



Fairer Scotland Fund Annual Report 2012-13

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Fairer Scotland Fund

Annual Report 2012-13

The Fairer Scotland Fund came into effect on the 1st April 2008, and its purpose is to tackle poverty and deprivation. The Fund enables Community Planning Partnerships to 'tackle area based and individual poverty and to help more people access and sustain employment opportunities'.

In 2012-13 Aberdeen City Council allocated £1.625m to the Fairer Scotland Fund. The fund is managed by the Fairer Scotland Fund Board on behalf of Community Planning Aberdeen, the Community Planning Partnership for the City, with additional reporting to Aberdeen City Council Corporate Policy and Performance Committee.

Fairer Scotland Fund Programme 2012-13

After the allocation was agreed in February the Fairer Scotland Fund Board invited applications for funding. The Board decided to move away from the previous allocations to neighbourhood and thematic funding to focus on the main priorities for the fund, and targeting disadvantaged communities and vulnerable groups and individuals.

The Board agreed the following outcomes, neighbourhoods and vulnerable groups as priorities for use of the Fund:

Priority Outcomes:

- · Maximising income
- Getting people into work
- · Improving mental health and well being
- · Building stronger safer communities
- · Increasing skills and creativity

Priority Neighbourhoods:

- Cummings Park
- Middlefield
- Northfield
- Seaton
- Tillydrone
- Torry
- Woodside

Priority Groups:

- People living in poverty
- · Lone parents and families with children
- Unemployed people
- · Children and young people
- People with health issues
- · Older people

• Minority groups where an identified need can be evidenced Priority aims:

Improving access to services
Supporting community involvement
Promoting volunteering

The Board set up a new application process, whereby subgroups of the Board met to consider applications, with invited representation from key service providers from Community Planning partners in an advisory capacity. Following 5 sub group meetings, a full day meeting in March and a subsequent meeting in June funding was allocated to the following outcomes.

Priority outcomes	£	% of fund
Getting People Into Work	372,000	24%
Maximising Income	298,000	20%
Improving Mental Health and Wellbeing	268,000	18%
Building Stronger, Safer Communities	297,000	19%
Increasing Skills and Creativity	173,000	11%
Support Team & Running Costs	75,000	5%
Community Support Fund	45,000	3%

Funding was awarded to 60 initiatives, supporting Projects in priority areas and work across the City with vulnerable groups and individuals. Grants ranged from £2,400 to £170,000 in value.

A total of 20,829 people participated in activities and services funded by the Fairer Scotland Fund, 5737 of them were under 16. 1,401 volunteers carried out a total of 107,571 volunteer hours.



Gettina People Into Work

24% of the fund (£372,000) was allocated to this theme. A range of organisations were funded to ensure people had access to the support and skills they needed to return to work. This involved initial engagement, personal development activity, vocational training, and in work support.

Funding was allocated to Pathways, Job Parents, the LOAN (Linking Opportunity and Need) Team, Station House Media Unit, North East Scotland Sensory Services, Aberdeen Foyer, Aberdeen Forward, and WEA.



Pathways supported 182 people into work, 125 into full time and 57 into part-time employment. They supported 5 people to maintain their current employment and 2 people started volunteering to improve their employability. Referrals to the service remained steady throughout the reporting period, significantly above levels in the previous year, due in part to the early effects of forthcoming welfare reform. The target of 300 referrals for the year was comfortably exceeded with 361 referrals received and registered as active clients.

Locations in which the service was offered increased throughout the reporting year, with additional provision now offered in Garthdee and Kincorth, as well as all the priority areas. The location used in Mastrick has changed to the Housing Office, which is improving links and referrals to and from the Housing Officers.

There was a marked rise in numbers of people for whom English is a second language. Many of these clients have poor English skills and therefore presented a challenge for Keyworkers in providing support and being understood. There was also an increase in people referred who needed help with basic IT skills and online applications.

Employment Keyworkers were automatically assisting clients to register on Universal Johnatch, the Johnatch Plus system for vacancies, and also set clients up with email accounts if necessary. Following on from this Keyworkers noted that they were spending significantly greater periods of time with clients completing online applications, many of which could take an hour or more to complete.

The figures moving into full time work continued to be in contrast to figures across the country, where official figures have shown that the majority of people finding jobs have been moving into part time work. This shows the value of dedicated 1-2-1 support, which helps unemployed people feel valued and enables them to secure jobs which can help to secure them financially.



During the year a Social Return on Investment (SROI) evaluation was carried out, with support from the FSF coordinator and a consultant from Social Value Lab. SROI is a method for measuring and communicating a broad concept of value that incorporates social, environmental and economic impacts. It is a way of accounting for the value created by activities and the contributions that made that activity possible. It is also the story of the change affected by activities, told from the perspective of the stakeholders.

Following consultation with clients and stakeholders, the final analysis showed that every investment of £1 in Pathways delivered £4.67 of social value.

Job Parents supported 137 customers into work. Many of the referrals received were on Employment Support Allowance and had limited opportunities for taking employment immediately, requiring supported work or limited hours due to health conditions. Many clients came a long way since being referred to the project, and are in the process of gaining the skills, confidence, experience or training needed to be able to achieve their work goals. A large number of customers received support with barriers like debts, housing, and health conditions, to help them move forward and achieve their goals.

The LOAN (Linking Opportunity and Need) Team focused on matching people with employment, holding 2 Job Fairs involving over 21 employers, 600 vacancies and 1,267 unemployed people attending. These resulted in 417 people starting work. Funding was secured to provide a variety of different courses leading to employment in the Care, Retail, Hospitality and Security sectors as well as specific recruitment needs, for example, Royal Mail. Over the year there were 6 hospitality courses with 58 people attending, 6 Care courses with 61 people attending, 6 Security courses with 71 people attending, 6 Retail courses with 108 people attending and 10 generic courses with 92 people attending.

North East Sensory Services Employment Service supported people with a sight and/or hearing impairment to find work, as well as helping people retain employment. Over the year they worked with 47 clients, with 11 clients supported into employment, 25 clients into education and training, and 10 taking up work placement and volunteering opportunities. 12 people currently in work were supported to retain their current employment or explore alternatives. A new Confidence Building Course ran during the year. Ten participants enrolled to start the supported course. The course was provided free of charge by Aberdeen College. Various topics were discussed including self-esteem, assertiveness, motivation & strategies to improve confidence. The class highlighted how beneficial it was for them.

The Princes Trust Team Programme was a personal development and employability programme of 12 weeks duration, run by Aberdeen Foyer. The programme was aimed at supporting 16-25 year olds into further education, training, employment or volunteering. Over the course of the programme, team members worked through an Individual Learning Record to gain SQA qualifications in: Self Awareness; Self in Society; Self at Work; and Communication. They also attained First Aid and Food Hygiene certificates. Of the 26 participants, 13 moved on to employment, training, education or volunteering.

Aberdeen Forward supported volunteers and assisted them in their journey into work. This was done through the creation of volunteer posts that closely mirrored real work opportunities, provision of training and ongoing volunteer support. Over the year they recruited 81 volunteers, who contributed 1,929 volunteer hours.

EmployabiliTy was a new project run by WEA, which delivered 3 courses over the year offering drop in opportunities for those to use the facilities to further their chances of employment. Classes covered basic IT skills, how to use the internet to find job opportunities, and how to write CVs and cover letters. 5 learners went on to paid employment, 2 went on to voluntary work and 6 applied for further education courses at Aberdeen College.



One of the team members was a Looked After Child living in residential care, with historic offending behaviour. Despite her chaotic lifestyle, the young person's time-keeping on the programme was excellent, and her leadership potential became apparent early on. The yo ng rerson did so wel work plac went on to secure full-

Dynamics was run by WEA, who ran 3 courses over the year, covering topics such as IT, team building, budgeting skills, outdoor activities, confidence building, cooking, racism, homophobia, sexism and general good citizenship. 3 courses ran with 18 young people participating.

shmuTRAIN was delivered by Station House Media Unit, and supported 14-19 year olds who were in, or likely to fall into, the More Choices More Chances category. The project, now in its fifth year, works with young people in school in the Early Interventions programme, and those already in a negative destination through the Positive Transitions programme (16-19). It is a skills development programme, using community and digital media (radio, video, sound engineering and digital design) as a meaningful and stimulating medium to increase the chances of young people moving into employment, education or training. Over the year 95

young people participated, with 28 moving into employment, 22 into education and 4 into training.



Within the Early Interventions project shmuTRAIN built up strong strategic and operational links with academies across the regeneration areas, and city-wide through the development of the City Campus work. From the 23 young people who completed courses in 2012, 17 have gained positive outcomes. Analysis across the last 4 years of school work shows an overall success ratio of 86%. Outcomes from the Positive Transitions courses continued to be very good with 16 of 23 trainees who completed the courses securing a positive destination – a 70% success rate. Station House Media Unit was confirmed as an accredited SQA centre during the reporting period and as a result is now offering the SQA in Employability across Early Interventions and Positive Transitions programmes.

During the year a Social Return on Investment (SROI) evaluation was carried out, with support from the FSF coordinator and a consultant from Social Value Lab. SROI is a method for measuring and communicating a broad concept of value that incorporates social, environmental and economic impacts. It is a way of accounting for the value created by activities and the contributions that made that activity possible. It is also the story of the change affected by activities, told from the perspective of the stakeholders.

Following consultation with clients and stakeholders, the final analysis showed that every investment of £1 in shmuTrain Positive Transitions delivered £3.69 of social value.



