



Community Planning  
Aberdeen

## Torry Locality Report – 2017/2018



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## 2 FOREWORD

Being part of the Torry Locality Partnership as Community Representatives, we now feel more involved in making decisions in our community and for some of us it is the first time we have been involved in a Partnership.

In our first year we have made progress in the delivery of our locality plan and together we have identified our immediate priorities and challenges and have made a start in fulfilling some of those.

We have found out things about our community that we didn't know before. Through the partnership we know that the community voice is being heard and that partners share our commitment to working together towards our common goal and that is to improve our Torry.

We look forward to continuing to work together to ensure the partnership delivers on what people in Torry really want and reflects the needs and priorities of the whole community.



(Left to Right) Pat Robertson (Torry Resident), Margaret Wright (Torry Resident), Normund Vagarvos (Torry Resident), Fay Morrison (Torry Resident), Blessing Udofia (Torry Resident)

# 2 INTRODUCTION

Welcome to our first Annual Report for the “Torry Locality Plan 2017-2027”, we have been on a significant journey from the very well attended Our Places Our Priorities Event in September 2016, where we launched the start of the Locality Planning Process with the Torry Community.

Our Torry Locality Plan (2017-2027) sets out the long term vision for Torry, with clear strategic priorities and improvement measures in place. This Annual Report showcases the progress we have made in our first year of delivery, as well as identifying areas where we should provide more focus in the coming the years to deliver early intervention and prevention.

There has been some excellent initial progress made against the priorities in the plan with the Torry Community taking the lead in a number of developments, exciting new partnerships forming and new projects being developed, however we do recognise this is the start of a ten year journey and we have a long way to go. We also recognise this is only part of the excellent work being delivered in Torry.

Strong leadership has been essential in our success and our Locality Partnership was established to manage and oversee the plan in early 2017. Pre dating the establishment of the Locality Partnership a group of 20 local residents worked with local staff and Scottish Community Development Centre to design roles and responsibilities and recruit local representative to the Partnership. This process provided a solid foundation and the Partnership has successfully attracted local membership from a diverse cross section of the community and has consistently achieved 50% membership of local people. We are still a relatively newly formed partnership and we want to increase and broaden our community representation, elect a Community Chair as well as deepen our engagement with the wider Torry Community.

The community voice continues to be vital in understanding how we are progressing against our priorities and the Locality City Voice was launched in 2018 to help us track perceptions on an annual basis; the results are provided within the report. We currently have 140 respondents to the survey which we wish to continually increase.

During our second year of delivery, Our Locality Partnership will identify areas for medium term future focus, based on some of the trends we are seeing from this report and other available evidence and prioritise these for delivery.

Building on our current strengths, strong local knowledge, partnerships and drive, we are excited for the future of the Partnership and delivery of the Plan.

Jo Mackie

Locality Inclusion Manager

# OUR ECONOMY



## Our Economy Drivers

Priority Aim	Primary Drivers	Areas where we have made changes during 2017/18
We will increase the available income levels for residents	We will ensure the community have the knowledge, skills and confidence to reduce household costs and maximise household income	Heat Network Development
	We will removes barriers to accessing employment and employment progression	Community Growing
	Citywide Job and Apprenticeship creation benefits local residents	Provision of Low Cost Meals
	We will maximise the employment, education and training opportunities for school leavers	Torry Hub Development
	New Business Start Ups are supported and promoted as viable economic oportuntes	European Social Fund (ESF) name
Regeneration of Victoria Road	Victoria Road will be an attractive Place for residents and visitors	Dragados Community Benefits
		SHMU Train – S2/S3 early Interventions
		Greyhope Bay
		VictoriArt



# What key changes have we made?

## Torry Heat Network

Increasing household income is a key driver in the Locality Plan and interventions which reduce outgoings are an important element in managing household finances. Aberdeen City Council has instructed that the existing district heating network in Balnagask Circle will be extended to Deeside Family Centre, Provost Hogg Court and Balnagask House. It is anticipated that this installation work will be completed by September 2019. The detailed appraisal of the Torry Heat Network project is currently being undertaken.

## Aberdeen Community Growing Network - Granite City Growing

Community Food Growing has been an important feature in Torry and we have seen a 60% increase in Community Growing Spaces over a two year period. Growing food locally has many health benefits and is a driver in helping tackle food poverty and deliver sustainable food provision, a key feature of the Locality Plan.

Torry was awarded £12,000 from a funding pot of £145,000 from Aberdeen City Council. This funding is being used to support various growing projects in the area as detailed below and has created a range of exciting new partnerships in Torry. We are starting to see a critical mass of activity.

## Tullos Community Wildlife Garden and Growing Space

The Tullos Community Wildlife Garden and growing space was born from a Participatory Budgeting process began in January 2017; involving Aberdeen City Council working in partnership with local residents to gather ideas and develop a plan to improve an unused, overgrown greenspace behind Tullos Place, Tullos Crescent and Mansfield Place aiming to develop it into an exciting new area to benefit the whole community.

Funding of £60,000 was made available from the Housing Revenue Account for greenspace improvements for the piece of land.

Supported by a small residents group, over 120 households were consulted; by gathering initial ideas, and drawing up a draft plan and 88% of those households were in favour of developing a Community Wildlife Garden and Growing Space. Through visits and talks in the area; over 800 local individuals learned about the new Garden as it progressed and were invited to get involved. During March and April 2017 groundwork took place to include removal of some of the overgrown area to allow for new pathways, seating, an outdoor classroom and growing area.

- Community Opening Event May 2018 – fantastic turnout of over 150 people
- Over 360 Volunteer hours has already been completed in the garden
- 2018 summer programme of activities planned
- Garden facebook posts have an average reach of 800 (4 times the average)

Around 15 local groups and organisations have worked in partnership to make the garden a unique interactive community space for Torry and many more collaborations are planned!

*Quotes from people gathered from the Community Opening Event in May 2018 include:*

*“This is a miracle what you have done here!” “Loved the friendly family atmosphere” “Lovely to have a small area to try and learn about gardening”*

## **St Fitticks Growing Space / Orchard**

A local group are working towards the development of a new Community Orchard and growing space beside the Balnagask Golf Club in Torry. They are working with the Locality Partnership and the Community Growing Network to revamp some large raised beds on the site. Various volunteer groups have been involved including Santander staff, Dragados and the unpaid work team. They hope to begin planting of the Orchard in the autumn 2018.

## **One Seed Forward**

One Seed Forward (a community growing organisation), working with the University of Aberdeen and Tullos Primary school launched a food growing pilot, in October 2017, with around 56 Primary 5's took part, learning how to grow fruit and veg.

The Primary had an existing, but overgrown and unused garden space. In November 2017, 15 local volunteers helped clear all the weeds and debris. The children designed the garden and chose which local plants they wanted to grow. By the end of the school year, the children had grown rocket, peas, kale, turnips, radish, beetroot, rhubarb, carrots, parsnips and lots of other crops. They also grew an astonishing 23kg of potatoes which were distributed amongst pupils and staff.

The project is planning to link in to the Free School Meals improvement project to develop the link from fork to plate and encourage pupil take up of meals by using their produce and is looking to encourage local volunteers to help maintain the garden during holiday periods. This project has been scaled to a City Wide Improvement Project called “School Garden Time” sponsored by the Sustainable City Outcome Improvement Group.

This Project is now being sustained by the school following One Seed Forward initial project development.

## **School Holiday Food and Fun**

There are many demands on household incomes throughout the year and these are intensified, for low income families, through school holiday periods in the form of food budgeting and childcare. The Food and Fun provision helps reduce the effects of hunger which have a direct correlation to educational attainment and provides an opportunity for fun, physical activity and socialising, both of which are key drivers in the Locality Plan.

In February 2017 a sum of £90k was identified in the Council's 2017/18 budget to test the development of provision of school meals during school holidays.

Torry locality Partnership worked with AFC Trust, Sport Aberdeen and CFINE to deliver “Food and Fun” between Tullos Primary and Torry Youth and Leisure Centre (TYLC) and provided 123 local children (from P1 to P7) with free lunches along with a variety of

activities. In addition packed lunches were provided to Balnagask Community Centre for their summer trips. In total 720 lunches were provided during the project.

Feedback from parents and children was very positive with 95% of the children happy with the type of food provided and 80% happy with the provision.

Food and Fun is being extended to cover holiday periods in the 2018/2019 academic year and the summer programme will be extended to six weeks.

## Old Torry Go Green Project

Old Torry's Community Centre's Go Green café is part of RGU Union's Carbon Footprint and Sustainability Initiative and launched on Friday the 6<sup>th</sup> October 2017 in partnership with CFINE. It is the third café in Aberdeen and part of only a few schemes operating in the country. The aim is to cut down on food waste while serving hot meals to the local community.

Food is collected from CFINE each week and the project serves three course meals to all who attend. Initially 27 people attended and now there are between 40 and 50 people every Friday from toddlers to octogenarians. The atmosphere is fantastic and there is often live music. Not only does this project deliver against the food poverty drivers in the plan but addresses other drivers such as reducing isolation, enhanced community spirit and intergenerational working.



## Breakfast Club Jesus House

The Jesus House Breakfast and Lunch Club was started in 2017. Regular sessions are held weekly on Tuesday and Thursday mornings and Saturday early evening. There is an average of 15 people per session in the Breakfast Club and of 22 people per session for the Lunch club. Within the last 12 months, a movie night and other events have been held. Again this project delivers against the food poverty drivers but is closely linked to reducing social isolation.

Quotes from those attending the breakfast and lunch club include:

*"I have somewhere to go on these days; I don't have to stay at home alone".*



*“If was not coming here, I would be somewhere doing things that will get me into trouble, but I think I have a better life now”*

## Progress through Positive Partnerships

Aberdeen City Council secured £880,000 of European Structural Fund (ESF) Funding for the “Progress through Positive Partnerships” project. Torry was part of a series of Neighbourhood Audits which took place in July and August 2017.

This identified what services local people wanted; key barriers to an improved lifestyle, individual aspirations, and future service provision requirements. The audit aim was to identify what services were required and to identify key changes to existing services.

The Audit has shown a large number of Torry residents are looking for additional support to help them back into work. There have since been 23 referrals for Torry residents; however uptake to date has been relatively low.

A keyworker is based in Torry at least one day a week and liaises with a significant number of people, but is encountering some resistance to the ESF project. New actions are being put in place with a view to improving engagement with the project and registration process.

## SHMU Early Interventions

Torry Academy utilised the Pupil Equity Fund to work with Station House Media Unit (SHMU) to deliver their Early Interventions (S2/S3) service for the 17/18 period, with 12 pupils taking part in the programme.

The programme targets pupils in S2 and follows them through their academic journey in S2 and S3, offering targeted support for those identified with having potential barriers to progressing positively beyond school, which indicates an increased risk of not entering 4th year with a clear path for employment, education or training after leaving school.

The aim is that through the support the pupils receive from the programme will allow pupils to make confident and informed subject choices for the Senior Phase and will have a clearer career path in mind, assisting with reengagement in school and increase positive destinations for the school pupils involved.

