

Aberdeen City - North Locality

Annual Outcome Improvement Report 2024-25



North Locality Neighbourhoods:

Dyce, Danestone, Oldmachar, Denmore, Balgownie & Donmouth, Bucksburn, Heathryfold, Middlefield, Kingswells, Northfield, Cummings Park, Sheddocksley, Mastrick, Summerhill



**Community
Planning
Aberdeen**

Welcome

Welcome to the third annual report against the North Locality Plan first published in 2021, and the first report since our Locality Plan was refreshed in April 2024. The North Locality plan sets out how Community Planning Aberdeen and its member organisations will work together with communities to deliver improved outcomes for the 14 neighbourhoods in the locality and for the locality as a whole. The Locality Plan was prepared by the Locality Planning Team following engagement activity between March-April 2025 and with oversight and support from our North Locality Empowerment Group and North Priority Partnership.

The report provides an update on progress made against the six priorities identified by community members in the North Locality Plan. It includes information on key activities and the impact these have had across the North Locality and in our priority neighbourhoods of Middlefield, Northfield, Cummings Park, Mastrick, and Heathryfold. Importantly the report sets out areas for improvement and further attention which the Locality Planning Team will focus on over the next year.

Our focus is always on delivery of outcomes to improve the economy, place, and lives of people across the North Locality. We have adopted a community led approach and want to take every opportunity to empower and celebrate our communities. This is particularly important as we find ourselves in a very challenging financial environment with public bodies, third sector partners, and community groups all under pressure; it is essential we all work together to achieve the key findings of the Christie Commission (2011) to collaborate more effectively and shift the balance of public services from a demand based model towards prevention. This report provides a baseline for how we are currently performing in the North Locality, with a commitment to continuous improvement moving forward.

This report is split into the following sections:

[Our Economy – Page 3](#)

[Our People – Page 11](#)

[Our Place – Page 25](#)

[Our Community – Page 28](#)



Our Economy



OUR PRIORITIES

The North Locality Plan 2021-26 sets out one priority to improve our local economy:

Priority 1. Reduce the number of people living in poverty

PROGRESS MADE DURING 2024/25

Create Opportunities for Fair Work

Social Enterprises and small businesses

Business Gateway's business start-up project has supported 45 individuals across Aberdeen City to start their own businesses during 2024-25. This initiative has enabled participants to either come off universal credit or significantly reduce their reliance on them. **15 new businesses were set up** in North Locality through deployment of dedicated community business advisors; targeted funding from ABZ Works' seed funding to remove financial barriers; and a partnership referral pathway. The transition from benefit dependency to business ownership has been life-changing for many participants, who have gained financial independence and confidence, underscoring the importance of dedicated and localised support.



Enchanted Elements: Case Study Shantelle first engaged with Business Gateway in February 2024 at the Cummings Park Community Centre, aiming to launch a party hire business from a retail unit. Her plan included offering equipment like popcorn and candy floss machines for events, retailing children's costumes and party bags, and providing food and party services.

Realising the financial impracticality of a shop unit, we reassessed her business model, focusing on online sales and event-based trading. With support from ABZWorks and successful Seed Fund Start Up funding, Shantelle launched her business. Her first major initiative, renting a stall at the Trinity Centre, did not yield sales or bookings. Viewing this as a learning opportunity, Shantelle appreciated not committing to a permanent retail unit prematurely. We held follow-up meetings to adjust her strategy, and she remains engaged with Business Gateway for ongoing support.

Support for Entrepreneurial Initiatives

Recognising that flexible working arrangements are often key to balancing family and career, ABZ Works has allocated Seed Fund grants of up to £5,000 per person

which has supported 19 parents in 24-25. This support has enabled them to launch their own business, promoting self-employment and offering new pathways for income generation that can accommodate their childcare needs. In North Locality, **seven parents** have benefited from this initiative.



Paid Work Experience Placements in ELC Settings: ABZ Works' initiative to support career pathways in the early learning and childcare (ELC) sector has seen the successful placement of **10 paid work experience opportunities** which have supported parents. These placements not only provide practical, on-the-job experience for parents but also contribute to building a robust workforce in the ELC sector. The placements have been flexible to work around existing childcare arrangements. In North Locality, **two placements** have been provided.

Sector-Based Training for Expanded Childcare Access: To address long-term capacity issues in the childcare sector, ABZ Works has commissioned training activities targeted at enhancing skills and broadening access. This program has reached 29 individuals, including 10 parents, providing them with specialised sector-based training. The goal is to empower participants with the skills needed to support and expand high-quality childcare services in our communities. In North Locality, **13 individuals** have received training.



Northfield Academy pupils participated in the **Careers in Health event**, a collaborative effort between Nescot and RGU, held over two days (29-30 October 2024). The event aimed to raise awareness of career pathways in the health sector. The S4 pupils, along with students from 11 other schools, visited both Nescot's City Campus and RGU's campus at Garthdee. They engaged in various activities related to careers in Health, exploring pathways in Healthcare, Fitness Health and Exercise, and Life Sciences.

Middlefield Community Project supports local employability through partnership working with ABZ Works. Activities within Middlefield include: Arts and crafts, local history, coping skills, sign language, gardening and food growing, cooking groups, youth work groups, men's groups, Pathways support, WorkingRite, apprenticeships in the nursery, and volunteering

and job opportunities through the community café.

ABZ Works Development Fund is a grant programme to support local organisations in building their capacity to deliver employability-related activities, with a focus on those facing barriers to employment, and aims to help residents gain access to employability programmes and work. Some of the recipients of the Development Funds are noted below:

Mastrick Community Centre and **Mastrick, Sheddocksley, and Summerhill Community Council** are actively involved in employability initiatives funded through the ABZ Works Development Fund (Phase 3). These projects are taking place between January and March 2025.

The **'Future Focus: CV Workshop' Series** supports unemployed individuals in **Mastrick, Sheddocksley, and Summerhill** by equipping them with essential job market skills. It offers workshops and one-on-one sessions for CV improvement, application tailoring, and cover letter writing. Workshops are held in local venues to reduce logistical and financial barriers, ensuring accessibility for care-experienced individuals, parents in poverty, and those over 50.

Mastrick Community Centre has been funded to establish an employability café, providing a welcoming environment for individuals to enjoy coffee, chat with staff, and explore training and job opportunities. The café aims to build meaningful relationships and offer comprehensive support, including CV building, interview training, job search assistance, and guidance on training opportunities and funding. Individuals can identify and overcome barriers at their own pace with dedicated staff assistance. The focus is on boosting confidence and skills, enabling local people to connect with employers and other organisations for further training or employment opportunities.

Middlefield Community Project, funded by the ABZ Works Development Fund (Phase 2), supported two areas of work during 2024-25. Firstly, it increased support for volunteers by providing a budget for qualifications like REHIS, First Aid, and Customer Service courses, along with mentoring and management time. Secondly, it funded two, year-long adult learning classes and offers coping skills sessions to help people access these opportunities and support their mental health.



Build Your Future event @The Hub attracted 25 local people to access support from Robertson Construction, ABZ Works, SHMU, Pathways, and Middlefield Community Project at an Employability Morning hosted at the Middlefield Hub. **Two local people** who attended the event are now in full time employment or have started an apprenticeship. Several other attendees have accessed additional training or are now in sessional staff roles hoping to increase their hours. The event was a huge success.

ABZ Works has also been working alongside Sport Aberdeen at **Get Active @ Northfield** where we have set up an information stand targeting mainly parents who are attending the centre with their children. We provided information on our employability service and what support is available to Northfield residents. We spoke to approximately **80 people** over four weeks in March 2025. We are exploring the possibility of continuing the information sessions at The Middlefield Community Project.

ABZWorks conducted a **city-wide skills audit** in Aberdeen during April 2025, surveying residents to improve employability services. The aim was to identify desired skills, training and support needed for entering or returning to work. Feedback is gathered through various methods, including door-to-door visits in Northfield and other priority neighbourhoods to reach those digitally excluded or not in touch with local services. Currently, 45% of survey respondents are from Northfield.



