



# Fairer Aberdeen Annual Report 2020-21

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 subgroup 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). The Fairer Aberdeen programme is aligned with the themes from the Local Outcome Improvement Plan Economy, Children and Young People, Adults and Place. In 2020-21 funding of £1,640,000 was made available to support work in priority areas and across the city with vulnerable groups and individuals.

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.

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\*.

In an unprecedented year the Fairer Aberdeen funded initiatives supported those most vulnerable to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. An additional £360,000, some of it Scottish Government Hardship funding, was allocated by the Board to 47 charities and community organisations to support an additional 11,500 people across the city.

\*Volunteering time is generally valued as the median hourly pay rate in the area, in Aberdeen this was £15.77. (Office of National Statistics, the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE))

“Our thanks go to the Fairer Aberdeen Board for their support, and we look forward to continuing our vital Covid-19 support project that gives a helping hand to those in crisis.”

**Paul O’Connor, Inchgarth Community Centre**

“We are very pleased to receive the Fairer Aberdeen Coronavirus Pandemic Hardship Fund to facilitate our COVID-19 community support programme, particularly targeted to the hard to reach ethnic minority communities in Aberdeen. We feel valued.”

**Dr Santosh Gaihre, Organisation for Nepalese Culture and Welfare**

For more information contact:

Susan Thoms, Coordinator  
sthoms@aberdeencity.gov.uk  
01224 523833

Anne Knight, Development Officer  
aknight@aberdeencity.gov.uk  
01224 523532



## **FAIRER ABERDEEN FUND**

**£1.6m** invested

**36,252** people supported

**630** volunteers **120,756** hours of volunteering time

**£1.9m** value of volunteering

### **ECONOMY**

**97** people into work

**26** young people moved on to employment, education or training

**605** people involved in employability programmes

**26** sensory impaired people supported to stay in employment

**2,479** people receiving money advice and income maximisation advice

**£4m** client financial gain, an average of £4,000 per person

**4,947** Credit Union savers **£1.7m** affordable loans provided

### **CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE**

**10,094** children and young people supported

**198** parents and families with complex needs supported

**257** young people accessed **2,211** counselling sessions

**133** young people involved in producing youth media

### **ADULTS**

**379** people accessed counselling provision provided locally

**286** people took part in adult learning

**80** people involved in producing community media

**80** older people were supported to develop digital skills

**19** volunteers provided meals and facilities to rough sleepers

### **PLACE**

**615** tonnes of free food distributed, equal to **1.8m** meals

**2,636** food bank users referred to other services

**3** community pantries with **187** members

**5** community projects/flats supported in disadvantaged areas

### **EMERGENCY COVID-19 PANDEMIC RESPONSE**

(in addition to above)

**£360,000** invested

**11,418** people supported

**4,705** children and young people supported

# ECONOMY

LOCAL  
OUTCOME  
IMPROVEMENT  
PLAN

**90% of working people in Living Wage Employment by 2026 –**

*Promoting inclusive economic growth for our most disadvantaged communities*

LOCALITY PLANS

**Remove barriers to accessing employment and employment progression**

**Maximise household incomes**

**Maximise the employment, education and training opportunities for school leavers**

**shmuTRAIN (Station House Media Unit)** offers comprehensive employability support and skills development training to young people aged 14-19, using community & digital media to engage young people, increase motivation and develop core skills such as confidence, communication, and teamwork, and to support young people to move on to a positive destination.

40 young people participated in the programme. 15 of them moved into positive destinations, 4 into work, 9 into further education and 3 into training. 7 young people secured an SQA, 27 showed improved communication skills and increased readiness for work.

**NESS (North East Sensory Services) Employment Service** provides an employment service to blind, visually impaired, deaf or hard of hearing people who live in Aberdeen City. They provide specialist support enabling people to access relevant employment, education, and training opportunities and to sustain opportunities which have already been accessed.

They worked with 50 clients. 1 person moved into work and 26 were sustained in their current jobs. Support continued during lockdown, mainly remotely.

**CAB Money Advice Outreach Project** provides advice and information using community centres as drop-in centres, assisting clients to maximise their income from welfare benefits and to reduce levels of debt.

531 clients received money advice and income maximisation advice with a total financial gain of £624,000, an average of £1,625 per client.

**St Machar Credit Union** improves access to affordable financial services and products and develops credit union membership, by providing and promoting easy access savings accounts for adults and juniors and low-cost loans within the community.

Over the year they gave out affordable loans of over £1.7m, meaning 3,420 people had access to affordable credit, avoiding payday loans or doorstep lending.

Volunteering can give valuable experience and confidence to enable people to get back into work, with appropriate training and support



**97** people into work  
**26** young people moved on to employment, education or training  
**2,479** people receiving money advice  
**£4m** client financial gain

**Prince's Trust Team Programme** provides a 12 week personal, social and employability skills development programme for participants aged 16-25 who are disadvantaged, with a high proportion having complex needs including offending behaviour, drug and alcohol issues, behavioural issues, problems with literacy, numeracy, mental health and homelessness.

