

Aberdeen City - North Locality

Annual Outcome Improvement Report 2022-23



North Locality Neighbourhoods:

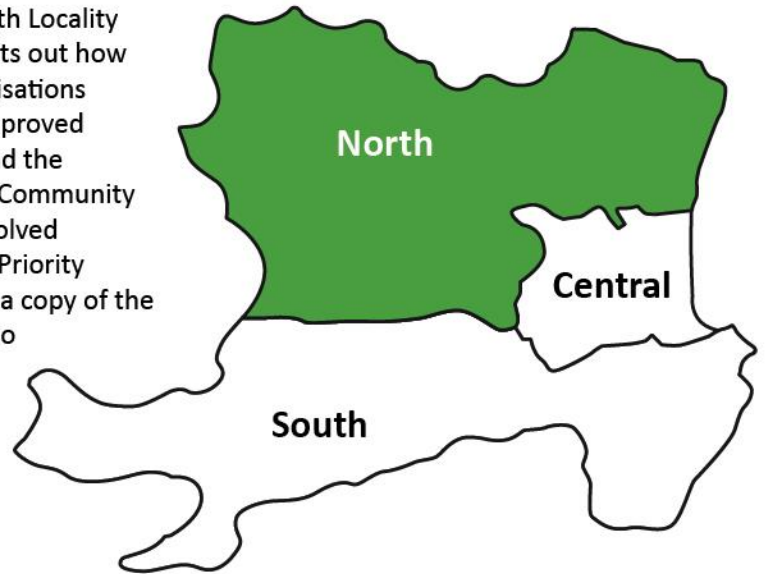
Dyce, Danestone, Oldmachar, Denmore, Balgownie & Donmouth, Bucksburn, Heathryfold, Middlesfield, Kingswells, Northfield, Cummings Park, Sheddocksley, Mastrick, Summerhill



Community Planning
Aberdeen

WELCOME

Welcome to our second annual report against the North Locality Plan first published in 2021. The North Locality Plan sets out how Community Planning Aberdeen and its member organisations will work together and with communities to deliver improved outcomes for the 14 neighbourhoods in the locality and the locality as a whole. The Locality Plan was prepared by Community Planning Aberdeen staff and community members involved in the North Locality Empowerment Group and North Priority Neighbourhood Partnership. Click on the links to view a copy of the full North Locality Plan and Summary Locality Plan. Also see the end of this report to find out more about the organisations and community groups involved in preparing the plan.



This report provides an update on progress made against the priorities identified in the Plan, including information about key activities and the impact these have had in the Locality. The information within the report demonstrates success in many areas. However, we also recognise where we need to do better and have identified priorities for improvement next year.

Our focus is always on impact on outcomes for communities. Central to our approach is involving and empowering communities which we have made clear in our new Community Empowerment Strategy published in 2022. Behind the scenes, Community Planning Aberdeen has also made some changes to ensure member organisations are working better together to empower communities. Our new locality planning team has been in place since February 2023 and epitomises our renewed vigour for working together with local communities. This report provides an important baseline for how we are currently performing in the North Locality and a commitment to improving going forward.

This report is split into the following sections:

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- [Our Place](#) [page 15](#)
- [Community Empowerment](#) [page 17](#)



OUR PRIORITIES

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

Priority 1. Reduce the number of people living in poverty

Priority 2. Increase digital access and skills across the locality

PROGRESS MADE DURING 2022/23



Supporting our most vulnerable families

Supporting communities with benefit uptake

Ensuring that household income is maximised through the uptake of unclaimed benefits is a key aspect to supporting households to come out of poverty and improve their financial security. There continues to be barriers which can mean people do not claim benefits they are entitled to such as ; stigma of claiming, unaware of what they are entitled to, and onerous applications processes.

We have made progress with a number of initiatives to help remove these barriers. For example, we launched the online benefit calculator last year to help support more people to find out what benefits they are entitled to. This has been accessed 7274 times across the city during 2022/23, with 724 of those being from the North priority neighbourhoods. We have also taken action to identify households who should be entitled to Pension Credits and have contacted them directly by letter. Using this approach 410 households were identified from across the City which qualified for Pension Credits. Finally, a booklet for families was developed to increase awareness and uptake of child benefits such as Education Maintenance Allowance and School Clothing Grants. The booklet targeted families and provided guidance on how to claim. Across the City 2749 families benefited financially by accessing additional benefits with 792 families in the North Locality benefiting financially by accessing additional benefits.