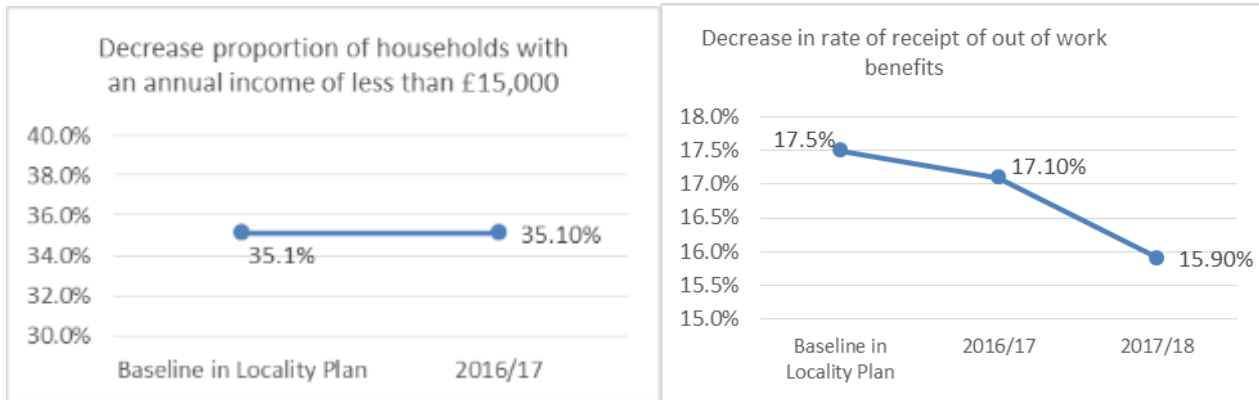
## Greyhope Bay

Greyhope Bay Limited is a charitable organisation with ambitions to deliver a world class marine experience centre and visitor attraction that will connect Torry, Aberdeen and the North East with the marine world. A project team has been put together to work on both a strategic and operational basis and build capacity within Greyhope Bay to deliver a temporary facility in 2019. Whilst the wider vision is being realised for a viewing platform, café space and outdoor seating to open at Torry Battery during 2019.

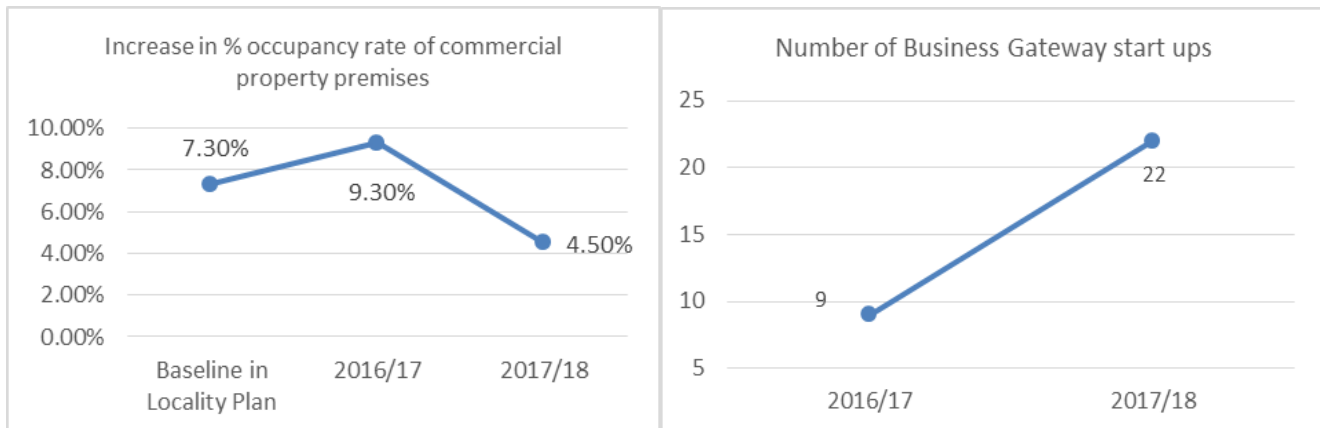
The Torry Community have embraced Greyhope Bay and over a third of the votes cast at the 2017 Udecide event was in favour of supporting a weekend community event which attracted 3,000 visitors and over 3,500 visited the pop up shop in the Bon accord Centre at the start of 2018.

# Are we seeing improvement?

There has been no movement in the proportion of households with an annual income of less than £15,000. This data does not show the relative poverty of those households. There is a positive movement in the rate of receipt of out of work benefits but the baseline will have been affected by the oil and gas down turn.



There has been a 50% reduction in the number of vacant commercial premises in the Locality and 144% increase in Business Gateway start-ups. Both these trends are out performing the City in terms of reporting in the 2016/2017 LOIP.



Free meals provision has seen a spike in delivery, responding to community demand.



## City Voice

13% of respondents felt Victoria Road was attractive  
 28% of respondents worried they don't have enough food with 21% skipping a meal due to finances.



## VictoriART

### What is the Aim?

To increase the percentage of people in Torry that agrees that Victoria Road is an attractive place for the Community from 13% to 40% and to reduce the number of vacant retail units on Victoria Road by 2% by July 2019.

### How does this support Physical and Economic Regeneration and Community Empowerment

The installation of Public Art Works on Victoria Road improves the aesthetics of Victoria Road and will encourage empty units to be let and the Community to feel pride in the Street.

The Project will kick-start other public Art works across Torry and work with Local schools

The establishment of the VictoriArt Group, a residents Group, to drive the project has created a sense of ownership control and pride.

Local Artists will be commissioned to work with the community

### What changes are we currently testing?

- Establishment of a Residents led Art Group “VictoriArt”
- Installing Public art works on Victoria Road
- Hosting Public Talks and community engagement events in Torry with residents and schools
- Applying for external funds to commission local artists



### Improvements

- 3 New Artworks on Victoria Road and 10 across Torry. The aim is to increase works on Victoria Road to 10. Works include painted doors and shop fronts on Victoria Road, the loan of an anchor from Balmoral Group and 2 graffiti artworks by Torry Squad at the Skate Park and the Community Garden
- 2 workshops undertaken; 20 primary school pupils at Walker Road created a mural in the playground
- £11,000 of external Funding attracted
- Employed 9 North East Artists

# OUR PEOPLE



## Our People Drivers

### Priority Aim

Our Children and Young People will have equal opportunities to achieve in life

We will improve our Health and Wellbeing and protect our Community from Harm

### Primary Drivers

We will close the gap between our children entering P1 and the Aberden Average

We will close the Attainment Gap

Our Young People will have facilities and services that meet their needs

We will reduce the levels of dependency on alcohol and drugs in our community

We will improve the mental and sexual health in our community

We will improve the health and wellbeing of the community

Our Community is kept safe and protected from harm

### Areas where we have made changes during 2017/18

Torry Hub Development

Early Years Expansion

Priority Families

BIG NOISE

Food and FUN & Free School Meals

Pupil Equity Fund

Skate Park

Torry Alcohol and substance misuse Improvement project

Bounce Back

Torry Medical Practice

Jog Torry

TYAG and Operation Smallwood

## Priority Aim

## Primary Drivers



# What Key Changes we have made?

## Early Years Expansion

In September 2017, the Education & Children's Services Committee endorsed a provisional Early Learning and Childcare Delivery Plan which detailed three proposed phases of work. The Scottish Government is committed to expanding the provision of funded early learning and childcare (ELC) from 600 hours to 1140 hours by 2020. The expansion should prioritise a high quality experience for the child in order to capitalise on the significant contribution that ELC can make to a child's development and to closing the poverty related attainment gap.

The Early Years' Service has undertaken extensive consultation with parents and carers in Torry to inform planning and worked in collaboration with Aberdeenshire and Moray Councils and associated partners to establish an Early Learning and Childcare Academy. It This collaboration will help to support increased numbers and potential routes into a career in Early Learning and Childcare and it is important that some of these opportunities are targeted in Torry.



## Priority Families

The Priority Families Service started in January 2017. It is a partnership service offering dedicated support to families who are primarily affected by anti-social behaviour, in addition to other concerns such as crime and offending, low school attendance, child/adult wellbeing concerns and being in receipt of out of work benefits. The service is resourced by Aberdeen City Council, Police Scotland and Action for Children. A Key Worker works with families, in their homes and the local community, for up to twelve months supported by four dedicated officers from Police Scotland. Each Key Worker holds a small caseload to enable them to work intensively with all family members. The initial cohorts of families were identified from a data trawl using Community Safety, Police Scotland and SEEMiS systems. The project is still very new, but there were 4 families case loaded in Torry and 3 families were demonstrating 3 plus positive outcomes.

## Imagineers



**Photos: Imagineers poster and photo from session with Housing staff in 2018**

The Imagineers from Tullos Primary School were very much involved in the development of the Locality Plan in 2016/2017 following this, in 2018, which is the Year of Children and Young People, the Imagineers have been supporting public and private bodies across Aberdeen to understand what is important to children. The Imagineers want adults to consider what they can do to understand and act on what children need. The Imagineers invited adults working in Leisure and Sport, Emergency Services, Culture, Health and Housing along to their sessions which were well attended and feedback has been positive. There are 5 Imagineers from Torry.

## Big Noise

Central to the long term investment in Torry is Big Noise. The long term programme was launched in June 2015 and now works with more than 500 children from birth to 10 years and is delivered in partnership with Aberdeen City Council. Big Noise is an active member of the Locality Partnership.

The Big Noise programme, run by charity Sistema Scotland, uses the symphony orchestra and learning a musical instrument, via an immersive and intensive programme, as the tools to equip children with a wide range of social and life skills including confidence, resilience and aspiration. The programme is delivered in nursery, school, and an after-school

programme, as well as holiday clubs and community engagement work. Everything is provided free of charge to children and families in the community.

Aberdeen City Council commit up to 75% of the programme costs. Big Noise Torry also receives support from the Scottish Government, players of People's Postcode Lottery and many individuals, trusts and businesses.

An independent evaluation report by the Glasgow Centre for Population Health (External Evaluation June 2017) revealed that Big Noise Torry has enhanced participants' ability to learn in school, as well as improving emotional wellbeing. Evaluation has also consistently found that being part of Big Noise increases children's confidence, aspiration and self-esteem, improving their life chances when they become adults. It also found:

- Afterschool engagement is 29% higher for girls
- Pupils in SIMD data 1 and 2 are over represented in the afterschool provision (55.5%)
- Non-white Scottish/British representation is 41%
- Pupils attending who do not have English as a first language is 33%
- Pupils engaged in afterschool provision have a higher attendance rate and lower unauthorised absence rate.

The programme is running well, with good attendance and support from the Torry community. The plan is as the children grow up and move onto secondary school the programme will grow with them, and support them through to school leavers and positive destinations.

We are however, seeing trend reduction in voluntary attendance at afterschool clubs. Big Noise target for attendance is closer to high 40% to 50%, so the initial baseline was high at 62%. However the current rate of 44% is lower than required; so a number of interventions will be delivered to reverse the trend. Big Noise will closely monitor this.

## **Pupil Equity Fund**

Tullos Primary launched "Team Tullos" in partnership with Jog Scotland at the start of 2018. The aim of Team Tullos is to include parents and children in sporting activities and develop a team approach between families and teachers, with the long term aim of increasing attainment levels; a key driver in this plan. Already there has been a successful two kilometre family run which saw 80 pupils, parents and teachers take part and there has also been a 5km run at Duthie Park. A range of other PEF projects are being delivered across the Locality, although there is some underspend within the fund.

