other direct implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

6. Management of Risk

The content of the Report relates to the following from the HSCP Risk Appetite Statement:

Regulatory compliance: It will accept no or low risk in relation to breaches of regulatory and statutory compliance.

Assessment and mitigation of risk relating to individual clients forms the basis of JSW’s fundamental ongoing service delivery across the piece. Arrangements are in place for escalation, in conjunction with partners as required, including as part of the Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA). (MAPPA brings together the Police, Scottish Prison Service, Health and Local Authorities, in partnership as the ‘Responsible Authorities’, to assess and manage the risk posed by sex offenders who are subject to notification requirements under the Sexual Offences Act 2003, mentally disordered restricted patients, and other individuals who by reason of their conviction are assessed by the Responsible Authorities as posing a risk of serious harm to the public.)



Justice Social Work Service

Delivery Plan

1st April 2025 – 31st March 2029



Contents – to be reviewed

1. Introduction
2. Our Strategic Context
3. Our Service Delivery
4. Our Commitments
5. Conclusion.

If you require further information about any aspect of this document, please contact:

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1. Introduction

Aberdeen City Justice Social Work Service sits within the City's Health and Social Care Partnership. The Justice service is diverse, complex and busy and consists of a number of different service areas / teams: Pre-Disposal, Community Payback Orders (CPO) x 3, Unpaid Work, Throughcare, Caledonian, Women's Service, Support Work and Admin teams. Its primary remit is to provide statutory supervision and support to individuals who have offended, using interventions which are proportionate to risk and need. This supervision ranges from low level for those on Diversion to very high level, usually with multi-agency support, for the "critical few" who pose significant public protection concerns.

This Delivery Plan replaces the Delivery Plan 2021-24, and outlines a coherent overview of the operation and ambitions of the Justice service; it details the key strategic outcomes and objectives that we wish to focus on over the next four years and how we aim to achieve these in order to improve the experiences and outcomes of the individuals who use our service.

The Plan has been refreshed taking into account the following:

- Outstanding actions from the previous Delivery Plan;
- Feedback from staff, clients and partners;
- Key data, including comparison with other areas;
- Findings from a Self Evaluation of Performance and Quality Assurance (as part of a national exercise led by the Care Inspectorate), and from Quality Assurance of case records;
- Alignment with the local Health & Social Care Partnership Strategic Plan and Community Planning Aberdeen Local Outcome Improvement Plan priorities; and
- Alignment with national Community Justice priorities.

1.1 Our Vision and Values

Our Vision and Values were revisited at staff consultation events held in February 2025, where they were found to remain valid for the Service in terms of underpinning our ambitions and expectations. Our Vision is a pivotal point of reference for all our proposed activities and initiatives. Our values are the pillars that shape the identity of the service and help explain why we do the things we do, in the manner that we do; they are evident in all of our activities and underpin our intentions.

Our vision for the Justice Social Work Service is honest and straightforward:

“Every person that we work with achieves the best possible individual and statutory outcomes, whilst acknowledging that public protection is paramount”



NB Achievement of individual outcomes is evidenced through the Exit Questionnaire process.

Our JSW service values are:

The JSW Service ...

- is person-centred
- is respectful
- balances risk and need and promotes public protection
- promotes aspiration
- demonstrates equality
- shows kindness, empathy and compassion
- demonstrates stickability, flexibility and responsiveness
- is professional
- Is fair, consistent and takes a non judgemental approach
- has integrity
- works in a way that is informed by an understanding of the impact of trauma

We operate in line with the [SSSC Codes of Practice](#) (May 2024)

The impact of our vision and values is that the individuals with whom we work:

- Feel valued
- Feel safe
- Feel that they are being treated with dignity and respect
- Feel listened to/included
- Feel that they have been treated fairly
- Feel supported and empowered to make positive change
- Feel they have a good relationship with their supervising social worker
- Increase their self-efficacy

Putting these social work values into practice is an important service activity and priority. A statutory order or licence may be the reason for someone's initial contact with the service, but our motivation is driven by how our practitioners engage with their service users, the subsequent, mostly positive experiences that are voiced and the collaborations that are undertaken to achieve positive individual and statutory outcomes.



1.2 Our Outcomes and Objectives

The key outcomes for Justice Social Work services, as set out in the [National Outcomes and Standards for Social Work Services in the Criminal Justice System](#) (2010 – currently in the process of being reviewed) are as follows:

- Public understanding and confidence in Justice Social Work Services;
- Increased community safety and public protection;
- Reduction in offending;
- Increased social inclusion to support desistance from offending; and
- Provision of an efficient and effective service

Our objectives are framed by these desired outcomes, by the national Community Justice Outcomes, Performance and Improvement Framework, national policy and strategy developments, feedback from partners including the justice professionals who work as part of the JSW Service, clients of the service, wider community members and partner organisations and services; they are also underpinned by current research and evidence.

The objectives of the JSW Service, the attainment of which will help us to fulfil our vision, are:

- **To contribute to the creation of safer and fairer communities**
- **To fairly, effectively and proportionately implement court orders and release licences**
- **To reduce offending by promoting desistance**
- **To promote the social inclusion of people with convictions**

Our strategic vision, values and objectives underpin all of our relationships and activities. We have a strong understanding of who our clients are and are determined to work closely with them and appropriate others to deliver positive individual and statutory outcomes

2. Our Strategic Context

All Justice Social Work services operate within a robust legal framework and a rich strategic context at both a national and local level.

2.1 The National Context

The [National Outcomes and Standards](#) provide clear guidance on the delivery of justice social work services. Other key strategic documents include [The Vision for Justice in Scotland](#) (2022), the [Strategy for Community Justice](#) (2022), and a Community Justice Outcomes Performance and Improvement Framework (2023). Service delivery also aligns with the national [GIRFE principles](#).



2.2 The Local Context

Investing in early intervention and prevention is a core principle of Community Planning Aberdeen (CPA) that underpins every discussion, decision and action across its statutory partners.

A comprehensive [Population Needs Assessment](#) (PNA) was refreshed in 2023 as part of the development of our [Local Outcomes Improvement Plan 2016-26](#). The PNA provides a strong evidence base for the needs of our local communities and targeted improvement activities and initiatives.

Priorities for improvement of Community Justice' outcomes as required by the Community Justice (Scotland) Act 2016 are embedded into the City's LOIP, rather than there being a separate Community Justice Outcome Improvement Plan.

Our community planning vision is that Aberdeen is 'a place where all people can prosper'. The LOIP sets out a ten-year plan outlining how this vision will be realised in partnership with local people, places and communities. A key Community Justice) priority/Stretch Outcome in the LOIP is:

- **10% fewer adults (over 18) charged with more than one offence by 2026**

The Justice service is contributing towards a number of specific improvement projects which are being progressed to achieve this Stretch Outcome; activities and initiatives that are outlined in this Delivery Plan will also contribute to this priority.

The Vision of the Health and Social Care Partnership in Aberdeen City is to 'empower communities to achieve fulfilling and healthy lives'. Its draft Strategic Plan 2025-29 sets out two Strategic Aims which underpin the contents of this Delivery Plan:

- Shift our focus towards Prevention and Early Intervention.
- Modernise our approach to service delivery

These strategic aims were written for all of the partnership's delegated functions and services, but they have a strong, particular relevance to the work of the Justice Social Work service. The refreshed JSW Delivery Plan aligns to the timescales of the Health & Social Care Partnership Strategic Plan..

3. Our Service Delivery

We have a strong and well-informed understanding of who our clients are. The majority of individuals with whom we work present with a range of complex needs arising from backgrounds of family breakdown, parental/carer drug/alcohol/mental health/domestic abuse



problems, physical/ emotional/ sexual abuse and trauma, a lack of stability and consistency in housing, schooling and professional supports and, all too often, a poverty of aspiration for themselves. All of these are factors associated with high needs and risks and sometimes high risk of harm to self and others, and are set against the context of the post-Covid recovery period and a challenging economic climate.

Our staff are responsive to these increasingly complex needs and risks – our Spring 2025 staff survey demonstrated how central and embedded a client-focused ethos is within the Service; we know what will work. The core principles of early intervention and prevention permeate planning and delivery at all levels of the service, and we work in partnership with a range of agencies, services and other stakeholders as appropriate. We are committed to our professional responsibilities to respond accordingly to deliver outcomes that improve lives, reduce re-offending and protect the public.

Not only does the justice social work service know its client base and what interventions will be appropriate and successful, it also has the evident professional capabilities to deliver that person-led, criminogenic and trauma-informed practice. One of the key messages from the Care Inspectorate's February 2021 Inspection of Justice Social Work Services in Aberdeen was that "The support provided by justice staff in Aberdeen is having a transformative impact on individuals subject to CPOs. Individuals experience compassionate, consistent, focused and flexible support that frequently exceeds their expectations and is enabling positive change."

In addition, the [Hard Edges](#) Scotland report (2019) highlighted the value of justice social work services, including Aberdeen City, for their 'stickability' in dealing with severe and multiple disadvantage (homelessness, substance misuse and offending) and being able to demonstrate improved outcomes for individuals. The report shows the extent to which justice services are used as a last resort safety net and more particularly, it also states that "the existence of a court order appeared to be the necessary passport for access not only to an array of health and other support services but also the main route through which any kind of co-ordination of care occurred for people facing significant multiple disadvantage, if indeed, it occurred at all. Justice social workers were praised by some people with lived experience as the most consistent and helpful service they had encountered. Front-line service providers too, generally acknowledged, that justice teams provided the 'stickiest' and most pro-active support that adults facing significant multiple disadvantage could expect".



4. Our Commitments

*Quality Indicators from Care Inspectorate '[Guide to self evaluation for community justice in Scotland](#) (2023)'

Local JSWS Objective	National Outcome (NOS)	Area of Activity	*Quality Indicators	Specific Actions	Source	Timescale
To contribute to the creation of safer and fairer communities	Public understanding and confidence in Justice Social Work Services	Raise public awareness of the role, remit and scope of Justice Social Work	4.1 Impact on the community	Awareness raising of UPW opportunities and work undertaken (including through LOIP project)	Refresh from previous Delivery Plan	2025-2029
	Increased community safety and public protection	Effective collaboration with partner organisations and services	6.2 Planning and delivering services collaboratively 7.2 Staff development and support	To raise awareness i) of role and functions of JSWS with wider partners and ii) of role and functions of wider partners with JSWS staff, (in particular ACC Housing, Police Scotland, Third Sector, Mental Health Services, SPS) Engagement sessions and	Staff survey Partner survey	2025-2029



Local JSWS Objective	National Outcome (NOS)	Area of Activity	*Quality Indicators	Specific Actions	Source	Timescale
				shadowing opportunities with staff from partner agencies Shared training opportunities		
		LOIP Stretch Outcome 9: 10% fewer adults (over 18) charged with more than one offence by 2026	9.4 Leadership of improvement and change	The JSW service will continue to play a full and active part in appropriate Community Justice discussions and activities in relation to the LOIP	Alignment to LOIP	In line with LOIP timescales
		Increased staff confidence in the use of accredited assessment tools including the assessment and analysis of	5.2 Assessing and responding to risk and need 7.2 Staff development and support	Staff undertaking training in relevant risk / needs assessment tools, including Scrutiny of Risk Level (RoSH)	Refresh from last Delivery Plan	2025-2029



Local JSWS Objective	National Outcome (NOS)	Area of Activity	*Quality Indicators	Specific Actions	Source	Timescale
		serious harm.				
		Working effectively in relation to high risk Individuals	5.2 Assessing and responding to risk and need 6.2 Planning and delivering services collaboratively	Ensuring strong adherence to MAPPA processes, including in relation to reviews & risk management plans	Service need	2025-2029
To reduce offending by promoting desistance To promote the social inclusion of people with convictions	Reduction in offending Increased social inclusion to support desistance from offending	Effective and robust interventions	5.1 Providing support when it is needed 5.2 Assessing and responding to risk and need 5.3 Planning and providing	Delivery of Caledonian and MF2C Women's Service improvement plan (including national project' work relating to imprisonment of women) Development of a lower-	Staff survey Identified need to re-focus women's service and contribute to national project	2025-2029 2025-2029 Dec 2025



Local JSWS Objective	National Outcome (NOS)	Area of Activity	*Quality Indicators	Specific Actions	Source	Timescale
			effective interventions 5.4 Involving people accused or convicted of offences, and people affected by crime	level domestic abuse programme Development and improvement of men's services	<i>Refresh of last delivery plan</i> Staff survey and sessions Feb 25	2025-2029
			4.1 Impact on the community 5.3 Planning and providing effective interventions	Effective and meaningful Unpaid Work: • Premises • Fleet • Individual placements	To address existing challenges in provision of unpaid work service, and meet increasing need for 'lighter seated duties' (c50% of clients, from profiling)	2025-2026



Local JSWS Objective	National Outcome (NOS)	Area of Activity	*Quality Indicators	Specific Actions	Source	Timescale
		High quality JSWRs	5.2 Assessing and responding to risk and need	JSWRs to be informed by the appropriate risk assessments, including LS/CMI. For clients subject to statutory orders, the appropriate CMP/RMP to be completed in line with NOS.	From QAs	2025-2026
			5.3 Planning and providing effective interventions	Review current arrangements for assessments & interventions in relation to alcohol & drugs & identify links to offending	Carried over from previous delivery plan	2025-2026
			6.4 Performance management and quality assurance	Continued constructive feedback to Social Workers from QAs, learning from Significant Incident Reviews, & feedback from Court, to improve quality of JSWRs	From QAs	2025-2029
			7.2 Staff development and support			
			5.2 Assessing and responding to risk and need	Home Visits as appropriate – before all reviews, under LSCMI guidance. Best	Refresh of previous Delivery Plan	2025-2026



Local JSWS Objective	National Outcome (NOS)	Area of Activity	*Quality Indicators	Specific Actions	Source	Timescale
				practice at report stage		
We fairly, effectively and proportionately implement court orders and release licences	Provide an efficient and effective service	High quality case management Plans	6.4 Performance management and quality assurance 5.1 Providing support when it is needed 5.2 Assessing and responding to risk and need 5.3 Planning and providing effective Interventions 5.4 Involving people accused or	QA'ing of LSCMI LSCMI's / case management plans done within required timescales	From QAs	2025-2029



Local JSWS Objective	National Outcome (NOS)	Area of Activity	*Quality Indicators	Specific Actions	Source	Timescale
			convicted of offences, and people affected by crime			
We understand our Service and client-base, and collate and use data (both quantitative and qualitative) to ensure we are fulfilling our duties and to inform service improvement	Provision of an efficient and effective service	Robust performance management framework	6.4 Performance management and quality assurance 7.2 Staff development and support	Review of Performance Management Framework Extraction of data from D365 for operational and management oversight purposes Extraction of information from LSCMI to improve our understanding of the needs of our clients Review of MAPPA QA processes Upskilling staff in undertaking Learning / Case	From (Care Inspectorate) Self Evaluation of Performance Management arrangements	2025 2025-2026 2025-2026 2025-2027



Local JSWS Objective	National Outcome (NOS)	Area of Activity	*Quality Indicators	Specific Actions	Source	Timescale
				Reviews		
		Regular consideration by PMB of feedback from clients	1.1. Improving the life chances and outcomes of people with living experience of community justice 2.1. Impact on people accused or convicted of offences 2.2 Impact on victims of crime	New database for recording exit questionnaires (DPIA in progress) Establish mechanism for extracting and analysing regular feedback from client reviews Service Improvement Project re Exit Questionnaires Reintroduction of Women's Forum or a variant (albeit recognising increased complexity of clients makes this more challenging)	From (Care Inspectorate) Self Evaluation of Performance Management arrangements	2025 2025-2026 2025-2026 2025-2026
		Implementation of national statute &	6.2 Planning and delivering services	Preparatory work for implementation of the below, in conjunction with partner &	Horizon Scanning	As progressed nationally



Local JSWS Objective	National Outcome (NOS)	Area of Activity	*Quality Indicators	Specific Actions	Source	Timescale
		regulation	collaboratively 9.2 Leadership of strategy and direction 9.3 Leadership of People 9.4 Leadership of improvement and change 2.2 Impact on victims of crime 2.3 Impact on families	services as relevant, keeping staff updated and involved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children's Care & Justice (S) Act 2024 • Bail & Release (S) Act • Review of NOS • Trauma Informed Domestic Abuse Courts 		

5.0 Conclusion



The justice social work service is an integral element of the community justice jigsaw working directly with individuals who have offended who often have complex, chaotic lives and some of whom present a risk of serious harm to themselves or others. The professional desire to be a stable presence providing consistent, and where necessary, challenging, advice and support contributes to positive relationships between our practitioners and the individuals with whom they work and the attainment of relevant outcomes.

This Delivery Plan is a strategically coherent plan showing how a justice social work service that is already effective in many ways will strive to improve further individual and statutory outcomes for the people that it works with.

We will review these planned actions on an annual basis to ensure that those which are still to be completed remain relevant and fit-for-purpose.

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RISK, AUDIT AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting	17 June 2025
Report Title	Health Improvement Fund Annual Report
Report Number	HSCP.25.046
Lead Officer	Alison Macleod, Strategy and Transformation Lead, ACHSCP
Report Author Details	<p>Name: Chris Smillie Job Title: Public Health Coordinator, Communities, ACHSCP Email Address: csmillie@aberdeencity.gov.uk</p> <p>Name: Suzanne Thomson Job Title: Health Improvement Officer, Communities, ACHSCP Email Address: suthomson@aberdeencity.gov.uk</p>
Consultation Checklist Completed	Yes
Directions Required	No
Exempt	No
Appendices	1. Health Improvement Fund Annual Report 2023/24
Terms of Reference	<p>Risk, Audit and Performance Committee</p> <p>5. Receive and scrutinise performance reports and receive assurance that actions in respect of emerging trends are proportionate to the IJB's Risk Appetite Statement.</p>



RISK, AUDIT AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE

1. Purpose of the Report

1.1 To present the Health Improvement fund annual report 2023/24 for approval.

2. Recommendations

2.1. It is recommended that Committee:

- a. Approve the 2023-24 annual report attached as **Appendix 1**;
- b. Instruct the Chief Officer to submit the 2024-25 Locality Planning Annual Reports to this Committee by June 2026;
- c. Note the Committee will continue to receive regular updates through its regular Performance Reports; and
- d. Endorse the continued implementation of the Health Improvement Fund as an effective means of delivering on the Partnership's prevention agenda.

3. Strategic Plan Context

3.1. The Health Improvement Fund (HIF) supports community-led projects that inspire local involvement, address local needs, and promote health and wellbeing, aligning with the Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership (ACHSCP) Strategic Plan. By integrating strategic priorities, and fostering collaborative decision-making through Locality Empowerment Groups and Priority Neighbourhood Partnership members, the HIF ensures that funded initiatives contribute to the broader goals of the ACHSCP. Thus, aiming to reduce health inequalities and improve access to services for Aberdeen City's residents.



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4. Summary of Key Information

4.1 The Health Improvement Fund, offers grants of up to £5,000 to groups living and/or working in Aberdeen City. Applications must support at least one of the Public Health commitments within the ACHSCP strategic plan.

- Improve public health and wellbeing.
- Promote and support people to self-manage their health in a way that is suitable for them.
- Empower people to overcome the wider determinants of health.
- Enable and empower people of all ages with disabilities and/or complex care needs to maintain their health.
- Empower people to remain safely at home.
- Reduce the harmful impact of alcohol, drugs, tobacco, obesity and poor oral health.
- Value and support unpaid carers.

Applicants are also required to highlight how the project links with at least priority within the relevant Locality Plan (locality-based projects) or the Local Outcome Improvement Plan (Citywide projects). The allocation of funding is agreed upon by local decision-making groups within each locality, involving a range of frontline staff and community representatives. Members of the Locality Empowerment groups and the Priority Neighbourhood Partnerships support the local decision making groups. These decisions are guided by a scoring process based on established funding principles.

Integration and Collaboration

Over the past three years, the HIF has integrated into Aberdeen City's funding landscape, demonstrating successful collaboration with funders across the Public and Third Sector Interface. This joined-up approach has enhanced the effectiveness and reach of the fund.

Risk and Performance Considerations

- **Financial Management:** The annual allocation of £198,000 is managed within the ACHSCP budget, ensuring transparency and accountability in fund distribution.
- **Application Process:** The scoring process for applications ensures that funding is allocated based on clear and objective criteria, minimising the risk of bias or misallocation.



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- **Community Involvement:** The involvement of frontline staff and community representatives in decision-making promotes inclusivity and ensures that funded projects address genuine local need.
- **Collaboration:** The Fund's integration with other Public and Third Sector funding sources enhances resource efficiency and reduces duplication of effort.

4.2 Key highlights and updates

The Health Improvement Fund (HIF) Annual Report for 2023-24 highlights several key achievements and developments aimed at improving health and wellbeing in Aberdeen City. The Fund operates on principles that emphasize innovation, community leadership, and addressing local needs. Projects funded by HIF are designed to inspire community involvement, foster connections, and demonstrate tangible improvements in health and wellbeing.

During the 2023-24 funding cycle, HIF supported 75 projects across Aberdeen City. These projects engaged 393 volunteers who contributed a total of 9,295 hours, valued at £146,953.95. Volunteering time is generally valued as the median hourly pay rate in the area, in Aberdeen this was £15.81 (Office of National Statistics, the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings).

The initiatives collectively supported 8,884 people and generated an estimated £2.7 million return to the wider health and social care economy through prevention activities. This was calculated based on research by Public Health Wales (PHW) which estimates the rate of return (ROI) to be £14 per £1 invested. This research represents an average return across diverse prevention programs, a conservative yet credible benchmark for evaluating the Health Improvement Funded projects. PHW's pioneering work in applying a Social Value approach to public health interventions provides a robust framework for assessing the economic and social return of preventative health programs. The significant economic impact underscores the value of investing in community health initiatives. Particularly, the substantial long-term savings and health benefits of preventative investments and also strengthens the case for sustainable funding and resource allocation in Aberdeen.

In response to the cost-of-living crisis and the ongoing effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, HIF expanded its support to include the continuation



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of existing projects, not just new initiatives. This change was made to ensure that vital community services could continue to operate. Additionally, all funded projects were required to align with the priorities outlined in the Aberdeen City Locality Plans and the Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP). The screening process for project applications was also updated to improve accessibility and attract new panel members.