Affordable heating

As the cost of living increases it is important that we work together to do everything we can to support every household in Aberdeen. We have been working with partner organisations to provide a range of public warm spaces that will provide an opportunity for people to come together, share and use resources. Every warm space is unique however all warm spaces offer a friendly welcome and comfortable environment to meet friends or socialise. There are 15 warm spaces across the North Locality but of course people are free to visit any warm space across the City. You can find your nearest warm space by visiting [here](#).

As well as providing warm spaces we have been increasing awareness of the support available to households at a variety of community events and have also trained frontline staff. As a result of the promotion of support available and increase in home visits to deliver insulation and energy efficiency measure, a total of £51,909.47 of fuel bill savings was made last year across the North Locality.

Community food provision and community pantries

Affordable Food Providers in the North

[CFine](#) operates a mobile food pantry on Tuesdays at:

- Middlefield Community Centre from 10-10.30am
- Sheddocksley Sports Centre from 12-12.30pm

[Mastrick Community Centre](#) runs one of several [Food Banks](#) available to people experiencing food insecurity across the North.

With food prices rising at the fastest rate in 40 years we have been working with CFine to increase access to affordable food across the locality, particularly for our most vulnerable communities and low-income families. Through our community food pantry project we have focused on increasing access to affordable food in our priority neighbourhoods which include Middlefield, Mastrick, Cummings Park and Heathryfold and Northfield in the North Locality. Recognising the challenges people can face attending one of our fixed food pantries, a mobile food pantry was launched in September 2021. CFine has 928 members of the North Locality shopping at the pantry at Poynerook Rd on a regular basis. The mobile food pantry also had 106 visits from residents of the North locality during 2022-23.



Create opportunities for fair work

Social Enterprises and small businesses







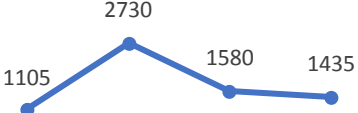
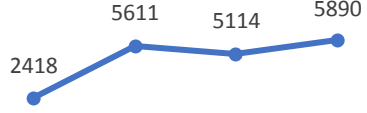

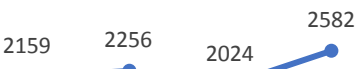


Local community start-ups benefit everyone. Not only do they help get people back into employment, they can also create new jobs and bring new money into the community. We are delighted to have secured local community support for people wishing to start their own business. Through Business Gateway we now have a Community Business Advisor attending the Cummings Park Community Centre to provide a monthly drop-in service. Over the last 12 months the service has attracted an average of 2 attendees per drop-in which has resulted in 3 people starting their own business.



Drop in sessions!

Local employability support and job opportunities

Partners Aberdeen City Council, Skills Development Scotland, the DWP and Business Gateway have delivered 'Your Route to Work' sessions aimed at young people living in priority neighbourhoods that are disengaged from school, school leavers, work returners and their wider families to find out information on how to get into employment, training, education or volunteering as well as provide money and benefit advice. This has been done through our ABZ works initiative. There were 30 attendees at the Northfield event. Exit surveys were completed with a small number of event attendees. Everyone who attended and provided feedback felt the event was useful or very useful and all would be likely to visit a future event.