## Skatepark

The skate park at Torry has been under used for a number of years due to uneven surfaces and in need of modernisation. Through the U Decide process a young boy put in an application to upgrade the park, it narrowly missed out. Given the community desire to deliver this project, an award of £50,000 was secured from the SUEZ Community Trust along with an additional £11,250 from Aberdeen City Council. Following engagement sessions with young people led by Transition Extreme, a design was agreed which included 10 new features. The Park opened May 2018 and we have seen up to 17 young people using the skatepark at any one time and Transition Extreme are planning sessions in Summer 2018.



## Torry Alcohol and Drugs Misuse Project

Tackling Substance Misuse is a key driver in the Locality Plan and an Improvement Project has been developed in partnership with ADA to increase the number of individuals accessing drug and alcohol services by 20% by July 2019. The project will increase the capacity of local organisations and workers to intervene earlier and make referrals for residents requiring support of alcohol and drugs services, further develop locally accessible services and reduce stigma. Given the current data we have on hospital admissions related to drugs misuse, this is a very important piece of work in the community.

To date twenty three local workers and volunteers have attended locally run information and awareness raising sessions to increase awareness of signposting and referral channels as well as distributing drugs and alcohol service information folders to venues across Torry. This project is in its early stages but we are seeing some positive progress; during 2017/2018 overall referral rates for alcohol services have increased, but there is a decrease in drugs referral and support rates.

Moving forward we will further develop this project and extend it's scope.

## **Bounce Back**

Bounce Back is an Australian award winning Mental Health initiative that has been introduced to Tullos Primary. Bounce Back is a positive education approach to wellbeing, resilience and social-emotional learning.

The Bounce Back programme supports teachers and schools in their efforts to promote positive mental health, wellbeing and resilience for both students and teachers and build safe and supportive class and school learning environments. The initiative is going to roll out to Lochside Academy in 2018/2019.

## **Torry Medical Practice**

Torry Medical Practice provides services for around 7,300 patients in the Torry area. At the end of July 2018, GPs at Torry Medical Practice will end their contract with NHS Grampian and will no longer provide GP cover at the practice. However from the 1st of August 2018, the Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership (ACHSCP) in conjunction with NHS Grampian will be taking over the running of Torry Medical Practice. Although this has been a period of change for the practice, this is also a great opportunity to ensure that the services moving forward meet the needs of the local population unitising an increased multi-disciplinary team; to help us to meet the populations' needs on a 'right first time' basis.

## **Jog Torry**

Following the success of Team Tullos, Torry residents kicked off a new evening jogging initiative in the area called Jog Torry. Jog Torry is a ten week block of introductory Monday jogging evenings beginning. Jog Torry aims to residents get fit and have fun in sociable environment. The project is delivered by trained local jog leaders and encourages all levels of ability. This project is in its infancy but 12 Joggers participated in the first session.

## **Torry Youth Action Group and Operation Small Wood**

Following issues with youth antisocial behaviour in Torry partners have recently set up a Torry Youth Action Group (TYAG). The aim of the group is to

- Reduce anti-social behaviour in the area that is being carried out by a particular group of young people
- Provide a range of anti-diversionary activities for young people in and around Torry.

This group is in its infancy but is addressing a significant community concern and we hope to see some innovative improvement projects emerging.

In addition to TYAG, work is being done in collaboration with Operation Smallwood. Operation Smallwood is a Multi-Agency approach led by the Police targeting Anti-Social behaviour within the Torry community. The Operation has had notable success of late with a reduction of 55% in anti-social behaviour calls since March 2018 when Operation Smallwood was strengthened with further patrols being carried out.

The Living Streets community group are also involved in this project but with more of a focus on the layout and aesthetics of 'hot spot' areas with the primary aim of making the area a more pleasant, safe place for the residents affected. The development of The "Former Phoenix NBR 258" will also impact on this agenda, as will the variety of new facilities such as the SkatePark.

## **Community Led Action**

Community empowerment is at the centre of the Plan and a number of new initiatives have been created and established by the community to deliver improvements against the plan. There are a number of projects where the community is taking the lead throughout this report, such as Community clean Ups, Walker Road Dancers, Living Streets, Food Growing and Victoria Art, Tullos Management Committee, Kings Foundation and Torry Heritage and Memories Society.

## **Tullos Management Committee**

In December 2017, a group of mothers who had attended a Family Learning Course together began to become interested in developing a committee for Tullos Learning Centre to develop community led programmes. The committee have delivered a range of activities aimed at families in the area which was rounded off by an end of term disco for pupils. Over 100 children attended this event which was fantastic, especially considering it is the first time that the committee have organised an event! Members of the Tullos Management Committee also helped by volunteering at the Food and Fun activities over the summer holidays.

## **Walker Road Dancers**

The Walker Road Dancers have been very busy over the past 18 months. The dancers have really become part of the community in Torry. Both groups of girls have performed at a range of venues including flash mobs in Tesco, Nursing homes, Torry Academy, to a crowd of over 200. They have taken part in the Torry Festival, Torry Xmas Show and Burns Supper. In August 2017, they took part in Celebrate Aberdeen attending both the parade and performing in the Bon Accord Centre.



Walker Road Dancers have received funds from St Fitticks Rotary, U Decide Torry and Aberdeen Harbour Board. In 2018, the dancers had a visit from the Lord Provost and then performed at the Council Star Awards. The Torry community are very proud of the Dancers and it is a joy to see their confidence grow, they are spreading the Torry message far and wide and will be an important part of our community communication plan in the future.

## Torry Heroes and Champions

In Spring 2018, we launched Torry Champions. Champions could be nominated by a fellow resident or by providing a self-nomination. The idea behind this project is to celebrate local people who deserve recognition and to increase community spirit. This project is still in its infancy; however, Facebook stats tell us that local people like the idea of people being recognised for the work they do. These posts were published over a four-week period. The average 'reach' of a post which recognises a champion is 1,879 people and the average amount of 'likes' is 77 – which is a fraction more than page wide post engagement over a one-month period. We will adapt this moving forward in to a Torry Heroes concept.



## We Love Torry!

In October 2017, the second successful 'We Love Torry Family Fun Day 2' was held at Torry Youth and Leisure Centre. The aim of the event was to build on the sense of community pride and social cohesion in Torry, increase community participation and provide an opportunity for residents to find out more about local services and projects. The event was in partnership with Third Sector Health and Social Care Partnership staff and Sport Aberdeen.

There was a fantastic turn out on the day with over 300 people, which is a 100% increase from the first event in 2016. Some highlights on the day included the Walker Road Dance Group, face painting, the CFINE Tuk Tuk and SHMU taster radio and music experience, a soft play area, sport activities and a hip hop workshop, CFINE food demonstration and food tasters. The variety of activities and entertainment meant that there was something for everyone. People browsed the information stalls, which included RSPB, AIR Group, Heritage

and Memory Group, Child Smile, Cash in Your Pocket, the local library and uniform organisations, Tullos Community Wildlife Garden and many more.

100% of the feedback received was positive with comments such as:

*“Loved it, event better than last year, keep em going!” “Lovely day, well attended, good entertaining, amazing” “Fantastic time! Great activities for kids!” “Wonderful local event for all people in Aberdeen – hope to see 3<sup>rd</sup> event!”*

We will be supporting and developing Community Events as part of our forthcoming Wider Community Engagement in Locality Planning Improvement Project.

## **Community Benefits: Dragados**

Dragados, the primary contractor of the Harbour Extension, established a community benefits steering group to oversee and advise the companies community benefit commitments, which includes: Delivery of local employment and apprenticeships, local supply chain opportunities, 100 days of annual Employee Volunteering “Timebank”, £70,000 of Community Funding and the establishment of a Visitors Centre. The Community benefits are time limited in line with the construction of the Harbour Extension.

The Locality Partnership is a member of the community benefits steering group which resulted in the “Timebank” and the “Community Funding” being aligned to the improvements in the Locality Plan and also Torry residents being targeted for employment and placement opportunities.

The visitors centre was opened in January 2018 and provides a space for the delivery of educational programme of talks and visits from local schools and interested groups. It also provides a community space for the delivery of project-related community engagement activities. As of June 2018, 1,887 people had visited the Visitor Centre, 15 Torry groups and both primaries have visited the centre to date.

To date, “Timebank” has delivered 35 days of professional volunteering ranging from: technical support to establish an all-weather seating area for Friends of Torry Care Home, Community Garden infrastructure development, Interview skills and CV writing courses for local residents and the development of a website for a local group.

The Dragados UK Community Fund has awarded £25,500 among 15 projects based in Torry ranging from the establishment of a Boogie in the Bar to Brimmond Court Tennants Association and Balnagask Community Centre.

## **Participatory Budgeting**

During the reporting period three Participatory budgeting “U Decide” processes have been delivered in Torry, two grant award processes and a participatory budgeting approach to the development of the Community Garden with Housing Revenue Funds. All processes are aligned with the drivers in the Locality Plan.

Participatory Budgeting is a way of engaging communities in how public money is used in their neighbourhoods, enabling them to identify their priorities for their area and feel more engaged in local decision making processes, key drivers in this plan.

PB distribution to date has totalled £128,500 (Grant - £82,500 March 2017 and £16,000 March 2018 – Community Garden £30,000) and over 10% of Torry’s population voted over the three projects with the highest number of votes being cast when a digital platform was tested in March 2017, which allowed residents to vote over an elongated period of time online.

Torry has embraced the concept and turned out in force to submit proposals, with 74 projects being developed. Twelve projects were supported by the community votes:

### **2017**

Walker Road Dancers - £3,925

Family Fun Day for Greyhope Bay - £15,000

Big Noise - £15,000

Torry Academy Year of Celebration - £15,000

Transition Extreme, Extreme Summer - £13,640

Jesus House Church Youth Club - £14,935

### **2018**

Torry Dancers - £2,670

Big Noise - £3,000

Jesus House Church Breakfast and Lunch Club – £3,000

Torry out of School Club - £3,000

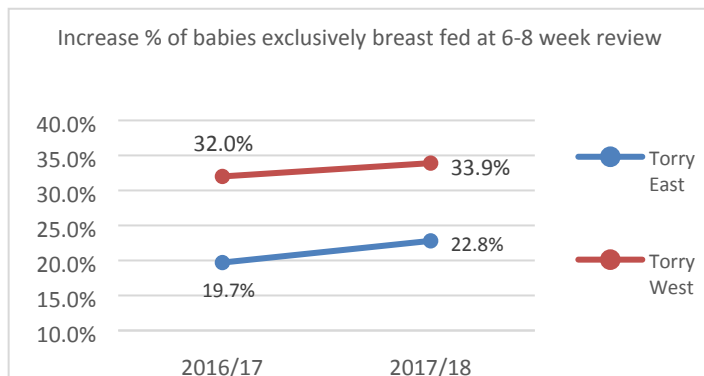
St Fitticks Roof Repair - £3,000

Streetsports (partially funded) - £3,000

In addition to the winners a further 5 projects, so far, including the skate park, have been delivered through additional support and finance from third parties. This highlights the importance of PB not only to involve local residents in decision making but to also stimulate community led action against the plan.

# Are we seeing improvement?

We are seeing positive movement in Babies being Breast Fed in the Locality which has a link to health and attainment improvements. This is outperforming the City Wide trend as detailed in the 2016/2017 LOIP Annual Report.