Over the year 21 people completed the programme, delivered digitally. 2 moved into work and 7 into education, training or volunteering.

**Care and Repair** provides advice and financial assistance to older people and people with disabilities, to maximise household income and raise charitable funding on behalf of individuals to carry out repairs, improvements, and adaptations to the home.

Over the year 254 households were assisted with income maximisation and charitable funding, achieving a total financial gain of £170,048, an average of £669 per household. 625 households in priority areas received assistance with repairs, adaptations, and handyman services.

shmuTRAIN

**Social return on investment for every £1 of funding received by shmuTRAIN there was a return of £3.69**

“Our Welfare advice team went to a home working model, we used available tech to facilitate team meetings and communication. We are now using the Near Me platform to do face to face virtual appointments for people when possible. With this new way of working, we were able to reach and support more people, but those who are digitally excluded have had problems.”

## CFINE SAFE

**Pathways** supports people into employment by providing tailored support for people from the first stages of job seeking through to securing and maintaining employment. They identify and encourage participation of hard to reach residents through weekly drop-ins, work clubs, established links with partner agencies and individually tailored one to one Keyworker support.

With Covid-19 restrictions in place all support was provided by telephone and online. There was a 75% reduction in advertised vacancies compared to the year before in Aberdeen. 437 people received support and 85 moved into work. 7 volunteers contributed 210 volunteer hours.

**CFINE SAFE** (Support, Advice, Financial, Education) provides financial capability support on benefits, budgeting and debt, and a referral system to direct beneficiaries to agencies who can support them to resolve issues. SAFE provides a holistic, person-centred response to the multiple and complex needs of people on low incomes and reliant on emergency food provision.

Over the year 922 clients were seen, 267 of them received financial gain of £1,010,278, an average of £3,783 per person.

**Social  
return on  
investment  
for every £1  
of funding  
received by  
Pathways  
there was a  
return of  
£4.67**

**PATHWAYS**

## CFINE SAFE Disability Action

provides financial capability support for those affected by disability. Confidential non-medical advice is provided, as well as for their carers. Face to face appointments were stopped, but support continued by phone, virtual meetings, a mailing service and using the Near Me platform.

772 clients were seen, 107 of them reported financial gain of £2,220,412 an average of £20,751 per person

**PATHWAYS**

Pathways' service is normally based around one-to-one jobsearch support, delivered in local communities. As a result of the pandemic all local community centres and projects were forced to close to the public. In addition, Pathways' offices were required to be shut as much as possible.

To counteract this, it was necessary to shift all support to telephone and online support, with staff working from home wherever possible. Clients were supported through telephone or Zoom calls.

For long periods there has been a lack of vacancies, with many weeks where there are no suitable vacancies, or often vacancies advertised for very few hours. The emphasis when working with clients has had to switch to supporting people to maintain their morale (and to an extent their mental health), helping them to look at alternative types of employment and encouraging them to participate in as much online learning as possible to help them up-skill themselves.

With the increasing numbers of people being made redundant or losing their jobs there is also ever-increasing competition for the few jobs which are advertised. Many employers do not even acknowledge receipt of an application, which in turn is very demoralising for clients as they feel worthless if an employer cannot even be bothered to reject them.

A further impact of the pandemic has been on clients who have limited digital skills. This has meant that individual clients often require greater support in the completion of online application forms.

As things start to improve, we will be ready and keen to return to working in communities as soon as possible. Locally available face-to-face work is a vital element of helping people to regain their confidence in the job market and the Keyworkers are very keen to return to this.

# CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

LOCAL OUTCOME  
IMPROVEMENT PLAN

**95% of children (0-5years) will reach their expected developmental milestones by the time of their child health reviews by 2026 –**

*Ensuring that families receive the parenting and family support they need  
Improving health and reducing inequalities*

**90% of children and young people will report that they feel mentally well by 2026 –**

*Increasing children's knowledge and understanding of their own physical and mental wellbeing*

LOCALITY  
PLANS

**Improve outcomes for families with the most complex needs**

**Facilities and services that meet the needs of young people**

**Fersands Twos Group** provides a safe, welcoming and stimulating environment to deliver good quality play and learning experiences to encourage motivation, and enthusiastic learning.

Over the year 44 families received support and 40 children attended the twice weekly pre-nursery group. 750 hours of childcare were provided.

**Middlefield Youth Flat and Under 11s work** supports young people, especially those with low self-esteem and lack of confidence.

Over the year 50 young people participated in 298 sessions at the Youth Flat, as well as 40 outreach sessions, 45 of them were under 16.

48 young people were involved in Under 11s Work, there were 83 club and small group work sessions. 4 volunteers contributed 249 hours of volunteer time.

**Fersands Youth Work Support** provides a wide range of youth work services to encourage young people to experience new activities, gain new skills, build relationships, and learn about health issues, employment, and other issues relevant to them.

During lockdown they kept in contact with young people through messaging and social media. Over the year 90 young people participated, 72 of them under 16 years old. 4 volunteers contributed 120 hours volunteer time.

**Choices Relationship Revolution**

delivers an early intervention programme to break the cycle of gender-based violence and sexual exploitation and to raise awareness, challenge prejudice and stereotypes amongst young people.