The funded projects can be themed into the following categories; self-help and self-management (23% of applications), children and young people (21%), older adults (16%), inclusion and social isolation (15%), food and food growing (11%), environmental improvements (8%), and physical activity (7%).

An example of a funded project is "Stand Up to Falls" which aimed to raise awareness about falls prevention, while "Ladies Swimming" provided women-only swimming lessons to boost confidence and physical activity. Other notable projects include, Festive Celebrations to reduce social isolation, the creation of a community garden at Rosemount Community Centre and Coping Skills sessions to help individuals manage anxiety and depression.

Sustainability is a key consideration for HIF, and the year-end evaluation revealed that 64% of projects from the 2023-24 funding cycle are continuing with or without changes. This indicates that many initiatives have successfully integrated into the community and continue to provide valuable services beyond the initial funding period. Some projects, such as Young Carer residential, are intentionally time-limited, designed to address specific short-term needs or complement other approaches. These projects aim to achieve their objectives within a defined period and may not require ongoing funding once their goals are met.

Looking ahead to 2024-25, HIF has already identified several new projects that will receive support. These include "Nature Prescriptions" by RSPB, which aims to train Link Practitioners in nature prescribing. As well as, "Youth Wellness Project" by Touch of Love, which focuses on physical activity, mental and emotional wellbeing, and community engagement for young people. Another notable project is "Pillow Talk" by The Period Place, which offers community-based workshops on menopause and fibroids, particularly targeting minority ethnic women.

Overall, the HIF Annual Report for 2023-24 showcases the Fund's commitment to enhancing community health and wellbeing through diverse and impactful projects. The report highlights the importance of community involvement, the economic value of prevention activities, and the ongoing need for innovative health initiatives in Aberdeen City.



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NEXT STEPS

5. Implications for IJB

5.1. Equalities, Fairer Scotland and Health Inequality

This report will have a positive impact on people with protected characteristics as defined in the Equality Act (2010), and those affected by socio-economic disadvantage.

HIF is committed to promoting inclusivity and accessibility in its funded projects. This commitment is reflected in the community-led nature of the initiatives, which encourage local involvement and leadership to address specific needs within diverse communities. For example, projects like women-only swimming lessons provide a safe and supportive environment for women who may struggle to find such opportunities. Additionally, support groups for neurodiverse individuals and those with complex needs ensure that vulnerable groups receive the necessary assistance and resources.

The Fund aligns its projects with the priorities of the Aberdeen City Locality Plans and the Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP), which aim to create a fairer society by addressing socio-economic disparities. One of the key actions taken by HIF is generating significant returns to the wider health and social care economy through prevention activities. This approach helps reduce long-term health costs and improves overall community wellbeing. Furthermore, in response to the cost-of-living crisis, HIF has expanded its support to ensure that ongoing projects can continue to operate, providing stability and continuity for essential community services.

HIF addresses health inequalities by funding projects that improve access to health services and promote healthy lifestyles. Initiatives such as health and wellbeing checks provide essential health assessments and training for staff to better support community health needs. Physical activity and nutrition projects, like Cook and Create, teach children about healthy eating and encourage fitness. Mental health support is also a significant focus, with projects like Coping Skills sessions helping individuals manage anxiety and depression, and trauma-informed support groups providing specialised assistance.

5.2. Financial



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The financial implications on the Health Improvement Fund (HIF) Annual Report highlight the effective use of funds to support diverse community projects, generating a £2.7 million return to the wider health and social care economy through prevention activities. This financial insight underscores the importance of investing in community health initiatives.

5.3. Workforce

Impact of Health Improvement Projects on ACHSCP Workforce

Health Improvement Fund (HIF) projects positively impact the Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership (ACHSCP) workforce by improving health outcomes and reducing the burden on staff. These projects focus on preventive measures, which decrease the incidence of chronic conditions and other health issues, allowing staff to manage their workload more effectively. Community-led initiatives empower local residents to take charge of their health, leading to sustainable health improvements and reduced dependency on ACHSCP services.

With 9295 volunteers hours delivered in community-led projects funded by the Health Improvement Fund, they are providing valuable support to the Aberdeen Health and Social Care Partnership workforce. Their involvement enhances the reach and effectiveness of health initiatives, allowing ACHSCP staff to focus on their core responsibilities. By fostering community connections and optimising resources, volunteers help maintain and contribute to better health outcomes, ultimately helping support the work of ACHSCP staff.

5.4. Legal

The Health Improvement Fund (HIF) supports the Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership (ACHSCP) in fulfilling its statutory duty under Section 29(3) of the Public Bodies (Joint Working) Scotland Act 2014. This duty requires the establishment of localities to integrate health and social care services. HIF provides funding to community-led projects that address local needs and improve health and wellbeing, aligning with the priorities of the Aberdeen City Locality Plans and Local Outcome Improvement Plan. ACHSCP has three locality areas—Central, North, and South—ensuring tailored services for each community. This approach meets statutory



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obligations and enhances community engagement and equitable access to services..

5.5. Unpaid Carers

The Health Improvement Fund (HIF) Annual Report for 2023-24 includes several initiatives that support unpaid carers. These initiatives demonstrate HIF's commitment to supporting unpaid carers by addressing their health, wellbeing, and mental health needs, and providing essential support networks and training.

5.6. Information Governance

There are no direct information governance implications arising from the recommendations.

5.7. Environmental Impacts

ACHSCP's Health Improvement Fund has supported several community-led initiatives which will have a positive impact on the environment across all three locality areas.

5.8. Sustainability

The Health Improvement Fund (HIF) currently operates on a year-to-year funding basis, providing grants of up to £5,000.00 for community-led projects. This approach allows HIF to support a wide range of innovative and creative initiatives that address local needs and improve health and wellbeing. The report shows that 64% of projects from the previous year's funding cycle are continuing, demonstrating the sustainability and long-term impact of HIF's investments.

However, the reliance on annual funding can pose sustainability challenges for projects that require longer-term support to achieve their goals and maintain their impact.

6. Management of Risk

6.1. Identified risks



RISK, AUDIT AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE

- 6.1.1 The range of projects funded through Health Improvement Fund vary and are delivered by a range of organisations and community groups. In a financial year, it is inevitable, that there will be a project that cannot meet their objectives.

Likelihood of occurrence – High

Impact if the risk does occur - Medium

- 6.1.2 The Health Improvement Fund (HIF) team has established strong, positive relationships with communities across Aberdeen City, which is essential for effectively managing risks associated with funded projects. These connections foster trust and collaboration, enabling the team to swiftly address any issues or challenges that may arise. By actively engaging with community members, listening to their needs, and involving them in the decision-making process, the HIF team ensures that projects are relevant and impactful. This proactive approach not only enhances community support but also allows for quick resolution of problems, mitigating potential risks and ensuring that initiatives continue to improve health and wellbeing.

6.2. Link to risks on strategic or operational risk register:

- 6.2.1 This links to Risk 6 on the **Strategic Risk Register**:

Cause: Need to involve lived experience in service delivery and design as per Integration Principles

Event: IJB fails to maximise the opportunities created for engaging with our communities

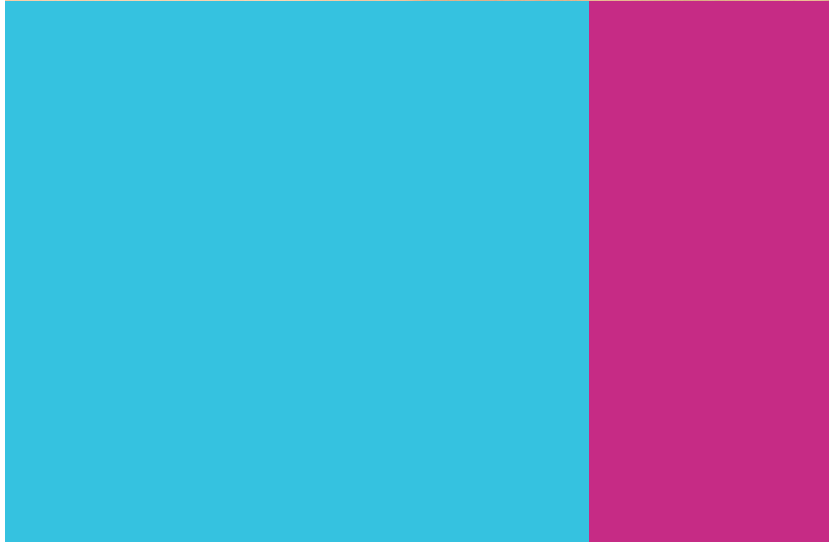
Consequences: Services are not tailored to individual needs; reputational damage; and IJB does not meet strategic aims

- 6.2.2 The Health Improvement Fund (HIF) supports the need to involve lived experience in service delivery and design, as outlined in the Integration Principles, by actively engaging community members in the planning and implementation of projects. This approach ensures that the services provided are relevant, effective, and tailored to the actual needs of the community. By incorporating the insights and experiences of those who directly benefit from these services, HIF fosters a more inclusive and empathetic design process. Community-led projects are a cornerstone of this approach, empowering local residents to take the lead in identifying needs and developing solutions. This not only enhances the quality and impact of the projects but also values



RISK, AUDIT AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE

the contributions and perspectives of individuals with lived experience. The involvement of lived experience helps to identify real-world challenges and develop practical solutions, leading to more sustainable and responsive health and social care services



Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership Health Improvement Fund

Annual Report 2023-24

Headlines | Background



£2.7million

value of return to wider health and social care economy in prevention activities**



22
active screening panel members



£146,953.95

value of volunteering



8,884
people supported



64%

state the project will continue



393
volunteers



9,295
hours of volunteer time



*Volunteering time is generally valued as the median hourly pay rate in the area, in Aberdeen this was £15.81. (Office of National Statistics, the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE))

** Based on research which found £1 invested in public health interventions offered on average £14 return to the wider health and social care economy (Public Health Wales)

The Health Improvement Fund (HIF) seeks to improve health and wellbeing in communities across Aberdeen. The Fund is awarded through community grants of up to £5,000.00. Anyone living and/or working in Aberdeen City is eligible to apply.

Principles of the Fund:

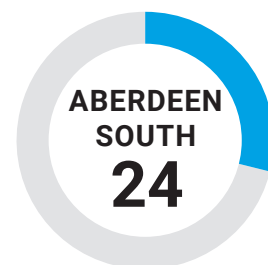
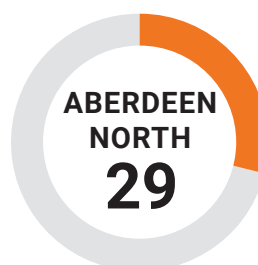
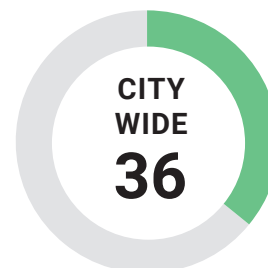
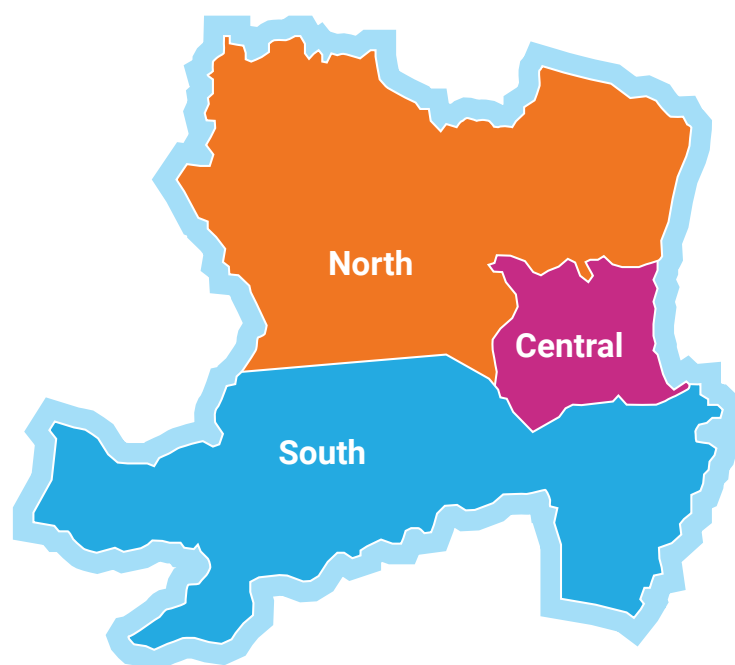
- Projects are innovative and creative.
- Projects are community led and inspire community members to get involved.
- Meet local need and reflect local circumstances.
- Join people together.
- Can show improvements in health and wellbeing

Our 2023/2024 Journey

2023

2024

Applications received in 2023/2024:



Key Developments

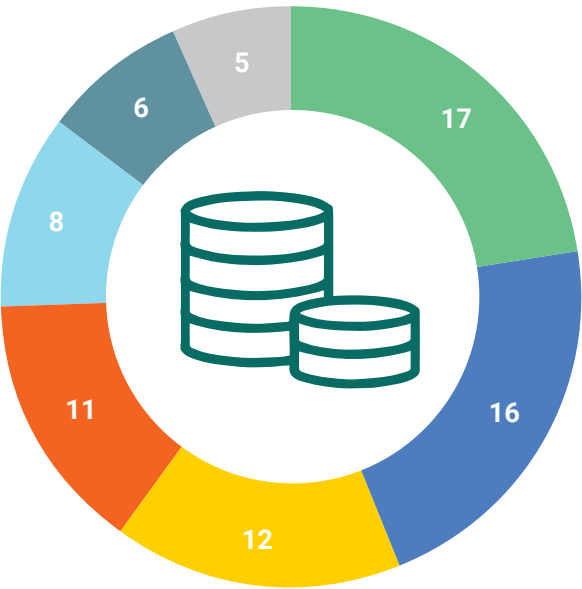
- In response to the cost-of-living crisis and to support projects following on from Covid-19 Pandemic, the fund expanded to support the continuation of projects; not just kickstart initiatives. However, as this is not year-on-year funding, projects must not have received funding from the Health Improvement Fund within the previous 11 months to be eligible.
- Projects must support at least one priority of the Aberdeen City Locality Plans and Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) for Citywide projects.
- The screening process was updated to reflect feedback from panel members and ensure the process was accessible and appealing to new members.

Our 2023/2024 Journey

Funded Projects:

63% of applications (75 in total) received were funded from the Health Improvement Fund during the funding cycle. The outcome of many projects overlap, however the main focus of the funded projects is illustrated here:

- Self-help and Self-management
- Children and Young People
- Older Adults
- Inclusion and Social Isolation
- Food and Food Growing
- Environmental Improvements
- Physical Activity



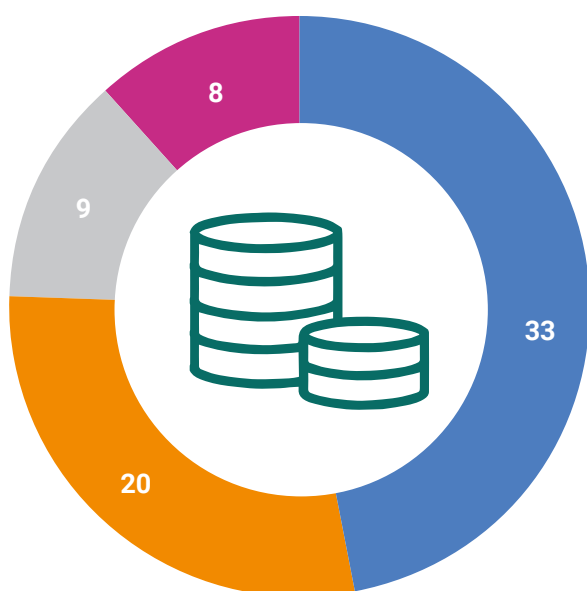
2023

2024

Our 2023/2024 Journey

Of the funded projects in 2023/2024, the top 4 sources were from:

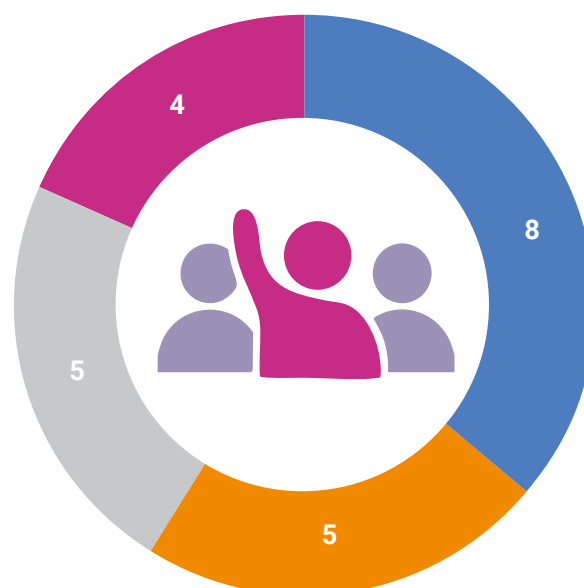
- Registered Charity
- Statutory Body (including schools)
- Voluntary or Community Organisation
- Constituted Group of Club



Decision Making:

Allocations are decided upon by a local screening panel in each locality, involving a range of community representatives and staff from the LEG and PNP, guided by a scoring process based on the funding principles. A breakdown of the 22 panel members:

- Volunteer
- Member of the Public
- Member of Staff (Public Sector)
- Member of Staff (Third Sector)



2023

2024

Case Studies

Volunteers

Volunteers are a vital part of our community and have had a beneficial impact on the running of Health Improvement Funded projects.

Number of volunteers involved:

393



Approximate number of volunteer hours:

9,295

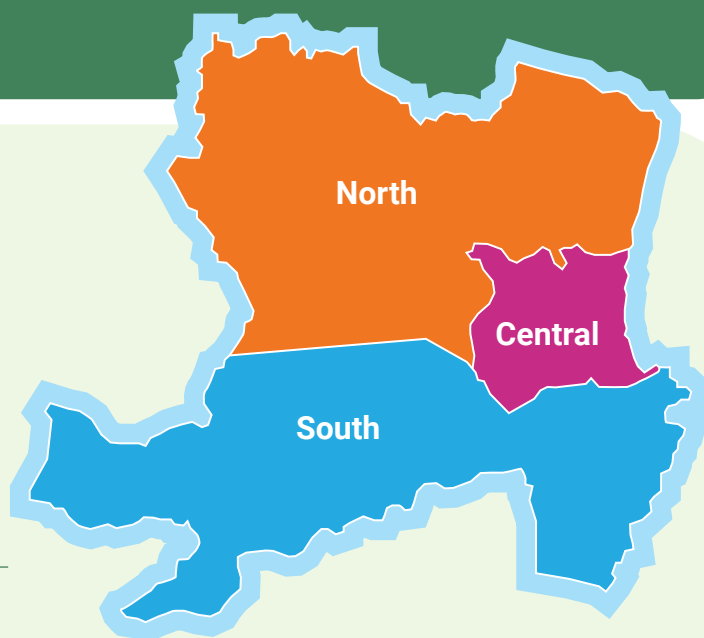


Value of volunteering*:

£146,953.95



*Volunteering time is generally valued as the median hourly pay rate in the area, in Aberdeen this was £15.81. (Office of National Statistics, the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings)



Number of People Supported

Health Improvement Fund projects focus on improving the health and wellbeing of individuals living and/or working within Aberdeen City.

Number of people supported by a Health Improvement Fund Project:

8,884



Value of support*:

£2.7million

value of return to wider health and social care economy in prevention activities**

** Based on research which found £1 invested in public health inventions offered on average £14 return to the wider health and social care economy (Public Health Wales)



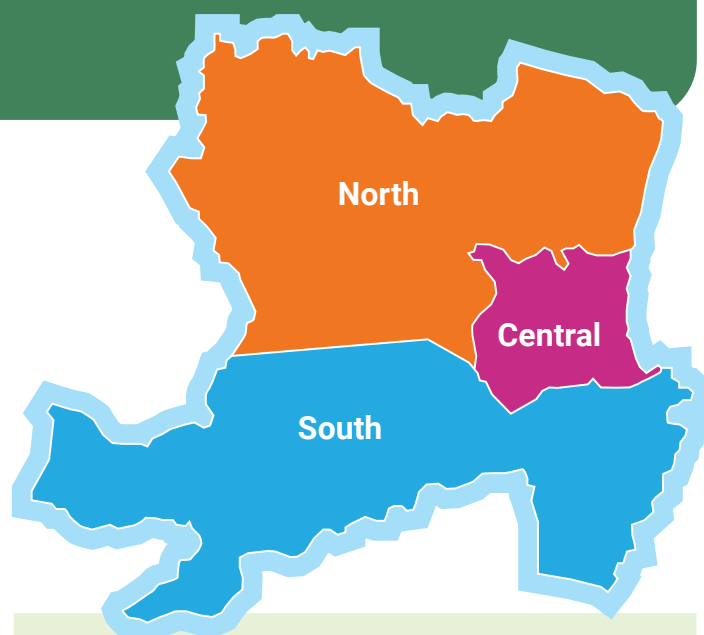
Case Studies – Citywide

Stand Up to Falls

Stand up to Falls is an initiative which aims to raise awareness of falls prevention tips, information and sign-posting. This is a partnership between Volunteer Falls Ambassadors, Sport Aberdeen, Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership and NHS Grampian.

A toolkit of resources was created which will allow the project to continue past the funding period. This included the creation of a logo and booklet which brings together a range of key messages in one hand-out. The Stand Up to Falls team host pop-up events in community area to support the public to become more aware and confident with Falls Prevention information.

"In October 2024 a lady approached the Stand Up To Falls Ambassadors at the vaccination centre, to thank them for the advice she'd received from them 6-months earlier. Although she'd subsequently had a fall, she said she was better able to respond because she'd thought about her falls plan and put measures in place."



Ladies Swimming – Alhikmah Foundation

The Alhikmah Foundation received funding from the Health Improvement Fund to run an 8-week, women-only, block of swimming lessons. The swimming lessons were targeted at beginners and provided the opportunity for women, who may often struggle to find women-only sessions, to learn how to swim in a supportive environment. At first, 40 places were available, however due to high demand an additional 7 sessions were organised. The lessons focused on increasing confidence in the water and physical activity and improving mental health and wellbeing.

