

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Aberdeen City Council
DATE	13 December 2021
EXEMPT	No
CONFIDENTIAL	No
REPORT TITLE	Fairer Aberdeen Fund Annual Report 2020-21
REPORT NUMBER	CUS/21/301
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CHIEF OFFICER	Derek McGowan
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TERMS OF REFERENCE	21

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide members with the Fairer Aberdeen Fund Annual Report 2020-21.

2. RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 2.1 Note the Annual Report for 2020-21, at Appendix 1 and instruct the Director of Customer Services to report the Council's feedback to the Fairer Aberdeen Board as appropriate.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 At its meeting of 21st June 2017 the Council agreed that Fairer Aberdeen Annual Reports would continue to be reported to Full Council. This report includes the Annual Report for 2020-21 at Appendix 1. Appendix 2 details spend for each project and the key performance indicators to demonstrate impact. Given the impact of the pandemic and lockdown restrictions, performance figures for the previous year have also been included for comparison.
- 3.2 The Fund is dispersed and managed by the Fairer Aberdeen Board, made up of representatives from the identified priority areas through Regeneration Matters network, the Civic Forum, the Council, NHS Grampian, Police Scotland

and ACVO (Aberdeen Council of Voluntary Organisations). The Fund is aligned with the LOIP themes and outcomes in place during the reporting period.

- 3.3 The Annual Report details how the Fund was used and the impact it had during 2020-21. £1.6m was allocated by the Council to the Fairer Aberdeen Fund, to be dispersed by the Fairer Aberdeen Board, to tackle poverty and deprivation in the priority areas of Cummings Park, Mastrick, Middlefield, Northfield, Seaton, Tillydrone, Woodside and Torry, and across the City with vulnerable groups and individuals. A few highlights are summarised here, further detail is available at Appendix 1.
- 3.4 During 2020-21 the Fairer Aberdeen programme was impacted by the Coronavirus pandemic and associated restrictions. Funded initiatives provided regular updates and reported on impact and how they were adapting their services to continue to provide support for vulnerable people most impacted by the pandemic. Services were provided remotely by telephone, email, video calls and social media. There were innovative methods of using technology as well as support for those who were digitally excluded. Services were accessible whenever restrictions allowed, albeit to smaller numbers where necessary to ensure safety of beneficiaries.
- 3.5 Funding was awarded to 40 projects within the main programme, as well as a Community Support Fund to support community engagement, an Employment Support Fund to support costs associated with getting people back into work.
- 3.6 Grants ranged from £2,200 to £158,000 in value. A total of 36,252 people were involved in, or benefited from, funded initiatives, 10,094 of them were under 16 years old. 630 volunteers contributed 120,756 hours of volunteering time with a value of over £1.9m. Despite the pandemic the total number of people supported was higher than in 2019-20 (34,431). The number of volunteers was lower than in 2019-20 (973), perhaps due to many older volunteers being in the shielding category, however some organisations gained additional volunteers who were furloughed and keen to help during the crisis.
- 3.7 The Economy theme promotes inclusive economic growth, removes barriers to accessing employment and helps to maximise household incomes. It also provides opportunities for young people to enter employment, education and training. It provides access to affordable financial services and products, coordinated provision of quality advice and information services, and access to support and skills needed to return to work, including initial engagement, personal development activity and in work support.
- 3.8 Over the year 605 people were involved in employability programmes, 97 people moved into work and 26 young people moved on to employment, education, or training. Numbers were significantly lower than usual due to the pandemic and lack of available vacancies in the city (in 2019-20 270 people were supported into work).
- 3.9 2,479 people received money advice or income maximisation advice, with 1,012 reporting a total financial gain of £4m, an average of £4,000 per person.