Over the year 650 participants were involved, 70 educational workshops and 45 drop in clubs were held. 96% of young people reported being able to identify violent and exploitative relationships and 95% an increased knowledge of existing support services following participation in the workshops.

There were 12 young people trained and supported to volunteer and 528 volunteer hours contributed.

**SHMU Youth Media** provides creative opportunities for young people (between the age of 12-19), primarily from the priority areas of Aberdeen, to train and take part in all aspects of the production of regular radio programmes.

During lockdown they redesigned services and piloted a range of online learning options, as well as ensuring young people were given additional support to deal with issues. Parents were also given opportunities to discuss any areas of concern.

A total of 133 young people participated, 34 of them under 16 years old. 33 volunteers contributed 19,82000 hours of volunteering time.

**10,094** children and young people supported

**198** parents and families with complex needs supported

**257** young people accessed

**2,211** counselling sessions

**133** young people involved in producing youth media



Services for young people support their personal, social and educational development, enabling them to develop their voice, influence, and place in society and to reach their full potential

**Home-Start** coordinate home visiting support to families identified as at risk and hard to reach, working to prevent further crisis and family breakdown.

41 families in priority areas were supported. 35 families reported reduced isolation, and reduced levels of family conflict or stress. 2 families no longer required Social Work support. 34 families were supported with financial issues, 2 people moved into volunteering and 34 volunteers contributed 1375 volunteering time.

**Befriend A Child** provide accessible group activities for children involved in the Befriend A Child scheme. One is based at Woodside Primary School, accessible to children from Tillydrone, Seaton, Fersands, Woodside and the other is in Cummings Park.

38 children and young people were supported using technology and home activity kits. 4 volunteers contributed 460 hours of volunteering time.

**St Machar Parent Support Project Positive Lifestyles** provides support to young parents, helping them identify issues and to engage with the relevant agencies before they reach crisis point, preventing future long term need for statutory services.

139 people participated in the programme and 25 parents were referred on to relevant agencies for further support. 191 people were supported to claim grants totalling £25,500. 26 young people under the age of 16 were helped by the support provided to their parents.

**Mental Health Aberdeen** provides ACIS Youth Counselling, where 114 young people accessed 1387 counselling sessions. ACIS Youth also operates in Torry, where 91 young people accessed 597 counselling sessions in Primary and Secondary schools.



**Geronimo – Time to Play** is delivered by Aberdeen City Council's Creative Learning for parents and their early years children (0-5 years) to play and be creative together. Through play, creativity and risk Geronimo aims to improve parents' confidence in taking part in their children's learning and to be confident in their own ability to think creatively and be able to find opportunities to play in any environment; a supermarket queue, at home when feeling busy, or out in the rain.

They worked closely with Family Learning over the year, at a time when services were overwhelmed by the referrals of individuals and families in need of support around wellbeing and the impact of lockdown. They adapted by delivering sessions in community settings and aligning their work with the Fit Like Hubs. Outdoor learning took place at the Grove and live online events and video resources were provided. 271 people took part in sessions, 127 of them under 16 years old.

“For children who were not able to leave the house due to self - isolation, or whose parents were struggling to support their physical and emotional health, we provided extra direct support. This was on an individual needs basis and the support was provided in conjunction with education and social work (if social work were involved with the child). An example of support was fun, engaging activities the child could do at home, and we provided them with activity sheets and any materials required. Activities included simple baking recipes, craft activities, ideas on outdoor games or keeping fit. For some of the children we also purchased play equipment and general arts and crafts materials.”

