

Aberdeen City - South Locality

Annual Outcome Improvement Report 2022-23



South Locality Neighbourhoods:

Culter; Cults, Bieldside, Milltimber & Countesswells; Hazlehead; Braeside, Mannofield, Broomhill, Seafield; Garthdee; Ferryhill; Torry; Cove; Kincorth, Leggart & Nigg



Community Planning
Aberdeen

WELCOME

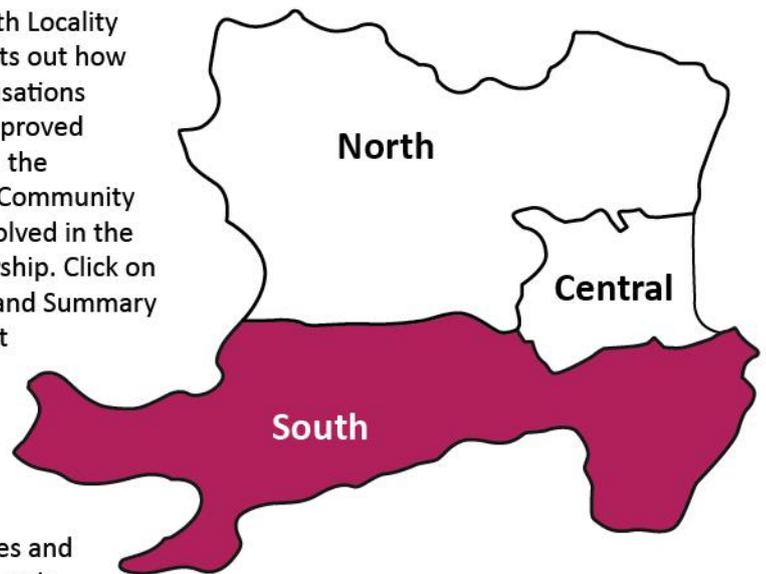
Welcome to our second annual report against the South Locality Plan first published in 2021. The South Locality Plan sets out how Community Planning Aberdeen and its member organisations will work together and with communities to deliver improved outcomes for the 9 neighbourhoods in the locality and the locality as a whole. The Locality Plan was prepared by Community Planning Aberdeen staff and community members involved in the South Locality Empowerment Group and Torry Partnership. Click on the links to view a copy of the full South Locality Plan and Summary Locality Plan. Also see the end of this report to find out more about the organisations and community groups involved in preparing the plan.

This report provides an update on progress made against the priorities that were identified in the South Locality Plan. It includes information about key activities and initiatives and also the impact that these have in the South Locality and in target neighbourhoods. The information and data within the report demonstrates success in many areas. However, we also recognise where we need to do better and have identified priorities for improvement next year.

Our focus is always on impact on outcomes for communities. Central to our approach is involving and empowering communities which we have made clear in our new Community Empowerment Strategy published in 2022. Behind the scenes, Community Planning Aberdeen has also made some changes to ensure member organisations are working better together to empower communities. Our new locality planning team has been in place since February 2023 and epitomises our renewed vigour for working together with local communities. This report provides an important baseline for how we are currently performing in the South Locality and a commitment to improving going forward.

This report is split into the following sections:

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OUR PRIORITIES

The South Locality Plan 2021-26 sets out three priorities to improve our local economy:

Priority 1. Reduce number of people living in poverty

Priority 2. Improve and create employment opportunities.

Priority 3. Identify and embed opportunities to mitigate digital exclusion

PROGRESS MADE DURING 2022/23



Supporting our most vulnerable families

Community food provision and community pantries

With food prices rising at the fastest rate in 40 years we have been working with CFine to increase access to affordable food across the locality, particularly for our most vulnerable communities and low-income families. Through our community food pantry project, we have focused on increasing access to affordable food in our priority neighbourhoods which includes Torry and Kincorth in the South Locality. Recognising the challenges people can face attending one of our fixed food pantries, a mobile food pantry was launched in September 2021. CFine has 284 members of the South Locality shopping at the pantry at Poynerook Rd on a regular basis. The mobile food pantry also had 350 visits from residents of the South locality during 2022-23.

Affordable Food Providers in the South

[CFine](#) operates a mobile food pantry on Wednesdays at:
-Kincorth Sports Centre from 10-10.30am
-Abbey Road, Torry from 11.30 to 12pm

[Touch of Love](#) is one of several [Food Banks](#) available to people experiencing food insecurity across the South.

