

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Anti-Poverty and Inequality
DATE	11 June 2025
EXEMPT	No
CONFIDENTIAL	No
REPORT TITLE	Working in Partnership for Aberdeen - Supporting people with the cost of living 2025/26
REPORT NUMBER	CORS/25/132
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	Andy MacDonald
CHIEF OFFICER	Isla Newcombe
REPORT AUTHOR	Michelle Crombie, Strategic Lead. Prevention and Community Empowerment Susan Thoms, Fairer Aberdeen and Anti-Poverty Manager External Advisers
TERMS OF REFERENCE	1.1, 3.1

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report seeks approval for the allocation of the £1million provided by Council to support people with the cost of living during 2025/26.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

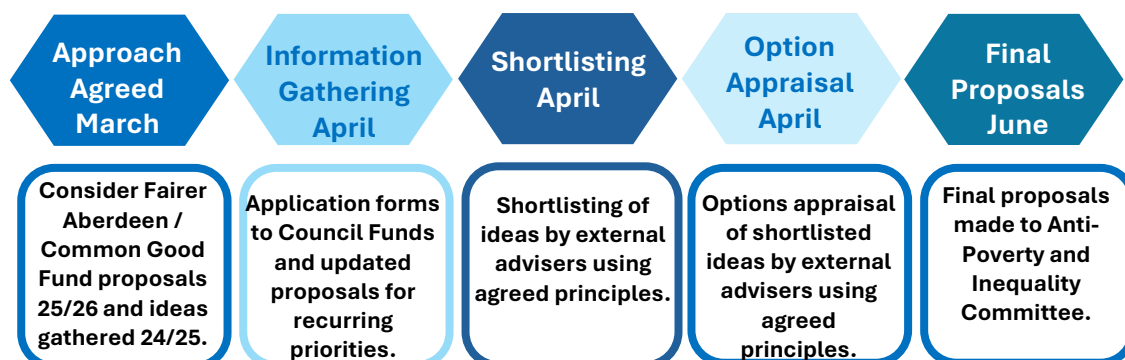
That the Committee:-

- 2.1 Approves the proposed allocation of funds from the £1million provided by Council to support people with the cost of living crisis during 2025/26 as detailed in paragraph 3.9 below.
- 2.2 Instructs the Executive Director of Corporate Services to bring an update on spend, progress, any reallocation of resources and further proposals for the balance of funding to the meeting of the Committee on 26 November 2025.

3. CURRENT SITUATION

- 3.1 Following the decision at the Council on 5 March 2025, engagement took place with the external advisers to the Anti-Poverty and Inequality Committee to determine the proposals for Supporting People with the Cost of Living funding to be submitted to consideration by the committee.

- 3.2 2025/26 Allocation Process:



- 3.3 External advisers met on 21 March 2025 to discuss the approach to allocating cost of living funding for 2025/26. They agreed to consider applications submitted to the Fairer Aberdeen Fund and Common Good Fund for 2025/26, where they supported the mitigation and prevention of poverty but had not been funded. The benefit of taking this approach is that it builds on an already established, open, clear and transparent process for receiving proposals from community groups and organisations. Permission was sought from the organisations submitting applications to the Fairer Aberdeen Fund and Common Good Fund before information was shared with the external advisers.
- 3.4 As well as this, the external advisers considered suggestions identified through the previous years Committee visits and re-considered ideas gathered as part of the 2024/25 cost of living fund allocation process, particularly in terms of recurring priorities. There was an opportunity for shortlisted organisations previously funded through the cost of living fund to update their proposals for 2025/26.
- 3.5 See Appendix 2 for the list of all proposals considered using the same principles established for the allocation of cost of living funding during 2024/25. These include:
- Alleviation of poverty and achieve best outcomes for people
 - Consider a seasonal approach to reflect differing needs, with more than one allocation
 - Ensure coverage of range of poverty issues, addressing crisis needs and prevention
 - Avoid funding new posts which may not be financially sustainable and could lead to unemployment due to funding being non-recurring. However, would cover the cost of existing staff being asked to do additional work, for example distributing more goods and/ or where staffing costs are necessary to build capacity to make a shift towards prevention.
- 3.6 In addition to applying these principles, the external advisers requested information on whether shortlisted organisations had been allocated funding from the Council in previous and current years so this could be taken into account, see Appendix 3. They also agreed to discuss the potential for funding to be secured elsewhere for proposals to maximise the limited funding available from the Council. For example, where external advisers had knowledge of funds available external to the Council and across the private sector, this could be suggested to the organisation as an alternative source of funding.
- 3.7 Whilst external advisers considered changing seasonal in allocating funding, they felt that this could be predicted at the beginning of the year and that funding should be allocated as early as possible to give organisations more time to plan and spend the funding, as well as demonstrate impact over a longer period. This approach also reduces the administrative burden on both the funders and the applicants.
- 3.8 The proposals within this report leave a balance of £0.

