

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Anti-Poverty and Inequality
DATE	25 March 2025
EXEMPT	No
CONFIDENTIAL	No
REPORT TITLE	Update Report on Visit to AberNecessities
REPORT NUMBER	CORS/25/054
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	Andy MacDonald
CHIEF OFFICER	Michelle Crombie
REPORT AUTHOR	Michelle Crombie, Community Planning Manager
TERMS OF REFERENCE	1.3 and 1.5

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide the Committee with a report following the visit to Aberdeen AberNecessities on 29 January 2025.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Committee:-

- 2.1 Notes the report and actions identified during the visit to AberNecessities and work done to date; and
- 2.2 Thanks all those at AberNecessities, including the staff and volunteers, who welcomed the Committee and provided an informative and interesting visit.

3. CURRENT SITUATION

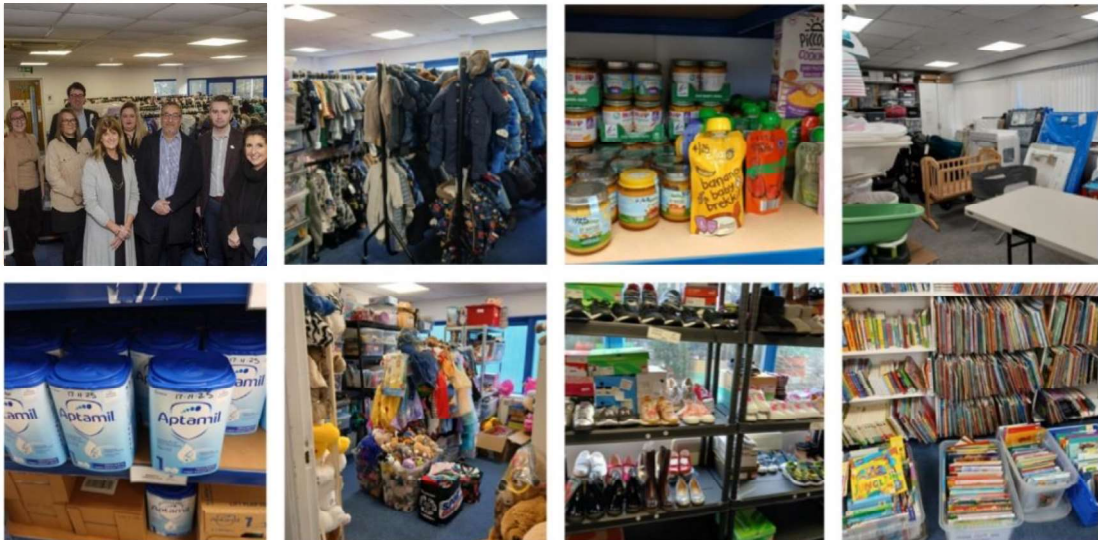
3.1 AberNecessities

- 3.1.1 AberNecessities provides disadvantaged families with the essential and basic necessities that no child should go without. From maternity bundles for mother and baby to nappies, formula milk, clothing, toys and equipment for children aged 0-18 years, AberNecessities recognises the importance of meeting the basic needs of a child in order to give them the best start possible. The charity operates on a referral basis, accepting applications from a network of professionals across the health, social care and education systems. The referral system allows the organisation to distribute items fairly and efficiently to families who need them most.



Anti-Poverty and Inequality Committee members volunteering with AberNecessities for their Believe in Magic campaign December 24.

Visit to AberNecessities - 29 January 2025



3.2 **Issues Raised and Actions Required**

3.2.1 During the visit, Committee members and external advisers received a presentation from the Founder and Co-Founder of AberNecessities which was followed by a discussion and tour of the HQ storage facilities. A number of issues were raised during the visit and the following actions have been identified as a result.

3.2.2 **Support to Improve Access to Formula Milk**

The visit highlighted the need to ensure families in poverty have access to formula milk as a substitute for breast milk to provide essential nutrients for babies to grow and develop. Support from the Council needed to raise awareness that providing formula milk direct to families is not illegal and promote [FeedUK guidance](#) as an alternative to [UNICEF guidance](#) for foodbanks. There was also a call for funding by the Council and Scottish Government for free formula milk to prevent child poverty.

