

Torry's **Vision**

Winter 2018



In this issue:

OLD TORRY PLAQUE
VICTORIA ROAD SCHOOL
REGENERATION
VICTORIART ROAD

www.shmu.org.uk/press

Image: Debby Russell

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Photo: Stuart Mackenzie

Editorial

Welcome to the Winter edition of Torry's Vision community magazine. Read on for news from Victoria Road School Regeneration Project, Old Torry Community Centre, Walker Road Dancers and Jog Torry.

If you would like to get involved and join the editorial team or if you have ideas for the community publication, you can easily get in touch with us. The staff at SHMU are able to support and train anyone living in the area who is interested in developing their ideas and skills in either writing, photography or proof reading. So please don't be shy, this is your magazine written, edited and designed by the good folk of Torry.

If you live in Torry and would like to come along to the editorial meetings or submit an article then get in touch with Laura at SHMU on 01224 515013 or you can email her on laura.young@shmu.org.uk.

You can also view this magazine alongside previous editions on the SHMU website www.shmu.org.uk then click the 'PRESS' option.

The dates for the meetings for the next edition have not been set yet, but keep an eye out on our facebook page for more information.



Plaque to commemorate Old Torry village

Torry Heritage Group (based at Old Torry Community centre) decided some years ago to try to erect a plaque to commemorate the ancient fishing village of Old Torry.

This working village had survived and prospered from the 1700s right through to the 1970s when Aberdeen City Council decided to sacrifice the entire village to facilitate a major oil company, which has now left the area. They believed that if they did not do this that the oil companies would bypass Aberdeen and go to Dundee or Leith.

This was of course not the first time that, Aberdeen City Council took a decision which was bad for

Old Torry, as the lower part of the village, (or nether Torry) had been lost when the River Dee had been diverted to its present course, in a controversial land grab which saw Aberdeen city get bigger and Kincardine and Torry get smaller. The original plan for the diversion of the river would have seen a slow bend which would have meant n that only one small building in nether Torry would have been lost, and the entire village would have survived.

The village was the centre of where the fishing boom and most of what made Aberdeen the city it is, came from, ship building, engineering, fish processing, drying, freezing, salting, kippering and trawl manufacture.

Lots of visitors come to Torry, following the coastal trail, or having visited Fittie, looking for Old Torry and there has been nothing, up until now to mark where such an historically important village had been.

A successful crowd funding exercise raised money to pay for a plaque, which was designed with some help from ex residents and Torry folk, fabricated locally, and with the generous help of a local business man and Aberdeen harbour board, there is now a plaque to celebrate and commemorate this important village.

John Dunn MBE

Supported by



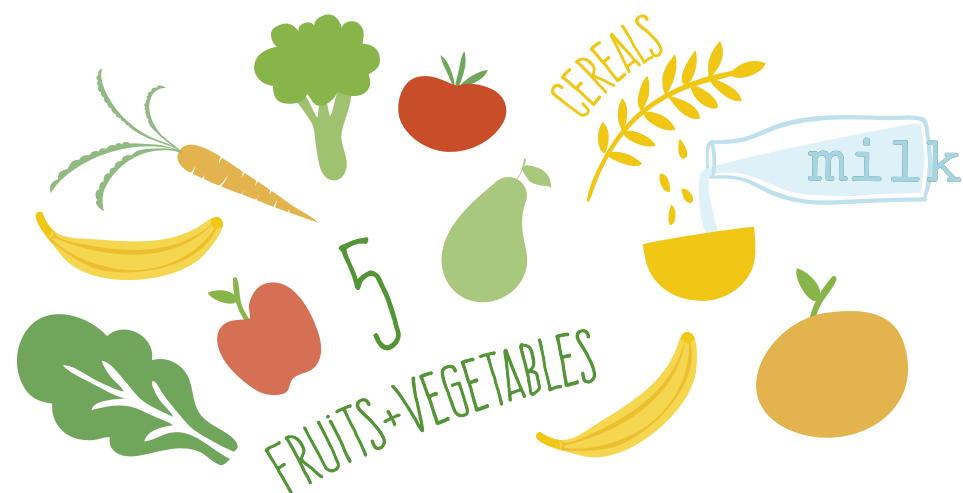
JOG SCOTLAND COMES TO TORRY!

Earlier this year Jog Scotland approached the Communities Team in Torry with the idea of starting up a jogging group. We managed to spread the word via the UDecide event, posters and social media. Tullos Primary also hosted a 2km run for parents and children – plus a few teachers joined in. The kids loved Scottie Dog – the Jog Scotland emblem.