Callum, 18 from Tillydrone, took part in our 13th Positive Transitions (PT) course. Callum had worked with SHMU previously whilst a pupil at St Machar Academy in his 4th year in 2010/2011. Callum took part in employability and sound/music modules at St Machar and engaged well although his attendance was not always the best. He particularly enjoyed the sound module as he has an interest in music. As a result of the SHMU course in school, Callum engaged better with school and decided to stay on for 5th year.

In 2013 when he found himself unemployed he came to us looking for help. He had also heard that we had a new project, shmuSOUND, and being a keen musician himself he want to find out more. He enrolled on the PT course and signed up for help with his music through shmuSOUND as well.

As a part of the PT course Callum helped to produce a weekly live radio show along with his fellow trainees. At the end of the course Callum says "the radio really helped to boost my confidence, it made it easier to do job interviews: if you can talk to Aberdeen on the radio then you can talk to an interviewer."



Getting People Into Work performance summary

There were 1342 people involved in employability initiatives and 822 of them got into work. 149 young people were involved in More Chances More Choices activities.

Weekly employment support sessions were delivered in 11 priority areas.

68 young people moved on to employment, education or training.

There were 93 volunteers involved, delivering 3,404 hours of volunteering.

Performance Indicator	Achieved in 11-12	Target for 12-13	Achieved in 12-13	
Number of people into work	278	461	822	1
Number of people accessing the Support Fund	194	130	149	1
Access Centres in areas of high unemployment offering weekly Employment Support Drop In sessions	10	10	11	^
Number of young people involved in MCMC activities	83	144	149	1
Number of young people moving on to employment, education or training	85	65	68	↑
Total number of participants involved			1342	
Number of participants aged under 16 years old Number of volunteers involved			64	
			93	
Number of volunteer hours contributed			3404	

Maximisina Income

20% of the fund (£298,000) was allocated to this theme. A range of organisations were funded to ensure people have access to affordable financial services and products and co-ordinated provision of quality advice and information services.

Funding was allocated to Cash In Your Pocket Partnership (CIYPP) Team, Citizens Advice Bureau, North East Scotland Credit Union, St Machar Credit Union, Care and Repair, Aberdeen Illness and Disability Advice Service and WEA.

Aberdeen Citizens Advice Bureau delivered a community outreach money advice service, through a combination of home visits and community appointments with outreach surgeries. Outreach sessions operated weekly at Seaton Community Project, Torry Medical Centre, Mastrick Community Centre, Woodside Community Centre, Northfield Community Centre and Manor Park Community Centre. Staff also attended Cash-in-Your-Pocket community presentations and sessions at REMPLOY when it closed down.

During the year CAB gave money advice to 468 people and income maximisation advice to 579 people, and recorded a total client financial gain of £1,118,253 which equates to £1,068 per head, and £14 for every £1 FSF invested.

Aberdeen Illness and Disability Advice Service was a new project to receive funding. They offered confidential, independent and impartial financial advice to anyone affected by illness, disability or a long term health condition, in the most suitable location for the client, including hospital wards and home visits. They also helped or advised the families of those affected, who were often the main carer.



Over the year they saw 406 clients and recorded a total client financial gain of £441,408 which equates to £1,086 per head, and almost £19 for every £1 FSF invested. They had success in building their volunteer base, and by the end of the year had 9 active volunteers, 3 of whom worked 2-3 days a week. 2 volunteers were trained to provide representation at tribunals, due to an increase in appeals. They had use of rooms at ARI for seeing clients and are working on securing a permanent base there.

North East Scotland Credit Union also continued to promote access to saving schemes and affordable loans in areas not covered by St Machar Credit Union. They opened six collection points, two of which are new primary school collections, delivered over 8,000 leaflets directly into homes in the Torry area, and attended over 26 talks and events promoting the benefits of the credit union. They provided 711 affordable loans, totalling £883,000 and had 2168 adult savers and 956 junior savers, with £657,000 total savings deposited. They had 135 volunteers contributing 304 volunteer hours.

St Machar Credit Union continued to promote access to saving schemes and affordable loans in priority areas. They had 14 collection points and opened 2 new ones during the year. 2547 affordable loans, totalling £1,207,440, were provided, and they had 2364 adult savers and 1007 junior savers, with £995,137 total savings deposited. There were 37 active volunteers, contributing an average of 8 hours per week, or 14,976 volunteer hours over the year.

Aberdeen Care and Repair provided advice and assistance to older people, people with disabilities and long term health problems. Advice and Assistance was given with property maintenance, repairs, and improvements, minor and major adaptations, affordable heating systems



and the service also operated a small repairs service. The aim was to support individuals to continue to live independently safe and secure within their own home. The majority of householders assisted were older, disabled (physical and mental health) or the carer for a disabled child. In many cases the Funding Officer worked closely with social workers /support workers or carers. Care and Repair staff often reached 'the hard to reach' households where no other services have been approached, resulting in referrals being made to other organisations and services to work together to access services that the householder required.

Over the year 415 people received assistance on maximising income or charitable funding, and 829 households were assisted with repairs, improvements and adaptations to their home. £202,194 of charitable funding was secured and £76,999 of income maximisation.

WEA ran Count Us In with the aim of raising the level of financial literacies in the student body attending courses at the WEA Reach Out Project, including the Dynamics and Break Out strands. The bulk of the learning was delivered through embedding financial learning into other courses, as they worked with a hard to reach client group who find it hard to engage with specific financial learning programmes. The learners



came from across Aberdeen and included some of the disadvantaged and excluded in society including those with mental health issues, learning disabilities and those experiencing substance misuse. Over the year 99 people participated in 14 full courses, 8 x 6 week courses and 2 x 4 week courses. They also ran 12 one off sessions, 1 residential, 2 terms of PEEP and had the ACC Charity Shop for a week. They also offered around 60 hours of one to one support.

Cash In Your Pocket acted as a central hub for the operation of its financial inclusion partners, taking referrals from people working in the community on behalf of the excluded, and passing them onto the organisations that could most assist them.

At least 90 organisations, groups, departments or projects were on the Cash In Your Pocket database, either making or receiving referrals. The CIYPP Team presented information sessions about Cash In Your Pocket to more than 20 groups over the last year. 1747 individuals were referred through the database in the last year, and there were 2673 onward referrals to different agencies through the database.

Events were held in Mastrick, Torry and Kincorth, as well as 2 awareness events designed to increase recognition of financial inclusion issues and how these can be resolved (such as pay day loans problems, benefits issues etc.). These all resulted in a significant number of referrals, indicating the need that was still prevalent amongst these communities.

They also attended local Galas representing their partners' services, and ensuring that attendees could get access to the most relevant ones. In addition they held a large CIYP event at Tillydrone in August that saw more than 100 attendees. A successful event for disadvantaged families (over 80 attendees) was also held in partnership with Home-Start.

CIYP initiated a consultation exercise in order to assess the financial need within regeneration communities, identifying the amount of time community workers have to spend dealing with financial inclusion issues and narrowing down what those issues are in their daily workloads. This will provide evidence of need and CIYP's position in these activities will become even more crucial as Welfare Reform begins to impact.

Cash In Your Pocket have been central in pulling together some varying types of provision over the last year, most notably a Food Bank Group that has resulted in a partnership across providing organisations within the city, and a successful application to the Fairer Scotland Fund. There were a series of meetings around budgeting, NHS services, older people, Welfare Reform and co-ordinating Starter Packs provided by churches, all of which helped to direct and improve provision across the city. Cash In Your Pocket meetings were held regularly, allowing partners to share information and practice, as well as devise strategy for dealing with Welfare Reform changes. In addition an Advisory Group was set up to assist with planning and management issues for CIYP.

Training was also co-ordinated and provided across a number of topics – Welfare Rights, CIYPP referral, Personal Independence Payments and general financial understanding.





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Maximising Income performance summary

There were 10,665 people involved in maximising income initiatives and 1,982 of them were under 16 years old.

1,868 people received money advice and income maximisation advice and total client financial gain was £1,838,854.

6.495 people were members of a credit union with a

Performance Indicator	Achieved in 11-12	Target for 12-13	Achieved in 12-13	L
Amount of affordable loans provided by Credit Unions	£1,519,357	£1,625,957	£2,090,440	^
Total savings deposited in Credit Unions	£1,412,412	£1,493,000	£1,652,137	^
Number of credit union collection points	34	40	41	^
Number of people receiving money advice	493	444	468	^
Number of people receiving income maximisation advice	939	1024	1,400	^
Number of households receiving maximising income/charitable funding advice from Care & Repair	310	300	415	^
Total client financial gain	£1,397,129	£1,687,000	£1,838,854	П
Number of referrals to the Cash In Your Pocket database	1747	1500	1937	^
Total number of participants involved			10,665	
Number of participants aged under 16 years			1982	
Number of volunteers involved			195	
Number of volunteer hours contributed			17,978	

Improving Health and Wellheing

18% of the fund (£268,000) was allocated to this theme, focusing on mental health and wellbeing and reducing health inequalities.

Funding was allocated to Pathways to Wellbeing and Mental Health Aberdeen to provide community based counselling for 7 priority areas. Funding was also allocated to Homestart, Seaton Support for Rehab and Recovery, the M26 Group, the Cyrenians, Give Kids A Chance, Community Food Initiatives NE, Healthy Roots, ACC Healthy Minds Team, Tillydrone Health and Wellbeing and Printfield Feel Good Project.

Youth Counselling & Information Service run by Aberdeen Counselling and Information Service (ACIS) continued to offer a counselling and information service for young people aged between 12 and 18. Over the year 163 clients accessed the service and 1115 counselling sessions were provided.