Recommended Proposals

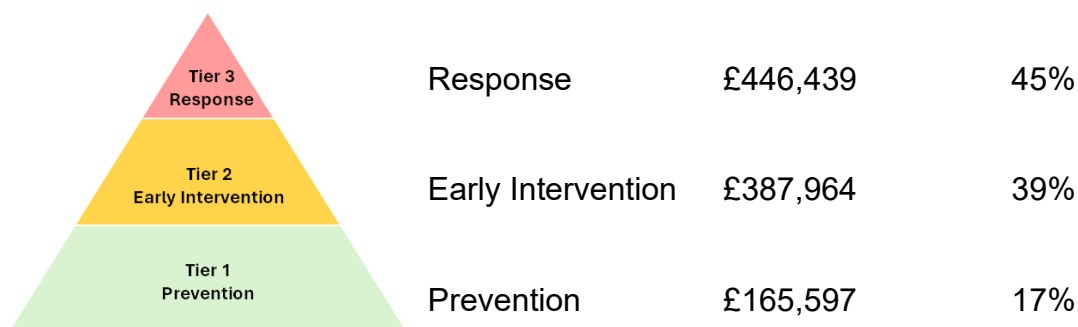
3.9 The proposals recommended to the Committee for funding are set out in the table below, shown against the three tiers of prevention. These are the proposals which have been identified as being the highest priority to support people and families to cope with upcoming winter pressures.

Proposal	Lead Organisation	Allocation £	Staff Costs Funded (% of allocation)	No. People Supported	Prevention Tier	Description/ Rationale See Appendix 1 for further information.
Support for underprivileged children	AberNecessities	£161,113	£29,113 (18%)	600	Response	Provide 600 bundles of clothing for teenagers, carefully chosen to meet the individual needs of young people, providing dignity and opportunities to participate in activities with their peers. Volunteer Coordinator to lead their team of 100 community volunteers and corporate volunteering to support the work of the organisation.
Infant formula	AberNecessities	£14,129	£0	420	Response	Direct provision of infant formula for disadvantaged families to meet the basic needs of a child in order to give them the best start possible. Infant formula is also provided through the Infant Feeding in a Crisis Pathway Cash First Approach delivered by CFINE, funded by the food procurement allocation.
Food procurement	Food Poverty Action Aberdeen	£271,197	£30,876 (11%)	11,000	Response	CFINE, on behalf of Food Poverty Action Aberdeen (FPAA) and the wider FareShare network of Community Food Members (CFM's), will undertake procurement of food for distribution across the city, currently to 85 organisations.
Winter clothing	Aberdeen City Council, Revenues & Benefits	£130,000	£0	4,300	Early intervention	Provision of £30 Winter Clothing grants for families who are eligible and receive the School Clothing Grant. Every family in the city receives direct targeted communication (email or text message) relating to the School Clothing Grant. Those who are entitled are sent targeted communications advising they are entitled and how to apply.
Discretionary Housing Payments	Aberdeen City Council,	£100,000	£0	140	Early intervention	Discretionary Housing Payments (DHP) to help people on low incomes who are having trouble paying their rent. DHPs can help with rent, rent

