

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Council
DATE	29 th June 2016
DIRECTOR	Pete Leonard
TITLE OF REPORT	Fairer Aberdeen Fund 6 month progress report 2015-16
REPORT NUMBER	CHI/16/103
CHECKLIST COMPLETED	Yes

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To provide Members with the 6 month progress report 2015-16 for the Fairer Aberdeen Fund programme, and the allocation of funding for 2016-17.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

The Council is asked to:

- a) Consider and advise the Fairer Aberdeen Board of the Council's comments on the 6 month progress report for 2015-16, at Appendix 1.
- b) Note the information at Appendix 2 listing the initiatives being funded in 2016-17.
- c) Note that the Fairer Aberdeen Board has agreed to allocate up to £20,000 to undertake a Participatory Budgeting (PB) exercise during 2016-17, with the anticipation that Scottish Government match funding will be available. The Board has established a PB steering group which is receiving support from PB Partners, and is likely to hold a PB event in October/November.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Fairer Aberdeen Fund is allocated by Aberdeen City Council, and is aimed at tackling poverty and deprivation; supporting partners to work together to tackle area-based and individual poverty; and to help more people access and sustain employment opportunities. Funding supports initiatives and services for the most disadvantaged communities and vulnerable people across the City.

In 2015-16 the Council agreed a sum of £1.625m to be managed by the Fairer Aberdeen Board on behalf of Community Planning Aberdeen. The same sum was agreed for 2016-17.

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 Officer. 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.

Through the programme approximately 30 FTE staff posts are funded in 50 projects. In 2014-15 over 1000 volunteers contributed 110,000 volunteer hours with a value of just under £1.5m*, almost doubling the value of the Fund.

*Volunteering time is generally valued as the average hourly pay rate in the area, in Aberdeen this was £13.60. (Office of National Statistics, the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE))

5. BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES

- 5.1 The Finance and Resources Committee of the 12th November 2009 agreed that half yearly updates should be provided for the Corporate Performance and Policy Committee on the outcomes achieved through the investment in Fairer Aberdeen Fund. Following agreement in 2013 that the Council would oversee the community planning process, these updates now come to this meeting for approval. This report includes the 6 Month Report for 2015-16 at Appendix 1 and the list of initiatives being funded in 2016-17 at Appendix 2.
- 5.2 The 6 Month Progress Report details how the Fund was used and the impact it had during the first 6 months of 2015. £1,429,152 was awarded to 49 projects, supporting work in regeneration areas and across the City with vulnerable groups and individuals. Grants ranged from £2,200 to £155,000 in value. Some of the achievements are summarised here:

A total of 22,030 people were involved in, or benefited from, funded initiatives, 1,486 of them were under 16 years old. 507 volunteers contributed 51,484 hours of volunteering time.

1,353 people received money advice or income maximisation advice, with a total financial gain of £1,467,077, an average of £1,084 per person.

19,600 food parcels were given out to 9,146 beneficiaries, this compares with a total of 12,272 food parcels distributed during the whole of the previous year.

141 people moved into work. 14 access centres in areas of high unemployment offered weekly employment support drop in sessions. 83 young people were involved in activities designed to increase their opportunities to move into positive destinations, and 48 young people moved onto employment, education or training.

79 Community Food Outlets operated in local communities, 15 of them in Sheltered Housing complexes, and 160 tonnes of free food was distributed to 129 organisations through FareShare.

326 people accessed 2,378 sessions of counselling provision, 118 of them were under 16 years old, and counselling was provided in 7 regeneration neighbourhoods.

2,401 people participated in activities and services provided in Community Projects and Flats. Cummings Park, Seaton and Tillydrone Community Flats are wholly funded by Fairer Aberdeen, and a number of organisations use these venues to deliver services within the areas. The number of attendances to use their facilities including phone, computers, making enquiries and getting information totalled 7,380.

388 people participated in Adult Learning activities and 125 people were involved in producing community media.