"The initiative was highly appreciated by Muslim sisters in Aberdeen, who often lack access to dedicated women-only swimming facilities"

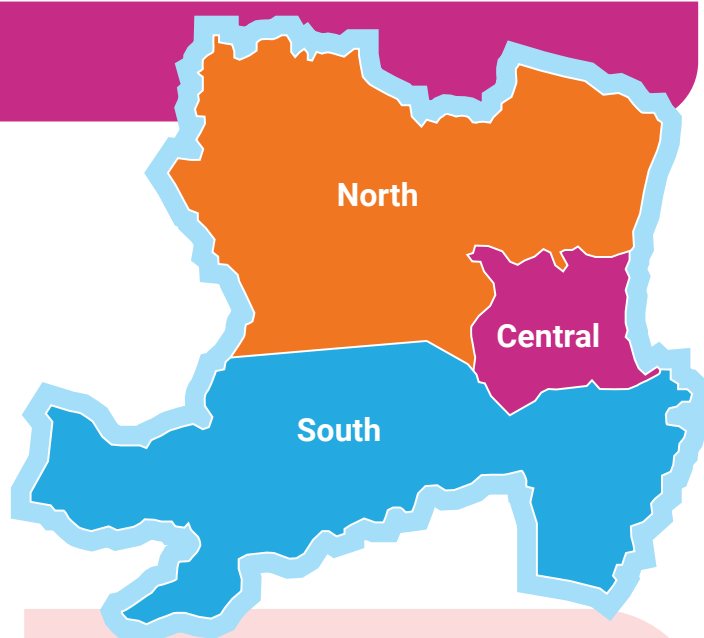
Case Studies – Central

Festive Celebrations – Cairncry Community Centre

Cairncry Community Centre hosted a number of festive celebrations during December to support those who may not otherwise be able to join in with Christmas meals and parties, due to financial or personal constraints. The main event included a 3-course Christmas Day lunch which was open to local residents who could not access food or were lonely or isolated. A free meal was provided, along with entertainment and a gift. The celebrations reduced social isolation, improved mental health and aimed to reduce the stigma around food access.



“The day really emphasised community spirit and the importance of coming together.”



Rosemount Community Garden – Rosemount Community Centre

A group of volunteers have come together to transform a previously unused area of greenspace within the Rosemount Community Centre grounds into a community garden. The group meet weekly to design and develop the garden into an attractive and educational space. Over the course of the project Skene Square Primary School and Midstocket Play Group have used the area and supported the creation of the community garden. The volunteers have also collaborated with the Rosemount Community Centre Association for support with storage and access to the garden-site, and local Men’s Sheds to borrow and share tools. The project aims to increase physical activity, improve mental health and wellbeing and reduce social isolation, as well as providing education around gardening and growing.



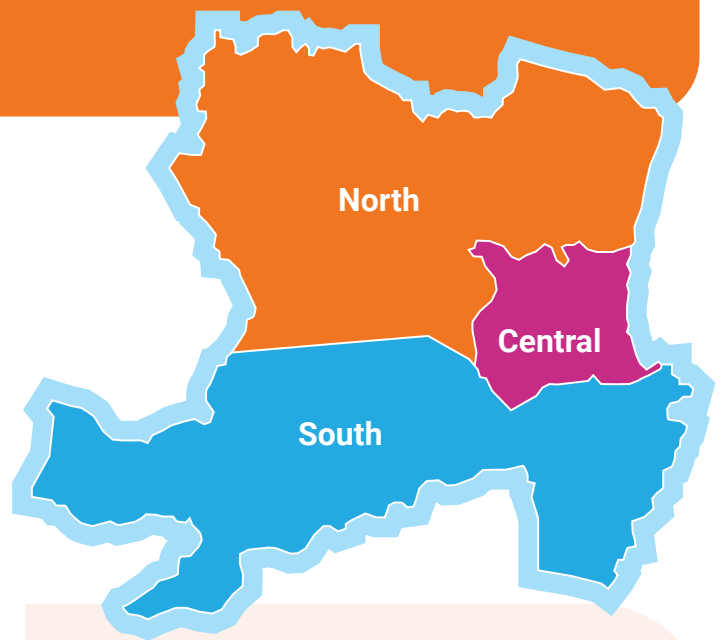
Case Studies – North

Occupational Therapy Student Led Groups – Robert Gordon University

Occupational Therapy Students at Robert Gordon University received funding from the Health Improvement Fund to design, create and run activity sessions within Sheltered Housing Complexes within the North Locality of Aberdeen City. The students were able to work with the residents to facilitate and adapt the sessions as appropriate. This intergenerational project supported the Students learning through real-life scenarios which they may face when working within the health and social care sector upon graduation. Furthermore, the project supported the active aging of residents through meaning activities. The project has involved 32 students, who visit the sheltered housing complexes for 2 hours per week, over an 8 week period.



"This allows social integration for the residents through purposeful holistic activities."



Coping Skills – Middlefield Community Hub

Coping Skills is a weekly, 2 hour session, which provides participants the opportunity to develop skills to deal with matters that cause them anxiety, to feel low or depressed. The group is facilitated by an experienced tutor, who is also a trained counsellor. Each session is group-led and participants are encouraged to share things which may be affecting their mental health, group discussions are then formed around these areas. The sessions equip participants with skills to self-manage their mental health and increase confidence to share how they are feeling, while also learning from others. Following on from the group, participants identified a Bereavement Group would be beneficial and this will now be starting up within the Hub.

"The group has bonded really well, it doesn't matter what the age difference is"

"It's a safe space to share how you are feeling and get support"

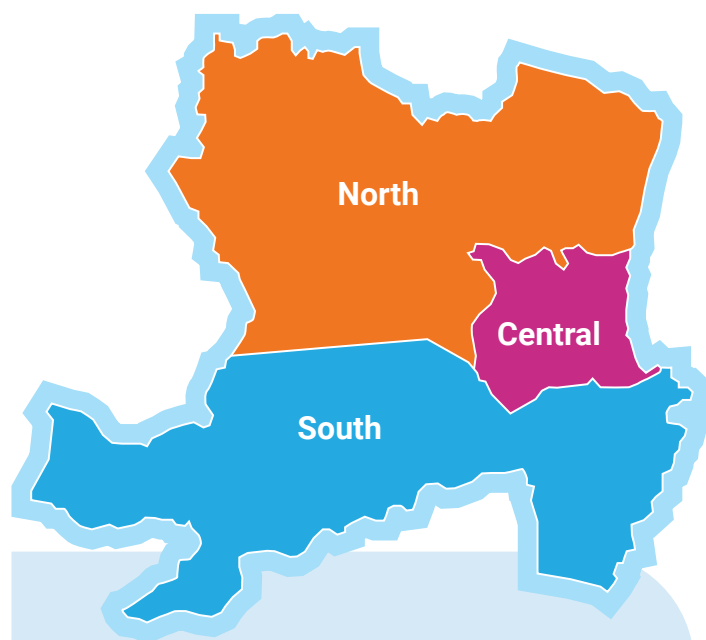
Case Studies – South

Cook and Create – Freelance Creative Practitioners

Cook and Create was a project targeted at primary aged children to encourage food skills and healthy eating within a creative and inclusive environment. The project was run over 3 sessions, each session consisted of cooking and eating a healthy meal together and participating in some arts and crafts to finish the day. While eating the meal, the participants were able to speak about the ingredients used within the meal and explore the importance of healthy eating together. The work undertaken during the art sessions was utilised to create a recipe book for all participants to share with their families upon Cook and Create project finishing.



".. a portion of the recipe for each child to take away at the end of the session. This ensured that participants had adequate access to healthy food whenever we were able to support this and it also supported sharing of what was learnt in the sessions with family and friends after the session ended."



Inchgarth pre-school and p1/2 fun clubs - Inchgarth Community Centre

This project aimed to provide several pre-school activities within the Community Centre. The aim was to support both the children and their parents. The Centre appreciated that often if parents are picking their child up, this would be an avenue to ensure any additional support could be provided. The fun clubs provide an opportunity for children to play with friends and build confidence, approximately 680 people have been supported by this project.



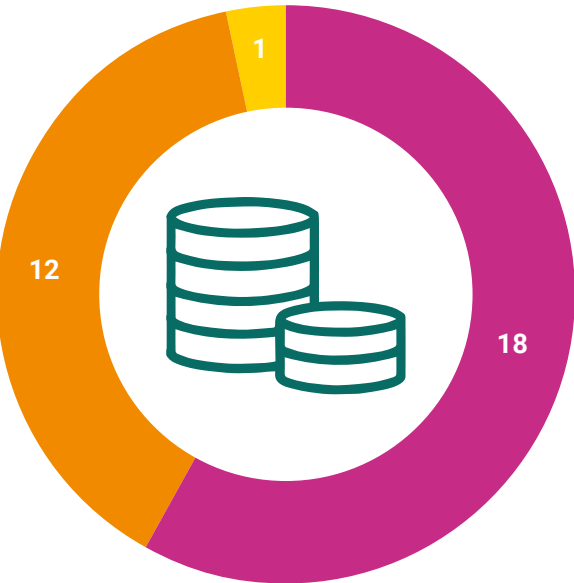
Project Sustainability

2022/2023

To better understand the sustainability of projects which have been funded through the Health Improvement Fund, we carried out a follow-up survey with the previously funded projects from the 2022/2023 funding cycle. The survey was conducted during 2024, 1 year after the funding cycle had completed.

Of the 68 projects funded, 31 completed the follow up.

- Project still running with slight changes
- Project still running with no changes
- Project ended once funds were utilised



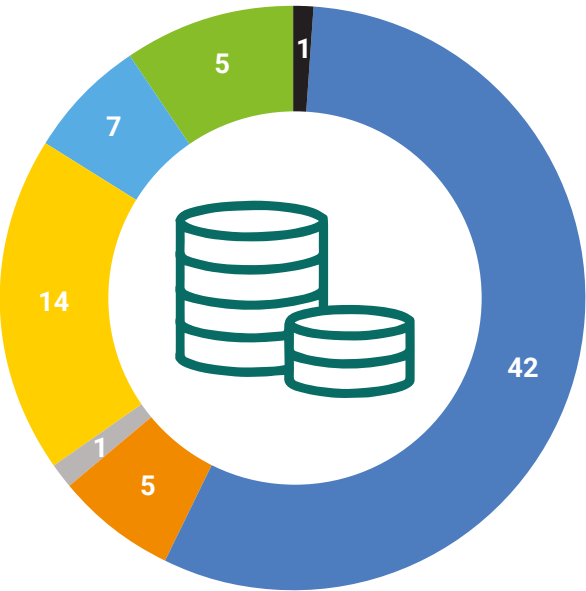
2023/2024

As part of the project end evaluation which is completed 1 year after funding has been awarded, projects were asked to identify the status of their project.

64% (48 in total) projects have stated the project will be continuing out with the funding awarded.

Of the 75 projects funded:

- Project will continue with no changes
- Project will continue with minor changes
- Project will continue with major changes
- Project is complete
- Project not yet started (due to various issues)
- Not yet completed evaluation
- Money returned



Looking ahead to 2024/25

The 2024/2025 funding round is now complete and we wanted to highlight some of the successful projects which will be underway this year. All projects have been asked to input their details onto the ALISS website (A Local Information System Scotland), so if you would like to find a certain activity near you – have a look!

CITYWIDE

Nature Prescriptions – RSPB

RSPB will train all Link Practitioners in the City to confidently undertake Nature Prescribing. RSPB will provide various supporting documents and a regular group meet-up for those prescribed to nature.

Youth Wellness Project – Touch of Love

Open to young people aged 8-18. Activities focus on physical activity, mental and emotional wellbeing, education and skills workshops and social and community engagement activities.

Pillow Talk – The Period Place

A series of community-based menopause and fibroids workshops focused on minority ethnic women, especially African women.

CENTRAL

Chair Based Zumba – Tillydrone Community Campus

Chair based Zumba sessions within the Community Campus to increase physical activity and improve strength and balance.

Knit and Chatter (Intergenerational) – Your Love Rara

Craft sessions which will bring older and younger generations together, to reduce social isolation and improve mental wellbeing



NORTH

Postnatal Pathways - Mastrick, Sheddocksley & Summerhill Community Council

A weekly support group for postnatal mothers

Nurturing Young Minds – Bridge of Don and District Men's Shed

An intergenerational gardening project involving the Men's Shed and Forehill Primary School.

SOUTH

Walk and Talk Therapy in St. Fittick's Park - Friends of St Fittick's Park

Improving mental health and wellbeing by supporting people to get access to being outdoors in nature and the opportunity for conversations during nature walks.

Albury Outdoor Centre

Replacement of equipment (putters, tennis balls and bowling mats) which can be used by those who visit the Outdoor Centre.



Funded by



Aberdeen City
Health & Social Care
Partnership

Health Improvement Fund

This year we have launched a Health Improvement Fund logo. Successful projects have been asked to share this logo on any promotional materials that are shared with the public. Keep an eye out for local projects near you!



You can also keep up with the latest news by following our Facebook Page "Health Improvement Fund". We share project updates from successful applicants and various funding opportunities as they arise.

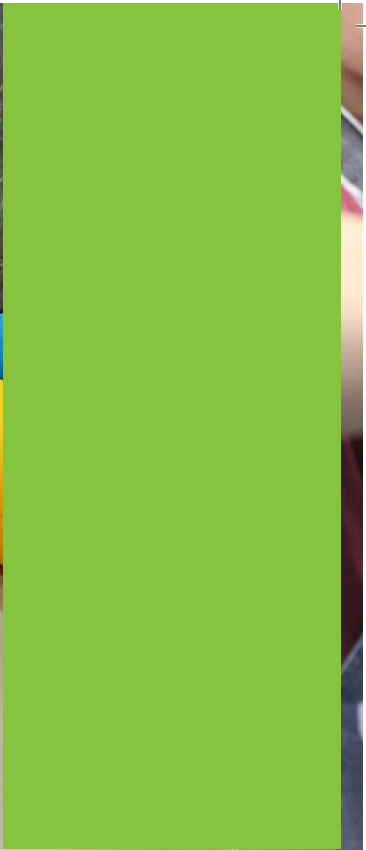
HIF Code	Project	Award	Summary
Inclusion and Social Isolation (11)			
Citywide	Parent/Carer support services - SensationALL	£700.00	Regular support groups, networking and information sessions for parent/carers of neurodiverse individuals and those with complex needs.
Citywide	Walk Aberdeen – Inclusive Walking Project - Sport Aberdeen	£4,270.00	These new walks will focus on equality and inclusion and will be designed with and for people to help them overcome barriers to being active and enjoying the outdoors.
Citywide	Therapies at the Bread Maker - Aberdeen Day Project Ltd t/a The Bread Maker	£2,880.00	Therapeutic programmes for adults with learning disabilities.
Central	Cairncry Festive Celebration - Cairncry Community Centre	£3,099.00	Provide lunches to families and vulnerable people over the festive period to prevent social isolation and food poverty.
Central	Woodside Adult Wellbeing Activities - Fersands and Fountain SCIO	£4,000.00	Kickstart a range of adult services within a disadvantaged community.
Central	New Scots Funded Football Sessions - Sport Aberdeen	£2,920.00	Funded football sessions for New Scots, providing kit where necessary.
Central	ASN/Kinship Group Playscheme - Family Learning (Aberdeen City Council)	£2,100.00	A peer-support group for the ASN/Kinship Carer groups.
Central	Sunnybank Healthy Moving - Sunnybank Community Centre Association	£2,000.00	A range of activities including yoga, employability support for English as second language and a book challenge for primary age children.
North	Swing For Garden - Len Ironside Centre	£4,694.40	Purchase of an accessible swing for the Garden at Centre.
North	Occupational Therapy Student Led Groups - Robert Gordon University	£152.97	Occupational Therapy Student Led Groups supporting adults in supported accommodation.
South	Denis Law Family Fun Day - Torry - Denis Law legacy Trust	£1,500.00	A Free to attend Family fun day in Torry planned and run by local Young People.
Physical Activity (5)			
Citywide	Better Health Better Future - Alhikmah Foundation	£152.97	Weekly fitness classes for women.
Citywide	Feel Good Football - Strikers	£2,250.00	A range of activities to support improved health and wellbeing such as Pilates and Yoga.
Central	Powis Accessible Gym Enterprise (PAGE) - Powis Residents Group	£4,993.20	Accessible outdoor exercise equipment in local park.
North	Move it LIC - Len Ironside Centre	£3,050.15	Sensory games, team sports, and personalized exercises for those with long term health conditions.
North	Walking Football Wednesday - Strikers	£956.00	Weekly walking football sessions.

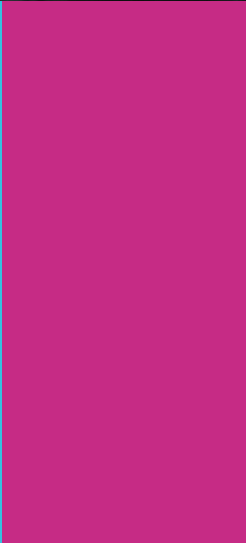
HIF Code	Project	Award	Summary
Self-help and Self-management (17)			
Citywide	Health and Wellbeing checks - Sport Aberdeen (connections to HIFA684, HIFA700, HIFA702 HIFA709)	£6,400.00	A project which linked many requests from 23/24 applicants to undertake Health Checks (HIFA684, HIFA700, HIFA702 HIFA709)
Citywide	Health Issues in the Community Training - CHEX	£3000.00	Training for staff working in Aberdeen City to undertake the Health Issues in the Community tutor course.
Citywide	Community inclusion and integration - Aberdeen in Recovery	£2,000.00	Additional drop in sessions with the offering of food, warmth, company, themed information sessions on a variety of wellbeing issues.
Citywide	African Women Health Talk Series project 2023 - 2024 - The Bridge	£780.00	Peer support group for African women to promote positive health and wellbeing.
Citywide	African Men Health Talk Series project PART 2 2023 - 2024 - The Bridge	£390.00	Peer support group for African men to promote positive health and wellbeing.
Central	Dance for Life - Laura Booth with What Moves You CIC	£2,472.50	A dance project created specifically with the needs of people living with Cancer.
Central	Chilling in the Chill Out - S.T.A.R. - Seaton Taking Action For Regeneration	£4,200.00	A sensory room open to all to book and utilise.
Central	Music Café at The Ivories - Music 4 U	£1,942.92	A music based social activity for those with additional support needs, health conditions and the wider community.
Central	NESS Accessible Yoga Classes - Grampian Society for the Blind, operating as North East Sensory Services (NESS)	£3,640.00	Yoga for adult service users living with serious sight and/or hearing loss.
Central	Exercise groups at Maggie's Aberdeen - Maggie Keswick Jencks Cancer Caring Centres Trust (Maggie's Aberdeen)	£2,500.00	Exercise groups for people with Cancer as well as their family and carers.
North	Natural Healing with Wendy – Beacon Centre Community Association	£635.00	A holistic course to support participants with anxiety.
North	Natural Healing with Wendy - Cummings Park	£635.00	A holistic course to support participants with anxiety.
North	Positive Pathways - Pathways	£4,675.00	A series of short courses to help people identify the issues in their lives, plan how to address these issues and build their confidence.
North	Coping Skills - Middlefield Community Project	£5,000.00	Coping Skills for Living with Anxiety and Depression 12-week course.
North	Community Nappy Exchange - Danestone Community Centre	£449.95	Community Nappy Exchange for centre.
North	Trauma Informed Time Together - Let's All Talk North East Mums (LATNEM)	£2,022.00	Training of 4 new volunteers to meet demand and provide trauma-informed support for service users in the area.
South	Connecting New Scots - Asylum and Refugee Care (AARC)	£4,931.96	An eight week programme for asylum seekers using social and therapeutic horticulture practice.

HIF Code	Project	Award	Summary
Children and Young People (16)			
Citywide	Aberdeen Surf Lifesaving Juniors Club - Aberdeen Surf Lifesaving club	£4,720.00	Set up of a kids club (7-16 years) to promote physical fitness, improve wellbeing and teach life-long lifesaving skills.
Citywide	Stay, Play and Connect - Sport Aberdeen	£3,037.00	Increase opportunity and participation in sport for children with additional support needs and provide safe spaces for families to connect.
Citywide	Anime Art Academy at Ninja HQ - We Too!	£3,000.00	Creating an Art Academy for Neurodivergent Teenagers and their families.
Citywide	Aberdeen Hospital Outreach - Team Jak	£4,186.80	Activity sessions for children staying in hospital for treatment of Cancer, and provide support and signposting to parents, carers and families.
Citywide	Young Carers Awareness Group - Barnardo's	£2,500.00	Carers awareness group for Young Carers.
Citywide	Czech school - Czech school Scotland CIC - Aberdeen	£472.00	Czech school for children 6-12 years of age.
Central	Mile End Sensory Garden - Mile End Sensory Garden	£771.00	Creating a sensory garden in the school grounds.
Central	Celebrating Cultural Diversity - Skene Square Primary School	£1,470.00	Celebrating the diversity of the Skene Square Community through cooking classes, and celebration event.
North	Oldmachar Youth Club - Oldmachar Church	£2,000.00	Youth Club held in Oldmachar Church (open to all, not faith focused).
North	Heathryburn Community Garden - Heathryburn Primary School	£275.40	Community garden to engage families in the cycle of food growing, plants through the seasons.
North	Westpark School Senior Hockey Team - Westpark School	£2,000.00	Equipment for the school hockey team.
South	Hazlehead PEEP - Bringing families together - Aberdeen City Council	£4,008.86	PEEP sessions for families to promote positive parenting and make connections with others in local community.
South	Rainbow Room Sensory Garden - Kaimhill School Enhanced Provision	£5,000.00	Creating a sensory garden for children with additional support needs.
South	Confidence to Cook session - Cults Academy	£389.00	Confidence to Cook sessions will allow young people.
South	Broomhill Primary Garden - Gray Street Allotment Association	£118.00	Purchase of equipment to support an intergenerational gardening project at Broomhill Primary School.
South	Inchgarth pre-school and p1/2 fun clubs - Inchgarth Community Centre	£5,000.00	Activities for pre-school, P1 and P2 children that benefit both the children and parents.