The Calsayseat Surgery Counselling Project had two part-time counsellors and over the year 164 clients received 1181 counselling sessions. The service continued to be busy, and had a large waiting list. Over the year they saw an increase in younger people being referred to the project. HAD (Hospital Anxiety/Depression) monitoring forms were used to gather information from clients, and showed that 61% of clients reported a decreased score. The project worked with other organisations that could offer practical support and advice and 23 clients were referred on for vocational training, Pathways employment support, Job Centre and Aberdeen Foyer.

The Torry Counselling Project, also run by Mental Health Aberdeen, continued to provide counselling for adults at the Torry Neighbourhood Centre, and counselling for children through the schools. Over the year 521 sessions were delivered to 49 primary school and Academy pupils, and 113 adult clients received 589 sessions.

Over the year the services saw an increase in clients presenting on the 'severely emotionally disturbed' level, with a high proportion of clients being severely depressed and/or anxious. This trend could be linked to a high proportion of clients being unemployed or under threat of redundancy. The adult counsellors also noted that they encountered clients who lived in a family where the second or third generation was being affected by employment issues. The project actively helped those who indicated that their mental ill-health was related to lifestyle and unemployment, to access sources of information regarding jobs, adult and further education, access to college courses and linked in directly with projects such as Pathways, Aberdeen Foyer, Aberdeen College, Life Shaper and other organisations that could provide the appropriate support required.

Pathways to Wellbeing provided one-to-one counselling, based in community settings in priority areas. Throughout the year Pathways had 2 counsellors based in the communities, at the Healthy Hoose (covering Middlefield and Northfield) and at St Machar Parent Support (covering Tillydrone, Woodside and Seaton).

A total of 77 clients accessed the service. Of these 14 were male and 63 female. The youngest person to access the service was 16, with the oldest over 65.

At the end of their counselling all clients were asked to complete an Evaluation Form. This showed a unanimously positive impact on participant's lives. Those who had been attending their doctor reported that as direct result of their counselling they were attending less frequently, with those on prescription medication also showing a



My daughter has noticed, she said to her mum "Dad's smiling" – I hadn't noticed how suc my sar sar s

reduced reliance on medication. Clients noted how their experience of counselling had improved not only their lives, but the lives of those around them.

Homestart offered home visiting support to families with at least one child under the age of 5, identified as at risk and hard to reach, working to prevent further crisis and family breakdown. The project aimed to develop parent and child confidence leading to happier, healthier more enjoyable family relationships, reduced isolation and increased resilience to cope with challenges in their lives. Volunteers offered emotional and practical support as needed, building on positive existing attributes, role modelling and encouraging increased parent/child activities and routines. The Health Development Co-ordinator, through their "Recipe for Life" project, worked with families on budgeting, practical cookery, breast feeding and weaning, oral health and general advice on healthier lifestyles.



They also identified additional suitable support for families within the city, for example health, further education and finance, referred as appropriate and supported people to attend appointments where necessary.

During the year 32 families were supported, with 29 of them reporting reduced isolation and reduced levels of family conflict or stress and 6 families no longer required Social Work support. 29 volunteers supported the project, carrying out 2557 hours of volunteering.

The M26 Group supported 15 men aged 26+ to develop a range of life skills, including confidence building, anxiety management and assertiveness, to positively improve health and wellbeing, and to build better relationships within the local community. Activities included outings with Aberdeen Adventure, the Community Garden Project, recycling furniture with Arts Development, cooking on a budget, discussions about the new Welfare Reform Bill and financial inclusion, including setting up credit union accounts. Funding was secured from Awards for All to run a computer class.

2 members of the group got part-time jobs and one started volunteering at the local school. Most of the group showed increased confidence and self-esteem, and felt they were more valued members of the community. 3 volunteers were involved, contributing 704 volunteer hours.



Seaton Support for Rehab and Recovery provided a local, accessible facility to support Seaton residents manage and recover from drug, alcohol and mental health related issues. The project worked with clients to provide a tailored rehabilitation and recovery programme and helped them move on into recovery and positive destinations determined by their own needs, and focusing on building confidence and self-esteem. This included volunteer employment, skills development, further education, outdoor activity learning and wellbeing services offered by project partners. The project was a first point of contact and provided grass roots support for clients to bring structure back to their life though care plans and signposts to specialist support. The positive impact of the project extended beyond the client to the family and community, offering a platform for clients and affected family members to build bridges and understanding and where possible, to re-establish family relationships and acceptance back into the community.

Over the year 34 people used the project on a regular basis, 11 of these attended classes to support personal development and life skills, and 13 were referred to specialist debt and financial support and advisory services. A Clients Group was established to increase the decision making and involvement of clients in the

progression of the project, and it was decided to change the name to Seaton Recovery Project as this reflected the move towards a recovery based approach.

Street Alternatives was run by The Cyrenians and continued to offer practical support to people in Aberdeen City who were sleeping rough or who had no access to cooking or personal care facilities.

Volunteers continued to play an integral part in the provision and delivery of this holistic service and over the year volunteers carried forward plans regarding service user involvement. Volunteers worked together to plan, deliver and evaluate activities. 114 volunteers were involved, 80 of these on a regular basis, contributing 3835 volunteer hours.



Give Kids A Chance provided opportunities for vulnerable young people to develop and sustain interests or hobbies that encourage healthy lifestyle choices. The main focus over the second half of the year was the transfer of the service from Aberdeen City Public Health to CHILDREN 1st which occurred on November 1st 2012. A civic reception was held and hosted by Aberdeen City Council to celebrate the work achieved by GKAC and its transfer to CHILDREN 1st. This was a successful event with over 100 guests attending. Press releases were circulated in response to the event and achieved good coverage.

69 young people participated over the year, 53 of these were new referrals. 16 different activity providers delivered 21 different activity sessions over the year and continued to be committed to working alongside GKAC and developing opportunities for children and young people. New additions to the activities provided included Bank O'Dee trampoline club and BMX and skate boarding at Transition Extreme.



Community Food Initiatives NE received funding to improve access to affordable healthy food. There were 69 Community Food Outlets operational across the City, 37 of them in sheltered housing complexes, and sales totalled £67,500. The Fareshare initiative, which distributes excess food donated by supermarkets and manufacturers, delivered 55 tonnes of produce to 72 beneficiary organisations. The enterprise sales increased over the year and customer numbers also increased with a number of new companies and local businesses ordering fruit up to 5 times per week.

78 volunteers were active, 61 in their own communities and 17 in the Poynernook Road premises, delivering 13,100 volunteer hours. To provide new volunteers with clear information about CFINE, a new volunteer induction pack was devised.

During the year, Development staff worked with Food & Nutrition students, on placement with CFINE, to deliver cookery classes at Deeside Family Centre, with particular focus on single parents. At the end of each session, the children joined their parents to eat the food which they had cooked. These sessions were very successful and it is planned to hold more of them.



Healthy Roots maintained Manor Park, a community-run park in Middlefield. Over the year the paths were kept strimmed, flower beds weeded, hedges cut and the park kept tidy. It was estimated that there were over 28,000 visits to the park. Events included an Easter egg hunt attended by around 30 people and 12

volunteer days, at which 3 new benches were built and varnished. The giant chess board was repainted, as were the Nessie play feature, play park benches and play park mural. Tidying, weeding and path repairs were carried out and new plants and bulbs were planted. The allotments were popular, with 21 leased, including a number of 'microplots', very small allotments which allowed people to try allotment gardening to see if they liked it without having to make a commitment to a full size plot. 36 volunteers were involved, contributing 247 volunteer hours.

Challenging Barriers and Promoting Healthy Minds aimed to increase the capacity of the Healthy Minds Team to engage and support their most vulnerable clients in adult learning activities in both hospital and community settings, ultimately into education and potentially employment.

They developed a specialised media group incorporating core skills in the Blair Unit; the forensic rehabilitation locked ward at Royal Cornhill Hospital, and the group created a video of Old Aberdeen and the Cruickshank Gardens that included interviews with the curator of the gardens. Within the Unit service users worked on core skills in ICT and Communications and the English as Additional Language service continued to develop.

Tillydrone Health and Wellbeing and **Printfield Feel Good Project** provided complementary health treatments including Hand Reflexology Massage, Reflexology, Reiki and Indian Head Massage. The youngest service user was less than six months old and the oldest was in their 70s. A significant number of service users went on to learn more about the therapies and learned how to perform them themselves through Reiki in the Community which was a subsidiary of the complementary therapies held in both the Tillydrone and Printfield areas. During the year they saw more people coming forward who were overcoming substance misuse issues, and 2 participants who were referred from Drugs Action are now in full-time employment.

Most of the clients said that the therapies helped them relax most of all, which in turn enabled them to cope better and improve their symptoms. Over the year 475 sessions were provided to 94 people.



Health performance summary

There were 1,292 people involved in health initiatives and 463 of them were under 16 years old.

3,945 counselling sessions were provided to 354 adults and 227 children, in 7 priority areas.

32 families were supported by Homestart and 29 of them reported reduced isolation and reduced levels of family conflict or stress. 6 families no longer required Social Work support.

49 people with substance misuse and/or mental health issues received support to move into recovery and positive destinations.

There were 283 volunteers involved, delivering 22,013 hours of volunteering.