Tackling Poverty		
<p>Food Insecurity</p>  <p>8.3% of people in the North Locality worried they would not have enough to eat compared to 29.4% of people living in Middlefield, Mastrick, Cummings Park, Heathryfold and Northfield (City Voice 46, 2022)</p>	<p>Food Poverty</p>  <p>6.3% of households in the North Locality ran out of food compared to 18.8% of households in Middlefield, Mastrick, Cummings Park, Heathryfold and Northfield (City Voice 46, 2022)</p>	<p>Affordable Food</p>  <p>1,034 families in the North Locality accessing affordable food at their local community pantry (mobile and located in Middlefield and Sheddocksley)</p>
<p>Fuel Insecurity</p>  <p>33.6% of people in the North Locality worried they would not be able to heat their home compared to 62.5% of people living in Middlefield, Mastrick, Cummings Park, Heathryfold and Northfield (City Voice 46, 2022)</p>	<p>Fuel Poverty</p>  <p>2.8% of households in the North Locality have had to seek support for paying for heating, compared to 12.5% of households in Middlefield, Mastrick, Cummings Park, Heathryfold and Northfield (City Voice 46, 2022)</p>	<p>Fuel Bill Savings</p>  <p>£51,909.47 fuel bill savings made across the North Locality through energy efficiency measures and support such as provision of 19 warm spaces</p>
<p>Claimant Count</p>  <p>Has decreased after a spike in 2021. 39% of claimants live in North Locality Priority Neighbourhoods</p>	<p>People on Universal Credit</p>  <p>Has increased in the North Locality since 2020. 43% of UC claimants live in Priority Neighbourhoods</p>	<p>Benefit Maximisation</p>  <p>The online benefit calculator has been accessed 724 times by people from North priority neighbourhoods</p>
<p>Children in low income families</p>  <p>Child poverty has increased in the North Locality since 2019. 51% of children in low income families live in Priority Neighbourhoods</p>	<p>Business Start Ups</p>  <p>3 people in the North Locality supported to start their own business.</p>	<p>Digital Access and Skills</p>  <p>82.6% of City Voice respondents in the North Locality reported they had at least basic digital skills.</p>

- Support families with English as a second language to access services
- Increase the number of vulnerable learners entering positive and sustained work or training.
- Increase uptake of warm spaces
- Support and develop employment opportunities for young people.
- Strengthen relationships with local businesses.
- Develop locally available employability support
- Make childcare affordable and accessible to increase parental employment.
- Buy debt

Our People

OUR PRIORITIES

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

Priority 3. Improve the physical health and wellbeing of people

Priority 4. Support local volunteering opportunities

Priority 5. Early intervention approach targeted at those who are involved in, or at risk in offending behaviour

WHAT PROGRESS HAVE WE MADE DURING 2022/23?



Providing support to existing services

Volunteering in the Community



We have continued to build our volunteering community across the City that was so crucial during the covid pandemic. Between December 2021 and March 2023, we saw a 17.4% increase in volunteer opportunities being advertised across the City on the volunteer hub run by ACVO. Volunteering across the Locality is invaluable in supporting stretched public services. For example, through the Fairer Aberdeen Fund 739 volunteers contributed 114,280 hours of volunteering with a value of over £2m. Over 45,000 people were involved or benefitted from the 36 funded initiatives within the programme and 27 of the Fairer Aberdeen Fund projects benefitted the North Locality. Another project to support volunteering is Station House Media Unit's (SHMU) community project

to support prisoners in HMP Grampian, offering them post-release support and engaging them in opportunities at SHMU upon release - including employability, volunteering, and meaningful activity.

Supporting Unpaid Carers

In January 2023, Aberdeen City Health and Social Partnership published the new Carers Strategy which acknowledged the huge contribution that Carers make and seeks to support all unpaid Carers in Aberdeen City.

During the development of the new strategy there were several key inputs including: the National Carers Inquiry, publication of the National Carers Strategy from Scottish Government, the dedicated work and support of the Carers Strategy Implementation Group and most importantly the wider consultation and engagement of Carers across the City.

The new Carers Strategy identifies four key priorities to support Carers:

- Identifying as a Carer and the first steps to support
- Accessing advice and support
- Supporting future planning, decision making, and wider Carer involvement
- Community support and advice for Carers

In 2022-23, 359 carers accessed the Quarriers Adult Carer Support Service in the North Locality, an increase of 79.5% on the 200 carers who accessed the service in 2021-22.

Since the Respite Bureau started in June 2022, 320 people have been referred for a short break as of March 2023. Three further tests promoting different types of carer breaks were also tested this year, Doorstep Breaks, Scot Spirit and Time to Live. Data from these tests will be evaluated and shared for future learning. More information on the Carers Strategy and how carers can access services and support can be found [here](#)



Creating opportunities to upskill knowledge and understanding

The Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership Wellbeing Team deliver a number of initiatives under the **Stay Well Stay Connected** programme, which targets older people and those with disabilities who are at risk of becoming socially isolated or having poor health and wellbeing outcomes. A few of the sessions they deliver in the North Locality are set out below:

The Granite City Gathering 2023 was a public health event held on 24 June 2023 at Kings Church, Bridge of Don. The gathering helped people explore how to support themselves and retire positively. The aim and purpose of the gathering was to help people to understand and explore what a good retirement could look like in their own communities and have a real sense of purpose and opportunity to contribute.