Actions

- Completed – Further to the presentation on infant food insecurity research delivered by Dr Flora Douglas to the Anti-Poverty and Inequality Committee on 30 August 2023, an improvement project was included in the refreshed Local Outcome Improvement Plan. The aim of the project was to meet 100% of urgent requests for first stage infant formula and nutritional support for pre-school children support. The aim has now been achieved through the development of an infant feeding in a crisis pathway, delivered by family nurses and health visitors in partnership with CFINE. The pathway has supported 41 families to date and the full impact and evaluation of the project can be viewed [here](#).
- Completed – AberNecessities, FeedUK and Public Health Grampian are participating in ongoing Scottish Government infant food insecurity roundtable discussions to examine the challenges in this area.
- Planned – The issue of guidance will be explored by Food Poverty Action Aberdeen. It is noted that many FPAA members currently operate under FareShare UK which follows UNICEF guidance not to distribute formula milk.
- Planned – Call for funding for formula milk to be considered by external advisers when allocating cost of living funding during 2025/26.

3.2.3 **Build on Tall Ships to Encourage More Volunteering**

During the visit members and external advisers learned that in 2023 more than 100 volunteers at AberNecessities received The King's Award for Voluntary Service for their work in supporting children living in poverty. The Convener and Vice Convener of the Anti-Poverty and Inequality Committee wish to recognise the contribution of all the volunteers working across the City. There has been a great response to the call for volunteers for Tall Ships and there was discussion about how we capitalise on this to encourage more volunteering in other areas.

Actions

- Completed – In January 2025 the Council approved a new [volunteers policy](#) which set out how any volunteering activity for Aberdeen City Council (ACC) would be managed to ensure uniformity of processes and to mitigate against any potential risks to the Council through the use of volunteers.
- Planned – Through the Tall Ships Working Group, plans are in place to ensure that the many people applying to volunteer are aware of the many other great organisations and opportunities for volunteering that exist. Over 2,400 applications have been received for around 250 volunteer roles. The selection process will be finalised in April and communications will be issued to everyone that applied providing links to the following websites:

[Volunteer Aberdeen](#)

[ACVO Volunteering Opportunities](#)

[Community Planning Aberdeen Get Involved](#)

[ABZ Works Volunteering.](#)

3.2.4 **Explore Provision of Community Laundry Facilities**

At the visit members of the Committee asked what more the Council could do to support communities in poverty. There was a suggestion to explore the possibility of providing community washing machines and dryer facilities in Council and ALEO buildings for people in need, as well as potential for funding de-humidifiers and heated air dryers.

Actions

- Completed – Housing has confirmed that washing machines and tumble dryers are available throughout the City in residential areas for free use by Council tenants (and owners in mixed ownership properties). Free washing facilities are also available in the Tillydrone Community Campus, as well as in other community venues across the City. New Council tenants are offered a furniture package which includes a washing machine to enable people to wash their clothes in their own home. Fuel vouchers are available from Scarf to help people manage the running costs of these.
- Planned – The Scottish Women's Budget Group (SWBG) will report to the Anti-Poverty and Inequality Committee in June on the findings of their study on the impact of poverty and gender inequality on women and their families in Aberdeen. The report will include any relevant findings and recommendations, which may include access to washing facilities, to be considered for action by the Council and partner organisations.

3.2.5 **Wrap Around Support to Prevent Future Need**

There was discussion between the Committee members, external advisers and AberNecessities on the importance of the Council working together with the third sector to provide wrap around support at foodbanks to help people improve their situation and negate the need for foodbanks in the future.

Actions

- Completed – In August 2024 the Anti-Poverty and Inequality Committee received a [report](#) on access to money advice and advisory services. The report included details of [agencies in Aberdeen](#) providing advice and support on benefits and money matters. This type of support is accessible from many foodbanks where advice teams are co-located. For example, CFINE's SAFE team based at Poynerook Road and the Council's Financial Inclusion Team outreach locations including Tilly Flat, Instant Neighbour and Cairncry Community Centre.
- Planned – A mapping of Council Services which support the prevention of poverty to be undertaken in order to understand the breath of support available from the Council. Engagement with members of Community Planning Aberdeen's Anti-Poverty Group and Food Poverty Action Aberdeen to follow to understand existing connections and potential opportunities for further collaboration to provide wrap around support.

