
COMMITTEE	Council
DATE	14 th May 2014
DIRECTOR	Angela Scott
TITLE OF REPORT	Fairer Aberdeen Fund Progress Report (1 st April - 30 th September 2013)
REPORT NUMBER:	CG/14/055
CHECKLIST RECEIVED	Yes

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To provide Members with a 6 month report on progress of the Fairer Aberdeen Fund programme from 1st April to 30th September 2013 and to advise on projects currently being funded in this financial year.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

The Committee is asked to:

- a) Consider and advise the Fairer Aberdeen Board of the Committee's comments on progress.
- b) Note the information at Appendix 1 outlining Fairer Aberdeen Fund Project activity between April 1st and Sept 30th 2013.
- c) Note the information at Appendix 2 listing the initiatives being funded in 2014-15.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Fairer Scotland Fund was created by the Scottish Government in December 2008, aimed at tackling poverty and deprivation. The first two years of the fund were ringfenced within the Council's budget for the Community Planning partnership in order to support partners to work together to tackle area- based and individual poverty; and to help more people access and sustain employment opportunities

In 2013-14 the Council agreed a sum of £1.625m to be managed by the Fairer Aberdeen Board on behalf of Community Planning Aberdeen. The Fairer Aberdeen Board comprises of the Chair of Community Planning Aberdeen, Cllr Barney Crockett, three Aberdeen City Councillors (Councillors Yvonne Allan, Gordon Graham and Jim Noble), one representative from Aberdeen Council for Voluntary Organisations, one representative from NHS Grampian, one representative from Grampian Police, seven representatives from

priority regeneration areas (appointed through the Regeneration Matters Group), and three representatives from the Aberdeen Civic Forum. In December 2013 it was agreed that the name of the Fund would be changed to Fairer Aberdeen.

An application process is in place to ensure funding is allocated to appropriate programmes and projects. Organisations funded by the Fairer Aberdeen Board are required to meet specific terms and conditions and comply with State Aid regulations, where required, and to comply with "Following the Public Pound " financial guidance.

4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

Personnel

The Fairer Aberdeen Fund provides funding for a Support Team currently comprising 1 FTE Programme Coordinator and 1 FTE Development Worker. This small team is responsible for fund allocation, reporting, evaluation of Fairer Aberdeen Fund programmes, projects and initiatives, partnership building, advising applicants, supporting the Regeneration Matters community representatives group, administering and managing the Fairer Aberdeen Fund on behalf of the Fairer Aberdeen Board.

Sustainability and Environment

The Fairer Aberdeen Fund plays an important part in providing services that tackle poverty and contribute to improving sustainability by improving the environment and wellbeing for the cities most disadvantaged communities and vulnerable individuals. The thematic programmes are addressing unemployment, providing financial inclusion services, improving health and literacies and enabling more sustainable and safer communities. Neighbourhood based projects are responding to locally identified issues.

5. BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES

- 5.1 The Finance and Resources Committee of the 12th November 2009 agreed that half yearly updates should be provided on the outcomes achieved through the investment in Fairer Aberdeen Fund.
- 5.2 Appendix 1 provides detail on programmes and projects funded through Fairer Aberdeen Fund between the 1st April and the 30th September 2013 for members' consideration.
- 5.3 Appendix 2 lists the initiatives which are being funded in 2014-15.

6. IMPACT

The main purpose for the fund is targeting disadvantaged communities and vulnerable groups and individuals. The Fairer Aberdeen Board has agreed the following outcomes:

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

In 2014-15 the Board will be reviewing priorities and outcomes in line with the Single Outcome Agreement and local needs.

The Fairer Aberdeen Fund also contributes to a wide range of objectives contained within the Councils policy statement, Aberdeen – the Smarter City in relation to “challenging inequalities wherever they exist and bringing our communities closed together.”

Fairer Aberdeen Fund initiatives also contribute to the delivery of the Council’s Anti-Poverty Strategy and have an important role in responding to Welfare Reform changes.

7. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

Failure to continue to address the needs of Aberdeen’s most disadvantaged communities would have a detrimental effect for the individuals and communities involved and potentially increased costs in the long term for public services. Supporting people into employment, maximizing people’s income, providing early intervention in relation to education and health is not only a better outcome for individuals but reduces the costs involved in responding to the effects of poverty in the long run.

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

The information contained at Appendix 1 is based on the monitoring reports that funded projects are required to produce as part of the terms and conditions for Fairer Aberdeen Fund grant.

9. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

Susan Thoms
Fairer Aberdeen Fund Programme Coordinator, tel 01224 523833
sthoms@aberdeencity.gov.uk

Dave Kilgour
Strategist, tel 01224 523035
dkilgour@aberdeencity.gov.uk

Fairer Aberdeen Fund 2013-14

6 Month Progress Report (1st April – 30th Sept 2013)

In 2013-14 Aberdeen City Council allocated £1.625m to the Fairer Aberdeen Fund (previously the Fairer Scotland Fund). The fund is managed by the Fairer Aberdeen Board on behalf of Community Planning Aberdeen, and members are from Aberdeen City Council, partner organisations and communities.

The main purpose for the fund is targeting disadvantaged communities and vulnerable groups and individuals. The Board has agreed 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**

This report details how the fund has been allocated and the progress made from April to September 2013.

Maximising income

£396,000 was allocated to this theme, which aims to improve access to affordable financial services and products, deliver financial education initiatives, and provide coordinated advice and information services.

St Machar Credit Union and North East Scotland Credit Union Access Project promote access to saving schemes and affordable loans across all the priority areas.

Citizens Advice Bureau Money Advice Outreach Project, Care and Repair and Aberdeen Illness and Disability Advice Service offer advice and information. Cash in your Pocket acts as a central hub for its financial inclusion partners and WEA build financial literacies into their education programmes.

A new initiative to receive funding is Aberdeen Food Banks Partnership, which aims to generate as much produce as possible for the benefit of those in food poverty, and to provide access to financial, employability and educational support and information.

Over the 6 months 1587 affordable loans, totalling almost £1 million, were provided by the credit unions.

1076 people received money advice and income maximisation advice, resulting in client financial gain of £1,090,000

Getting People into Work

£295,000 was allocated to ensuring that people had access to the support and skills they needed to return to work.

Pathways Employability service supports people into work, offering help with CVs, job searches and completing application forms. They run weekly drop in sessions in all the priority areas.

North East Sensory Services Employment Service supports people with sight and/or hearing impairments, as well as helping people retain employment.

Station House Media Unit delivers the SHMU Train Initiative, as well as early intervention work in schools. WEA and the Princes Trust Team Programme offer training and development programmes for young people.

Pathways managed the Support Fund which helps to pay expenses that can be a barrier to returning to work.

Over the 6 months 142 people moved into work. Weekly employment support drop in sessions were run in 14 priority neighbourhoods. 104 young people were involved in employability initiatives with 37 of them moving on to employment, education or training.

Improving Health and Wellbeing

£315,000 was allocated to health and wellbeing and reducing health inequalities.

Pathways to Wellbeing and Mental Health Aberdeen provided counselling services in all of the priority areas, Seaton Support for Recovery and the Tillydrone M26 group offered support to people recovering from drug, alcohol and mental health issues.

Printfield Feel Good and Tillydrone Health and Wellbeing projects offered complementary health treatments and Healthy Roots continued to maintain Manor Park in Middlefield.

Homestart offered home visiting support to families in need, and the Cyrenians supported homeless people, both initiatives had a large number of volunteer hours contributed. The Community Food Development project continued to improve access to affordable and healthy food.

Ashgrove Family Centre received funding to buy equipment for their Outdoor Explorers group and Give Kids A Chance provided opportunities for vulnerable young people to take part in hobbies and activities.

Over the 6 months 214 adults and 114 children used the mental health counselling provision. 70 Community Food Outlets were operating and 12.5 tonnes of free FareShare produce was distributed to 35 organisations.

Building Stronger, Safer Communities

£280,000 was allocated to supporting neighbourhood projects and services and contributing to community safety.

Community Flats in Cummings Park, Printfield, Seaton and Tillydrone offer a range of services and activities as well as providing venues for other organisations to work within local communities.

Middlefield Youth Flat offered services for young people, and for under 11s through its Supporting Volunteers work. Additional youth activities were provided by the Big Bang Drumming Group, ACT Attack and Fersands Youth Work Support.

Family support work and a Twos group were funded in Fersands Family Centre and Choices Relationship Revolution aimed to raise awareness of gender based violence amongst young people.

Free To Succeed supported female offenders being released from prison, and Operation Begonia provided additional police patrols to engage with on street sex workers. With reduced numbers of calls to the police regarding on street prostitution, and fewer women encountered, Operation Begonia will now begin to target off street sex workers.

