

# Aberdeen City - South Locality

## Annual Outcome Improvement Report 2024-25



### South Locality Neighbourhoods:

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

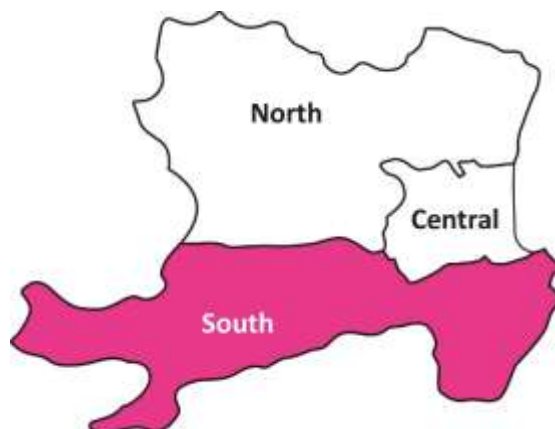


**Community  
Planning  
Aberdeen**



## Welcome

Welcome to the third annual report against the South Locality Plan first published in 2021, and the first report since our Locality Plan was refreshed in April 2024. The South Locality plan sets out how Community Planning Aberdeen and its member organisations will work together with communities to deliver improved outcomes for the nine 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 South Locality Empowerment Group and Torry Partnership.



The report provides an update on progress made against the six priorities identified by community members in the South Locality Plan. It includes information on key activities and the impact these have had across the South Locality and in our priority neighbourhoods of Torry and Kincorth. 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 South 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 South Locality, with a commitment to continuous improvement moving forward.

**This report is split into the following sections:**

**Our Economy – Page 3**

**Our People – Page 9**

**Our Place – Page 22**

**Our Community – Page 27**





## OUR PRIORITIES

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

**Priority 1. Reduce number of people living in poverty**

**Priority 2. Improve and create employment opportunities.**

## PROGRESS MADE DURING 2024/25

### *Supporting our most vulnerable families*

#### Community food provision and community pantries



Following a successful Health Improvement Fund application, the **Greyhope Soup and Sannies** began in November 2024. It has gone from strength to strength with numbers growing each month. On average **35 people** come along to Greyhope Community Hub to enjoy a free nutritious lunch, while meeting up with old and new friends. The soup and sandwiches are made on site in the community café, where four amazing volunteers serve the food.

#### **Attendee Feedback:**

*“Delicious food, will be back again”*

*“The soup was nice but really loved the chocolate cake”*

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, **11 Cash First recipients were from South Locality**, with 64% of those recipients being from priority neighbourhoods. In the South Locality, **£5,510.00** of Cash First Funding was distributed.



## Cash First Aberdeen

## Benefit uptake

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, **95 people from South Locality** received support from the Rent Assistance Fund.

To further support families, ABZ Works hosted the secondment of 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 they need to access support. 25 families have been supported through this project in 2024-25.

**The Bridge Centre** partnered with the Aberdeen North Foodbank and by extension the foodbank networks around the city, The centre signposts people to food poverty groups. The Bridge Centre also runs an 'Intro to Electrics course'. From this course, **five people have moved into employment or education**, and all 14 participants have left with improved CVs and stronger networks. The Bridge Centre also runs cooking classes which helps people to budget better and improve their confidence to cook. Finally, the Coffee Bar in the Bridge Centre had a number of volunteers go on to employment or further education and even more upskill and be trained in the hospitality industry

## Fuel Poverty & Affordable heating

Scarf is a social enterprise, based in Aberdeen which delivers free advice to householders and businesses including advice on how to reduce heating costs. In South Locality, 433 enquiries were received, of these 128 households were in fuel poverty. As a result of the support from Scarf, including support to heat their home, general and energy advice, home visits and onwards referrals, **19% of households were removed from fuel poverty.**





**The Aberdeen Trusted Trader** scheme is a local business partnership scheme aimed at increasing consumer confidence, promoting good practice within local business, and helping protect citizens from doorstep crime. Trading Standards Trusted Traders have been vetted by Aberdeen Trading Standards and the scheme is supported by Police Scotland and consumeradvice.scot (a part of Advice Direct Scotland).

All Trusted Traders have agreed to trade fairly and sign-up to a Code of Practice. The Code covers:

- Transparent procedures for quoting and carrying out work
- Only charging a fair and reasonable price
- Dealing with complaints promptly

All residents of Aberdeen City can access the scheme by searching <https://www.trustedtrader.scot/Aberdeen/>

## *Improve and create employment opportunities*

### **Social Enterprises and small businesses**

**Souperb** are a social enterprise based in Torry and funded through UDecide participatory budgeting in March 2025 to offer soup and a roll in a warm and friendly safe space with no cost to entry to people at risk of food poverty. The social enterprise aims to build up a pool of volunteers and collaborate with Lochside Academy and other community partners to help young people gain experience in running a community cafe. Souperb endeavours to source quality produce from CFINE, supermarkets and other suppliers at no cost.

**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 South Locality, **five parents** benefited from this initiative.



**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 credits or significantly reduce their reliance on them. **11 new businesses were set up in South Locality** through deployment of dedicated community business advisors; targeted funding from ABZWorks' 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.

*"This is an extremely important service as some people can't travel, for me having business support on my doorstep is perfect. My support adviser has helped me get my business up and running advising me on things I didn't know existed, helping me through my business plan and financial plan, and without this support I would never have managed to get to where I am today" – A new business owner from Torry*

**Financial Support for Childcare Costs** ABZ Works has continued its commitment to helping parents 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 the South Locality, five families have benefited from this support.