The **Saltire Awards** continue to recognise and enhance volunteering by young people aged between 12-25 in Aberdeen City. The awards are co-ordinated by Aberdeen Council of Voluntary Organisations (ACVO) and contribute positively to development of employability skills. During 2024, 3623 young people across the city registered with the Saltire Awards, including **1622 young people** from North Locality. The North Locality had the highest number of young people achieving a Saltire Award across Aberdeen City.

The **Family Learning team** have delivered four courses with a focus on readiness to work, incorporating key employability skills such as confidence building and working with others. Learners has completed approx. **36 SQA Awards** in session 2024/25 across the North Locality. The team are developing SQA accreditation for all of their universal courses. In addition, Family Learning have supported parents and carers with over £15,000 worth of childminding hours through the Scottish Childminding Association, providing placements for **16 children** across the North Locality. As well as linking families to childcare funding support via ABZ Works. This has reduced barriers to engagement with our universal courses or 1:1 targeted support to families.



Affordable Childcare

Financial Support for Childcare Costs: ABZ Works continued its commitment to support parents to remain or enter the workforce by providing targeted financial support towards childcare costs. This initiative is designed to alleviate one of the largest barriers to parental employment, ensuring parents can pursue or sustain meaningful work without the overwhelming weight of unaffordable childcare expenses. In North Locality, **five families** benefited from this support.

Danestone Community Centre ran a **Community Nappy Exchange**, providing nappies to families in need. The project has helped reduce the financial burden on families and promote sustainability. The project supported **545 people**. Families have expressed gratitude for the support provided by the nappy exchange.

Support our Most Vulnerable Families

Community food provision and community pantries

The Cubby was created in 2019 as a response to households struggling with everyday costs, The Cubby is based in Cummings Park Community Centre to alleviate food poverty and food anxiety. Different models were looked at including the Food Bank and Pantry models. The Pantry model was initially chosen to reduce any stigma, give a shopping experience, and promote social interaction.

Traditionally, the pantry model involved membership and session fees as people like to contribute, however, it was quickly recognised some did not have the fees so could not contribute. The fees were replaced with an honesty box with no expectation to contribute.

Currently The Cubby opens fortnightly and supports between **15-20 households** each session. Funded by Cummings Park Community Association, Health Improvement Funding, and the Trade Widows Project, the Cubby has purchased fridge freezers, and Fairshare via Cfine. The Cubby provides dried goods, tins, frozen foods, plus fresh vegetables and fruit while encouraging healthy eating as an option to members. It also signposts to other services as the need arises.

"It's handy knowing it's there if I need it, it's accessible to me and a fall back if things are getting tight."



Four volunteers at a time run each Cubby with shopping, registration, stock taking, setting out the food, dealing with customers and tidying up some of the duties entailed. Each session uses **18 volunteer hours giving a total of 432 volunteer hours a year** supporting the initiative. Volunteers have gained confidence, met new friends and been given renewed purpose. They are all enthusiastic and willing to contribute more.



"Volunteering helps my motivation and gives some purpose, rather than being stuck in the house. It's helped my confidence as I have to speak to people, even though I'm not at my best. It's helped me reflect on how I deal with things and learn to listen to people around me more."

"I like volunteering at the Cubby, I feel I'm helping out and gives me a chance to speak to folk."

During 2024-25 however, the rising cost of food prices has meant fewer food and domestic items have been donated, which unfortunately has impacted on the budget of the Cummings Park Association.

[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 Manor Park Community Hub in the North Locality.



Cash First Aberdeen

Our **Cash First project** is testing a flexible cash first crisis fund for people facing financial emergencies. Using funding from the Scottish Government Cash First Pilot, ACVO and partners launched the fund on the 4th of

November 2024 for single males, aged 18-45, who are in receipt of Universal credit and are presenting at food banks as food insecure. The fund is co-designed by local third-sector organisations alongside 70 lived experience voices; including those from CFINE's lived experience group. Between January to April 2025, the fund has supported 57 individuals. Of those 57 people, **15 Cash First recipients were from North Locality**, with 47% of those recipients being from priority neighbourhoods. In North Locality, **£7,360.79** of Cash First Funding was distributed.

Financial Inclusion

Funded by Multiply Funding, The Council's Family Learning Team supported **16 people** to take part in a four session Managing Money course at Cummings Park Community Centre. Content included creating a household budget, taking control of your money, the cost of credit and when debt becomes a problem, plus advice on how to help your child learn money skills. St Machar Credit Union also came along to speak to the groups, after which many of those attending joined the Credit Union. Twelve of the participants completed a level 2 SQA module in numeracy, and one of the groups visited the Money Museum in Edinburgh. The Money Museum have decided to develop family activities due to the visit from Aberdeen residents.

"I'm keeping track of my budgeting more"

"I'm planning ahead and understand more about interest rates"

"Very informative and engaging!"

Distribution of the **Rent Assistance Fund** has been far reaching and utilised by families who need assistance to keep on top of their rent payments. The Pilot Rent Assistance Fund aims to assist Council tenants who may be facing financial hardship and through no fault of their own can't afford an increase in the rent they currently pay. The £500,000 fund is funded through Aberdeen City Council's Housing Revenue Account budget. During 2024-25, **177 people from North Locality** received support from the Rent Assistance Fund.

Enhancing Financial Inclusion To further support families, ABZ Works supported a secondment for a dedicated financial inclusion officer within the employability team. This role provided invaluable assistance to families in identifying and accessing their full range of benefit entitlements, including childcare support. This proactive measure helps ensure eligible families have the help needed to access the support they are entitled to. In North Locality, **40 families have been assisted**.

Fuel poverty & Affordable heating

Scarf is a social enterprise, based in Aberdeen, that delivers free advice to householders and businesses including advice on how to reduce heating costs. In North Locality, **542 enquiries** were received, of these 193 households were in fuel poverty. As a result of support from Scarf, including help to heat homes, energy advice, home visits, and onwards referrals, **11% of households** were removed from fuel poverty.



English as a Second Language Support




The Community Learning and Development **Adult Learning team** have delivered 55 ESOL activities to 330 learners most of whom have reported an increase in confidence (awaiting information to provide more context). Core ESOL classes follow a communicative approach focusing on developing learners' basic English skills to a level which will allow them to function in society.




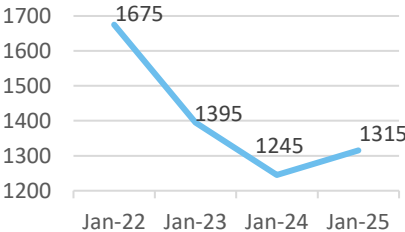
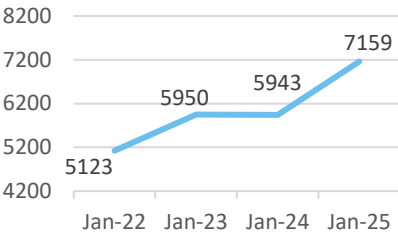

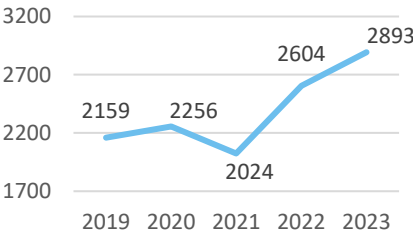


Classes start at literacy level, where learners are taught how to read and write the roman alphabet and go up to Pre-Intermediate level (A2, National 3). Learners are able to prepare for SQA ESOL awards at National 2 and 3 level. They also have the opportunity to complete SQA Core Skills Numeracy Level 2 awards.

As well as core classes, ESOL learners also have the opportunity to participate in short courses on a range of topics, such as Scottish culture and visit places around Aberdeen, such as the Art Gallery or Old Aberdeen. Weekly board games sessions at the Maritime Museum also provide learners with an opportunity to develop their speaking skills in a different setting.



WHAT IMPACT HAVE WE HAD DURING 2024/25?