167 attendees
Targeted at those aged 45+
Aberdeen City Residents
1 Choir
6 crafting and art groups
1 Yoga group
1 gigong and taichi
Ballroom dancing
22 community groups and charities
4 speakers
20 volunteers

Highlights

- The gathering focused on people who are planning to retire soon, or have already retired and live in Aberdeen
- The event had a number of taster sessions where people could try new activities such as movement with gigong, Tai chi, Chair based yoga, sing in a choir, have a boogie at the gathering, try out crafting or an art session
- There was an opportunity for delegates to meet representatives of community groups and charities who told them about who they were, and what services they provide
- The speakers ranged from Horseback, UK; to Japanese wellbeing tips 'Ikigai'; to exploring what an Age Friendly Aberdeen could look like.



Supporting people to make healthy choices

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. A monthly Boogie in the Bar is held at Sunnybank Football Club with an average of 40 people attending throughout the year. Work is underway to create a resource for future Boogies so that they share the same ethos. It is important that we learn from the successes of the Boogies so that future sessions are sustainable and meaningful for those who attend.



Roving Day Care Wee Blether is a partnership between Care Management, Quarriers and the Wellbeing Team and it aims to deliver an alternative to traditional day care. The group meet on Mondays at Middlefield Community Hub in the North Locality where people can come and enjoy a light lunch alongside some great company and conversations. The *conversation café* element of this can be moved to any location that can cater to a café based activity, for example the group have met at the Aberdeen Art Gallery. Currently, there are around six participants attending and plans are in place to create a further two Wee Blethers in the city.



Men's Hub at Middlefield Hub was launched in January 2023 to enable men to socialise over a hot cooked breakfast, which they cook themselves. After breakfast, the men can play different games or just chat. There is a monthly programme where attendees go on visits to venues such as Fettercairn Distillery or Pittodrie Stadium utilising Middlefield Hub's bus. So far, these sessions are regularly attended by 12 men.

The Health Improvement Fund supports initiatives that improve the health and wellbeing of people across Aberdeen. During 2022-23, 68 projects received funding, with initiatives ranging from community gardening and lunch clubs to birthing classes and Virtual Reality (VR) training. In a bid to streamline funding opportunities across the City, the Health Improvement Fund linked up with ACVO Community Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund and Aberdeen City COVID Recovery Fund to ensure an additional 14 applications could receive funding. Funded projects are evaluated to measure impact and achievement of the Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership (ACHSCP) priorities. Of the 68 HIF funded projects, 29 were either from bidders based in the North Locality or aimed to support health improvement activities within the North. The Health Improvement Fund received 122 applications, of which 51 were from, or would benefit the North Locality. Evaluation data has found the North Locality submitted the fewest applications for HIF funding across the three locality areas. A good example of how HIF funding was used in the North Locality was the funding allocated to **Friends of Westfield Park** to build a Sensory Garden in Westfield Park. This project has involved the whole community and the Bridge of Don & Districts Men Shed volunteers built wooden plant beds

"It has been fabulous how many people have helped and become involved. We have even had a local resident filling up our water carriers from his tap."

Friends of Westfield Park volunteer

which have been adopted by Braehead Primary, Scotstown Primary, Bridge of Don Academy, Aberdeen Family Learning and the Bridge of Don Community Council. Aberdeen Action for Disability are growing seeds to share with the project and some of members are also making signs for the beds. The Sensory Garden has been created so all members of the community can have the opportunity to learn about gardening and food growing.



