Community Planning Aberdeen

North Locality Plan

2026-2036

North Locality Neighbourhoods:

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





Introduction

What is Locality Planning?

Locality Planning means working together with local communities to create plans that make life better for everyone. Community Planning Aberdeen believes these plans succeed when shaped and delivered with the people who live here. Locality Planning will support the conditions for greater partnership working to maximise the strengths of our partners, communities, local groups, businesses, and faith organisations around common goals.

By law, Community Planning Aberdeen and the Health & Social Care Partnership must create plans for Aberdeen's three localities: North, Central, and South. These plans show where we'll focus our efforts and resources. . Times are challenging, we have less resources and funding at our disposal, we are an ageing society with growing health inequalities who have experienced significant disruption to our local economy caused by the oil and gas downturn, and we are all feeling the impact of climate change. Success depends on us all working together.

What are Priority Neighbourhoods and why do they require additional focus and resources?

Some neighbourhoods face bigger challenges and unfair barriers, so they need more support. Focusing extra resources in Northfield, Mastrick, Cummings Park, Middlefield and Heathryfold helps make sure people who need the most help get it. In addition, these neighbourhoods have also been awarded Pride in Place funding, which will work with the community to support and enhance the sense of pride and ownership amongst residents.

This targeted support sits alongside the **universal services everyone can access:**



What's the North Locality Plan?

Our plan sets out what we want to achieve over the next 10 years to reduce inequalities and improve life for everyone in the North Locality. It includes:

- Where we are now – facts, figures, and what communities told us matters most
- Our Ideas – the changes we'll focus on
- How We'll Deliver – working together with partners and communities

Our Journey
Developing the North Locality Plan



March - May 2025

We invited local people to share what they thought was good and what could be improved in their community.

Engagement activities included:

- An online survey for adults.
- An online survey designed for children and young people
- Six locality events with activities created by Aberdeen Youth Movement and Aberdeen Ambassadors for children and young people.
- An outreach programme where we visited 98 groups, schools, and locations across Aberdeen to facilitate participation.

We reached out through services, community and third sector groups, personal networks, and social media. Press releases and newsletter stories were issued to encourage involvement.

October - November 2025

We hosted a final North Locality event at Northfield Community Centre with the local community to share findings and gain further insight.

May-October 2025

We explored key areas for improvement identified across the North Locality.

Community members identified existing strengths and assets—such as people, places, and groups—and brainstormed practical ideas to make a difference.

Sessions encouraged collaboration and community-led solutions, supported and co-delivered by Community Planning partners.

Outreach sessions and a digital option were offered for those unable to attend full workshops.

All contributions were valued and recorded to help shape the North Locality Plan.