**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 the South Locality, **four placements** have been provided.

On Tuesday, 8 October 2024, NESCol's City Campus hosted the **Promoting Positive Pathways** event, organised in partnership with Robert Gordon University, the University of Aberdeen, Scotland's Rural College, Skills Development Scotland, Developing the Young Workforce North East, and Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Councils. The event aimed to upskill **100 teachers** from Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire by improving their knowledge of regional education pathways through workshops and a lunchtime learning marketplace. Workshops focused on pathways from school to further and higher education, employment, and apprenticeships, based on teacher feedback. The learning marketplace provided an opportunity for attendees to interact with stallholders from educational institutions and organisations, enhancing their understanding. Following the event, teachers shared their newly acquired knowledge with







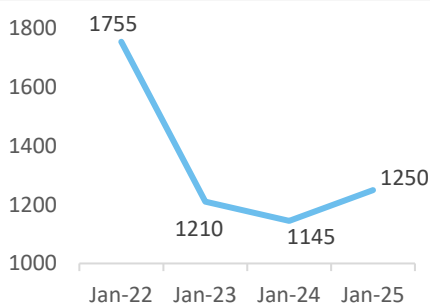
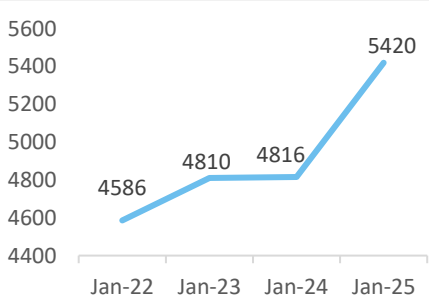

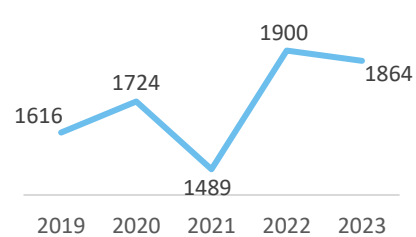




colleagues in their respective schools, contributing to a better understanding of educational and career pathways for students in the region.

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 **1123 young people** from South Locality.



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. **14 SQA Awards** in session 2024/25 across the South Locality. The team are developing SQA accreditation for all of their universal courses.

<div>Food Insecurity</div> <div><div></div><div><p><b>10.4%</b> of people in the South Locality worried they would not have enough to eat compared to <b>10.9%</b> of people living in Torry and Kincorth. (City Voice 50, 2024)</p></div></div>	<div>Food Poverty</div> <div><div></div><div><p><b>4.9%</b> of households in South Locality went without food for a day compared to <b>5.1%</b> of households in Torry and Kincorth (City Voice 50, 2024)</p></div></div>	<div>Rent Assistance</div> <div><div></div><div><p><b>95</b> people from South Locality received support from the Rent Assistance Fund</p></div></div>																				
<div>Fuel Insecurity</div> <div><div></div><div><p><b>10.3%</b> of people in South Locality worried they would need to choose between heating and eating, compared to <b>16%</b> of people living in Torry and Kincorth. (City Voice 50, 2024)</p></div></div>	<div>Fuel Poverty</div> <div><div></div><div><p><b>5.6%</b> of households in the South Locality have had to seek support for paying for heating, compared to <b>6%</b> of households in Torry and Kincorth (City Voice 50, 2024)</p></div></div>	<div>Digital Employability Support</div> <div><div></div><div><p><b>8</b> people in South Locality received a laptop to support them to apply for jobs</p></div></div>																				
<div>Claimant Count</div> <div><table><tr><th>Period</th><th>Claimant Count</th></tr><tr><td>Jan-22</td><td>1755</td></tr><tr><td>Jan-23</td><td>1210</td></tr><tr><td>Jan-24</td><td>1145</td></tr><tr><td>Jan-25</td><td>1250</td></tr></table></div>	Period	Claimant Count	Jan-22	1755	Jan-23	1210	Jan-24	1145	Jan-25	1250	<div>People on Universal Credit</div> <div><table><tr><th>Period</th><th>People on Universal Credit</th></tr><tr><td>Jan-22</td><td>4586</td></tr><tr><td>Jan-23</td><td>4810</td></tr><tr><td>Jan-24</td><td>4816</td></tr><tr><td>Jan-25</td><td>5420</td></tr></table></div>	Period	People on Universal Credit	Jan-22	4586	Jan-23	4810	Jan-24	4816	Jan-25	5420	<div>Fuel Poverty</div> <div><div></div><div><p><b>24</b> households in South Locality were supported out of fuel poverty by Scarf</p></div></div>
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## AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT IN 2025-26

- Strengthen relationships with local businesses as part of their Corporate Social Responsibility
- Work with partners to improve housing insulation and retrofitting opportunities
- Work with partners to make public transport more accessible and affordable across the South Locality
- Utilise more empty buildings
- Improve affordability and accessibility of public transport





## OUR PRIORITIES

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

**Priority 3. Support children and young people**

**Priority 4. Focus on early intervention, prevention and re-enablement actions**

## PROGRESS MADE DURING 2024/25

### *Providing activities for Children and Young People*

#### Opportunities and activities

**Denis Law Legacy Trust** organised a free-to-attend family fun day in Torry packed with activities to support active lifestyles and fun while bringing young people to the fore of leadership in their own community. The event was a great success, engaging the community in various activities and promoting physical fitness and leadership skills among young people. The project **supported 480 people with 20 volunteers contributing 90 hours**. Families have expressed appreciation for the fun and engaging activities provided at the event.

Community Food Initiatives North East ran Families Cooking Together (FCT), providing cooking and information sessions for families where adults and children can come together to learn new skills, build confidence, and improve health and wellbeing. The sessions have been well-attended, helping families develop healthier eating habits and improve their overall wellbeing. The project **supported 147 people with 4 volunteers contributing to the work**. Families have reported enjoying the sessions and feeling more confident in their cooking abilities.