Food Insecurity	Food Poverty	Rent Assistance
 10.7% of people in the North Locality worried they would not have enough to eat compared to 26.7% of people living in priority neighbourhoods	 4.5% of households in the North Locality went without food for a day compared to 6.7% of households in priority neighbourhoods (City Voice 50, 2024)	 177 people from North Locality received support from the Rent Assistance Fund

(City Voice 50, 2024)																						
Fuel Insecurity	Fuel Poverty	Digital Employability Support																				
 <p>25.4% of people in the North Locality worried they would not be able to heat their home compared to 62.5% of people living in priority neighbourhoods (City Voice 50, 2024)</p>	 <p>5.4% of households in the North Locality have had to seek support for paying for heating, compared to 20% of households in priority neighbourhoods (City Voice 50, 2024)</p>	 <p>8 people in the North Locality received a laptop to support them to apply for jobs</p>																				
Claimant Count	People on Universal Credit	Fuel Poverty																				
 <table><tr><th>Period</th><th>Claimant Count</th></tr><tr><td>Jan-22</td><td>1675</td></tr><tr><td>Jan-23</td><td>1395</td></tr><tr><td>Jan-24</td><td>1245</td></tr><tr><td>Jan-25</td><td>1315</td></tr></table>	Period	Claimant Count	Jan-22	1675	Jan-23	1395	Jan-24	1245	Jan-25	1315	 <table><tr><th>Period</th><th>People on Universal Credit</th></tr><tr><td>Jan-22</td><td>5123</td></tr><tr><td>Jan-23</td><td>5950</td></tr><tr><td>Jan-24</td><td>5943</td></tr><tr><td>Jan-25</td><td>7159</td></tr></table>	Period	People on Universal Credit	Jan-22	5123	Jan-23	5950	Jan-24	5943	Jan-25	7159	 <p>21 households in North Locality were supported out of fuel poverty by Scarf</p>
Period	Claimant Count																					
Jan-22	1675																					
Jan-23	1395																					
Jan-24	1245																					
Jan-25	1315																					
Period	People on Universal Credit																					
Jan-22	5123																					
Jan-23	5950																					
Jan-24	5943																					
Jan-25	7159																					
Children in low income families	Business Start Ups	Digital Access and Skills																				
 <table><tr><th>Year</th><th>Children in low income families</th></tr><tr><td>2019</td><td>2159</td></tr><tr><td>2020</td><td>2256</td></tr><tr><td>2021</td><td>2024</td></tr><tr><td>2022</td><td>2604</td></tr><tr><td>2023</td><td>2893</td></tr></table>	Year	Children in low income families	2019	2159	2020	2256	2021	2024	2022	2604	2023	2893	 <p>Business Gateway and ABZ Works supported 15 people in North Locality to start their own business</p>	 <p>93.6% of North Locality households had access to the internet at home, compared with 91.6% across Aberdeen City (City Voice 49, 2024)</p>								
Year	Children in low income families																					
2019	2159																					
2020	2256																					
2021	2024																					
2022	2604																					
2023	2893																					

AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT IN 2025-26

- 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
- More English as a Second Language (ESOL) services across the North Locality

Our People



OUR PRIORITIES

North Locality Plan 2021-26 sets out three priorities to improve outcomes for our people

Priority 2. Improve the physical health and wellbeing of people

Priority 3. Support local volunteering

Priority 4. Early Intervention Approach

PROGRESS MADE DURING 2024/25

Upskill knowledge and understanding to improve health and wellbeing



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. The Boogie in the Bar held at **New Greentree's in Dyce** continues to grow in numbers and popularity. Health Improvement Funding has enabled organisers to provide a hot meal for those attending. On average around **30 people** attend each month and come from a mix of those living in residential housing or living independently in the community.

Boogie in the Bar at **Sunnybank Football**

Club also provided social activity for older adults, helping reduce social isolation and improve mental health. During 2024-25, the Boogie **supported 411 people with five volunteers contributing approximately 140 hours**. Participants look forward to the event each month, and it has become a highlight for many.

Dyce and Stoneywood Association ran a **lunch club** for up to **25 elderly people** living alone or in sheltered accommodation. The lunch club provided nutritious meals, quizzes, entertainment, and simple exercises, helping reduce isolation and improve mental health. The project supported **25 people** with **14 volunteers** contributing approximately **288 hours**.

Aberdeen North Parish Church provided a **hearing loop system** within the Aberdeen North Church building, increasing the accessibility of the weekly service for those who attend, many of whom use a hearing aid. The project has improved the accessibility of the church services, allowing more

people to participate fully. The project supported **40 people with 2 volunteers contributing approximately 208 hours** to support ensure people can access the loop. Participants have expressed gratitude for the improved accessibility.



Lewis and Taransay sheltered housing complexes (Sheddocksley) now take part in the **Compassionate Buildings and Spaces** project and have made significant progress resident health and wellbeing. Both complexes now host a monthly Boogie in the Hoose, which is something residents greatly look forward to. Between the two complexes, an **average of 60 people attend these sessions**. Feedback has been very positive and residents have said how their confidence has grown. Both complexes took part

in Dementia Awareness sessions run by Age Scotland and a few residents took part in a Fun Activities Leader Training course which enables them to run Body Boosting Bingo sessions with their neighbours. Dementia friendly signage has also been purchased and will be fitted during April 2025. The next steps for this project will be to evaluate the work, share learning, and encourage other sheltered housing complexes to get involved.

Occupational Therapy Student Led Groups – Robert Gordon University

Occupational Therapy Students at Robert Gordon University received funding from the Health Improvement Fund to design, create and run activity sessions within Sheltered Housing Complexes within the North Locality of Aberdeen City. The students were able to work with residents to facilitate and adapt the sessions as appropriate. This intergenerational project supported the Students to learn through real-life scenarios which they may face when working within the health and social care sector upon graduation. Furthermore, the project supported the active aging of residents through meaningful activities. The project has involved **32 students**, who visit the sheltered housing complexes for 2 hours per week, over an 8 week period.



“This allows social integration for the residents through purposeful holistic activities.”

Len Ironside Centre installed a basket-style swing for clients with good mobility and some independence skills, and another swing that is wheelchair accessible for clients who are not able to access a swing in any other way. The swings have provided a fun and inclusive activity for clients, improving their physical and mental wellbeing. The project supported **45 service-users** who have expressed joy and appreciation for the new swings.

Grampian Gathering (Living Well, Ageing Well, Dying Well)

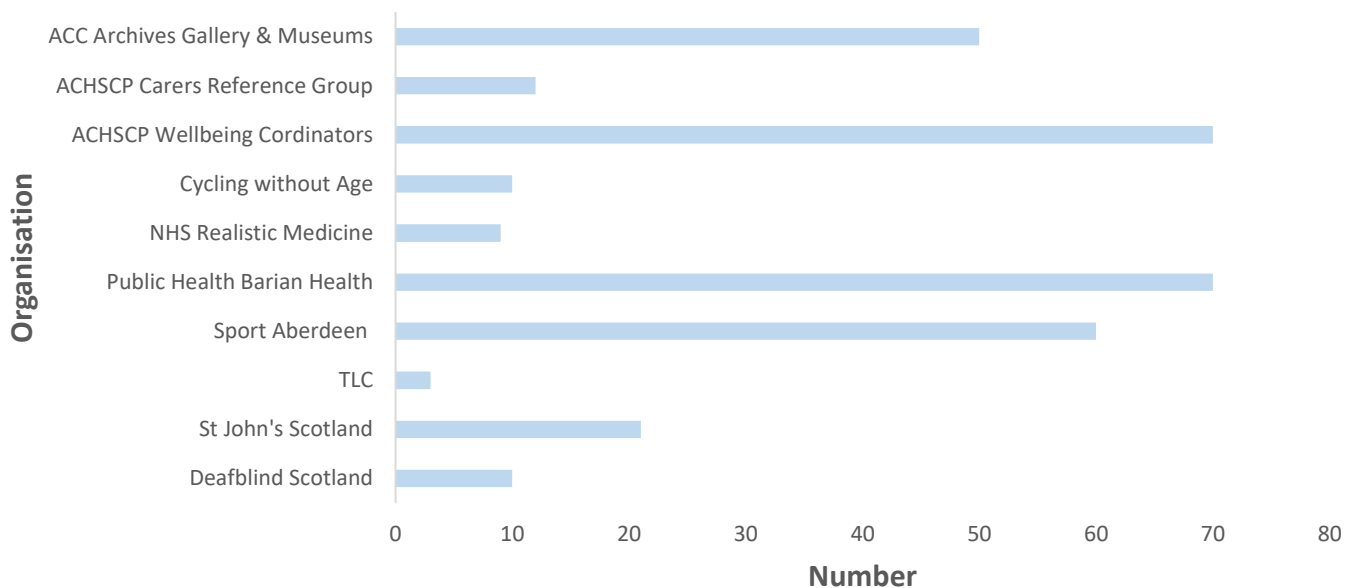


The second annual **Grampian Gathering** event was held at the Beach Ballroom on Saturday 12 October 2024. The event promoted active ageing and aimed to improve population health and wellbeing, with a view to reduce demand and pressures on the wider health and social care system through preventative approaches, whilst encouraging community empowerment and greater self-management of health and wellbeing. The Gathering also provided an opportunity to have open conversations on planning for end of life, and having a good death – topics that are often uncomfortable and sometimes stigmatised. The event programme included five celebrated speakers, taster sessions, live musical performances, and community information stalls. Evaluation data from the event is outline below:

- 369 people attended the Gathering, including **58 community delegates** from the North Locality
- 8 speakers
- 61 stall holders from across private, public, third, independent, and community sectors
- 84% of community delegates who took part in the evaluation graded their experience at the Gathering to be 8/10 or greater
- The number of community delegates who signed up for activities, groups, or training at the Gathering is recorded below:



STALL HOLDERS SIGN UP / TRAINED/ REFERRAL



The Stay Well Stay Connected show on SHMU radio first broadcast in 2024 with co-hosts Carol Baig and Hayley Ross from ACHSCP's Wellbeing Team. It is a monthly radio show which goes live on the second Monday of every month from 1pm-2pm. The radio show contains information on wellbeing

opportunities within the local area, as well as having guest speakers talking about a variety of different health and wellbeing topics.

Women's Health and Wellbeing Fair:

The annual Women's Health and Wellbeing Fair took place on Tuesday 26th November 2024 with 61 people in attendance, with an additional 32 stall holders from a very diverse set of organisations across the public and third sectors. As part of our Women cycling programme, Sport Aberdeen fitted up a bike in the anti-room of the Towns House for women to try. This was well received with eight women expressing an interest in cycling more after testing out the bike.

"I have found quite a few services I didn't know about. Thank you for organising"

"Lot's of time to speak to the people on the stalls, didn't feel rushed"



Healthy Weight Aberdeen and Whole Systems Approach



Currently **over 20% of Primary 1 children in Aberdeen are at risk of being overweight**, with higher rates in more deprived areas. Half of pregnant women in Aberdeen were overweight in 2022, and this continues to rise year-on-year. Deprivation plays a significant role, with those in the most deprived areas nearly twice as likely to be at risk of being an unhealthy weight. Trends also show inequalities based on gender, age, and ethnicity, with men and boys showing higher obesity rates compared to women and girls. Poor diets, low physical activity, and the severe health and economic consequences of obesity highlight the need for urgent, comprehensive public health interventions.

In response to this position, on 30th August 2024, a Healthy Weight Aberdeen event held at the Town House. 111 people from a range of sectors attended. The event provided a shared understanding of the reality of the challenge to address healthy weight consider how the local

system is operating and where there are the greatest opportunities for change. The event report is available at [Healthy Weight Aberdeen Report-30 Aug 2024](#) and visit [Aberdeen City HSCP](#) for event highlights. Following the event we have now established a healthy Weight Aberdeen Systems Network Group to take the approach forward.

Promoting Healthy Life Choices

Through our **Healthy Life Choices project** we supported **16 adults from low income families in North Locality priority neighbourhoods** to improve healthy eating behaviours and adopt good life choices to support healthy weight in 2024-25. During this period, 170 young people from priority neighbourhoods were also supported to improve healthy eating behaviours and adopt good life choices.

Strikers based in Bridge of Don delivered a **Walking Football Wellbeing project** to help older men maintain their fitness and stay active. The project provided a fun and engaging way for participants to stay fit and socially connected. The project supported **64 older men, with six volunteers contributing approximately 90 hours**. Participants have reported improved physical fitness and social interaction from the walking football sessions.

Community Appointment Day on Chronic Pain – Get Active @ Northfield on 27 November 2024

Community Appointment Days (CADs) are an innovative way of improving population health, social care, wellbeing by focusing on prevention and early intervention. CADs are centred around the simple concept of understanding what matters to someone, then working alongside them to make that happen. CADs promote patient empowerment and encourages them to learn more so they can more effectively self-manage chronic conditions, the idea is that this improves patient outcomes and overall population health, and helps to protect primary and secondary care services which are under severe pressure from growing waiting lists. CADs bring together a range of health, social care, and wellbeing services across private, public, and third sectors all under one roof in a community venue and allows attendees to have personalised conversations on what matters most to them. This recognises that the current system is set up to manage one condition at a time, whereas CADs take a more person-centred and holistic approach to treat such as complex issue.

Chronic pain was assessed as being appropriate to trial a CAD in Aberdeen City as local waiting lists and times have increased in recent years and patients on the chronic pain waiting list, are also likely to be on other waiting lists for services such as podiatry or mental health. The 2023 Scottish Health Survey also found that 38% of Scottish adults experienced chronic pain, this highlighted the importance of focussing not just on current waiting lists, but taking a more population level approach to prevent people from experiencing so much pain that they need to be referred to the hospital's Chronic Pain Team. There is a widespread recognition across all sectors supporting the Chronic Pain CAD that chronic pain cannot be resolved in hospitals, instead the most appropriate interventions need to be made in our communities.

The first Community Appointment Day in Aberdeen was held in Northfield as it is one of our priority neighbourhoods and takes into account the health inequalities affecting this area of the city. Evaluation data compiled by NHS Grampian Public Health found:

- 8/10 patients felt that the CAD either mostly or completely addressed what mattered most to them
- 94% of people felt a positive impact on their wellbeing from having fewer time-constraints
- 100% of people felt positive about accessing multiple services in one day
- 9/10 people felt positive about learning about community groups
- 9/10 people would recommend this event to friends or family
- 9/10 people felt the venue was easy to find and accessible
- Attendance data and patient feedback is outlined below

The poster features a large yellow speech bubble with the text 'Chronic Pain Support' in white. Below it, a blue box contains the date and time: '27th November 2024 9.00am - 12.00pm' and the location: 'Get Active @ Northfield Kettlehills Crescent'. The background shows a person on a bicycle and a person in a wheelchair. Logos for NHS Grampian and Sport Aberdeen are visible. The title 'Chronic Pain Information & Support Session' is followed by a paragraph explaining the event. A list of participating organizations is provided in two columns, and contact information for further details is at the bottom.

Chronic Pain Support

27th November 2024
9.00am - 12.00pm
Get Active @ Northfield
Kettlehills Crescent

Chronic Pain Information & Support Session

A Chronic Pain Community Appointment Day will be running on Wednesday 27th November 2024. Part of this event will be open to the Public between 09:00 - 12:00pm for anyone to pop in, join the Pain Cafe for peer support and browse the stalls of information. Just walk in - no appointment necessary. Support from the following organisations:

NHS Grampian Chronic Pain Team	Sport Aberdeen
Aberdeen Fibromyalgia Support Group	Versus Arthritis
Aberdeen University Pain Research Team	Pain Concern
Aberdeen Action on Disability	Pathways Employment
Nuffield Sport Pain Programme	Aberdeen in Recovery
Department of Work & Pensions	Alcohol & Drugs Action
Mental Health & Wellbeing Support	Financial Inclusion
Wellbeing Co-ordinators	
Working Health Scotland	

Information available in other languages and formats by contacting Equality and Diversity on 01224 551116 or emailing gram.communications@nhs.scot

80

Sessions
Available

124

Letters Sent

38

Declined
(30%)

59

Booked
(48%)

27

No Answer
to calls (22%)

Attendance Rate

● Attended	46
● DNA	15
● Cancelled (Prior to event)	2



98

Total Attenders
46 – Info Session
52 – Walks ins during
Public Session

"I didn't expect so much help today. I've got many helpful advices. Great event! 5 star!"

"Really positive experience. I've felt "written off" by NHS and government, and today really helped me see a way forward."