Benefit uptake

Ensuring that household income is maximised through the uptake of unclaimed benefits is a key aspect to supporting households to come out of poverty and improve their financial security. There continues to be barriers which can mean people do not claim benefits they are entitled to, such as stigma of claiming, unaware of what they are entitled to, and onerous applications processes.

We have made progress with several initiatives to help remove these barriers. For example, we launched the online benefit calculator last year to help support more people to find out what benefits they are entitled to. This has been accessed 7274 times across the city during 2022/23, with 737 of those being from the Torry and Kincorth priority neighbourhoods. We have also taken action to identify households who should be entitled to Pension Credits and have contacted them directly by letter. Using this approach 410 households were identified from across the City who qualified for Pension Credits, this includes 28 people in the South Locality that have benefited from an uplift in their Pension Credits. Finally, a booklet for families was developed to increase awareness and uptake of child benefits such as, Education Maintenance Allowance and School Clothing Grants. The booklet targeted families and provided guidance on how to claim. Across the City 2749 families benefited financially by accessing additional benefits with 890 families in South Locality benefitting financially by accessing additional benefits.

Fuel poverty/ affordable heating

As the cost of living increases it is important that we work together to do everything we can to support every household in Aberdeen. We have been working together with partner organisations across Aberdeen to provide a range of public warm spaces that will provide an opportunity for people to come together, share and use resources. Every warm space is unique however all warm spaces offer a friendly welcome and comfortable environment to meet friends or socialise. There are 14 warm spaces across the South Locality but of course people are free to visit any warm space across the City. You can find your nearest warm space by visiting [here](#).

As well as providing warm spaces we have been increasing awareness of the support available to households during the at a variety of community events and training frontline staff. As a result of the promotion of support available and increase in home visits to deliver insulation and energy efficiency measure, a total of £32,725.77 fuel bill savings was made last year across the South Locality.



Staying Warm & Well Winter Roadshow

Thursday 8 December, 10am - 2pm
Central Library, Rosemount Viaduct, Aberdeen

Pop in for a free cuppa and chat to friendly staff who will share information and advice.

WARM SPACE
We are open and the heating's on

Logos: Aberdeen City Council, Aberdeen City Libraries, Care & Repair, Communities, healthpoint, HOME ENERGY SCOTLAND, scarf, Social Security Scotland



Supporting businesses and young people into employment

Social Enterprises and small businesses

Local community start-ups benefit everyone. Not only do they help get people back into employment, but they also create new jobs and bring new money into the community. We are delighted to have secured local community support for people wishing to start their own business. Through Business Gateway we now have a Community Business Advisor attending the Old Torry Community Centre to provide a monthly drop-in service. Over the last 12 months the service has attracted an average of 2 attendees per drop in which has resulted in 5 people starting their own business.



Local employability support and job opportunities

Supporting people into employment is a top priority for the locality. Over the year we have delivered a range of employability support events targeted at people who face barriers and challenges. For example, we have delivered sessions for people over 50, people with a disability and people living in our priority neighbourhood Torry.

Through our ABZ works initiative, partners Aberdeen City Council, Skills Development Scotland, DWP and Business Gateway have also delivered 'Your Route to Work' sessions aimed at young people living in priority neighbourhoods that are disengaged from school, school leavers, work returners and their wider families to find out information on how to get into employment, training, education or volunteering as well as provide money and benefit advice. There were 42 attendees at the Torry event. Exit surveys were completed with a small number of event attendees. Everyone who attended and provided feedback felt the event was useful or very useful and all would be likely to visit a future event.

Further support for people over 50, through dedicated 50+ work coaches; 50+ pilot in Torry; the launch of an employer recruitment incentive scheme, the outcomes of which to be reported in the next report and a pilot Older but Wiser employability support group. The pilot support group ran over an 8-week period and was well received with 7 participants consistently attending the 8 weeks. Travel vouchers were provided to support the participants attend several careers fairs which occurred over the 8-week period and one participant was able to secure a job at one of these events. As a result of the supports above, 10 people have gained employment.



The Torry Skills centre, ideally situated in the heart of the community on Victoria Road, has now been open a full year. Community partner Pathways has delivered 43 group sessions at the centre and over 350 one-to-one sessions to provide people with assistance to find the job they want. There have been 34 referrals since April 2022 to March 2023 from the Torry area alone and of these 31 clients have been assisted into sustainable employment. The Foyer has also delivered 85 one-to one sessions at the Torry Skills Centre over the same period and 12 group sessions.