Provide activities for children and young people

Community activities for young people

Through our youth community activity and reducing anti-social behaviour projects we are committed to developing a range of opportunities for children and young people to get involved in their local community and to support a reduction in crime and anti-social behaviour. Last year a youth work community-based activity project, co-designed with children and young people was launched in the Mastrick area. It was set up to cater for children who are too young to take part in the diversionary programme known as the Mastrick Hub. Attendance numbers so far show that the club is popular with the target audience. Nine children participated in the Mastrick Group at the start of 2023 with 42 attendances overall. At the request of the community centre, the group operates a ratio of four children to one member of staff. With a staff complement of three, the group will not exceed 12.

When asked what they liked about the group, attendees said they particularly enjoyed *“doing things with friends and getting to do cooking.”*

The **Northfield Community Centre Youth Group** was started by Community Centre volunteers this year and, owing to its popularity with young people, required additional staff and volunteers. The Project has been supported by the project team through the draft community led youth group model, which includes guidance on health and safety, safeguarding for children and young people, and how to run a youth group. The Northfield group is more informal than the other two youth groups in the city which have a programme of activities decided by the participants themselves. During 2019 there were three registered participants from Northfield taking part in ACC youth work community-based activities, however, by 2022, there were 43. Participants said it was a chance to hang out with friends, make new friends and take part in fun activities.

The Middlefield Youth Flat and Under 11s is an initiative to support young people especially those with low confidence, low literacy skills, and additional support needs which are not always picked up in the education system. The project provides positive adult support that meets their needs, challenging their view of the world, understanding the barriers they face and supporting them to overcome these challenges.

Young People’s Mental Wellbeing

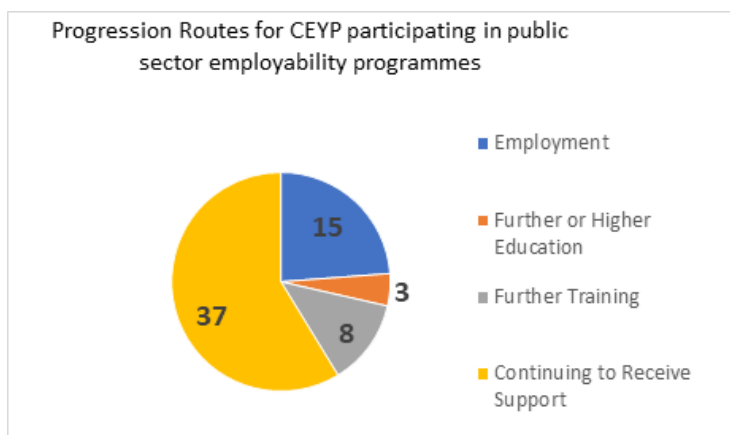
All schools in the North Locality offer counselling, and each school provides free physical activity to enhance the mental wellbeing of children, regardless of circumstances. The Safer Schools app was launched in 2022 with 100% of schools signed up in the North Locality. The app includes features to help



parents and carers navigate challenges such as absence reporting and safeguarding concerns, as well as develop easier channels of communication. All local parents and carers can access the app, which has been promoted widely in school newsletters. Initial feedback from parents has been positive, and formal evaluation data will be available for future reporting periods. We recognise the role physical activity plays in supporting good mental health and through the Active Schools Programme, all North Locality schools provide free physical activity opportunities for pupils.

Positive Destinations for Care Experienced young people

Positive destinations mean that young people go on to attend further or higher education, a voluntary placement, begin an apprenticeship, or go into paid employment. In 2021-22, 92.6% of North Locality school leavers achieved an initial positive destination which was below the 2020-21 figure of 96.2% and the Aberdeen City average of 93.8%. Care experienced young people (CEYP) often face significant barriers to employment and need additional support and mentoring to help them achieve and sustain employment. We’re committed to supporting CEYP to achieve the same outcomes as their peers and one aspect of this is achieving positive destinations, with the ultimate goal of moving CEYP into paid employment. The journey and support required for each care experienced young person varies and through our employability support for care experienced young people project, we’re testing a variety of ways to support them, including a guaranteed interview scheme, tailored employability support programme, pathway planning and induction into work. A good example of youth volunteering are the Saltire Awards, which is the Scottish Government's way of celebrating, recognising and rewarding the commitment, contribution and achievements of volunteers aged between 12-25 in Scotland. Of the 2459 Saltire Award recipients between December 2021-March 2023 in Aberdeen City, 1155 young people were from the North Locality. This is the highest number by locality area across the City.