- 3.10 4,947 people saved with a credit union, providing £1.7m in affordable loans, avoiding reliance on payday loans or doorstep lending.
- 3.11 The People (Children and Young People) theme promotes health and provides parenting and family support, services that meet the needs of young people, and opportunities for young people to secure positive destinations.
- 3.12 Over the year 10,094 children and young people were supported, along with 198 parents and families with complex needs. 257 young people accessed 2,211 counselling sessions and 133 young people were involved in producing youth media. At least 2 families no longer required Social Work support, resulting in a significant saving for statutory services.
- 3.13 The People (Adults) theme promotes health, mental health and wellbeing, community safety, and social cohesion and socially sustainable communities. It supports learning opportunities, volunteering, and increased opportunities to influence decision making.
- 3.14 Over the year 379 people accessed counselling provision delivered online or by telephone, 286 people took part in adult learning activities, 80 older people were supported to develop digital skills and 19 volunteers provided support to rough sleepers. Additional patrol hours were allocated to reduce harm to women involved in the sex trade and to protect communities from the risk and harm caused by prostitution. 45 ex-offenders were supported in the community after their release, 12 secured a positive destination and 3 moved into work.
- 3.15 The Place theme addresses food poverty and supports community initiatives to increase access to healthy and affordable food. It provides community facilities, partnership working, access to recreational and educational activities, support with welfare reform issues, and promotes community capacity building.
- 3.16 Over the year CFINE distributed 615 tonnes of free food, the equivalent of 1.8m meals, and 3 community pantries operated with 205 members. Supporting the Council's Covid-19 crisis support line a contactless delivery service was implemented and 20,000 people received 44,378 emergency food parcels. 15,250 children received fruits packs, 4000 people received masks and hand sanitizer, 12,681 people received free sanitary products and 2,000 people received household items and toiletries. 600 food bank users were referred to other services for support and 2,036 received financial support through their SAFE Team. 5 Community Flats/Projects were funded in priority areas, providing youth work, adult learning, support and advice, and inclusion. Using social media, video calls, email and messaging they kept in touch with people who were particularly vulnerable and isolated during lockdown, and provided additional support such as food, energy costs, activity packs and support with home schooling and digital exclusion.
- 3.17 The Fairer Aberdeen Board distributed a £360,000 Pandemic Hardship Fund, £280,000 of which was allocated from the Scottish Government. Grants went to 47 charities and organisations, many of which wouldn't usually receive funding from the Council, and who were very grateful to receive support for their communities. Funding provided food and food vouchers, toiletries, household

essentials and fuel top ups to support those in financial hardship, and counselling sessions and activities to support mental health and wellbeing and tackle social isolation. Funding was targeted at those at increased risk due to the pandemic, including people living in the most deprived areas, people living in households on low incomes, younger people, disabled people, minority ethnic households and households with children. An additional 11,500 people were supported, including 5,000 children and young people. Over 300 volunteers contributed 6,562 hours of volunteer time. Further information on the Hardship Fund is available at Appendix 1.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 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.
- 4.2 In 2020-21 the Council agreed a sum of £1.6m to be managed by the Fairer Aberdeen Board. The same sum was agreed for 2021-22.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

6. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

Category	Risk	Low (L) Medium (M) High (H)	Mitigation
Strategic risk	Over 36,000 people benefitted from funded initiatives through the year. Many of the initiatives provide services that are preventative and addressing inequalities within the city, however there is an increasing need for support for people in crisis situations which is also being delivered for some of	L	The Fairer Aberdeen programme is a positive example of partnership working, involving communities in decision making, bring a wide range of experience and knowledge to support initiatives that can respond to the needs of vulnerable people.

	our most vulnerable citizens.		
Compliance	No risks identified		
Operational	No risks identified		
Financial	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.	L	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.
Reputational	The public may be unaware of the Fairer Aberdeen Fund.	L	The Annual Report at Appendix 1 will be widely circulated.
Environment /climate	No risks identified		