Performance Indicator	Achieved in 11-12	Target for 12-13	Achieved in 12-13	
Number of Community Food Outlets in sheltered housing complexes	28	30	37	^
Amount of FareShare distributed over the year.	65	50	55	^
Number of organisations receiving FareShare	70	70	72	^
Number of adult clients using mental health counselling provision	379	330	354	^
Number of clients under 16 using mental health counselling provision	171	170	227	^
Number of counselling sessions provided	3,605	3,336	3,945	^
Number of priority areas where counselling is provided	7	7	7	^
Number of families supported by Homestart reporting reduced levels of family conflict or stress	15	26	29	^
Total number of participants involved			1,292	
Number of participants under 16 years old			463	

Ruildina Stronger

Number of volunteers involved	283
Number of volunteer hours contributed	22,013

19% of the fund (£296,000) was allocated to this theme, and funding supported community safety initiatives across the City, as well as neighbourhood projects ensuring access to services in regeneration areas and supporting community involvement and participation.

Funding was allocated to Grampian Police, Choices, Victim Support Scotland, the Torry Trust, Tillydrone Community Flat, Cummings Park Community Flat, Printfield Community Project, the STAR (Seaton Taking Action on Regeneration) Flat, Middlefield Youth Flat, Middlefield Project, Fersands Family Centre, Fersands Community Project, Aberdeen Lads Club, St George's Church and Torry Youth Karate Club.



One particular success story relates to a woman who initially refused to engage with Begonia and was violent and aggressive towards the Police. She later attended at Queen Street Police Office and the partnership provided an immediate response to her request for assistance. All outstanding Police Reports were diverted by the Procurator Fiscal and she engaged w programme (was assisted in claiming

Grampian Police's **Operation Begonia** provided dedicated patrols which continued to engage with on street sex workers and to date, a total of 139 have been encountered with the majority agreeing to complete a detailed questionnaire and allowing their personal details be forwarded to the Criminal Justice Social Work Department (CJSWD), Drugs Action, or the Cyrenians, for follow up assistance. When the questionnaires are being completed, the women are provided with a safety booklet and a personal safety panic alarm. Of these 139 women, 107 are considered success stories, being engaged with services and diverted from the lifestyle.

The number of women encountered during the year dropped from 45 in 2011-12 to 26 in 2012-13, with many women having been successfully diverted away from the lifestyle and now living healthier and safer lives without having to become involved in prostitution. This resulted in a reduced number of calls received by Police by residents or individuals who are approached by the women offering their services.

A group met with a view to providing different types of support to the on street workers. This involved representative from various churches who are offering a befriending service as well as spiritual and practical help, Teen Challenge, which is a Christian charity that offers help with addiction, Aberdeen Community Safety Partnership, an NHS Sexual Health representative, the local Community Council, and a new addition is likely to be Aberdeen University Student Law Clinic who are involved in community outreach work.

Free to Succeed was led by Torry Trust and supported the work of the Community Integration Unit (CIU) at HMP Craiginches in relation to women offenders being prepared for release, and subsequently released, by helping them to reintegrate within the community.

During the year they established contact with 12 women offenders and continued to mentor and support offenders and ex-offenders, responding to their unique circumstances and needs, so that they were increasingly empowered to address problems which



frequently lead to re-offending. They continued to work in partnership with agencies to ensure women could and did access appropriate support. 5 offenders engaged with the Project over the year, with 4 of them moving into voluntary or paid employment opportunities, further education or training.

Relationship Revolution delivered by Choices, aimed to break the cycle of gender based violence and sexual exploitation in victims and perpetrators in areas of high level recorded incidence in the city, through an early intervention programme to raise awareness and challenge prejudice and stereotypes amongst young people and vulnerable adults. It also provided participants with tools to assist them identify, avoid and navigate violent and exploitative relationships and signpost them to additional support services as required.

The Youth Counselling service started up in October 2012 with the support of senior management and guidance teams within designated areas. Referrals to the service came from guidance staff and the school nurse, and 5 months after setting up they had received 26 referrals and provided 107 counselling hours contact with 21 young people and there was a waiting list for the service.

Innovative and relevant relationship violence education was provided for S2, S3, S5 & S6 young people in Torry, Northfield and St Machar Academy, and they also provided single gender youth interventions for young people in all three areas, which proved to be popular and provided opportunities for youth workers to engage with young people on relationship issues.

Having witnessed the positive impact that the Relationship Revolution team have had on pupil understanding of how to maintain positive relationships, our school is eager to continue this partnership to augment pupil awareness in the importance of st, respect and

Over the year they worked with 780 young people, and delivered 161 workshops and 70 drop in clubs. Early evaluation of their education work showed that 95% of participants were more aware of the different forms of relationship violence and 85% of participants were more aware of organisations that provide help and support to young people experiencing relationship violence. One young person experiencing significant relationship issues was supported by the team to access relevant support, and several young people were able to discuss relationship issues with youth workers and receive guidance and support.

Young Victims of Crime was run by Victim Support Scotland (Aberdeen) and provided practical information and emotional support to 384 young victims of crime, through a mix of telephone support and face to face contact. The range of crimes committed against these young people varied from relatively low level crimes, such as theft and bullying, through to more serious crimes, such as serious assault. In addition, young people also continued to receive support from Victim Support Scotland's (Aberdeen) Witness Service via court familiarisation visits, support in court and support at remote links.

Training was crucial to giving the volunteers the knowledge and skill base to be able to provide effective and high quality support to young victims of crime. Over the year volunteers attended NESCPC Child Protection training, Assist Suicide Prevention Training, NHS Young People with Mental Health Issues Awareness, STRADA Children and Families Affected by Parental Substance Misuse training, Support After Murder, Domestic Abuse and Victims of Sexual Crime Training.

Tillydrone Community Flat continued to provide a range of services and activities for the



community. They established and extended a programme of classes and courses in response to local needs. They worked in partnership with Pathways to help people with their CV and look for employment opportunities. They delivered various courses and groups run by Adult Learning, and provided a venue for Job Centre Plus, Station House Media Unit, ACVO, Drugs Action, The M26 Gardening Group, PEEP, Stay and Play and the WEA.

Childcare support was provided through drop-in and learning support crèches which allowed 40 children to interact with other under 5s in a safe and stimulating environment. They continued to provide a PEEP group targeted at the under twelve months age group. This class was co-facilitated by a mother who took part as a learner in a PEEP class during the previous year.

Despite going through a period of transition they managed to keep services available for the people who needed them, and developed a stronger management committee of 8 people, giving more active community involvement in decision making and planning and a more independent and flexible resource which is responsive to the needs of the local community.



The crèche is now registered with the Care Inspectorate which will allow for the development of childcare provision therefore and also learning opportunities for parents. The Scottish Pre School Playgroup Association set up a weekly group in the flat supporting parents and their children to socialise, play and support each other together. The work of a trainee Social Worker, on placement from RGU, included the development of the front garden as an outdoor crèche area.

Drugs Action provided support to drug users or families and friends affected by drug use with one to one counselling, information and advice. The Drugs Action worker also supported the M26 group to access services and reduce risks to themselves and ultimately the wider community. ACC Social Care and Wellbeing Service, Job Parents and Families First also used the Flat for appointments in an informal community setting where service users felt more comfortable.

The complementary health treatments allowed local people to experience and benefit from holistic treatments which improve general health and wellbeing. Self reporting and questionnaire feedback has consistently evidenced very positive results for people using this service.

In addition they offered residents the chance to access computers and telephone for emergencies, photocopying, benefits support and advice and referrals to other organisations and agencies and meetings. Over the year there were more men using the flat, initially to use the phone for benefit enquiries or to use the washing machine, staff were then able to refer them on to either adult learning classes, job support from Pathways or to any other agencies that might be of benefit to them.

Printfield Community Project continued to provide Youth Activity Sessions for children and young people aged 5-16 years, After School Care sessions for primary school aged children, crèche sessions for children under 3 years and Adult Learner Courses. They also supported the Woodside Network and its subgroups. 80 Children and Parents/Carers went on a day trip to Edinburgh Zoo and the Management Committee took part in training. Welfare Reform Training was also attended to enable staff to support residents who were experiencing problems and concerns with the changes to benefits. Over the year 175

people were involved in the project, 98 of them under 16 years old. 30 volunteers contributed 600 volunteer hours.

Cummings Park Community Flat continued to offer access to services and Adult Learning opportunities within the community, including Basic Computing, Literacy and Cooking.

They developed a regular pattern of meetings for the 10 Management Committee members, as well as identifying training needs. The Flat was used by 16 partners or organisations to deliver activities or services, including Cash In Your Pocket information sessions, the Credit Union, Community Food Initiatives NE, ACC Housing Service, the Police and Community Wardens, shmu radio and the Cumming North Editorial team.

Family groups took place over the holidays, including outings, craft groups and outdoor discovery groups and a partnership with outreach NHS allowed them to gain and share information around smoking cessation, mental health issues, sexual health, signposting and oral health. A Homework group was established in the flat and was picked up and continued by Bramble Brae School and is now incorporated into their school programme. Friends of Grandparents As Parents continued to meet on a weekly basis offering one to one support and computer searching.



The opening hours of the flat increased with volunteers taking a more active role. A Financial Inclusion open day encouraged local people to find out what help or support was available to them. It also highlighted that money and tenancy issues were an immediate concern for people, especially with the changes taking place due to welfare reform. The Management Committee became more informed on how to support members of the community and direct them for proper support. The Credit Union has established a regular session at the flat and two members volunteered with the credit union at a school and a community centre.

Over the year 186 people participated in activities at the Flat, 36 of them were under 16 years old. 20 volunteers contributed 989 volunteer hours.

STAR Community Flat continued to provide services for the local community. A variety of agencies use the Flat including the Silver Surfers, ACVO, Pathways, CFINE, Credit Union, Lead, Hearing Service, Adult Education, Arts Development, City Wardens and Pearson's Fish Suppliers. The Flat had computers and a phone available for people to help with job seeking, or to make benefit enquiries and medical appointments.

