

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Council
DATE	14 th December 2016
DIRECTOR	Pete Leonard
TITLE OF REPORT	Fairer Aberdeen Fund Annual Report 2015-16
REPORT NUMBER	CHI/16/285
CHECKLIST COMPLETED	Yes

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To provide Members with the Annual Report 2015-16 for the Fairer Aberdeen Fund programme.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

The Council is asked to:

- a) Consider and advise the Fairer Aberdeen Board of the Council's comments on the Annual Report for 2015-16, at Appendix 1.
- b) Note that the Fairer Aberdeen Board has carried out a Participatory Budgeting (PB) exercise in the Froghall, Powis and Sunnybank area during 2016-17.

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 projects. In 2015-16 1,232 volunteers contributed 172,392 volunteer hours with a value of over £2.3m*, more than 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 on the outcomes achieved through the investment in Fairer Aberdeen Fund. This report includes the Annual Report for 2015-16 at Appendix 1. Over the year £1,492,000 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 £156,000 in value. A total of 31,335 people were involved in, or benefited from, funded initiatives, 4,681 of them were under 16 years old. 1,232 volunteers contributed 172,392 hours of volunteering time with a value of over £2.3m. The final report will be printed in colour, including photographs, quotes and case studies, and will be widely distributed.

5.2 The Fairer Aberdeen Board allocated £10,000 to carry out a Participatory Budgeting exercise during 2016-17. This was match funded with £10,000 from the Scottish Government's Community Choices Fund and £5,000 from the Health and Social Care Partnership. The Board set up a steering group which decided to focus the PB process on the Froghall, Powis and Sunnybank area, aiming to promote social inclusion and

reduce isolation. 22 applications were received, of these 20 went forward to the voting stage. Applicants presented their proposals at a public event on the 29th of October 2016. 60 people attended the event, 125 votes were cast (those eligible to vote had 5 votes each). 12 projects with the highest number of votes received funding. Work is underway to support those who were unsuccessful to investigate other sources of funding.

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.

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.

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

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Fairer Aberdeen Fund

Annual report 15-16

The Fairer Aberdeen Fund is allocated by Aberdeen City Council to tackle poverty and deprivation. The Fund is dispersed and managed by the Fairer Aberdeen Board, a sub group of the Community Planning Partnership, made up of representatives from the regeneration areas, the Civic Forum, the Council, NHS Grampian, Police Scotland and ACVO (Aberdeen Council of Voluntary Organisations). In 2015-16 funding of £1.625m was made available to support initiatives fitting with the main priorities decided by the Board.

Priority themes and key actions:

Maximising income

1. Improving access to affordable financial products and services
2. Supporting the delivery of financial education initiatives
3. Delivering coordinated advice and information services

Getting people into work

1. Providing access to support and skills needed to return to work
2. Supporting personal development and training
3. Delivering in work support

Improving mental health and wellbeing

1. Reducing health inequalities
2. Improving mental health and wellbeing
3. Increasing access to affordable healthy food

Building stronger, safer communities

1. Improving access to services in regeneration areas
2. Increasing community safety
3. Supporting community involvement and participation

Increasing skills and creativity

1. Supporting learning and creative opportunities
2. Improving literacy and numeracy

Allocation of funding 2015-16.

Maximising Income	£426,680	26%
Getting People into Work	£256,953	16%
Improving Health and Wellbeing	£336,530	21%
Building Stronger Safer Communities	£273,769	17%
Increasing Skills and Creativity	£187,796	12%
Community Support Fund	£48,000	3%
Employment Support Fund	£10,000	1%
Running Costs and Support Team	£85,200	5%

The Fund focuses on neighbourhoods that fall within the most deprived 0-15% in Scotland according to the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation, as well as supporting vulnerable groups and individuals.

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

Over the year £1,492,000 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 £156,000 in value. A total of 31,335 people were involved in, or benefited from, funded initiatives, 4,681 of them were under 16 years old. 1,232 volunteers contributed 172,392 hours of volunteering time with a value of over £2.3m*, more than 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))

Maximising Income

26% of the Fund (£426,680) was allocated to initiatives that support people to maximise their income. The main themes under this priority are access to affordable financial services and products and coordinated provision of quality advice and information services.

Over the year a total of 4,667 adults and 2,062 juniors saved with Credit Unions, depositing £2,533,035 in savings. They provided 2,718 affordable loans totalling £1,835,565.

2,482 people received money advice or income maximisation advice, with a total financial gain of £2,405,253, an average of £969 per person.

There were 2,598 referrals to the Cash In Your Pocket database, which supports people to access the employability and financial inclusion support they need.

4,712 food bank beneficiaries were signposted to other agencies for support, 216 accessed financial support and 130 learners took part in sessions and learnt skills to improve their financial literacy.

262 tonnes of free produce was distributed; this is the equivalent of 52,400 food parcels or 623,810 meals.

24,225 people benefited from 8 funded initiatives and a total of 283 volunteers contributed 71,360 hours of volunteer time.

The funded initiatives which contributed to these achievements through the year are:

Aberdeen Food Bank Partnership
Aberdeen Illness and Disability Advice Service
CAB Money Advice Outreach Project
Care and Repair Funding Officer
Cash In Your Pocket (CIYP)
North East Scotland Credit Union (NESCOU) Access Project
St Machar Credit Union
WEA Count Us In

Getting People into Work

16% of the fund (£256,953) was allocated to initiatives that help people get back into work. The main themes under this priority are access to support and skills needed to return to work, including initial engagement, personal development activity and in work support.

A Support Fund is available to help overcome financial barriers and this was accessed by over 100 people, providing clothing for interviews, transport, training and qualifications.

