

## ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

---

<b>COMMITTEE</b>	Anti-Poverty and Inequality
<b>DATE</b>	30 August 2023
<b>EXEMPT</b>	No
<b>CONFIDENTIAL</b>	No
<b>REPORT TITLE</b>	External Advisers – Initiatives to support bringing people out of poverty
<b>REPORT NUMBER</b>	CUS/23/254
<b>DIRECTOR</b>	Andy MacDonald
<b>CHIEF OFFICER</b>	Jacqui McKenzie
<b>REPORT AUTHOR</b>	External advisers; Paul Tytler
<b>TERMS OF REFERENCE</b>	1.1

---

### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide committee with a report from the external advisers on initiatives to support bringing people out of poverty.

### 2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

That the Committee:

- 2.1 Notes the report from the external advisers.

### 3. CURRENT SITUATION

- 3.1 The external advisers submitted a [report](#) to committee on 23 November 2022, describing a range of issues affecting the third sector, and people supported by the sector, along with potential solutions.
- 3.2 A workshop took place at the end of May 2023 with the external advisers and members of the Community Planning Aberdeen (CPA) Anti-Poverty Outcome Improvement Group (OIG), presented in a [report](#) to committee on 21 June 2023.
- 3.3 An update report has been prepared by the external advisers and is attached at Appendix 1.

### 4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendation in this report.

## 5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

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

## 6. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no direct environmental implications arising from the recommendation in this report.

## 7. RISK

Category	Risks	Primary Controls/Control Actions to achieve Target Risk Level	*Target Risk Level (L, M or H)  *taking into account controls/control actions	*Does Target Risk Level Match Appetite Set?
Strategic Risk	None	None	L	Yes
Compliance	None	None	L	Yes
Operational	None	None	L	Yes
Financial	None	None	L	Yes
Reputational	None	None	L	Yes
Environment / Climate	None	None	L	Yes

## 8. OUTCOMES

<u><a href="#">COUNCIL DELIVERY PLAN 2023-2024</a></u>	
Impact of Report	
<b>Aberdeen City Council Policy Statement</b>  <u><a href="#">Working in Partnership for Aberdeen</a></u>	There is no proposal in this report
<u><a href="#">Aberdeen City Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2016-26</a></u>	
Prosperous Economy Stretch Outcomes	There is no proposal in this report
Prosperous People Stretch Outcomes	There is no proposal in this report
Prosperous Place Stretch Outcomes	There is no proposal in this report
<b>Regional and City Strategies</b>	There is no proposal in this report

## 9. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Assessment	Outcome
<b>Integrated Impact Assessment</b>	It is confirmed by Chief Officer Jacqui McKenzie that no Integrated Impact Assessment is required
<b>Data Protection Impact Assessment</b>	not required.
<b>Other</b>	n/a

## 10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

10.1 Report from External Advisers CUS/22/266

10.2 Formation of a Working Group CUS/23/171

## 11. APPENDICES

11.1 Appendix 1 – External advisers: Initiatives to support bringing people out of poverty

## 12. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

<b>Name</b>	Paul Tytler
<b>Title</b>	Locality Inclusion Manager
<b>Email Address</b>	ptytler@aberdeencity.gov.uk
<b>Tel</b>	01224 067879

## **Initiatives to Support bringing people out of Poverty**

The initial external advisers report presented to the Anti-Poverty and Inequality Committee in November 2022 identified a number of issues affecting the third sector and people. These included:

Effect on third sector:

- There has been a huge increase in demand for services as more people in our city struggle to make ends meet
- Third sector income is not keeping up with increasing service delivery costs

Effect on people:

- Increasing numbers of people do not have enough money to support their daily lives to a basic standard.
- Mental health crisis is being exacerbated

The potential solutions included:

- Organisations will need to co-ordinate their efforts more than ever before. ACVO is willing to facilitate discussions between service providers to achieve this.
- Ultimately, the solution must be to reduce the demand by putting more money into people's pockets
- Cash first – expansion of the successful LOIP programme to increase benefit uptake across the board. Cash First approach needs to be better understood, some organisations believe it is to give people more cash, the initial aim is to encourage and educate on how to manage low-income levels instead. Giving cash without real support is pointless.
- As above, cash first approach needs to be at the forefront or taking the immediate pressure off households

## **Progress**

The Scottish Government has launched a £1.8m Cash First Fund, inviting local partnership bids from local authorities and third sector to test approaches to delivering a cash first approach in tackling food insecurity.

ACVO are coordinating the development of a bid with interested third sector organisations and the Council, for submission to Scottish Government by 1<sup>st</sup>

September 2023, with the outcome being notified in October. If successful, this will deliver against some of the issues identified by the external advisers in November 2022.

### **Next steps**

While it is hoped that the local bid will be successful, if it is not, hopefully consideration can be given to the potential for local support to enable the work to be taken forward. This will be pursued once the outcome of the bid is known in October.

There remain other issues identified in the original report, along with further actions from the workshop at the end of June, involving the external advisers and members of the Community Planning Aberdeen (CPA) Anti-Poverty Outcome Improvement Group (OIG). The actions identified will be taken forward through the Anti-Poverty Working Group, reported to committee on 21 June 2023. The working group will meet on [date to be confirmed].

Short term actions identified by the group include:

- Advisers and partners feeding into the Population Needs Assessment by gathering insights from their customers and clients using a common set of questions;
- Review previous partnership improvement activity and wider local interventions to identify those which show evidence that they can reduce poverty and make recommendations to the Committee of those which should be prioritised for scaling up of action(s) across the City;
- Connecting with the Poverty Alliance, Food Poverty Action Aberdeen and other strategic groups tackling poverty across the City to ensure a collaborative approach;
- Engaging, listening and hearing from people with lived experience, tapping into the work being carried out by the Health Determinants Research Collaborative;
- Building in a focus on collective corporate behaviours, not just Council but all partners;
- Enquiring what the anchor organisations are doing to improve outcomes for our communities;
- Designing a plan / strategy which identifies short to medium and long term action but also creates space to think about how this would evolve in the future.

Ideas about longer term action relate to strategy for change and the content of the Anti-Poverty Strategy and Local Outcome Improvement Plans. These ideas have been

captured and will be shaped and refined further as part of the LOIP development process over the next nine months.

In addition, Food Poverty Action Aberdeen (FPAA) are working to update their action plan from 2019, presenting an opportunity that the ambitions of the Committee to be collaborative are aligned with the refreshed Action Plan.

### **Anti-Poverty and Inequality Committee External Advisers**

**August 2023**