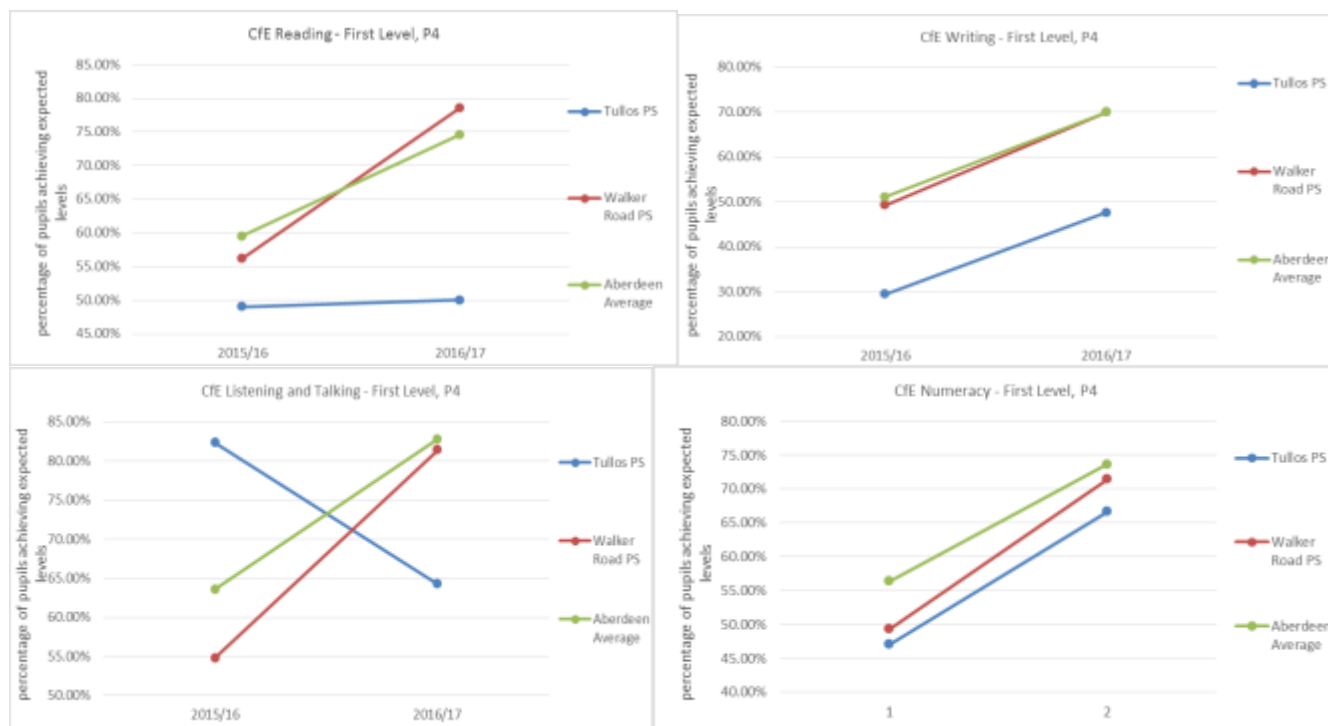


The Following Data sets are in relation to school level data and are new ways of recording attainment in schools. This data should be treated as experimental due to change in reporting based on teacher judgement.

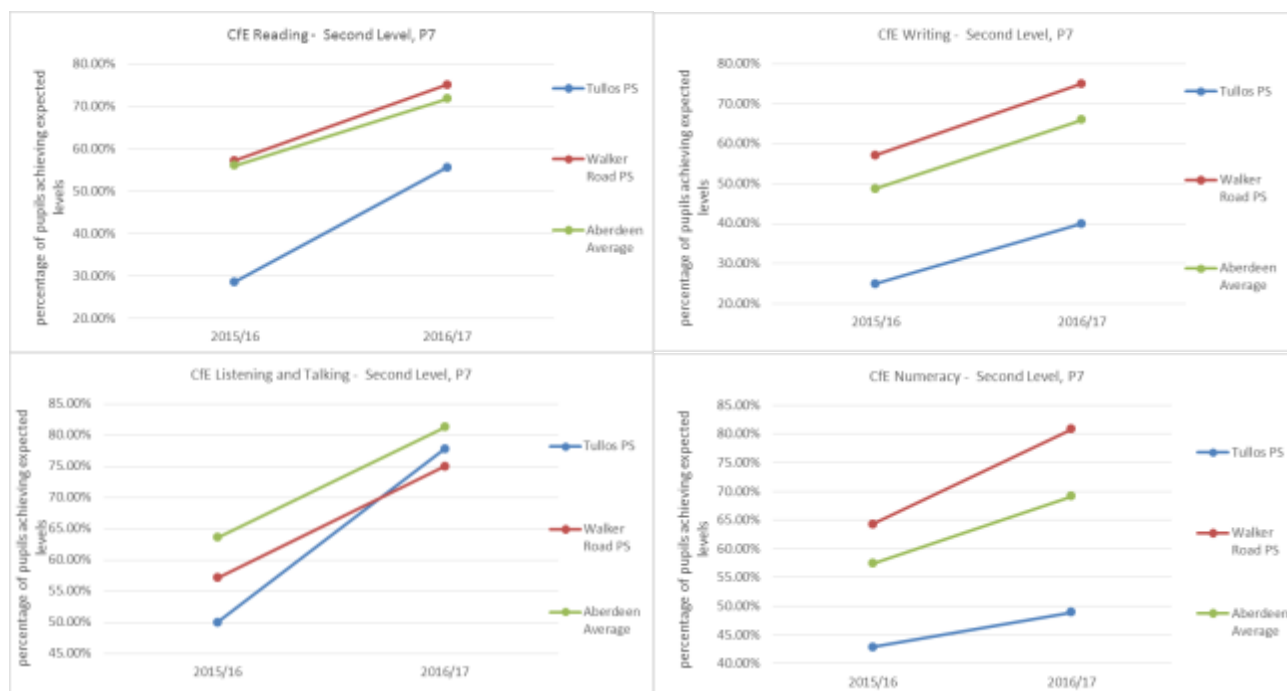
At P1, early level, both primaries are out performing the City Average, Tullios performance is dipping, with Walker Road showing improvements in writing and reading.



Both Schools are mainly seeing improvements in First Level P4, with the exception of listening and talking at Tullios. Walker Road is tracking the Aberdeen average where Tullios performance starts to fall behind.

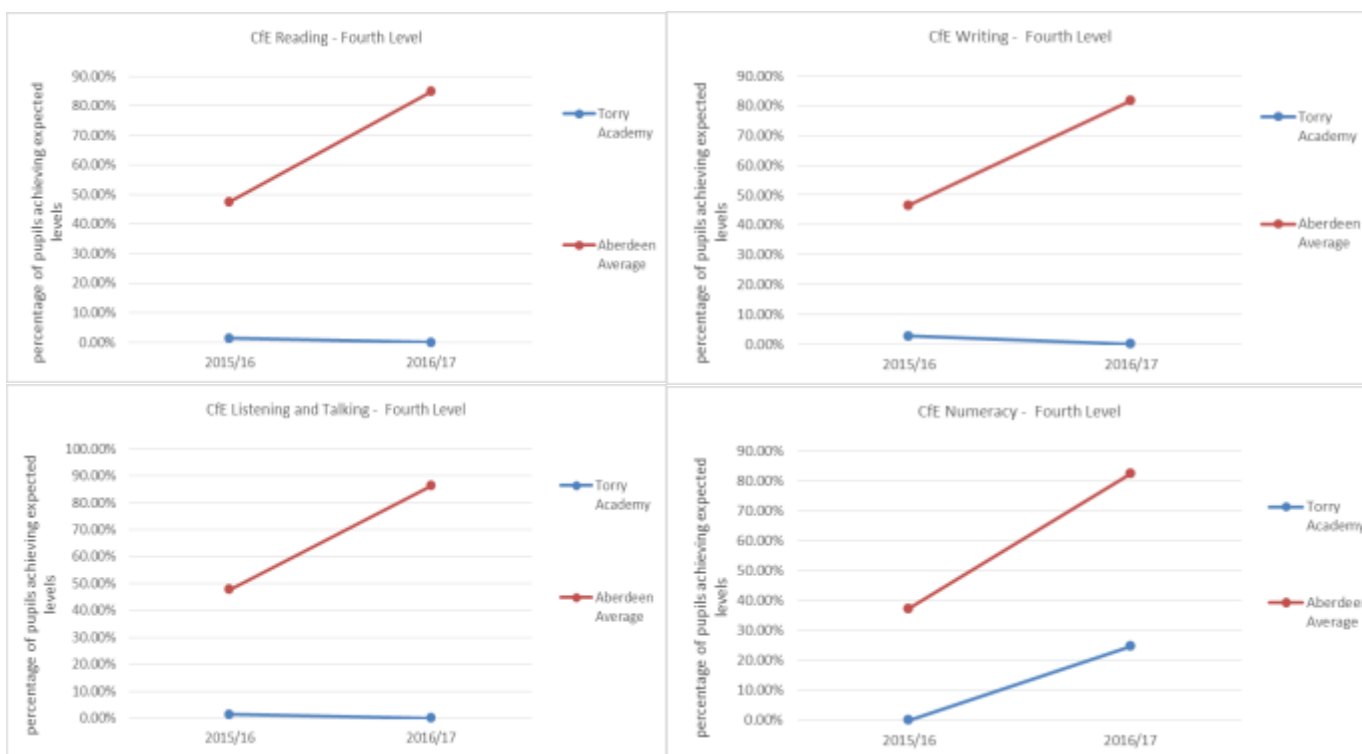
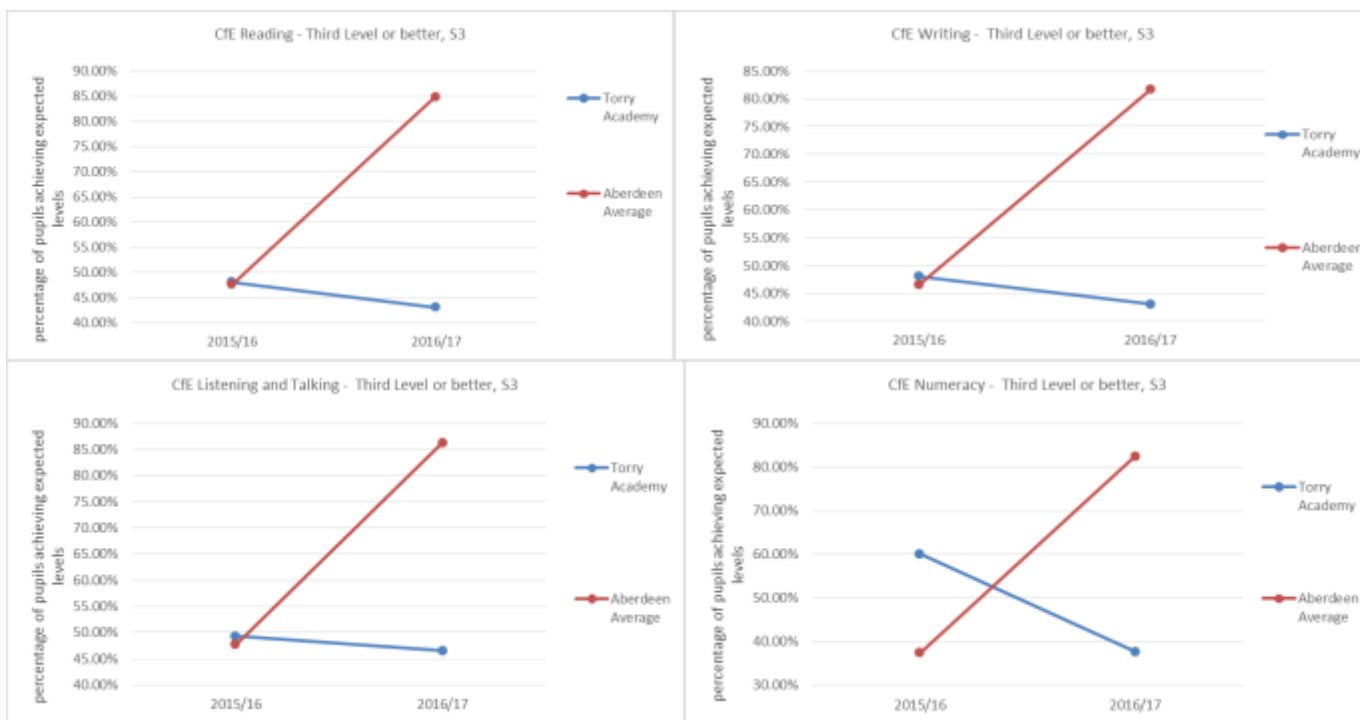