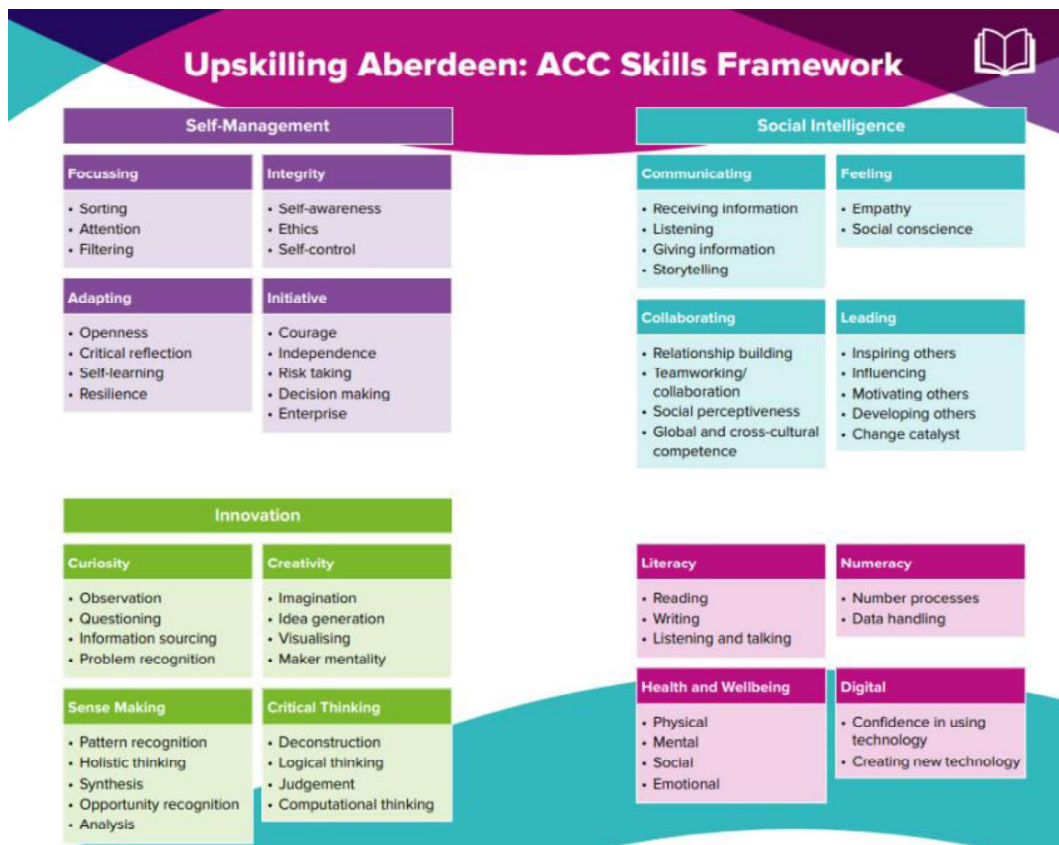
3.2.6 **Life Skills for Young People**

Another issue discussed during the visit was the need for a greater focus on developing life skills for young people to help break the cycle of intergenerational poverty. In particular, how can we build on the approach taken by RGU dietetic students teaching cooking skills in schools. How can more schools use students and volunteers to teach young people budgeting and life skills?

Actions

- Completed – Families and Communities have confirmed that developing life skills is a priority for each of the City's primary and secondary schools. Each of our schools seek to provide young people with opportunities to develop a foundational knowledge through P1-P7, S1-S3 and qualifications in S4-S6 to help them succeed in further learning, employment and life. Aberdeen City Schools are guided by the ACC Skills Framework in developing their curriculum but are also required to develop a unique response to their own context. For example, S1 pupils at Northfield Academy undertake a term-long project about 'Feeding a Family on a Budget' and home economics/ practical cookery is offered to S2 upwards to N5. Young people with particularly vulnerable contexts are supported to use cooking to develop these skills in tandem with communication.