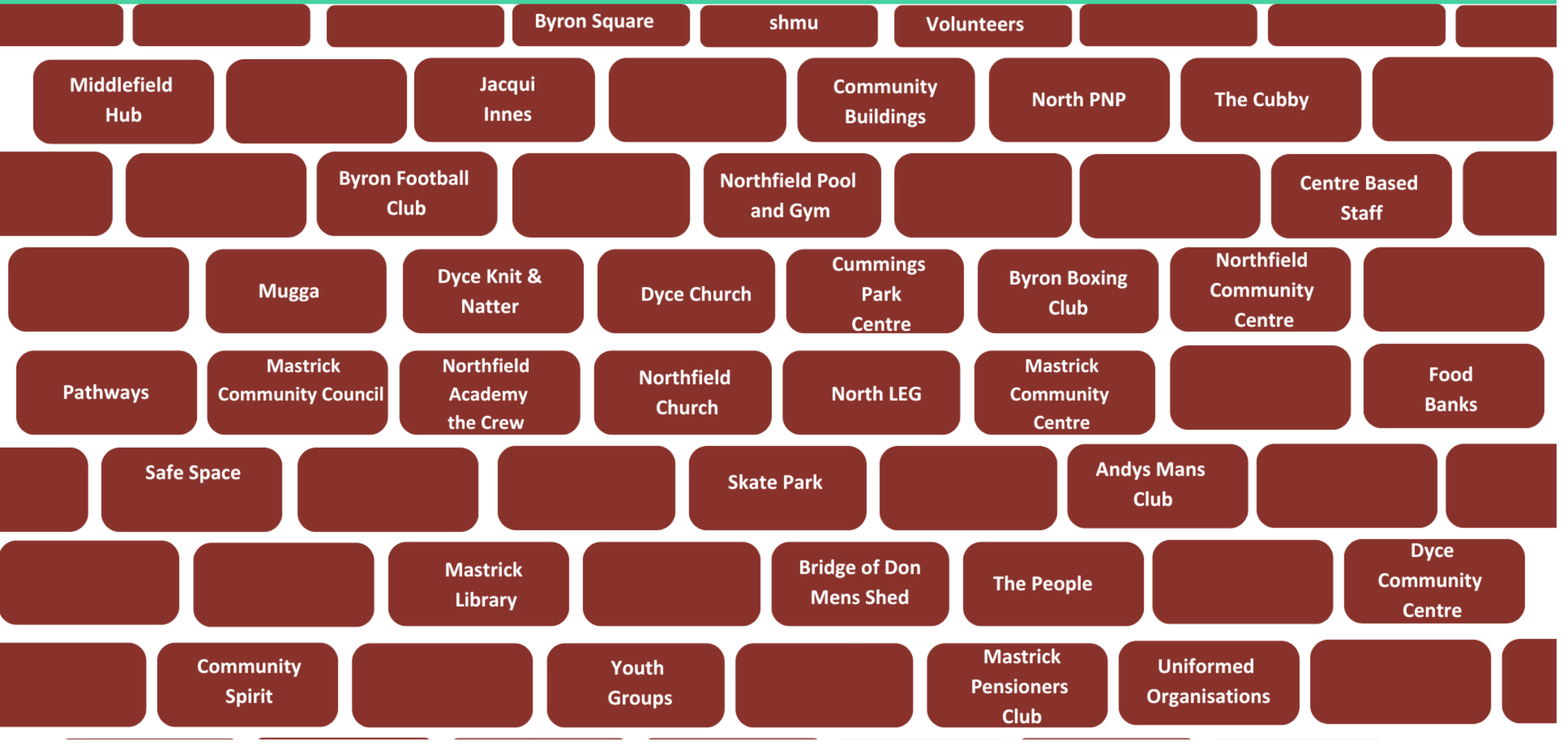
November - June 2025-26

Draft Locality Plans developed and out to public consultation before approval.

...Start working together on delivering our North Locality Plan!

North Community Asset Wall

Our Asset Wall is a visual way of showing all the great things that people value in the North Locality. We use the Asset Wall to celebrate what's good, and to help us build on these strengths as we work towards better outcomes for everyone across the North Locality.



Our Priorities
for the North Locality

Following consultation and engagement with our communities across the North Locality we have identified 6 priority outcomes and have aligned these to the Social Determinant of Health below:

Economic Stability *Helping people feel more financially secure*	Health and Social Care *Making it easier for everyone to look after their health*	Children, Families and Lifelong Learning *Helping people learn, grow and thrive at any age*	Neighbourhood and Environment *Making sure the places people live feel safe, clean and enjoyable*	Communities and Housing *Creating friendly, connected communities where people feel they belong*
Reduce the number of people living in Poverty **Support local employers to find staff**	**Improve the physical health and wellbeing of people**	**Widen low cost access to learning, creativity, and safe active living**	**Maximise use of outdoor space**	**Increase the number of people and groups involved in making improvements and decisions in their community**

What are the Social Determinants of Health?

Social determinants of health are the everyday things in our lives that affect how healthy we are. They are not about hospitals or medicine, but about the conditions we live in. People living in priority neighbourhoods may face more health-related challenges due to a range of reasons such as low income, poor quality housing, or a lack of access to community facilities. These communities often show great strengths, but can experience inequalities in access to healthcare, healthy environments, and other supports that influence wellbeing.

