



Fairer Aberdeen Fund

6 Month Progress Report (1st April – 30th Sept 2014)

In 2014-15 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 2014.

Maximising income

£397,000 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.

Aberdeen Food Banks Partnership 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 1897 affordable loans, totalling almost £1 million, were provided by the credit unions. Money and income maximisation advice was provided for 1146 people, resulting in client financial gain of £1,563,570. The Food Bank Partnership dispersed 38 tonnes of free food and provided 3615 food parcels for 4490 people.

As can be seen in the table below, most of the figures achieved are up compared to the same time period in 2013, and all are on line to meet the full year target for 2014-15.

Indicator	April-Sept 2013	Target 14-15 (full year)	April-Sept 2014
Number of Credit Union adult savers	3577	4200	4904
Number of Credit Union junior savers	1692	2200	2278
Number of affordable loans provided by Credit Unions	1587	3350	1897
Amount of affordable loans provided by Credit Unions	£999,583	£1,900,000	£971,133
Total savings deposited with Credit Unions	£1,786,498	£1,900,000	£2,166,979
Number of credit union collection points	20	23	18
Number of people receiving money advice	210	475	258
No. of people receiving income maximisation advice	717	1393	888
Number of households receiving maximising income/charitable funding advice from Care & Repair	149	310	193
Total client financial gain	£1,089,216	£1,813,137	£1,563,570
Number of referrals to Cash In Your Pocket database	864	1800	1222
Quantity of free produce distributed in tonnes	12.5	75	38.15
Number of 5kg food parcels distributed	2524	7000	3615
Number of food bank beneficiaries	1514	6000	4490

Getting People into Work

£250,000 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 also manage the Support Fund which helps to pay expenses that can be a barrier to returning to work.

Over the 6 months 224 people moved into work. Weekly employment support drop in sessions were run in 14 priority neighbourhoods. 125 young people were involved in employability initiatives with 57 of them moving on to employment, education or training. Halfway through the year Pathways have already met their full year target of 200 people into work.

As can be seen in the table below, most of the figures achieved are up compared to the same time period in 2013, and all are on line to meet the full year target for 2014-15.

Indicator	April-Sept 2013	Target 14-15 (full year)	April-Sept 2014
Number of people into work	142	241	224
Number of people accessing the Support Fund	24	40	43
Access Centres in areas of high unemployment offering weekly Employment Support drop In sessions	14	14	14
Number of young people involved in MCMC activities	104	189	125
Number of young people moving on to employment, education or training	37	131	57
Number of people supported into work by Pathways	124	200	200
Number of people supported into work by NESS	8	8	6
Number of people supported into work by shmuTrain	8	15	7

Improving Health and Wellbeing

£307,000 was allocated to health and wellbeing and reducing health inequalities.

Pathways to Wellbeing and Mental Health Aberdeen provide counselling services in all of the priority areas, these continue to be oversubscribed and have long waiting lists. Seaton Support for Recovery offer support to people recovering from drug, alcohol and mental health issues.

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

Homestart offers home visiting support to families in need, and the Cyrenians support homeless people. The Community Food Development project continued to improve access to affordable and healthy food.

Over the 6 months 262 adults and 95 children used the mental health counselling provision. 63 Community Food Outlets were operating, 32 of them in sheltered housing complexes. Home-Start supported 20 families in regeneration areas and 2 of these families no longer need social work support.

As can be seen in the table below, several of the figures achieved are up compared to the same time period in 2013, and all are on line to meet the full year target for 2014-15.

Indicator	April-Sept 2013	Target 14-15 (full year)	April-Sept 2014
Number of operational Community Food Outlets	70	71	63
Number of Community Food Outlets operating in Sheltered Housing	31	31	32
Amount of sales in Community Food Outlets	£38,125	£90,000	£43,364
Number of adult clients using mental health counselling provision	214	350	262
Number of clients under 16 using mental health counselling provision	114	145	95
Number of counselling sessions provided	2368	2956	2301
Number of new and existing clients using the Seaton Recovery project and support on a regular basis	61	40	38
Number of people attending Cyrenian's Street Alternative sessions	20	20	20
Number of families supported in by Home-Start	22	35	20
Number of families supported by Home-Start no longer needing Social Work support	3	5	2

Building Stronger, Safer Communities

£263,000 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 offers services for young people, and for younger children through its Under 11s work. Additional youth activities are provided by the Big Bang Drumming Group, ACT Attack and Fersands Youth Work Support.

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

Free to Succeed supports female offenders being released from prison, their numbers are lower due to fewer women being transferred to the new prison. They continue to support a woman released earlier in the year.

Operation Begonia provides 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 also targeting off street sex workers. The number of patrols is lower than anticipated due to front line police officers being allocated to duties in Glasgow during the Commonwealth Games.

Over the 6 months there were 355 hours of patrols engaging with on street sex workers, and 2 women offenders were supported during their release from prison. A total of 1427 people engaged in services and activities in community flats and there were 8326 attendances to use facilities at community flats.

As can be seen in the table below, several of the figures achieved are up compared to the same time period in 2013, and all are on line to meet the full year target for 2014-15.

Indicator	April-Sept 2013	Target 14-15 (full year)	April-Sept 2014
Number of new women encountered through Operation Begonia	4	16	14
Number of hours of patrols engaging with on street sex workers	481	960	355
Numbers of call to the Police regarding 'on street' prostitution for Local Policing Areas of City Centre and Seaton	26	50	34
Number of female offenders engaged with Free to Succeed	8	3	2
Number of people participating in activities and services provided by Community Projects and Flats	978	1176	1427
Number of attendances at Community Flats to use facilities including phone, computers and information/enquiries	5467	11,570	8326
Numbers of young people using the Middlefield Youth Flat	164	130	80
Number of children registered at Printfield After School Club	48	48	51

Increasing Skills and Creativity

£213,000 was allocated to supported learning and creative activities.

The Creative Learning Team delivers Lift, an arts and wellbeing project which aims to offer quality experiences in arts, culture and creativity that contribute to individuals' wellbeing and further cultural participation. Station House Media Unit supports Community Media and Youth Media.

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

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

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

Over the 6 months there were 68 people involved in Arts activities, 411 in adult learning activities and 120 in producing community media. 213 people were involved in volunteering, contributing 14,546 volunteer hours.

As can be seen in the table below, most of the figures achieved are up compared to the same time period in 2013, and all are on line to meet the full year target for 2014-15.

Indicator	April-Sept 2013	Target 14-15 (full year)	April-Sept 2014
Number of people active in Arts activities	n/a	276	68
Number of people involved in adult learning activities	477	488	411
Number of Adult learners attending literacy learning	174	271	141
Number of people involved in producing Community Media at SHMU	115	115	120
Number of organisations working in partnership with SHMU	114	100	247
Number of people registered as new learners with Silver City Surfers	89	185	117
Number of young people participating in Youth Media (radio and TV)	54	80	76
Number of volunteers involved	212	196	213
Number of volunteer hours contributed	14,618	29,510	14,546

From 1st April to 30th September over £1,430,000 has been awarded to 50 initiatives, supporting Projects in Regeneration Areas and work across the City with vulnerable groups and individuals. Grants range from £2,400 to £148,000 in value.

Susan Thoms
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