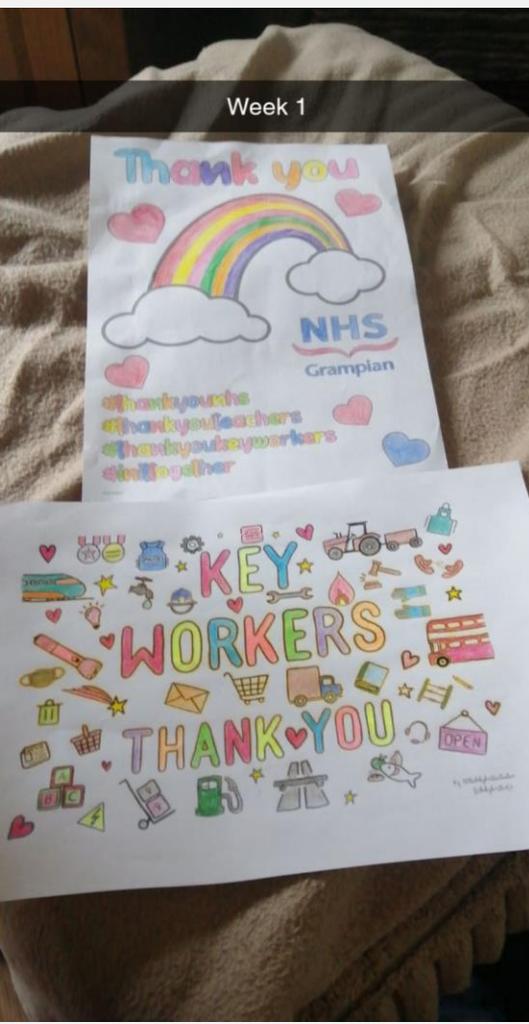
## BEFRIEND A CHILD

# ACIS YOUTH COUNSELLING

We noticed that those clients who accepted video or telephone counselling tended to need more than the originally planned 10-12 sessions as many of them were a great deal less well, especially during the second phase of lockdown over the winter. Generally we would state that many of our clients presented at the more 'worrying' levels of low mood, loneliness, isolation, suicidal ideation; self-harm, etc. and require counsellors to work at greater depth and to offer more sessions than we would normally ask young people to attend.

We also recognised that some clients grew increasingly more anxious as they noticed that we were looking towards a managed ending of contract and we had to be mindful of the young person's need in each single case. Frequently we would 'tail off' sessions gradually rather than have an abrupt ending, to allow the young person to take stock on how they coped for example, with a two week contract rather than a weekly one, moving to three weeks and finally once a month for a 'check in', to allow a more gradual weaning off from counselling generally.

This was not the case before the pandemic or, if it arose, only in isolated client cases, whereas presently the young people's NEED for support has grown more urgent, for sure.



# ADULTS

LOCAL OUTCOME  
IMPROVEMENT PLAN

## Healthy life expectancy (time lived in good health) is five years longer by 2026 –

*Supporting vulnerable and disadvantaged people, families and groups*

*Encouraging adoption of healthier lifestyles*

## 2% fewer people reconvicted within one year of receiving a community or custodial sentence by 2026–

*Ensuring people on community sentences and liberated from prison have better access to services*

LOCALITY  
PLANS

### Improve health, mental health and wellbeing

### 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

**Mental Health Aberdeen** provides adult counselling in Torry, where 158 clients accessed the service and 869 counselling sessions were provided; and in Calsayseat Surgery, where 126 clients accessed 931 counselling sessions.

**Pathways to Wellbeing** provides locally based, easily accessible counselling services.

They provided counselling through a telephone-based service. 95 people accessed 991 counselling sessions delivered. 7 volunteers contributed 300 hours of volunteering time.

**Printfield Feel Good Project and Tillydrone Health & Well Being Project** provide Complementary Health sessions to increase relaxation and wellbeing.

During lockdown sessions were provided remotely. 35 people accessed 296 sessions and 2 volunteers contributed 40 hours of volunteering time.

**SHMU Community Reintegration Support Service** works with ex-offenders, following their release, to create strong, supportive community networks and develop effective community based multi-agency working.

24 offenders participated in the programme within prison and 12 in the pre-release programme. 27 participants engaged with appropriate support services post release. 12 participants secured a positive destination after release, 5 volunteering in the community, 3 into education, 1 into training and 3 into employment.

**GREC Language and Integration Project** provides employability ESOL classes within priority areas and a Language Café to offer opportunities to build confidence in speaking English.

Services and classes were moved online with smaller groups to ensure understanding of the new format. 65 people of 25 nationalities participated. 22 people took up employability support as a result of the project. 83% of participants reported increased confidence and skills in employability related English.

**Aberdeen Foyer Reach** delivers personal, social, wellbeing and employability skills development programmes, aimed at participants who are in recovery from any long-term condition e.g. substance misuse, mental illness or physical illness. 20 clients participated in the course and 6 secured employment, training or education as a result. 2 volunteers contributed 120 hours of volunteer time.

**379** people accessed counselling provision provided locally  
**286** people took part in adult learning  
**80** people involved in producing community media  
**80** older people supported to develop digital skills  
**19** volunteers provided meals and facilities to rough sleepers  
**45** ex-offenders supported



Services for adults focus on improving health, mental health and wellbeing, learning and skills development, community capacity building, volunteering, and reducing isolation

**Aberdeen Cyrenians Street Alternatives** provides a volunteer led service offering practical support to people in Aberdeen City who are sleeping rough or who have no access to cooking or personal care facilities.

Due to Covid-19 restrictions the service moved to a food parcel delivery service, then collection from their premises. 2000 people were supported through the food parcel delivery service, 175 people supported for mental health and wellbeing, and 110 helped with claiming benefits. 19 volunteers contributed 750 hours of volunteering time.

### SHMU Connecting Communities Through Community Media

supports the production of community media in regeneration areas, exploring and addressing local community issues and developing skills by providing training and support, developing opportunities for underrepresented voices to be heard across the city; creating a wide range of benefits for individuals and communities, fostering a spirit of engagement and partnership working; developing transferrable skills in participants; and contributing towards increased social capital.

31 volunteers were supported to produce community magazines. 23,900 copies were delivered 3 times a year in 7 priority neighbourhoods. 49 volunteers were supported to produce radio programmes, including 12 community shows broadcast weekly in priority areas.

131 organisations worked in partnership with SHMU over the year and a total of 195 participants were involved. 80 volunteers contributed 29,901 hours of volunteer time.