Why It Matters

Understanding social determinants helps us see that health is about more than just doctors and medicine. To improve health for everyone, we need to:

- Make sure people have good jobs, homes, and education.
- Support communities and reduce poverty.

Our Plan
Economic Stability

Priority 1: Reduce the number of people living in poverty
Priority 2: Support local employers to find staff

What the data is telling us…

- **Energy Insecurity:** 10.3% of people in North Locality worried they would not be able to heat their home compared to 16% of people living in Priority Neighbourhoods
- **Unemployment:** As at July 2025, there were 1,260 unemployment claimants in the North Locality which is up 1% from July 2024
- **Food Insecurity:** 10.4% of people in North Locality worried they would not have enough food to eat, compared to 10.9% of people living in Priority Neighbourhoods
- **Children in low income households:** 2,011 children under 15 years of age from North Locality live in low income households

Our ideas about how we will achieve this together	Universal or Targeted Provision	Where we will test our ideas	Community Partners we will work with (TBC)	Data that will tell us if we are improving	Link to the Local Outcome Improvement Plan
Deliver skill building workshops and more work experience opportunities to strengthen employability	Targeted	North Priority Neighbourhoods: Northfield, Mastrick, Cummings Park, Heathryfold and Middlefield	Northfield Men's Shed Middlefield Hub Local Employability Partnership Skills Development Scotland Pathways Aberdeen Cyrenians	Number of individuals supported with employability within the community outreach model No. of people (by locality) with the local accreditation % of people with accreditation in employment	**LOIP System Change:** Clear Routes Into Growth and In Demand Sectors and Network for Social Enterprises
Increase intergenerational learning opportunities such as 'Try out the trades'	Targeted	Middlefield	Northfield Men's Shed Touch of Love Middlefield Hub/Bike Hub Pathways	Number of young people attending 'try out the trades' sessions Number of learning networks established	**LOIP 2031 Improvement Aim:** Increase by 5% the percentage of residents from Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) 1 who report feeling connected to their neighbourhood
Deliver a North Locality Jobs Fayre	Targeted	North Priority Neighbourhoods: Northfield, Mastrick, Cummings Park, Heathryfold and Middlefield	Middlefield Hub Touch of Love Cummings Park Centre Local Employability Partnership Pathways	Number of people attending the Jobs Fayre Number of individuals supported with employability within the community outreach model	**LOIP System Change:** Clear Routes Into Growth and In Demand Sectors and Network for Social Enterprises

Roll out Cash First scheme to maximise income of people really struggling with cost of living	Targeted	North Priority Neighbourhoods: Northfield, Mastrick, Cummings Park, Heathryfold and Middlefield	Middlefield Hub Cummings Park Centre ACVO Aberdeen Cyrenians	Number of households receiving direct cash support	**LOIP System Change:** Community Support and Hub Network
Post current opportunities on job noticeboards in community venues across the wider Northfield priority neighbourhood	Universal	North Priority Neighbourhoods: Northfield, Mastrick, Cummings Park, Heathryfold and Middlefield	Cummings Park Centre Mastrick, Sheddocksley, and Summerhill Community Council Pathways	Number of job noticeboards across Northfield priority neighbourhood area which are kept up to date Number of individuals supported with employability within the community outreach model.	**LOIP 2031 Improvement Aim:** Increase the number of people employed in priority areas in targeted sectors to 10,000 by 2031.
Increase access to healthy, community grown food	Universal	North Priority Neighbourhoods: Northfield, Mastrick, Cummings Park, Heathryfold and Middlefield	CFINE Touch of Love Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership	Number of people who report they have access to a variety of nutritious and healthy food % of people at a healthy weight in North Locality	**LOIP System Change**: All partners policies and service delivery to include harm prevention practice to reduce harm and support healthy lifestyles