Supporting digital access and skills

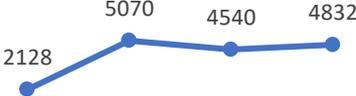
Digital Access

Through our digital improvement project, we have seen positive outcomes for both digital access and skills. This work included the promotion of existing access and new access to digital devices, such as library computers, council digital resources, and universities. In addition to this, Silver City Surfers continue to offer face to face tuition for over 55's in the City helping them to become more comfortable using digital tools, offering support to community members at the Central Library.

78.3% of City Voice respondents in the South Locality reported they had at least basic digital skills.

WHAT IMPACT HAVE WE HAD DURING 2022/23?

Tackling Poverty		
Food Insecurity	Food Poverty	Affordable Food
 <p>7.2% of people in the South Locality worried they would not have enough to eat compared to 22.2% of people living in Torry and Kincorth. (City Voice 46, 2022)</p>	 <p>1.7% of households in the South Locality ran out of food compared to 11.1% of households in Torry and Kincorth (City Voice 46, 2022)</p>	 <p>634 families in the South Locality accessing affordable food at their local community pantry (mobile and located in Torry)</p>

<p>Fuel Insecurity</p>  <p>28.3% of people in the South Locality worried they would not be able to heat their home compared to 55.6% of people living in Torry and Kincorth. (City Voice 46, 2022)</p>	<p>Fuel Poverty</p>  <p>5.6% of households in the South Locality have had to seek support for paying for heating, compared to 11.1% of households in Torry and Kincorth (City Voice 46, 2022)</p>	<p>Fuel Bill Savings</p>  <p>£32,725.77 fuel bill savings made across the South Locality through energy efficiency measures and support such as provision of warm spaces</p>
<p>Claimant Count</p>  <p>Has decreased after a spike in 2021. 52% of claimants live in south locality priority neighbourhoods</p>	<p>People on Universal Credit</p>  <p>Has increased in the south locality since 2020. 50% of claimants live in priority neighbourhoods</p>	<p>Benefit Maximisation</p>  <p>The online benefit calculator has been accessed 737 times by people from Central priority neighbourhoods</p>
<p>Children in low income families</p>  <p>Child poverty has increased in the south locality since 2019. 55% of children in low income families live in priority neighbourhoods</p>	<p>Business Start Ups</p>  <p>5 people in Torry supported to start their own business.</p>	<p>Digital Access and Skills</p>  <p>78.3% of City Voice respondents in the South Locality reported they had at least basic digital skills.</p>

AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT IN 2023/24

- Strengthen relationships with local businesses as part of their Corporate Social Responsibility
- Encourage more people to start their own business and promoting local business gateway services across the wider locality
- Ensure support extends to Priority Neighbourhood Kincorth as well as Torry

Our People

OUR PRIORITIES

South Locality Plan 2021-26 sets out two priorities to improve outcomes for our people

Priority 4. Support children and young people to achieve their potential

Priority 5. Focus on early intervention, prevention and re-enablement actions

PROGRESS MADE DURING 2022/23



Providing activities for Children and Young People

Opportunities and activities

Through our youth community activity and reducing anti-social behaviour projects we are committed to developing a range of opportunities for children and young people to get involved in their local community and to support a reduction in crime and anti-social behaviour. There was a need identified in Kincorth to tackle anti-social behaviour with 282 calls in 2021. In response to this, young people, and local people in Kincorth co-designed a community-based activities group based in Kincorth Community Centre. This was chosen as it has a games hall, classrooms, kitchen, and a coffee bar, all of which widen the scope of what can be offered and the facility had to be attractive to the target audience. The Group meets weekly from 6.15pm to 8pm. The new group was highly successful, attracting 34 young people from Kincorth attending between March - December 2022. The group has also helped reduce the number of calls relating to antisocial behaviour in Kincorth area, which decreased from 282 calls in 2021 to 238 calls in 2022. The change idea of establishing co-designed youth groups in target areas has been successful.



*“we get to make friends; it’s very fun; you get to do art, sports, games and make food.” **Kincorth Young person***

We have also been working with children and young people in Torry and Ferryhill to address deliberate fire-raising which accounts for 10% of all incidents attended by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) in Aberdeen. Activities have included engagement with local young people, delivery of Fire Skills courses, media campaigns and a Virtual Community Fire Safety Programme for schools and youth groups. A leaflet for parents and carers with guidance on how to talk to young people about the dangers of playing with fire has also been produced. Changes were tested initially in Torry and Ferryhill as this was the area where most incidents had occurred between 2015-19. As a result, data for the area shows there has been approximately a 50% reduction in deliberate fires when compared to the 2015-19 average.