**The Torry Dancers** have had a successful year with great attendance across all five dance classes. The dancers have been out in the community performing for several groups, including June's Bench opening, Provost Hogg Court, Balnagask Community Centre, Brimmond Court and for two community events in the Greyhope Community Hub. We are returning to Provost Hogg in May 2025 for another performance and the last time we were there, the girls took time to mix with elderly residents which was very much enjoyed on both sides. The dancers gain confidence when out dancing for events and the feedback from parents is positive too as they agree it's very beneficial for their



children. At the moment we are busy rehearsing for our summer show in June 2025 which the dancers and families are very excited about.

### Big Noise Torry

Big Noise Torry plays a vital role in providing freely available/low cost facilities for children and young people across Torry. **Around 800 children and young people engage in Big Noise weekly** and are supported through **1,024 hours of musical provision** across three schools and the Greyhope Community Hub. Big Noise have welcomed over **1,500 audience members when attending 30+ community events** and performances, strengthening local pride and participation. The Big Noise Holiday clubs annually provided **192 hours** of free childcare, meals, and engaging activities to support families facing poverty, directly aligned with the South Locality Plan's priority of reducing child poverty.



Other noteworthy support provided by Big Noise included:

- The Big Noise Youth Voice and Young Leaders programmes with **27 older young people** participating, building employability and leadership skills,
- Sustained early intervention through weekly "Little Noise" baby music sessions (**19 families signed up**) and inclusive support for children with additional needs reinforced early prevention aims.
- Community musical groups, such as "The Noise" and monthly care home concerts, promoted social connections for people across generations.
- More than **100 additional community members** joined activities like Big Sing sessions, drumming, and ceilidhs, promoting inclusion and wellbeing.

Big Noise's work directly supports the South Locality Plan's focus areas of reducing poverty, improving employability, supporting children and young people, and increasing community involvement, while promoting mental wellbeing, healthy choices, and inclusion throughout Torry and beyond. Find out more about Big Noise Torry [here](#).

### Young People's Mental Wellbeing

**Gray Street Allotment Association** applied for funding to purchase equipment for an intergenerational gardening project with Broomhill Primary School;. The project **supported 300+ people with three volunteers contributing approximately 300 hours**. Children have expressed excitement about gardening and have learned valuable skills through the projects.



**Inchgarth Community Centre** provided several pre-school activities which benefited both children and parents, while offering opportunities for P1 and P2 children which also brought parents together. The activities have successfully engaged children and parents, helping them build stronger connections and improve their overall wellbeing. The project supported **680 people** with **two**

**volunteers contributing 96 hours.** Families have expressed appreciation for the engaging activities and the opportunity to connect with others.

**Cults Academy** ran **Confidence to Cook** sessions, allowing young people the opportunity to gain a certificate, improve confidence in cooking, and learn about healthier eating on a budget. The sessions have been well-attended, helping young people develop essential cooking skills and confidence. The project **supported 10 people**. Participants have reported feeling more confident in their cooking abilities and enjoying the sessions.

The Community Learning and Development **Youth Work Team** has been in the Lochside, Hazlehead and Cults Associated School Group (ASG) Primary and Secondary schools since 2021. The team delivers a range of informal learning activities such as Confidence to Cook, Youth Awards, 1-2-1 support and the AMPED project. These activities support and improves young people's emotional and mental wellbeing.

**279 youth work activities** were delivered in the South ASG during 2024. **44 participants** gained either a Hi5 or Dynamic Youth Award. **23 participants** took part in the Confidence to Cook programme during 2024 and received a certificate on completion.



### Positive Destinations for Care Experienced young people

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

The Peep Learning Together programme supports parents and carers to:

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



**Hazlehead Primary School** ran **Peep sessions** for young families to promote positive parenting and make connections with others in the local community. The sessions have provided valuable support and information for families, helping them build stronger connections and improve their parenting skills. The project **supported 80 people**. Families have expressed gratitude for the support and connections made through the PEEP sessions.

### Supporting priority families via Fit Like hubs

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

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

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

## *Supporting People to Make Healthy Choices*

### 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 are 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:

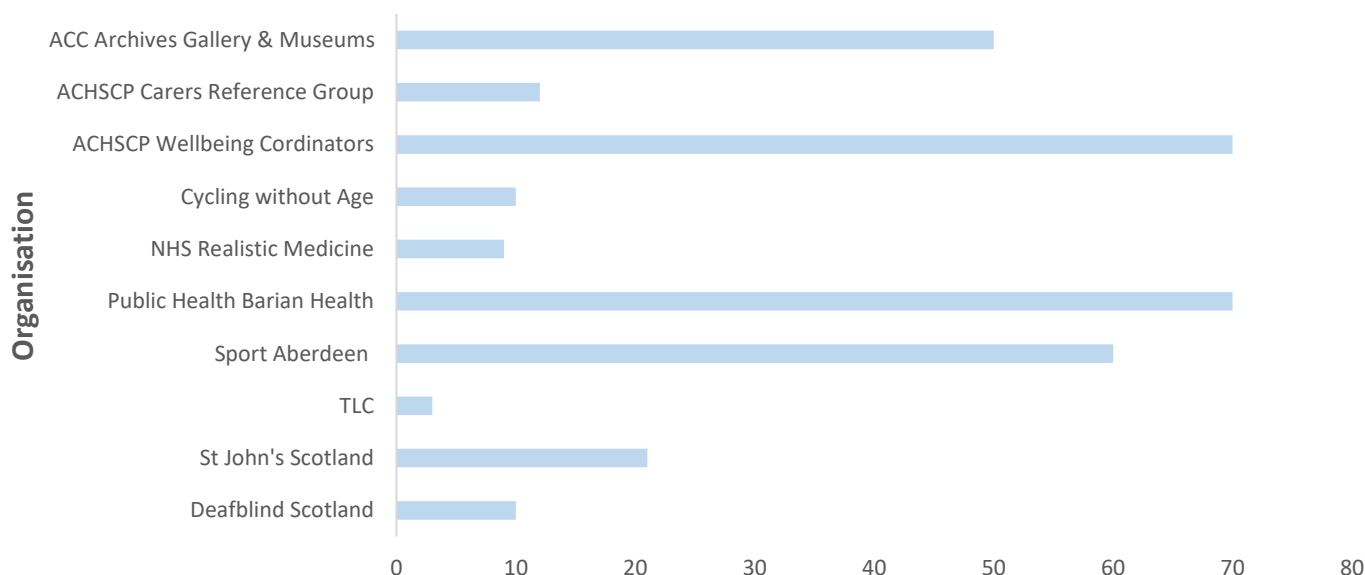
- 369 people attended the Gathering, including **46 community delegates** from the South Locality
- 8 speakers