Our Plan
Health and Social Care

Priority 3: Improve the physical health and wellbeing of people

What the data is telling us…

- **Drug related hospital stay rate** in North Locality is 147 people per 100,000 of the population, lower than the City average of 181 people per 100,000
- **Mental Health** 20.5% of people in North Locality are prescribed drugs for anxiety, depression or psychosis, this is higher than the Aberdeen City figure of 17.4%
- **Life Expectancy** in the North Locality for 2021-23 was on average 81 years for women and 77 years for men
- **Suicide** The rate of death from suicide in the North Locality is 12.6 people per 100,000 of the population, this is above the Aberdeen City average of 11.1 people per 100,000 of the population

Our ideas about how we will achieve this together	Universal or Targeted Provision	Where we will test our ideas	Community Partners we will work with (TBC)	Data that will tell us if we are improving	Link to the Local Outcome Improvement Plan
Establish a Northfield Health Matters Network to provide access to more local health and wellbeing support for the wider Northfield area	Targeted	North Priority Neighbourhoods: Northfield, Mastrick, Cummings Park, Heathryfold and Middlefield	Sport Aberdeen Middlefield Hub Cummings Park Centre Touch of Love	Number of partners actively engaged in Northfield Health Matters Network Number of events delivered by the Network to reduce health inequalities across the Northfield Priority Neighbourhood area	**LOIP 2031 Improvement Aim:** By 2031, 10% reduction in deaths in Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 1 from alcohol and drugs and coronary heart disease and a 10% reduction in suicide rate city wide
Enable more people to attend GP appointments	Targeted	North Priority Neighbourhoods: Northfield, Mastrick, Cummings Park, Heathryfold and Middlefield	Middlefield Hub Nestrans via Transport to Healthcare Information Centre (THInC) Touch of Love	Number of community volunteers recruited by neighbourhood Number of local services supporting people to attend GP appointments	**LOIP 2031 Improvement Aim**: By 2031, achieve a 17% increase in the proportion of adults reporting that they are able to manage their own health and wellbeing ‘very well ‘ and a 15% increase in the proportion of residents who report feeling safe in their communities.
More chair based sessions in communities catering for children and young people with disabilities and special needs	Targeted	Bucksburn	Sport Aberdeen Middlefield Hub Cummings Park Centre	Number of chair based sessions for children and young people with disabilities and special needs delivered by neighbourhood across North Locality	**LOIP 2031 Improvement Aim**: By 2031, achieve a 17% increase in the proportion of adults reporting that they are able to manage their own health and wellbeing ‘very well ‘ and a 15% increase in the proportion of residents who report feeling safe in their communities.

Our Plan
Children, Families and Lifelong Learning

Priority 4: Widen low-cost access to learning, creativity, and safe active living

What the data is telling us…

- **Youth Volunteering:** 1622 young people from North Locality received a Saltire Award for volunteering
- **Counselling:** 100% of schools in North Locality offer counselling and Active School activities
- **Anti-Social Behaviour:** 3,303 Youth Anti-Social Behaviour calls were reported to the police (2024)
- **Crimes:** The most common crimes and offences in Aberdeen City were crimes of dishonesty (234 offences per 10,000 of the population), Road Traffic Offences (4,769 offences per 10,000 of the population), and non-sexual crimes of violence (3,412 offences per 10,000 of the population)
- **Road Safety:** In 2023, there were 109 reported road casualties in Aberdeen City of which, 4 were fatalities and 53 were serious injuries. The number of people injured in road traffic accidents has increased in each of the last two years (up from 64 in 2021 which is a 70% increase)

