

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Anti-Poverty and Inequality Committee
DATE	20 March 2024
EXEMPT	No
CONFIDENTIAL	No
REPORT TITLE	Fairer Aberdeen Fund Annual Report 2022-23
REPORT NUMBER	CUS/24/003
DIRECTOR	Andy MacDonald
CHIEF OFFICER	Jacqui McKenzie
REPORT AUTHOR	Susan Thoms, Fairer Aberdeen Coordinator
TERMS OF REFERENCE	1.14

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide members with the Fairer Aberdeen Fund Annual Report 2022-23.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

That Committee:-

- 2.1 Note the Fairer Aberdeen Fund Annual Report for 2022-23, at Appendix 1 and the positive impact that has been made to lives of people in Aberdeen; and
- 2.2 Instruct the Director of Customer Services to thank all the Fairer Aberdeen Board members, funded partners, and volunteers for the work they've done and their many successes.

3. CURRENT SITUATION

- 3.1 The purpose of the Fairer Aberdeen Fund is to tackle poverty and deprivation in the priority areas of Cummings Park, Mastrick, Middlefield, Northfield, Seaton, Tillydrone, Woodside and Torry, and across the City with vulnerable groups and individuals. This report includes the Annual Report for 2022-23 at Appendix 1. Appendix 2 details key performance indicators to demonstrate impact.
- 3.2 The Fairer Aberdeen Fund (the Fund) is dispersed and managed by the Fairer Aberdeen Board, made up of representatives from the identified priority areas through Regeneration Matters network, the Civic Forum, the Council, NHS Grampian, Police Scotland and ACVO (Aberdeen Council of Voluntary Organisations). The Fund is aligned with the Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) of Economy and People (Children & Young People and Adults) themes and their outcomes.
- 3.3 The Annual Report details how the Fund was used and the impact it had during 2022-23. £1.54m was allocated by the Council to the Fund, to be dispersed by

the Fairer Aberdeen Board. A few highlights are summarised here, further detail is available at Appendix 1.

- 3.4 Funding was awarded to 36 projects within the main programme, as well as a Community Support Fund to support community engagement, and an Employment Support Fund to support costs associated with getting people back into work.
- 3.5 Grants ranged from £2,200 to £167,000 in value. A total of 44,228 people were involved in, or benefited from, funded initiatives, 4,319 of them were under 16 years old. 96% of people supported were affected by poverty; living in low income households or in the most deprived areas. 739 volunteers contributed 114,280 hours of volunteering time with a value of over £2.2m. Match funding achieved by funded initiative totalled more than £700,000.
- 3.6 The Economy theme tackles poverty and promotes inclusive economic growth, removes barriers to accessing employment and helps to maximise household incomes. It provides access to food, affordable financial services and products, coordinated provision of quality advice and information services, and access to support and skills needed to return to work, including initial engagement, personal development activity and in work support.
- 3.7 Over the year 828 people were involved in employability programmes, 260 people moved into work.
- 3.8 4,651 people received money advice or income maximisation advice, with 1,230 reporting a total financial gain of £2.3m, an average of £1,900 per person.
- 3.9 5,099 people saved with a credit union. The credit union provided £1.9m in 2,924 affordable loans, avoiding reliance on payday loans or doorstep lending.
- 3.10 554 tonnes of free food were distributed, the equivalent of 1.3m meals (Food Standards Authority standard calculation of 420g per meal, used by FareShare). 35,307 emergency food parcels were provided and 423 food bank users were referred to other services for support. 21 cooperative Community Food Outlets were supported and 4,013 people benefitted from Mobile Cooperative Vehicle services.
- 3.11 5 Community Flats/Projects were funded in priority areas of Cummings Park, Middlefield, Printfield, Seaton and Tillydrone, providing youth work, adult learning, support and advice, addressing isolation and promoting social inclusion. Community Projects have a role in delivering services and support on a wide range of issues and responding to new issues as they arise, like welfare reform, the Covid-19 pandemic, and now the cost-of-living crisis and need for warm spaces. A number of organisations use the venues to deliver services and distribute resources like free food and sanitary products. Projects support local people's involvement and promote local democracy.
- 3.12 The People (Children and Young People) theme promotes health and wellbeing, provides parenting and family support, services that meet the needs of young people, and opportunities for young people to secure positive

destinations. It also provides opportunities for young people to enter employment, education and training. Many more children and young people will benefit from the programme through family support, the provision of food, and employability and financial inclusion support for parents.

- 3.13 Over the year 4,319 children and young people were supported, along with 444 parents and families with complex needs. 76 young people moved on to employment, education, or training. 203 young people accessed 2,033 counselling sessions and 270 young people were involved in training in youth media. At least 4 families no longer required Social Work support, resulting in a significant saving for statutory services.
- 3.14 The People (Adults) theme promotes health, mental health and wellbeing, community safety, and social cohesion and socially sustainable communities. It supports volunteering, and increased opportunities to influence decision making. Many adults will also benefit from projects listed under the economy theme, that also provide individuals and communities with the social resources needed to reduce feelings of loneliness and social isolation.
- 3.15 Over the year 373 people accessed counselling provision provided locally. Additional patrol hours were allocated to reduce harm to women involved in prostitution and to protect communities from the risk and harm caused by prostitution. 23 offenders were supported in prison and in the community after release, 21 reduced their risk taking or offending behaviour to secure a positive destination after release, and 10 of them moved into employment.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The Fairer Aberdeen Fund is allocated by Aberdeen City Council and is aimed at tackling poverty and deprivation; supporting partners to work together to tackle area-based and individual poverty; and to help more people access and sustain employment opportunities. Funding supports initiatives and services for the most disadvantaged communities and vulnerable people across the City.
- 4.2 In 2022-23 the Council agreed a sum of £1.54m to be dispersed by the Fairer Aberdeen Board. The same sum was agreed for 2023-24.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