Proposal	Lead Organisation	Allocation £	Staff Costs Funded (% of allocation)	No. People Supported	Prevention Tier	Description/ Rationale See Appendix 1 for further information.
	Revenues & Benefits					deposits, or removal costs. They can also help with restrictions that limit Housing Benefit, such as the maximum number of bedrooms that benefits can cover or the Benefit Cap. Citizens will be signposted to apply by both internal and external partners for example Financial Inclusion Team, Housing and landlords both Private and Housing Associations.
Community Hub rent and energy costs	Aberdeen Cyrenians	£48,600	£0	1,600	Early intervention	Provide cost of rent and 50% energy costs to continue to deliver their core charitable services, providing crisis support, access to essentials, and early intervention, emotional and practical support, and skills development.
Christmas Panto Package for low income families	Aberdeen Performing Arts	£10,000	£0	300	Early intervention	A Christmas family pantomime package for HMT or the Lemon Tree for families living with deprivation who would otherwise not be able to attend a Christmas show.
Supporting vulnerable women in Torry	Bethany Christian Church	£4,364	£3,164 (72%)	15	Early intervention	Provide person centred support for women in Torry who have various issues including domestic violence, mental health issues, family support, and isolation. Offering practical help and advocacy support, and linking them to appropriate support services.
Fuel Poverty	SCARF	£95,000	£10,000 (10%)	1,000	Early intervention	Tackling fuel poverty by addressing debt through direct and discretionary payments to relieve immediate financial stress for households, helping pay for essential services and other pressing costs. Includes energy efficiency advice and referrals to relevant partner organisations for wider support.
Financial advice for elderly and disabled people and unpaid carers	Aberdeen Care and Repair	£38,359	£38,359 (100%)	1,055	Prevention	Funding Officer to support older people and unpaid carers, including those with a disability and/or long term health issues. Support is provided through home visits, to ensure people are claiming/receiving their full benefit entitlement and to apply for charitable funding where appropriate.

Proposal	Lead Organisation	Allocation £	Staff Costs Funded (% of allocation)	No. People Supported	Prevention Tier	Description/ Rationale See Appendix 1 for further information.
Cash First infant formula	CFINE	£12,000	£0	160 tins	Prevention	Cash First payments for infant formula, in partnership with NHS Grampian and ACC to provide the Infant Formula Crisis Pathway which ensures a crisis response to formula provision. The service is administered via Paypoint, which allows the issue of electronic and physical vouchers which are redeemed for cash.
Community Pantries	CFINE	£66,500	£0	500 weekly shops	Prevention	500 weekly pantry shops to offer a more sustainable and dignified approach to food insecurity. This service provides immediate positive impact ensuring members can free up budgets to purchase other essentials. The pantry provides access to wrap-around services which tackle the underlying causes of poverty and food insecurity.
SAFE financial advice outreach	CFINE	£28,738	£28,738 (100%)	75	Prevention	SAFE Outreach financial advice work to provide a vital link for individuals facing food insecurity and poverty, with support such as benefits/welfare advice, household budgeting, and other support delivered in community settings.
Poverty Awareness	SHMU	£20,000	£20,000 (100%)	4 short films 3 podcasts 30 lived experience people sharing their stories	Prevention	Produce a series of podcasts and short films, capturing and platforming the lived experience of those who have been affected by poverty. Bring these stories to policy and decision makers, through the development of digital magazine packages as well as a special event as part of Challenge Poverty Week.
	TOTAL	£1,000,000				

- 3.10 The proposed allocations have been mapped against the three tiers of prevention to show the balance of spend from the £1million during 2025-26.



- 3.11 Allocations made in 2024-25 mapped against the three tiers of prevention were: Response 76%, Early Intervention 13%, and Prevention 11%.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The proposals within this report are within the £1million financial allocation approved by Council at the meeting on 5 March 2025, leaving a balance of £0 to be allocated. This is a one-off fund that has no recurring commitment.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Funds allocated to third parties will be subject to Aberdeen City Council's standard terms and conditions. Grant funding must comply with the Council's obligations under Subsidy Control legislation.

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	There is a risk that failing to support people struggling to meet the increased cost of living could lead to longer term economic harm.	Delivery of recommendations to help mitigate the cost of living impacts for the most vulnerable, alongside work and support across services, partners and third sector.	L	Yes
Compliance	There is a risk of failing to comply	Delivery of recommendations to	L	Yes

	<p>with a Council decision to spend the allocated £1m to help the most vulnerable in our community with energy costs.</p> <p>There is a risk of grant funding not complying with subsidy control obligations.</p>	<p>help mitigate the cost of living impacts for the most vulnerable, alongside work and support across services, partners and third sector.</p> <p>Confirming for each grant that it is either not a subsidy or that appropriate steps have been taken to ensure that a subsidy would be lawful.</p>	L	Yes
Operational	The project delivery in this report requires some resource from the Council, but mainly through partners	Strong partnership working with organisations identified will ensure this risk is minimised.	L	Yes
Financial	There is a risk of failing to deliver and spend the approved budget	The proposals present options for delivering and spending the budget.	L	Yes
Reputational	There is a risk that failing to support people struggling to meet the cost of living could lead to reputational damage.	The delivery described in this report demonstrates a clear commitment to supporting people with the cost of living	L	Yes
Environment / Climate	No environmental risks identified	N/A	N/A	N/A

8. OUTCOMES

Council Delivery Plan 2024	
	Impact of Report
<p>Aberdeen City Council Policy Statement</p> <p>Working in Partnership for Aberdeen</p>	<p>The proposals within this report support the delivery of the following aspects of the policy statement:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supporting People with the Cost of Living Actively support Aberdeen's foodbanks and provide assistance with bulk purchasing where desirable.