Our ideas about how we will achieve this together	Universal or Targeted Provision	Where we will test our ideas	Community Partners we will work with (TBC)	Data that will tell us if we are improving	Link to the Local Outcome Improvement Plan
Create more opportunities for Additional Support Need (ASN) family members to participate and learn to become independent	Targeted	Bucksburn	Middlefield Hub	Number of sessions delivered in North Locality to support ASN family members' participation and independence	**LOIP 2031 Improvement Aim**: By 2031, achieve a 17% increase in the proportion of adults reporting that they are able to manage their own health and wellbeing 'very well ' and a 15% increase in the proportion of residents who report feeling safe in their communities.
Greater promotion of healthy eating in primary schools to help pupils identify, taste, and learn how to make different things with different fruit and vegetables	Universal	Dyce	Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership NHS Grampian	% of P7 pupils at a healthy weight % of P7 pupils with no obvious signs of tooth decay	**LOIP System Change:** All partners policies and service delivery to include harm prevention practice to reduce harm and support healthy lifestyles
Designate space for graffiti and free art walls for murals	Universal	North Priority Neighbourhoods: Northfield, Mastrick, Cummings Park, Heathryfold and Middlefield	Middlefield Hub Northfield Men's Shed Outlines Creative	Number of spaces in North Locality made available for graffiti or murals	**LOIP 2031 Improvement Aim:** Increase by 5% the number of young people who report always feeling safe in their school, community and home by 2031
More cycling proficiency tests to encourage safe cycling from an early age	Universal	Oldmachar, Middlefield	Cycling Scotland Sport Aberdeen	Number of North Locality children who've passed cycling proficiency test	**LOIP System Change:** City For Nature Movement - Expanding Access to Nature

			Walk Wheel Cycle Trust		Through Pocket Parks, Growing Spaces and Green Travel Routes
Set up an intergenerational group to enable access to musical instruments and tuition to provide mentorship, improve wellbeing and develop lifelong learning	Targeted	North Priority Neighbourhoods: Northfield, Mastrick, Cummings Park, Heathryfold and Middlefield	Middlefield Hub Touch of Love Pathways	Number of young people attending the music group % of 12-18 year old boys reporting sense of belonging or connection to peers % of young people engaged in the safe space report a 'strong' relationship with trusted professionals	**LOIP System Change**: Safe, co-designed spaces for at-risk young people offering onsite support, person centred activities, and healthy relationship programme
Organise community events, groups, and networks to support men and teenage boy's mental health and wellbeing	Universal	Balgownie and Donmouth, Kingswells	Middlefield Hub/Bike Hub Northfield Men's Shed Sport Aberdeen Aberdeen Football Club Community Trust Touch of Love	Number of events and groups set up to support men and teenage boys' mental health and wellbeing % of 12-18 year old boys reporting sense of belonging or connection to peers % of young people engaged in the safe space report a 'strong' relationship with trusted professionals	**LOIP System Change**: Safe, co-designed spaces for at-risk young people offering onsite support, person centred activities, and healthy relationship programme
Create a platform to celebrate young peoples' skills and achievements	Universal	Danestone	Sport Aberdeen Touch of Love	Number events set up by community partners to showcase young people's skills and achievements	**LOIP Improvement Aim: Increase** by 5% the number of young people who report always feeling safe in their school, community and home by 2031
Provide information to help parents and carers swap school uniforms to save money	Universal	Summerhill, Sheddocksley	Middlefield Hub Touch of Love Sport Aberdeen University of Aberdeen	Number of Associated School Groups which provide information to parents/carers on how to swap their children's school uniforms cost effectively	**LOIP Improvement Aim**: Reduce the proportion of people choosing between eating food and heating homes by 6.5% by 2031
Increase opportunities for relaxed youth work which is not provided by uniformed services	Targeted	Dyce	Middlefield Hub Touch of Love	Number of young people (by locality) using the safe spaces % of young people engaged in the safe space report a 'strong' relationship with trusted professionals	**LOIP System Change:** Safe, co-designed spaces for at-risk young people offering onsite support, person centred activities, and healthy relationship programme

Our Plan
Neighbourhood and Environment

Priority 5: Maximise use of outdoor space

What the data is telling us…

- **Severe Weather** 51.8% of people in North Locality were worried about severe weather on their homes and local community. This compares to 60% of people who live in priority neighbourhoods
- **Greenspace Satisfaction** 65% of North Locality respondents to the city voice survey reported being satisfied with the overall quality of greenspace/open space compared to 45% of people living in North Priority Neighbourhoods
- **Active Travel** 4.4% of people in the North Locality cycled compared to the citywide average of 9.5%