"I got the letter and thought what is this? Today has been magic, you've got to take ownership. This CAD is wonderful, without this you can feel no-one cares and you just have to get on with it"

Danestone Community Centre ran an Active Aging programme to improve health and wellbeing for less active and socially isolated members of the local community. The project successfully engaged participants in various activities, promoting physical fitness and social interaction. The project supported **21 people**. Participants have reported improved physical health and reduced isolation.

Dyce and Stoneywood Association Community Association bought two benches for Central Park in Dyce as part of the EncourAGE programme. The benches have provided a place for residents to rest and enjoy the park, promoting social interaction and outdoor activity. The project **supported over 500 people with 12 volunteers contributing approximately 6 hours**. The benches have become popular spots for community members to gather and chat.

Supporting Mental Wellbeing

Let's All Talk North East Mums (LATNEM) offered a free mental health peer support service for mums and birthing people, meeting fortnightly in Aberdeen. The project trained four new

volunteers to meet demand and provide trauma-informed support and resources for service users. The project **supported 220 people with 22 volunteers contributing approximately 195 hours**. Participants have reported improved mental health and support from the peer support service.

The Community Learning and Development **Healthy Minds team** works with adults in recovery of an enduring, diagnosed mental illness to access learning opportunities within their community to promote their recovery. They work on a 1:1 basis to offer guidance, develop a learning plan and support the learner to participate in learning opportunities. They also offer short engagement courses to meet our learners needs as and when required. In 2024-25, Healthy Minds **supported 22 participants in North Locality with a total of 81 learner hours**.

Suicide Prevention

During 2024-25, SAMH's Community Engagement Officer specialising on suicide prevention delivered 50 training sessions across Aberdeen City which were attended by 663 people. This included to groups that have reach into all our localities such as DWP work coaches, Aberdeen Vaccination and Wellbeing Hub staff, various NHS Grampian teams, Council Housing Officers, Aberdeen in Recovery and Alcohol and Drugs Action staff, and other third sector organisations. A good example of this training being delivered within the North Locality was at the Middlefield Community Project where a suicide prevention workshop was delivered to **10 staff members**.



SAMH's Community Engagement Officers across the North East Suicide Prevention Team also delivered 32 online sessions reaching another 450 people.

Evaluation data has shown that **80%** of people attending the training feel more confident to ask about suicide. **90%** reported the training has been useful in both their personal and professional lives.

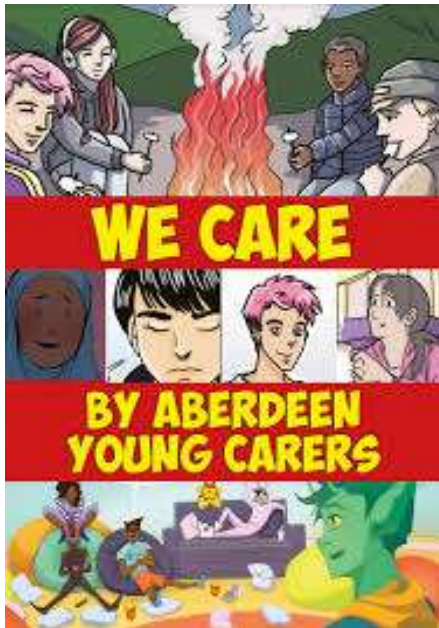
A sample of attendee feedback is noted below:

"Great training, really enjoyed this refresher of information. Trainer was interesting to listen to and engaged well with the group."

“Powerful piece of training that resonated at so many different levels and with so many different people on the call. Thank you”

“Thank you for a thought provoking session. I am telling anyone who will listen about it.”

Support for Young Carers



Despite the substantial support available for young carers in Aberdeen, identifying and referring them to this support can be challenging, as many do not recognise themselves as carers. The Young Carers project has aimed to increase the identification and support of young carers throughout the city. Since early last year, the city wide project has seen continued success, with a 20% increase in the number of young carers accessing support, rising from 126 in June 2023 to 151 in December 2024. As of March 2025 there were **66 young carers supported in North Locality**

Case Study

A 14-year-old Young Carer (YC) was referred to Barnardo's Young Carers Service due to his significant caring role for his Mum, who suffers from advancing Emphysema, ADHD, poor mental health, and chronic pain. YC's responsibilities include household chores, emotional support, and helping with meals. The family

has limited support, with no contact with YC's father and only a maternal grandfather who cannot assist due to his own health issues. YC struggles with school attendance and forming peer relationships, partly due to his caring responsibilities and bullying. Barnardo's Young Carers Service provides YC with opportunities for positive experiences, including 1-1 sessions, group activities, residential breaks, and a Befriender. YC has built a positive relationship with his volunteer befriender and enjoys group activities with other Young Carers. Various grants have been secured to support YC's participation in activities like karate lessons, coding classes, and trips, as well as accessing foodbanks and other financial aids due to the family's financial strains.

Activities for Children and Young People

The Community Learning and Development **Youth Work Team** has been in Northfield, Dyce, Oldmachar and Bridge of Don Associated School Group (ASG) primary and secondary schools since 2021. The team offers a range of informal learning activities such as 1-2-1 support, Youth Awards, drop-ins and school holiday programmes. These



activities support and improves young people's emotional and mental wellbeing.

267 youth work activities were delivered in North ASG's during 2024, with participants gaining either a Hi5 or Dynamic Youth Award.

A pupil from Northfield academy who takes part in youth work programmes had this to say:

"youth work has helped me with my confidence, help me make new friends, talk about stuff I haven't told anyone".

Roots of Empathy P2, P3 at Quarryhill and Bramble Brae Primary Schools

The Community Learning and Development Family Learning Team worked with staff at Quarryhill and Bramble Brae Schools using an evidence programme for ages 5-13 in order to develop respect and understanding for themselves and others, as well as build relationships. A supported volunteer parent and their infant visited each school for 9 of the 27 sessions at each school throughout the year. The baby's development was observed, it's feelings labeled and the children were encouraged to reflect on their own and others feelings. **25 children from each school** took part.

"the children really enjoyed having the baby visits, teachers noticed a difference on how the children expressed their feelings."

Family Learning Worker

Oldmachar Youth Club identified a need for a social space for secondary school-age young people to avoid social isolation and have a safe club to enjoy games and activities. The youth club has provided a safe and engaging environment for young people, helping them build confidence and social skills. The project supported **30 people with 10 volunteers contributing approximately 468 hours**. Participants have expressed appreciation for the safe and fun environment provided by the youth club.

As a result of successful funding bids, **Sport Aberdeen** have been able to complete the refurbishment of the tennis courts at **Northfield Outdoor Sports Centre**, with new surface, fencing and floodlighting installed during 24-25. A successful launch event was held in June 2024, which attracted over **200 people**. Play & fitness equipment have also been installed as part of the phase 2 improvements. Total investment in the project was over £60,000.



Northfield Climbing Wall Sport Aberdeen's Active Schools team and Community Sport team recently reactivated the indoor climbing wall at Northfield Academy as a result of a successful funding application. The teams joined forces and secured £3900 in November 2024 from Aberdeen City Health & Social Care Partnership's Health Improvement Fund, covering the cost of inspection and recertification of the wall and helping to **train 32 people to**

deliver bouldering sessions. Bouldering is a discipline of rock climbing, performed at a low height without ropes or harnesses, and has many benefits for physical and mental health.

The indoor climbing wall at Northfield Academy was originally installed in 2017, unfortunately, the wall fell out of use due to staff turnover at the school and the loss of qualified teaching staff to support climbing sessions. A bustling opening event was held on Thursday 27 March 2025 to celebrate the facility being back in action. This was all made possible through close partnership working between Sport Aberdeen, Northfield Academy staff and a range of community groups via the priority neighbourhood partnership that is active in the area. As at March 2025, **50 young people have taken part** in school taster sessions and there are plans for setting up school lunch club sessions, and an all-girls bouldering group.

Looking ahead to the future, plans include attracting further support and funding to reactive roped rock climbing, embedding the activities as a regular part of the curricular offering at the school, supporting local clubs to develop performance pathways and enabling other external groups within the community to use the climbing wall out with school hours.