<u>Local Outcome Improvement Plan</u>	
Prosperous Economy Stretch Outcomes	Stretch outcome 1: 20% reduction in the percentage of people who report they have been worried they would not have enough food to eat and/ or not be able to heat their home by 2026.
Prosperous People Stretch Outcomes	Stretch outcome 12: Reduce homelessness by 10% and youth homelessness by 6% by 2026, ensuring it is rare, brief and non-recurring with a longer term ambition to end homelessness in Aberdeen City.

9. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Assessment	Outcome
Integrated Impact Assessment	New Integrated Impact Assessment has been completed
Data Protection Impact Assessment	Not required.
Other	N/A

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

10.1 [Supporting People with the Cost of Living CORS/24/152](#)

11. APPENDICES

- Appendix 1 Recommended Proposals
- Appendix 2 All Proposals Received
- Appendix 3 Council Funded Organisations

12. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

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APPENDIX 1 RECOMMENDED PROPOSALS

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Proposed activity	Financial advice for elderly and disabled people
Proposed activity	Poverty awareness

Proposed activity	Support for underprivileged children
Lead Organisation	AberNecessities
Number of people supported	600
Funding proposed	£161,113
Staff costs	£29,113 (18% of allocation)
Summary of activity:	
<p>AberNecessities will purchase and distribute 600 bundles of clothing and trainers to teenagers aged 12-18. These items will be carefully chosen to ensure they meet the individual needs of each child and young person. The clothing bundles will include items such as trainers, jacket, underwear, t-shirts and joggers/leggings. They will search for cost effective ways to buy quality goods which enables young people to feel confident with the hope that it avoids any bullying behaviour and allowing them to take part not only in school but in wider activities in the community.</p> <p>Their team of volunteers led by the Volunteer Co-Ordinator will accept new items for the clothing bundles and organise these so that the team can create a bespoke package, personalised to individual children.</p> <p>Professionals from NHS, Education, Social Work and other third sector organisations will apply for support using their robust referral system. Alongside receiving these applications the team will continue to prepare items for distribution from purchasing items, organising donations and delivering these to families in a timely manner.</p> <p>The full time Volunteer Co-ordinator manages over 100 community volunteers and is responsible for corporate volunteering opportunities including local, national, and international business partners, highlighting how valuable Aberdeen's wider connections are. Each volunteer plays a pivotal role in the organisation, for which they were recognised by receiving the Kings Award for Voluntary Service in 2024.</p> <p>They will offer community and corporate volunteering opportunities which are well planned, organised and enable volunteers to support local children while feeling valued and making positive relationships in the local area.</p>	
Proposed activity	Infant formula
Lead Organisation	AberNecessities
Number of people supported	420
Funding proposed	£14,129
Staff costs	£0
Summary of activity:	

The funding will support families disproportionately affected by the cost of living crisis specifically caring for a baby aged 0-1 years old. Caring for a very young baby adds substantial financial burden to families who are already living with low incomes.

While foodbanks are supported to offer breastfeeding mothers food, they are not always equipped to supply formula milk making it very challenging for families to access this product when they need it. It is also not possible to use shopping vouchers loyalty points for this product and the grants which some parents are entitled to do not adequately cover the cost of this item.

They will distribute physical tins of formula milk to families who require this support and will meet the need by using their referral system. Volunteer drivers will either deliver directly to the family or the professional applying for the support may collect the items from them.

With this funding they would be able to provide 841 tins of formula milk.

Items will be delivered alongside washing up liquid, sterilising fluid and a bottle brush which will be funded by their fundraising efforts.