Following that we started our adult group which meets at 6pm at Torry Youth and Leisure every Monday. Torry residents have seen their stamina improved and our second couch to 5k has just started. We also now have an “improvers” group for those that have completed the couch to 5k.

It's been great to put Torry on the running map and our new logo has gone down a treat! Camaraderie is growing and one of our runners completed the Aberdeen 10k and is looking to do her first half marathon! The model is that participants themselves will go on and do the training, thus embedding jogging further into the community.

This has been a great example of partnership working and our thanks also go to CFINE who donated bottles of water and energy bars to the thirsty runners.



Give Your Family a Healthy Start!

Healthy Start is a UK wide scheme that provides pregnant women and children under 4 in low income families who receive certain benefits an opportunity to access vitamins* and vouchers that assist to buy cow's milk, fresh or frozen fruit and vegetables, and first stage infant formula.

NHS Grampian Health Improvement Team are currently working hard to increase the uptake of the Healthy Start Voucher Scheme. Public Health are working hard with midwives, Health visitors and any other person or establishment that work with pregnant mothers or families with children under the age of four years to encourage them to claim for Healthy Start.

To qualify for Healthy Start you must be pregnant or have children under 4 years of age and in receipt of the following benefits:

Income support OR

Income-based Jobseeker's allowance OR

Income related Employment and Support Allowance OR

Child Tax Credit (with a family income of £16,190 or less per year)

Universal Credit (with a family take home pay of £408 or less per month)

If you are under 18 and pregnant, even if you do not receive the above benefits, you qualify for Healthy Start.

You can pick up your Healthy Start forms from your local GP surgery, the Department for Work and Pension, or you can download and print the form from www.nhsgrampian.org/healthy-start and send to the freepost address advertised on the NHSG page. Your form must be countersigned by a midwife or health visitor or practice nurse prior to sending.

For more information and to check whether you qualify for Healthy Start please visit our local Healthy Start page at www.nhsgrampian.org/healthy-start

***every pregnant mum in Grampian is entitled to free vitamins throughout their pregnancy**

WALKER ROAD DANCERS

The Walker Road Primary School Dancers group was started five years ago as a lunch club for P2 - P7 pupils by two Pupil Support Assistants on a voluntary basis to help promote keeping fit through dance. The group offered Highland - Mrs Fiona Brown and Zumba - Mrs Angela Sadler.

The club proved so popular that after school classes were soon needed. The Dance Club regularly sees 90 children attending a week which helps boost fitness, friendship and builds self confidence in a safe

and friendly environment. The classes are free which is great for parents too.

Over the past two years the dancers have taken part in lots of events in the community such as entertaining pensioners, dancing at Burns Suppers and Christmas events and also performing at shopping centres around Aberdeen. During February the Lord Provost came along to join the fun. In June the dancers performed at a gala dinner the Beach Ballroom which was very exciting and will be returning there in October. The Dance

Club also was successful in the Torry participatory budgeting process which has allowed them to buy costumes for the dancers and to expand provision too.

The Club has proved to be so popular that the ladies have now started the Torry Dance Club to allow all children from P3 - S6 in Torry the opportunity to join in the free dance classes at Torry Youth and Leisure Centre.

To see more please look up: Walker Road Dancers on YouTube.



TORRY BOOGIE IN THE BAR

Aberdeen's Dementia Friendly Boogies just keep growing and growing! In the past year and a half, Boogie in the Bar has started up in over 10 locations across Grampian, with Aberdeen now being home to three! The latest to the line has come to Torry, with a new monthly boogie now being held at the White Cockade.

The first boogie kicked off on Thursday 20th September and welcomed members of the community as well as some children from the Walker Road Dance Group who gave a fantastic display of dancing, to help get the party started! The afternoon was then filled with wonderful music and smiling faces all round!

Boogie in the Bar at the White Cockade will now be a monthly event and will be held on the third Thursday of every month, from 12 to 2pm. Boogies are free and welcome anyone who loves music and enjoys a good dance!

So why not come along and take part in this fantastic free afternoon of magical music and come down for a boogie with friends, both new and old!

We look forward to seeing you at the next boogie!

North East Sensory Services (NESS)

Employment support is available to people living in Aberdeen City who are blind, partially sighted, hearing impaired or Deaf and who are willing to make the commitment to work towards an employment related positive outcome.

Education/Volunteering Support

Sometimes you may need additional skills, qualifications, confidence and experience to get back into the job market and for many, volunteering and further training can be a first step. We will support you to explore opportunities of interest.