Our ideas about how we will achieve this together		Where we will test our ideas	Community Partners we will work with (TBC)	Data that will tell us if we are improving	Link to the Local Outcome Improvement Plan
Support communities to improve local areas through litter picks and clean ups	Targeted	Danestone	Middlefield Hub	% of neighbourhoods with community groups supporting nature & environment	**LOIP System Change:** City For Nature Movement - Expanding Access to Nature Through Pocket Parks, Growing Spaces and Green Travel Routes
Improve access to play parks, equipment, and greenspaces for people with disabilities	Universal	Denmore	Mastrick, Summerhill and Sheddocksley Community Council Cummings Park Centre	% of people who agree that lack of accessible greenspaces is a barrier to accessing nature	**LOIP System Change:** City For Nature Movement - Expanding Access to Nature Through Pocket Parks, Growing Spaces and Green Travel Routes
Create more art for our greenspaces	Universal	Dyce	Middlefield Hub Northfield Men's Shed	Number of new art pieces added to parks and greenspaces across North Locality	**LOIP 2031 Improvement Aim:** Increase by 5% the percentage of residents from Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) 1 who report feeling connected to their neighbourhood and reduce by 10% the percentage reporting barriers to accessing nature by 2031

Our Plan
Communities and Housing

Priority 6: Increase the number of people and groups involved in making improvements and decisions in their community

What the data is telling us…

- **Community Information:** Just over half (51%) of City Voice respondents from North Locality agreed they would know where to find information about what is happening in their community
- **Identity and Belonging:** North Locality's sense of identity and belonging scored 3.8 out of 7 during the Place Standard community engagement exercise (2025)
- **Community Cohesion:** 39.4% of City Voice respondents in North Locality agreed they felt part of the community they live in

Our ideas about how we will achieve this together	Universal or Targeted Provision	Where we will test our ideas	Community Partners we will work with (TBC)	Data that will tell us if we are improving	Link to the Local Outcome Improvement Plan
Support communities to provide more outdoor recreational equipment such as outdoor gyms	Universal	North Priority Neighbourhoods: Northfield, Mastrick, Cummings Park, Heathryfold and Middlefield	Sport Aberdeen Middlefield Hub	Number of places in North Locality with outdoor recreational equipment % increase in walking and cycling	**LOIP 2031 Improvement Aim:** Increase by 5% the percentage of residents from Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) 1 who report feeling connected to their neighbourhood and reduce by 10% the percentage reporting barriers to accessing nature by 2031
Support communities to hold more community galas and neighbourhood picnics	Targeted	North Priority Neighbourhoods: Northfield, Mastrick, Cummings Park, Heathryfold and Middlefield	Mastrick Community Centre Mastrick, Summerhill and Sheddocksley Community Council Cummings Park Centre Middlefield Community Hub Touch of Love	Number of community galas and picnics held by community partners across North Locality % increase in local volunteering	**LOIP 2031 Improvement Aim:** Increase by 5% the percentage of residents from Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) 1 who report feeling connected to their neighbourhood and reduce by 10% the percentage reporting barriers to accessing nature by 2031
Set up local Tool Shed Libraries	Targeted	North Priority Neighbourhoods: Northfield, Mastrick, Cummings Park, Heathryfold and Middlefield	Mastrick, Summerhill and Sheddocksley Community Council Cummings Park Centre	Number of tool shed/gardening libraries set up	**LOIP System Change:** City For Nature Movement - Expanding Access to Nature Through Pocket Parks, Growing Spaces and Green Travel Routes
Base as many key services all under one roof i.e. post office, pharmacy, community centre - close to schools and housing. Increase wraparound support for local people	Universal	Across North Locality – locations of Community Assistance Hubs	Aberdeen City Council Aberdeen Cyrenians	Number of community assistance hubs set up across North Locality Number of people receiving support at community assistance hubs	**LOIP System Change:** Community Support and Hub Network