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 Fit Like Hub operates out of Manor Park School in the North Locality.

Training community groups on issues impacting children

The ACHSCP Public Health Team train practitioners to deliver the **PEEP 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

There were 14 referrals to PEEP from the North Locality during 2022. Six people from the North Locality were also referred by Health Visitors to the Family Learning Service.



Supporting those affected by substance use

Raise awareness of substance service and provision

Latest Aberdeen City drug related death data shows an increase from 56 to 62 deaths in 2021. The Aberdeen City Alcohol and Drugs Partnership through its fatal drug overdose projects are focused on reducing drug related deaths 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. Reviews from past drug related deaths have shown that many of those people who died were not in any drug treatment service but had come to the attention of many other services. By increasing the number of services who can distribute and administer Naloxone to those in need, we can get the lifesaving drug out to those people at risk of overdose, as well as to family members/friends of those in need. Over the past year, we have widened access to naloxone by increasing the number of non-drug and alcohol services able to supply and/or administer naloxone. We have seen increased supply of Naloxone in each locality, with 120 kits supplied in the North Locality. As well as Naloxone, increasing education and access to a variety of treatments, the Partnership are taking a targeted approach, focusing on interventions and supports required at the various touchpoints. We are seeing the impact of this approach. For example, through our improvements focused on people liberated from prison we have seen a 56% reduction in drug related deaths of people liberated within 6 months.

Reducing harms from alcohol use

Alcohol is one of five lifestyle behavioural risk factors which contribute to the majority of chronic and non-communicable disease in our population. Throughout 2022/23 we've focused on increasing awareness of alcohol risks and widening access to alcohol interventions and support, including the development of a new alcohol audit screening tool. As a result of the interventions and targeted campaigns we've seen the number of active clients with Alcohol and Drugs Action (ADA) Duty Drop-in service in 2022/23 increase in each of the three priority neighbourhoods against the 3-year baseline. In the North Locality, data shows a 59% increase in clients from AB16 postcodes. Other interventions ADA have taken during 2022-23 include:




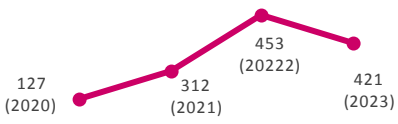





- The piloting of a new referral pathway from Police to ADA
- Widening the number of settings for Alcohol Brief Interventions, including HMP Grampian
- Targeted social media campaign and subsequent levels of engagement with the 'Alcohol Aberdeen' online 'quiz'






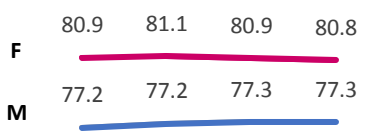
Suicide Prevention

Suicide is more prevalent in middle-aged white males from deprived areas. However, being male, white, middle-aged, and living in a deprived area are not precursors to suicide. Trauma or events that lead up to suicide are more likely to occur in that demographic and this group are less likely to seek help in those circumstances.

In an effort to fully understand what are the leading contributing factors in deaths by suicide in the North East, Police Scotland analysed all Death Reports since the start of 2021 and tracked all contributing factors that were highlighted in the reports including medical and family history, and events leading up to the person's death. These were not geography or locality specific. The circumstances behind suicides are constantly changing, research is ongoing to keep abreast of these changes and to adapt training, information and resources accordingly in Aberdeen City and across the wider North East. The rate of death from suicide in the North Locality of 12.6 per 100,00 is above the citywide average of 11.1 per 100,000 of the population. This is the highest amongst the city's three locality areas.

WHAT IMPACT HAVE WE HAD DURING 2022/23?