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.

### Community Feedback

*"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 the pregnant women in Aberdeen were overweight in 2022, and 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.

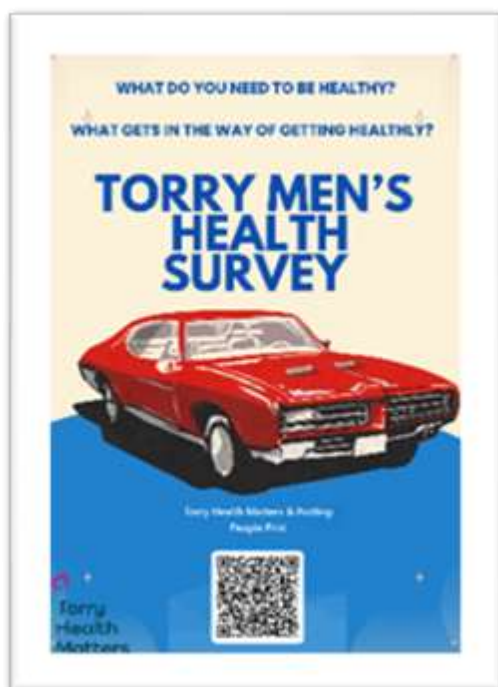
In response to this position, on 30th August 2024, a Healthy Weight Aberdeen event was held with 111 people from a range of sectors in attendance. The event provided a shared understanding of the reality of the challenge to address healthy weight consider how the local system is operating and where there 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.

Through **our Healthy Life Choices project** we supported **12 adults** from low income families in South 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.



**The Torry Health Matters** network was established in 2024 to strengthen working relationships and increase communication between services, organisations, and community members to specifically focus on the health and wellbeing of the Torry community.

During 2024, the Torry Health Matters set up the following community projects:

- A thriving weekly Knit and Natter group **10-15 people** attend on regular basis
- A monthly Soup and Sannie event where **30-45 people** attend
- A weekly Bumps to Bairns parent and child group **5-8 families** attend

The network's focus in 2025 will be on two specific themes: Men's health and wellbeing, and Family Health and Wellbeing. Torry Health Matters will work closely with NHS Grampian's Putting People First initiative to plan a series of

Torry Men's Health MOT events as part of Men's Health week 9<sup>th</sup> -15<sup>th</sup> June. Other projects in the pipeline include Jog Torry; and developing health and wellbeing activities within Provost Hogg Court.



**Boogie in the Bars** are day time discos which aim to support older people and people with learning disabilities at risk of social isolation, physical & cognitive decline, and loneliness. The Boogies always provide attendees with a light lunch.

The Boogie in the Bar at the **Abbott Bar, Kincorth** has been running for just over two years with **1750** people attending. There have been several friendships made over that time with friends meeting up outside the Boogies to socialise which is great to hear!

**Feedback:**

*"I have made some lovely new friends since coming here. I feel happy again"*

*"Love coming here, everyone is so friendly"*

**The Boogie in the Bar at the White Cockade, Torry** was established in June 2024 and was initially the first Monday of every month but unfortunately did not get high numbers of people attending. This prompted the ACHSCP Wellbeing Team to reach out to local care homes and sheltered housing units in Torry which allowed residents to find out what suited them, and a decision was taken to move the Boogie to the first Thursday of every month starting on 6 February 2025. Between

February and March 2025, **97 local people** attended the Boogie at the White Cockade, with very positive feedback. The South Locality is fortunate to have Natalie, a community volunteer who DJs at both the White Cockade and Abbott, she is very appreciated by all staff members, volunteers, and attendees.



#### **Attendee Feedback:**

*“My husband, who has dementia wasn’t sure about coming. He now can’t wait to come along. We now go to The Abbott as well.”*



Are you worried about how RAAC housing issue is affecting your health and wellbeing?

Join the Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership for a free coffee and chat!

**Date-** Tuesday 25th June 2024, 3pm-5pm  
 Wednesday 26th June 2024, 10.30am-2.30pm

**Location-** Bridge Centre, 258 N Balnagask Rd, AB11 8LQ

In partnership with Penumbra

If you have any questions please contact [HealthImprovement@aberdeencity.gov.uk](mailto:HealthImprovement@aberdeencity.gov.uk)

**Venue-** Wheelchair and buggy friendly

#### **Health and Wellbeing Support for Households Affected by RAAC**

On 24 and 25 June 2024, health and wellbeing drop-in sessions were held in the Bridge Centre, Torry to offer health and wellbeing support for households affected by Raac housing in Balnagask. Key officers and workers from ACHSCP, Aberdeen City Council, Penumbra, SAMH’s Link Practitioner Service, and Mental Health Aberdeen **supported 10 local people** through signposting to Penumbra 1st Response, Well Aberdeen, and Self-harm services; Mental Health Aberdeen’s Raac support group held during August-September 2024, and Mental Health Aberdeen’s Torry Counselling service; and the Peep Families Learning Together programme.