“The last year has been an exceptionally difficult time for CFINE’s staff and volunteers, all of whom have shown dedication and commitment, many going above and beyond in order to rise to the challenge posed by Covid-19. The effects of lockdown have been profound, with many of our regular volunteers being required to shield. The response from the public has been incredibly positive, which contributed to keeping morale high during the darkest months of lockdown.”

CFINE adapted quickly to the pandemic, working in partnership with the Council and 3<sup>rd</sup> sector partners to provide food for those in need across the city. Staff and volunteers were designated key workers and worked hard to ensure residents had access to essential supplies. With community food outlets closed they increased the amount of fresh fruit and veg in food parcels. They implemented new and innovative ways of providing access to food and sanitary products including home deliveries, some by e-cargo bikes, ‘Vegaroonitooon’ veg box scheme, a ‘personal shopping’ service for particularly vulnerable people, and the development of a new mobile pantry.

**Aberdeen Cyrenians** won the accolade of Key Worker (Team) at the Evening Express Aberdeen’s Champion Award - achieved through all members of staff working together to be able to help our service users as much as possible in difficult circumstances. All staff have had to adapt to the situation and rose to the occasion, whether that meant working in the kitchen, making up food parcels, providing support over the phone or collecting and transporting donations. Although Street Alternatives was hugely missed, the team managed to still meet a large amount of our service user’s needs during a challenging time for everyone.

**Silver City Surfers** provide one to one computer tutoring for over 55s in the City Centre, and Northfield/Cummings Park areas, so they can confidently learn how to use the computer and surf the internet safely in a welcoming and social environment.

Help and support was provided online to 80 learners and 40 devices provided for people who were isolated and unable to get online. 40 volunteers contributed 5,000 hours.

**Police Scotland Operation Begonia** is a joint initiative involving Police Scotland and partner agencies with the two aims of preventing sexual exploitation and supporting those who find themselves involved in selling or exchanging sexual activity. It provides dedicated, directed patrols with the aim of using a trauma informed approach to signpost those involved in sex work towards services and more positive destinations.

Begonia was set up to reduce harm to women and men involved in the on street sex industry and to protect communities from any real or perceived threat, risk and harm caused by prostitution.

During the year there were 305 separate interactions with sex workers. 12 new women were encountered through street work patrols and referred to partner agencies. Begonia patrols access rape alarms, toiletries, and snacks to give out when needed. There were 768 hours of dedicated additional patrol time undertaken in Aberdeen to address on street prostitution. 91 male perpetrators were stopped, educated, or charged regarding kerb crawling offences to try and discourage males from frequenting identified areas, in support of local communities.

## CFINE



# PLACE

LOCAL  
OUTCOME  
IMPROVEMENT  
PLAN

## No one in Aberdeen will go without food due to poverty by 2026–

*Increasing food resilience at individual and community level by establishing self-governing community co-operatives to offer further supportive ways of providing food*

LOCALITY  
PLANS

## 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

**Cummings Park Community Flat, Printfield Community Project, Tillydrone Community Flat and Seaton Community Flat** provide resources for community activity; venues for a range of organisations that offer support, information and advice; and support community capacity building and adult learning. They support people with welfare reform issues and help to address isolation.

Despite having to close their doors for part of the year due to Covid-19 restrictions they redesigned and adapted services to continue providing support for many vulnerable people most impacted by the pandemic. This included help with food and energy costs, as well as issues such as mental health, loneliness and isolation, home schooling, and digital exclusion.

**Seaton Community Flat** kept in touch with people through social media, email and video calls. When open they were able to provide a space for organisations to meet clients while complying with social distancing guidelines. They introduced Microsoft Translate to help non English speaking clients to access resources and information.

A total of 162 people were supported, and 4 volunteers contributed 60 hours of volunteer time.

**Cummings Park Community Flat** continued to offer support by video calls and daily messages and phone calls to check on people who were lonely, scared, and isolated. Food parcels were provided, and people directed to food distribution points 144 people accessed support and 16 volunteers contributed 1,000 hours.

**Printfield Community Project** provided a creche, afterschool club, and youth services when they were able to be open. During lockdown they provided supermarket vouchers, contributions for gas and electricity, and food parcels twice weekly for 30 families. 40 volunteers contributed 450 volunteer hours.

**Tillydrone Community Flat** provided support through phone calls, video meeting and social media during the time they were closed. They secured funding to support 122 people with fuel costs and 48 people with top ups for mobile phones and data usage. They provided 760 food parcels and continued to offer support to people affected by isolation, separation from their families, home schooling and lack of outdoor space.

130 people got support with welfare reform issues. A total of 322 participants were involved, 97 of them under 16 years old. 10 volunteers contributed 350 volunteer hours.

Affordable food provision is being increased by the development of community pantries, to deliver a more sustainable approach to food poverty



**615** tonnes of free food distributed equal to **£2.1m** or **1.8m** meals  
**2,636** food bank users referred to support services  
**20,000** people received  
**44,378** emergency food parcels delivered  
**5** community projects/flats supported in priority areas

**CFINE (Community Food Initiatives North East)** moved quickly when lockdown was announced, in order to provide a rapid and effective response. The food bank closed, and they switched to a contactless home delivery of food parcels, including direct referrals and requests from the emergency helpline set up by the Council.