Proposed activity	Food procurement, financial advice outreach, and community pantries
Lead Organisation	CFINE on behalf of Food Poverty Action Aberdeen
Number of people supported	11,000
Funding proposed	£378,435
Staff costs	£59,614 (16% of allocation)

Summary of activity:

The main target group to be supported by CFINE, on behalf of FPAA are vulnerable, disadvantaged individuals, communities, and families in Aberdeen who have been adversely affected by the cost-of-living crisis. Record levels of inflation over the last few years has had a disproportionately negative impact on people who were already struggling. Food inflation peaked to a 45 year high at 19.2% in March 2023, and despite inflation increasing at a lower rate in recent months, the dramatic rises continue to be felt. CFINE's experience has shown that often people are making the decision to heat their home or feed their family and often need to make other impossible choices about essential household expenditure.

CFINE, on behalf of Food Poverty Action Aberdeen (FPAA) and the wider FareShare network of Community Food Members (CFM's), will continue the ongoing distribution of food purchased through the Cost-of-Living fund, and will provide additional support services e.g., SAFE Outreach. The partnership is key to ensuring a wider range of support is made available and accessible to individuals and families experiencing financial crisis with a strong referral pathway in place.

CFINE will continue to work in partnership with NHS Grampian and ACC to provide the Infant Formula Crisis Pathway which ensures a crisis response to formula provision. The service is administered via Paypoint, which allows the issue of electronic and physical vouchers which are redeemed for cash. The cash can then be used to purchase formula milk specific to the infant's needs.

The SAFE outreach work will continue to provide a vital link for individuals facing food insecurity and poverty, with support such as benefits/welfare advice, household budgeting, and other support in community settings. The SAFE outreach worker will generate financial gain for beneficiaries, securing benefits they may not have had access to previously, thus maximising household income. Throughout the 2024-25 Cost of Living funded period, £232,489.36 has been achieved through the SAFE Outreach work.

Community Food Pantries provide immediate positive impact ensuring members can free up budgets to purchase other essentials. Long term, the majority of members will utilise the pantry until their financial situation improves. The pantry provides access to wrap-around services which tackle the underlying causes of poverty and food insecurity. Engagement with these services, such as support via SAFE and employability support can lead to people moving out of poverty permanently.

To ensure the effective delivery of this funded work on behalf of FPAA, the budget includes staff costs which total to 11.7% of the overall proposal; these include:

SAFE Outreach Worker

Dedicated driver and warehouse time will ensure consistency of the coordination of packing orders and deliveries. Whilst we engage with volunteer drivers, we should not be fully dependent on them alone to undertake the volume of work required; regular distribution to c85 projects.

Development / Administration to provide a contribution of dedicated administrative support for key areas of delivery, including - bulk ordering of food and maintaining accurate records of data, including, memberships, food volume distribution etc. Communication is key to the effective delivery of services and requires partnership involvement - this role will contribute to effective communication both with the CFINE team and external partners involved in all areas of this work.

Proposed activity	Winter clothing
Lead Organisation	Aberdeen City Council, Revenues & Benefits
Number of people supported	4,300
Funding proposed	£130,000
Staff costs	£0
Summary of activity:	

Provision of £30 Winter Clothing grants for families who are eligible and receive the School Clothing Grant. Every family in the city receives direct targeted communication (email or text message) relating to the School Clothing Grant. Those who are entitled are sent targeted communications advising they are entitled and how to apply.

The short-term impact is children and young people are supported to purchase weather-appropriate clothing which removes the stigma and stress of not having appropriate clothing and improves school attendance.

The longer-term impact of providing winter clothing to children and young people in poverty is that it can improve their self-esteem, wellbeing and improve test results.

Proposed activity	Discretionary Housing Payments
Lead Organisation	Aberdeen City Council, Revenues & Benefits
Number of people supported	140
Funding proposed	£100,000
Staff costs	£0
Summary of activity:	

Discretionary Housing Payments (DHP) to help people on low incomes who are having trouble paying their rent. DHPs can help with rent, rent deposits, or removal costs. They can also help with restrictions that limit Housing Benefit, such as the maximum number of bedrooms that benefits can cover or the Benefit Cap.

In terms of identifying beneficiaries DHP is well established and utilised by citizens. However, citizens will be signposted to apply by both internal and external partners for example Financial Inclusion Team, Housing and landlords both Private and Housing Associations.

The short-term impact of DHP is providing help to citizens who are having difficulty paying their rent due to financial challenges and therefore, being supported to prevent them going into rent arrears.

