

## Locally...



### Marr Community Planning Group seen as delivering best practice

The independent Christie Commission was asked by the Scottish Government to develop recommendations for the future delivery of public services and their report was published in June 2011. They cited the Marr Community Planning Group as an example of good practice in relation to the proactive involvement of communities in local decision-making, as follows:

'The Marr Community Planning Group - brings together representatives from the community and from the Aberdeenshire Community Planning Partners. The group aims to identify the needs of communities in the Marr area and work together either to address these, or to support people in dealing with them. Over 50 per cent of the membership of the Marr Community Planning Group are community representatives. A community plan has been agreed for 2010-14...'  
([www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/352649/0118638.pdf](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/352649/0118638.pdf))

The report concludes that in the face of rising demand for public services and constrained public spending there is a need for urgent and comprehensive reform of the delivery of these services involving all stakeholders. They identified a number of principles needed to underpin this reform process, some of which are already part of the way service providers work together with the third sector and communities in Marr:

- ♦ Reforms must aim to empower individuals and communities receiving public services by involving them in the design and delivery of the services they use.
- ♦ Public service providers must be required to work much more closely in partnership, to integrate service provision and thus improve

the outcomes they achieve.

- ♦ We must prioritise expenditure on public services which prevent negative outcomes from arising.
- ♦ And our whole system of public services - public, third and private sectors - must become more efficient by reducing duplication and sharing services wherever possible.  
([www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/352649/0118638.pdf](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/352649/0118638.pdf))

### More good news in Marr...

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education has recently published its report on the Aboyne Learning Community. The particular strengths of the learning community in Aboyne were found to be:

- ♦ Highly committed and effective volunteer community representatives
- ♦ Outstanding, vibrant and active community organisations
- ♦ Strong levels of community engagement in local community planning
- ♦ High quality English for speakers of other languages (ESOL) work
- ♦ Confident, articulate and motivated young people.

Karen Thomas, the Team Leader of Community Learning and Development in South Aberdeenshire was particularly delighted with the feedback from the inspectors in relation to the impact of capacity building on the community, which was found to be 'Excellent'. This level of effectiveness is seen as "outstanding and sector leading ...exemplifying the very best practice".



shire-wide...

## From hip hop to a cook off, Aberdeenshire celebrates ageing in series of events

**A**berdeenshire Council is organising a series of events alongside community partners to celebrate older people's day on Saturday, October 1st.

In the week running up to older people's day (September 26 - October 1), activities will centre around the theme of active ageing. These are taking place nationwide and the day is supported by the United Nations.

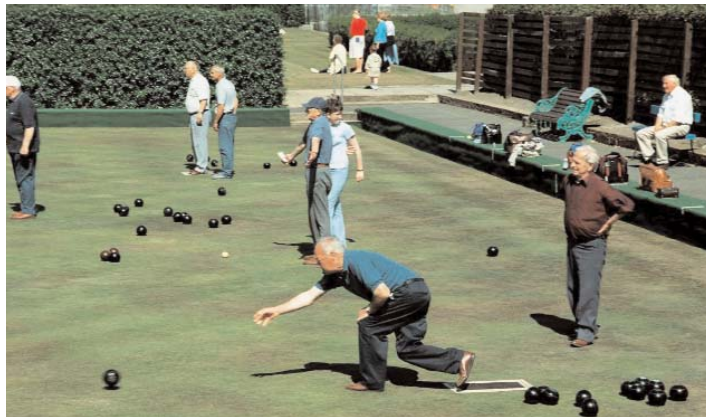
In Aberdeenshire a range of events have been organised to bring together people of all ages. Activities will take place at day care homes, sheltered housing and community centres and will involve local school children, artists and musicians. Some of the highlights include:

- ♦ Ready, Steady, Cook event involving professional chefs, pupils and older people in Aboyne
- ♦ Historical talk on Fraserburgh lifeboats
- ♦ Hip-hop group in Port Elphinstone

Aberdeenshire will have the highest proportion of older people in Scotland by 2020 and the number of people aged over 85 years is expected to rise by 75%.

Chair of the Aberdeenshire Community Planning Partnership and Leader of the council Anne Robertson, said: "I am delighted to see partners and communities coming together to organise these events and there are some interesting activities taking place.

"Tackling the challenges brought about by a growing and aging population is one of



Aberdeenshire Council's three strategic pillars and together we can address the future challenges that demographic change will bring.

"Older people's day allows us to celebrate ageing and the national theme

around being more active is something the council and its partners are committed to encouraging every day so that people can live longer, healthier and happier."

Minister for Pensions Steve Webb said: "Older People's Day is a celebration of the achievements and contributions that older people make to our economy and to society as a whole.

These events encourage older people to get and stay active well into later life and I urge people to get involved."

A full programme of events can be viewed at:  
[www.ouraberdeenshire.org.uk/olderpeople](http://www.ouraberdeenshire.org.uk/olderpeople)

### Your Voice

The 'Your Voice' project is funded by Aberdeenshire Council and delivered by the Mearns and Coastal Healthy Living Network. The purpose of the project is to explore ways of engaging with older people and involving older people in the planning of health and care services. An online survey can be taken at:

[www.surveymonkey.com/s/D6CQS8G](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/D6CQS8G)

The deadline for the survey is  
31st October 2011.