Issues discussed and addressed at the sessions included:

- Mental health and anxiety
- Children's mental health
- Family support
- The Council's response and how they had been communicating with affected households
- Lack of stability and inconsistency of information shared with regards to RAAC housing
- Timing of moves
- School transitions and worries about additional costs such as school uniform costs
- Transition and anxiety associated with re-location
- Future of Torry and the local community

### 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 **40 young carers** supported in the **South Locality**

### Young Carer Case Study

An 18-year-old student was referred to the Barnardos Young Carers Service in August 2020 for support due to their substantial caring role for their mother, who has Myalgic Encephalomyelitis (M.E). The Young Carer (YC) provides emotional support, assists with shopping, personal care, and household activities. They also manage their own health needs and have faced mental health challenges throughout their childhood.

Initially, YC received fortnightly one-to-one sessions to understand the impact of their caring role and to access breaks from caring. Over time, the focus shifted to exploring healthy coping strategies, building self-esteem and confidence, developing peer relationships, and managing poor mental health. Regular communication with professionals and the family helped support YC comprehensively. The YC's mother also engaged with Adult Support Groups, becoming more independent in accessing her own support. YC has participated in social opportunities through various groups and activities, accessed financial support, and used their experience to help create an in-school Young Carers group, raising awareness and establishing a Young Carers lead at their school.



The Council's **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 **15 participants in the South Locality with a total of 42 learner hours.**



## 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 events 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 from the 2024-25 school year, all S4 pupils 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 **94 naloxone kits** were supplied across South 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 19% were from South 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 2024, there were 9326 SAFE (Stable Addiction-Free Engagement) hours which equates to 1243.5 days.

## 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. In the South Locality, SAMH's Link Practitioner Service participated in a dedicated outreach event on 25 June 2024 to support the wellbeing of tenants and owners affected by RAAC concrete in their homes in Balnagask.



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.”*

## WHAT IMPACT HAVE WE HAD IN 2024/25?

<b>Youth Anti-Social Behaviour</b>  <p>There were <b>893</b> reported youth anti-social behaviour incidents across South Locality during 2024. This is a <b>1.9% improvement</b> on the 910 incidents reported during 2023.</p> <p><b>213</b> incidents took place in Torry, this was the highest per neighbourhood across South Locality.</p>	<b>Positive destinations</b>  <p><b>94.2%</b> of South Locality school leavers achieved an initial positive destination. With <b>91.44%</b> of Lochside Academy leavers achieving a positive destination</p>	<b>Mental Health</b>  <p><b>16.9%</b> of people who live in South Locality have been prescribed drugs for anxiety, depression, or psychosis. This is slightly lower than the Aberdeen City figure of <b>17.4%</b></p>
<b>Teenage Pregnancies</b> <p>In South Locality, <b>20.9 per 1000</b> girls and young women recorded pregnancies. This just above the Aberdeen City average rate of <b>19.8 per 1000</b> girls and young women.</p>	<b>Counselling for Young People</b>  <p><b>100%</b> of schools in South Locality offer counselling and Active School activities</p>	<b>Working Together with Parents</b>  <p><b>27</b> new PEEP practitioners trained during 2024-25 to support parents with young children</p>
<b>Young People Volunteering</b>  <p><b>1123</b> young people from South Locality received a Saltire Award. <b>3623</b> young people received a Saltire Award across Aberdeen City</p>	<b>Healthy Eating</b>  <p><b>15.4%</b> of people in South Locality said they were unable to eat healthy and nutritious food due to poverty. This has increased from last year's figure of <b>10.1%</b> (City Voice 50, 2024)</p>	<b>Community Empowerment</b>  <p><b>369 people</b> attended the Stay Well Stay Connected – Grampian Gathering on 12 October 2024 which celebrated active ageing. <b>46</b> attendees were from South Locality.</p>



Alcohol Awareness	Drug Related Deaths	Drug Related Hospital Stays
 <p><b>51.1%</b> of people in South Locality said they didn't know the maximum number of alcohol units recommended per week. The South Locality has the highest proportion of people (<b>31.9%</b>) who do not drink alcohol across Aberdeen City (<b>29.1%</b>) (City Voice 49, 2024)</p>	 <p>94 naloxone kits supplied in South Locality during 2024-25</p>	 <p>The rate of drug related hospital stays for South Locality was <b>118.1</b> per 100,000 population. This is an improvement from <b>135.3</b> per 100,000 in 2022</p>
Alcohol Related Mortality Rates	Deaths from Suicide	Life Expectancy
 <p>Alcohol related mortality rates in South Locality are now <b>14.4 people per 100,000</b>. This is below the Aberdeen City rate of <b>19.9 people per 100,000</b></p>	 <p>The rate of death from suicide in the South Locality is <b>10.4 per 100,000</b>, this is below the citywide average of <b>11.1 per 100,000</b> of the population.</p>	 <p>Men who live in Braeside can expect to live <b>84.2 years</b>, whereas men in Torry East can expect to live <b>71.5 years</b>. The average life expectancy for a man in Aberdeen City is <b>76.9 years</b>.</p> <p>Women who live in Braeside can expect to live <b>84.7 years</b>, whereas women in Torry East can expect to live <b>76 years</b>. The average life expectancy for a woman in Aberdeen City is <b>80.9 years</b>.</p>

## AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT IN 2025/26

- Increase positive destinations for vulnerable learners
- Work with partners to make childcare accessible and affordable for all

# Our Place



## OUR PRIORITIES

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

**Priority 6. Identify and maximise use of green space**

## WHAT PROGRESS HAVE WE MADE DURING 2024/25?

### *Supporting greenspace development*



#### **Encourage community growing spaces**

**Inchgarth Community Garden** was created in 2018 by volunteers at Inchgarth Community Centre, and has grown in size and beauty ever since. With lovely areas to sit and enjoy the world go by, to enjoy reading a book or lunch, or learning and volunteer, there's something for all at the garden. With lots of food growing there is plenty of free food too. There is also can access to toilets, a cafe, an excellent playpark, and picnic benches.