HIF Code	Project	Award	Summary
Environmental Improvements (6)			
Citywide	Wernham House support - Aberdeen Cyrenians	£1,478.40	Purchase of mattresses to replace those worn.
North	EncourAGE – Dyce & Stoneywood Community Association	£2,000.00	Purchase of 2 benches for Central Park.
North	Champions Club - Kings Church	£5,000.00	Creation of a fully equipped changing room suitable for complex medical needs accessible to the general public as well as in house users.
North	Hearing Loop Installation - Aberdeen North Parish Church	£1,116.00	Installation of hearing loop within the Church.
South	Improving the Teaching Kitchen at Deeside Family Learning Centre - Deeside Family Centre	£1,271.50	Upgrading and enhancing the teaching kitchen at Deeside Family Centre.
South	Repair of Lovers' Walk - Culter Community Council	£5,000.00	Repair of Lovers' Walk.
Food and Food Growing (8)			
Citywide	The Garden Group - Len Ironside Centre	£3,850.00	Purchase of equipment to allow of accessible participation in garden year-round.
Central	Eat Your Way to a Healthier Happier Future - Seaton Community Hub	£2,000.00	Food education and production sessions within local community.
Central	Transform Storehouse (Central Community Pantry) and Social Enterprises. - Catalyst Transform, a department of Catalyst Vineyard Church	£4,920.00	Provision of emergency and top-up food to people in Central Aberdeen.
Central	Rosemount Community Garden - Rosemount Community Garden Project	£500.00	Design and development of an accessible community garden, including growing vegetables.
North	Greenfern Orchard - Greenfern Orchard	£2,051.93	Transforming unused area of land into a community garden for all.
South	Cook and Create - Freelance Creative Practitioners	£2,876.44	Cooking sessions to encourage increase in skills and creation of recipe book.
South	Families Cooking Together (FCT) - Community Food Initiatives North East	£4,874.40	Cooking and information sessions for families where adults and children.
South	Movement & Menu for wellbeing - Kincorth Development Group	£2,000.00	Weekly exercise classes.

HIF Code	Project	Award	Summary
Older Adults (12)			
Citywide	Stand Up To Falls - Stand Up To Falls	£2,489.50	Falls awareness sessions with volunteer falls ambassadors, and health and wellbeing staff.
Citywide	Cycling Without Age Scotland – Aberdeen City	£4,000.00	Purchase of a tri-shaw bike.
Central	More Than Alzheimer's - No Just	£1,800.00	Art class for people living with Alzheimer's, the final works professionally printed and displayed at an exhibition
Central	Seaton Soup and Sannies - Seaton Community Hub	£1,864.58	Two monthly lunch clubs for the sheltered housing residents in Seaton.
Central	Boogie in the Bar at Dee Swim Club - Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership	£4,800.00	Boogie in the bar at Dee Swim Club, Gerrard Street.
North	Boogie in the Bar - The Green Trees	£2,400.00	Greentrees Boogie in the Bar at Greentrees Pub, Dyce.
North	Active Aging - Danestone Community Centre	£2,735.94	Physical activity sessions for older adults.
North	Dyce Lunch Club - Dyce and Stoneywood CA	£942.00	Monthly lunch club for older adults.
North	Sunnybank Boogie in the Bar - Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership	£2,400.00	Boogie in the Bar at Sunnybank Football Club.
South	Torry Boogie in the Bar - Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership	£1,932.98	Boogie in the Bar in Torry.
South	Something we can all do - Bon Accord Care	£2,596.86	Creation of an accessible garden for residents with support from local school.
South	Creating an accessible garden within Very Sheltered Housing Complex - Bon Accord Care	£3,500.00	Creation of an accessible garden for residents.





Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership
Health Improvement Fund
Annual Report 2023-24



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RISK AUDIT PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting	17 June 2025
Report Title	Delivery Plan Update
Report Number	HSCP.25.049
Lead Officer	Alison MacLeod
Report Author Details	Calum Leask Transformation Programme Manager CLeask@aberdeencity.gov.uk
Consultation Checklist Completed	Yes
Exempt	No
Appendices	a. <i>Year 3 Final Delivery Plan</i> b. <i>Mock Delivery Plan Dashboard</i>
Terms of Reference	5. Receive and scrutinise performance reports and receive assurance that actions in respect of emerging trends are proportionate to the IJB's Risk Appetite Statement.

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1. This report seeks to provide assurance to the Risk, Audit and Performance Committee (RAPC) and relates to the progress of the Delivery Plan as set out within the Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership (ACHSCP) Strategy Plan 2022-2025.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. It is recommended that the Risk, Audit and Performance Committee:
- 2.1.1. Endorse the proposed status of the Year 3 Delivery Plan projects following completion of this plan as detailed in Appendix A.



RISK AUDIT PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE

- 2.1.2. Endorse the proposed approach to performance monitoring for the Year 1 Delivery Plan of the new Strategic Plan, recognising this will adapt over time to ensure it is fit for purpose

3. Strategic Plan Context

- 3.1. This report and its appendices directly link to the ACHSCP Strategic Plan and our performance in achieving the associated Delivery Plan. The Strategic Plan's Reporting Framework outlines our requirement to provide assurance to RAPC on a quarterly basis that progress is being made in achieving the Delivery Plan, and this report ensures that this element of governance is achieved in a robust manner.

4. Summary of Key Information

- 4.1. This report represents the conclusion of the Year 3 Delivery Plan as approved by the IJB in March 2023. It summarises the ongoing status of each project in response to the imminent implementation of the Partnership's new Strategic Plan later in 2025 (along with the associated Year 1 Delivery Plan for the new strategic planning cycle), in addition to refined performance reporting procedures.
- 4.2. As outlined in the revised Performance Framework, this Committee previously received the Delivery Plan Progress Tracker (showing updates for all entries in the Delivery Plan) and a supporting Dashboard (showing the key measures which the progression of the Delivery Plan sought to impact upon).
- 4.3. Following conclusion of this Delivery Plan, programme reports were drafted by Programme Managers, in collaboration with Senior Responsible Officers and broader colleagues as appropriate, to review the projects being closed; the projects continuing under business as usual arrangements; and projects continuing into the new delivery plan. The final update for each project, along with their future status, is visible in Appendix A. Of the 82 projects; 37 are transitioning to business as usual; 13 are closed; 10 are completed; and 22 are continuing onto the new Delivery Plan.
- 4.4. With the Partnership's new Delivery Plan being more streamlined to allow for a balance between prevention; transformation and financial sustainability, the performance reporting arrangements have been reviewed to ensure



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parity with this. The following are in development to accompany the next Delivery Plan:

4.4.1. A Delivery Plan Dashboard, providing a visual overview of progress by priority area. The Dashboard will be developed using PowerBI (a Microsoft digital platform for data visualisation), allowing progress to be reviewed at a glance and easier focus on areas not progressing as anticipated. It is proposed that the Committee will receive a summary of this information, in addition to key risks (and subsequent mitigations) and key success measures undertaken during the reporting period. A visual mock-up of this is visible in Appendix B.

4.4.2. A Strategic Plan Dashboard, the purpose of which is to 1) act as a frame of reference for the context we are working in, with specific regard to financial context; demographic context; workforce context and demand context; 2) monitoring of key national indicators most closely aligned to our delivery plan priorities and 3) act as a potential mechanism for showing potential progress on an annual basis. The methodology for developing this dashboard is being co-designed with colleagues from Public Health Scotland's Local Intelligence Support Team.

4.5. These reporting arrangements are deemed to be proportional in order to provide adequate assurance to the Committee that the Partnership's priorities are being sufficiently managed. However, the arrangements shall remain flexible with the potential to refine over time if required.

4.6. Performance reporting for Quarter 2 of the new Delivery Plan will be considered at the following Committee meeting on 27th August 2025.

5. Implications for IJB

5.1. Equalities, Fairer Scotland and Health Inequality

There are no direct implications arising from this report.

5.2. Financial

There are no direct implications arising from this report.

5.3. Workforce



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There are no direct implications arising from this report.

5.4. Legal

There are no direct implications arising from this report.

5.5. Unpaid Carers

There are no direct implications arising from this report.

5.6. Information Governance

There are no direct implications arising from this report.

5.7. Environmental Impacts

There are no direct implications arising from this report.

5.8. Sustainability

There are no direct implications arising from this report.

5.9. Other

None.

6. Management of Risk

6.1. Identified risks(s)

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Controls	Evaluation
Assurance over Strategic Plan not met	Low	Medium	Performance Framework outlines the required reporting to take place through the year in order to create assurance	If the paper was not presented, assurance would not be given to the RAPC and therefore part of the remit and



RISK AUDIT PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE

				responsibility of the Committee would not be met.
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6.2. Link to risks on strategic or operational risk register:

This report links to Strategic Risk 4 on the Strategic Risk Register: -

Cause: Performance standards/outcomes are set by national and regulatory bodies and those locally determined performance standards are set by the board itself.

Event: There is a risk that the IJB, and the services that it directs and has operational oversight of, fails to meet the national, regulatory, and local standards.

Consequence: This may result in harm or risk of harm to people.

6.3 How might the content of this report impact or mitigate these risks:

The report and its appendices help to mitigate the risk by providing assurance that progress against the Strategic Plan 2022-2025 and the associated Delivery Plan is being achieved and, that this has been monitored by the Senior Leadership Team on a monthly basis who consider and direct remedial action and unblock barriers where relevant. It further provides assurance that these arrangements shall continue into the new strategic planning cycle.

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<div>Blue = complete Red = missed deadline/unable to deliver Amber = at risk of non-delivery/not meeting deadline Green = on track to delivery by deadline Purple = closed</div>															
Programme	Programme Description	REF#	Project Description	Title	Project Type	Start Date	End Date	BRAG Status	Savings Allocated	Category	Tier	Latest Update	Future of Project	Decision Rational	Project on new DP
Commissioning	Develop and deliver the Procurement Workplan incorporating our commissioning principles so that our commissioning is ethical, creative and co-designed and co-produced with partners and communities.	SE27	Review of Bon Accord Care contract and redesign of associated service specifications.	65. Review BAC contract	BAU	24/02/2023	31/03/2025	Y - Complete	N/A	Future Sustainable	Tier 3 (Response)	Contract has been reviewed with new service specifications added, contract has been signed by both parties	Complete		
Commissioning	Develop and deliver the Procurement Workplan incorporating our commissioning principles so that our commissioning is ethical, creative and co-designed and co-produced with partners and communities.	SE28	Review of GCC Contract to reflect flat cash agreement.	66. Review GCC Contract	BAU	30/06/2023	31/03/2025	Green	N/A	Future Sustainable	Tier 3 (Response)	Care @ Home Strategic Oversight Group meeting held on 17/12. Teams site has been created, folder structure agreed and all documents saved in relevant channels and folders. Still some external colleagues cannot access the Teams site, and those that can are having issues opening files. This has been raised with Digital & Technology. Work has started on an overarching plan to tie together all workstreams. TEC Workshops have been held to determine how usage of TEC can be expanded across city. 2 workshops held for professionals, and one with a group with lived experience. 16 care management companies & NHSG attended professionals workshop. 17 people with lived experience attended lived experience workshop. Further workshops to be held with public groups across Aberdeen to find out where TEC can help meet challenges in accessing and receiving services. Climate Change workstream met, and climate change training will be looked at as part of Training Academy workstream. VSA climate change strategy will be developed. Meetings held with Scottish Government to gain insight on their approach to measuring GIRFE & Ethical Commissioning principles. How this can be implemented across Care at Home is being explored by Lived Experience workstream. Audit carried out to find out how GCC gathers client feedback, and how this is integrated into quality improvement. Risk Assessed Care meeting held on 10/02. The key actions from this meeting are to : 1. Start a pilot for risk assessed care. 2. Ensure prescribers and equipment are available. 3. Form a small working group to review and align processes. 4. Set up a follow-up meeting with the right people involved. 5. Capture baseline care level, step up/down, client group, date, and reason for change. 6. Implement debrief meetings to address discharge issues. 7. Start tracking discharge issues and gather data on patterns. 8. Populate the planner with actions and meet again in a month. The Training Academy is currently analysing the differences and similarities of the Granite Care Consortium and Bon Accord Care training packages. • Training Academy Meeting Held: Discussions focused on developing a collaborative framework, leadership development, and a transferable training passport. • Operational & Leadership Development identified as Priority Areas. • Baseline Training Data Collection Underway. • Due to the scale and complexity of GCC's operations, additional time may be required to gather and consolidate training data across all providers.	BAU	This has moved to BAU however part of the contract is in relation to the increasing use of TEC, this would be included within the new delivery plan under 14. Best Use of Resources Increase the use of technology and Technology Enabled Care across the system	
Commissioning	Develop and deliver the Procurement Workplan incorporating our commissioning principles so that our commissioning is ethical, creative and co-designed and co-produced with partners and communities.	SE29	Review of use/availability of Interim Beds	67. Interim Beds	BAU	29/03/2024	31/03/2025	Y - Complete	500,000	Budget Saving	Tier 3 (Response)	Contract ended with Woodlands 31.5.24, 2 beds at Deeside remain until March 2025 14/04/2025 -The funding for the Deeside beds were able to be sustained as there was some underspend from Woodlands which enabled us to extend the time we had the beds commissioned. The beds in Deeside ended on 31/03/2025	Complete		
Commissioning	Develop and deliver the Procurement Workplan incorporating our commissioning principles so that our commissioning is ethical, creative and co-produced with partners and communities.	SE30	Consolidation/streamlining of existing MHLd commissioned services	68. MHLd Commissioning	BAU	29/03/2024	31/03/2025	Y - Complete	65,000	Budget Saving	Tier 3 (Response)	Contract commenced 1st September, full savings profile to be provided by contracts	Complete		
Commissioning	Develop and deliver the Procurement Workplan incorporating our commissioning principles so that our commissioning is ethical, creative and co-produced with partners and communities.	SE31	Explore how counselling service can work in a more collaborative, joined up way to support people experiencing care to benefit from a more holistic approach whilst achieving efficiencies	69. Collaborative Counselling	BAU	31/03/2023	31/03/2025	Green	N/A	Future Sustainable	Tier 2 (Early Intervention)	An initial Steering Group meeting has been organised for the 17th January. A pre meeting has taken place with key members of the group to plan the session to ensure opportunities are maximised. Project was at risk due to the IJB decision around grant funding which has damaged the relationships with counselling services and the partnership. 14/04/2025 - Funding is in place for the next financial year for the counselling contracts and also for Thinc and Dial a Bus (DAB). There is to be further review for the IJB in December	Continue in new DP	Carry forward to new DP, reworded, project is about achieving efficiencies	No. 27 - Transforming Services Codesign allancing work with Counselling Services
Communities	Provide community based services codesigned and codelivered with our communities.	CT07	Continue to develop and evaluate the Northfield Hub as a test of change for cross-sector, easily accessible, community hubs where a range of services coalesce, all responding to local need, to feed into a wider initiative on Priority Intervention Hubs.	5. Priority Intervention Hubs	FTP		31/03/2025	Green	N/A	Prevention	Tier 2 (Early Intervention)	Community Appointment Days - The hub is being used to deliver monthly Community Appointment Days which follow a whole system approach, focussing on prevention, early intervention and self management of conditions. COPD CAD planned in May, Dementia Post Diagnostic Support CAD being planned for June & Chronic Pain CAD planned in July. Health Defence Team (CHSS) - The team are working closely with Chest Heart Stroke Scotland (CHSS) for the introduction of a Health Defence Team planned to commence around August 2025 which will see the delivery of free Health Assessments, Physical Activity support with walking groups and physical activity in face to face of virtual settings, health information and a tailored specific focus on women's health. This will be a drop in Service - open to anyone, although the Team are also focussing on Woman's Health (woman at risk of Stroke/heart disease/ Diabetes etc) so this may be a particular focus of the Team. The benefit of this work is to focus on prevention and self management. The main benefits will be: Providing accessible health checks to help in early detection and prevention of health issues. Providing personalised lifestyle support tailored to individual needs promoting sustainable lifestyle changes. Run exercise classes ad health walks encouraging physical activity to improve health outcomes. Collaborate with local communities to co-design service that meet specific needs - ensuring support is relevant an effective, fostering a sense of community and a shared responsibility for health. Focus on Self management - empowering individuals to manage their condition through education & support. This includes providing resources and training to help people understand their health and make informed decisions This work is being developed jointly with the Grampian Respiratory Management Clinical Network, Diabetes Clinical Lead, Stroke MCN and Lead for woman's health. The team are due to meet with Primary Care Lead shortly to provide more information and work closely with GPs to develop this further. Although based in the Vaccination & Wellbeing Hub, the Team would plan to work within other local community hubs for example (Get Active at Northfield & Tillydrone Community Hub) Chronic Pain - Whole System Approach - Following successful Chronic Pain Community Appointment Days, the HSCP will work closely with the Team to train Pain Champions to provide weekly/monthly signposting support at the hub and the introduction of a Pain Cafe to enhance signposting and self management of condition. Countesswell's Health & Wellbeing Clinic - The Clinic opened it's doors on the 3rd March and now provides Pre-school Immunisation Clinic, CTAC Clinic, Health Visitors and Speech & Language Therapy.	BAU	This is now business as usual and as such is no longer required as a standalone project	
Communities	Provide community based services codesigned and codelivered with our communities.	CT08	Lead on increasing and diversifying the membership of our Locality Empowerment Groups and increasing wider participation in locality planning.	6. Develop LEGs and increase participation.	BAU	05/04/2024	31/03/2025	Green	N/A	National Agenda	Tier 2 (Early Intervention)	Attendance at Locality Empowerment Group (LEG) meetings has remained stable year on year, with 32 participants attending LEG meetings during January-February 2024, and 31 participant attending LEG meetings during January-February 2025.All three LEGs have reasonably equal gender representation; all are attended by people with disabilities and from different ethnic backgrounds; and all three LEGs are represented by both older people and those of working age. Work is ongoing to ensure more consistent attendance from young people; and to identify more ethnic minority representatives for all three LEGs. A citywide Locality Planning meeting for LEG and Priority Neighbourhood Partnership (PNP) reps was delivered on 30 January at NESCOL city campus with eight community members in attendance. The purpose of the meeting was to seek community views to increase participation and diversity in locality planning. A summary report was prepared and circulated to LEG and PNP members. This report will be used to inform the development of new Locality Plans later in the year. The Locality Planning Team are also taking the lead in planning and delivering six Locality Consultation and Engagement sessions between March-May which will provide an opportunity for our community members to engage on the draft IJB Strategic Plan.	BAU	This is now business as usual and as such is no longer required as a standalone project	
Communities	Provide community based services codesigned and codelivered with our communities.	CT10	Deliver North, Central and South Locality Plans and report on progress	8. Delivery Integrated Locality Plans	BAU	05/04/2024	31/03/2025	Green	N/A	National Agenda	Tier 2 (Early Intervention)	Refreshed Locality Plans were prepared following extensive engagement with community planning partners and community members between October 2023-March 2024. The refreshed Locality Plans incorporate 60 community change ideas which the Locality Planning Team will work with Local Outcome Improvement Plans (LOIP) project managers and community members to deliver. The Locality Plans align with thematic priorities of the citywide LOIP, to improve the economy, people, place and community empowerment within each of our three locality areas. The refreshed LOIP and Locality Plans were endorsed by the IJB at its meeting on 9 July 2024. Annual performance reports for all three Locality areas will be presented to the IJB's RAPC and Community Planning Board in June. A series of Locality Consultation and Engagement events will be planned and delivered by the Locality Planning Team between March-May. These sessions will use Public Health Scotland's Place Standard Tool to receive community feedback on what they think about their local neighbourhoods, and how they can be improved. This feedback will help establish priorities for the new Locality Plans which will be developed over the winter of 2025-26.	BAU	This is now business as usual and as such is no longer required as a standalone project	
Communities	Provide community based services codesigned and codelivered with our communities.	CT11	Ensure the use of Our Guidance for Public Engagement is embedded	9. Public Engagement	BAU	31/03/2024	31/03/2025	Green	N/A	National Agenda	Tier 2 (Early Intervention)	The links within ACHSCP's 'Our Guidance for Community Engagement, Human Rights and Equalities 2024-26' continue being checked and altered where necessary on a rolling monthly basis. The Guidance sits within the ACHSCP's Connect Site as a resource aimed principally at colleagues within the ACHSCP, but has now been altered to include a 'Creative Commons' statement and copyright to prevent alteration, and seek citation if used or published by anyone out with the ACHSCP. Highlighting the resource to colleagues within the ACHSCP to help inform some or all of their engagement activities is ongoing. Annual updated guidance will be submitted to May 2025 IJB meeting along with the EOMF and Assessing our Impact procedure.	BAU	This is now business as usual and as such is no longer required as a standalone project	
Communities	Provide community based services codesigned and codelivered with our communities.	CT12	Promote the use of Care Opinion to encourage patients, clients, carers and service users to share experiences of services, further informing choice.	10. Care Opinion Promotion	BAU	01/03/2024	31/03/2025	P - Closed	N/A	National Agenda	Tier 2 (Early Intervention)	Care Opinion Subscription will come to an end 31st March 2025, upon review of use, it has been agreed not to continue with Partnership Subscription beyond 31st March. Alternative options will be supplied to our teams to continue to follow the Complaints and Compliments procedure. There is also an opportunity to promote the Comms/Trustees group and stories to come to them to promote on Intranet, Website and Social Media where appropriate. It is very important that we used lived experience stories to improve and promote our services.	Close	Contract with Care Opinion ended	
Communities	Provide community based services codesigned and codelivered with our communities.	PH08	Deliver various events such as Age Friendly Aberdeen, the Gathering and a Well Being Festival to support people to live well and independently as part of their communities.	11. Community Intervention	BAU	05/04/2024	31/03/2025	Green	N/A	Future Sustainable	Tier 1 (Prevention)	The Grampian Gathering was held on 12 October 2024 in the Beach Ballroom. 193 community members attended the event, alongside over 100 stall holders from the private, public, third, and independent sectors. A full evaluation report on the event has been prepared, though early results show community attendance increased from 167 in 2023 to 193 in 2024, the number of information stalls increased from 30 to 58, and 94% of attendees reported the event either met or exceeded their expectations. Planning has begun with multi-agency colleagues to deliver the annual Wellbeing and GMAN Festivals in May. It was decided by SLT that due to the financial position the Gathering will no longer continue into 2025, however the Wellbeing Festival will continue and is currently being planned with Shire and Moray colleagues. There has been a huge increase in numbers of both hosts and activities planned for this years festival and the mascot has been selected from the City Primary Schools who participated in the competition. There will be a host engagement event which will be held in April for all hosts to come along and hear a bit about the history of the festival, the evaluation highlights, how to promote events and a bit about how to effectively measures.	Continue in new DP	These will all come under the banner of the Ageing Well Action Plan which is included in the new DP	5. Improve Mental Health Publish an agreed multi-agency Ageing Well action plan for Aberdeen City by April 2026
Digital	Maximise the use of technology to support innovation, efficiency and access to services.	SE06	Support the implementation of Electronic Medication Administration Recording (eMAR) in our care homes.	14. eMAR Implementation	FTP	07/04/2023	31/03/2025	Green	TBC	Budget Saving	Tier 2 (Early Intervention)	The Camascope eMAR system went live at Back Hilton Road Learning Disability Service on January 13, 2025. The system has replaced traditional paper MAR sheets with a digital version, enhancing stock management and tracking. Initial feedback has been overwhelmingly positive from Back Hilton, with staff reporting notable time savings and increased efficiency. The integration of the Pharmacy software with Camascope has experienced technical issues which Camascope are currently working to resolve. The current medication policy has been reviewed and meets the requirements of eMAR. Recommendations have been made regarding inclusion of specific reference to eMAR when this is updated. An evaluation of the system's impact is currently underway, with findings to be shared once available. A SBAR paper with regard to roll out the eMAR system to four other LD sites will be presented to the Senior Leadership Team when all the necessary information has been sourced. Overall, the implementation has been successful, and the project continues to progress well.	Continue in new DP	Test of change now ready to be scaled up, carry forward to new DP under as part of the increased use of technology.	14. Best Use of Resources Increase the use of technology and Technology Enabled Care across the system
Digital	Maximise the use of technology to support innovation, efficiency and access to services.	SE09	Deliver a Single Point of Contact for individuals and professionals including a repository of information on health and social care services available, eligibility criteria and how to access	16. SPoC for Individuals/Professionals	BAU		31/03/2024	P - Closed	N/A	Future Sustainable	Tier 2 (Early Intervention)	29/01/2025 SLT have made a decision to formally pause this project. So this project is now Closed for v3. This project relies on the operational business adopting the new method this would take time and resource from the digital team project and priorities are currently undergoing a restructure and this free up resource to concentrate on the priority project.	Close	As per latest update	
Digital	Maximise the use of technology to support innovation, efficiency and access to services.	SE10	Review the future use of Morse in Community Nursing and Allied Health Professionals	17. MORSE Review in CN/AHPs	BAU	01/03/2024	31/03/2025	Y - Complete	N/A	Budget Saving	Tier 2 (Early Intervention)	Evaluation was completed and presented to Integration Joint Board (IJB) in May 2024 alongside a paper recommending the renewal of the license for a further 3 year period until October 2027. This was approved.	Complete		