Job Parents and Pathways both used the flat as a community base for supporting people back into work. St Machar Credit Union had a collection point at the flat and operated weekly providing saving and loan facilities and was busy with regular customers. CFINE provided affordable fruit and vegetables, and the flat has introduced fresh haddock for sale, which is ordered on a weekly basis and delivered fresh, straight from the fish house. This enabled many residents, who would otherwise be prohibited by cost, to include fresh fish in their diet.

The Silver Surfers (IT support for the over 55's) continued to be popular and had regular learners as well as people taking advantage of its drop in facility. This computer provision was complimented by a range of free computer classes which catered for all ages and abilities. Classes in Digital Photography and arts and crafts were delivered, as well as one to one tutoring sessions for help with reading, writing and numeracy skills, in association with Aberdeen City Council Lifelong Learning.

The Chill Out Room was booked regularly on a weekly basis by agencies that support adults with additional needs. Some of the younger visitors who used the Chill Out Room came from the Seaton Community Project Crèche and the Timber Kinder Nursery.

Supporting Volunteers and Under 12's Work was based in Middlefied, volunteers helped to organise the play schemes, which ran three times during the year plus a residential at Cromdale Outdoor Centre. Trips included Edinburgh Zoo, Stonehaven, Alford Transport Museum, Blair Drummond Safari Park, Land Mark and many others. Sessions also ran at Henry Rae Centre with educational activities including games, counting, puzzles and arts and crafts.

The volunteers planned the play scheme and as they became more experienced they were able to take on different tasks, for example designing and delivering leaflets, shopping, organising trips and looking after sick children. As they gained confidence they began to think about what else they might like to do, and during the year 5 volunteers moved on to training or employment.

The primary 1-3 club and the primary 4-6 club also ran regularly through the year, providing many activities from arts and crafts, baking, hammer beads, puzzles, board games, role play, general house toys, castle and cars and children had the opportunity to play games in the hall as well. Children were involved in the planning and their ideas incorporated in the programme. The family swimming groups expanded and they had five families attending. Altogether 80 young people participated, and 21 volunteers provided 2586 volunteer hours.



Middlefield Youth Flat continued to provide a wide range of activities for young people including access to computers and the internet to help with homework projects, applying online for jobs and keeping in contact with friends. Arts and crafts, pool, a Play Station and board games were also available, as well as cooking and swimming. Young people planned their own trips, including budgeting, and have had trips to Dundee, Stonehaven and Aberdeen for swimming and skating, Fraserburgh beach, Aden park, Montrose to pick strawberries, Landmark & Blair Drummond Safari Park. 20 young people attended a residential with Adventure Aberdeen and took part in gorge walking and swimming.

Over the year they supported 25 young people into work or placements and for many this was a positive step forward and they have continued to hold down jobs. For others further support is required and the Youth Flat continues to provide this. There were information sessions, with various themes including drugs and legal highs, delivered by Drugs Action, Caring and Wellbeing, Child Protection, and guides to safe use of social networking sites. Over the year 125 people participated in activities, 90 of these were under 16.

A Family Support Worker was funded at Fersands Family Centre, providing intensive support to 15 families with and without social work involvement, attending child protection case conferences, supervising

access in accordance with child protection plans, attending children's hearings and making regular home visits.



The project aimed to support parents with major life issues, enhancing their self-esteem and confidence and improving their parenting skills. During the year they ran one "I'm a Parent Get me Out of Here" course and two "Confidence and Assertiveness Building" programmes. They also had

three Parent & Toddler Groups running throughout the week, a Cookery Class and a "Well Woman" Group, which addresses issues highlighted by parents, including mental health awareness, healthy walks, child health, back to work/volunteering/further education, domestic abuse, creative arts, sexual health and yoga. Funding also went to the **Twos Group** to run 3 groups for 30 children.

Funding also supported some activities for young people.

The **Big Bang Drumming Group** met at Aberdeen Lads Club once a week and involved 10 young people.

ACT Attack was based in Tillydrone, and 30 young people were involved in weekly drama and dance sessions.

Torry Youth Karate Club was funded to provide free access to karate and 61 young people participated in the club.

Fersands Youth Work Support provided a range of activities for 90 young people aged 5-16.





Building Stronger, Safer Communities performance summary

There were **2,754 people** involved in stronger, safer communities initiatives and **1,578** of them were under **16** years old.

23 on street sex workers were referred to partner agencies who could offer them support.

5 female offenders had not reoffended within 6 months of release.

5 Community Flats or Projects provided services and activities used by **1,165 people**.

There were 168 volunteers involved, delivering 6,594 hours of volunteering.

Performance Indicator	Achieved in 11-12	Target for 12-13	Achieved in 12-13	
Number of hours of patrols engaging with on street sex workers	1,352	832	1,394	1
Number of new women engaging in on street sex work encountered through Operation Begonia (reducing target)	45	36	26	1
Numbers of call to the Police regarding 'on street' prostitution for Local Policing Areas of City Centre and Seaton (red. target)	102	80	41	1
Number of female offenders participating in activities to develop skills and creativity or improve wellbeing and diet	0	4	5	1
Number of young victims of crime receiving personal contact and signposting to specialist services	135	300	384	1
Number of attendances at Community Flats to use facilities including phone, computers and information/enquiries	872	1,010	1,848	1
Total number of participants involved		2,754		
Number of participants under 16 years old Number of volunteers involved Number of volunteer hours contributed			1,578	
			168	
			6,594	

Increasing Skills and

11% of the fund (£173,000) was allocated to this theme, and funding supported learning and creative activities across the City, as well neighbourhood projects ensuring access to services in priority areas and supporting community involvement and participation.

Funding was allocated to Station House Media Unit (shmu) ACC Arts Development Team, ACC Communities Team, ACVO Youth Volunteering, St Machar Parent Support Project, ACC Family Learning, Powis Gateway Community Centre, Silver City Surfers, the Reading Bus, Dad's Work, Cornhill Community Centre and WEA.



Connecting Communities Through Media was delivered by Station House Media Unit, and continued to provide access to media opportunities, training and support for volunteers, primarily based in the priority areas, through community radio and magazine platforms.

The project aimed to create a wide range of benefits for individuals and communities, fostering a spirit of engagement and partnership working, developing transferable skills in participants and contributing towards increased social capital.

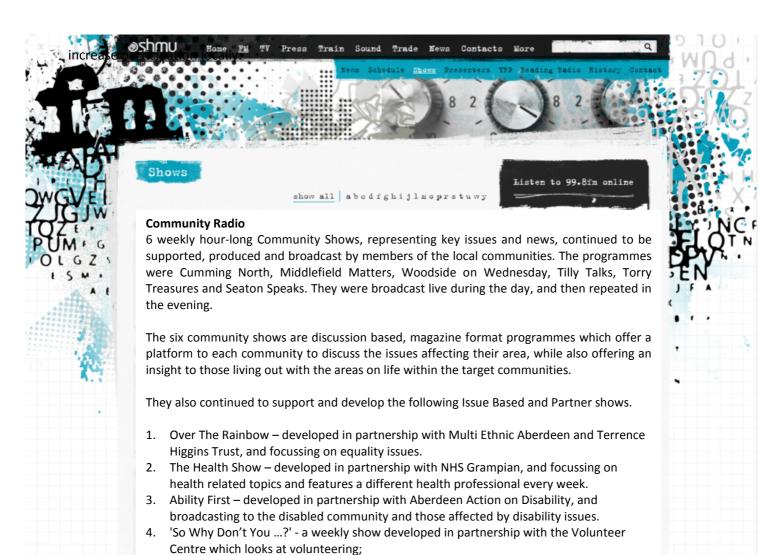
Over the year 733 people participated in both programmes, 370 were from the priority areas. 67 active radio volunteers were supported on a weekly basis throughout the year and 35 magazine volunteers participated in 91 Editorial team meetings. 20,573 volunteer hours were delivered and 261 people took part in training courses.

Community Magazines

Community magazines continued to be produced 3 times a year in each of the priority neighbourhoods, these were: Cumming North, Woodside Free Press, Middlefield Mirror, Tilly Tattle, Seaton Scene, Torry's Vision and Mastrick Matters. Most had 6-8 active volunteers who attended regular editorial meetings. Journalism Training was designed and delivered, funded by the FSF Community Support Fund. Taster sessions and two 6 week courses were delivered, with a further course fully booked. There was an improvement in deliveries of the magazines and all editorial teams were happy to continue to use the delivery company for distribution. Over the year the editorial teams welcomed new local people into their groups which saw the total number of magazine volunteers rise from 25 to 35 actively participating towards their own area magazines. Offering the journalism training helped encourage new residents to get involved with their community magazines. Representatives from each editorial team continued to meet monthly, as a Joint Editorial Team, to discuss common issues and share information that is relevant to all the magazines. As part of this the group worked alongside SHMU staff to create a new process to help improve the magazine systems including fitting them into a schedule that allows them to work consecutively. This proved to be successful allowing all 7 editorial teams to complete 3 magazines per year. This also enabled the teams to plan and structure all editorial meetings in advance and allow plenty of time to advertise dates within the local areas, which has helped



It has made me more confident with my writing. Before, I was reluctant to let anyone read what I had written. Since the course, I have had another article printed in the Donside newsletter, which I also put on the Facebook return was about. Bo at cles have received lovely.



