



# Our Aberdeenshire

Garioch  
Edition

May  
2009

— Aberdeenshire Community Planning Partnership newsletter —

## Welcome to the new Community Planning newsletter

This newsletter will keep you in the loop about anything related to Community Planning in Aberdeenshire. We are planning to publish four editions throughout the year with both Local and Shire wide info and articles. We'd really like to know what you think of it from the layout to the content. Please forward any comments, good, bad or ugly, to the central Community Planning team - contact details are at the bottom of this page and we'll take it from there...

### What is Community Planning?

**C**ommunity Planning is all about ensuring that public organisations work together and with people in local communities. The Community Planning partnership listens to, communicates with and involves communities in decisions on how services can better meet local needs.

The aim of Community Planning Partnership is to work together for the best quality of life with happy, healthy and fulfilled people, living in a healthy, safe and sustainable environment with a vibrant local economy. Working together for everyone in Aberdeenshire by listening, involving and responding to the people in our communities and by working in partnership with our communities and local organisations to deliver more efficient and improved services, which meet local



needs. It is something that happened in Aberdeenshire long before it was officially called 'Community Planning', but has been made a statutory duty through the Local Government Act (2003).

#### The partners...

In Aberdeenshire, there are ten main community planning partners; Aberdeenshire Council, Aberdeenshire Councils for Voluntary Service Network, Community Councils, Grampian Fire and Rescue Service, Grampian Police, Local Rural Partnerships, Nestrans, NHS Grampian, Scottish Enterprise and Skills Development Scotland.

#### Are you already involved in community planning?

You may already be "doing" community planning without even knowing it if you, possibly as part of a community group or community organisation, put forward the views and wishes of your community into local projects. This could mean any project that affects your community and is being undertaken in partnership.

We are keen for the community planning partnership to be aware of these types of projects. The easiest way of making sure of that is to contact either your Local Community Planning Group, or one of our community and voluntary partners mentioned above, i.e. Community Councils, Councils for Voluntary Service, and Local Rural Partnerships. Support or advice may be able to be provided.

contact us

Woodhill House, Westburn Road, Aberdeen, AB16 5GB tel: 01224 664308  
email: [communityplanning@ouraberdeenshire.org.uk](mailto:communityplanning@ouraberdeenshire.org.uk)  
visit our website at [www.ouraberdeenshire.org.uk](http://www.ouraberdeenshire.org.uk)





Locally...



## Have Your Say about Life in Garioch

**W**hat do you like about living in Garioch, what don't you like? What would make life better for you? What do you think about local services - the Council, NHS Grampian, Grampian Fire & Rescue Service or Grampian Police - could things be better? Jill Sowden, Garioch Community Planning Officer, wants to know. Over the summer Jill will be at events throughout Garioch including Westhill Gala, Kintore Festival and Youth Shine - come and tell her what you think.

Alternatively you can contact her on 01467 628338 or [jill.sowden@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:jill.sowden@aberdeenshire.gov.uk). Watch out for features in the local press over the next couple of months which will tell you more ways of getting your views heard.



## Inverurie Health Improvement Group

**T**he first meeting of the Inverurie Health Improvement Group was held in March and representatives from a variety of local agencies attended. The Group identified healthy eating/nutrition/obesity as being a shared priority and it was agreed that they focus on this and a potential community kitchen over the coming months. For further information please contact Jill Sowden (Community Planning Officer) on 01467 628338 or [jill.sowden@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:jill.sowden@aberdeenshire.gov.uk).

## With Inclusion in Mind

**T**o ensure the Council and its community planning partners are meeting their obligations under the Mental Health Act 2003, a series of workshops is being planned. The first, facilitated by the Garioch Local Community Planning Group, took place in February in Inverurie and was well attended by both providers of services and those suffering mental health or learning disability issues. The session, led by Peter Bates, author of the Government guidance paper "With Inclusion in Mind" highlighted areas for further investigation including volunteering opportunities, healthy eating, links with housing and buddy-

## Housebound Book Delivery Scheme

**T**he Garioch Local Community Planning Group recently agreed to fund a year-long pilot scheme to deliver books and other media monthly to housebound residents. The scheme, which is to be undertaken by the Library Service commencing in April 2009, reflects the ethos of the community well being theme and also meets the Council's equality agenda and the library service aim to widen access to services and increase participation.

The Library Service will be recruiting volunteers to help sustain the project and if you are interested in becoming involved in the project or are housebound and would like to have books delivered to you, please contact Helen Dewar (Cultural Services Team Leader) on 01358 720865 or [Helen.dewar@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:Helen.dewar@aberdeenshire.gov.uk)

ing. Further workshops will be held across the Shire over the coming months. For further information contact Greg Muldoon (Strategic Development Officer - Social Work & Housing) on 01224 664121 or [greg.muldoon@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:greg.muldoon@aberdeenshire.gov.uk).

contact us

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