The longer-term impact of DHP with providing those who need extra help with their housing costs, is thereby reducing poverty, maintaining tenancies and preventing homelessness.

Proposed activity	Community Hub rent and energy costs
Lead Organisation	Aberdeen Cyrenians
Number of people supported	1,600
Funding proposed	£48,600
Staff costs	£0
Summary of activity:	

Provide cost of rent and 50% energy costs to continue to deliver their core charitable services, providing crisis support, access to essentials, and early intervention, emotional and practical support, and skills development.

Aberdeen Cyrenians request support for the rent of their Summer Street hub to enable service delivery focused on two key areas:

1. Crisis Support - Urgent Support and Accessing Essentials:
 - Someone to speak to
 - Basic needs: food, fuel, clothing, toiletries, and housing
 - Assistance with loss of financial entitlements
 - Safe space for those fleeing violence and abuse
 - Phone and computer access
 - Shower and laundry facilities
 - SIM and mobile data support
 - Household items
 - Accessing health support
 - Any immediate needs for safety and stability
2. Prevention and Intervention Services - Emotional and Practical Support, Skill Development & Community Connections
 - Housing and financial applications/appeals
 - Tenancy management
 - Budgeting and debt management
 - Kitchen and dining facilities (used by other community organisations at no cost)
 - Digital and employability skills
 - Community connections to reduce isolation
 - Wellbeing support for survivors of violence and abuse
 - Life and self-care development skills

From May 2025, Aberdeen Cyrenians will open on a Thursday evening followed by a Saturday morning to reflect the demand for support for those facing “in-work” poverty.

By focusing on prevention and community support, Aberdeen Cyrenians aim to reduce the strain on emergency and statutory services and improve the overall wellbeing of the city.

Proposed activity	Christmas panto package for low income families
Lead Organisation	Aberdeen Performing Arts
Number of people supported	300
Funding proposed	£10,000
Staff costs	£0
Summary of activity:	

Aberdeen Performing Arts are seeking funding to offer a Christmas family package to their festive panto, Cinderella, at His Majesty's Theatre. The main target group is families living with deprivation who would otherwise not be able to attend a Christmas show, as many families will do every Christmas. Provision for families to enjoy a fun experience together, attending the pantomime over the festive season. For many families, the theatre is an unaffordable experience, particularly in the current cost of living crisis and in the run up to Christmas time when families feel additional financial pressure. Many will never have visited His Majesty's Theatre before.

The package will include:

- a family ticket
- an ice cream for each family member
- a programme
- a toy for each child from the merchandise stall

This activity was successfully delivered in 2024/25 and they will again seek guidance and support from ACC Families and Communities and schools in identifying those families most at need who will benefit from the offer.

We will ensure families are not stigmatised with this offer. Tickets will be delivered to schools to be distributed to families, along with vouchers for ice creams, toys and a programme. The voucher system is one we use for our Friends of the Theatre and other groups so exchanging the vouchers for goods doesn't mark the families out in any way.

Proposed activity	Supporting vulnerable women in Torry
Lead Organisation	Bethany Christian Church
Number of people supported	15
Funding proposed	£4,364
Staff costs	£3,164 (72% of allocation)
Summary of activity:	

1-2-1 support and advocacy for a number of women living in Torry with various challenges, including domestic violence; mental health issues; family support; and isolation. Many of the women they work with also experience challenges related to lower household income, including: food insecurity, housing and benefits, unemployment, budgeting and debt. As a result, the client base is disproportionately affected by the cost-of-living crisis.

Provision of long-term support to enable the women to set goals, develop confidence and self-advocacy skills, access the practical resources they need, as well as seeking out volunteering or employment opportunities where appropriate.

Connecting women in crisis with the services and support they need, from housing support to mental health services, will create a system which catches community members before they end up in crisis, preventing worst case scenarios, like homelessness. The Support Worker will also work with women who are experiencing parenting challenges, supporting families to nurture children and young people.

The aim will be to reduce poverty and provide early-intervention support for women in Torry who are facing challenges, with the aim of building community resilience to the causes of homelessness.

Proposed activity	Fuel poverty
Lead Organisation	SCARF
Number of people supported	1,000
Funding proposed	£95,000
Staff costs	£10,000 (10% of allocation)
Summary of activity:	

Tackling fuel poverty by addressing debt through direct and discretionary payments to relieve immediate financial stress for households, helping pay for essential services and other pressing costs. Energy companies are not agreeing to writing off as much debt as in the past. There is also a lack of funding available that tackles the debt on meters. The change over to Smart meters is also causing debt issues as many customers are having to pay to get the companies out if they need to be setup by the energy companies.