Both Schools are showing improvements in second level P7, with Walker Road out-performing the city average

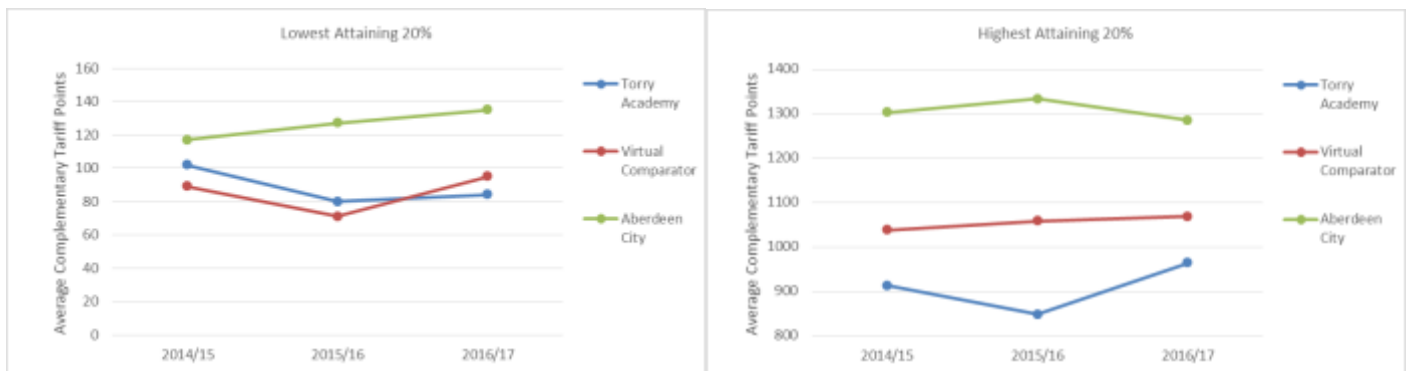




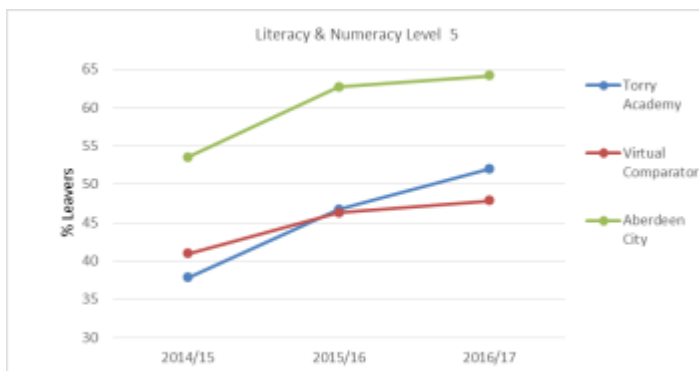
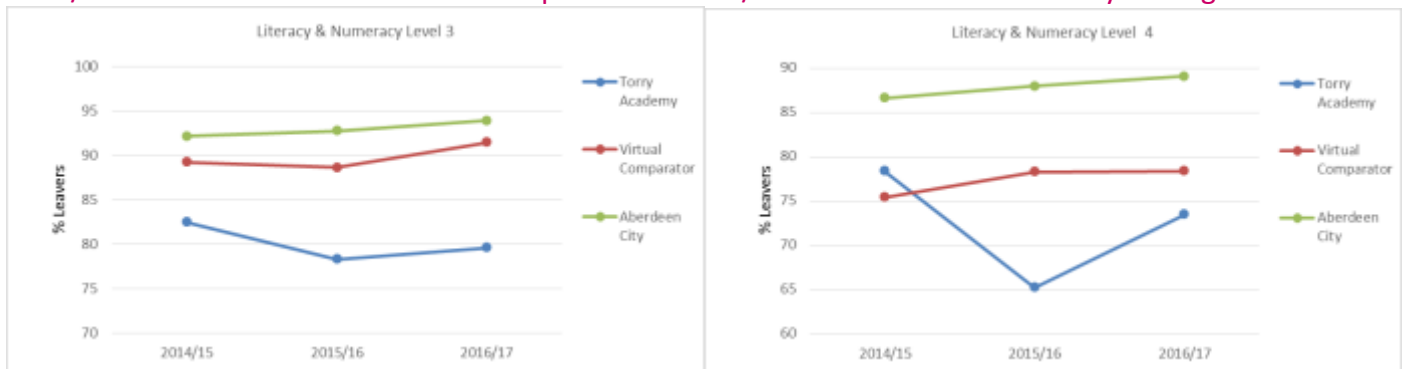
By S3 Third Level or better results we are seeing a decline in performance and a significant gap with the Aberdeen City Average which is continued into Fourth Level.



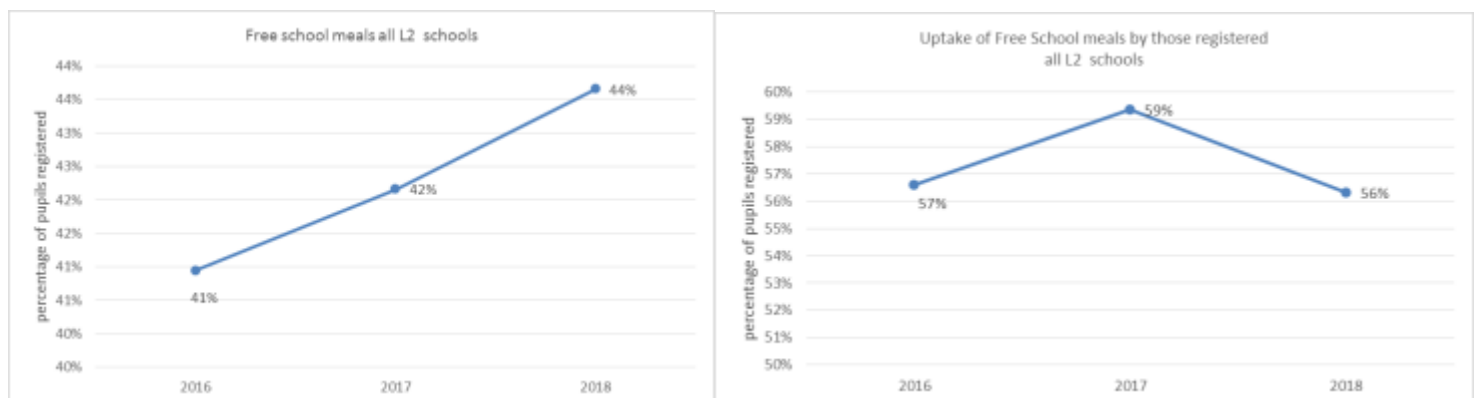
The Lowest Attaining 20% of pupils at Torry Academy has seen a slight upwards trend in 2016/17, but is below the 2014/2015 performance and we are seeing an increase in the highest attaining 20%. The virtual comparator figures (which are a control group of pupils with similar characteristics across Scotland) outperform the Academy in 2016/2017 as do the Aberdeen City Average. The Lowest attaining Gap is increasing and the Highest Attaining gap is decreasing.



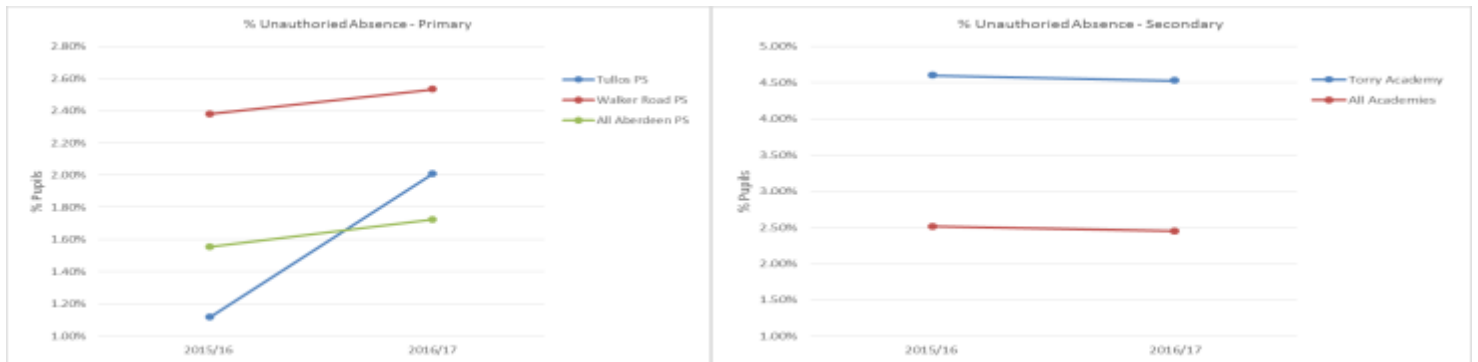
The numbers of leavers achieving literacy and numeracy levels levels 3,4,5 are all seeing increases from 2015/2016 but are below the virtual comparator in 2016/2017 and the Aberdeen City Average



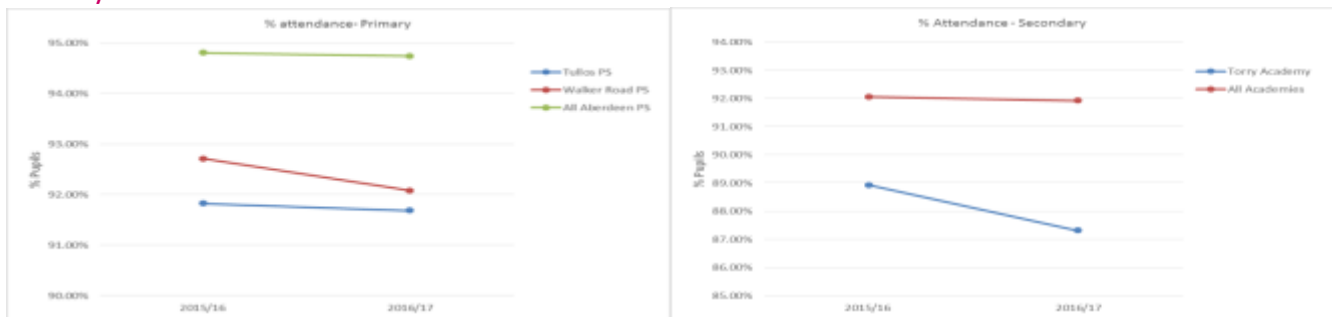
Free school meal registration is seeing modest annual improvements with uptake of meals for those registered only being 59% at it's highest (on day of survey)