44,378 emergency food parcels were supplied through the emergency contactless food delivery directly to 20,000 people as well as a weekly supply to 187 partner organisations.

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 agencies and 2,036 people accessed financial support through their SAFE Team. 231 volunteers contributed 55,440 hours of volunteer time.

# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

“Being on the Fairer Aberdeen Board is an important role; it has a big impact on the city. We need to represent our own communities but also see the bigger picture.”



**Regeneration Matters** is a forum of community representatives from all the regeneration and priority neighbourhoods in Aberdeen City who nominate 7 members to sit on the Fairer Aberdeen Board along with 3 representatives from the Civic Forum. The group continued to meet virtually every month to discuss issues of interest across all the communities, as well as managing the Community Support Fund to support community engagement and empowerment. Over the year the Fund supported Community Networks, printing and distribution of Community Newsletters, IT support and communications.

For more information on joining the group email [faireraberdeensfund@aberdeencity.gov.uk](mailto:faireraberdeensfund@aberdeencity.gov.uk)

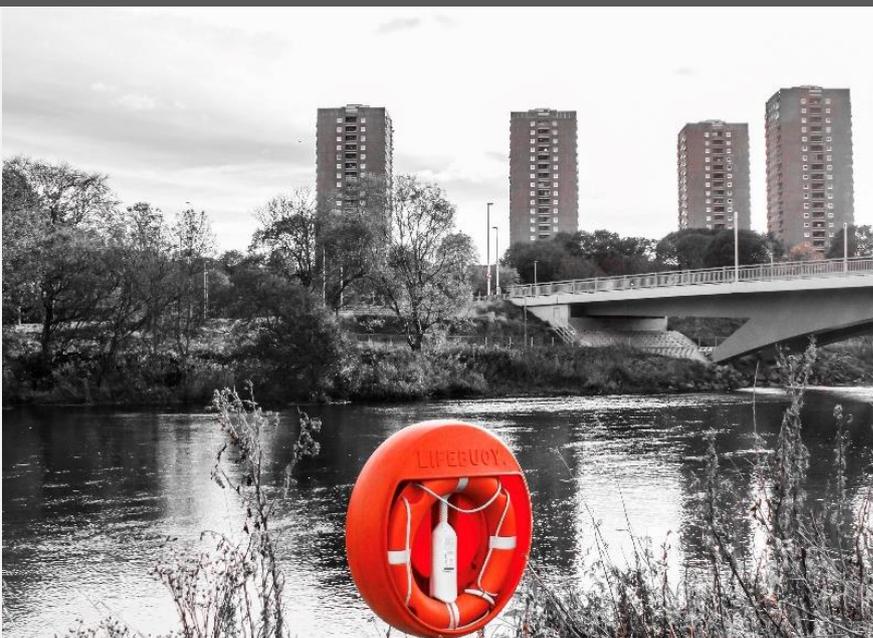
# PANDEMIC HARDSHIP FUND

£360,000 was allocated to the 47 charities and community organisations listed.

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.

Over 11,500 people were supported, including 5,000 children and young people. Over 300 volunteers contributed 6,562 hours of volunteer time.



THANK YOU

Thank you to all the participants, staff and volunteers who have contributed to this report and to the Fairer Aberdeen programme over the year, and to all those that stepped up their efforts to support the people of Aberdeen during the pandemic.

- Nepalese Himalayan Association Scotland
- Inchgarth Community Centre
- Leanne Fund
- Archie Foundation
- St Machar Parent Support
- Printfield Community Project
- SANDS
- AberNecessities
- Seaton Community Church
- Aberdeen Bangladeshi Welfare Trust
- Middlefield Community Project
- Grampian Autistic Society
- Team Jak Foundation
- HomeStart Aberdeen
- Sunnybank Community Centre
- Alcohol & Drugs Action
- Langstane Housing
- Aberdeen Cyrenians
- Rosemount & Mile End Community Council
- African Women's Group Scotland
- Police Scotland
- RCC Jesus House Aberdeen
- Froghall Community Centre
- Pathways
- Catalyst Vineyard Church
- Aberdeen Foyer
- Earth & Worms
- ACIS Youth - Mental Health Aberdeen
- Tillydrone Community Campus Food Pantry
- SensationALL
- TripleA's - Autism Awareness Association
- One Seed Forward
- Gerrard Street Baptist Church
- Quarriers
- Igbo Community Aberdeen
- Inspire PTL
- Rotary Club Aberdeen (St Fittocks)
- Silver City Surfers
- Powis Community Centre
- Old Torry Community Centre
- Organisation for Nepalese Culture & Welfare
- GREC
- Befriend A Child
- Tillydrone Community Flat
- Fountain of Love, Aberdeen
- Northfield Community Learning Association
- African Council Ltd

# PANDEMIC HARDSHIP FUND

We received many messages of thanks from organisations that received funding from the Fairer Aberdeen Coronavirus Pandemic Hardship Fund. We thank you for all you have done, and continue to do, to support the people of Aberdeen.

