



**Community
Planning
Aberdeen**

Central Locality Plan

2026-2036

Central Locality Neighbourhoods:

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



Introduction

What is Locality Planning?

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

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

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

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

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



What's the Central Locality Plan?

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

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

Our Journey

Developing the Central Locality Plan

March - May 2025

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

Engagement activities included:

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

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

October - November 2025

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



May-October 2025

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

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

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

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

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

November - June 2025-26

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

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

Central Community Asset Wall

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

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



Our Priorities For the Central Locality

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

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

What are the Social Determinants of Health?

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

Why It Matters

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

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

Our Plan

Economic Stability

Priority 1: Reduce the number of people living in Poverty

What the data is telling us...

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

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

Our Plan

Health and Social Care

Priority 2: Improve mental health and wellbeing of population

What the data is telling us...

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

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

Our Plan

Children, Families and Lifelong Learning

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

What the data is telling us...

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

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

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

Our Plan

Neighbourhood and Environment

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

What the data is telling us...

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

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

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

Our Plan

Communities and Housing

Priority 5: Create safe and resilient communities

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

What the data is telling us...

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

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

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

DRAFT

Get Involved!

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

What's in it for you?

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



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

Localityplanning@aberdeencity.gov.uk

Your Central Locality Planning Team

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

Chris Smillie

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

Suzanne Thomson

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

Graham Donald

Community Development Officer
Aberdeen City Council
01224053321



Stay Updated!



Join the Journey!

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

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

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



Supporting Information

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

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

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

Local Place Plans – these are different to locality plans!

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

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