- 5. Aye Gallus a show developed in partnership with the Grampian Senior Citizens Forum, looking at issues for the over 50's;
- 6. Around with a Ranger developed in partnership with the Woodland Ranger Service, focussing on environmental issues;
- 7. Reading Radio developed in partnership with the Reading Bus, focussing on literacy, confidence and communication skills Primary School children;
- 8. The Family Learning show developed in partnership with the Family Learning Team, focussing on pre-school learning between parents and their children;
- 9. Take A Moment developed in partnership with Woodside Parish Church, broadcasting to the Christian community.
- 10. Polish Breakfast is aimed at the Polish community of Aberdeen, is broadcast in Polish and plays polish music.
- 11. Youth Radio Project is produced and presented by local young people, looking at different topics every week ranging from sexual health to technology.
- 12. Indian Beats focuses on music, issues and stories from an Indian perspective.
- 13. Aber Dabba Doo dedicated to LGBT issues, featuring a mix of news, views, guests and information.
- 14. Women's Hour is presented by local women who talk about various issues ranging from health to hobbies.
- 15. Current Affairs Show takes a look at all the latest local hot-topics and big headlines from around the world, including live studio discussions with local guests as well as a host of interviews and features.
- 16. Culture Club looks at cultural activity in the Aberdeen and surrounding areas (new show).
- 17. Oddballs latest local, national and international sporting news and stories. Each week there are studio guests from local sports clubs *(new show).*
- 18. Literature Show profiles local and visiting writers with news and reviews of poetry, fiction and drama in the North East (new show).

The Community Newsdesk continued to gather information on events and activities specific to each of the seven target neighbourhoods and broadcast daily bulletins through the What's On guides on the Breakfast Show, Packed Lunch and Cruise Control. Daily community news reads also continued to be incorporated into the key community shows.

The Reading Radio was developed in partnership with the Reading Bus (with funding from BBC Children In Need) and focused on improving literacy, confidence and communication skills of young people (aged 10-12) from low income families in areas of high unemployment by providing them with training courses and experience of working on live radio. The one-hour live Reading Radio show, presented by four P7 pupils, is broadcast weekly. Over the year 570 young people participated in the programme which was delivered to 22 different classes across the 17 targeted schools. Of these 570 pupils, 268 were resident in the priority communities.

Youth Media was also delivered by Station House Media Unit, providing a range of creative opportunities for young people (between the age of 12-19), primarily from the regeneration areas of Aberdeen, to train and take part in all aspects of the production and broadcasting of regular 'live' radio and 'live' television programmes (researching, writing, presenting, performing, filming, vision mixing and editing).

The funding also enabled the organisation to support the participants in personal development, notably through increased confidence, communication and self-expression. This success was recognised through supporting young people to secure Dynamic Youth, Saltire Awards and work towards gaining SVQs.

The success of the Youth Radio Forum was built on, by creating a Youth Media Forum, which will offer the opportunity for young people to have a major influence on the future direction of the Youth Work delivered through SHMU.

Over the course of the reporting period 63 young people participated in the project, 32 of those were involved with the Youth Media Project on a regular basis, and 7748 hours of volunteering were carried out over the year, approximately 150 hours per week. 11 young people moved on to a positive destination, 3 secured University places, 3 college places which are all media related courses, 5 secured jobs and 1 received support from the shmuTRAIN Employability strand.

The impact of the work of the shmuTV project also began to bear fruit. Two of the shmuTV members applied to college for the Creative Industries—TV course for intake in September 2013, and one shmuTV member applied to college for the HNC in Performing Arts and received an unconditional offer.



Creative Communities was delivered by Aberdeen City Council Arts Development Team, and was a year long participatory arts for regeneration programme that aimed to develop skilled inspired, motivated and confident individuals, volunteers and communities.

The first stage of this was The Port, which offered creative opportunities to connect with young people aged 8 - 18 years of age and their wider communities. Youth groups worked on circus skills and artworks for the Port Parade. Visual art workshops were developed and delivered to play scheme groups and parents by Arts Development on the theme of Aberdeen's Port. The play scheme groups explored the themes of renewable energies and sea life then made costumes and kinetic sculptures for the 40th celebration of the Aberdeen International Youth Festival (AIYF).

The Port Parade showcased the months of participants' research, volunteer development and commitment, young people creating and performing and children and parents getting creative and excited. The parade made its lively way through the streets of Aberdeen's city centre, accompanied by the AIYF visiting performers, and culminated in a grand finale in Union Terrace Gardens.



I helped out at Catherine
Street Community Centre with
Fergus from Modo: stilt
walking and making wicker
ravens for the parade with a
'Get Ready for Work' group of
16–18 year old school leavers
from the Foyer. It was great to
engage with the young people
and rewarding when you
found out how to connect
with more difficult of
people. It was reverted by to
win their trust. I never

The second stage of the project was 'Cultivate', a practical, creative and ambitious new volunteer programme that aimed to invest and grow new, inspiring volunteer opportunities through ongoing training, support, mentoring and accreditation. Arts Development delivered a structured ten week volunteer training course for fourteen potential volunteers who took part in accredited training from April to June. At the end of the ten week programme further opportunities were built in for volunteers' to gain skills and experience through involvement in Theatre Modo workshops, prop and costume preparations and performing in the parade.



Families in Transition was delivered by Aberdeen City Council's Communities Team, and was designed to offer participants a range of learning opportunities aiming to assist them to overcome barriers to further learning, volunteering, employment and engagement in their local community. The project supported over 188 learners into learning during the year, some courses provided dedicated literacy programs and others provided integrated literacies provision. 1200 hours of additional learning hours were provided in the Learning Partnership areas of St Machar, Northfield and Torry.

The range of programmes included Confidence to Cook, ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages), ICT and dedicated literacies provision. Literacies provision was also integrated through the first three learning areas to ensure that individuals could participate fully. The project was grounded in and worked towards the life goals and aspirations of the learners. The facilitation of the learning provision involved a range of delivery methods and where possible opportunities were made available for learners to work towards formal accreditation. In one particular programme, learners were supported to achieve their Working with Others Core Skills module, as this linked with their unpaid work.



A group of individuals who are faced with substance misuse issues have progressed from a basic Computing class to progress into dealing with dedicated literacies. The Fairer Scotland fund allowed support to provide individuals the opportunity to undertake a programme of learning. This group had particular erratic attendance but as the programme has progressed the learners have maintained a level of commented and have been pro-active in ideality of their own learning needs. Is part of this learners had been encouraged to

At the end of each learning programme individuals were provided with a guidance session to enable them to progress in their learning. The project established clear and easily understood routes by which those learners could access opportunities. The project encouraged other public services and community based organisations to promote learning opportunities to improve basic skills for those adults with poor literacy, language or numeracy with whom they come into contact. By the end of the year the Adult Learning team was receiving 80 referrals per month highlighting the continued need for the services for adults.

Positive Lifestyles was delivered by St Machar Parent Support Project and aimed to take a holistic approach to an early intervention process to help families avoid getting to a crisis point in their lives. They ran sessions in local neighbourhoods, and met parents on an individual basis, looking at the issues which caused them problems and then supported them to engage with the relevant agencies to deal with their issues. With an informal approach, they hoped that parents would speak to them about their issues before they reached crisis point, avoiding future long term need for statutory services.

Over the year there were 146 people participating in the programme, 23 of them were under 16 years old. 119 parents were referred to relevant agencies for support, 26 received help with CVs and job interviews, 39 were helped to complete Disability Living Allowance forms, 27 were supported to claim grants, totalling £15,000 and 20 took up volunteering opportunities.

The young mums group met throughout the year, there were 8 parents and 11 children in the group, from across the priority areas. As well as making friends from other areas they became more involved with organisations within their communities. They took part in a variety of learning activities which they could put into practice in their everyday lives. These included a Home Safety session from Grampian Fire and Rescue, First Aid for Under 5s, Cooking and Making Meals on a Budget, a visit to SHMU radio, and sessions from Choices Relationship Revolution, Drugs Action and St Machar Credit Union. 21 people have joined the Credit Union and the Project now has a collection point for people to pay in their savings, encouraging them to avoid borrowing from expensive lenders. Outwith the group the parents are also supported with housing, benefits, welfare advice and other specific issues.

The Project also responded to individual enquiries and, where possible, people were signposted to the relevant agency. The Project saw an increase in enquiries relating to employment, housing, welfare and benefits during the year.



Katie came into contact with our project when she was 15 and was pregnant by her foster carer's son. Katie had retuned back to her mums to live after she found out she was pregnant as the social work removed her from the foster carers home. Katie's mum has had drink and drug problems and has a 3 year old son.

Katie first of all asked us to support her in attending school and her mum required financial support to be able to look after Katie. Katie had no clothing and nowhere to sleep. We encouraged Katie to attend school but she decided that she did not want to go back.

When Katie was pregnant we encouraged her to attend our young mums group so she could meet other people and chat about her fears and thoughts. She attended weekly and seemed to enjoy the group. Katie had a baby girl and was soon given a homeless flat as she was not getting on with her mum. We supported her in moving home when she got the flat in Tillydrone are.

Katie has now enrolled in a Beauty course at Aberdeen college. She feels that she is much better parent to her daughter and she seems in a much better position financially. Prior to intervention with the project her house was untidy, we have visited her home since and it has been decorated and clean. Her child has been enrolled in a local nursery, she has a positive relationship with her mother and she shares the childcare for her brother.

ACTION TAKEN

- Budgeting skills
- Telephone skills, Katie used the project phone to sort out a lot of her personal issues
- Applied for grants to help her to get started, £500 in total from Cash For Kids, The Frank Buttle, VSA, and the St Clair's Trust
- Katie attends our young mums group on a weekly basis with her daughter, where we look at cooking on a budget, parenting skills, maintaining health and safety at home, sex education, and nutrition in children.
- The group allows the mums time for themselves as we have a crèche every othe also encourages the baby's development.