All schools have a focus on reducing the poverty related attainment gap to challenge intergenerational poverty and support from external agencies and partners is welcomed.



- Completed – the Council’s Community Learning and Development Team and wider CLD partners provide a range of opportunities for children, young people and their families to develop life skills through youth work, family learning, adult learning and healthy minds. The Fairer Aberdeen Fund and Locality Planning Participatory Budgeting funds provide financial support for local projects focussed on tackling poverty and supporting improved life skills.
- Completed – An improvement project was included in the refreshed Local Outcome Improvement Plan in April 2024 to support 50 low income families in priority neighbourhoods to improve healthy eating behaviours and adopt good life choices to support healthy weight by 2026. The project is delivering confidence to cook classes across the city, teaching young people and adults how to improve their cooking skills and eat healthy on a budget. The latest project update can be viewed [here](#).

3.2.7 Data Sharing

Data sharing was identified as an essential enabler of joint working between the Council and partner agencies across the City. It was suggested that the Council explore the use of CHI (Community Health Index) numbers as a common identifier to share information and track individuals in need without breaching GDPR.

Actions

- Completed – Data and Insights has confirmed Aberdeen City Council is currently working with Public Health Scotland and NHS Grampian on a draft information sharing agreement to integrate CHI as a unique identifier into the Council’s citizen data systems (D365 Social Work, SEEMIS Education, NEC Housing). Once in place the Council will pilot the use of Public Health

Scotland's CHI Linkage and Indexing Service to maintain the updating of new CHI numbers as they are generated. Having CHI numbers within ACC citizen systems will ensure that any future data integration projects between ACC and NHS Grampian have improved data accuracy and potential to deliver more integrated adult and child protection and intervention services. However, each instance of using citizen CHI numbers within a proposed project will only progress after it has been through the proper and necessary Data Protection Impact Assessment and authorisations. The issue of matching data across partner organisations has been known for some time and is one of the many data challenges that feature in the national and policy frameworks in place to ensure public sector organisations work more closely together to deliver integrated services to citizens. This data sharing capability forms part of an ongoing national programme by COSLA's Health and Social Care Board and Scottish Government Digital Office.

3.2.8 Maximising Funding for Communities

The final issue discussed was how the Council and third sector can work together to explore how available funding can be extended further to support organisations to meet the highest level of demand for their services and maximise every pound to make people's lives better?

Actions

- Completed – Research and Funding is a standing item on agendas of Community Planning Aberdeen's [Anti Poverty Group](#). The group discusses opportunities to access external funding as single organisations or together on an ongoing basis. The Council's [Funding Tracker](#) produced by the External Funding Team provides details of the latest funding available and deadlines for applications. This is also published on the Community Planning Aberdeen website and shared across community networks. Further opportunities for external funding are regularly flagged to the group by representatives of the Health and Research Determinants Collaboration Aberdeen and ACVO. Success in applying for funding as well as progress being made on funded projects is tracked by the group. For example, the Council and NHS Grampian have been successful in accessing funding through the Scottish Government Child Poverty Practice Accelerator Fund.
- Completed – The Local Outcome Improvement Plan includes an aim to increase the amount of funding distributed by local funders across Aberdeen City using non-traditional methods. The [project](#) being led by ACVO encourages funders to use methods such as community commissioning and participatory budgeting. As part of the project, Aberdeen City Council is testing the use of PB in the City's priority neighbourhoods. [UDecide](#) invites communities to both apply and vote on how £20k per locality is spent to support delivery of the locality plan priorities in the priority neighbourhoods. The results of the voting will be announced on Friday 7 March 2025.
- Planned – Linked to the mapping exercise mentioned at para 3.2.5, a single list of organisations funded by Council Services to alleviate poverty will be created to demonstrate the support available to communities from the Council.