"Through bouldering you get to know different people better. Bouldering makes me feel supported and lets me trust others. I have been able to do a lot more than I thought I could. At the start of the year, on the residential trip, I nearly cried when we went climbing so bouldering has really helped my confidence. Now that I've tried it, it would be really good to be able to climb more regularly and have others try it out too." **Northfield Academy pupil**

Raise awareness of substance service and provision

The Community Planning Partnership through our **fatal drug overdose projects** are focused on reducing drug related deaths (DRDs) 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. During 2024-25, the project has focused on interventions in our priority neighbourhoods to increase public awareness and access to the life saving drug to people at risk of overdose, as well as to family members/friends of those in need.



The Aberdeen Protects app launched in December 2024 promotes the uptake and use of naloxone. The app is for anyone - whether parents, staff or people using substances. Whether its young people at a party, people out at the weekend or people who have used substances for a long time, we can all reduce harm by understanding the risks and how to respond. It enables people to:

- find nearest stockists of naloxone
- videos on how to use naloxone and respond to an overdose
- understand signs and symptoms of overdose
- harm reduction advice
- order postal naloxone kit online
- links to support services
- links to national drug alerts
- local push notifications of drug alerts, harms and local support

We're also getting out in the community and running community learning and development event to raise awareness of naloxone and support available. It is important that training on naloxone is available for everyone. Our young people are a key part of this. We are delighted to report that all secondary schools have staff members trained to administer naloxone, and during the 2024-25 school year all S4 pupils were trained in administering naloxone, in addition to the Level 6 first aid course. This provides them with a qualification, as well as the ability to save someone's life. Overall, **81 naloxone kits** were supplied across North Locality during 2024-25.

Recovery from drug and alcohol-related harm is crucial for creating healthier communities. We know that each person's recovery journey is unique, and that providing a range of supportive opportunities helps sustain their recovery, reduce stigma, and increase resilience. Through our recovery project we are committed to building on the treatment, support and community peer led

initiatives available and providing recovery support for individual, family, and community levels to help people live free from the potential harm of alcohol and drugs.

















We have also increased support available over the weekend, with Aberdeen In Recovery (AiR) now running sessions on Sundays and Alcohol & Drugs Action open on Saturdays and Sundays, to ensure that when people need support they can access it. There were 126 members of Aberdeen In Recovery during Q1-2 of 2024-25. Of which **18%** were from the North Locality. On average AiR are running 14 different groups per week with the aim of providing a variety of options to meet the individuals interest and needs. Through Aberdeen In Recovery activities, between 4 April and 22 November, there were 9326 SAFE (Stable Addiction-Free Engagement) hours which equates to 1243.5 days.

Alcoholic Anonymous at Northfield Community Centre

Alcoholic Anonymous meet at Northfield Community Centre weekly with between **16-20 attendees** each session. Northfield Community Centre was chosen as a venue as participant's privacy is respected and members can attend from throughout the city.

WHAT IMPACT HAVE WE HAD IN 2024/25?

Youth Anti-Social Behaviour	Positive destinations	Mental Health
 <p>There were 1014 reported youth anti-social behaviour incidents across North Locality during 2024. This is a 1.8% improvement on the 1033 incidents reported during 2023.</p> <p>173 incidents took place in Northfield and 171 incidents in Bucksburn, these were the highest neighbourhoods across the North Locality</p>	 <p>92.6% of North Locality school leavers achieved an initial positive destination, this is the lowest in Aberdeen City. With 85.29% of Northfield Academy leavers achieving a positive destination</p>	 <p>20.5% of people who live in North Locality have been prescribed drugs for anxiety, depression, or psychosis. This is higher than the Aberdeen City figure of 17.4% and the highest per locality in Aberdeen City</p>
Teenage Pregnancies	Counselling for Young People	Working Together with Parents
<p>In North Locality, 35 per 1000 girls and young women recorded pregnancies. This is above the Aberdeen City average rate of 19.8 per 1000 girls and young women. The North Locality has the highest</p>	 <p>100% of schools in North Locality offer counselling and Active School activities</p>	 <p>27 new PEEP practitioners trained during 2024-25 to support parents with young children</p>

proportion of teenage pregnancies across in Aberdeen City.		
Young People Volunteering	Healthy Eating	Community Empowerment
 <p>1622 young people from North Locality received a Saltire Award. 3623 young people received a Saltire Award across Aberdeen City.</p>	 <p>15.9% of people in North Locality said they were unable to eat healthy and nutritious food due to poverty. This compares to 40% of people in priority neighbourhoods (City Voice 50, 2024)</p>	 <p>369 people attended the Stay Well Stay Connected – Grampian Gathering, held at the Beach Ballroom on 12 October 2024 which celebrated active ageing. 58 attendees were from North Locality.</p>
Alcohol Awareness	Drug Related Deaths	Drug Related Hospital Stays
 <p>48.6% of people in North Locality said they didn't know the maximum number of alcohol units recommended per week. 20.2% of people who live in North Locality do not drink alcohol. This figure is 29.1% across Aberdeen City (City Voice 49, 2024)</p>	 <p>81 naloxone kits supplied across North Locality in 2024</p>	 <p>The rate of drug related hospital stays for the North Locality was 163.1 per 100,000 population. This is an improvement from 175.2 per 100,000 in 2022</p>
Alcohol Related Mortality Rates	Deaths from Suicide	Life Expectancy
 <p>Alcohol related mortality rates in North Locality are now 13.9 people per 100,000. This is below the Aberdeen City rate of 19.9 people per 100,000. North Locality had the lowest proportion of alcohol related mortality deaths across Aberdeen City</p>	 <p>The rate of death from suicide in North Locality is 12.6 per 100,000, this is higher than the citywide average of 11.1 per 100,000 of the population. The North Locality has the highest rate of deaths from suicide in Aberdeen City</p>	 <p>Men who live in Balgownie and Donmouth East can expect to live 81 years, whereas men in Heathryfold and Middlefield can expect to live 73.2 years. The average life expectancy for a man in Aberdeen City is 76.9 years.</p> <p>Women who live in Balgownie and Donmouth East can expect to live 85.6 years, whereas women in Heathryfold and Middlefield can expect to live 74.7 years – this is the area with the lowest life expectancy for women in Aberdeen City. The average life expectancy for a woman in Aberdeen City is 80.9 years.</p>

AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT IN 2025/26

- Explore options for a Northfield Pump Track
- Develop a support package for volunteers
- Support and celebrate local heritage

Our Place



OUR PRIORITIES

The North Locality Plan 2021-26 sets out one priority to improve our local place:

Priority 5. Maximise use of disused outdoor space

WHAT PROGRESS HAVE WE MADE DURING 2024/25?

Supporting greenspace development

Health Issues in the Community, a community development programme was delivered by ACHSCP at Middlefield Community Hub during 2024 to empower the local community to support health and wellbeing needs in the Middlefield area. Part of the course required attendees to research a health issue that was of concern to them or their community. Littering was raised as an issue and this led to the establishment of a community group to improve the local environment, **Keep Middlefield Clean** promotes upcoming litter picks, and information on recycling.

These litter picks were organised and attended by two community members, along with staff and volunteers from the Middlefield Community Hub and Middlefield area. Between March and June 2024, **nine litter picks over 16.5 hours were organised**, with an average of six adults and children collecting a total of **66 bags of rubbish** along with larger items such as mattresses, carpets, bikes,

"... let's keep it litter free and looking nice."

"I get a sense of making an effort and contributing, even though I don't like gardening! I also pick up litter on my way and from the garden and recycle it where possible. It's helped me grow as a person. I like recycling as it can turn a useless item in to something useful. I wish people wouldn't drop litter though!"

Middlefield Community Project run a **Bike Hub** every Thursday. This is where local people can come and get their bikes repaired, or be taught how to do it themselves thus encouraging people to develop new skills and to recycle as opposed to throwing away and buying new. The project also accepts donations of bikes to repair, clean, and hand out to children in the area who perhaps couldn't afford a bike. The project **repairs 20 bikes per month** at The Middlefield Hub, and during 2024-25 handed out over **50 bikes** to local children and families.







Northfield Community Centre members have taken part in **two litter picks** during 2024. One was part of the Aberdeen 24 hour litter pick. **30 children collected 35 bags of rubbish** from around the centre using equipment allocated from Aberdeen City Council. They were supported by six centre volunteers, a local Councillor, and a Community Planning member of staff. The second litter pick was around Lintmill shops, with **12 children and six volunteers collecting 23 bags of rubbish**.