Supporting vulnerable children and young people

Young People’s Mental Wellbeing

All schools in the South Locality offer counselling, and each provides free physical activity to enhance the mental wellbeing of children, regardless of circumstances. The Safer Schools app was launched during 2022 with 100% sign up by South Locality schools. The app includes features to help parents and carers navigate challenges such as absence reporting and safeguarding concerns, as well as develop easier channels of communication. All local parents and carers can access the app, which has been promoted widely in school newsletters. Initial feedback from parents has been positive, and formal evaluation data will be available for future reporting periods. We recognise the role physical activity plays in supporting good mental health and through the Active Schools Programme, all South Locality schools now provides free physical activity opportunities for pupils.

Training community groups on issues impacting children

The ACHSCP Public Health Team train practitioners to deliver the PEEP (Parents as Early Education Partners) programme. PEEP recognises that parents and carers are children’s first and most important educators.

The Peep Learning Together programme supports parents and carers to:

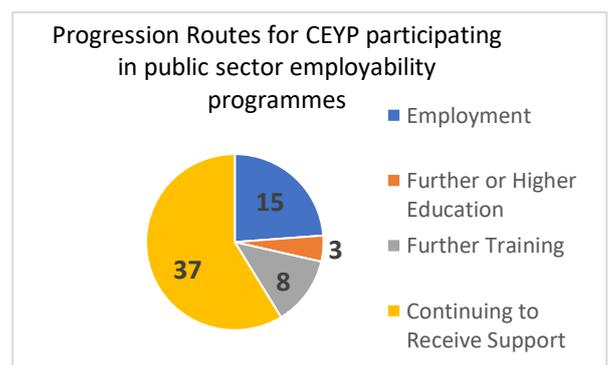
- Value and build on the home learning environment by making the most of everyday learning opportunities.
- build and strengthen attachment relationships with their child through listening, talking, playing, singing and sharing books together.
- help babies and children to make the most of their opportunities by becoming confident communicators and active learners, ready for school



There were 30 referrals to PEEP from the South Locality during 2022, in addition five people from the South Locality were referred by Health Visitors to the Family Learning Service.

Positive Destinations for Care Experienced young people

Positive destinations means that young people go on to attend further or higher education, volunteer, begin an apprenticeship or go into paid employment. In 2021-22, 90.5% of South Locality school leavers achieved an initial positive destination which was below the 2020-21 figure (92.9%) and the Aberdeen City average (93.8%). Care experienced young people (CEYP) often face significant barriers to employment and need additional support and mentoring to help them achieve and sustain employment. We are committed to supporting CEYP achieving the same outcomes as their peers and one aspect of this is achieving positive destinations, with the ultimate goal of moving CEYP into employment. The journey and support required for each care experienced young person varies and through our



employability support for care experienced young people project, we are testing a variety of ways to support them such as a guaranteed interview scheme, tailored employability support programme, pathway planning and induction into work. A good example of volunteering is the Saltire Awards, which is the Scottish Government's way of celebrating, recognising and rewarding the commitment, contribution and achievements of volunteers aged between 12-25 in Scotland. Of the 2459 Saltire Award recipients between December 2021 to March 2023 in Aberdeen City, 763 young people were from the South Locality.

Supporting priority families via Fit Like hubs

[Fit like? Family Wellbeing Hubs](#) are a group of services working together to support children and young people's mental wellbeing. The Hubs help with:

- Finance and benefits
- Family relationships and communication
- Coping with daily pressures
- Promoting positive emotional and mental wellbeing
- Talking about traumatic things that have happened

There is a Fit Like Hub based in Tullos Community Centre in the South Locality.

Providing additional support to existing services

Volunteering in the Community



We have continued to build our volunteering community across the City that was so crucial during the covid pandemic. Between December 2021 and March 2023, we saw a 17.4% in volunteer opportunities being advertised across the City on the volunteer hub run by ACVO. Volunteering across the South Locality is invaluable in supporting stretched public services. For example, through the Fairer Aberdeen Fund 739 volunteers contributed 114,280 hours of volunteering with a value of over £2m. Over 45,000 people were involved or benefitted from the 36 funded initiatives within the programme and 21 of the Fairer Aberdeen Fund projects benefited the South Locality. Another project to

support volunteering is Station House Media Unit (SHMU's) community project to support prisoners in HMP Grampian, offering them post-release support and engaging them in opportunities at SHMU upon release. including employability, volunteering, and meaningful activity.