The Peer Project was run on a reduced basis by Family Learning, as they were in the process of mainstreaming and recruiting for the post of Tutor (Volunteers). Funding was secured to create a half time post during term time and the project is now able to build on the good work done since the FSF funding began. 8 new volunteers are ready to discuss their aspirations and plans and will be fully supported to meet their own goals and targets. A further 20 names on the waiting list will also be contacted and introduced to the new worker.

Youth Volunteering Development was delivered by Aberdeen Council of Voluntary Organisations (ACVO). The Development Worker began employment in October 2012 and began to build up a network of schools and youth involving organisations. This was an ongoing part of the job with regular meetings and events attended.

The worker gave talks to young people who were involved with volunteering, interested in volunteering or those who hadn't yet considered volunteering. Some of these were one off events, for example St Machar Careers day, and some were recurring events, for example talks to the Transition Extreme Alternative Academy.

The worker also worked closely with volunteer involving organisations to ensure that young people were receiving recognition for their accomplishments. This involved promotion of the Saltire Awards, which are the new Scottish Government awards to recognise the commitment and contribution of young volunteers, and how organisations could easily encourage young people they worked with to get involved. This also involved the promotion of after care, making the young person feel like they have accomplished something, which could be as simple as presenting the young person with an award in front of a staff team or other volunteers to hosting big events to reward all volunteers at the same time.

A total of 367 young people were involved in volunteering, 80 young people from regeneration areas registered to take part in the Saltire awards, a total of 451 certificates were issued, 19,980 volunteer hours undertaken with 59 organisations, and 18 presentations given to youth groups and schools.

Powis Literacy and Numeracy Powis Gateway Community Centre delivered literacy and numeracy clubs at Sunnybank and Kittybrewster schools. The aim of the project was to enhance learning, leading to increased life choices and opportunities. At the club sessions the pupils completed a variety of activities to improve their literacy and numeracy skills. They were also encouraged to develop their social skills and build positive relationships with their peers, all taking place in a relaxed, comfortable atmosphere where the pupils felt safe and happy.

Two first year teacher-training students attended the club as volunteer helpers enabling the pupils to have one-to-one sessions with an adult. The students listened to individual reading and discussed the texts with them as well as working with individuals on the first 100 and first 200 most common words. The children really enjoyed and benefited from working with the students. Pupils completed Personal Learning Plans so that they were aware of their individual strengths and weaknesses and were encouraged to set their own short term targets. Attendance was excellent and there was a waiting list for both groups.

Silver City Surfers provided over 2000 free, one-to-one IT learning sessions with over 55's during the year, using the skills of their Volunteers and with the leadership of the Voluntary Management Committee and the support of the part-time Coordinator. A sample of their Learners were interviewed and reported that they were pleased with the way that they could learn what they wanted to and at their own pace. They

valued the support they received from the Volunteer Tutors and enjoyed the ambience created by the Hospitality Volunteers in the Coffee area. Many saved money through accessing services online, others were helped to make contact with friends and family through help in setting up emails, Skype and Facebook. Learners were able to develop hobbies and follow interests online by looking at how to access music, video, television and images online. People were also supported in learning how to use the computer for applying for jobs. Over the year 191 people registered as new learners, an average of 27 people attended weekly sessions, and 30 volunteers delivered 6816 hours of volunteering.



The Reading Bus worked with 425 parents and children in 8 different schools; Bramblebrae, St Peter's, Kittybrewster, Riverbank, Tullos, Walker Road, Manor Park and Holy Family. During the first session each chosen class had an introductory session with a storyteller with a separate session for parents. For the rest of the day, the storyteller worked with other classes introducing Scots through song, poems and stories. The parents and pupils worked with storytellers to create their own stories, poems or songs using the Doric book of verse, 'Nae Bad Ava' as their stimulus, over two subsequent sessions. Each class then presented their creations to their families at a culminate event, held either in the school or the local library.

Dad's Work continued to develop with a regular attendance of approximately 10-13 dads weekly. They constructed a 12 week parenting programme covering 4 main topics; Social literacy, historical relevance (ie where their idea of parenting comes from), parenting continuum (identifying the difference between child

centred and parent centred parenting) and child development. At the end they compiled a report participant on each recommendations and sign posting to other community support, the moving on group or to restart the 12 week programme again. This was based participants' on comprehension of programme materials, attendance and willingness to move to next level.



Stockethill Step Up at Cornhill Community Centre delivered a range of groups and activities for 64 adults. They set up two computing groups which mainly attracted older adults living in the area. This allowed some of them to keep in touch with families abroad, their confidence grew and there was clear evidence of this through evaluation by the tutor. The beginner's class from the previous term moved on to an intermediate class where they could increase their skills and confidence further.

Healthy Cooking also had a positive impact on the adults and their families in term of reducing food bills where adults learned to make their own healthy low cost meals. Feedback from these groups included references to losing weight, saving money and eating a healthier diet. The Zumba class proved popular with those attending, increasing their fitness and also giving them a sense of well being.

The WEA Alternative Literacies focused on providing literacy opportunities for non traditional learners who are hard to engage in learning. As in all Reach Out classes, literacies were embedded into the learning and the range of activities gave plenty of scope for social practice work. Over the year they had 61 people engaged with the programme, the majority of them were middle aged men who generally do not engage with any provision (education or social work). They ran 5 full courses (10 weeks each) , 3 x 6 week courses, 2 x 4 week courses, 9 one off events and one residential, and activities included traditional crafts (woodwork, dyeing and felting), an environmental group, a John Muir Award , Wilderness Explorers and football.



Increasing Skills and Creativity Performance Summary

There were 4776 people involved in increasing skills and creativity initiatives and 1650 of them were under 16 years old.

There were 662 volunteers involved, delivering 37,602 hours of volunteering.

In addition, 367 young people were supported to contribute 19,980 hours of volunteering for 59 organisations across the City.

1111 people took part in Arts activities, 584 of them were under 16 years old.

There were 662 volunteers involved, delivering 37,602 hours of

Performance Indicator	Achieved in 11-12	Target for 12-13	Achieved in 12-13	
Number of people active in Arts activities	905	600	1111	^
Number of people involved in adult learning activities	740	695	770	^
Number of people involved in producing Community Media at SHMU	82	85	102	^
Number of organisations working in partnership with SHMU	272	130	136	1
Number of people registered as new learners with Silver City Surfers	187	190	191	^
Number of young people involved in volunteering	n/a	20	367	1
Total number of participants involved			4776	
Number of participants under 16 years old			1650	
Number of volunteers involved		662		
Number of volunteer hours contributed		<u> </u>	37,602	

Regeneration Matters

Regeneration Matters is a forum of representatives from all priority neighbourhoods, who have been meeting monthly since November 2006 and are active in identifying and addressing issues around poverty and deprivation.

They also elect 7 members to act as community representatives on the Fairer Scotland Fund Board, alongside 3 representatives from the Civic Forum.

Over the year the group was involved with a number of issues including welfare reform, food poverty, and employability, and took part in a number of consultations.

Welfare reform

One of the issues likely to have the biggest impact on the most vulnerable people was the current and ongoing welfare reforms. Regeneration Matters established a Welfare Reform sub group, which met with the Cash in Your Pocket (CIYP) Development Worker, and agreed that a first step would be to evidence the case load of enquiries received by local projects. It had been acknowledged that projects and community flats in the local areas had received an influx of enquiries since changes to benefits began, especially to those entitled to Disability Living Allowance who were being assessed on whether they were fit to work. Projects involved were asked to complete forms which were used to evidence the increase in those seeking advice about the benefit changes taking place through the Welfare Reform implementation. It is the intention of the group to produce a six month report to look at the evidence and information gathered, which will be presented to the Cash In Your Pocket Partnership and the Community Planning Welfare Reform Board.



Food poverty

The Chief Executive of Community Food Initiatives NE attended a meeting to give information on Fareshare, a national UK charilty which distributes surplus produce from the food and drink industry to organisations working with disadvantaged people. He explained that FareShare was originally specific to organisations working with homeless people, however CFINE had negotiated the franchise for Aberdeen and their target group was not just homeless people but those suffering from food poverty as well.

This raised general discussion on food poverty and the need to map out what was available in Aberdeen for people in need, whether it was for food, furniture, white goods etc. The information provided by CFINE will be helpful to the Welfare Reform Sub group who will also look at food poverty and the upsurge of those requiring Food Banks, as well as looking into the effects of the benefit changes to people in their communities

Employability

Regeneration Matters met with a worker from Job Parents to discuss some of the queries which arose concerning the work of the Job Parents project. It was explained to the group that Job Parents is based in ACVO offices however they have meeting venues wherever clients want to meet. This can be in a local library or community venue or the client's home. The majority of their clients are from the regeneration areas. It was also stated that from the 59 people who have successfully gained employment, 45 of these work full time and 14 part-time. The group appreciated the opportunity to find out more about the project and to take this back to their local groups.

Communications

The group received feedback on a Journalism Course which was funded through the Community Support Fund. The need for the course was identified by Station House Media Unit, through their work supporting the community magazine editorial teams. The training was for those who wished to contribute to articles for the magazine but wanted to improve their skills. The first course took place in February and those who attended stated that the course had been very beneficial in providing them with the skills they needed. The success of this course led to a second course and it is intended there will be additional future courses. Feedback from those who attended the second course was also very positive and there are plans to set up an advanced course.

AGM

The Regeneration Matters Annual General Meeting took place in August 2012. The group went over their Annual Report for the year which detailed some of the work they had been involved with from 2011-2012. The group also elected a new Chair and Vice Chair.