**fairer**  
**ABERDEEN**  
**board**

We are extremely overwhelmed and grateful to hear we have been successful with our recent funding application from the Fairer Aberdeen Coronavirus Pandemic Hardship Fund. To be awarded the full amount is totally amazing and I would like to thank every single person, who was part of the decision process. This funding will definitely help us to continue providing a crucial service to our community during the coronavirus pandemic.

Steven Lamb, Fundraising  
Coordinator/Treasurer/Trustee, Northfield Community Learning Association SCIO

This funding enables us to carry on the work of supporting families with food and encouragement through this most difficult of times. It has come to us at a time when resources are low so is essential for us to keep serving our community. We are so grateful for your support.

Comfort Yates, Gerrard Street Baptist Church

We are so grateful to receive this incredible donation from the Fairer Aberdeen Coronavirus Pandemic Hardship Fund. The impact of the pandemic and multiple lockdowns has been felt hugely for many. For those already facing hardship this has had a disproportionate impact. Thanks to this generous funding we can truly make a difference for these families; not only by providing them with the essential items they so desperately need, but by alleviating some pressure and stress facing them during this challenging time.

Danielle Flecher-Horn, Founder  
AberNecessities

SensationALL are extremely grateful to the Fairer Aberdeen Fund Board for supporting our project and allowing us to reach a wider demographic. These funds will go directly into expanding our "Chill Oot" programme in Aberdeen, a mental health and self-regulation social group aimed at children, designed to help develop vital coping strategies and techniques that build resilience and confidence, and has been shown to ease anxiety, worries and anger management issues. Thank you!"

Katie McNutt, Charity Manager, SensationALL



The Rosemount and Mile End Community Council are delighted to receive funding from the Fairer Aberdeen - Coronavirus Pandemic Hardship Fund for the provision of food vouchers to individuals and families in need.

George Horne, Chair, Rosemount and Mile End Community Council

We are so grateful to Fairer Aberdeen Hardship Fund for allowing us to extend our support to Bangladeshi people in Aberdeen who have been seriously affected by this Covid 19 pandemic.

Farhadur Chowdhury, Secretary, Aberdeen Bangladeshi Welfare Trust

Earth & Worms would love to express our appreciation and gratitude for being awarded a grant which will enable us to help those affected by Coronavirus in our area. The outdoors and especially gardening is powerful in building confidence and alleviating adverse mental health.

John Sergison  
Earth and Worms, Tillydrone



The award is an incredible boost to the area at a time of terrific challenge. We are very grateful to the Fairer Aberdeen Board, with representatives from the local communities, for dedicating their time and energies to giving this level of support to our community. We will be able to provide a range of support from basic food support to active transport and wellbeing improvements to local amenities.

Ron Bird, Community Worker, Middlefield Community Project

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Thank you to the Fairer Aberdeen Board for supporting our funding application. COVID-19 resulted in the closure of many community facilities and this award helps us to reach out in Torry during the pandemic. By working with CFINE we can both help as many folk as possible in these difficult times.

David Fryer, Chair  
Old Torry Community Centre

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We are delighted to have been awarded funding from the Fairer Aberdeen Hardship Fund. Every day Quarriers' staff see the significant impact of the pandemic on carers and people living with epilepsy. This funding will make such a positive difference and will ensure their basic needs of heat, light, clothing, and food are met during these unprecedented times.

Gerv McGrath, Operational Manager, Quarriers

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The African Women' Group Scotland would like to thank the Aberdeen City Council for their support for our community in this difficult time. We appreciate their support.

Bertha Yakubu  
African Women' Group Scotland

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This generous donation from the Fairer Aberdeen Fund will enable Inspire to ensure that the local people we support in Aberdeen City, all of whom have learning disabilities, continue to have the opportunity for social interaction, engagement and physical and mental stimulation during this current period of lockdown when they, like all of us, are having to spend more time at home and less time doing things with the people and in the places that they love.

Andrew Reid, Development Manager, Inspire

The Leanne Fund are delighted to be awarded this funding from the Fairer Aberdeen Fund which will allow us to provide essential support to children and young people affected by Cystic Fibrosis in Aberdeen city. This support has never been more vital and is welcomed by the CF teams at Aberdeen Royal Infirmary and the Royal Aberdeen Children's Hospital who partner with us to ensure we are able to help those most in need during this crisis.

Chrisetta Mitchell, Development Manager, The Leanne Fund

Team Jak are absolutely delighted and honoured to have received a fantastic £8,400 to help us create smiles and ease the journey for our inspirational families of children and young people with cancer within Aberdeen throughout their toughest times. Thank you so much!

Allison Barr, Chief Executive, Team Jak Foundation

Thank you to the Fairer Aberdeen Board for the kind donation to Aberdeen Sands. Due to COVID-19 we are unable to host face to face support meetings or meet families in person. We are having to rely on social media and zoom to support these families following the loss of their precious baby and also support those who are expecting after a loss. This funding will be invaluable for us to enable us to continue supporting all bereaved families and we are very grateful for the donation.