“The kids loved it and they didn’t want it to finish” – Northfield Litter Pick Volunteer

During the Covid-19 pandemic, the Council’s Family Learning Service supported groups from **Cummings Park** on outside **wellbeing walks** due to social contact restrictions. The parents enjoyed this way of interaction so much they have continued since. In the past year, the group meets at Cummings Park Centre and have enjoyed walks in Auchmill Woods and Aberdeen beach. At the end of each walk the group have a coffee and a supportive chat as a debrief on how their week has been. If the weather was poor, the group took part in activities inside the community centre, and this led to the creation of the Cummings Park Boccia Group. The group understands how taking part in outdoor activities contributes to their general wellbeing and mental health. Attendance varies between **2-8 people per session**.

WHAT IMPACT HAVE WE HAD IN 2024/25?

Satisfaction with Green Space	Community Growing Spaces	Community Managed Green Spaces
 <p>65.2% of North Locality respondents reported being satisfied or fairly satisfied with the overall quality of green/open spaces. This is lower than the 74% of respondents for Aberdeen City collectively (City Voice 51, 2024)</p>	 <p>4 Supported community food growing projects happening across North Locality</p>	 <p>2 community groups being supported to look after community green space in priority neighbourhoods</p>
Cycling	Walking	Community Resilience Group in North Locality
 <p>4.4% of people in the North Locality cycled in the last year as a sustainable travel choice, this is the lowest in Aberdeen City (City Voice 51, 2024)</p>	 <p>53.1% of people in North Locality walk as one mode of transport. However this number falls to 42.1% in priority neighbourhoods (City Voice 51, 2024)</p>	 <p>There is one Community Resilience Group in North Locality which serves Bridge of Don and Danestone</p>

AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT IN 2025/26

- We will support communities to collaborate food growing efforts with schools and workplaces
- We will support and encourage people to walk and cycle more
- Work with local communities on improving traffic management

- Establish more Community Resilience Groups
- More initiatives which promote responsible dog ownership.

Our Communities



OUR PRIORITIES

The North Locality Plan 2021-26 sets out one priority to improve our Communities:

Priority 6. Increase the number of people and groups involved in making improvements and decisions in their communities

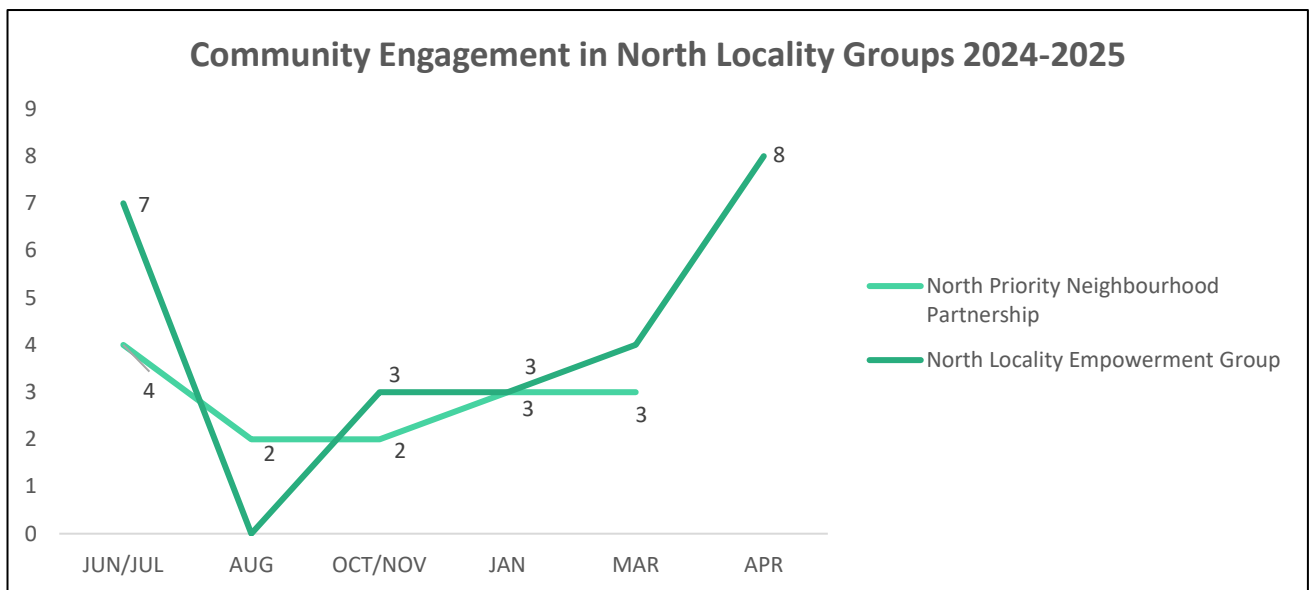
PROGRESS MADE DURING 2024/25

Community Participation

There are many ways you can get involved in the work of Community Planning Aberdeen to make things better for your local community and influence how public services are delivered in your area to meet your needs. We are committed to enabling all citizens to participate should they wish to.

Community members in the North of the city can get involved through a range of methods:

- North Locality Empowerment Group (LEG)
- North Priority Neighbourhood Partnership (PNP)
- UDecide Participatory Budgeting
- Fairer Aberdeen Board
- Place Standard Community Engagement



Stay updated

The **North Locality Empowerment Group** and the **Cummings Park, Heathryfold, Northfield, Mastrick and Middlefield Priority Neighbourhood Partnership** are two of the main ways we connect with our local communities in the North Locality. As a member of a LEG and Cummings Park, Heathryfold, Northfield, Mastrick and Middlefield Priority Neighbourhood Partnership you will be able to provide a voice on behalf of the people and communities across your neighbourhood

As well as this, we have a number of ways to stay updated on what is going on in your neighbourhood.

Every few months, ACVO pull together a North funding and events update, so you can find out what's on and have up to date access on locally available funding opportunities. See the latest update [here](#).

As well as this, council tenants can also find out about updates in the Tenant Participation [Newsbite](#) magazine, hard copies are sent to all council tenancies.

Get Involved

Following a citywide meeting with our existing community representatives, they had the following to say about what they gain from involvement:



If you are interested in getting involved in helping achieve these aims in your local community, follow this link to find out more or contact the Locality Planning Team:

[Our Communities - Community Planning Aberdeen](#)

localityplanning@aberdeencity.gov.uk

Community Funding



The Locality Planning Team led the delivery of a **UDecide Participatory Budgeting process**. There was £60,000 of funding available to community groups, £40,000 from Community Planning Aberdeen and a further £20,000 from the Fairer Aberdeen Fund. This provided a total of £20,000 available for each of the three localities.

Applications were open to community groups in Cummings Park, Heathryfold, Northfield, Mastrick and Middlefield who were able to demonstrate how their projects and activities related to one or more of the community ideas detailed within the North Locality Plan.



Funding was awarded to **seven projects across those areas and 1 project was partially funded**. You can read more about the process here: [UDecide Report 2025](#).

Funded UDecide Projects
Generation Games Intergenerational activities to bring people of all ages together combatting loneliness

<p><i>Locality Plan Priority Link: Creating opportunities for those who identify as socially isolated or vulnerable to take part in activities</i></p>
<p>Play Later Lights Portable lighting allowing young people to do safe positive games/activities at night <i>Locality Plan Priority Link: More activities/spaces for children and young people to participate in/be together</i></p>
<p>Cummings Park Gamers Unite Gaming nights for the local community – social interaction and teamwork <i>Locality Plan Priority Link: More activities/spaces for children and young people to participate in/be together</i></p>
<p>Aberdeen North Toddler Group Resources to make a Toddler group more child friendly. <i>Locality Plan Priority Link: Creating opportunities for those who identify as socially isolated or vulnerable to take part in activities</i></p>
<p>Try Wellbeing Activities 2025 Physical and arts & Crafts sessions supporting mental health with fun activities. <i>Locality Plan Priority Link: Support Community groups to know about Health and Wellbeing and Health and Social Care Services in the Community</i></p>
<p>The Flourish Project Sessions supporting Wellbeing and mental health for young people <i>Locality Plan Priority Link: Creating opportunities for those who identify as socially isolated or vulnerable to take part in activities</i></p>
<p>Community Cycle Maintenance Training Vocational Qualification for young people to fix and maintain bicycles. <i>Locality Plan Priority Link: Develop programmes to encourage outdoor activity</i></p>
<p>Project Strive Dance performance and theatre for young people sharing the joy of live performance. <i>Locality Plan Priority Link: Diversionary Activities for young people</i></p>



The Health Improvement Fund (HIF) process is designed to enhance health and wellbeing across Aberdeen through community-led projects. It is open to anyone living and/or working in Aberdeen City, offering community grants of up to £5,000. Projects must be innovative, community-led, meet local needs, and demonstrate improvements in health and wellbeing. The decision-making process involves local screening panels composed of community representatives and staff, who allocate funds based on a scoring process aligned with the fund's principles. This ensures that projects are selected fairly and effectively to address the diverse needs of the community.