7. OUTCOMES

COUNCIL DELIVERY PLAN	
	Impact of Report
Aberdeen City Council Policy Statement	The activities in this report support the delivery of Policy Statement People 9 - Promote diversion activities for youths and adults in our city with enhanced focus on our three locality areas.
Aberdeen City Local Outcome Improvement Plan	
Prosperous Economy Stretch Outcomes	<p>The activities detailed in this report support the delivery of LOIP Stretch Outcomes in place during the reporting period:</p> <p>2 - 90% of working people in Living Wage Employment by 2026.</p> <p>2.1 - Promoting inclusive economic growth for our most disadvantaged communities.</p> <p>They also support delivery of the following outcomes in Locality Plans in place during the reporting period:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove barriers to accessing employment and employment progression. • Maximise household incomes. • Maximise the employment, education and training opportunities for school leavers. <p>The initiatives and programmes being funded support frontline services that are provided by the Council, Community, Voluntary and other public sector partners with 95% of the fund allocated to voluntary and community organisations. Supporting people into employment, maximising 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.</p>
Prosperous People Stretch Outcomes	<p>The activities detailed in this report support the delivery of LOIP Stretch Outcomes in place during the reporting period:</p> <p>3. 95% of children (0-5years) will reach their expected developmental milestones by the time of their child health reviews by 2026.</p> <p>3.1 Ensuring that families receive the parenting and family support they need.</p> <p>Improving health and reducing inequalities</p> <p>4. 90% of children and young people will report that they feel mentally well by 2026 –</p> <p>4.2 Increasing children's knowledge and understanding of their own physical and mental wellbeing.</p> <p>7. Child Friendly City which supports all children to prosper and engage actively with their communities by 2026.</p> <p>10. 2% fewer people reconvicted within one year of receiving a community or custodial sentence by 2026–</p> <p>10.2 Ensuring people on community sentences and liberated from prison have better access to services.</p> <p>11. Healthy life expectancy (time lived in good health) is five years longer by 2026.</p> <p>11.1 Supporting vulnerable and disadvantaged people, families and groups.</p> <p>11.4 Encouraging adoption of healthier lifestyles.</p> <p>They also support delivery of the following outcomes in Locality Plans in place during the reporting period:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve outcomes for families with the most complex needs. • Facilities and services that meet the needs of young people. • Improve health, mental health and wellbeing/

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to learning opportunities to develop digital skills and use the internet safely. • Enhance social cohesion and socially sustainable communities. • Increased opportunities to influence decision making. • Improve community safety to keep people safe. • Prevent and reduce levels of substance misuse. <p>The Fairer Aberdeen Fund supports a range of initiatives to support vulnerable people. Many of the services are addressing inequalities within the city and responding to an increasing need for support for people in crisis situations. Fairer Aberdeen initiatives also contribute to the delivery of the Council's Locality Plans, Anti-Poverty Strategy and have an important role in responding to Welfare Reform changes.</p>
<p>Prosperous Place Stretch Outcomes</p>	<p>The activities detailed in this report support the delivery of LOIP Stretch Outcomes in place during the reporting period:</p> <p>13. No one in Aberdeen will go without food due to poverty by 2026.</p> <p>13.1 Increasing food resilience at individual and community level by establishing self-governing community co-operatives to offer further supportive ways of providing food.</p> <p>They also support delivery of the following outcomes in Locality Plans in place during the reporting period:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased opportunities to access high quality, fit for purpose facilities. • Appropriate spaces and facilities to support play and recreational activities. • Celebrate and promote heritage and culture. • Tidy and well-maintained communities. • Support community capacity building through the use of technology. <p>The Fairer Aberdeen Fund provides 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.</p>

8. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Assessment	Outcome
Equality & Human Rights Impact Assessment	Full EHRIA required
Data Protection Impact Assessment	Not required
Duty of Due Regard / Fairer Scotland Duty	Not applicable

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Funded initiatives provide annual monitoring reports which are used to produce the Annual Report.

10. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Fairer Aberdeen Annual Report 2020-21
Appendix 2 – Funded Initiatives Impact Measures

11. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

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