Information sharing and networking

2 members of the group, along with the Development Officer, hosted a stall at the Tenants Open Day. Information was given out at the stall to promote membership of the Regeneration Matters group. There was also a selection of Community Magazines which showed some of the work going on in the Regeneration areas. Information on the projects the Fairer Scotland Fund funded was also made available. Contact information was given to anyone who wished to know more about or become involved in any of the funded projects.

Consultations

A sub group completed a questionnaire for an exploratory consultation on the proposed Community Empowerment & Renewal Bill. The proposed Community Empowerment and Renewal Bill will support communities to achieve their own goals and aspirations through taking independent action and by having their voices heard in the decisions that affect their area. Ideas from the consultation are in a summary report which is available on the Scottish Government website. There will be further consultation ongoing in the summer of 2013 before the final Bill is adopted.

An audit of Community Planning took place in Aberdeen in September 2012. The overall aim of the audit was to access the effectives of community planning in making a difference to local communities. The Audit team met with a number of external partners and council departments. The group discussed funded projects in their areas and the impact of these projects on their local communities. Information from the audit is available in a report from Audit Scotland 'Community Planning in Aberdeen, March 2013'.

A PhD student met with the group to consult on the work he was undertaking entitled 'The Impact of Finance and Debt on Ordinary Families'. Members of the group were asked to promote his research to their own community groups and to gauge if they would be interested in taking part in the focus groups that would be set up.

A worker on placement at Station House Media Unit met with the group to discuss the project she is involved in which focuses on the more negative effects of living in Aberdeen, comparing the disparity of those who are not benefiting from the wealth generated by the oil industry and those who are.

For more information on Regeneration Matters please see the Aberdeen Community Planning website: http://www.communityplanningaberdeen.org.uk/Internet/Regeneration/RegenerationMatters.asp

Community Support Fund

This funding (£45,000) is distributed by Regeneration Matters on behalf of the FSF Board, and supports community involvement in regeneration issues, training, support to attend meetings, events and conferences, communications and capacity building.

Some of the activities funded during the year include:

Printing and distribution of Community magazines

The Community Magazine have been established for a number of years in Cummings Park/Northfield, Middlefield, Seaton, Woodside, Tillydrone and Torry and more recently in Mastrick. Each area had its own editorial group and ensured that local issues and what's on in their areas is included in the 3 publications that were produced in each of the priority neighbourhoods during the year. There was also an opportunity for each of the editorials groups to meet at the Joint Editorial Meetings (JET) which gave the group an overall view of what is happening in each area and on any improvements they could make to the publications.

Multi Project Training Day

The shared training event consisted of staff and volunteers from work teams, projects and professional agencies getting together to share information, resources and advice, and to build relationships between the groups. The aim of the training was to build good networking relationships within the St Machar Learning Partnership.

Middlefield Community Project - Community Activity Group

Women from the Active Living Group used the funding to widen their health focused programme and increase their participation of healthy activities, including visiting a local gym. It is hoped that the women who take up these activities will be encouraged to become more involved, not only in healthy activities, but in volunteering at the Middlefield Community Project.

Regeneration Matters Review

The group took part in a review weekend, when they had the opportunity to go over the role of members of the Fairer Scotland Board and to arrange the format for the group's Annual General Meeting. At the monthly group meetings there is always limited time to share ideas and information on what is happening in the each of the areas, having the away day gave members the time to exchange information and also to produce a development plan for the coming 6 months of meetings.

Youth Radio trip to Vienna

The Youth Radio Project in June 2012 took part in an exchange visit to Austria to meet up with other young people from Austria, Romania, Italy and Poland. The trip gave the young people the opportunity to learn and develop skills that they shared with young people from the other countries. In addition to the radio activities they used TV and print media and explored different countries perception of how young people are portrayed in the media. Funding from the Community Support Fund went toward costs of T-shirt and sweatshirts with the SHMU logo to promote their project on the trip. The young people provided



feedback of their trip at their "Vienna Showcase" which was presented in the Belmont Cinema.

Social Media and Website training

A training workshop took place through requests from some of the Management Committee members of regeneration projects. The workshop was for those interested in starting up a web or facebook page for their projects. At the first workshop users were given a work book this was used as a self guide which reinforced training from the first workshop. Once users feel confident with the initial training an advanced course will be arranged.

Girls Allowed

The Girls Allowed group went on a two day residential camp where they produced art work using silk screen and etching that represented keeping yourself safe. The finished product was exhibited in their own centre and other venues across the city.

Administrative support for neighbourhood networks

Funding is provided to clerk the meetings of the Tillydrone Network group. This allows minutes of the meetings to be taken and sent out to all members of the network.



Promotion and resource materials for Tillydrone Gala Day

The Tillydrone Annual Gala day was organised by a number of local projects and agencies based in the Tillydrone area. Funding was used to hire a Bouncy Castle, face painting and a number of other attractions which were enjoyed by local people who came along to the event. Although the theme of the day was a fun day for all a number of local agencies had their own fundraising stalls The event aimed to raise awareness of services and facilities in the area, and to build community spirit.

IT Equipment

Printfield project received funding to purchase IT equipment to allow local people access to a computer and printer.

Attendance at Tenants Information event

A member from the Woodside network attended the Tenants Information Service Annual Conference held in June 2013. The theme of the conference was 'Our House, Our Home, Our Community', and there were four showcases from the TIS Projects in East Lothian, North Lanarkshire, East Ayrshire and South Lanarkshire. The Conference gave delegates the opportunity to:

- · Hear from tenants and staff about the innovative work they are doing to make a difference
- Learn about the different initiatives to get more tenant involvement
- · Find out how tenants and landlords are planning for Tenant Scrutiny

Childcare and Travel expenses

Funding was made available for childcare/travel costs for project members or individuals who wished to attend meetings/seminars/conferences.



FSF Programme 12–13

Getting People Into Work		
Job Parents	ACVO	128,380
Loan Team	ACVO	49,000
Volunteering in the City	Aberdeen Forward Ltd	4,500
Princes Trust Team Programme	Aberdeen Foyer	13,000
NESS Employment Service	North East Sensory Services	23,477
Pathways	Pathways	170,888
SHMU Train Initiative	Station House Media Unit	34,000
Dynamics	WEA	6,000
EmployabiliTy	WEA	3,600
Maximising Income		
Care and Repair Funding Officer	Care and Repair	25,682
CAB Money Advice Outreach Project	Citizens Advice Bureau	80,000
Cash In Your Pocket Partnership (CIYPP) Team	Grampian Housing Association	80,000
NESCU Credit Union Access Project	North East Scotland Credit Union	41,000
St Machar Credit Union	St Machar Credit Union	40,000
WEA Count Us In	WEA	7,500
Aberdeen Illness and Disability Advice Service	Aberdeen Illness and Disability Advice	23,556
Improving Mental Health and Wellbeing		
Seaton Support for Rehab/Recovery	ACC, Education Culture and Sports	21,258
Challenging Barriers	ACC, Healthy Minds	4,200
Street Alternatives	The Cyrenians	15,000
FARE (Food Access Regeneration)	CFINE	20,000
Give Kids A Chance	NHS Grampian/Children 1 st	11,110
Healthy Roots - Manor Park	Healthy Roots	3,000
Home-Start	Home-Start Aberdeen	30,251
ACIS Youth Counselling	Mental Health Aberdeen	48,000
Calsayseat Counselling	Mental Health Aberdeen	34,000
Torry Adult Counselling & Torry Talk	Mental Health Aberdeen	43,000
Pathways to Wellbeing	Pathways	59,233
Feel Good Project	Printfield Community Project	2,400
M26 Male Drop In/Activities	Tillydrone Community Council	4,266
Health & Well Being Project	Tillydrone Community Flat	7,200

FSF Programme 12–13

Building Stronger, Safer Communities		
Cummings Park Community Flat	ACC, Lifelong Learning	27,841
Big Bang Drumming Group	Aberdeen Lads Club	2,810
Operation Begonia	Grampian Police	23,296
Supporting Volunteers and Under 12's work	Middlefield Community Project	18,085
Middlefield Youth Flat	Middlefield Community Project	45,000
STAR Community Flat	Langstane Housing Association	25,050
ACT Attack	St George's Church	2,500
Tillydrone Community Flat	Tillydrone Community Flat	49,000
Torry Youth Karate Club	Torry Youth Karate Club	6,459
Relationship Revolution	Choices Aberdeen	29,000
Family Support Worker	Fersands Family Centre	4,212
Youth Work Support	Fersands Community Project	7,000
Twos Group	Fersands Family Centre	7,000
Printfield Community Project	Printfield Community Project	27,000
Young Victims of Crime	Victim Support Aberdeen	24,375
Free To Succeed - Closing the Gaps	Torry Trust	14,500
Increasing Skills and Creativity		
Creative Communities	ACC, Arts Development	35,000
FIT - Families in Transition	ACC, Lifelong Learning	26,546
Reading Bus	ACC, Education	4,000
PEER group	ACC, Family Learning	11,000
Dad's Work	Dad's Work	4,000
Stockethill Step Up	Cornhill Community Centre	5,600
Powis Literacy and Numeracy	Powis Gateway Community Centre	10,412
Silver City Surfers	Silver City Surfers	8,807
Connecting Communities Through Media	Station House Media Unit	67,000
Youth Media	Station House Media Unit	15,000
Positive Lifestyles	St Machar Parent Support Project	25,303
WEA - Alternative Literacies	WEA	6,500
Youth Volunteering Development	ACVO	30,878