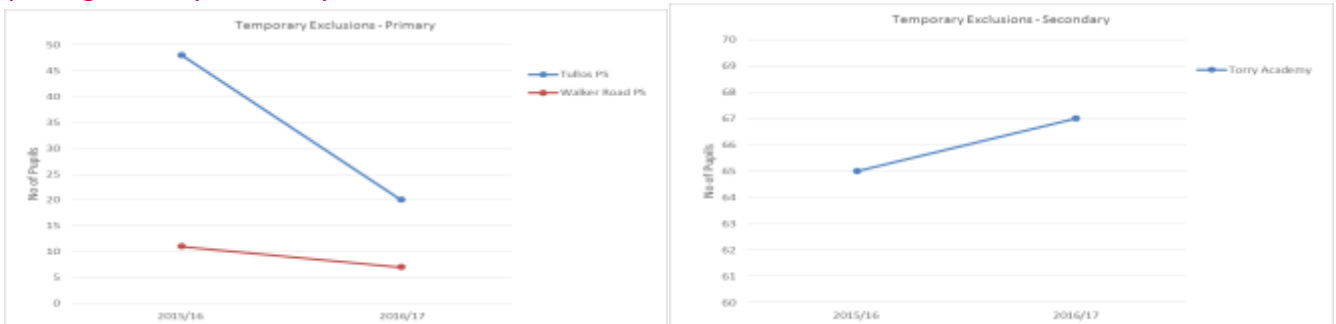
Both Primary schools are seeing increases in unauthorised absences, with Tullos being the most extreme change. However Walker Road's rates are higher than both Aberdeen City Average and Tullos. Torry Academy's rates are almost double than that of the Aberdeen Average, but are showing a slight decrease in 2016/2017.



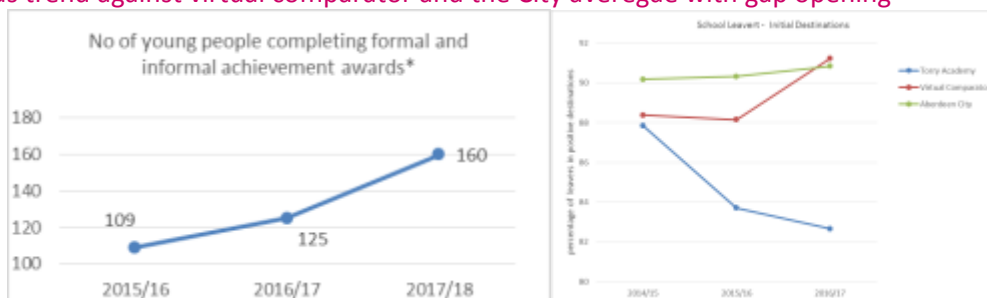
Attendance Levels at both Primaries show a significant gap to the Aberdeen Average with Walker Road showing a steeper decline in 2016/2017. Again Torry Academy is seeing a decline in attendance and a large Gap to the rest of the City.



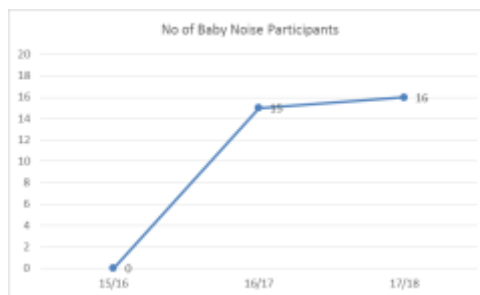
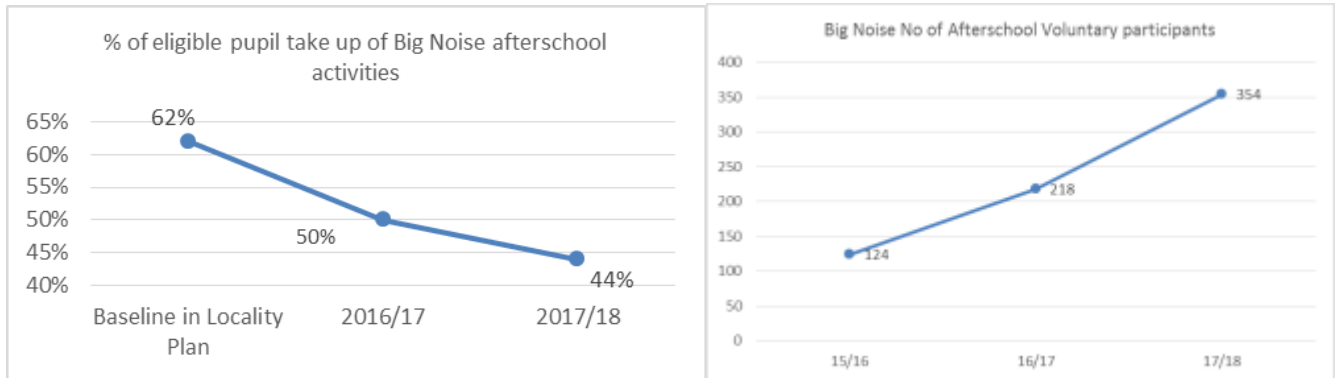
Both Primaries are seeing a reduction in temporary exclusions, with a significant drop at Tullos. However the reverse is happening at Torry Academy.



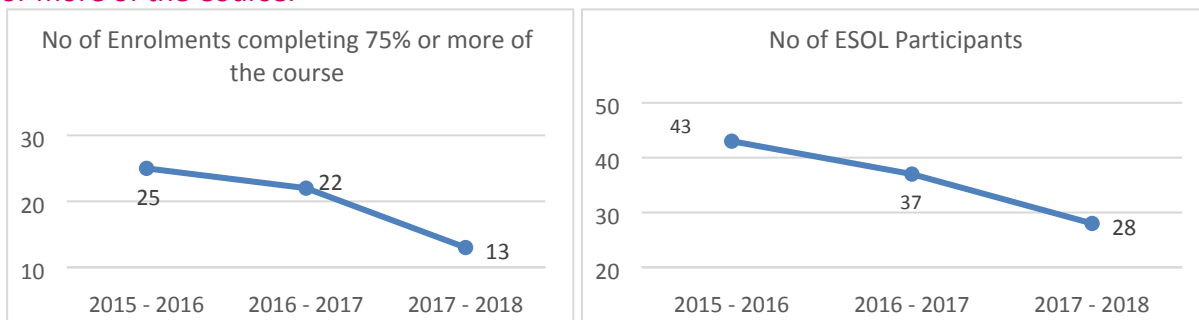
We are seeing a 28% increase in the Number of Young People completing formal and informal achievement awards from 2016/2017 and a positive trend. This is ahead of the City trend as reported in the LOIP 2016/2017. However 16-19 destinations are showing a downwards trend against virtual comparator and the City average with gap opening



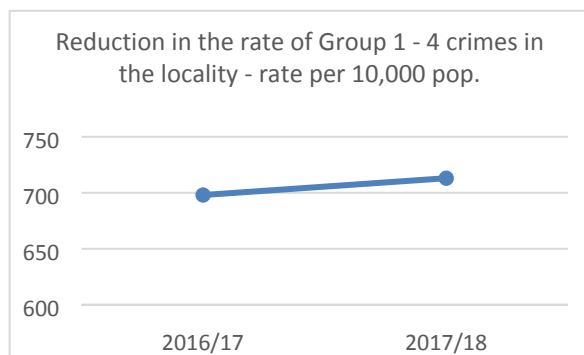
Big Noise Afterschool numbers are increasing on an annual basis as every year a new school year is added to the programme (currently at P5) however the number of eligible pupils attending after school activities is declining. Big Noise is addressing this.



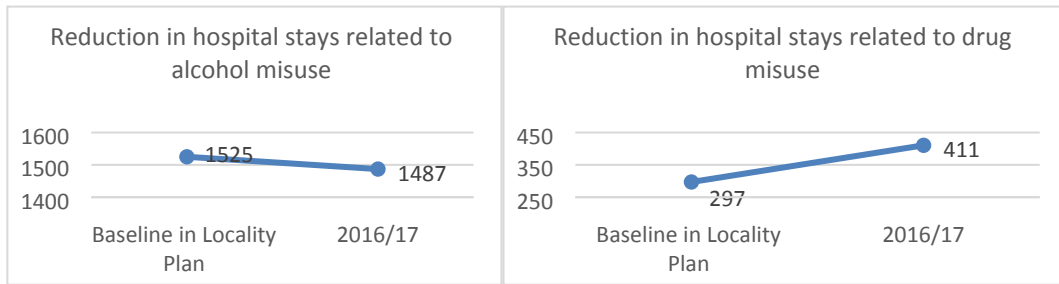
We are seeing a decline in number of ESOL participants, this is also mirrored in those registered completing 75% or more of the Course.



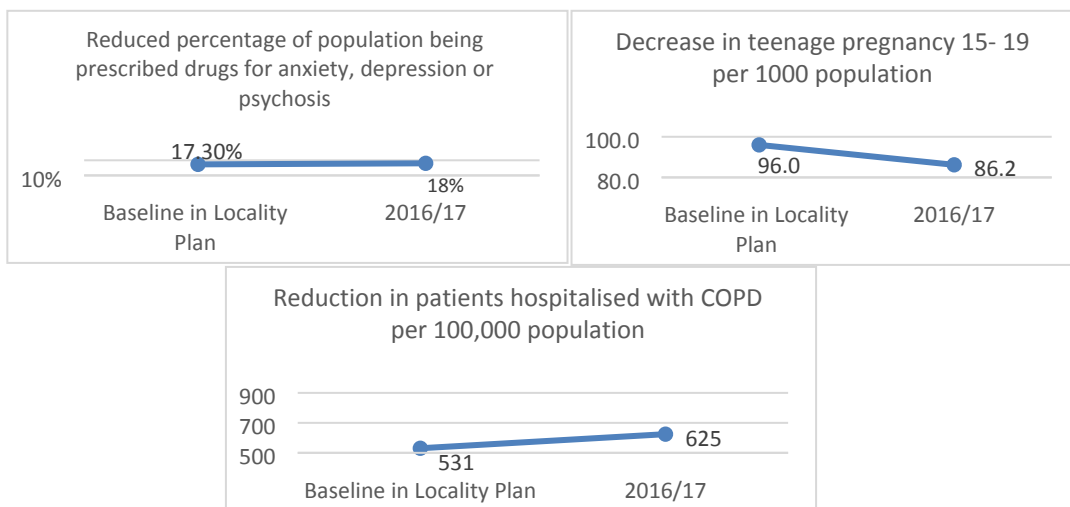
Crime rate for Group's 1-4 is slightly increasing but the Aberdeen City trend as reported in the LOIP is seeing a downward trajectory.



Although we are seeing a 2.5% decrease in the reduction of hospital admissions related to alcohol misuse there is a 38% increase in hospital stays related to drug misuse, which is likely attributed to the aging population of long term drug users.