Jobseeker Support

We offer help with:

- **Completing application forms effectively**
- **Compiling/ updating CV's**
- **Interview skills & techniques**
- **Support to look for work using IT and assistive technology**
- **Referral and signposting to other relevant agencies**

In-work support

We provide support to people to sustain their employment, education, volunteer or training opportunity through:

- **Continued support, advice, guidance and signposting**
- **Liaising with employer/ education/training providers**
- **Supporting people to apply for funding re: adaptations and equipment that may be required in the workplace**
- **We also provide employers with support to address issues that may arise when employing someone with sensory loss**

The service is available for anyone with a sensory impairment aged 16+.

Janice Gray,
Employment Officer
North East Sensory Services
21 John Street
Aberdeen AB25 1BT
Tel: 0345 27 12345
Email: janice.gray@nesensoryservices.org



Craiginches, Aberdeen

Construction works commenced on site during August 2016 on the site of the former Aberdeen Craiginches Prison, which has been redeveloped by Sanctuary Scotland Housing Association, in order to provide 124 new properties.

Eighteen houses and 106 flats have been provided, and are available for mid-market rent. Priority will be given to 'key workers', which would be defined "as someone working in the public sector."

All properties are now complete, with the final completed properties being handed over to Sanctuary Scotland Housing Association during July 2018. Final areas of snagging and landscaping are currently underway, with the project due for completion during late September 2018. This will include completing the Community Garden, which will incorporate granite from the former prison wall and the former prison clock.

These new homes have become an integral part of Torry and have provided wider benefits to the community, which have included Sanctuary Scotland and Robertson Construction negotiating Community Benefit Projects within the development contract in order to achieve sustainability within the area. This included targeting local recruitment and training and community engagement.





Victoria Road School Regeneration Project

A successful bid for the Victoria Road School buildings that was made in September 2018 by Grampian Housing Association (GHA) working with the Torry Development Trust (TDT) now ends years of uncertainty as to the future of the granite heritage of the school buildings. As soon as the sites of the Victoria Road School Regeneration Project move into the ownership of Grampian Housing Association, an early promise to commence works to make the sites and buildings secure will begin. This will also involve a clean up the sites that have become so overgrown in past years. Consultations and planning stages will be progressed before Christmas so that a start on the restoration works can commence next year at the earliest opportunity.

David Fryer of the Torry Development Trust (TDT), said: "We would like to thank everyone who supported the development of the project over recent months. Our project reflects the desire and ambitions of the community of Torry, and many folk, far and wide, who wanted to see these fine granite buildings continue to meet local needs. The proposed restoration will ensure that the granite heart of Old Torry will beat strongly for the next hundred years and more."

Neil Clapperton, Chief Executive of Grampian Housing Association said: "We are excited that Aberdeen City Council has approved the proposal for Victoria Road School submitted by Grampian Housing Association and Torry Development Trust. This approval recognises the importance of restoring and

bringing back into use these granite heritage buildings.

"We are committed to formal consultations as part of the development process and we look forward to working with the community to progress our proposals for much needed affordable housing along with a nursery and community space to regenerate the area for the people to Torry."

The project is part of Grampian Housing Association's capital programme to build 400 new home by 2021.

For more details, please follow the development of the project on our websites, Grampian Housing Association (www.grampianhousing.co.uk/en/) and Torry Development Trust (TDT) (www.torrydevelopmenttrust.org.uk/).

As part of the Victoria Road School Regeneration Project Richie McRobbie (15) a resident of Torry & a Pupil of Lochside Academy has donated one of his fantastic drawings of Victoria Road Primary School to the Torry Development Trust to be proudly displayed at the Old Torry Community Centre on a permanent basis!

Robbie has been drawing since the age of 11 whilst at Walker

Road primary school when he was inspired to try out his artistic talents when he saw another drawing of Walker Road. By the age of 12 whilst in 1st year of the then Torry Academy Robbie had developed his drawings & drew a picture of Marshell College which took him 4 months to draw!!! This is still available to view in the building to this day! Robbie thoroughly enjoys art & feels that drawing chills him out although

I'm not sure his mum Stacy Jacobson would agree as Robbie who is generally neat & tidy does like a messy art room.

Robbie hopes to continue his art & his favourite thing to draw is buildings.