It's a truly lovely space for all to enjoy, and a warm welcome is assured to all.

#### **Tullos Community Garden**

In 2024, the garden had a successful year with numerous events and community collaborations. Highlights include the Big Garden Bird Watch, two well-attended family events, and the formation of the Aberdeen Community Garden Network (ACGN), which helped with garden improvements. The garden celebrated its sixth birthday with a local turnout and activities, while volunteers from various groups, including Barnardo's and Ashted Technology, contributed to significant projects. The CFINE HOPE team enhanced the garden's compost system, and a memorial was held for a founding member. Regular volunteering sessions continued, though turnout was sometimes low. A CFINE songwriting course also took place, linking



the garden with the community. The garden group wishes to extend their thanks to key supporters and volunteers.

### Cook and Create – Freelance Creative Practitioners

Cook and Create was a project targeted at primary aged children to encourage food skills and healthy eating within a creative and inclusive environment. The project was run over three sessions, each session consisted of cooking and eating a healthy meal together and participating in some arts and crafts to finish the day. While eating the meal, the participants were able to speak about the ingredients used within the meal and explore the importance of healthy eating together. The work undertaken during the art sessions was utilised to create a recipe book for all



participants to share with their families upon Cook and Create project finishing.



*“.. a portion of the recipe for each child to take away at the end of the session. This ensured that participants had adequate access to healthy food whenever we were able to support this and it also supported sharing of what was learnt in the sessions with family and friends after the session ended.”*

## Safe and Welcoming Environment

**Asylum and Refugee Care** ran an eight-week program for asylum seekers using social and therapeutic horticulture practices to enable integration into the local community by improving English language skills, horticultural skills, and wellbeing through meaningful gardening and outdoor activities. The programme has successfully helped asylum seekers integrate into the community and improve their overall wellbeing. Participants have reported improved language skills and a sense of belonging in the community.

During 2024-25, **Greyhope Bay** have organised **nine litter pick events**, which was attended by **130 volunteers**. It is estimated that **1170 bags of rubbish** were collected during the litter picks. Aberdeen City Council supported the local litter picks by providing Greyhope Bay with the kit and equipment.





### *Support people to make healthy choices*

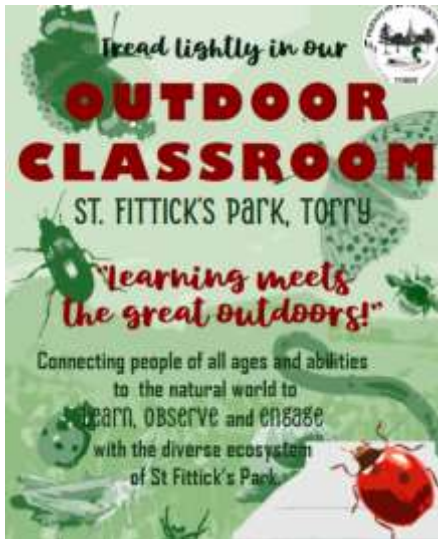
**Jog Torry** was funded through **UDecide participatory budgeting** in March 2025 to organise a community fitness celebration day to motivate the wider community to improve their health and wellbeing. The aim is to kickstart jogging in Torry with two blocks of coach-led sessions, with encouragement for two participants from each group of 20 to go on and complete the Jog Scotland training enabling them to run the Torry group as volunteers, helping the programme to be self-sustaining.

It is envisaged the fitness day will take place at St Fitticks Park and include a 5km round the park for the first couch to 5km course completers. The fitness day will also provide refreshments for the community and will host information stalls on various themes including community walking groups (paths for all), chair based aerobics, Sport Aberdeen offers, and other fitness opportunities in the area. Local parents at Greyhope Primary School have already expressed interest in linking up with the project. The project is supported by the Torry Health Matters Group as it helps to meet one of its core aims to improve adult fitness, mental health, and prevent diabetes.

**St Fitticks Park Walking Group** started in June 2024 through support and encouragement from Sport Aberdeen.

The walks start at the Bridge Centre in Torry at 11am on Fridays. Up to **10 people** participate regularly on the walks.





The **Friends of St Fittick's Park** have had a busy and successful year, offering family workshops, community gatherings, and environmental activities in Torry. Highlights include nature-based events like "Build a Bee Hotel," mammal detection workshops, and regular litter picks, collecting around **50 bags of litter and five shopping trolleys**. The classroom, which celebrates its first birthday in June, has been a hub for community engagement and will continue to host events in 2025, including a bioblitz and citizen science activities. The group has received support from various local and national organisations, and they look forward to a busy summer season.

*"Mum, we were at the nature park and it was brilliant!"*

***One of the comments from an excited child after a recent Friends of St Fittick's Park family event.***

**Kaimhill School Enhanced Provision** created a sensory garden for children with additional support needs. The garden has provided a safe and engaging environment for children to explore and learn, helping them feel more regulated and connected. The project **supported 50 children** and has become a favourite spot for them to explore and learn about nature.

### **Deevale Greenspace Growers**

The Community Development team identified and surveyed the greenspace area is behind flats on Deevale Gardens, Cairnvale Place, Cairngorm Drive and Faulds Gate in Kincorth in May 2023. 90 homes were visited and **59 responded**.

Residents were surveyed to find out if they would like to see the development of the greenspace at the back of their homes for the benefit of the local community. We held two garden meetings with interested residents to explore residents ideas. The project focussed on developing a growing plot for the garden. The project has been successful in growing a range of vegetables throughout the summer 2024.

One grower has started documenting the progress through poetry.