Support for unpaid carers

In 2023, Aberdeen City Health and Social Partnership published the new Carers Strategy which acknowledges the huge contribution that Carers make and seeks to support all unpaid Carers in Aberdeen City. During the development of the new strategy there were several key inputs including; the National Carers Inquiry, publication of the National Carers Strategy from Scottish Government, the dedicated work and support of the Carers Strategy Implementation Group and most importantly the wider consultation and engagement of Carers across the City.

The new Carers Strategy identifies four key priorities to support Carers:

- Identifying as a Carer and the first steps to support
- Accessing advice and support
- Supporting future planning, decision making, and wider Carer involvement
- Community support and advice for Carers

In 2022-23, 239 carers accessed the Quarriers Adult Carer Support Service in the South Locality which is an increase of 42.3% on the 168 carers who accessed the service in 2021-22.

Since the Respite Bureau started in June 2022, 320 people have been referred for a short break as of March 2023. Three further tests promoting several types of carer breaks were also tested this year, Doorstep Breaks, Scot Spirit and Time to Live. Data from these tests will be evaluated and shared for future learning. More information on the Carers Strategy and how carers can access services and support can be found [here](#)

Raise awareness of substance service and provision

Latest drug related death data shows an increase from 56 to 62 in 2021. The Partnership through our fatal drug overdose projects is focused on reducing drug related deaths through innovative developments and by increasing the distribution of naloxone. Naloxone is an emergency medication that can reverse the effects of an overdose of opioids like heroin or methadone and can save someone's life. Reviews from past drug related deaths have shown that many of those people who died were not in any drug treatment service but had come to the attention of many other services. By increasing the number of services who can distribute and administer Naloxone to those in need, we can get the lifesaving drug out to those people at risk of overdose, as well as to family members/friends of those in need. During this year, we have widened access to naloxone by increasing the number of non-drug and alcohol service able to supply and/or administer naloxone. We have seen increased supply of naloxone in each locality, with 135 kits supplied in the South Locality. As well as naloxone, increasing education and access to a variety of treatments, the Partnership are taking a targeted approach, focusing on interventions and supports required at the various touchpoints. We are seeing the impact of this approach. For example, through our improvements focused on people liberated from prison we have seen a 56% reduction in drug related deaths of people liberated within 6 months.

Reducing harms from alcohol use

Alcohol is one of five lifestyle behavioural risk factors which contribute to the majority of chronic and non-communicable disease in our population. Throughout 2022/23 we have focused on increasing awareness of alcohol risks and widening access to alcohol interventions and support, including the development of a new alcohol audit screening tool to increase referrals for support both from professionals and individuals directly with a corresponding promotional campaign. As a result of the interventions and targeted campaigns we have seen the number of active clients with Alcohol and Drugs Action (ADA) Duty Drop-in service in 2022/23 increase in each of the three priority neighbourhoods against the 3-year baseline. In the South Locality, data shows a 35% increase in clients from AB11 postcodes. Other interventions ADA have taken during 2022-23 include:

- The piloting of a new referral pathway from Police to ADA
- Widening the number of settings for Alcohol Brief Interventions, including HMP Grampian
- Targeted social media campaign and subsequent levels of engagement with the 'Alcohol Aberdeen' online 'quiz'



Supporting people to make healthy choices

Health and Wellbeing

ACHSCP's Wellbeing Team deliver several initiatives targeting key target groups such as older people and those with disabilities who are at risk of becoming socially isolated or suffer from poor health outcomes. All the activities and initiatives outlined below support people in the South Locality to make better health and weight management choices.



Boogie in the Bar provides an opportunity for people at risk of social isolation to meet up at a local venue to have a blether and a dance. Monthly Boogie in the Bars are held in the Foundry Bar and Abbott Bar with an average of 65 people attending throughout the year.

Work is underway to create a resource for future Boogies so that they share the same ethos. It is important that we learn from the successes of the Boogies so that future sessions are sustainable and meaningful for those who attend.



Soup and Sarnie Sessions are now up and running across the city. These sessions are run in partnership with CFINE, The Wellbeing Team, AFCCT and the centre in which the sessions are hosted. Torry Soup and Sarnies begun in May 2023 out of the Old Torry Community Centre and after two sessions, interest and uptake has been very positive.