- 5.3 The Fairer Aberdeen Board has agreed to allocate up to £20,000 to undertake a participatory budgeting exercise. Participatory budgeting (PB) is recognised internationally as a way for local people to have a direct say in how, and where, public funds can be used to address local needs. PB originated in Porto Alegre, Brazil in the late 1980s and has since spread to over 1,500 localities around the world. It was born from a desire to reallocate public money locally and democratically to where it was needed most. When PB is adopted its use can be very important in helping individuals feel connected to each other and to their communities and can instil a sense of ownership, trust and connectivity.

The Scottish Government supports PB as a tool for community engagement which sits alongside the objectives of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015. Consultancy is available to support the process as the

Aberdeen Community Planning Partnership was successful in obtaining a support package through a Scottish Government initiative. In 2015-16 the Scottish Government made match funding available and it is anticipated that this will be available again in 2016-17.

The Fairer Aberdeen Board has established a PB steering group to plan the process, and is receiving support from PB Partners and The Democratic Society to explore digital technology and support packages. To allow time to properly plan the initiative the PB event will likely take place in October/November.

6. IMPACT

Improving Customer Experience –

The Fairer Aberdeen Fund plays an important part in providing services that tackle poverty and contribute to improving wellbeing for the city's most disadvantaged communities and vulnerable individuals. The programme responds to locally identified issues and addresses unemployment, providing financial inclusion services, improving health and literacies and enabling more sustainable and safer communities.

Improving our use of Resources –

The initiatives and programmes being funded support frontline services that are provided by the Council, Community, Voluntary and other public sector partners with 90% of the fund allocated to voluntary and community organisations. The Fairer Aberdeen Board takes a participatory approach to allocating funding, with the majority of the Board being made up of community representatives, with knowledge of the regeneration areas.

During the first 6 months of 2015-16 the Fairer Aberdeen Board undertook a review of Maximising Income Advice and Information projects, a review group was set up including community representatives from the FA Board and members of the Welfare Reform Board, to ensure best value from projects, particularly in the context of welfare reform. The Board regularly monitors the programme to ensure there is no duplication of provision and will continue to review projects as necessary and appropriate.

Corporate -

During 2014-15 the Board reviewed priorities and outcomes in line with the Single Outcome Agreement and local needs.

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

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 closer 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.

The Fairer Aberdeen Board, which represents a partnership, participatory approach, comprises of the Chair of Community Planning Aberdeen, Cllr Jenny Laing, 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 Police Scotland, seven representatives from priority regeneration areas (appointed through the Regeneration Matters Group), and three representatives from the Aberdeen Civic Forum.

During the year the Board reviewed its membership roles and responsibilities. As a result a set of 'operating guidance' is being prepared, detailing these.

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 for 2015-16 that funded projects are required to produce as part of the terms and conditions for Fairer Aberdeen Fund grant.

The information at Appendix 2 details the organisations that had funding agreed for 2016-17 by the Fairer Aberdeen Board at its meeting of 19th March 2016.

9. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

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Fairer Aberdeen Fund

6 Month Progress Report (1st April – 30th Sept 2015)

In 2015-16 Aberdeen City Council allocated £1,625,000 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 2015.

Maximising income

£391,712 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 1087 affordable loans, totalling £885,978 were provided by the credit unions. Money and income maximisation advice was provided for 1353 people, resulting in client financial gain of £1,467,077. The Food Bank Partnership distributed 160 tonnes of free food and provided 19,600 food parcels for 9,146 people.

As can be seen in the table below, most of the projects are on track to achieving their full year target for 2015-16.

Indicator	April-Sept 2014	Target 15-16 (full year)	April-Sept 2015
Number of Credit Union adult savers	4904	4625	4473
Number of Credit Union junior savers	2278	2150	1872
Number of affordable loans provided by Credit Unions	1897	2400	1087
Amount of affordable loans provided by Credit Unions	£971,133	£1,500,000	£885,978
Total savings deposited with Credit Unions	£2,166,979	£1,900,000	£1,518,035
Number of people receiving money advice	258	375	191
Number of people receiving income maximisation advice	888	1653	1162
Number of households receiving maximising income/charitable funding advice from Care & Repair	193	300	144
Total client financial gain	£1,563,570	£2,081,261	£1,467,077
Number of referrals to Cash In Your Pocket database	1222	2000	1146
Quantity of free produce distributed in tonnes	38	150	160
Number of 5kg food parcels distributed	3615	40,000	19,600
Number of food bank beneficiaries	4490	12,000	9146

Getting People into Work

£250,953 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 141 people moved into work. Weekly employment support drop in sessions were run in 14 venues in priority neighbourhoods. 83 young people were involved in employability initiatives with 48 of them moving on to employment, education or training. Pathways are well on target to meet their full year target with 125 people into work in the 6-month period.