Digital	Maximise the use of technology to support innovation, efficiency and access to services.	SE12	Deliver Analogue to Digital Telecare Implementation Plan	19. Analogue 2 Digital Telecare	FTP	30/06/2023	27/06/2025	Green	N/A	National Agenda	Tier 2 (Early Intervention)	<p>Following the Project Kick-off Meeting for the Digital Alarm Receiving Centre (ARC) Rollout, several meetings were held with the vendor to finalise the project plan. We are targeting a go-live date in spring 2025. While data preparation activities are progressing well, testing of dispersed alarm units is advancing slowly.</p> <p>The transition from analogue to digital community alarms is proceeding smoothly, with only 7 out of 2277 units remaining to be replaced.</p> <p>We are awaiting confirmation on the infrastructure required to connect grouped living schemes to the new ARC. However, Tunstall has confirmed that the Pre-Digital Phone Line (PDPL) provided by BT and other communication providers will be compatible with the warden systems installed at our sites. This interim solution will be supported until 2030.</p> <p>We have obtained a quote for the preferred digital dialler, which is intended to replace those in Fire & Security panels to ensure their connection to the new ARC. Compatibility with existing Fire & Security panels has been verified, and insurance requirements have been confirmed. Comprehensive testing will be conducted soon, as we have received testing units from vendor.</p> <p>The project is making significant progress, with key milestones on track. Further updates will be provided as more information becomes available, as we continue to work towards a successful transition.</p>	BAU		
Digital	Maximise the use of technology to support innovation, efficiency and access to services.	SE32	Creation of capacity through targeted digital investment and service redesign.	70. Digital Investment	BAU		31/03/2025	2 - Closed	250,000	Future Sustainability	Tier 2 (Early Intervention)	Digital Investment sets out a proposal to invest in the two proposals from Microsoft as part of Phase A to deliver 'Social Work Practitioner Application; andHome Care Commissioning Portal.29/01/2025 - SLT decision to formally pause this project for Y3. This project is now closed. There is still a keen interest to deliver these applications but this will need to be reviewed from a financial viability aspect.	Close	External funding is being looked at in terms of this project and should this be successful, would this be included under 14. Best Use of Resources	
Frailty	Ensure there is a consistent approach to supporting Frail patients in Aberdeen both in a hospital and community setting with a focus on shifting towards community based support where possible.	KPS13	Ensure that the acute frailty wards within ARI are able to meet patient need and allow flow through the hospital.	71. ARI-based Frailty	FTP	01/04/2024	31/03/2025	Green			Tier 3 (Response)	The Pilot of the Liaison Service with General Medicine wards due to commence in January 2025 is currently postponed due to the participation of NHS Grampian in the National Discharge Without Delay Programme of work which will commence March / April 2025. This work will now be progressed as part of this programme. Frailty Liaison work is taking place with surgical wards with weekly visits to the wards now in place to review patients who would gain the most benefit of being on the frailty pathway. Discharge to Assess trial continues, links and processes with the frailty wards are established and the trial has now been extended to cover the Emergency Department (ED) and Acute Medical Inpatient Assessment (AMIA). This work links into the National Discharge Without Delay programme of work and will be further developed via this programme. During the Discharge to Assess trial, 18 patients followed this pathway, the majority of these patients remained at home and their care needs responded to there, only 3 individuals were readmitted. This trial has now ended as this work will be further progressed via the National Discharge Without Delay Programme of work.	Continue in new DP	This project (including the Frailty Liaison Service) will revert to the Discharge Without Delay Initiative	25 – Transforming Services Deliver the Discharge Without Delay Collaborative commitments
Frailty	Ensure there is a consistent approach to supporting Frail patients in Aberdeen both in a hospital and community setting with a focus on shifting towards community based support where possible.	KPS24	Understand the Woodend-based Frailty provision requirement (patients with acuity of need needing in-patient care) - linked to the Review of Rehab	72. Woodend-based Frailty	FTP	01/04/2024	31/03/2025	2 - Closed			Tier 3 (Response)	Future of Rosewell decision may have an impact on Woodend-based frailty. Rosewell House is currently operating over budget and with budget savings required to be made across the partnership a budget paper will be presented at the IUB in March. At this time for Rosewell the focus will be on ensuring there is no overspend within the allocated budget. Rehab Review Programme Plan developed and progressing. This focuses on implementation of rehabilitation hubs in in-patient settings, strengthening rehabilitation in the community/with community partners and providing a 7-day service.	Close	No formal Frailty beds remaining at Woodend	
Frailty	Ensure there is a consistent approach to supporting Frail patients in Aberdeen both in a hospital and community setting with a focus on shifting towards community based support where possible.	KPS25	Develop a process map for all City patients flowing in and out of the Frailty Pathway, linking this with wider Grampian work to ensure consistency of processes.	73. Patient Frailty Pathways	FTP	01/04/2024	31/03/2025	2 - Closed			Tier 3 (Response)	High level process mapping of the frailty pathway has taken place via the USC Ecosystem mapping process but it was agreed at the frailty board in Dec 24 further work is required to develop this further and link to the frailty evidence review work by public health and the new frailty standards. A frailty system wide process mapping event is scheduled for the 13th March to complete this work.	Close	Frailty System-wide process mapping on 13th March 2025 completed this work. Learnings will be incorporated into BAU structures.	
Frailty	Ensure there is a consistent approach to supporting Frail patients in Aberdeen both in a hospital and community setting with a focus on shifting towards community based support where possible.	KPS26	Ensure that there is step up and step down capacity for Frailty patients including the 40 beds within Rosewell and put forward recommendations for the use of the remaining 20 beds.	74. Step up and step down pathways	FTP	01/04/2024	31/03/2025	Amber			Tier 3 (Response)	Rosewell House is currently operating over budget and with budget savings required to be made across the partnership a budget paper will be presented at the IUB in March. At this time for Rosewell the focus will be on ensuring there is no overspend within the allocated budget.	Continue in new DP	Work will be carried forward into new delivery plan under the Discharge Without Delay project. NB: all aspects of DVD to be included not just the ones City are leading on.	25 – Transforming Services Deliver the Discharge Without Delay Collaborative commitments
Frailty	Ensure there is a consistent approach to supporting Frail patients in Aberdeen both in a hospital and community setting with a focus on shifting towards community based support where possible.	KPS27	Ensure there are appropriate alternatives to Hospital for Frailty patients (delivering via Expansion of Hospital at Home)	75. Alternatives to hospital	FTP	01/04/2024	31/03/2025	2 - Closed			Tier 3 (Response)	All relevant information provided within the H@H update section.	Close	Alternatives related primarily to Hospital @ Home Programme; covered in Hospital @ Home Programme close report	
Frailty	Ensure there is a consistent approach to supporting Frail patients in Aberdeen both in a hospital and community setting with a focus on shifting towards community based support where possible.	KPS28	Develop Community, Prevention and Primary Care approaches to the HIS Frailty Standards Including those relating to falls, and align with existing prevention workstreams utilising the GRIPE approach where relevant.	76. Community, Prevention and Primary Care	FTP	01/04/2024	31/03/2025	Green			Tier 3 (Response)	Discharge to Assess trial continues, links and processes with the frailty wards are established and the trial has now been extended to cover ED and AMIA. This work links into the National Discharge Without Delay programme of work.	BAU	There remains a need for a strong focus on a preventative and community-based approach to Frailty. This function will need to have an appropriate forum identified to ensure progress. The SRO should identify an appropriate oversight and assurance route for this workstream.	
Frailty	Ensure there is a consistent approach to supporting Frail patients in Aberdeen both in a hospital and community setting with a focus on shifting towards community based support where possible.	KPS29	Contribute to, and influence the decision making of, the Grampian Board for Frailty reporting to the USC Programme Board as required. (NB: programme management support being provided to Grampian Frailty Board by ACHSCP)	77. Contribution to Grampian Frailty and USC	FTP	01/04/2024	31/03/2025	Green			Tier 3 (Response)	Frailty workshop scheduled for 13th March - process map of the frailty pathway to be further developed with aim to identify and progress any gaps. The new frailty standards and the public health evidence review will be the reference points for this work.	BAU	ACHSCP is recommending that the Frailty Board be disbanded and its remit absorbed into the Unscheduled Care Programme Downstream Delivery Group and the Strategic Frailty Oversight Group (e.g. meeting with Shire/Moray to take place 25.04.25 to seek cross-system agreement to this proposal	
Home Pathways	Develop and deliver local and sustainable system flow and return to home pathways with partners, supporting reduced hospital admission, delays in hospital discharge and out of area placements	AFHL05	Investigate whether we can bring people back into authority and whether this is more cost effective.	23. Home Pathways	FTP		31/03/2025	Green	N/A	Future Sustainability	Tier 2 (Early Intervention)	a) The Care Inspectorate had agreed to prioritise the standalone long-term registration for Stonewood, aiming for completion by April. Registration hasn't been completed yet. We don't anticipate any issues with this and the Area Manager for The Richmond Fellowship Scotland continues to meet with them weekly. The Stonewood Project Team meets again on the 22nd April 2025, so there may be more progress by then. A Team Manager and two Seniors have also been appointed by the provider. The Richmond Fellowship Scotland (TRFS). There are funding challenges for the vacant building adjoining the Stonewood site and alternative funding sources are needed to explore how it will be used. Updates on the evaluation plan were discussed alongside the need for a meeting about funding for Just Roaming. The Data Protection Impact Assessment with TRFS has been completed and is ready for sign-off. A site visit has been planned to assess environmental risk factors for individuals with significant autism and high sensory needs. b) The Independent Living and Specialist Provision Housing Market Position Statement was approved at IUB on the 19th November. The document has now been published and promoted on the news section of the ACHSCP website.	Continue in new DP	This will be covered as part of the Review of out of authority project in new DP	21. Review use and cost of Out of Area care
Home Pathways	Develop and deliver local and sustainable system flow and return to home pathways with partners, supporting reduced hospital admission, delays in hospital discharge and out of area placements	AFHL14	Review Scheme of Assistance with a view to revising criteria for eligibility for funded adaptation support.	78. Scheme of Assistance	BAU		31/03/2025	Green	300,000	Budget Saving	Tier 2 (Early Intervention)	This project started out on the understanding that a change to the Scheme of Assistance was required in order to amend working practices to meet the reduced budget. There are no savings as such, the work is to avoid a budget pressure to the value of the budget reduction. During scoping it became apparent that a change to the Scheme is not required, nor is there any requirement to change guidance for the Occupational Therapists undertaking assessments. The change required will come from robust application of the guidance to the letter as over time a great deal of flexibility has been introduced. The impact of this change has been assessed and training is currently being refreshed for staff. This work has also led to exploration of alternative supports for those who may be impacted.	BAU		
Home Pathways	Develop and deliver local and sustainable system flow and return to home pathways with partners, supporting reduced hospital admission, delays in hospital discharge and out of area placements	KPS19	Help people to ensure their current homes meet their needs including enabling adaptations	56. Suitable Homes	BAU	01/04/2024	31/03/2025	Green			Tier 2 (Early Intervention)	The Disabled Adaptations Group (DAG) continues to meet quarterly and a sub group has been established to ensure alignment with the recently published Adaptations guidance. The baseline assessment tool is being used to deliver this. DAG continues to consider and monitor all major and minor adaptations to meet needs and requirements of people living in their homes.	BAU	This is now business as usual and as such is no longer required as a standalone project	
Hospital at Home Expansion	Increase the capacity of Hospital at Home to 50 beds, with the beds operating at consistent levels by March 2025. These will be for Medical and Respiratory Pathways as well as the current Frailty, End of Life Care and OPAT Pathways.	KPS12	Monitor use of Hospital at Home beds for the Frailty Pathway.	79. Monitor use of H@H Beds	FTP	01/04/2024	30/09/2025	2 - Closed		Prevention	Tier 3 (Response)	The team remain committed to the target of 50 beds operating at a consistent occupancy by the end of March 2025., however significant staff absences (due to unplanned and planned leave) within the H@H team are impacting patient flow in the service. Significant staff absences were in the ANP team, this had an impact on service flow and reduced the available capacity within the service. The majority of these staff have now returned to work. Currently when fully staffed the H@H service can provide capacity up to 50 beds. The team are working on a Scottish Government request to increase opportunities for expansion.	Close	3MB approved at SLT 2.4.25 - close project	
Hospital at Home Expansion	Increase the capacity of Hospital at Home to 50 beds, with the beds operating at consistent levels by March 2025. These will be for Medical and Respiratory Pathways as well as the current Frailty, End of Life Care and OPAT Pathways.	KPS30	Implement actions in relation to H@H beds available for Respiratory Medicine	80. H@H Beds for Respiratory Medicine	FTP	01/04/2024	30/09/2025	2 - Closed		Future Sustainability	Tier 3 (Response)	This project has amber BRAG status due to the occupancy of the 5 respiratory beds remaining low. The acute medicine consultant is leading on these beds and is working with the respiratory team to educate, build confidence in the H@H service to increase the flow of these patients.	Close	3MB approved at SLT 2.4.25 - close project	