The Health Improvement Fund supports initiatives that improve the health and wellbeing of people across Aberdeen. During 2022-23, 68 projects received funding, with initiatives ranging from community gardening and lunch clubs to birthing classes and Virtual Reality (VR) training. In a bid to streamline funding opportunities across the City, the Health Improvement Fund linked up with ACVO Community Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund and Aberdeen City COVID Recovery Fund to ensure an additional 14 applications could receive funding. Funded projects are evaluated to measure impact and achievement of the Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership (ACHSCP) priorities.

Of the 68 HIF funded projects, 34 were either from bidders based in the South Locality or aimed to support health improvement activities within the South. The Health Improvement Fund received 122 applications, of which 52 were from, or would benefit the South Locality.

An example of HIF funding being used successfully in the South Locality was at Inchgarth Community Centre who recognised the importance of people being able to access physical activity opportunities without a cost barrier. Health Improvement Funding covering the cost of 100 annual gym memberships was awarded to Inchgarth providing free access to the Inchgarth fitness gym for people who are unemployed, in receipt of benefits, the elderly, on low incomes, and young people who wish to access the fitness gym under supervision. Those joining the gym are given an induction to ensure they know how to use the equipment and are encouraged to attend other activities/groups that are on offer at the Community Centre.



Upskilling communities' knowledge of health and wellbeing services

The Stay Well Stay Connected – Granite City Gathering 2023 was a public health event held on 24 June at Kings Church Bridge of Don. The gathering helped people explore how to support themselves and retire positively. The aim and purpose of the gathering was to help people to understand and explore what a good retirement could look like in their own communities and have a real sense of purpose and opportunity to contribute.



167 attendees
Targeted at 45+
Aberdeen City Residents
1 Choir
6 crafting and art groups
1 Yoga group
1 gong and taichi
Ballroom dancing
22 community groups and charities
4 speakers
20 volunteers

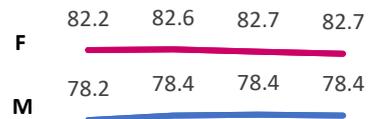
- The gathering focused on people who are planning to retire soon, or have already retired and live in Aberdeen
- The event had a number of taster sessions where people could try new activities such as movement with gigone, Tai chi, chair based yoga, sing in a choir, have a boogie at the gathering, try out crafting or an art session
- There was an opportunity for delegates to meet representatives of community groups and charities who told them about who they were and what services they provide
- The speakers ranged from - Jock at Horseback, UK; to Japanese wellbeing tips 'Ikigai'; to exploring what an Age Friendly Aberdeen could look like.

Suicide Prevention

Suicide is more prevalent in middle-aged white males from deprived areas. However, being male, white, middle-aged, and living in a deprived area are not precursors to suicide. Trauma or events that lead up to suicide are more likely to occur in that demographic and this group is less likely to seek help in such circumstances.

To fully understand what the leading contributing factors in deaths by suicide were in the North East, Police Scotland analysed all Death Reports since the start of 2021 and tracked all contributing factors that were highlighted in the reports including medical and family history and the events leading up to the person's death. These were not geography or locality specific. The circumstances behind suicides are constantly changing and research is ongoing to keep abreast of these changes and to adapt training, information and resources accordingly in Aberdeen City and across the wider North East. The rate of death from suicide in the South Locality of 10.4 per 100,00 is below the citywide average of 11.1 per 100,000 of the population. This is the lowest amongst the city's three locality areas.

WHAT IMPACT HAVE WE HAD IN 2022/23?