Support communities to set up neighbourhood groups with a focus on community safety	Universal	Across North Locality	Police Scotland Community Safety Partnership	Number of active community safety neighbourhood groups across North Locality	**LOIP 2031 Improvement Aim:** Increase proportion of people that score positively for feelings of influence and sense of control by 7% by 2031 **LOIP 2031 Improvement Aim:** Achieve a 15% increase in the proportion of residents who report feeling safe in their communities.
Support funding applications and encourage cross neighbourhood funding applications from community groups	Universal	Across North Locality	ACVO	Number of successful applications to Fairer Aberdeen Fund from community groups across North Locality Number of successful applications for Participatory Budgeting from community groups across North Locality	**LOIP 2031 Improvement Aim:** Increase proportion of people that score positively for feelings of influence and sense of control by 7% by 2031
Set up forums to facilitate community conversations between New Scots, asylum seekers, refugees and local people	Universal	North Priority Neighbourhoods: Northfield, Mastrick, Cummings Park, Heathryfold and Middlefield	Middlefield Hub Touch of Love Mastrick, Summerhill and Sheddocksley Community Council Cummings Park Centre	Number of community conversation forums held Number of people with diverse lived experience engaged	**LOIP System Change:** Community Collaborative Approach
Tenant feedback loops supported by Locality Partnerships and Tenant Participation	Universal	Across the North Locality	Aberdeen City Council	% of tenant feedback actions addressed	**LOIP System Change:** Increase proportion of people that who feel they have influence and sense of control by 7% by 2031

Get Involved!

The North Locality Empowerment Group and the North Priority Neighbourhood Partnership are two ways we connect with our local communities in the North Locality. As a member of a Locality Empowerment Group or the North Priority Neighbourhood Partnership you will be able to provide a voice on behalf of the people and communities across your neighbourhood.

What's in it for you?

Our existing community representatives had this to say about what they get from participating:

- **Staying mentally and physically active**
- **Learning new skills and gaining self confidence**
- **Receiving support from staff**
- **Building a stronger sense of community and improving the neighbourhood**
- **Making new connections with like-minded people**
- **Participating in social events and local projects**
- **Strengthening local knowledge and sharing important information**
- **Increasing trust in communities**

Interested in finding out more? Our Locality Planning Team are happy to help! contact us on:
Localityplanning@aberdeencity.gov.uk

Your North Locality Planning Team

We understand the importance of working with communities to build a thriving environment for everyone. By engaging with local communities through our dedicated Locality Planning team, we aim to become more receptive, supportive and action oriented. Community input is extremely valuable to this work. The Locality Planning Team includes staff from Aberdeen City Council and the Aberdeen City Health and Social Care partnership working together to support improved outcome across all our localities and neighbourhoods. In the North Locality your locality planning contacts are Cath and Kev.

Cath McLeish
Health Improvement Officer
Aberdeen Health and Social Care Partnership
Tel. 01224 045671

Kev Donald
Community Development Officer
Aberdeen City Council
Tel. 01224053906



Stay Updated!



Join the Journey!

There are a number of ways to stay updated on what is going on in your neighbourhood. You can find out more, including our performance data on our Community Planning Aberdeen website here you will find:

- How we report back on our progress
- How to get involved in your next local community meeting
- Minutes of previous meetings
- Annual Reports
- Information and support around getting involved and making a difference to your local community

You can find out what's on your local area by visiting the ACVO Events Calendar or on Facebook by clicking here!

Supporting Information

Not every idea could be included, and here's why:

- Some improvements are already happening—we'll let services know if people weren't aware.
- Ideas outside locality planning's remit were shared with the right teams, like citywide plans or education services.
- Others couldn't progress yet due to limits on budget, time or resources, or they would impact on other plans for the City

Every idea matters - Even if something couldn't be included this time, your input helps shape priorities and conversations for the future.

Local Place Plans – these are different to locality plans!
Local Place Plans give communities a say in shaping where they live, work, and play. Introduced by planning legislation, they let communities create their own plans to influence the next Local Development Plan. These plans set out local ideas and aspirations for how *land* is used and developed—and they're created by the community, for the community.

It's important to us that everyone's voice is heard—including our young people. Through the **Aberdeen Youth Movement**, their ideas are not only reflected in the locality plan, but they're also helping to drive real change across our city. Want to find out more? Check out their Linktree!