Hospital at Home Expansion	Increase the capacity of Hospital at Home to 50 beds, with the beds operating at consistent levels by March 2025. These will be for Medical and Respiratory Pathways as well as the current Frailty, End of Life Care and OPAT Pathways.	KPS31	Implement actions in relation to HiH beds available for Acute Medicine	81. HiH Beds for Acute Medicine	FTP	01/04/2024	30/09/2025	Red		Prevention	Tier 3 (Response)	Development of the flow into the non frailty beds (acute & resp) has increased steadily increased due to the efforts by the acute medicine consultant. Referrals direct from City Visits are now established for the acute patients and this has had a positive impact on flow, with greater flexibility being applied to the referrals. The Admission Avoidance route remains the priority due to the difficulties / time required in moving patients once admitted to ARI.	Close	SMB approved at SLT 2.4.25 - close project	
Hospital at Home Expansion	Increase the capacity of Hospital at Home to 50 beds, with the beds operating at consistent levels by March 2025. These will be for Medical and Respiratory Pathways as well as the current Frailty, End of Life Care and OPAT Pathways.	KPS32	Ensure digital and IT arrangements are in place for HiH expansion.	82. Digital and IT for HiH Beds	FTP	01/04/2024	30/09/2025	Red			Tier 3 (Response)	This remains in the background of the development of the service as it is not a priority at this time. Development of a daily set of remote observations for non frailty patients would enhance and support this pathway, the use of blood pressure monitors is being investigated Engagement with the innovation team and a demonstration of the Feebris system remote monitoring system has taken place. The HiH team given the expansion pressures have concluded they are not in a place to integrate this remote monitoring system at this time. Potential for use once the flow of non frailty patients is more established. This work is now on hold.15/04/2025 - At the time of writing this it was on hold, but it is now being progressed again	Close	SMB approved at SLT 2.4.25 - close project	
Hospital at Home Expansion	Increase the capacity of Hospital at Home to 50 beds, with the beds operating at consistent levels by March 2025. These will be for Medical and Respiratory Pathways as well as the current Frailty, End of Life Care and OPAT Pathways.	KPS33	Implement Workforce and Organisational Development actions for HiH expansion.	83. Workforce and OD for HiH Beds	FTP	01/04/2024	30/09/2025	Red		Future Sustainable	Tier 3 (Response)	OD have been involved with the HiH team particularly around Courageous Conversations training. These have been well received by the team and are now complete. HiH continue to be link in with OD on the developments and team engagement required to meet the service aims by March 25. The Workforce Plan development has been paused to allow all efforts to be focussed on the expansion of the service and meeting it's target.	Close	SMB approved at SLT 2.4.25 - close project	
Infrastructure	Assess future infrastructure needs and engage with partners to ensure these needs are met.	SE20	Develop an interim solution for the provision of health and social care services within the Countesswells housing development and work on the long-term solution	24. Health and Care in Countesswells	BAU	01/03/2024	31/03/2025	Red		Future Sustainable	Tier 2 (Early Intervention)	The building became fully operational on Monday 3rd March 2025. The services operating form the new facility include CTAC, Children's Immunisations, Health Visitors and Speech & Language Therapists. The building is operating at 100% capacity with every session throughout the week being used.	Close	As per latest update	
Infrastructure	Assess future infrastructure needs and engage with partners to ensure these needs are met.	SE21	Develop Infrastructure Plan for ACHSCP	25. Infrastructure Plan	BAU	01/08/2024	31/03/2025	Green	N/A	Future Sustainable	Tier 2 (Early Intervention)	This project is part of and impacted by the ongoing Premises Review. That work will feed into the infrastructure plan. The Premises Review is using all the capacity of the Infrastructure team but we are still on track to have the Infrastructure Plan developed over the course of 2025. This will be completed alongside ACC and the NHSG whole system Infrastructure approach for future planning. 14/04/2025 - The Infrastructure Plan will be aligned with the MTFF and new Strategic Plan, once approved. The Infrastructure Plan will also be developed alongside the Whole System Infrastructure Planning with NHSG. SLT have approved a number of savings and efficiencies that are being progressed in relation to buildings, most of these are complete but two are ongoing. Once completed capacity can then be focussed on finalising the Infrastructure Plan, a first draft is expected to be ready by October 2025.	Continue in new DP	This is to be developed.	10. Best use of Resources Consolidate our use of properties
Infrastructure	Assess future infrastructure needs and engage with partners to ensure these needs are met.	SE33	Rapid Review of Assets	84. Rapid review of assets	BAU	08/07/2024	31/03/2025	Green		Future Sustainable	Tier 3 (Response)	The work on the premises review began in December 2023 with a significant amount of detail gathered and analysed ready for the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) business meeting in April 2024. At that meeting a very in-depth and detailed overview of the premises that Partnership staff operate from was presented. A mapping exercise was also carried out for Partnership staff operating from NHS Grampian buildings and this is now being extended to Aberdeen City Council buildings too. The goal is to have a single, multi agency, mapping of all services engaging with our partners - this will feed into the Infrastructure Plan. Following the meeting in April it was requested by SLT that a set of proposals be developed looking specifically at efficiencies, effective use of buildings, and potential savings. This was progressed as requested and presented back to SLT in July 2024. Two proposals that SLT selected to be carried out in financial year 2024/25, have now been completed as of February 2025. Work is ongoing in relation to the final two proposals that SLT selected to be carried out in financial year 2024/25. These will be completed and then will go back to SLT in March 2025, and any agreed work will be completed in the 2025/26 financial year.	Continue in new DP	Work will continue under new DP under the 'Consolidate use of Properties'. Projects are ongoing.	10. Best use of Resources Consolidate our use of properties
MHLD	Deliver Grampian wide and City specific MHLD transformation taking cognisance of national strategies, standards and service specifications.	AFHL08	Deliver a capability framework for a workforce to support complex behaviour.	27. Complex Care Workforce and Skills Dev	BAU	06/04/2023	31/03/2025	Blue			Tier 2 (Early Intervention)	Capability Framework complete and applied to the Complex Care Framework which is now live.	Complete		
MHLD	Deliver Grampian wide and City specific MHLD transformation taking cognisance of national strategies, standards and service specifications.	AFHL09	Progress the Grampian wide MHLD Transformation Programme monitored by the Portfolio Board ensuring project groups are established to ensure delivery and implementation of national Strategies, Delivery Plans, Standards and Service Specifications.	28. MHLD Programme	FTP	01/06/2022	31/03/2025	Amber		National Agenda	Tier 3 (Response)	Adult Mental Health (AMH) Secondary Care Pathway Review: The General Adult Mental Health (AMH) Secondary Care Pathway Review project is reaching completion of its 'Close Out Report'. The project clearly identified key achievements include validating 13 process maps, completing service information forms, and developing the Grampian MHLDs Secondary Care Pathway Governance Map. 40 improvement actions were identified, with some already completed or integrated into 'Business as Usual' as well as many in Progress. The AMH Secondary Care Pathway Review Project Steering Group has stood down accordingly. The improvement actions identified as 'out of scope' of the project will be presented back to the MHLD Board for decision making. An evaluation form and project update was sent to stakeholders on 21/02/2025, to gather feedback on the project's impact and status for future improvements. This will be shared with the Board at the April 2025 meeting. Forensic Services: The Forensic Services Steering Group last met on the 13/03/2025. Communications for the infrastructure works were sent out. Official communications about the infrastructure work was sent to multiple external strategic, political and clinical forensic networks following additional funding confirmation by NHS Grampian Board, and a newsletter is planned. The wards have held community groups with patients, supported by patient advocacy services, and information has been shared with carers. Enabling works are on schedule. Revised costs for the multi-purpose room have been received, and funding from the RCH Endowments Fund (NHS Charities) is being pursued for this. Blair Unit capacity will be temporarily reduced to accommodate project works, with access and capacity mitigations in place. A ministerial visit by Ms Maureen Todd, MSP, Minister for Social Care, Mental Wellbeing and Sport of Scotland is being arranged for 02/05/2025, and the Scottish Government commissioned Forensic Advisory Group are visiting 24.03.2025. Learning Disabilities (LD) Health Checks: Learning Disability Health Checks (LDHCs) are continuing in small numbers across City (Vaccination & Wellbeing Centre and the Len Ironside Centre), Shire (Huntly/Peterhead) and Moray (LD nursing service). Timelines to enhance this service post Vaccination programmes in Spring 2025 are being developed across Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire. Funding has not been confirmed for 2025-2026. However, teams across the 3 IJBs continue to spend the allocation for 2024-2025 to evidence how many health checks can be done with the existing allocation, which already is known not to be enough to reach the estimated population across NHSG with a learning disability aged 16 and over. Enhanced Mental Health Outcomes Framework (EMHOF): The additional funding from the EMHOF allocation is expected in April 2025, with a clear picture of future funding benchmarks to follow. This funding is coming from Scottish Government. PSIG: At the most recent PSIG8 meeting there was substantial support for the revised Terms of Reference (ToRe). However, some outstanding issues related to reporting, communication, and governance still need to be addressed. To simplify the complexities of the system, the Board will focus on finalising the organogram for the ToR, which should provide clarity and reassurance once completed. This will be presented to the CSSDT/Psychology Consultants forum to gather their views and ensure high representation. MHLD Programme Support: In February, the MHLD Board approved recommendations for seven workstreams within the Bed Base Review, initiating the formation of these workstreams and their reporting structures. Planning will ensure the three IJBs are informed and supported. The MHLD Board received a written update on LD Health Checks and agreed to conduct all health checks to establish a baseline for future frequency. They also agreed on a Business Tracker/Planner model to shape future meetings and reporting. Scheduled for the March mini Board meeting are updates on AMH work/closure reporting and Aberdeenshire Autism and ADHD. The NHS Grampian Annual Delivery Plan was provided, with a meeting to finalise the submission in mid-March. A planning tool detailing priorities and resource requirements will be compiled and reported to the MHLD Board.	BAU	BAU - Contains transformation work which sits within the remit of the MHLD Board as cross Grampian work rather than the ACHSCP Delivery plan solely	
MHLD	Deliver Grampian wide and City specific MHLD transformation taking cognisance of national strategies, standards and service specifications.	AFHL09g	Review strategy and arrangements for Learning Disabilities / Autism and Neurodevelopmental needs. To be informed by new legislation (current consultation on LD, Autism and Neurodivergence Bill)	30. LD, Autism and Neurodevelopmental Ass	BAU		31/03/2025	Amber			Tier 3 (Response)	This project is an amber BRAG status. The Adult Autism Assessment Team (AAAT) in NHS Grampian is being funded until March 2025 with existing money. There is no further Scottish Government funding past this. Aberdeen City will continue to fund their share of the service however Aberdeenshire have indicated their intention to withdraw from the current arrangements The new Learning Disability, Autism and Neurodiversity Bill (LDAN) consultation has now closed and a Consultation Analysis has been produced however this will not be introduced to parliament until after 2026 Scottish Election. Meanwhile, we continue to support AAAT and seek further information which may support future planning/sustainability (e.g. neuro specifications and any associated budget, national requirements). We will undertake a short action plan to update the local autism action plan given the delays nationally with a key action regarding sustainability of Adult Autism Assessment Team.	BAU	This sits within the remit of the MHLD Board as cross Grampian work	
MHLD	Deliver Grampian wide and City specific MHLD transformation taking cognisance of national strategies, standards and service specifications.	AFHL09h	Develop and implement approaches to support Suicide Prevention and alignment to national Suicide Prevention Strategy	31. Suicide Prevention	BAU		31/03/2025	Green			Tier 1 (Prevention)	SAMH sub-groups across the North East are ongoing. These are: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Building Community Capacity• Children and Young People• Lived experience• Bereavement• Data analysis and risk This feeds into the North East Suicide Prevention Leadership Group (NESPLG) whom meet quarterly along with contracts monitoring meetings. Aberdeen City has made a commitment to continue supporting this important topic. Aberdeen City Suicide Prevention Delivery Group meet bi-monthly to focus on local issues, aims and local action plans. The City Delivery Group are currently responding to local issues being raised. Aberdeen City and Shire are piloting a new database system for death review system called QES that started on 01/10/24. Processes are currently being developed. City and Shire to roll out initially Moray to follow. Aberdeen City's LOIP project charter approved and will provide updates on the aim quarterly.	Continue in new DP	Will be carried forward to new DP (Prevention)	9. Reduce Harm Deliver & implement Action plans for Suicide & Self Harm Prevention Strategies
MHLD	Deliver Grampian wide and City specific MHLD transformation taking cognisance of national strategies, standards and service specifications.	AFHL15	Review arrangements for delivery of Post Diagnostic Support for people newly diagnosed with Dementia.	85. Post Diagnostic Support	BAU	01/04/2024	30/04/2025	Green			Tier 2 (Early Intervention)	Work is progressing on project including data collation improvements for Post Diagnostic Support (PDS) referrals and movement of this to operational team. Further work required on review of current PDS offer, including training, materials etc. Alzheimer Scotland contract includes the Post Diagnostic Support Young Onset Dementia (YOD) service work.	BAU	This is moving over to operational services.	
MHLD	Deliver Grampian wide and City specific MHLD transformation taking cognisance of national strategies, standards and service specifications.	AFHL16	Review NHS Out of Authority Placements.	86. Review of NHS OOA Placements	BAU	01/04/2024	31/03/2025	Green			Tier 3 (Response)	The data is complete on all NHS OOA, cases are being routinely reviewed. Senior team are progressing this work. No further clear role at present for project management	Continue in new DP	This will be covered as part of the 'Review of out of authority' project in new DP	21. Best use of Resources Review use and cost of Out of Area care
Prevention	Keeping people healthy and avoiding the risk of poor health, illness, injury and early death	PH01	Reduce the use and harm from alcohol and other drugs including through the Drugs Related Deaths Rapid Response Plan	32. Alcohol & Drugs Reduction	BAU	01/04/2024	31/03/2025	Green			Tier 1 (Prevention)	LOIP project team has been established and first meeting of 2025 was on 21st January with representation from NHSG, Midwifery, Health Visitor, a community member and the health improvement team. 'Drymester' materials have been updated and 3 workshops have taken place w/c 3rd March 2025. Feedback from community members have highlighted that there is mixed messages about alcohol consumption in pregnancy. Ideally, it would be addressed via social media and through trusted voices in the community. The group also highlighted that young people should be targeted through schools, universities and colleges. A session with students from RGU is planned for w/c 17th March 2025. Discussion are being held with the Head of Guidance at Harlaw Academy regarding piloting resources aimed raising awareness of the risks of drinking alcohol and pregnancy.	Continue in new DP	Carried forward to new DP (Prevention) but specific reference to Response Plan removed	8. Reduce Harm Reduce harm caused by the use of drugs and alcohol
Prevention	Keeping people healthy and avoiding the risk of poor health, illness, injury and early death	PH02	Deliver actions to meet the HIS Sexual Health Standards	33. HIS Sexual Health Standards	BAU	01/04/2024	31/03/2025	Amber			Tier 1 (Prevention)	Major pressures on small staff team who are focussed on maintaining services; filling vacancies & participation in a review of Grampian hosted services Grampian Sexual Health Service is compliant with HIS standards, which in summary, improve access; reduce inequalities; identify areas for improvement & allow benchmarking with other services. Service currently receiving NHSG waiting times funding to reduce longest waiting times. Senior nurses retrials and imminent deputy service manager vacancy will temporarily restrict scope for further service improvements.	BAU	To continue as Business as Usual.	

Prevention	Keeping people healthy and avoiding the risk of poor health, illness, injury and early death	PH03	Increase uptake in Childhood Immunisations	87. Childhood Immunisation	BAU		31/03/2025	Green			Tier 1 (Prevention)	<p>There has been an ongoing reduction in Childhood Immunisation uptake Nationally over the past year. however Aberdeen City have continued to see further slight increases in uptake across all immunisations following test of changes implemented over the past 2 years - including opening more locally based clinics, family health & wellbeing event and local promotion on social media and in person at family events & gals.</p> <p>3 new local clinics opened in Torry, Health Village and Countesswells at the beginning of March and these are proving popular with parents. The focus of these 3 new clinics are Pre-school vaccinations and will benefit the work we are undertaking to increase uptake for children vaccination for those aged 0-4. They came about following the relocations of services & closure of Collage Street Hub. Patients previously attending collage street hub came from areas such as Torry, Kincorth, Cove, Cultra and Peterculter and Kingwells - therefore the 3 new clinics provide more local opportunities for parents to attend and hopefully also contribute to reducing barriers for parent to attend.</p> <p>A family Health & wellbeing event is being planned for 11th April which will see further promotion of pre-school vaccinations and opportunistic immunisations on the day.</p>	Continue in new DP	Carried forward to new DP (Prevention) in relation to all immunisations	2. Improve Physical Health
Prevention	Keeping people healthy and avoiding the risk of poor health, illness, injury and early death	PH04	Contribute towards addressing the obesity epidemic through promotion of healthy food and nutrition, active travel, and place planning	34. Addressing Obesity	BAU	01/04/2024	31/03/2025	Green		Prevention	Tier 1 (Prevention)	<p>We are into our third Strategic Systems Network Group (SSNG) Meeting and between phase 3 (mapping local system) and 4 (action mapping) of Whole Systems approach. We are progressing as planned key milestones for each quarter. So far we had collective understanding on perceived social determinants causes of obesity impacting individual behaviours. We are now into Action Mapping of existing partner actions in their respective sectors. Reviewing and shifting focus from individual lifestyle actions to wider environmental actions collectively as a group. We have further plans of involving communities on assessing neighbourhood food environment and taking feedback on relevant changes to be made to make healthier choices. We will be using partner or system feedback, communities feedback, evidence based actions based on research, Scotland's seven levers and Scottish Government Good Food Nation Plan to develop the Healthy Weight Aberdeen (HWA) Action plan. HWA actions will also be implemented as part of LOIP.</p>	Continue in new DP	Publish an agreed obesity action plan in new DP NB: 'obesity' to be replaced with 'Healthy Weight'.	3. Improve Physical Health
Prevention	Keeping people healthy and avoiding the risk of poor health, illness, injury and early death	PH05	Contribute towards nicotine cessation agenda in Aberdeen City, for example by scaping up Vaping Awareness work across all localities in the City	35. Nicotine Cessation	BAU	01/04/2024	31/03/2025	Green			Tier 1 (Prevention)	<p>In 2019/2023, 15% of adults in Aberdeen City were current smokers, up from 14% in 2018/2022, matching Scotland's national rate. Smoking prevalence was higher among males (17%) than females (13%). Meanwhile, the percentage of adults using e-cigarettes or vaping devices increased from 5% in 2018/2022 to 7% in 2019/2023. Local Outcome Improvement Plan project charters have been approved by Community Planning Aberdeen for Reducing the number of young people aged 13-18 who are using vapes and reducing the number of women smoking in pregnancy. As part of the LOIP project, discussions with community member have highlighted situations where people who are pregnant are unaware of the cessation services in the community. There is a test of change within the Maternity Care pathway was delayed which willmean pregnant women who smoke will be referred to a Health Point member of staff to have a wider health and wellbeing conversation. The final sign off didn't happen until February 2024.</p> <p>Cost of Smoking tutor training have been delivered in Aberdeen and this was offered to all community planning partners with particular financial inclusion, employability and foodbank staff and volunteers.</p> <p>The partnership have supported the NHS Grampian Public Health team in planning promotion of No Smoking Day in March 2025. This is part of the joined up approach to reduce prevalence and aligns to NHS Grampian Tobacco Strategic Plan.</p>	Continue in new DP	Will continue as a LOIP improvement project, reporting to the Community Planning Management Group through the Resilient, Included, and Support Outcome Improvement Group	7- Reduce Harm
Prevention	Keeping people healthy and avoiding the risk of poor health, illness, injury and early death	PH06a	Continue to deliver our Stay Well Stay Connected programme to keep people healthy and in good wellbeing, and avoid the risk of social isolation, poor health, illness, injury and early death.	37. Deliver SWSC Social Isolation	BAU	01/04/2024	31/03/2025	Green		Future Sustainable	Tier 1 (Prevention)	<p>The Wellbeing Team and Age Scotland delivered Fun Activity Leaders Training Session to 25 volunteers and staff across Aberdeen. Residents from Taransay Court are now trained and looking to deliver sessions to residents and their local community in the near future.</p> <p>The Wellbeing Team in partnership with SHMU have begun a Women's Health initiative at Greyhope Bay Community Hub, it's a safe space for women to rest, relax & connect as well as taking part in activities.</p> <p>There has been an increase in participants at Cornhill Soup and Sammies and at Greyhope Bay. The Wellbeing Team have applied for more funding with a view to increasing both to twice monthly.</p> <p>The Wellbeing Team took part in the Community Appointment Day and made valuable connections through increased networking and engagement with citizens.</p> <p>The Wellbeing Team have been involved with the new Men's Shed in Rosemount.</p> <p>The development of the Aberdeen Befriending Network continues and there have been some successful bids for funding to help with this.</p> <p>The Boogies at the bar are seeing increased numbers attending a new DJ has become involved.</p> <p>The LOIP improvement project on SWSC is on track to achieve the aim of increase participation in SWSC activities by 50% by the end of 2025. Regular participation in SWSC activity has increased from 660 people in 2023 to 1777 people in 2024.</p> <p>Project updates will be reported regularly to the Respected, Included, and Supported Group and CPA Management Group.</p>	BAU	The Stay Well Stay Connected (SWSC) programme will continue and will be the delivery arm of the Active Ageing Action Plan.	
Prevention	Keeping people healthy and avoiding the risk of poor health, illness, injury and early death	PH07	Continue to contribute to the Health Transport Action Plan (HTAP) and the Aberdeen Local Transport Strategy (ALTS) encouraging sustainable and active travel.	38. Contribute to Transport	BAU	01/04/2024	31/03/2025	Green		Prevention	Tier 1 (Prevention)	<p>The key piece of work done in the last quarter was to contribute to the development of the new Health Transport Action Plan (HTAP) for 2024 - 2029. This included Partnership staff taking part in workshops, contributing through HTAP meetings and reviewing the draft document with the HTAP Programme Manager.</p>	BAU	This will be incorporated into the Whole System Approach to Obesity	
Prevention	Keeping people healthy and avoiding the risk of poor health, illness, injury and early death	PH09	Contribute towards tackling health inequalities in Aberdeen City through delivery of the Health Improvement Fund and wider collaboration with community planning partners.	88. Tackling Health inequalities	BAU	01/04/2024	31/03/2025	Green			Tier 1 (Prevention)	<p>The Health Improvement fund process has been fully spent for 2024-25. The Localities Health Improvement opened in August 2024. The number of projects per locality are Central - 12, North - 17 and South - 15. Health Improvement Fund community projects will help the Partnership to deliver community priorities within all three of our Locality Plans. Particular highlights include:</p> <p>Supporting GREC to sustain their Health and Diversity Network and recruit to their existing 110 health champions.Rolling out training with RSPB on Nature prescriptions to Community Link Practitioners. Community Connector to support work at Clinterty Gypsy and Traveller site to engage regarding health and wellbeing.</p> <p>The Partnership will contribute towards delivery of NHS Grampian's 5 year Health Equity Plan for communities within Aberdeen City. One example is supporting Local Outcome Improvement Projects which relate to Improving uptake of cancer screenings in Aberdeen.</p>	BAU	Will be incorporated into our integrated locality planning arrangements and Stay Well Stay Connected programme.	
Prevention	Keeping people healthy and avoiding the risk of poor health, illness, injury and early death	PH10	Work on a system-wide basis to increase community and professional capacity through community led development approaches such as Health Issues in the Community	89. Community Led Development Approach	BAU	01/04/2024	31/03/2025	Green			Tier 1 (Prevention)	<p>Following the Health Issues in the Community (HIC) short course at Middlefield in March 2024, a number of actions have been taken forward: Litter picking around Middlefieldfrom the wider community has been organised as a weekly event, with support and involvement from Keep Britain Tidy.</p> <p>Eight-week Deaf Awareness classes run for 12 people at Middlefield Community Project free of charge.</p> <p>Community involvementin the consultation process for the revision ofAberdeenCityCouncil and AberdeenCityHealth andSocialCarePartnership British Sign Language plan and ACHSCP Strategy and Transformation Team development day.</p> <p>Next steps and building capacity</p> <p>Evaluate the course outcomes and collated data with follow up evaluations after three and six months. Feedback and support to local and Grampian-wideHICtutor networks.</p> <p>Following three HIC pilots, four comunity projects have been set up addressing poverty, littering, deafawareness and community leaflet raising issues oncrime and homeless support.</p> <p>Representatives from 11 services and organisations have completed HIC tutor training during 2024, including Community Learning and Development, Pathways, Middlefield Community Project, and The Wood Foundation.</p> <p>The Communities Team will we be supporting 21tutors who are delivering HIC courses within all three locality areas across Aberdeen City.</p> <p>One HIC course being delivered in Sunnybank which supports LOIP project.</p> <p>HIC being explored to support A&E Works clients and community organisations within the Central Priority Neighbourhood.</p>	BAU	To continue as Business as Usual.	
Prevention	Keeping people healthy and avoiding the risk of poor health, illness, injury and early death	PH11	Scale up the Healthier Families Peep programme to support a whole family approach to health and wellbeing.	90. Scale up Peep	BAU	01/04/2024	31/03/2025	Green			Tier 1 (Prevention)	<p>3 training dates have planned 20th Feb, 12th March and 27th March, however there was limited uptake for the first 2 dates, there for they had to be cancelled. the 27th March date has been popular with the session being almost fully booked. Further discussions with PEEP programme manager have taken place to look at Peep training and practice across the city, including how the Best start in life group can support the increase of delivery.</p> <p>The Healthier families programme has been promoted across the UK, we have recently met with a team of professionals from Hull to share our learning and further developments (toolkit and training) arising from the original Peep Healthier families Pilot.</p> <p>There have been initial discussions around developing and testing Healthier Families Baby Peep 4 week programme to support with earlier key messaging.</p>	BAU	This will continue as Business as Usual through partnership working with Aberdeen City Council and other Community Planning and community partners	
Prevention	Keeping people healthy and avoiding the risk of poor health, illness, injury and early death	PH12	Work with NHSG Public Health Directorate and alongside other Grampian Health and Social Care Partnerships to explore the development of a public mental health approach for Aberdeen City	91. Public Mental Health Approach	BAU	01/04/2024	31/03/2025	Green			Tier 1 (Prevention)	<p>The Partnership are supporting NHS Grampian's Public Health Directorate to develop and implement a Public Mental Health Approach in Aberdeen City. Public mental health involves a population approach to mental health, and includes treatment of mental disorder, prevention of associated impacts, prevention of mental disorder and promotion of mental well-being, including for those people recovering from mental disorder. The Communities Team are working closely with the Public Health Consultant for Aberdeen City on the development of a Public Mental Health Approach.</p>	Continue in new DP	Publish agreed Public mental Health Action Plan in new DP	4- Improve Mental Health
Prevention	Keeping people healthy and avoiding the risk of poor health, illness, injury and early death	PH13	Work alongside the Children's Services Board (CSB) on prevention and early intervention particularly in reducing local variations in health factors	92. Reduce local variations in health factors	BAU	01/07/2024	31/03/2025	Green			Tier 1 (Prevention)	<p>Work started on identifying health outcomes within Children Service Plan (CSP) projects. Enhancing baseline data as part of the refocused Population Needs Assessment (PNA)/Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) for children and young people to assess degree of variation being explored.</p>	BAU		
Primary Care	Identify strategy and actions to improve Primary Care services and ensure future sustainability.	CT15	Deliver the strategic intent for the Primary Care Improvement Plan (PCIP)	40. Deliver PCIP	FTP		31/03/2025	Green			Tier 1 (Prevention)	<p>The Primary Care Improvement Plan (PCIP) Programme continues to deliver on its 6 workstreams and Vaccinations (VTP), Community Treatment and Care (CTAC) and Pharmacotherapy being the 3 workstream of priority and delivery is against the 2018 PCIP.</p> <p>CTAC - practice based service fully delivered within the limitations of the funding; clinic-based service now operating from sites (Bridge of Don, Inverurie Road, Collage Street, Northfield, Health Village, Airthall, Kincorth, and the City Vaccination Centre) across the city. A new hub will be opening at Countesswells and this has now been completed in terms of occupancy. A plan is progressing for CTAC to vacate the space they were allocated in Carden Medical Practice and move to the Health Village as an alternative premises in the city centre and the move has taken place. Also as part of this move Collage Street will no longer deliver CTAC or childhood vaccinations. This workstream has been delivered 98% against the 2018 PCIP plan. All staff posts have been recruited to against the plan.</p> <p>Vaccinations (VTP) - fully delivered. A second pod has been opened at the City Vaccination Centre during the summer months and gives capacity for on the day appointments. Providing cross cover with the CTAC staff to deliver 812 injection at the VTP Wellbeing hub. This is an option for patients and frees up capacity in the practices for those choosing to participate.</p> <p>Pharmacotherapy - roll out of the service is almost at full capacity, as outlined in our agreed service model of 1 WTE to 10,000 patients. It is recognised this model is insufficient to deliver the full commitments of the Pharmacotherapy service outlined in the MoU2, and the service model required to deliver is much higher with estimation closer to 2.5 WTE per 5,000. However, currently there is no national agreement on this.</p> <p>The PCIP is included in the GP Visioning Programme which is currently being delivered across NHS Grampian in terms of revising the delivery of the plan. A project sub group has been set up to review the PCIP's across Grampian.</p>	Continue in new DP	Refresh of PCIP in new DP	24. Transforming Services
Primary Care	Identify strategy and actions to improve Primary Care services and ensure future sustainability.	CT18	Deliver City actions in relation to the Grampian vision for Primary Care	41. Deliver Vision for PC	FTP		31/03/2025	Green			Tier 1 (Prevention)	<p>The GP Vision implementation programme is ongoing. A report on the progress of the board was taken to all 3 IJBs in late January / early February 2025. the report highlighted the progress, risks and resources. A reflect and refresh workshop was held on 5th March to review priorities against resource. The output of this will be taken to the programme board on 16th April. There are currently no risks to escalate</p>	Continue in new DP	Vision work in new DP	23 Transforming Services
Primary Care	Identify strategy and actions to improve Primary Care services and ensure future sustainability.	CT19	Develop and implement appropriate initiatives to mitigate increase in prescription costs.	93. Prescription Costs	BAU		31/03/2025	Green			Tier 3 (Response)	<p>Grampian wide prescribing efficiency group working on multiple strands of cost saving activity. Communication initiatives to public, prescribers and Integrated Joint Board's (IJB's). Prescribing data sharing and benchmarking. 2 spend to save projects underway in primary care. Multiple targeted cost saving projects underway.</p> <p>Ongoing Grampian wide meetings, working through prescribing efficiencies booklet. Presentations being given to prescribers (including non medical prescribers). Mistletoe prescribing SBAR approved by SLT.</p> <p>Roll out of pharmacy technician and pharmacist support to target prescribing efficiencies on behalf of practices has begun.</p>	BAU		
Redesigning Adult Social Work	Enhancing the role of Social Work in playing a guiding role in the promotion of personalised options for care and support.	CT01	Undertake evaluation of redesign work to date ensuring this links to latestservice developments particularly in relation to use of digital.	42. Redesigning Adult Social Work	BAU		27/12/2024	1 - Complete	N/A	Future Sustainable	Tier 3 (Response)	<p>The project saw the creation of the Adult Protection Social Work Team, transformation of the Hospital Social Work team into aligned wards to ensure timely discharges, the formal creation of a care home team, social care review team and the alignment of social care teams into localities. This along with redesign of the service manager team resulted in releasing certain posts used for vacancy savings. Given the current position and the need to reduce costs in social care, further work will be required as set out in our recovery plan. This refocus being on the drive to modernise social care using tec and enhancing digital opportunities alongside enablement.</p>	Complete	See latest comment	
Rehabilitation Review	Undertake a strategic review of rehabilitation services across Grampian to identify new delivery models.	KP501	Develop a discussion paper to inform a strategic planning framework for the strategic review of rehabilitation across Grampian which will include Specialist Rehabilitation Services hosted by Aberdeen City IJB. This will include consideration of how partners in sports and leisure and wider community resources can assist in delivery of rehabilitation. This will consider rehabilitation delivery models including bed base and community requirements in line with national guidance including SG Progressive Stroke Pathway, SG Neurological Standards and Scottish Trauma Network Major Trauma minimal requirements guidance.	43. Strategic Planning Framework for Review	FTP		31/03/2025	Green	N/A	Future Sustainable	Tier 3 (Response)	<p>Clear programme plan in place outlining key areas of work within the strategic rehabilitation review. Significant progress towards implementation of rehabilitation hubs. Amputee Rehabilitation work has commenced. Wheelchair service prioritising review of Service Level Agreements with other board areas.</p> <p>Neurorehabilitation paper completed with agreement made by Chief Officer - consultation ongoing with Moray & Shine COs</p>	Continue in new DP	Several projects under here will carry forward to new delivery plan. (Discharge without Delay Collaborative commitments)	25 - Transforming Services
Rehabilitation Review	Undertake a strategic review of rehabilitation services across Grampian to identify new delivery models.	KP507	Implement the outcome of the strategic review of the Neuro Rehabilitation Pathway	44. Implement Strategic Review Neuro-Reha	FTP		31/03/2025	Amber	N/A	Future Sustainable	Tier 3 (Response)	<p>The BRAO status for this project is Amber due as there are outstanding decisions relating to the continued implementation of Phase 1, following delays to recruitment and a request to review the need for the additionally. A paper has been drafted, reviewed and resubmitted to the Chief Officer(s) for consideration.</p>	BAU	A formal decision is still required for the close of the Neurorehabilitation Project, which will need to be reported to the Integration Joint Board	
Rehabilitation Review	Undertake a strategic review of rehabilitation services across Grampian to identify new delivery models.	KP534	Review of Hosted Wheelchair Service model and processes to identify any areas where efficiency could be achieved.	94. Review of Wheelchair Service	FTP		31/03/2025	Green	N/A	Future Sustainable	Tier 3 (Response)	<p>Project has commenced with light-touch support from programme manager and local teams. SLT decision has been made on the financial pressure faced by the service. Project Team continue to meet to develop project plan and associated project management documents.</p> <p>Regular meetings being held with Operational team to support efficiencies in way of working including stock control and retrieving of equipment when no longer required. Focus currently on reviewing SLAs with external board areas (Highlands, Shetland, Orkney)</p> <p>SBAR in preparation to consider future of Highland SLA in first instance.</p>	BAU	Part of Hosted Services work	
Resilience	Ensuring the conditions are in place to maintain our resilience as an organisation.	SE15	Develop proactive, repeated and consistent communications to keep communities informed	46. Community Communications	BAU		31/03/2025	Green	N/A	Future Sustainable	Tier 2 (Early Intervention)	<p>This project is on track. The ACHSCP's Comms Trustees Group continues to meet on a monthly basis. A Comms Plan/timeline for 2025/26 will be drafted and submitted to SLT with regular comms issued in support of the events in the Comms Plan. The Comms Adviser continues to manage all Press enquiries and works closely with the Chief Officer and others in SLT and ACC and NHSG to manage the external comms issued.</p>	BAU	BAU by Strategy & Transformation Team	
Resilience	Ensuring the conditions are in place to maintain our resilience as an organisation.	SE23	Review Care for People arrangements	47. Care for People	BAU		31/08/2024	2 - Closed	N/A	Statutory Requirement	Tier 3 (Response)	<p>The original ask around exploring any conflict of interest between ACHSCP's Business and Resilience Lead being the chair of the Grampian Care for People Group and the postholder being a Senior Manager On Call has been discussed by the Grampian Local resilience Partnership who have agreed to include a standing item on all response agendas to establish if a Grampian Care for People Group is needed to be established, and if so then if the postholder is SMOCC at that give time then an alternative Chair for the Grampian care For People Group will be found. The LRP has tried and tested this in response mode and it was well received. The City's Care For People Plan is reviewed on an annual basis. No further action the project is now closed</p>	Close	As per latest update	
Resilience	Ensuring the conditions are in place to maintain our resilience as an organisation.	SE25	Create and adopt a Generic Emergency Plan to reflect Aberdeen city IJB's Cat 1 Responder responsibilities	49. Cat 1 Responder	BAU		31/10/2024	1 - Complete	N/A	Statutory Requirement	Tier 2 (Early Intervention)	<p>An Emergency Activation Plan was taken to RAP Cttee in December 2024 where it was approved. It is planned to arrange training for the SMOCC's on the Plan at the earliest opportunity (this will include exercising the Plan).</p>	Complete	As per latest update	