<p>Youth Anti-Social Behaviour</p>  <p>238 anti-social behaviour calls were received in Kincorth during 2022, this is down 15.6% from 2021</p>	<p>Positive destinations</p>  <p>90.5% of South Locality school leavers achieved an initial positive destination. The citywide average was 93.8%.</p>	<p>Young People Confidence</p>  <p>41% of S1-S6 pupils report feeling confident compared to 35% last year.</p>
<p>Young People Mental Health</p>  <p>No. of referrals each month to NHS's children and adolescent mental health services increasing</p>	<p>Counselling for Young People</p>  <p>100% of schools in South Locality offer counselling and Active School activities</p>	<p>Working Together with Parents</p>  <p>30 referrals were made to the Parents as Early Education Partners (PEEP) programme from the South Locality in 2022</p>
<p>Young People Volunteering</p>  <p>763 young people from the South Locality received a Saltire Award during 2022.</p>	<p>Healthy Eating</p>  <p>10.1% of people in the South Locality said they were unable to eat healthy and nutritious food due to poverty compared to 16.7% people in Torry and Kincorth. 17.5% of people living in the locality said they ate only a few types of food. (City Voice 46, 2022)</p>	<p>Community Empowerment</p>  <p>167 people attended the Stay Well Stay Connected – Granite City Gathering to explore ways older people can support themselves in the community and retire positively.</p>
<p>Alcohol Awareness</p>  <p>22.9% of people in the South Locality said they didn't know how many units are in the alcoholic drinks they consume 32.4% of people living in the South said they didn't think about units at all. Compared to 30% and 43.3% in Torry and Kincorth. (City Voice 46, 2022)</p>	<p>Drug Related Deaths</p>  <p>135 naloxone kits supplied in South Locality in 2022</p>	<p>Drug Related Hospital Stays</p>  <p>The rate of drug related hospital stays for the South Locality was 135.7 per 100,000 of the population. This was an improvement from 147.2 per 100,000 in 2021.</p>
<p>Alcohol Related Mortality Rates</p>  <p>Alcohol related mortality rates in South Locality are now 13.91 per 100,000. This has improved since 2018 when the rate was 17.31 per 100,000.</p>	<p>Deaths from Suicide</p>  <p>The rate of death from suicide in the South Locality is 10.4 per 100,000, this is below the citywide average of 11.1 per 100,000 of the population.</p>	<p>Life Expectancy</p>  <p>Has stayed stable in the South Locality since 2018 for males and females. But it is lower in priority neighbourhoods at 79.6 (F) and 73.9 (M)</p>

AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT IN 2023/24

- Explore piloting a programme with vulnerable young people at Camphill
- Increase positive destinations for vulnerable learners
- Renew our focus on community capacity and capability building
- Explore proposal for pump track in Torry with communities
- Enhance our child friendly practice
- Increase the number of priority families accessing PEEP programme
- Increase the number of people attending Health Issues in the Community sessions and increase the number of trained practitioners

OUR PRIORITIES

The South Locality Plan 2021-26 sets out three priorities to improve our local place:

Priority 6. Identify and maximise use of green space

WHAT PROGRESS HAVE WE MADE DURING 2022/23?

Supporting greenspace development

Encourage community growing spaces

Our community-run green space and food growing projects have continued to thrive and achieve positive outcomes with 14 food growing projects in schools, communities, and workplaces across the South Locality as of March 2023. For example, the **Tullos Community Garden** has been a work in progress since early 2018, when the paths around the garden were put in place and they had 8 planters (4 of which are accessible to those in wheelchairs) installed to grow vegetables and herbs for the local community. The volunteers continue to work on the best way for their produce to be used by the local community but encourage people to help themselves to anything they would like when it is ready. Previously a box of lettuce and other fresh produce was delivered to George's shop for people to take free of charge. They have also donated to CFINE and the Zero waste cafe when that was running and hope to supply to more community free meal initiatives in the future.

The volunteer group is hosting a garden party on Saturday the 19th of August 2023. This will be the first big family event that the volunteers have put on since before lockdown so it is hoped that many people from across Torry will come along to celebrate the garden and enjoy free food, face-painting, craft activities, planting with One Seed Forward and children's fun and stories.



St Fitticks Edible Garden also began in 2018 in response to the Torry Older People's Network wanting to turn the disused council depot site into an orchard and edible garden. It also faced the challenges of lockdowns and, in this case, water supply but it is still growing and thriving with entries into the Keep Scotland Beautiful competition with awards as well. The garden now has a part-time coordinator/grower who organises community growing sessions, community events and business plus charity involvement. the project has just made a start on a more substantial toolshed. In addition, a wellbeing course with CFINE and Mindstore is due to start. This will be held in the garden and recently and the project has had a fairy garden activity with children from Barnardo's.



Encouraging the use of greenspaces for healthy benefits

Community Learning and Development's (CLD) Family Learning Team have been committed to using the abundant outdoor resources the city has to offer; from the incredible beaches and scenic Torry battery to the plethora of woodland and greenspaces. Working in partnership with various agencies the Family Learning Team identifies children and families most in need of support throughout the City of Aberdeen.

With this need recognised, an array of thought provoking, imaginative, and creative outdoor learning experiences are offered. These connect children and families, assess risk, build resilience, confidence and skills through creative activities and play- all throughout the academic year.

The offer is city-wide with sessions happening in each locality. Within the South Locality there has been Geronimo, Coastal Project, Wellbeing Walks, Holidays of Play as well as families accessing a residential in Cullen looking at environmental issues and the impact humans have on the climate.