3.2.9 See Appendix 1 for full overview of the visit.

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 environmental implications arising from 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

Council Delivery Plan 2024	
	Impact of Report
Aberdeen City Council Policy Statement <u>Working in Partnership for Aberdeen</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is no proposal in this report
	Local Outcome Improvement Plan
Prosperous Economy Stretch Outcomes	There is no proposal in this report
Prosperous People Stretch Outcomes	There is no proposal in this report

9. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Assessment	Outcome
Integrated Impact Assessment	No assessment required. I confirm this has been discussed and agreed with Andy MacDonald, Executive Director of Corporate Services on 18 Feb 2025.
Data Protection Impact Assessment	Not required.
Other	N/A

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

10.1 N/A

11. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Overview of Visit to AberNecessities

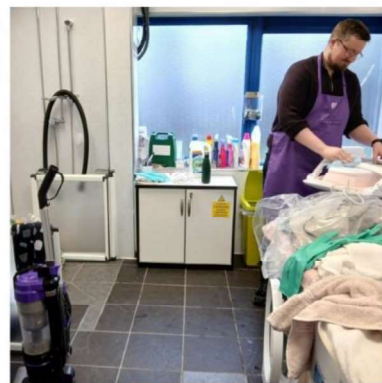
12. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

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Anti-Poverty and Inequality Committee

Visit to AberNecessities



AberNecessities

Grove House, Howe Moss Road, Dyce AB21 0ER

Date: 29 January 2025

Attending:

Councillor Allard

Councillor Bouse

Councillor Hutchison

Susan Cheyne (Substituting for Sophy Green, External Adviser)

Kerry Gavin, External Adviser

Donna Hutchison, External Adviser

Michelle Crombie, Aberdeen City Council

Susan Thoms, Aberdeen City Council

Karen Orchard, Aberdeen City Council

Time	Description
10.00am	<p>Welcome</p> <p>Committee members were welcomed at AberNecessities HQ by Danii Fletcher-Horn and Michelle Herd.</p> <p>Danii Flecher-Horn, Founder of AberNecessities has a background as a specialist early intervention teacher working with a broad range of services to help children with additional support needs, dealing with difficult home circumstances and childhood trauma.</p> <p>Michelle Herd, Co-Founder has worked in the third sector for many years and understands the level of need and demand that exists for basic items for children and families . Also the power and impact that communities can have when they come together to ensure children grow up with the things that they should have.</p>
10.15am	<p>Presentation and Discussion</p> <p>The Committee received a verbal presentation about AberNecessities and how it is supporting disadvantaged families across Aberdeen to access the basic essentials they need.</p> <p>About AberNecessities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• AberNecessities has been a charity since March 2019.• The founder was inspired to start the charity after seeing children arrive at school without adequate clothing and shoes.• AberNecessities recognises the importance of meeting the basic needs of a child in order to give them the best start possible.• The charity provides disadvantaged families with everyday essentials including maternity bundles for mother and baby, nappies, formula milk, clothing, toys and equipment for children aged 0-18 years.

- They operate on a referral basis, accepting applications from a network of professionals across the health, social care and education systems.
- AberNecessities works with the professionals that are best placed to meet the emotional support needs of the families they are in contact with, whilst the charity can provide access to the physical items they need.
- The referral system allows AberNecessities to distribute items fairly and efficiently to the families that need help most.
- Since launched they have supported over 18,000 children, distributing hundreds of thousands of items to families and children across Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire.

Services Provided

Access to pre-loved and purchased items

- Everyday essentials. For example, coats, clothes, underwear, shoes, trainers and wellies to enable children to go out to play in all weather.
- Cots and cot beds.
- Prams to enable families go out and explore, go to the park and spend time together and in their local community.
- Books, toys, fancy dress clothes. Books help build good bedtime routines and relationships between child and parents/ care giver. Fancy dress costumes fire up children's imagination and help young people take part in activities with their peers. E.g. Halloween.
- Maternity bundles for new mums.
- Fresh start packs for women fleeing domestic abuse. For example, kettles, toaster, microwaves, hoovers (all electrics safety checked), toiletries, clothes for children etc. Families fleeing are asked if the child has a favourite toy they have had to leave so this can be replaced.
- Cleaning equipment.
- Bundles for young people coming back from care.
- Bundles for school trips – funding can be available for disadvantaged children to go on school trips, but families are often unable to afford the list of items they need to take.
- Items for older children/ teens – period products, branded items, fake tan. Things that make children and young people feel like they fit in with their peers.
- Neurodiverse items – Weighted blankets, pee pods etc. Childhood trauma can cause bedwetting which can add to a child's trauma, especially in kinship.
- Birthday celebrations – includes birthday card, gifts and cake for parents to give to their children to make special memories possible. Referral form includes a section on child's likes/ dislikes so gifts can be personalised.
- Christmas gifts – [believe in magic campaign](#).