Resilience	Ensuring the conditions are in place to maintain our resilience as an organisation.	SE26	Preparing for and managing the transition to a National Care Service (NCS) through the Aberdeen City NCS Programme Board	50. NCS	BAU		31/03/2025	Green	N/A	Statutory Requirement	Tier 2 (Early Intervention)	Update report was presented to IJB in September 24 and Education and Children Services Committee in autumn 2024. The Parliament's Health, Social Care and Sport Committee initiated formal Stage 2 amendment considerations for NCS on 25 February 2025. The committee agreed to remove Part 1 of the NCS Bill relating to legislative structural change. The Committee is expected to further consider Stage 2 in March 2025. Further report to IJB planned following Stage 2 of the parliamentary process.	BAU		
Resilience	Ensuring the conditions are in place to maintain our resilience as an organisation.	SE35	Explore other areas where charges could be raised to increase income and contribute to the cost of service delivery.	95. Additional Charging	BAU		31/03/2025	Green			Tier 3 (Response)	ACC Budget Setting meeting approved new charges for 25-26 for the Contributing to Your Care Policy. Supporting IIA submitted to and approved at IJB budget meeting 18.03.25. Implementation plans prepared.	Continue in new DP	Formalised working group around a) increasing charges b) new charges and c) move to individual Budget. Carry forward to new DP under Charging action ensuring all actions captured.	15. Best use of Resources Increase income from charging for Social Care and identify additional opportunities for income
Social Care Pathways	Undertake a strategic review of specific social care pathways utilising the GIRFE multi-agency approach where relevant and develop an implementation plan for improving accessibility and coordination.	CT02	Progress a number of priority tests of change to develop a preventative and proactive care approach for Aberdeen City including the development of an Initial Point of Contact (IPOC)	52. Strategic Review Social Care	FTP	01/07/2022	31/03/2025	Green	N/A	Statutory Requirement	Tier 1 (Prevention)	Further meeting with Moray and Digital Health & Care Innovation held which demonstrated how the work they are doing aligns with our IPOC vision. However, to join the work with Moray and DHl would incur considerable investment. Over the past month, significant progress has been made in various TEC-related initiatives. The Stonewood TEC service is progressing, TEC workshops have been conducted with professionals with plans to visit existing community groups and carry out workshops to address challenges and prioritize opportunities. The Maah project has started with work on Data Protection Impact Assessment and participation selection. Visit by the supplier of MAAH will take place on 26 March. Work has started on creating short videos for professionals and members of the public showcasing what TEC can do. The upcoming TEC Project Board meeting will provide further updates and discussions on scaling up TEC initiatives. ECSS Huddle Co-Ordinator role has been extended until August. The Huddle is running smoothly but there is a risk if the role is not extended further or made permanent. Enablement Vision: Due to other pressures, there has been limited progress on promoting the vision since the last meeting, but efforts are ongoing to integrate it into relevant projects.	Continue in new DP	Continue in new DP but will come under Modernise care provision for Older People. IPOC should come under Best Use of Resources. Increase the use of technology and Technology Enabled Care across the system	16. Modernise care provision for Older People 14. Best Use of Resources Increase the use of technology and Technology Enabled Care across the system
Social Care Pathways	Undertake a strategic review of specific social care pathways utilising the GIRFE multi-agency approach where relevant and develop an implementation plan for improving accessibility and coordination.	CT04	Implement the recommendations from the June 22 Adult Support and Protection inspection	53. ASP Recommendations Implementation	BAU	05/04/2024	31/03/2025	Yellow	N/A	Statutory Requirement	Tier 3 (Response)	Improvement to recording by NHS Grampian staff of Adult Support and Protection (ASP) activity - COMPLETE. Training curriculum has been amended and a specific Practice Note issued to patient-facing staff. • Investigations taking too long, and case conferences taking place when needed - COMPLETE. Marked improvement seen - investigations being held more timely, increase in proportion of case conferences and reviews taking place - audit work is being progressed to provide assurance about this. • Chronologies & Protection Planning - Working Practice Guidance on most effective use of D365 and Chronologies is being developed (being progressed). A phased improvement plan for improving use of Chronologies was endorsed by Adult Protection Committee in June 2024. Practice Guidance and related approach to training, is now being developed, including tying in with D365. Practice Development Group set up and meeting monthly. We are going to be a pilot site for the Leading Chronology Improvement - Reflection and Self-Assessment Tool and will be supported by Irliss to work through this tool. Improvement Plan updated to reflect Irliss input. • Access to Advocacy - Significant improvement in relation to offer of and take up of advocacy. Being embedded into D365 throughout the process. Key data added in to the dataset which goes to the Adult Protection Committee. Continuing to monitor and feed into the APC. • Multi Agency Evaluation & Involvement of staff in improvement work - Council Officer Support Groups are taking place and effective - including consideration of improvement work. Evaluation survey undertaken in June 24 (two years since they were established). Action plan covering the findings is in development. Staff workshop regarding our approach to Large Scale Investigations took place on 9th Oct 2024 - guidance being developed. Council Officer Support Groups meeting 4 times a year. Programme of topics for 2025 developed based on findings from CO Consultation carried out last year. Given the implementation of inspection recommendations and the ongoing improvement plan that sits under the ASP strategy, this project no longer required.	Complete	As per latest update	
Social Care Pathways	Undertake a strategic review of specific social care pathways utilising the GIRFE multi-agency approach where relevant and develop an implementation plan for improving accessibility and coordination.	CT05	Deliver the Justice Social Work Delivery Plan	54. Deliver JSW Plan	BAU		31/03/2025	Yellow	N/A	Statutory Requirement	Tier 3 (Response)	JSW has representation across the majority of the LOP projects sitting under the Stretch Outcome "10% fewer adults (over 18) charged with more than one offence by 2026", and is leading a project to improving the number of Exit Questionnaires completed by individuals who have successfully completed a Community Payback Order. The feedback from surveys is actively taken into account to inform improvement. The service continues to operate its Performance Management Board and Best Practice Group, which oversees service effectiveness and drives forward improvement. The identification of suitable premises for the Unpaid Work team continues. The service continues to be provided within the temporary arrangements in place. Substance use awareness sessions are being provided for staff, aimed at increasing knowledge, and consequently the effectiveness of support that can be offered to clients. We continue to see increased numbers of assessments and imposition of Orders for Bail Supervision and Electronic Monitoring which continues to support the national aim to reduce numbers of those remanded in custody as well as providing individuals with necessary support and interventions at an early stage. Additional government funding is provided based on the data returns and the service is staffed appropriately. Numbers diverted from prosecution by the Procurator Fiscal also continue to increase, with Aberdeen having the highest proportion of cases commenced in Scotland for 2023-24. Further to the 'early releases' from prisons which proceeded in June / July 2024, the Prisoners (Early Release) (Scotland) Act 2025 is to take effect in February 2026. This will see the ongoing future release of short term prisoners after 40% of their sentence (rather than 50%) - except for those with sentences relating to sexual assault or domestic offences. Justice Social Work will collaborate with SPS and other relevant services to ensure that those transitioning from prison to the community have access to housing, healthcare, financial support, as necessary. The SW Service Delivery Plan is in the process of being refreshed, to coincide with the refresh of the HSCSP Strategic Plan. 31/03/25. Work has started on new delivery plan for Justice. Given that this is ongoing strategic direction of justice social work, this project is complete.	Complete	As per latest update	
Social Care Pathways	Undertake a strategic review of specific social care pathways utilising the GIRFE multi-agency approach where relevant and develop an implementation plan for improving accessibility and coordination.	CT20	Review of social care charging policy and procedures and robust implementation with a view of maximising income	96. Social Care Charging	FTP	05/04/2024	31/03/2026	Green	1,500,000	Budget Saving	Tier 3 (Response)	The collection of payment continues for the range of services tackled in the first stages of the project - housing support services provided by Granite City Consortium, meals and associated chargeable services at Craiglea, Kingswood Court and Lord Hay's Court. An appeals process and the associated documentation for charging has been completed and is being implemented. Charges are now being issued and collected for residents at Wernham House. Work is currently being undertaken to implement appropriate charging for transport to and from the Len Ironside Centre. Work is currently being undertaken to develop and implement a system to charge appropriately for services under the banner of supported living. Work is currently being undertaken to start charging people in in-house residential establishments for housing support. A delivery plan for increasing social care charging for 2025/26 is in development as part of Aberdeen City Council's budget setting programme. An updated Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) covering the increased charges and delivery plan has been submitted for consideration by the March Integration Joint Board (IJB).	Continue in new DP	Carry forward to new DP under Charging action	15. Best use of Resources Increase income from charging for Social Care and identify additional opportunities for income
Social Care Pathways	Undertake a strategic review of specific social care pathways utilising the GIRFE multi-agency approach where relevant and develop an implementation plan for improving accessibility and coordination.	CT21	Streamline processes and pathways for older adults social care in a hospital context.	97. Hospital Discharge Pathway	FTP	01/04/2024	31/03/2025	Yellow	N/A	Statutory Requirement	Tier 3 (Response)	Project complete. Final survey on implementation success has been completed and findings indicate a continued positive benefit of the change to aligned wards.	Complete	As per latest update	
Social Care Pathways	Undertake a strategic review of specific social care pathways utilising the GIRFE multi-agency approach where relevant and develop an implementation plan for improving accessibility and coordination.	CT22	Develop an overview of the Partnership's Discharge to Assess approach incorporating links between Hospital at Home and intermediate Care at Home, enablement approaches, step up and step down and Interim Beds.	98. Discharge to Assess	FTP	01/04/2024	31/03/2025	Green	N/A	Statutory Requirement	Tier 2 (Early Intervention)	Weekly project meetings/email updates ongoing. All members engaged well in the process. Daily operational meetings dropped to Mon/Wed/Fri recognising best use of staff time. Very small, but steady requests for referrals coming through. Data being gathered on referrals that are not able to be progressed.	Continue in new DP	Continue into new Delivery Plan as part of DWD work	25. Transforming Services Deliver the Discharge Without Delay Collaborative commitments
Social Care Pathways	Undertake a strategic review of specific social care pathways utilising the GIRFE multi-agency approach where relevant and develop an implementation plan for improving accessibility and coordination.	SE07	Seek to expand the use of Technology Enabled Care (TEC) throughout Aberdeen.	15. Expanded Use TEC	BAU	01/04/2022	31/03/2026	Green			Tier 2 (Early Intervention)	Stonewood TEC: Just Roaming was chosen as the TEC supplier after an options appraisal process. The funding model has been agreed, with the Richmond Fellowship as system owner with the difference in costs between the tender budget for TEC and actual costs being covered by ACHSCP. The service is still due to commence in April. A brief DPIA has been completed and signed off. The 12-month evaluation plan is agreed upon by Scottish Digital Office, Just Roaming, Richmond Fellowship, and ACHSCP. TEC Workshops: January and February workshops focused on developing problem statements, citizen/system challenges, and service opportunities, emphasizing digital and TEC as strategic enablers. Another workshop, including those with and without TEC experience, was held at Len Ironside Centre in February. We are currently analysing the output from the workshops and planning community engagement. Maah Project: Initiated in January with HIF funding, this project aims to enhance caregiving by refining Maah robot features for better caregiver support and well-being through tactile interactions. It involves customization of Maah pillows, workshops, and engagement activities. The Len Ironside Centre/Learning Disability team is identifying 5-10 participants for the project. A workshop and observation day has been arranged for 28th March.	BAU	Continue into new DP under increased use of TEC	14. Best Use of Resources Increase the use of technology and Technology Enabled Care across the system
Strategy	Develop and implement local strategies to ensure alignment with national and regional agendas.	AFHL01	Deliver on our Equality Outcomes and Mainstreaming Framework, report on our progress to both the IJB and the Risk, Audit and Performance Committee and plan to revise the EOMF in advance of the 2025 deadline.	55. Deliver EOM Framework	BAU	01/03/2024	31/03/2025	Green	N/A	Statutory Requirement	Tier 2 (Early Intervention)	Equality Outcomes and Mainstreaming Framework (EOMF) is a standing item on Equality and Human Rights (EHR) group agenda, a number of areas being progressed including the development of the Diverse City Officers Network and review of the partnership's Equality and Human Rights internal and external webpages. Following review of our updated process and paperwork the Equality and Human Rights Commission, Scotland has cited Aberdeen City twice in a Good Practice document that has been circulated to all Health and Social Care Partnerships (HSCP) across Scotland. The Annual progress report of EOMF, Assessing our Impact Procedure and Guidance for Community Engagement, Equalities and Human Rights updates are due to the May 2025 IJB. Progress against equalities outcomes are currently being collated for the May 2025 IJB report.	BAU	This is now business as usual and as such is no longer required as a standalone project	
Strategy	Develop and implement local strategies to ensure alignment with national and regional agendas.	AFHL02	Undertake and publish Impact Assessments, where relevant, for major service change, in conjunction with people and communities with the relevant protected characteristics ensuring that the requirements of the UNCR are incorporated.	56. Publish IAs	BAU	01/03/2024	31/03/2026	Green	N/A	Statutory Requirement	Tier 2 (Early Intervention)	Updated Integrated Impact Assessments (IIA), which now include the Consumer Duty and Armed Forces Duty, have been in place since May 2024 and are being reviewed. The DCO Network is working on providing exemplars and video guides for staff to support the completion of IIAs. The DCO Network continues to develop training opportunities and work in collaboration with Aberdeen City Council (ACC) Equality Development Officer and Public Health Scotland for opportunities to collaborate and share learning. A review framework process for our IIA has been developed, tested and approved by the Equalities and Human Rights Group. Budget Protocol has asked for IIAs to be produced for each option, and DCOs have seen a significant increase of IIAs being drafted. All stage 2 IIAs will continue to be published on our website. Good practice examples to be highlighted in the EOMF, Assessing our Impact and Guidance of Community Engagement, Human Rights and Equalities paper to IJB in May 2025.	BAU	This is now business as usual and as such is no longer required as a standalone project	
Strategy	Develop and implement local strategies to ensure alignment with national and regional agendas.	AFHL04	Embed consideration of the impact of climate change in health and social care planning and in business continuity arrangements aiming to reduce our carbon footprint and deliver on our Net Zero emissions target.	57. Climate Change and NetZero	BAU		31/03/2025	Amber	N/A	Statutory Requirement	Tier 2 (Early Intervention)	This project has an amber BRAG status because SLT have agreed that the Climate Change work should be slowed in the short term as part of recent discussions regarding creating capacity within the Delivery Plan to support budget saving initiatives. The Scottish Government is gathering views to help inform new Statutory Guidance for public bodies, to support them in putting the climate change duties into practice. This consultation has gone live and the Partnership will be collating a response for this during the consultation period.	BAU	This is now business as usual and as such is no longer required as a standalone project	
Strategy	Develop and implement local strategies to ensure alignment with national and regional agendas.	CT17	Monitor and evaluate the impact of the Carers Strategy on an ongoing basis factoring in early preparations for the next revision	58. Monitor and Evaluate Carers Strategy	BAU	01/03/2024	31/03/2026	Green	N/A	Statutory Requirement	Tier 2 (Early Intervention)	The Carers Strategy Implementation Group (CSIG) continues to meet bi monthly. The Annual report for progress Jan24 - Jan 25 has just been approved at the February 2025 IJB Meeting. There was a development session for CSIG in December, pulling together all stakeholder and Improvement Project Updates to support the development of the Annual Report. We have heard the positive outcomes and learnings from the Improvement Projects and are included in the Annual Report. The Carers Reference Group has been established now for one year and was good to reflect on the progress made with the group. We also were able to announce the outcome of collaborative commissioning process as well as the lessons learned, now looking forward to the implementation of new contracts starting in April 2025.	BAU	This is now business as usual and as such is no longer required as a standalone project	
Strategy	Develop and implement local strategies to ensure alignment with national and regional agendas.	CT23	Develop the revised Strategic Plan for 2025 - 2028 taking cognisance of the strategic context, resources available and views of stakeholders.	99. Revised Strategic Plan	BAU	01/03/2024	31/03/2025	Green	N/A	Statutory Requirement	Tier 2 (Early Intervention)	Initial Engagement feedback has been collated and the Draft Strategic Plan, draft Evidence Document, and Consultation Plan are developed. However, there has now been a revised timeline to consider the financial pressures and subsequent impact on our future planning and commitments so consultation drafts will now go forward to the March 2025 IJB and Consultation on the streamlined Strategic Plan between then and June 2025, for Final Report to be approved at the July 2025 IJB meeting. Joint Consultation being undertaken between 24th March - 18 May with ACC Strategies, including Local Housing Strategy, CLD Plan and the Local Development plan and the ACHSCP IJB Strategic Plan. This will help reduce the feeling of engagement fatigue within Communities and a joint approach to support partner strategies and interlinking themes.	BAU	Close project when new SP approved	
Strategy	Develop and implement local strategies to ensure alignment with national and regional agendas.	CT24	Revisit ACHSCP contributions to early years and school health and wellbeing.	100. Early Years and School	BAU		31/03/2025	Green	N/A	National Agenda	Tier 2 (Early Intervention)	Working on various initiatives and goals aimed at improving the well-being of children and families. Reducing Neglect Referrals: Infant massage sessions continue at Froghall Community Centre with plans for a third block due to positive feedback. Peep Programme: There has been a good response from parents who would like to be Peep trained and skill themselves to deliver. The quarterly report has shown an increase in the number of families that were supported in the last quarter with an increase of 35% more families attending. There is ongoing work to develop a Rainbow Peep for parents who have lost a child. Domestic Abuse Support: A Community Nursery Nurse has been identified to assist with delivering a programme for those moving on from domestic abuse. A Community Nursery Nurse has been identified to assist with delivering a programme for those moving on from domestic abuse. Dental Health: Delivering Healthier Families - there is a cohort at Tullis and it is hoped to deliver this at either Greyhope or Deeside. There is a large Nigerian contingent in Torry and a Childsmile worker who is Nigerian has been linked in to offer advice and support around dental care as they are not often aware of the care they are entitled to when pregnant. Financial Support: Issues with the Early Years Financial Inclusion, no referrals have been received. Pulling together everyone to revisit. There is an alternative that can also deliver all round support for health issues, finance etc, that can give us the data we really need but means a new way of our NHS staff referring into the NHS Healthpoint. Think of a tiered approach to take pressure off. We have ongoing collaborations with various partners such as Sport Aberdeen, Childsmile, and Community Midwifery.	BAU	This is now business as usual and as such is no longer required as a standalone project	
Strategy	Develop and implement local strategies to ensure alignment with national and regional agendas.	CT25	Deliver relevant recommendations from the Hosted Services Internal Audit	101. Hosted Services Audit	BAU		31/03/2025	Green	N/A	Future Sustainable	Tier 3 (Response)	All 2024 audit recommendations have been closed. Internal Audit have agreed to extend the deadline for the March 2025 recommendation to September 2025 in line with the other outstanding recommendations. Discussions will need to take place with Aberdeenshire and Moray in relation to resource to meet the September deadline.	BAU	This is now business as usual and as such is no longer required as a standalone project	
Workforce	Develop and implement our Workforce Plan	SE01	Deliver the relevant actions on each of the three Workstream Action Plans supporting the Workforce Plan.	60. Develop Workforce Plan	BAU	01/03/2024	31/03/2025	Green			Tier 2 (Early Intervention)	The workforce plan is aligned with the Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership (ACHSCP) strategic plan 2022 - 2025 and focusses on three essential core elements; recruitment & retention, mental health & wellbeing, and growth & opportunities. The final annual update on the workforce plan is due to be delivered to RAPC after April 2025, this is to align with the updates and refresh of the Strategic Plan. The Workforce Conference took place on 5th December 2024, and had a focus on Staff Health and Wellbeing and future planning (Strategic Plan Refresh) and showcasing multidisciplinary teams and innovative working. Data reports are now through to support the next annual report going to RAPC and information is currently being analysed, with project improvement work support absence rates being pulled together. There is a joint presentation on key priority Recruitment and Retention with Shire and City Partnerships taking place at the 25 March 2025 Commissioning Academy event. Subject to completion of Strategic Plan, a refreshed workforce plan will be produced in second half of 2025.	BAU	This is now business as usual and as such is no longer required as a standalone project. A refreshed workforce plan will be drafted in 2nd half of 25/26.	