CLD's Family Learning team has supported approximately 46 families in the South Locality to access outdoor learning opportunities as well as a number attending the residential throughout the year.



Deevale Community Garden



Work is underway to create a community garden in for residents of Deevale Gardens care home in Kincorth. Residents have shared their ideas for the garden with support from the Community Development team, which will be delivered in partnership with local organisations including CFINE.

WHAT IMPACT HAVE WE HAD IN 2022/23?

Satisfaction with Green Space	Community Growing Spaces	Community Managed Green Spaces
 <p>71.6% of South Locality respondents to the City Voice survey reported being satisfied or fairly satisfied with the overall quality of green/open spaces, compared to 50.1% in Torry and Kincorth.</p>	 <p>14 food growing projects happening across the South Locality</p>	 <p>3 community groups being supported to look after community green space in Torry and Kincorth</p>
Cycling		
 <p>15.6% of people in the North cycled in the last year compared to the citywide average of 14.8% (City Voice 46, 2022)</p>		

AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT IN 2023/24

- Ensure support extends to Priority Neighbourhood Kincorth as well as Torry
- We will support communities to collaborate food growing efforts with schools and workplaces



Working Together

Community Empowerment Strategy

Community Planning Aberdeen is committed to working with communities to improve outcomes across each locality and indeed the City as a whole. In 2022 we launched a new Community Empowerment Strategy setting out our vision for all communities to be equal community planning partners. Several improvement projects are now underway to strengthen community participation in community planning. This will ensure that communities have a voice and an ability to influence what happens to them and their community.



This year we have been pleased to see the return of in-person community-based events, including two citywide events: the Community Gathering and the Granite City Gathering.



These events provided a great chance to bring our community and partners together, make connections, and share learning and opportunities. Both events were open to people across the City and were an exhibition of community information and provided a chance for attendees to wander around the stalls and learn about the different opportunities to get involved in their local community. There were 25 stall holders on the day, showcasing the work they do in local communities. Approximately 121 people attended the gathering. Of the registered attendees, 27% were from the South Locality. You can read the Community Gathering report for more information [here](#).

In addition to our citywide events, the South Locality Empowerment Group (LEG) restarted on 27 April 2023. This was its first meeting since early 2022. Meetings are now held on a two-monthly cycle and alternate between virtual meetings and in person meetings at a community venue. This provides an opportunity for LEG members to influence and shape delivery of the South Locality Plan and hold Community Planning Partners to account. LEGs also provide the Locality Planning Team and Outcome Improvement project managers an opportunity to involve community members in their projects and gain valuable feedback. The Torry Partnership has continued to meet throughout 2022-23.



Find out more & Get Involved!

The [South Locality Empowerment Group](#) and the [Torry Partnership](#) are two of the main ways we connect with our local communities in the South Locality. As a member of a LEG and Torry Partnership you will be able to provide a voice on behalf of the people and communities across your neighbourhood.

What's in it for you?

-  Influence what happens in your community
-  Help make a brighter future for all
-  Connect with others
-  Participation can lead to credits for the Saltire Award (young people, age 12-25)

Following a recent training session provided by SCDC in partnership with ACC/AHSCP, the community had this to say about community engagement:

"Talk to us and talk to us early. Don't make decisions and then get it approved by us. Communities have knowledge and skills to know what's best for us. We're the local experts about our places"

"Community Engagement is where people grow"

If you are interested in getting involved in helping achieve these aims in your local community, follow this link to find out more: [Our Communities - Community Planning Aberdeen](#) or email localityplanning@aberdeencity.gov.uk.

Meet your Locality Planning Team

We understand the importance of working with communities to build a thriving environment for everyone. By engaging with local communities through our dedicated locality planning team, we aim to become more receptive, supportive and action orientated. Community input is extremely valuable to this work.

The Locality Planning Team includes staff from Aberdeen City Council and the Aberdeen City Health and Social Care partnership working together to support improved outcome across all our localities and neighbourhoods. In the South Locality your locality planning contacts are Iain, Jade and Teresa.



Iain Robertson,
Transformation Programme
Manager, Aberdeen City Health
and Social Care Partnership



Jade Leyden,
Community Development
Manager,
Aberdeen City Council



Teresa Dufficy, Community
Development Officer,
Aberdeen City Council

Please take a moment to complete this [survey](#) and let us know how we can enhance our service delivery and collaboration with you. Together we can make a positive impact and create a place where all people can prosper.