'It all looks like clothes, but it's not. It's opportunities'
Dannii Fletcher-Horn, Founder

Formula Milk

- AberNecessities has campaigned and done a lot of work around access to formula milk which is very poor in this country.
- There is no funding available from the Scottish Government (SG) for formula milk, although SG funded cash first initiatives can support access indirectly.
- AberNecessities rely on fundraising, corporate sponsorship and donations to be able to offer families direct access to formula milk.
- [UNICEF guidelines](#) stop and hinder a lot of foodbanks from providing formula milk as there is a misconception that it is illegal to provide infant formula milk direct to families.
- Some parents/ carers unable to afford formula milk are turning to unsafe measures to feed their babies. For example, buying half used tubs of formula milk being sold online which is creating a black market for formula milk.
- AberNecessities is one of only 3 places in Scotland where families can access formula milk for free as well as providing bottle cleaning equipment.
- They work closely with a charity called [Feed](#) which is run by doctors. Together, AberNecessities and Feed have been doing a lot of work to get the message out that there is an alternative to UNICEF guidelines.
- Feed has developed [guidance](#) for safe and dignified provision of infant formula directly to families who need it, which is now included in SG Toolkit.
- There needs to be a call to the SG for the same level of investment in providing free formula milk as there is for free period products to prevent child poverty.
- How can the Council help promote that it is not illegal to provide formula milk. Can the Council be the first to publicly fund formula milk?
- AberNecessities was recently approached by a film maker in London who had heard about the issues with formula milk and created a video to capture how difficult life can be when you can't afford to feed your child. This was shown to Committee members.

'Milk' produced by Sarah Miller

Film synopsis: A mother's toddler is found playing with formula milk to feed her dolls, leaving no milk left for the baby. The baby won't latch on. Mum gets the children ready to go to the local shop to buy more but the formula milk is being held behind the counter and charged at an inflated cost of £16. Mum doesn't have enough money, and the local shop owner won't accept vouchers or any other form of payment. Mum has to walk to a supermarket further away with baby and toddler in a buggy. But when there, she is still unable to afford the cost of the milk. Mum asks her toddler to play hide and seek whilst she removes the security tag from a carton of formula and puts it in her buggy. When she is finished, she can't find her toddler. Eventually she finds her toddler with a member of staff who spots the formula milk in the buggy with the security tag removed. Mum gets taken into a room by the member of staff. Mum explains she can't afford to feed her baby. The member of staff shows no compassion, saying everyone has bills and suggests the mother joins a breastfeeding support group. The member of staff goes on to threaten to phone social services. Mum leaves the store and is followed out by another member of staff who tells her she has forgotten something. The lady hands mum a carton of formula milk. Mum is shown being able to feed her baby when she gets home due to the act of kindness.

Working in partnership

Public, Private and Third Sector

- Life as a parent can be isolated. Particularly where relationships have broken down and the parents don't have access to family advice and practical support, like hand me downs.
- AberNecessities aim to work with public, private and third sector organisations to provide families in need with a holistic package of emotional and practical support.
- AberNecessities receive referrals from social work, health visitors, schools and other partner organisations. For example, social work might request a package of essentials for children going into foster care or a family fleeing domestic abuse to make the process less traumatic. AberNecessities has also ordered sensory packs for social work to use in classes for new dads.
- The referral process flags emergency situations. AberNecessities are ready to respond to crisis calls from social work. Staff and volunteers can be deployed to prepare packages quickly for delivery within the hour.
- Families can contact AberNecessities direct, but it is preferred that referrals come through social work, health visitor, a school or another partner to ensure support goes to those most in need.
- A survey conducted with social work staff found that they were able to build trust and better relationships with the families they were working with when they were also able to help alleviate immediate pressures by offering the everyday essentials provided by AberNecessities.
- Presented as gifts rather than charity, professional staff can also share moments of joy with families going through a difficult time. Each child is given their own bag to give sense of ownership. One child loved their new tee shirt from the 'the bag' delivered by AberNecessities.
- AberNecessities put as much thought into bags as possible depending on the situation. Where information has not been provided in the referral form the charity will phone the family to find out how it can be personalised. Where circumstances make it difficult to be personal, they provide at least choice.