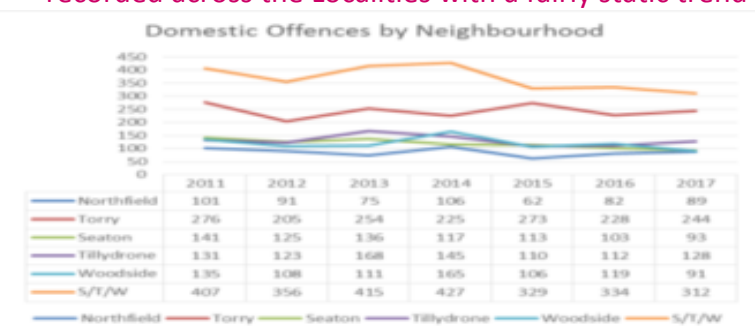
Torry residents prescribed drugs for anxiety depression or psychosis is fairly static but we are seeing a decrease in teenage pregnancies (baseline was 13 times higher than Cults and is still high) and a 16% increase in patients hospitalised with COPD (the base line was already twice the City Average)



Torry is seeing a significant drop in fire-raising offences, with vandalism increasing and ASB instances decreasing. Under 18's account for: 71% of fire-raising offences, 31% of vandalism and 40% of ASB. These figures do not include incidents of under 18's where resource and investigation was required but no criminality recorded.

Offence	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Fireraising	30	14	7
Vandalism	317	290	320
ASB	190	161	151

Torry is recording the second highest rate of domestic offences recorded across the Localities with a fairly static trend profile.



### City Voice

- 46% of respondents felt safe in Torry
- 47% respondents know about local activities with 60% accessing information about the community by face book.
- 45% of respondents have opportunities to participate in social activities with 43% having opportunities to get to know people in the community
- 66% of respondents have periods when they feel lonely with 10% feely lonely ofeten
- 24% of respondents feel there are sufficient opportunities to influence local decisions
- 26% were invited to participate in Locality planning Activity
- 49% of respondents feel they have good health with 84% of respondents feeling they look after their health well or quite well
- 33% of respondents feeling unable to eat healthily



## Free School Meals

### What is the Aim?

To increase the registration of free school meals in Torry by 7% by the 31st of December 2018.

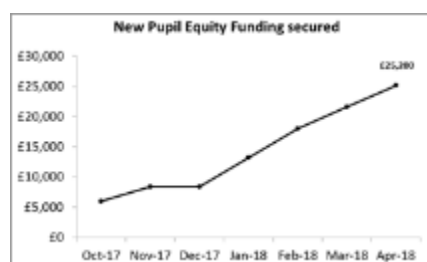
Evidence indicates a gap between the numbers of families living in poverty and those claiming free school meals - 75% of Torry school children are in the most deprived quintile (20%) but less than 25% of P4 – 7 pupils claim free school meals, lower than comparable areas of the city.

### How does this support prevention and early intervention?

Increasing registrations and uptake of pupils eating free school meals alleviates poverty in the community, increases attainment and encourages healthy eating

Parents of P4 – P7 pupils can build up arrears, at a significant cost to school funds if they do not bring in their proof of entitlement as part of the registration process. As of June 2018, At Tullis Primary School, the outstanding balance for pupils is £19,072 and at Walker Road it's £17,595.

Schools also lose out on Pupil Equity Funding (£1,200 per pupil) which is allocated per registration.



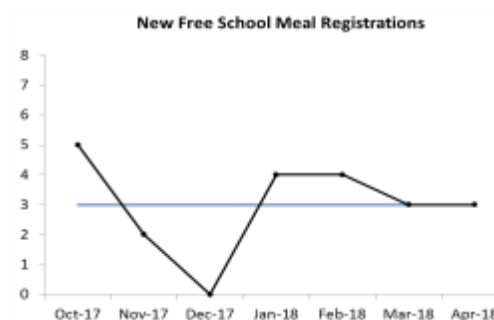
### What changes are we currently testing?

- Awareness and sign up sessions with pupils and parents at both primary schools
- Tutor time sessions with Academy pupils to complete free school meals application forms to take home for signing from parents.
- Working to re develop systems to automatically register those children that have an entitlement.
- Taster sessions and theme days with the children to encourage them to have more school lunches which includes working with community growing spaces

Process and System change to auto enrol pupils would deliver a substantial increase in registrations, out stripping aim target, and is a current focus.

We are now developing phase two of the initiative, which will focus on increasing the uptake of free school meals for those registered.

### Improvement Data





# OUR PLACE



## Our Place Drivers

Priority Aim	Primary Drivers	Areas where we have made changes during 2017/18
<p>Our Community is Safe, Clean and we can move around easily and safely</p>	<p>We can Move around Torry easily and safely</p>	<p>Traffic and Air Quality management on Victoria Road</p>
	<p>The Community is Tidy and well maintained</p>	<p>Keep Torry Tidy</p>
	<p>The Community is resilient</p>	<p>Living Streets</p>
<p>We have access to affordable fit for purpose well maintained housing which we can sustain</p>	<p>We will deliver high quality social housing estates and housing services</p>	<p>Housing Estate Upgrades</p>
	<p>We will deliver additional affordable housing that meets resident’s needs</p>	<p>Torry Hub</p>
	<p>There are increased opportunities to access high quality fit for purpose facilities</p>	<p>Former Phoenix – 258 NBR</p>
	<p>Community Ownership of assets</p>	<p>Community Growing Spaces</p>
<p>We will increase the promotion, quality and use of our greenspace and heritage</p>	<p>We will improve and promote our Greenspace</p>	<p>Torry Battery</p>
	<p>We will celebrate and promote our Heritage</p>	<p>Torry Memories and Heritage</p>
	<p>We will improve children and young people’s play experiences</p>	<p>Park Upgrades</p>

# What key changes have we made?

## Traffic and Air Quality Management

There has been a year on year improvement of both N02 and PM10 concentrations on Wellington Road, it is not quite at the stage of reviewing the AQMA at this time, as there is a requirement to have year on year compliant data and there is a prudent approach being taken to ensure close monitoring before the AQMA is removed. Traffic on Wellington Road has seen a decrease in the period.

## Keep Torry Tidy

There has been a surge of Community Clean ups across Torry, ranging from bus shelter clean ups, litter picks and beach cleans, Surfers Against Sewage have been particularly active. We have seen a 6 fold increase in Clean Ups being undertaken by the community in partnership with the third sector, Local churches and local business. The Torry Community Group initially organised a clean-up of Bruce Gardens, this has now evolved into a partnership with CFINE, ACC and One Seed Forward to develop a Community Garden. The Garden Group now meets monthly.



## Living Streets

An audit of a pilot area of Torry earmarked to undergo a series of improvement works was carried out by Living Streets in February 2017. The audit comprised three separate walking audits, engaging 51 participants who included residents, pupils at the local primary school and officers working in the Torry area.

Three main themes were identified in the report and a number of actions were identified:

- Lack of maintenance of streets and spaces
- Lack of amenities for play and socialising
- Increase in anti-social behaviour

Following the audit a community steering group of 4 residents has been formed to prioritise the recommendations and the following improvements have been completed:

- The Abbey Road playpark was identified as an asset within the report, it has since been upgraded and now includes updated facilities
- Dilapidated street signs have been replaced
- The previously fenced off parking bay and blocked access to the pedestrian footway has now been made accessible due to the repair of the retaining wall
- The steering worked in partnership with the Housing team to have the sharp, rusty railings by a bus stop on Balnagask Road repaired
- Dog fouling was amongst the most commented on issue within the report and steps have been taken to address this (see case study)
- The damaged dog bin on Rockall Road has been replaced
- The fly tipping on Burnbank Terrace and Deeside Family Centre was removed
- The abandoned car on Rockall Road was removed.

The community steering group continue to meet regularly and work effectively in partnership with relevant partners and have influenced other aspects of the Plan and will be developing the scope of Living Streets moving forward.

## Housing Estate Upgrades

Over the period £1.7 million has been spent on a variety of Housing Estate Upgrades owned by Aberdeen City Council. This includes works on: Oscar Road, the Hen Houses, Girdelness Road, Victoria Road and an upgrade of Provost Hogg Court from sheltered to Very Sheltered.

## Torry Hub, Primary and Early Years Complex

Following a £20 million pound investment from Aberdeen City Council in 2016, the Torry Hub is in final phases of development to deliver a state of the art pivotal asset to be located on the former Torry Academy Site. The Hub will be part of a larger complex which will comprise a Primary school and Early Years Facility, which will, be opened to the community during non-educational hours to ensure full asset utilisation and redefine the role of the school in socio economic regeneration.

The ethos of the Hub is to provide integrated services on a flexible basis, in one place, that meets the communities' future needs and delivers early intervention. The Hub has specifically been designed into the larger complex to ensure a high footfall will have opportunity to access its services. It will enable cross sector multi-disciplinary teams, services, Third sector, community café and community space to work together to tackle improvement outcomes identified in this plan and ensure effective collaboration,

identification of improvement models and delivery of co-designed services. The Hub will also provide a social space for the community to access in the form of a community cafe and will encourage new users to access services as well as increasing outdoor growing spaces

Taking into account the key longer-term improvement drivers the following services/groups have been carefully selected to drive improvements, reduce demand and market failure in our current systems and encourage collaboration and innovation.

- Mental Health Community Worker/ Community Link Worker/Dietician/Alcohol and drugs services (Aberdeen Health and Social Care Partnership)
- City Wardens
- Library Services , Adult Learning, ESOL, Communities Teams, Customer services (ACC)
- ACC Housing services
- ACC Customer Services
- The Big Noise Programme
- Priority Families
- Financial Inclusion Teams (not currently located in Torry)
- Community café social enterprise which will attract a wide range of users and will be designed to accommodate young parents to the older generation.
- Third Sector partners and local community Groups tackling the improvement outcomes such as, community media, Food networks, Credit Unions, employability projects, community-based health projects, drugs and alcohol services and youth services etc.

## Community Asset Transfer - Former Phoenix- 258 NBR



The former Phoenix Youth Club building at 258 North Balnagask Road has been an unused asset for a number of years and is located in an anti-social behaviour hot spot. As a response to the Locality Plan, a process was undertaken to look at bringing the building back into use, delivering a range of services that deliver early intervention and prevention in line with the improvements identified in the Locality Plan.

The King's Community Foundation, a local third sector organisation who already run two very successful projects in Torry for Young people and Adults noted an interest in the building on the basis of developing it with the involvement of the wider community. Their existing projects started in a kitchen in a flat in Balnagask, grew to the Tullos Community Centre and are now so successful, they need new space.

Kings are in the process of undertaking a two year lease, leading towards a full asset transfer of the building in the future.

Sanctuary Housing allocated £40,000 of community benefit funding to building enhancements and additional funds from Developers Contributions have been identified along with financial contributions from Kings to deliver a fit for purpose facility which will include a community cafe. Target opening date is the end of 2018.

The building is an important part of Torry's history and Facebook posts about the project and community meetings regularly reach 2000 people.

## Torry Battery

There has been an upgrade made to Torry Battery to encourage wider community use which includes improvements to the carpark and access road, as well as this, two community groups have been working in partnership with Aberdeen City Councils Environmental Services team to plant spring bulbs and carry out regular Litter Picks at the site, some of these have been jointly run with the RSPB Dolphin Watch Team and included a "Karma Yoga" session held at the Old Torry Community Centre to reward the volunteers for all their hard work.

## Park Upgrades

Over the past year, the Abbey Road Playpark has been upgraded. As well as this, the Torry Locality secured £50,000 to renovate their existing skate park.

## Torry Memories and Heritage Society

Since the creation of the Locality Plan for Torry, we have seen a doubling of heritage groups in Torry. The newest group "The Torry Heritage and Memories Society" was set up by three residents in March 2017. The aim of the society is to safeguard the past for future generations to enjoy, bringing people together to reminisce, share stories, collate and preserve collections of photographs, artefacts and other items relating to Torry's past.