Workforce	Develop and implement our Workforce Plan	SE02	Pledge support for Volunteer Scotland's Volunteer Charter and identify and Volunteer Champion for ACHSCP	61. Volunteer Charter and Champion	BAU		31/03/2025	Amber			Tier 2 (Early Intervention)	Still working with NHSG working group to agree protocols for volunteer use	BAU		
Workforce	Develop and implement our Workforce Plan	SE03	Continue to support initiatives supporting staff health and wellbeing	62. Staff Health & Wellbeing	BAU		31/03/2025	Green			Tier 2 (Early Intervention)	Very high absence levels across Grampian system at present. Rates were highest in December 2024 but this is in line with annual seasonal patterns. Specific performance management and well-being activities now established in the ACHSCP (NHSG) service with highest absence rates . Asking Senior Leadership Team (SLT) support to ensure good sickness management , return to work policies and staff attendance at various support opportunities available will continue through Q4.	BAU	This is now business as usual and as such is no longer required as a standalone project. Sickness absence stats / trends are reviewed regularly at both SLT & OLT mtgs ; targeted support done in areas of highest absences.	
Workforce	Develop and implement our Workforce Plan	SE04	Ensure our workforce are Trauma Informed	63. Trauma Informed Workforce	BAU		31/03/2025	Amber			Tier 2 (Early Intervention)	Working with Aberdeen City Council (ACC) to try to use allocate funds for a part time coordinator. Still no progress. Availability of ring fenced funding to ACHSCP now escalated to ACC Chief Social Work Officer	BAU	This is now business as usual and as such is no longer required as a standalone project	

Appendix B

Mock-up Delivery Plan Dashboard

TOTAL PROJECT

42

DELIVERY PLAN DASHBOARD

PREVENTION PROJECTS

15

TRANSFORMATION PROJECTS

18

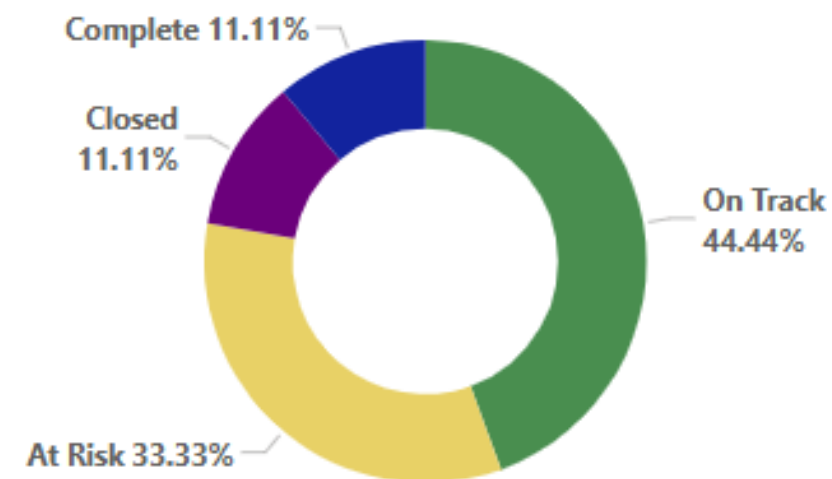
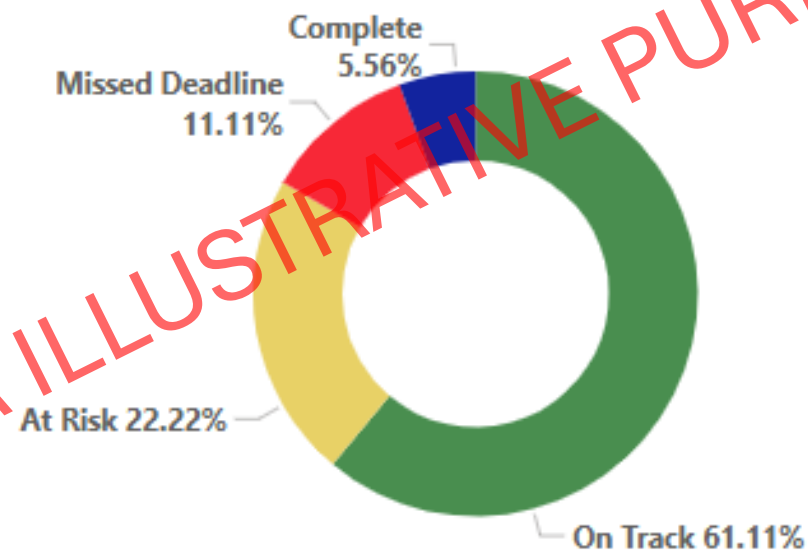
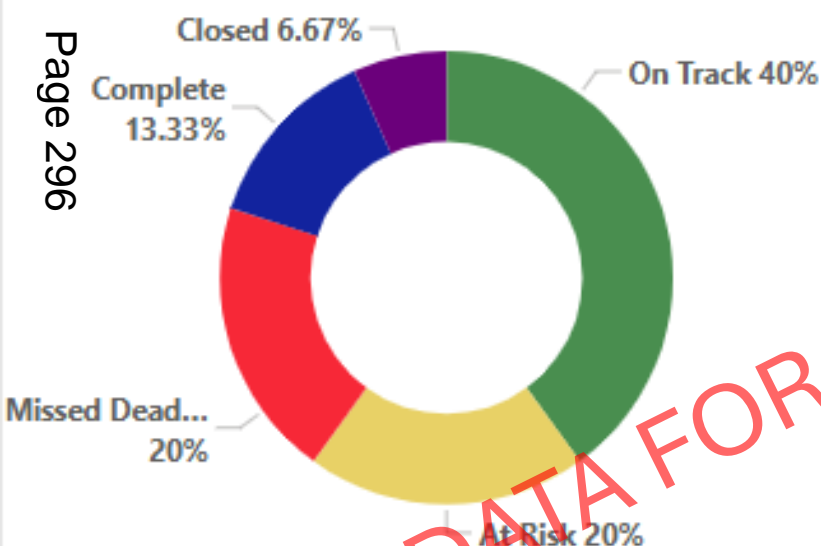
BUSINESS AS USUAL PROJECTS

9

PREVENTION

TRANSFORMATION

BUSINESS AS USUAL



ON TRACK

COMPLETED

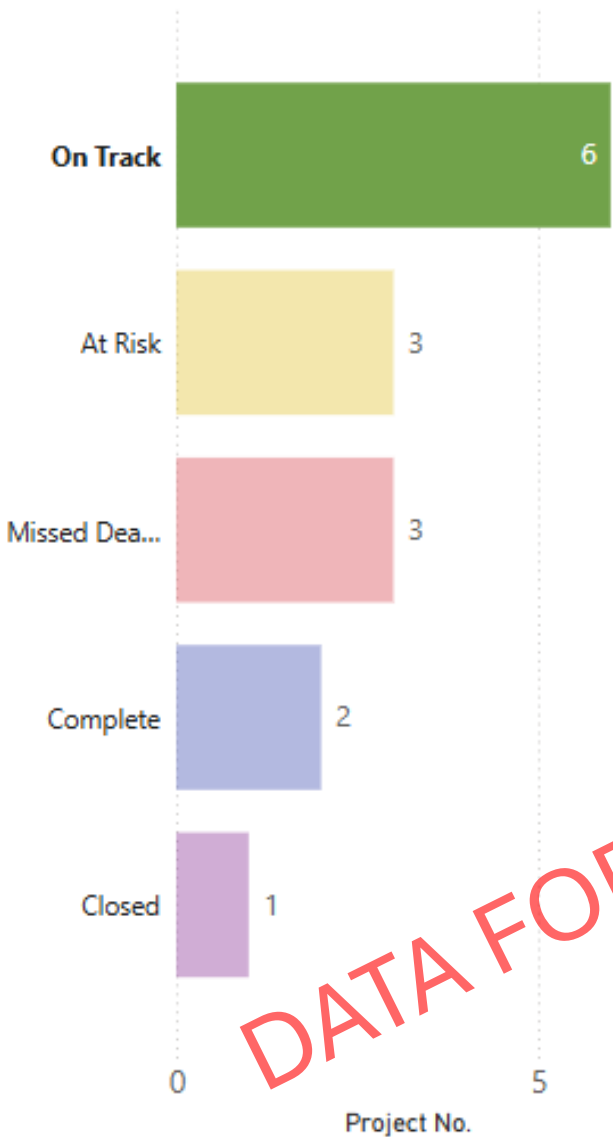
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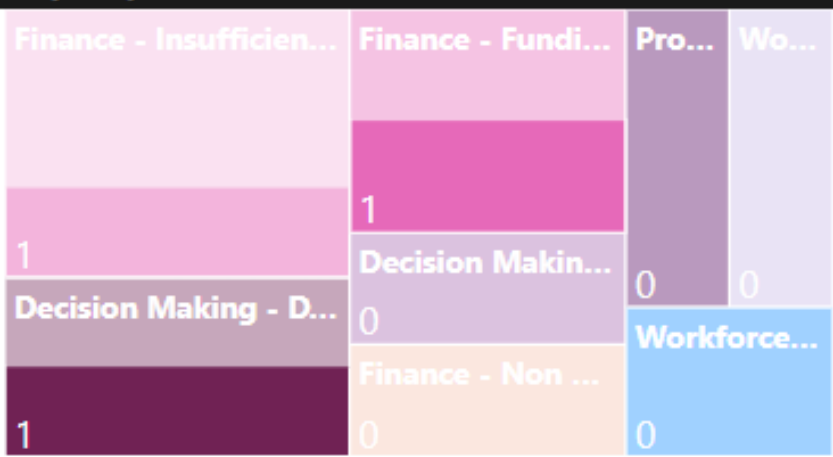
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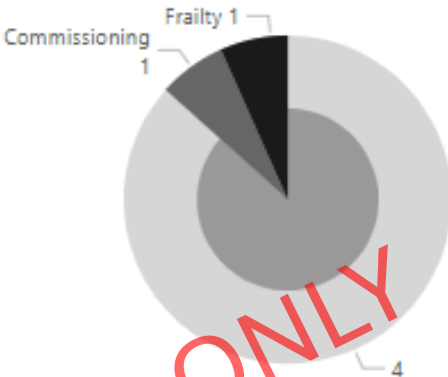
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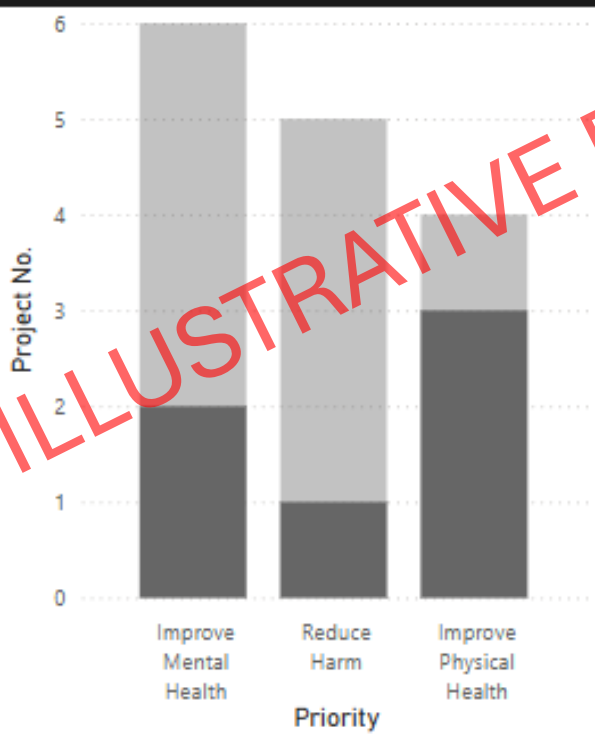
Project by Reasons



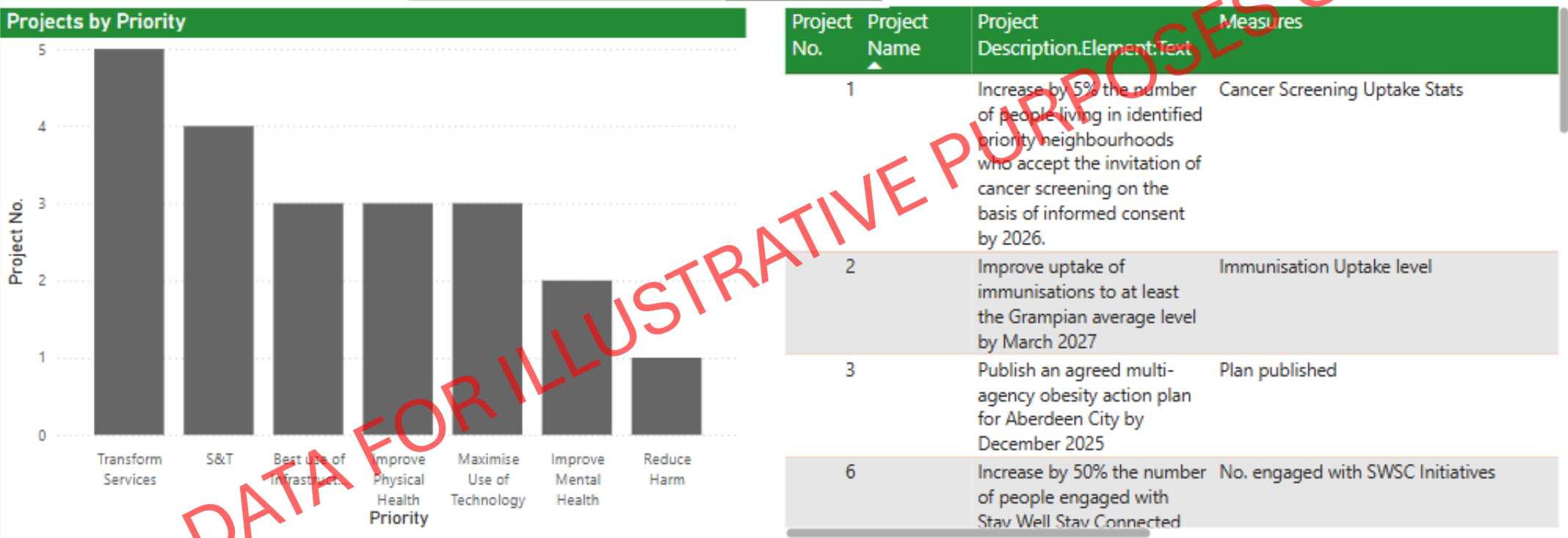
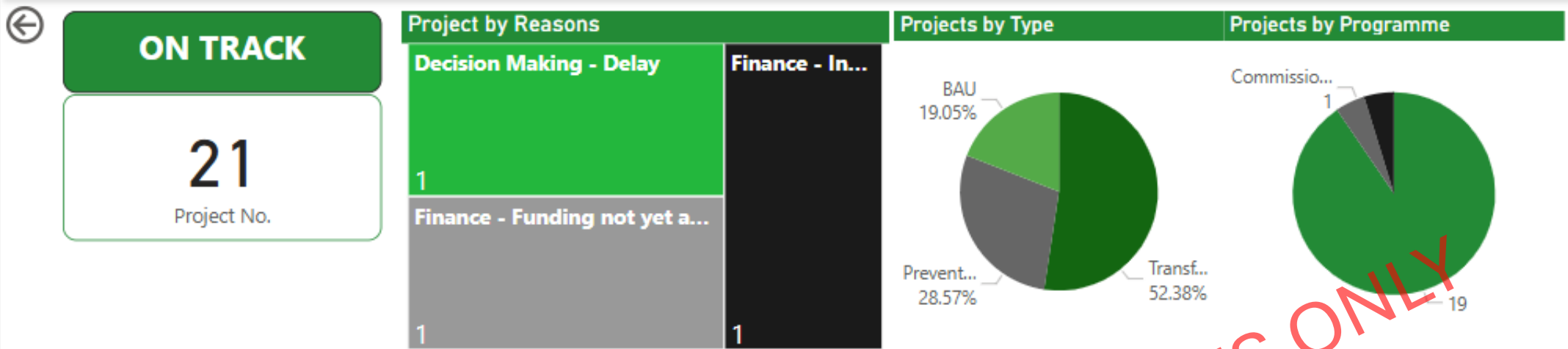
Projects by Programme



Projects by Priority



Project No.	Project Name	Project Description.Element:Text	Latest Update_
1		Increase by 5% the number of people living in identified priority neighbourhoods who accept the invitation of cancer screening on the basis of informed consent by 2026.	
2		Improve uptake of immunisations to at least the Grampian average level by March 2027	
3		Publish an agreed multi-agency obesity action plan for Aberdeen City by December 2025	Management met to re and risk level remains c further notice
6		Increase by 50% the number of people engaged with Stav Well Stav Connected	



Additional information

Further to the previous slides, commentary will also be provided to the Committee. This includes:

- *Measurable benefits across projects in the last quarter (as appropriate)*
- *Challenges faced across projects in the last quarter (along with mitigations put in place)*

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