<p>Activities for Young People</p>  <p>43 young people from Northfield were involved in community based youth work activities in 2022, a 93% increase from 2019.</p>	<p>Positive destinations</p>  <p>92.6% of North Locality school leavers achieved an initial positive destination. The citywide average was 93.8%.</p>	<p>Young People Confidence</p>  <p>41% of S1-S6 pupils reporting feeling confident compared to 35% last year.</p>
<p>Young People Mental Health</p>  <p>No. of referrals each month to NHSG's children and adolescent mental health services increasing</p>	<p>Counselling for Young People</p>  <p>100% of schools in North Locality offer counselling and Active School activities</p>	<p>Working Together with Parents</p>  <p>14 referrals were made to the Parents as Early Education Partners (PEEP) programme from the North Locality in 2022</p>
<p>Young People Volunteering</p>  <p>1155 young people from the North Locality received a Saltire Award during 2022. The highest per locality in Aberdeen City.</p>	<p>Healthy Eating</p>  <p>11.9% of people in the North Locality said they were unable to eat healthy and nutritious food due to poverty, compared to 12.5% living in priority neighbourhoods. 19.8% of people living in the locality said they ate only a few types of food. (City Voice 46, 2022)</p>	<p>Unpaid Carers</p>  <p>359 unpaid carers were supported in the North Locality by Quarriers Adult Carer Support Service during 2022-23, this is an increase of 79.5% on 200 unpaid carers supported last year.</p>

<p>Alcohol Awareness</p>  <p>20.3% of people in the North Locality said they didn't know how many units are in the alcoholic drinks they consume. 48.4% of people living in the North said they didn't think about units at all. (City Voice 46, 2022)</p>	<p>Drug Related Deaths</p>  <p>120 naloxone kits were supplied in the North Locality in 2022.</p>	<p>Drug Related Hospital Stays</p>  <p>The rate of drug related hospital stays for the North Locality in 2022 was 175.2 per 100,000. This has improved from 193 per 100,000 of the population in 2021.</p>
<p>Alcohol Related Mortality Rates</p>  <p>Alcohol related mortality rates in North Locality in 2022 are 15.54 per 100,000. This has improved since 2018 when the rate was 16.86 per 100,000 of the population.</p>	<p>Deaths from Suicide</p>  <p>The rates of death from suicide in the North Locality is 12.6 per 100,000, this is above the citywide average of 11.1 per 100,000 of the population.</p>	<p>Life Expectancy</p>  <p>Has stayed stable in the North Locality since 2018 for males and females. But it is lower in priority neighbourhoods at 78.3 (F) and 75.4 (M)</p>

AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT 2023/24

- Increase the number of people volunteering in the North Locality
- Increase the number of successful Health Improvement Fund applications from the North Locality to tackle health inequalities
- Increase the number of priority families and community groups we work with through programmes such as PEEP and Health Issues in the Community
- Renewed focus on increasing community capacity and capability building
- Scale up Stay Well Stay Connected programme

Our Place

OUR PRIORITIES

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

Priority 6. Maximise use of disused outdoor space to increase food growing Opportunities

WHAT PROGRESS HAVE WE MADE DURING 2022/23?

Supporting greenspace development

Friends of Westfield Park received funding from the Health Improvement Fund to build a Sensory Garden in Westfield Park. This project has involved the whole community. The Bridge of Don & Districts Men Shed built wooden plant beds which have been adopted by Braehead Primary, Scotstown Primary, Bridge of Don Academy, Aberdeen Family Learning and the Bridge of Don Community Council. Aberdeen Action for Disability are growing seeds to share with the project and some of members are also making signs for the beds. The Sensory Garden has been created so all members of the community can have the opportunity to learn about gardening and food growing.

"It has been fabulous how many people have helped and become involved. We have even had a local resident filling up our water carriers from his tap."



Encourage healthy outdoor activities




Promote and improve accessible, active travel

In 2023, Aberdeen City Council, in partnership with Big Issue eBikes launched an electric bike hire scheme. [Big Issue E-Bikes](#) are available in 40 locations across Aberdeen and aim to make shorter journeys easier and affordable. The scheme also hopes to have a positive impact on our environment.

The City Voice survey found that 11.8% of people in the North Locality regularly cycled compared to the citywide average of 14.8%. People in the North Locality are least likely to cycle regularly (vs people living in the South and Central Localities).



WHAT IMPACT HAVE WE HAD DURING 2022/23?