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

6. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no direct environmental implications arising from the recommendations of 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	The Fairer Aberdeen programme addresses poverty and inequalities, helping to achieve the strategic objectives of the Council and the Community Planning Partnership.	The Fairer Aberdeen programme supports third sector initiatives that can respond to the needs of vulnerable people.	L	Yes
Compliance	Failure to comply with following the Public Pound financial regulations.	The funding programme follows all FtPP regulations and funded initiatives provide feedback reports every 6 months. Outcomes are aligned with the LOIP.	L	Yes
Operational	Supporting community empowerment - the Fairer Aberdeen Board involves local people in decision making and addressing local issues.	The community members on the Board are supported to engage and decisions made through a deliberative participatory budgeting approach.	L	Yes
Financial	Failure to continue to address the needs of Aberdeen's most disadvantaged communities would have a detrimental effect for the	Supporting people into employment, maximizing people's income, providing early intervention in relation to education and health is not only a better	L	Yes

	individuals and communities involved and potentially increased costs in the long term for public services	outcome for individuals but reduces the costs involved in responding to the effects of poverty in the long run.		
Reputational	Failure to support vulnerable people during a cost of living crisis.	The Annual Report demonstrates impact and the range of support provided.	L	Yes
Environment / Climate	No significant risk identified			

8. OUTCOMES

<u>COUNCIL DELIVERY PLAN 2023-2024</u>	
	Impact of Report
<p>Aberdeen City Council Policy Statement</p> <p><u>Working in Partnership for Aberdeen</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supporting people with the cost of living - many of the initiatives provide services that are preventative and addressing inequalities within the City, however there is an increasing need for support for people in crisis situations which is also being delivered for some of our most vulnerable citizens. Recognise the importance of the third sector in Aberdeen's life and economy – the majority of the Fund is allocated to community and third sector organisations. Empowering Aberdeen's Communities - the Fairer Aberdeen programme is a positive example of partnership working, involving communities in decision making, bringing a wide range of experience and knowledge to support initiatives that can respond to the needs of vulnerable people.
<u>Aberdeen City Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2016-26</u>	
Prosperous Economy Stretch Outcomes	The Fairer Aberdeen Fund provides services that tackle poverty and contribute to improving wellbeing for the city's most disadvantaged communities and vulnerable individuals. Supporting people into employment, maximising people's income, providing early intervention in relation to education and health is not only a better outcome for individuals but reduces the costs involved in responding to the effects of poverty in the long run.

	<p>The Fairer Aberdeen Programme supports the delivery of LOIP Stretch Outcome 1 – No one will suffer due to poverty by 2026. It seeks to mitigate the causes of immediate and acute poverty, helps to ensure access to appropriate benefits, and supports vulnerable and disadvantaged people, families, and groups, particularly in priority neighbourhoods.</p> <p>The Fairer Aberdeen Programme supports the delivery of LOIP Stretch Outcome 2 – 400 unemployed Aberdeen City residents supported into Fair Work by 2026 by helping to deliver the LOIP Improvement Project Aim to support people into sustained, good quality employment, with a particular focus on those from priority neighbourhoods and people over 50.</p>
<p>Prosperous People Stretch Outcomes</p>	<p>The Fairer Aberdeen Fund supports a range of initiatives to support vulnerable people. Many of the services are addressing inequalities within the City and responding to an increasing need for support for people in crisis situations.</p> <p>The Fairer Aberdeen Programme supports the delivery of LOIP Stretch Outcome 4 - 95% of children (0-5 years) will reach their expected developmental milestones by the time of their child health reviews by 2026 by providing parenting and family support.</p> <p>The Fairer Aberdeen Programme supports the delivery of LOIP Stretch Outcome 4 - 90% of Children and young people will report that their experiences of mental health and wellbeing have been listened to by 2026, by providing counselling and access to physical and mental health and wellbeing activities.</p> <p>The Fairer Aberdeen Programme supports the delivery of LOIP Stretch Outcome 7 - 95% of all our children, including those living in our priority neighbourhoods, will sustain a positive destination upon leaving school by 2026, by providing pathways to education, training and employment.</p> <p>The Fairer Aberdeen Programme supports the delivery of LOIP Stretch Outcome 10 - 25% fewer people receiving a first ever Court conviction and 2% fewer people reconvicted within one year by 2026, by providing support services for pre and post release offenders to engage with relevant services.</p> <p>The Fairer Aberdeen Programme supports the delivery of LOIP Stretch Outcome 11 - Healthy life expectancy (time lived in good health) is five years longer by 2026, by providing support to vulnerable and disadvantaged people,</p>

	families and groups, providing communities with social resources needed to reduce loneliness and social isolation, and increasing opportunities for volunteering.
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9. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Assessment	Outcome
Integrated Impact Assessment	No assessment required. I confirm this has been discussed and agreed with Jacqui McKenzie, Chief Officer, Early Intervention and Community Empowerment on 26.2.24.
Data Protection Impact Assessment	Not required
Other	None

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

11. APPENDICES

11.1 Appendix 1 – Fairer Aberdeen Fund Annual Report 2022-23

11.2 Appendix 2 – Fairer Aberdeen Fund Impact Measures 2022-23

12. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

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