- AberNecessities raise awareness of their services with other charities to encourage referrals and prevent duplication. For example, CFINE and Instant Neighbour regularly make referrals to the charity.
- AberNecessities are supported by businesses, organisations and communities through donations of money, items and the charity's Amazon Wish List.

Volunteering

- Volunteers play a crucial role at AberNecessities and opportunities range from sorting donations, delivering items directly to families, washing donated clothes and fundraising.
- National stats show that there can be a difficulty with retaining volunteers, however this is not an issue for AberNecessities. Many of the volunteers are people that have been helped in the past and wish to give back to the charity.
- In 2023 more than 100 volunteers at AberNecessities received The King's Award for Voluntary Service for their work in supporting children living in poverty. The King's Award is the highest award a local voluntary group can receive in the UK and is equivalent to an MBE.
- Corporates are more often seeking to support charities through staff volunteering rather than making money donations. However, this comes at a cost to the charity hosting them. Therefore, AberNecessities charge corporate organisations for volunteering. This is in line with the approach taken by other charities such as Cyrenians.
- Now is an opportune time to encourage volunteering as SG continues to provide free PVG checks for volunteers.
- How do we build on the response to the call for volunteers for Tall Ships?
- Local data provided by ACVO confirms there is a very active community of people wishing to give back in Aberdeen. How do we strengthen the pathway through ACVO.
- How do we use volunteering as an opportunity to engage people with NRPF and to offer work experience/ an employability pipeline?

What more can the Council do to tackle and prevent poverty?

Community Washing Machines and Dryers

- Could the Council provide facilities for people in need to wash and dry their clothes? For example, at schools or Sport Aberdeen venues?
- Cyrenians and Instant Neighbour provide their service users access to washing machines and dryers but there is wider demand for these types of facilities.
- Community washing machines would also help people with their energy costs.
- Funding for de-humidifiers and heated air dryers would also go some way to support people with drying clothes in their house which can cause damp and asthma.

Prevent Food Banks Being Normalised

- Whilst foodbanks are still needed there should be a focus on wrap around support services.
- More children are going to foodbanks with their parents which is normalising foodbanks for future generations.
- During Covid AberNecessities participated in a foodbank in Tullos Primary School. They created a small area for children where they could hear a story from a PSA. We need to protect children from the fact that they are going to a foodbank and instead make it about the story or the activity.
- We need to stop reliance on food banks and ensure it is not the norm that people use them now and in the future.

- There should be an expectation that where people are accessing support, they also engage with relevant support services so they can improve their situation.
- Softer conversations can be had by third sector partners to re-engage people with services. E.g. Housing, social work, alcohol and drugs services etc.
- In the main, most people are very grateful for the support they receive. However, charities are also witnessing a level of entitlement from some service users who can act aggressively when their expectations are not met and there is a need to challenge this behaviour too.

Greater Focus on Life Skills for Young People

- Young people need to learn cooking and budgeting skills.
- RGU dietetic students working in schools with P7s to make a meal for £5 and sent home with a recipe card and ingredients to make the meal again at home. How do we build on that? More than just cooking. Teaching budgeting and life skills.
- Many schools have no cooking facilities and don't teach domestic skills or home economics. If schools are not focussing on life skills, then it will lead to future challenges.
- In her previous teaching role, AberNecessities Founder Danii would take children on trips to the supermarket to learn how to budget but schools are no longer doing this. Can we use students or volunteers to do this instead?
- Life skills are essential to avoid people building up debt on credit cards etc.
- Frank conversations are needed with young people to avoid reliance on the state which can be intergenerational in some families.
- There is data on the causes of homelessness. E.g. fleeing domestic violence. Is there also data on the causes of poverty? For example a life event such as the cost of living or if poverty is intergenerational? There is a need to break the cycle of intergenerational poverty.
- Some young people are desperate to turn 16 so they can leave home and get a house. But that won't necessarily solve their problems.
- They need to be equipped with the skills to manage life as an adult.