Funded Health Improvement Fund Projects
<p>Active Schools Football Festivals - Sport Aberdeen The project will allow football festivals across Bridge of Don, Oldmachar and Northfield ASGs.</p>

Grandmas Group - Danestone Community Centre A peer support group for Grandmas
ASN Floor Curling - Active Schools (Dyce ASG) to support ASN Floor Curling groups.
Football Pitch Costs - Stoneywood Parkvale FC Engaging local community through football.
Nurturing Young Minds - Bridge of Don and District Men's Shed 'Intergenerational working' project, between the above two groups, to educate the children
Blast From The Past - Bucksburn and Newhills Community Council Blast From The Past Leading to the Future - historical community engagement group.
Blossoming Brambles at Bramble Brae School - Bramble Brae School A nurture space within a school aims to provide a safe, supportive environment where children can develop their emotional well-being, social skills, and resilience through tailored, relationship-based interventions.
Walking Football - Beacon & Bucksburn Community Learning Association Walking football (with instruction). Improve Health and Mental wellbeing.
The Flourish Project - The King's Community Foundation Our Flourish project is an 8 week training programme, for young people aged 10-14, supporting and promoting positive mental and emotional health. It equips them with skills to develop a healthy self-esteem, allowing them to uncover inner strengths that they didn't know they had.
Family Fun Activities - Children 1st This project will provide recreational and wellbeing opportunities to children, young people and families who face a range of barriers to equal participation in their community.
Compassionate Buildings and Spaces - Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership Creating Dementia Friendly environments and meaningful engagement within Sheltered Housing
Childhood Multi-Sport Activity - Danestone Community Centre Multi-sport activities tackling childhood obesity
The Bridges Choir - Absafe SCIO Intergenerational Community Choir
Bucksburn Initiative - Beacon and Bucksburn Community Learning Association Fostering Community Connections and providing Mental Health Support
Northfield Academy Climbing Wall reactivation - Sport Aberdeen The re-activation of the Northfield Academy Indoor Climbing Wall.
Physic and Sensory Gardens - Springhill Community Garden Creating physic and sensory garden areas in Springhill Community Garden, which currently maintains food growing beds, ornamental borders, and natural habitats for pollinators and wildlife. The garden is located on a former bowling green, with ample space to create educational and therapeutic areas.
Afristyle "Peer Support Dance" - Afristyle Dance Club A peer support dance project
Food, Finance, Facts & Fun – Cfine Local Charity partners working together to support their beneficiaries nutritionally and financially through education. The aim is for staff within the different orgs to be given the opportunity to attend and take part in a full day basic cooking on a budget class in order to promote classes to their own service users.

Health Diversity Network – GREC

Network of volunteers to increase health literacy among ethnic minority Gypsy/Traveller community

Pillow Maah - Aberdeen City Health & Social Care Partnership

Maah, currently functioning as a pillow-type companion sensor, measures individuals' behaviour over a month while its soft, comforting form supports well-being. Although this initial version does not feature actuation, it lays the groundwork for a future, fully interactive Maah equipped with dashboards and data-driven feedback.

Boxing for All - Byron Boxing

Byron Boxing Club is a not for profit Aberdeen based Boxing Club, lead and managed by passionate volunteers, offering expert tuition in boxing, fitness, promoting discipline, peak fitness, physical well-being, support and general well-being whilst also offering a diversionary project to reduce anti-social behaviour and crime in the community.

Postnatal Pathways - Mastrick, Sheddocksley & Summerhill Community Council

Weekly support groups for postnatal mothers, offering expert advice and emotional support.

The Fairer Aberdeen Fund is allocated by Aberdeen City Council to tackle poverty and deprivation. The Fund is allocated by a deliberative participatory budgeting approach, with a Board made up of Elected Members, Community Planning Partners, and community representatives with lived experience. The Fund supports initiatives and services in priority areas, as well as vulnerable groups across the city. In the North Locality, **20 initiatives** were funded to deliver activities with a **value of £390,000**.

Consultation & Engagement



Participation of communities and people's rights lie at the heart of community planning and our communities are key to informing and shaping our plans and strategies. Using the steps within the community empowerment toolkit, and the Participation, Accountability, Non-discrimination and equality, Empowerment and Legality (PANEL) principles, Community

Planning Aberdeen launched its "Your Place, Your Plans, Your Future" engagement in March 2025. This builds on the community engagement which took place in 2023 using the Place Standard tool to inform the refresh of the Local Outcome Improvement Plan in 2024, engaging 465 people. This year the approach has been enhanced and adapted to enable the single engagement to help inform a number of plans and strategies being developed by the Partnership.

We know that different people will have different needs. We wanted to make sure that everyone has the opportunity to share their views, including those that are seldom heard, and those who may be experiencing any form of inequality or disadvantage. As well as an online version, we held six locality events, including one at Get Active @ Northfield and another at Kings Community Church, we prepared a children and young people's version and took the conversation into schools and communities across Aberdeen, capturing thoughts and feelings about life in Aberdeen.



Our [outreach programme](#) details all the groups and locations we attended to help support people have their say.

The engagement closed on 18 May 2025 and analysis of participation and results is underway. The data will be used to inform the multiple plans and strategies, including the Local outcome Improvement Plan 2026-36 and Locality Plans for North, South and Central. Using the results, we will work with communities to co-create solutions through the development of the next Plans, ensuring that local people are at the heart of community planning.

In addition, the Locality Planning Team continues its outreach work, and engages on a regular basis with individual community members, and community groups and organisations such as community councils and the local third sector.

During May 2024, the Council's Community Learning and Development (CLD) service was inspected by His Majesty's Inspectorate of Education (HMIE). HMIE inspectors reviewed the City's locality planning arrangements and interviewed LEG and PNP community members. In their inspection report, HMIE reported that CLD's **"Successful engagement of community representatives is starting to ensure that their [community member] views are included in locality planning and the refresh of the LOIP"**

AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT IN 2025/26

- Host more citywide locality planning engagement sessions
- Add more content to the Locality Planning section of the Community Planning Aberdeen website
- Prepare an induction pack for community members joining a LEG or PNP
- Increase the number and diversity of people engaging in locality planning meetings, activities, and projects. Participation in Priority Neighbourhood Partnerships has declined, particularly in the North and Central Localities. To address this, we are exploring new methods to boost engagement, acknowledging that each neighbourhood has unique needs. Our focus has been on hyper-local engagement. A recent test of change in Seaton tested the idea that holding area focused meetings within neighbourhoods could increase attendance. Additionally, by concentrating on area specific priorities from the Locality Plan, we aimed to

encourage those with a particular interest in those issues to participate. You can read more about the test [here](#).

Your Locality Planning Team

We recognise the value of partnering with communities to foster a thriving environment for everyone. By working closely with local communities through our locality planning team, we aim to be more responsive, supportive, and action-focused. Input from the community is essential to this process.

The Locality Planning Team consists of staff from both Aberdeen City Council and the Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership, working together to enhance outcomes across all local areas and neighbourhoods. In the North Locality, your key locality planning contacts are Iain, Jade and Kev. You can get in touch with the team by emailing localityplanning@aberdeencity.gov.uk.



Iain Robertson

Transformation Programme
Manager

Aberdeen City Health and
Social Care Partnership



Jade Leyden

Locality Planning and
Community Development
Manager

Aberdeen City Council



Kev Donald

Community Development
Officer

Aberdeen City Council