As can be seen in the table below, most of the projects are on track to achieving their full year target for 2015-16.

Indicator	April-Sept 2014	Target 15-16 (full year)	April-Sept 2015
Number of people into work	224	242	141
Number of people accessing the Employment Support Fund	n/a	69	53
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	125	128	83
Number of young people moving on to employment, education or training	57	87	48
Number of people supported into work by Pathways	200	200	125
Number of people engaged and registered with NESS	45	45	39
Number of people supported into work by NESS	6	8	5
Number of people supported into work by shmuTrain	18	28	11

Improving Health and Wellbeing

£331,692 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. There has been an increase in young people seeking youth counselling.

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 Cyrenians Street Alternative volunteer workers fulfil a diverse range of roles to support and give advice to homeless people. The Community Food Development project continues to improve access to affordable and healthy food.

Befriend a Child provides one to one support and friendship to vulnerable youngsters who could particularly benefit from participating in various activities/interests not normally available to them.

Over the 6 months 326 people accessed mental health counselling provision, 118 of them were under 16 years old. 79 Community Food Outlets were operating, 15 of them in sheltered housing complexes. Home-Start supported 24 families in regeneration areas and 2 of these families no longer need social work support.

As can be seen in the table below, some of the figures achieved are up compared to the same time period in 2014, and all are on line to meet the full year target for 2015-16.

Indicator	April-Sept 2014	Target 15-16 (full year)	April-Sept 2015
Number of operational Community Food Outlets	63	69	79
Number of Community Food Outlets operating in Sheltered Housing	32	25	15
Amount of sales in Community Food Outlets	£43,364	£70,000	£44,050
Number of adult clients using mental health counselling provision	262	360	208
Number of clients under 16 using mental health counselling provision	95	140	118
Number of counselling sessions provided	2301	2500	2378
Number of new and existing clients using the Seaton Recovery project and support on a regular basis	38	40	32
Number of people attending Cyrenian's Street Alternative sessions	20	20	20
Number of families in regeneration areas supported by Home-Start	20	30	24
Number of families supported by Home-Start no longer needing Social Work support	2	5	2
Number of children and young people attending Befriend a Child youth clubs	-	18	20

Building Stronger, Safer Communities

£272,455 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. They also provide first stop information and advice regarding changes to the benefit system and make referrals to appropriate agencies for local people requiring support.

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.

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 also continue to target off street sex workers.

Community Integration Support Service provides intensive support, to prisoners, based on the individual's Community Reintegration Plan allowing them to partake in a variety of activities which include radio/film/music sessions.

Over the 6 months there were 320 hours of patrols engaging with on street sex workers, 2,401 people engaged in services and activities in community flats and there were 7,380 attendances to use facilities at community flats.

As can be seen in the table below, most of the projects are on track to achieving their full year target for 2015-16.

Indicator	April-Sept 2014	Target 15-16 (full year)	April-Sept 2015
Number of new women encountered through Operation Begonia	14	18	9
Number of hours of patrols engaging with on street sex workers	355	960	320
Numbers of calls to the Police regarding 'on street' prostitution for Local Policing Areas of City Centre and Seaton (<i>reducing target</i>)	54	50	10
Number of offenders participating in community reintegration programme in prison	0	60	35
Number of people participating in activities and services provided by Community Projects and Flats	1427	3328	2401
Number of attendances at Community Flats to use facilities including phone, computers and information/enquiries	8326	15420	7380
Numbers of young people using the Middlefield Youth Flat	80	130	129
Number of children registered at Printfield After School Club	51	60	54

Increasing Skills and Creativity

Increasing Skills and Creativity

£182,340 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 388 people involved in Adult Learning activities and 83 people registered as new learners with Silver City Surfers. 291 organisations worked in partnership with SHMU and 125 people were involved in producing community media, contributing 16,271 volunteer hours.