Over the year a total of 290 people moved into work.

14 access centres in areas of high unemployment offered weekly employment support drop in sessions.

164 young people were involved in activities designed to increase their opportunities to move into positive destinations, and 80 young people moved onto employment, education or training.

A total of 690 participants were involved in 6 initiatives and 10 volunteers contributed 686 hours of volunteer time.

The funded initiatives which contributed to these achievements through the year are:

Pathways
SHMU (Station House Media Unit)
NESS (North East Sensory Services) Employment Service
Prince's Trust Team
WEA Dynamics and Employability

Improving Health and Wellbeing

20% of the Fund (£336,530) was allocated to initiatives that improve health and wellbeing. The main themes under this priority are reducing health inequalities; improving mental health and wellbeing; and increasing access to affordable healthy food.

Over the year 80 Community Food Outlets operated in local communities, 26 of them in Sheltered Housing complexes, and 262 tonnes of free food was distributed to 120 organisations through FareShare.

654 people accessed 4,448 sessions of counselling provision, 227 of them were under 16 years old, and counselling was provided in 7 regeneration neighbourhoods.

30 families in regeneration areas were supported to prevent further crisis and family breakdown, and 6 families no longer required Social Work support.

205 volunteers were recruited, trained and supported to provide meals, laundry and showering facilities to rough sleepers or those in temporary accommodation 4 times a week.

31 people in the Seaton area received regular support to recover from alcohol/drug misuse, to improve their employability skills and access specialist support and advisory services.

1,238 people benefited from 13 initiatives, and 522 volunteers contributed 55,918 hours of volunteer time.

The funded initiatives which contributed to these achievements through the year are:

Aberdeen Foyer Reach
Befriend A Child
CFINE (Community Food Initiatives North East)
Cyrenians Street Alternatives
Healthy Roots
Home-Start
Mental Health Aberdeen ACIS Youth Counselling, Torry Counselling and Calsayseat Counselling
Pathways to Wellbeing
Printfield Feel Good Project
Seaton Recovery Project
Tillydrone Health & Well Being Project

Building Stronger Safer Communities

17% of the fund (£273,769) was allocated to initiatives that help build stronger safer communities. The main themes under this priority are improving access to services in regeneration areas and supporting community involvement and participation.

Over the year Cummings Park, Seaton and Tillydrone Community Flats and Middlefield Youth Flat were 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 14,922.

2,152 people participated in activities and services provided in Community Projects and Flats.

There were 1,176 hours of additional police patrols engaging with sex workers. The numbers of calls to the Police regarding on street prostitution for Aberdeen City reduced from 20 to 18 and for the Local Policing Areas of City Centre and Seaton from 19 to 18.

A total of 3,038 participants, 1,583 of them under 16 years old, were involved in 14 initiatives and 119 volunteers contributed 5,645 hours of volunteer time.

The funded initiatives which contributed to these achievements through the year are:

Aberdeen Lads Club Big Bang Drumming Group
Choices Relationship Revolution
Cummings Park Community Flat
Fersands Family Centre Family Support Worker and Twos Group
Fersands Youth Work Support
Middlefield Youth Flat and Supporting Volunteers and Under 11s work
Police Scotland Operation Begonia
Printfield Community Project
SHMU Community Reintegration Support Service
STAR (Seaton Taking Action on Regeneration) Community Flat
Tillydrone ACT Attack
Tillydrone Community Flat

Increasing Skills and Creativity

12% of the fund (£187,796) was allocated to initiatives that help increase skills and creativity. The main themes under this priority are supporting learning and creative opportunities, improving literacy and encouraging volunteering.

Over the year 655 participated in Adult Learning activities and 225 in Arts activities.

135 people were involved in producing community media. 44 volunteers were supported to produce 16 editions of community magazines in 7 regeneration areas, and 91 people produced radio programmes, including 6 hour long weekly community shows and 20 weekly issue based shows.

78 young people were involved in producing youth media, 8 of them secured a Saltire Award and 6 moved on to employment.

249 people took part in classes to promote positive parenting including cooking, first aid and support with financial issues.

610 older people were supported to use technology and engage online and 99 learning sessions were delivered.

A total of 2,144 people, 430 of them under 16 years old, participated in 9 initiatives, and 293 volunteers contributed 38,783 hours of volunteer time.

The funded initiatives which contributed to these achievements through the year are:

Creative Learning Team Lift Arts and Wellbeing Project
Reading Bus
SHMU Connecting Communities Through Community Media and Youth Media
Silver City Surfers
St Machar Parent Support Project Positive Lifestyles
Stockethill Step Up
WEA Alternative Literacies

Regeneration Matters is a forum of community representatives from all the regeneration and priority neighbourhoods in Aberdeen City who have been meeting since November 2006 and are active in identifying and addressing issues around poverty and deprivation. The group meets monthly and as well as discussions on particular issues they also have the opportunity to share

information about each of their neighbourhoods and feedback on any meetings or conferences they have attended.

Issues they covered over the year included food poverty, welfare reform, mental health services, recycling and sustainability, and integrated health and social care. The group invites guest organisations along to meetings for a discussion, and the guest organisations have the opportunity to learn about the priorities, concerns and experiences of the community.

Regeneration Matters also manage the Community Support Fund on behalf of the Fairer Aberdeen Board, to support communications, training, community capacity building and community involvement in regeneration. Over the year this funded printing and delivery costs for community magazines in 7 of the regeneration areas, gala/open days for Tillydrone and St Machar Parent Support Project, as well as training events in Printfield and Middlefield.

The Regeneration Matters group elect 7 of its members to act as community representatives on the Fairer Aberdeen Board, alongside 3 representatives from the Civic Forum.