Satisfaction with Green Space	Community Growing Spaces	Cycling
 <p>66.5% of North Locality respondents to the City Voice survey reported being satisfied or fairly satisfied with the overall quality of green/open spaces, compared to 64.7% of people living in Middlefield, Mastrick, Cummings Park, Heathryfold and Northfield (City Voice 46, 2022)</p>	 <p>19 food growing projects happening across the North Locality</p>	 <p>11.8% of people in the North cycled in the last year compared to the citywide average of 14.8% (City Voice 46, 2022)</p>

AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT 2023/24

- Increase community food growing in schools, communities and workplaces.
- Renewed focus on promoting active and accessible travel



Working Together

Community Empowerment Strategy

Community Planning Aberdeen is committed to working with communities to improve outcomes across each locality and indeed the City as a whole. In 2022 we launched a new Community Empowerment Strategy setting out our vision for all communities to be equal community planning partners. A number of improvement projects are now underway to strengthen community participation in community planning and ensure they have a voice and ability to influence what happens to them and their community.



This year, we have been pleased to see the return of in-person community-based events, including two citywide events, the Community Gathering and the Granite City Gathering.



These events provided a great chance to bring our community and partners together, make connections, and share learning and opportunities. Both events were open to people across the City and were an exhibition of community information and provided a chance for attendees to wander around the stalls and learn about the different opportunities to get involved in their local community. There were 25 stall holders on the day showcasing the work they do in local communities and approximately 121 people attended the gathering. Of the registered attendees, 24.3% were from the North Locality. You can read the Community Gathering report for more information [here](#).

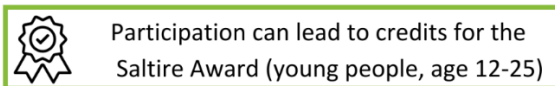
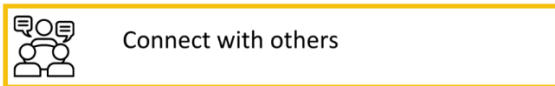
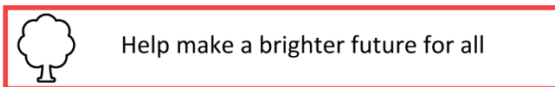
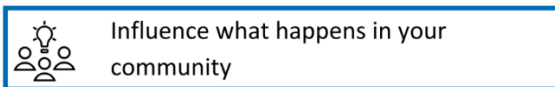
In addition to our citywide events, the North Locality Empowerment Group (LEG) restarted on 31 May 2023, having not met since early 2022. Meetings are now held on a two monthly cycle and alternate between virtual meetings and in person meetings at a community venue. Meetings provide an opportunity for LEG members to influence and shape delivery of the North Locality Plan and hold Community Planning Partners to account. LEGs also provide the Locality Planning Team and Outcome Improvement project managers an opportunity to involve community members in their projects and gain valuable feedback. The Middlefield, Mastrick, Cummings Park, Heathryfold and Northfield Priority Neighbourhood Partnership has continued to meet throughout 2022-23.



Find out more & Get Involved!

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 Torry Partnership you will be able to provide a voice on behalf of the people and communities across your neighbourhood.

What's in it for you?



Following a recent training session provided by SCDC in partnership with ACC/AHSCP, the community had this to say about community engagement:

“Talk to us and talk to us early. Don’t make decisions and then get it approved by us. Communities have knowledge and skills to know what’s best for us. We’re the local experts about our places”

“Community Engagement is where people grow”

If you are interested in getting involved in helping achieve these aims in your local community, follow this link to find out more: [Our Communities - Community Planning Aberdeen](#) or email localityplanning@aberdeencity.gov.uk.

Meet your Locality Planning Team

We understand the importance of working with communities to build a thriving environment for everyone. By engaging with local communities through our dedicated locality planning team, we aim to become more receptive, supportive and action-oriented. Community input is extremely valuable to this work.

The Locality Planning Team includes staff from Aberdeen City Council and the Aberdeen City Health and Social Care partnership working together to support improved outcome across all our localities and neighbourhoods. In the North Locality your locality planning contacts are Iain, Jade, Katie, and Kev.



Iain Robertson,
Transformation Programme
Manager, Aberdeen City Health and
Social Care Partnership



Jade Leyden,
Community Development Manager,
Aberdeen City Council



Kev Donald, Community
Development Officer, Aberdeen City
Council



Katie Cunningham,
Public Health Coordinator, ACHSCP

Please take a moment to complete this [survey](#) and let us know how we can enhance our service delivery and collaboration with you. Together we can make a positive impact and create a place where all people can prosper.