Over the 6 months there were 481 hours of patrols engaging with on street sex workers, and 7 women offenders supported during their release from prison. 978 people engaged in services and activities in community flats and there were over 5000 attendances at Cummings Park, Seaton and Tillydrone community flats.

Increasing Skills and Creativity

£220,000 was allocated to supported learning and creative activities.

The Creative Learning Team delivered Creative Communities, a participatory arts for regeneration programme, and Station House Media Unit supported Community Media and Youth Media.

The Reading Bus delivered story telling sessions in schools, and Stockethill Step up provided activities for adults.

Silver City Surfers provided IT sessions for older people, WEA focused on providing literacy support for non-traditional learners, and Literacies for Life, delivered by the Adult Learning Service, provided literacy opportunities.

St Machar Parent Support Project Positive Lifestyles supported parents, particularly with issues arising from benefit reforms.

Over the 6 months there were 299 people involved in Arts activities, 477 in adult learning activities and 115 in producing community media. 367 young people and 212 adults were involved in volunteering, contributing 14,618 volunteer hours.

From 1st April to 30th September over £1,500,000 has been awarded to over 50 initiatives, supporting Projects in Regeneration Areas and work across the City with vulnerable groups and individuals. Grants range from £2,000 to £170,000 in value.

A total of 10,486 people have been involved in funded initiatives, 2,969 of them under 16. 628 volunteers have carried out an estimated 46,622 hours of volunteering time.

**Susan Thoms
Fairer Aberdeen Fund Coordinator**

Fairer Aberdeen Fund Programme 2014-15

Maximising Income

Care and Repair Funding Officer
 CAB Money Advice Outreach Project
 Cash In Your Pocket Team
 NESCU Credit Union Access Project
 St Machar Credit Union
 WEA Count Us In
 Aberdeen Illness and Disability Advice Service
 Aberdeen Food Banks Strategy

Care and Repair
 Citizens Advice Bureau
 ACVO
 North East Scotland Credit Union
 St Machar Credit Union
 WEA
 AIDAS
 CFINE

Getting People Into Work

Princes Trust Team Programme
 NESS Employment Service
 Pathways
 SHMU Train Initiative
 Dynamics
 Employability

Aberdeen Foyer
 North East Sensory Services
 Pathways
 Station House Media Unit
 WEA
 WEA

Improving Health and Wellbeing

Seaton Support for Rehab/Recovery
 Street Alternatives
 Community Food Development Project
 Give Kids A Chance
 Healthy Roots - Manor Park
 Home-Start
 ACIS Youth Counselling
 Calsayseat Counselling
 Torry Adult Counselling & Torry Talk
 Pathways to Wellbeing
 Feel Good Project
 Health & Well Being Project

ACC, Education Culture and Sports
 The Cyrenians
 CFINE
 Children 1st
 Healthy Roots
 Home-Start Aberdeen
 Mental Health Aberdeen
 Mental Health Aberdeen
 Mental Health Aberdeen
 Pathways
 Printfield Community Project
 Tillydrone Community Flat

Building Stronger, Safer Communities

Cummings Park Community Flat
 Big Bang Drumming Group
 Operation Begonia
 Supporting Volunteers and Under 11s work
 Middlefield Youth Flat
 STAR Community Flat
 ACT Attack
 Tillydrone Community Flat
 Relationship Revolution
 Family Support Worker
 Youth Work Support
 Twos Group
 Printfield Community Project
 Free To Succeed - Closing the Gaps

Cummings Park Flat M/C
 Aberdeen Lads Club
 Scottish Police Authority
 Middlefield Community Project
 Middlefield Community Project
 Langstane Housing Association
 St George's Church
 Tillydrone Community Flat M/C
 Choices Aberdeen
 Fersands Family Centre
 Fersands Community Project
 Fersands Family Centre
 Printfield Community Project
 Torry Trust

Increasing Skills and Creativity

Creative Communities
 Reading Bus
 Stockethill Step Up
 Silver City Surfers
 Community Media
 Youth Media
 Positive Lifestyles
 WEA - Alternative Literacies
 Literacies for Life

ACC, Arts Development
 ACC, Education
 Cornhill Community Centre
 Silver City Surfers
 Station House Media Unit
 Station House Media Unit
 St Machar Parent Support Project
 WEA
 ACC, Lifelong Learning