Funding will target households impacted by the cost of living crisis with a specific focus on fuel poverty by providing financial assistance in the form of discretionary payments to reduce or remove fuel debt subject to circumstances. Scarf will carry out a remote assessment of the household circumstances and establish eligibility for support using established criteria. This will include household income under £31,000, which is in line with the Scottish Government Eco Cap, to support more people, especially those who are in work poverty.

Referrals/applications for support and onward referrals will be taken from; (not inclusive to) existing Home Energy Advice Team, established network of referral partners (e.g. CFINE, AberNecessities, Somebody Cares, Instant Neighbour and Council front-line services), Home Energy Scotland and online applications portal (developed by Scarf).

Scarf will seek to provide additional support including:

- Home visit where practical and with consent of the household
- General energy efficiency advice
- Onward referrals to further support services
- Onward referrals to energy efficiency schemes (ECO4)
- Onward referral to Home Energy Scotland/Warm Homes Scotland

Proposed activity	Financial advice for elderly and disabled people
Lead Organisation	Aberdeen Care and Repair
Number of people supported	1,055
Funding proposed	£38,359
Staff costs	£38,356 (100% of allocation)
Summary of activity:	

This post (Funding Officer) supports older people, people with a disability and/or long-term health problems, including children and unpaid carers remain living independently within their own home irrespective of tenure. The main purpose of this post in relation to financial hardship/poverty: they carry out a benefit checks, ensuring that older and or disabled people, including unpaid carers are claiming/receiving their full benefit entitlement; raise charitable for work required to the home for those in financial hardship where necessary; apply for annual annuities from charitable organisations for those on low fixed incomes, where appropriate. The Funding Officer visits people in their own homes; completes and submits applications either online or application forms for Attendance Allowance, Pension Credit Guarantee, ESA, UC, Carers Allowance, Blue Badges, and Adult Disability Payment. Very few organisations deliver this type of work through a home visiting service and their client group prefer the face-to-face interaction. The Funding Officer also supports clients who are in financial hardship and unable to meet the cost of repairs/improvements or adaptations to the home by approaching individual charitable organisations to raise funding to cover the cost of this work or offer a low-cost loan through Care and Repair where appropriate. All service users now receive a free Early Intervention and Prevention Survey which identifies other services/support that could be useful.

Proposed activity	Poverty Awareness
Lead Organisation	SHMU
Number of people supported	30 individuals with lived experience of poverty sharing their stories on social media platform. 4 films and 3 podcasts
Funding proposed	£20,000
Staff costs	£20,000 (100% of allocation)

Summary of activity:

Produce a series of podcasts and short films, capturing and platforming the lived experience of those who have been affected by poverty. Bring these stories to policy and decision makers, through the development of digital magazine packages as well as a special event as part of Challenge Poverty Week. Building on SHMU's recent work this follow up project would allow them to turn the spotlight on more thematic issues relating to poverty, further enhance the co-productive nature of our approach, and develop training materials out of the media resources.

Working with partner organisations, community members, existing lived experience forums, the Anti-Poverty Outcome Improvement Group, and the Committee, to identify further themes relating to poverty and inequality that can be brought to life through podcast and film-making. Through these media productions, they will shine a light on poverty-related issues that are lesser known in the City, and give a voice to those who are seldom heard by policy and decision makers.

APPENDIX 2 ALL PROPOSALS RECEIVED AND CONSIDERED

While all proposals were felt to have merit, they were categorised as high, medium or low priority in terms of how they would provide support to those in financial difficulties due to the cost of living crisis, and in relation to the funding available.