Fiona Donald, Chair, Aberdeen SANDS



Organisation for Nepalese Culture and Welfare (ONCW) is very pleased to receive the Fairer Aberdeen Coronavirus Pandemic Hardship Fund to facilitate our COVID-19 community support programme, particularly targeted to the hard to reach ethnic minority communities in Aberdeen. We feel valued.

Dr Santosh Gaihre, Co-founder & Trustee, Organisation for Nepalese Culture and Welfare

The pandemic continues to make it incredibly difficult for charities like ARCHIE to raise the necessary funds to support families when they need it most. It was such a relief to learn that the Fairer Aberdeen Hardship Fund will be supporting ARCHIE's emergency grant service and it is great comfort to know that despite the difficulties the charity is facing as a result of the pandemic we can continue helping those in our community who need it most.

Paula Cormack, Chief Executive  
The ARCHIE Foundation

We are delighted to be awarded a grant from the Fairer Aberdeen Coronavirus Pandemic Hardship Fund, especially given the high volume of applications. Working during the pandemic has brought into sharp focus the impact of the current situation on families and individuals through the area who are struggling with a barrage of issues from home working, furlough, job losses, increased energy and food costs, home schooling, loneliness and increased mental ill health.

Fiona Young, Development Worker, Tillydrone Community Flat

Pathways is delighted to secure this extra funding from the Coronavirus Pandemic Hardship Fund, which will enable us to support people struggling with their mental health, helping them to address the anxieties they face and provide coping mechanisms for the future.

Malcolm Pritchard, Manager, Pathways

These are unprecedented times for all of us, none more so than for those living with autism where much needed routine and predictability is severely compromised. Our services are needed more than ever and this grant from Fairer Aberdeen Coronavirus Pandemic Hardship Fund will make a big difference helping us to deliver our services to those who really need it.

Margaret Hodder, Chairperson  
Grampian Autistic Society

On behalf of the Keep Growing Aberdeen partners we would like to thank the Fairer Aberdeen Hardship Fund for enabling us to provide food growing kits to families in the city this year. The funding will also allow us to help residents in three regeneration areas to build resilient community groups by creating their own raised beds within their localities that can be used for food growing and sharing and intergenerational learning.

Bob Donald, Chair, One Seed Forward

We are very grateful for the award of this funding will make a huge difference to families facing real financial hardship. It will address food insecurity by providing them with a regular, guaranteed source of food, allowing them to provide a healthy diet for their children.

Eleanor McEwan, General Manager, Home-Start Aberdeen

Silver City Surfers is delighted to be the recipient of the Fairer Aberdeen Hardship Fund. The funding will help us provide new equipment to those who are over 55 and empower them to take advantage of a whole new world of communication and information.

Nelly Jaka, Coordinator, Silver City Surfers





The grant of £5500 will make such a difference to the Families with Children and Vulnerable Adults whom we support at Printfield Community Project. There are so many pressures through home schooling, furlough and fear around redundancy and unemployment. This grant will help to alleviate some of these worries.

Kit Trail, Coordinator, Printfield Community Project

Sunnybank Community Centre would like to thank the Fairer Aberdeen Board for awarding us the much needed funding as there is an overwhelming need now more than ever for support, for the community by the community.

Sarah Beattie  
Sunnybank Community Centre

We are absolutely certain that the beneficiaries will be most enthused to receive this help, and on their behalf we express gratitude to the council and the Fairer Aberdeen Fund Board for making available such much needed help.

Olushola Ajide, Project Manager, Fountain of Love

Inchgarth Community Centre is delighted to have received £15,000 to support the residents most in need across 15 communities in Aberdeen South. Every penny of this grant will be distributed to families and individuals most in need or to purchase supplies to be distributed. Our thanks go to the Fairer Aberdeen Board for their support, and we look forward to continuing our vital Covid-19 support project that gives a helping hand to those in crisis.

Paul O'Connor, Manager, Inchgarth Community Centre

The Rotary Club has over the last 9 months provided direct assistance in various forms to support groups and organisations based in the Torry area of Aberdeen. We are thankful to the Fairer Aberdeen Coronavirus Pandemic Hardship Fund for awarding us this grant which will allow us to continue to provide support directly to those that have been affected by the ongoing pandemic.

Sheena Anderson  
Rotary Club of Aberdeen St Fittick

This is amazing news and we are beyond grateful. We have been supporting many of our community members during the ongoing Covid pandemic and the requests for support are increasing, not only for food but other items normally taken for granted – household fuel, travel fares, clothes, educational resources, baby supplies, cleaning & toiletries are a few of the requests we receive.

Mark Kaczmarek  
Tillydrone Community Campus Food Larder

**“A huge thank you for your timely and welcome support”**

“a huge relief for us, one less thing for us to worry about at a difficult time”

**absolutely fantastic  
truly appreciated**

“I don’t know what we’d have done without it”

**11,548 people**

“a huge thank you!”

**delighted!**

**thank you**

**It’s been lifesaving!**

“a vulnerable group often stigmatised and overlooked for positive support”