The growers supported hosted a 1<sup>st</sup> birthday celebration to showcase the garden with residents with tea and homemade cakes. At the event, residents were asked for ideas for Phase 2 for example flower planting, seating options to make it a welcoming and social space and extending the growing space.



**Social Juice** is a community interest company dedicated to upcycling surplus fruit to invest in new community orchards and environmental projects. This year Social Juice has created its first batch of cider and perry from surplus apples and pears to start building an income stream to support community projects. We are inviting donations of surplus fruit from the gardens and orchards across Aberdeen to expand what we do. During 2024 we have been able to supply locally grown apples and pear trees for five community groups in Aberdeen, with orchard planting projects at Torry, Cove, Mounthooly, Woodside and Tillydrone. These will provide locally grown apples and pears for people in those areas, flowers for pollinators and a rich environment for wildlife. In Torry, Social Juice was honoured to receive three grant awards to revive St Fittick's Edible Garden and transform it into community biodiversity hub to help our local wildlife including pollinators. The grants from the Just Transition Participatory Budget, the Coast and Communities Fund, and Nature Hubs Fund Social Juice has secured so far are half the battle and we need help from the Torry community to create a community garden for the benefit of all. Contact us if you are interested on [info.socialjuicecic@gmail.com](mailto:info.socialjuicecic@gmail.com).



## WHAT IMPACT HAVE WE HAD IN 2024/25?

Satisfaction with Green Space	Community Growing Spaces	Community Managed Green Spaces
 <p><b>69.6%</b> of South Locality respondents reported being satisfied or fairly satisfied with the overall quality of green/open spaces. This is lower than the <b>74%</b> of respondents for Aberdeen City collectively (City Voice 51, 2024)</p>	 <p><b>12</b> supported community food growing projects happening across South Locality</p>	 <p><b>5</b> community groups being supported to look after community green space in Torry and Kincorth</p>
Cycling	Walking	Community Resilience
 <p><b>10.6%</b> of people in the South cycled in the last year as a sustainable travel choice (City Voice 51, 2024)</p>	 <p><b>64.2%</b> of people in South Locality walk as one mode of transport. However this number falls to <b>47.4%</b> in Torry and Kincorth (City Voice 51, 2024)</p>	 <p>There are <b>2</b> Community Resilience Groups in the South Locality. These groups cover Culter; and Cults, Bielside, and Miltimber</p>

## AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT IN 2025/26

- We will support communities to collaborate food growing efforts with schools and workplaces
- Review the impact of cyclists and other users on the Deeside Line

# Our Communities



## OUR PRIORITIES

The South 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**

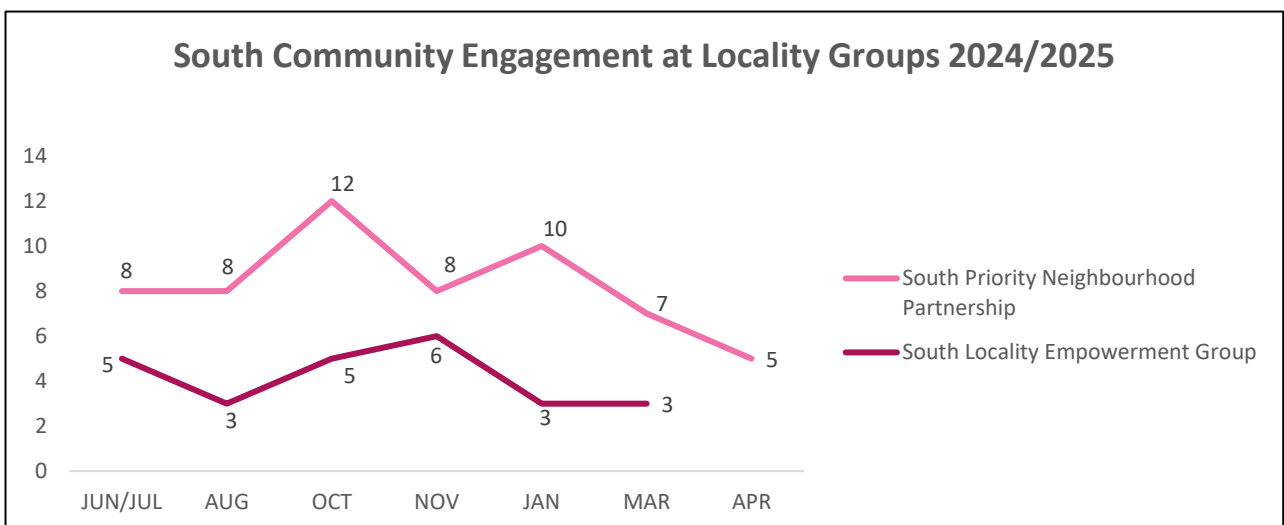
## PROGRESS MADE DURING 2024/25

### *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 South of the city can get involved through a range of methods:

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





## Stay updated

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

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 South 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.

In March 2025, with help from SHMU, a group of community members launch the [Connected Torry](#) website, for local people to find out more about what's on in the area, about local groups and read local news stories.

## 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](mailto: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 Torry and Kincorth who were able to demonstrate how their projects and activities related to one or more of the community ideas detailed within the South Locality Plan.

Funding was awarded to 9 projects across Torry and Kincorth and 1 project was partially funded. You can read more about the process here: [UDecide Report 2025](#).