As can be seen in the table below, most of the projects are on track to achieving their full year target for 2015-16.

Indicator	April-Sept 2014	Target 15-16 (full year)	April-Sept 2015
Number of people involved in Adult Learning activities	411	843	388
Number of people involved in producing Community Media at SHMU (radio shows + magazines)	120	128	125
Number of organisations working in partnership with SHMU	247	231	291
Number of people registered as new learners with Silver City Surfers	117	205	83
Number of adults engaged with the WEA literacy programme	38	61	34
Number of young people participating in Youth Media (radio and TV)	76	40	61
Number of participants attending the Positive Lifestyles Programme	145	160	143
Number of volunteers involved in SHMU media	120	128	125
Number of volunteer hours contributed to SHMU media	8208	18,000	16,271

Fairer Aberdeen Programme 2016-17

Project	Organisation	£
Maximising Income		
Care and Repair Funding Officer	Care and Repair	29,473
CAB Money Advice Outreach Project	Citizens Advice Bureau	81,392
Cash In Your Pocket Team	Pathways	102,598
NESCU Credit Union Access Project	North East Scotland Credit Union	41,000
St Machar Credit Union	St Machar Credit Union	56,000
Aberdeen Illness and Disability Advice Service	AIDAS	32,603
Aberdeen Food Bank Partnership	CFINE	57,684
Financial Capability at the Foodbank	CFINE	20,824
SMART Money Management for Women	Grampian Housing Association	14,890
Getting People Into Work		
Princes Trust Team Programme	Aberdeen Foyer	13,000
NESS Employment Service	North East Sensory Services	23,477
Pathways	Pathways	155,125
SHMU Train Initiative	Station House Media Unit	34,000
Support Fund	Pathways	10,000
Improving Health and Wellbeing		
Seaton Support for Rehab/Recovery	ACC, Communities & Housing	25,451
Street Alternatives	Aberdeen Cyrenians	25,250
Community Food Development Project	CFINE	20,200
Healthy Roots - Manor Park	Healthy Roots	3,000
Home-Start	Home-Start Aberdeen	30,707
ACIS Youth Counselling	Mental Health Aberdeen	68,567
Calsayseat Counselling	Mental Health Aberdeen	33,400
Torry Adult Counselling	Mental Health Aberdeen	30,800
Pathways to Wellbeing	Pathways	63,281
Feel Good Project	Printfield Community Project	2,880
Health & Well Being Project	Tillydrone Community Flat	8,640
Foyer Reach	Aberdeen Foyer	11,000
Befriend a Child Youth Clubs	Befriend A Child	11,570
Building Stronger, Safer Communities		
Cummings Park Community Flat	Cummings Park Flat M/C	28,729
Big Bang Drumming Group	Aberdeen Lads Club	3,750
Operation Begonia	Scottish Police Authority	26,676
Middlefield Under 11s and Volunteer Work	Middlefield Community Project	9,538
Middlefield Youth Flat	Middlefield Community Project	45,000
STAR Community Flat	Langstane Housing Association	34,254
ACT Attack	St George's Church	2,000
Tillydrone Community Flat	Tillydrone Community Flat	49,490
Relationship Revolution	Choices Aberdeen	26,390
Family Support Worker	Fersands Family Centre	2,200
Youth Work Support	Fersands Community Project	3,500
Twos Group	Fersands Family Centre	3,500
Printfield Community Project	Printfield Community Project	24,224
Community Reintegration Support Service	Station House Media Unit	23,001
Balnagask Community Centre - Social Transport	Balnagask Community Centre	4,056
Increasing Skills and Creativity		
Silver City Surfers	Silver City Surfers	12,763
Community Media	Station House Media Unit	67,670
Youth Media	Station House Media Unit	15,150
Positive Lifestyles	St Machar Parent Support Project	33,667
Reach Out (WEA)	WEA	30,832