Proposal	Lead organisation	£ request	£ agreed	Outcome
Winter clothing	Aberdeen City Council, Revenues & Benefits	£130,000	£130,000	Considered a high priority for low income families with children
Discretionary Housing Payments	Aberdeen City Council, Revenues & Benefits	£100,000	£100,000	Considered a high priority for vulnerable people
Aberdeen Foyer Youth Hub	Aberdeen Foyer	£242,349	£0	Not considered a high priority for Cost of Living support
Christmas Panto Package	Aberdeen Performing Arts	£10,000 previously awarded	£10,000	Considered a high priority cultural and festive experience for low income families
Care and Repair Funding Officer	Aberdeen Care and Repair	£38,359	£38,359	Recognised this is a vulnerable group and a high priority
CAB Money Advice Outreach Project	Aberdeen Citizens Advice Bureau	£48,086	£0	Some funding is available through Fairer Aberdeen and there may be other sources available
Crisis Centre Services rent and energy costs	Aberdeen Cyrenians	£48,600	£48,600	Support for a vulnerable group, considered a high priority
The Caring Neighbourhood	Aberdeen Mosque & Islamic Centre SCIO	£23,400	£0	Not considered a high priority for Cost of Living support
No Child Should Go Without Opportunity	AberNecessities	£292,256	£161,113	Aspects of the proposal, clothing for teenagers and the Volunteer Coordinator considered to be a high priority
Infant formula	AberNecessities	£12,615 cost in 24-25	£14,129	AberNecessities have identified the need to provide formula directly, considered to be a high priority. Add 12% to cover inflation
Building Resilience in Torry	Bethany Christian Trust	£4,364	£4,364	Potentially a high impact on a vulnerable group, considered a high priority
Community Chaplaincy	Catalyst Transform - Catalyst Vineyard Church	£25,975	£0	Not considered a high priority for Cost of Living support
Food procurement, SAFE Team Outreach, Pantry Shops, Cash First Infant formula	CFINE on behalf of FPAA	£500,000 previously awarded	£378,435	Although a high proportion of the Fund, emergency food and the related longer term support is a high priority
Fuel debt and energy advice	SCARF	£95,000	£95,000	Fuel vouchers can be funded through other sources, but fuel debt is a high priority.
Poverty Awareness	SHMU	£20,000 previously awarded	£20,000	Considered a high priority to raise awareness and influence policy
St George's Community Centre	St George's Community Centre SCIO	£53,678	£0	Not considered a high priority for Cost of Living support.

APPENDIX 3 Aberdeen City Council Funded Organisations

The following organisations are funded by Aberdeen City Council from the Fairer Aberdeen Fund and Common Good Fund for anti-poverty and inequality related services and interventions.

Organisation	Fund	Purpose of funding
Aberdeen Care and Repair	Fairer Aberdeen Fund	Care and Repair Funding Officer provides advice and financial assistance to older people, people with disabilities and people living in priority neighbourhoods, irrespective of tenure. FUNDED UP TO 2024-25. NO FUNDING AWARDED IN 2025.
Aberdeen Citizens Advice Bureau	Fairer Aberdeen Fund	CAB Money Advice Outreach Project provides financial advice for clients living in priority neighbourhoods. FUNDED UP TO 2024-25. PARTIAL FUNDING AWARDED IN 2025.
	Common Good Fund	Core costs for Union Street office. FUNDED £337,033 PER YEAR IN 22-23, 23-24 & 24-25
Aberdeen Foyer	Fairer Aberdeen Fund	Kings Trust Team Programme provides a personal, social and skills development programme for disadvantaged young people.
	Fairer Aberdeen Fund	Foyer REACH provides a personal, social, wellbeing and employability skills development programme, aimed at participants who are in recovery from long term conditions.
	Fairer Aberdeen Fund	Foyer Families provides an employability and personal development programme for parents facing multiple and complex barriers. FUNDED UP TO 2024-25. NOT APPLIED FOR IN 2025.
	Fairer Aberdeen Fund	Foyer Futures supports a Youth Hub to provide young people aged 12–25 a supportive, trauma-informed environment at the Marywell Centre. NEW APPLICATION NOT PREVIOUSLY FUNDED
AberNecessities	Fairer Aberdeen Fund	Winter Clothing to provide underprivileged children living in Aberdeen City with warm winter clothing, appropriate underwear and suitable shoes/trainers. AWARDED IN 2023-24. NO FUNDING AWARDED IN 2025.
CFINE	Fairer Aberdeen Fund	SAFE Team provides financial advice for food bank beneficiaries.
	Fairer Aberdeen Fund	Tackling Food Poverty and insecurity by improving and expanding access to free and low-cost food.
St George's Community Centre SCIO	Fairer Aberdeen Fund	St George's Community Centre provides a resource for community activity, supporting community capacity building and learning, tackles social isolation and loneliness, and provides activities, support and services to vulnerable and disadvantaged people. AWARDED IN 2024-25. NO FUNDING AWARDED IN 2025.