Data sharing across the City

- Support better data sharing across the City to improve understanding of poverty dynamics and enable effective, targeted interventions across partners.
- Unlikely to be able to have one system but could use a common identifier to track individuals without breaching GDPR.
- Each person in Scotland has a unique CHI (Community Health Index) number, as it is mandatory for all patients registered with the NHS. This number could be the common identifier and could be used by social work to advance child protection systems. Why can't we all access a person's CHI number, so we know what support has been received?
- The voluntary sector is supporting the Council to fulfil its statutory duty of care. Sharing data strengthens joint working between public and third sector. For example, through the Timmermarket Clinic individuals have been identified for multi-agency wrap around support by the Alcohol and Drugs Partnership.

	<p>Community Funding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better understanding needed of how much it costs community organisations to deliver the services they are providing to alleviate poverty and how much fundraising that requires. • Salaries need to be paid to deliver the work. Last year the Anti-Poverty and Inequality Committee agreed to avoid funding new posts through the Cost of Living Fund. • Agreement that we should avoid employing lots of people when it is not financially viable. But there is a middle ground. A small number of staff may still need funded. • It is not just the Council but also other public funders that are limiting payment of overheads. On the other hand, Corporates don't. They trust third sector organisations. Why can't public funders do that? • The Council's external funding team does a brilliant job of raising awareness of opportunities. There is an awash of money in certain sectors. For example, fuel poverty funding from SSEN , Energy Redress Fund. Victim Support Fund can also be accessed. • Given there is a diminishing pot for the Council, how do we make sure that the things being funded by the Council cannot be funded elsewhere? If organisations are coming to the Council for money they should have exhausted all other options? • How can we work together to explore how available funding can be extended further to support more organisations in their work and maximise every pound to make people's lives better? • Aberdeen City Council and the Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership uses the tiers of prevention as part of their budget setting process. Investing in the future workforce is key to prevention. • This includes the third sector workforce. The third sector can be more agile than the public sector as there is less red tape. There is a need to consider who can deliver the best service. For example, is the third sector best placed to provide financial inclusion services? • Public and third sector is not able to keep up with the demand for support for people with NRPF and many services are not available to international students. • What support are the Universities giving to these students to ensure they are supported and not presenting at crisis support services. • Migration to the City is welcome. How do we manage expectations of the reality as well as the dream for incoming families? How does the City meet their needs if they are not prioritised for public support?
12.00	<p>Tour of AberNecessities HQ</p> <p>The visit ended with a tour around the building and storage areas which provided an opportunity for committee members to hear more from the Founder and Co-Founder, as well as a chance to chat with volunteers.</p>

Issues Raised

- Support from the Council is needed to raise awareness that providing formula milk direct to families is not illegal and promote FeedUK guidance for foodbanks. Also a call for funding by the Council and Scottish Government for free formula milk to prevent child poverty.
- The Convener and Vice Convener of the Anti-Poverty and Inequality Committee wish to recognise the contribution of volunteers at AberNecessities and those working across the City. There has been a great response to the call for volunteers for Tall Ships. How can we capitalise on this to encourage volunteering in other areas?
- Explore possibility of providing community washing machines and dryer facilities in Council and ALEO buildings for people in need, as well as funding for de-humidifiers and heated air dryers.
- Work together with the third sector to provide wrap around support at foodbanks to help people improve their situation longer term.
- Need for a greater focus on developing life skills for young people to help break the cycle of intergenerational poverty. How can we build on the approach taken by RGU dietetic students teaching cooking skills in schools. How can more schools use students and volunteers to teach young people budgeting and life skills?
- Explore use of CHI (Community Health Index) number as a common identifier to share information and track individuals in need without breaching GDPR.
- How can we work together to explore how available funding can be extended further to support organisations to meet the highest level of demand for their services and maximise every pound to make people's lives better?



Cross-party elected members volunteering with AberNecessities for their Believe in Magic campaign December 24.