Funded UDecide Projects
<b>Schools First Aid Training Services CIC – South</b> Training children the essentials and basics of First Aid. <i>Locality Plan Priority Link: Upskilling communities and partners' knowledge of health and wellbeing, weight management, services, and training</i>
<b>Christmas Lights for Provost Watt Drive in Kincorth</b> Christmas lights and a light switch on celebration, bringing the community together <i>Locality Plan Priority Link: Celebrate and increase awareness of community led projects</i>
<b>Gardner Green Space</b> Creating safe and welcoming green spaces for residents to socialise and enjoy nature. <i>Locality Plan Priority Link: Promote use of greenspace and improve access to greenspace</i>
<b>Kincorth Rainbows Youth Community Group</b> Providing a safe, girls only space for the members to be themselves, learn and develop. <i>Locality Plan Priority Link: More freely available/low cost facilities for children and young people, including sports facilities</i>
<b>51st Aberdeen Brownies</b> Inspiring and empowering girls aged 7-10, helping them develop valuable life skills <i>Locality Plan Priority Link: More freely available/low cost facilities for children and young people, including sports facilities</i>
<b>Souperb</b> Free soup and roll, giving young people the experience of running a community Café. <i>Locality Plan Priority Link: Sustain and develop community food provision including food pantries</i>
<b>Peep TALK group</b> Family group supporting young children's speech, language and communication. <i>Locality Plan Priority Link: Upskilling communities and partners' knowledge of health and wellbeing, weight management, services, and training</i>

<p><b>Recreation Club (Our Lives Our Community)</b></p> <p>A club helping mental resilience, health and wellbeing, healthy relationships, community spirit.</p> <p><i>Locality Plan Priority Link: Identify and develop actions to address the mental wellbeing of young people</i></p>
<p><b>JOG TORRY</b></p> <p>Kickstarting Jogging in Torry with a community fitness celebration day.</p> <p><i>Locality Plan Priority Link: Develop opportunities/spaces for more physical activity in the area- Torry 10k.</i></p>
<p><b>Torry Clean &amp; Green Initiative</b></p> <p>Revitalising Torry, fostering clean, safe public spaces through school roadshows</p> <p><i>Locality Plan Priority Link: Increase litter bins</i></p>



Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership  
Health Improvement Fund

**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.

<b>Funded Health Improvement Fund Projects</b>
<p><b>Young Carers Confidence to Cook skills – Barnardos</b></p> <p>Confidence to Cook skills Sessions will be offered to Young Carers.</p>
<p><b>Sporting Equipment for All – Albury Sports Hub</b></p> <p>Replacing and renewing worn equipment and provided extra equipment for young users.</p>
<p><b>Project Netball – Active Schools (Lochside ASG)</b></p> <p>A safe and encouraging club for young girls to play netball recreationally and competitively.</p>
<p><b>Unleash Your Drive – Golf &amp; Mental Toughness Tools – Active Schools (Cults ASG)</b></p> <p>Using golf in schools as a context for pupils learning mental toughness tools.</p>
<p><b>Intergenerational Gardening Project – Gray Street Allotments Association</b></p> <p>Creating a garden in a designated area at Broomhill Primary School Play Ground. Helping children.</p>
<p><b>Torry Dance Group – Torry Dance Group</b></p> <p>Free zumba and highland dance tuition.</p>
<p><b>Confidence to cook for menopause and women's health – Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership</b></p> <p>A project to equip women with the skills, knowledge and confidence to cook, eat and prepare healthy meals that will have a positive impact on their health and wellbeing especially in preparation for the menopause and hormonal changes.</p>
<p><b>Torry's Bumps &amp; Babies - NHS Childsmile</b></p> <p>To provide a warm and welcoming setting where new Mums / Mums to be, can meet</p>

<p><b>Connecting the Dots From the Ground Up -Torry Health Matters Network</b></p> <p>Torry Health Matters –promoting community health &amp; wellbeing activities, improving communication between and access to services, directed by the community’s priorities.</p>
<p><b>Walk and Talk therapy in St. Fittick’s Park - Friends of St Fittick's Park</b></p> <p>Improving mental health and wellbeing by supporting people to get access to being outdoors in nature and the opportunity for conversations during nature walks. We will offer creative workshops for people to participate in arts and crafts activities, as well as individual outdoor walk and talk sessions with a qualified counsellor.</p>
<p><b>Community Media for Change (Torry) – SHMU</b></p> <p>A community media project, which will deliver positive health outcomes for individuals and the wider community of Torry.</p>
<p><b>Hope and Meal Project - North East Black Ethnic Minorities</b></p> <p>We will establish a monthly dinner club in Aberdeen, providing nutritious meals and support for the homeless and those in need. This safe space will foster community spirit and social interaction. Our goal is to improve the well-being of vulnerable individuals by addressing hunger and isolation.</p>
<p><b>Unity in Wellness Project - Pillar of Hope</b> A free, culturally sensitive befriending service for BAME adults in Aberdeen with long-term health conditions, who face a higher risk of social isolation, poor health outcomes, and marginalization. The service is delivered by trained volunteers, providing tailored befriending support to help improve their well-being.</p>
<p><b>Gairn Community Garden - Gairn Community Garden</b></p> <p>Garden with raised beds, play areas, and seating to promote social interaction and health.</p>
<p><b>Get fit for Project - Inchgarth Community Centre.</b> Provide free fitness and wellbeing activities for those facing the barriers and challenges to participation listed above, with the view to improving people’s health and wellbeing across a wide section of our community.</p>
<p><b>Step Ahead – In Your Power</b></p> <p>A person-centric ‘one-stop-shop’ that helps individuals: 1. understand who they are 2. Identify what support they need to realise their potential 3. find the right delivery method 4. and deliver that support to them, enabling them to live a healthy, empowered life within our community.</p>

**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 South Locality **20 initiatives** were funded to deliver activities with a **value of £370,000**



## 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 Greyhope Community Hub and another at Airyhall Library, 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"**

- 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 South Locality, your key locality planning contacts are Iain, Jade, Teresa, and Vibha. You can get in touch with the team on [localityplanning@aberdeencity.gov.uk](mailto:localityplanning@aberdeencity.gov.uk).



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