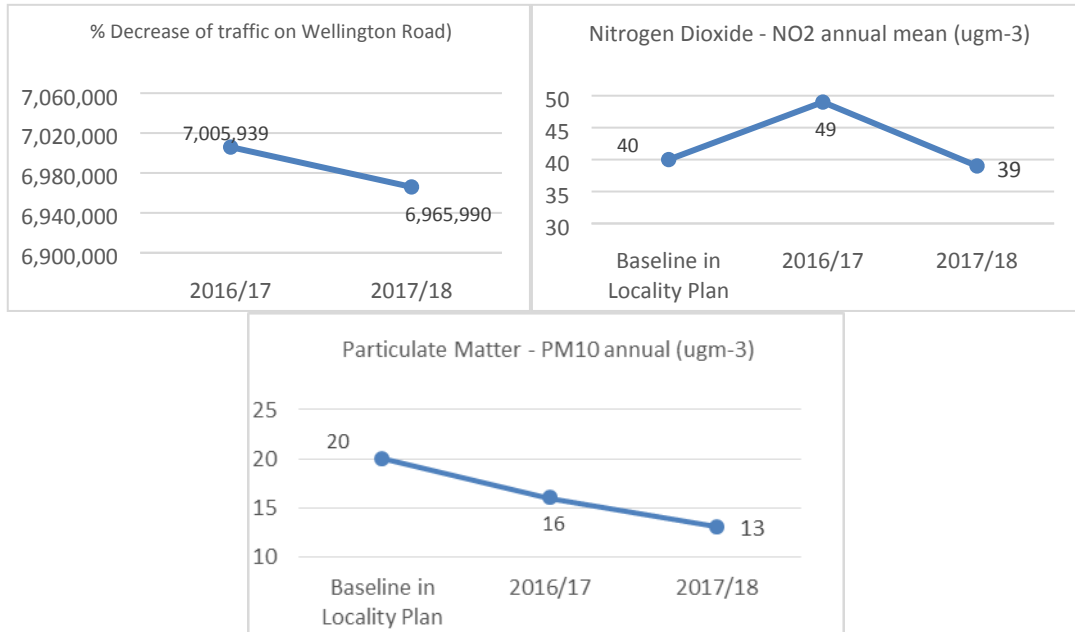
The Torry Heritage and Memories society have set up a memory room in Provost Hogg Court. The room is set up in the form of 1940's/1950's Living Room. They meet every other week and open up the room to residents, visits from others living locally; including those experiencing the varying stages of dementia and most latterly local children looking to learn about their local history and heritage.

This is a wonderful example of using an underused asset in the community to deliver a range of impacts focusing on social isolation, dementia and intergenerational work.

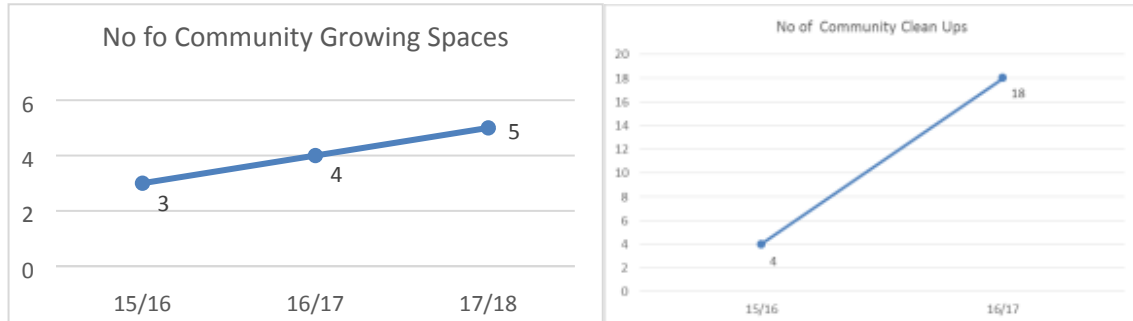


# Are we seeing improvement?

We are seeing a decrease of both traffic on Wellington Road and a decrease in NO2 and PM10



The Community is positively responding to the Community Growing agenda and we are seeing a positive trajectory of food growing spaces being developed and the Community Clean up rate has seen a 600% increase.

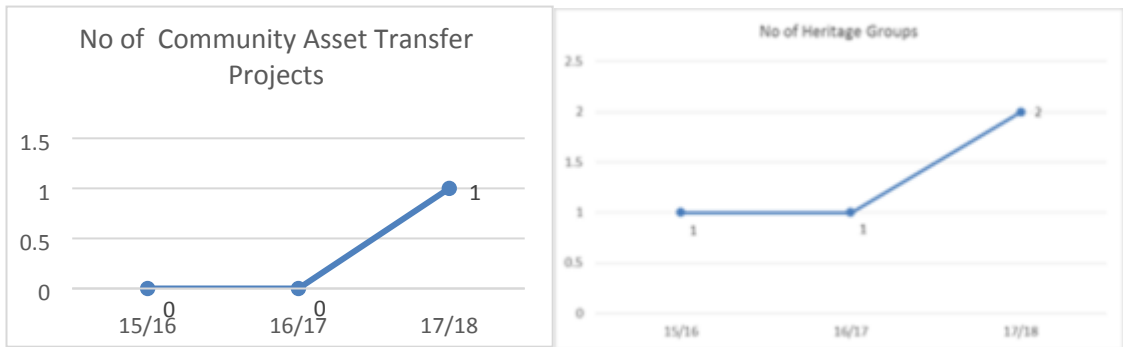


Resident Led Audits have now been established as part of the Locality Plan delivery and we are seeing a positive number of actions being delivered from the audits on an annual basis.





We are now starting to see the emergence of Community Asset Transfer Projects and the number of Heritage Groups established has doubled in the period.



### City Voice

- 36% felt the homes in the community met community needs
- 42% felt local and community facilities met local community need
- 36% felt satisfied with playparks
- 49% felt you could get around Torry easily



## Dog Fouling

### What is the Aim?

To reduce dog fouling in Torry on Girdleness Road and Rockall Road by 50% by 31<sup>st</sup> August 2017.

Dog fouling is a recurrent problem in the area and was the most commented issue identified on a recent [Street Audit Report](#) conducted in Torry by Living Streets Scotland.

### How does this support community empowerment and Early Intervention?

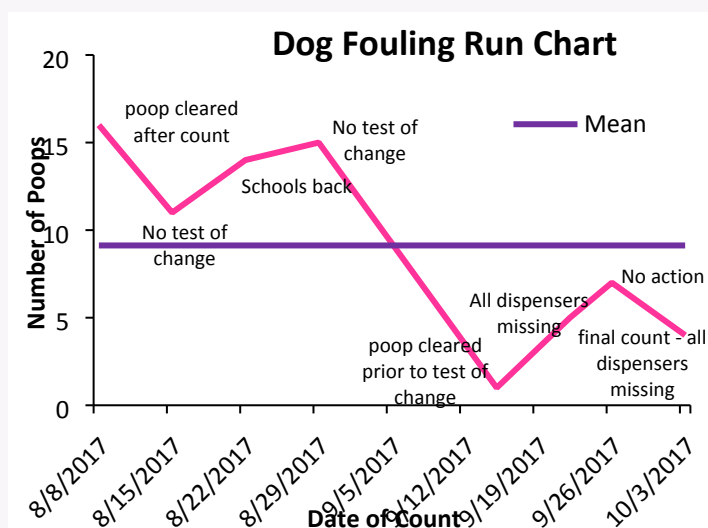
- Shows our commitment to improve Torry and support the community to find solutions to a recurrent problem
- Torry residents will have more pride and ownership of their area as it will become a cleaner more attractive space for the community
- Helps prevent dog fouling in the future by giving the community collective responsibility over keeping the area clean
- Educates the next generation of Dog Owners

### What changes are we currently testing?

- Workshops with local school children to educate them on dog fouling
- Making dispensers with local school children to contain dog mess bags to be erected on Girdleness and Rockall Roads
- Creating awareness raising posters about the issue with school children and distributing them around community centres



### Improvement Data



We achieved a reduction of almost 63% of piles, which is a positive, notable decrease over the time we have been running this improvement project. Unfortunately, as the dispensers were removed twice during this test of change, we are unable to know if the success of the project could have been more successful if that had not occurred. However, the results are still positive and have led to the Torry Community Group developing the project in a wider area within the community and we are moving to test the idea in other localities.

# OUR TECHNOLOGY



## Our Technology Drivers

### Priority Aim

### Primary Drivers

### Areas where we have made changes during 2017/18

Improve Access to Fast Broadband

Residents, Businesses and the Third Sector have access to quality wireless connection

Improve Digital Access to Community Information

The Community and Partners have access to digital information about opportunities in the community

Torry Communities Facebook

Improve Access to digital opportunities

The Community has access to learning opportunities to develop their digital skills and to use the internet safely

Torry Out of School Club

Smiles Across The Miles

# What key changes have we made?

## Torry Communities Facebook Pages

The Communities Torry Facebook page has been developed to share information about events and local developments with the Torry community linking to the Locality Plan. Total Page likes (members) have more than trebled in two years to 735 which is 7% of the Torry population. A proactive approach to cross posting across half a dozen Torry Facebook pages, including the Torry Community Group Page and Torry Community Council, ensures a wide reach across the Torry area and enables a wide range of Torry groups and organisations to share information with the wider community.

## Torry Out of School Club

Funded through the 2018 U decide process the Torry Out of School club is delivering confidence building classes, based on play, for the young learners and parents at the club who have limited access to IT at home, up to 50% of the children are from lone parent households.

## Smiles Across The Miles

Balnagask House narrowly missed out on U Decide funding for Smiles Across Miles – but did it anyway! Staff managed to acquire Ipads and some technical training was provided by Silver City Surfers to support Resident's to skype or Facetime friends and family who are too far away to visit regularly, providing a smart way to reduce social isolation.

### City Voice

67% of respondents felt comfortable using digital skills

87% have access to IT Equipment (i.e. tablet/smart phone laptop etc.)

# Locality Partnership and Key Contacts

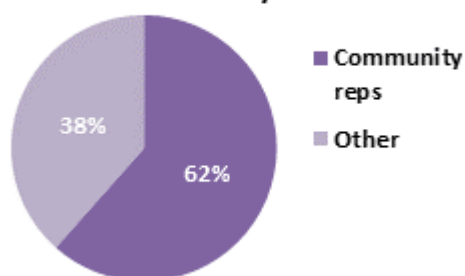
## Locality Partnership

Strong leadership is essential for our success and our Locality Partnership was established to manage and oversee the plan in early 2017. As part of this process a group of 20 local residents worked with local staff and Scottish Community Development Centre to design roles and responsibilities and recruit local representative to the Partnership. The Partnership has successfully attracted local membership from a diverse cross section of the community and has consistently achieved 50% membership of local people.

### Membership

- 7 Community Representatives
- 1 Community Project Representative – Big Noise
- 4 Local Councillors
- 1 City Council Representative
- 1 Police Scotland Representative
- 1 AHSCP Representative
- 1 ACVO / Third Sector Representative
- 1 Active Aberdeen Partnership Representative
- 1 Local Head Teacher

**Partnership Membership  
Torry**



For all enquiries in relation to this report, or about Locality Planning, please contact the Locality Team in the first instance by emailing: [jomackie@aberdeencity.gov.uk](mailto:jomackie@aberdeencity.gov.uk)