You can view Robbie's picture at Old Torry Community Centre, 2 Abbey Place, Torry, AB11 9QH

victoriart mural and health walk project

VictoriArt Road has been successful in their bid for the Health Improvement Fund for the Mural and Health Walk Project in Torry. The need for this project has been identified from evidence in the Torry Locality Plan 2017 – 2027. Consultations found that local people wanted activities and projects that 'improve and promote the natural environment and heritage' and 'create more areas for local people to meet and socialise'. The murals and health walk will provide people with an opportunity to interact with the built environment and others in their local community, in a meaningful and beneficial way.

The project will create a series of four smaller scale murals that are

scattered across Torry, creating a treasure trail of artworks along the street. This project will take place across the next six months. The imagery/subject of these artworks will focus on mental and physical health. These artworks will then be added to map of local street art in Torry and form part of a new walking route for people to improve their health while enjoying some art. Artists and members of VictoriArt group will meet with community groups and health professionals in Torry to gather their ideas and suggestions for the design of the murals. After this, partners will be invited to join in the launch of the mural health walk, followed by a community arts workshop with the artists and

VictoriArt members at Torry Youth and Leisure Centre.

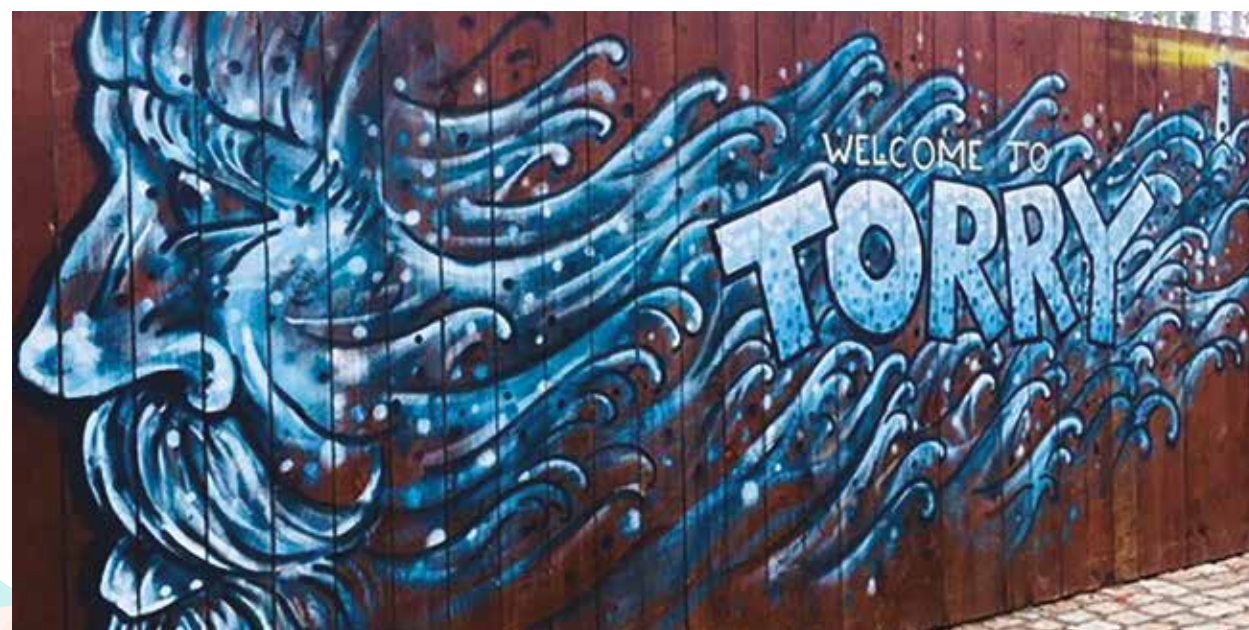
Keep your eyes peeled over the next six months for some thought-provoking art works happening in Torry! If you would like to find out more about how you can get involved or collaborate with this project, please get in touch by emailing the group directly on victoriartroad@gmail.com and/or Tanita Addario, Development Worker TAddario@aberdeencity.gov.uk.

Contact us:
www.facebook.com/VictoriArtRoad/
www.victoriart.xyz/
[@victoriartroad](https://www.instagram.com/victoriartroad)



Old Torry Community Centre Art Group

You only need a paper and pencil to learn to draw & this is included in the £2.50 cost for the art group which meets in Torry every Wednesday morning. This long running art group is open to all regardless of ability or experience. Keen and regular art enthusiasts are always on hand to teach you new artistic skills and techniques or to develop existing talent! You can really experiment using pens, pastels, paint and many other tools to get you started. The art group meets at Old Torry Community Centre 10am every Wednesday. Tea, coffee and biscuits are also included in the price. A great opportunity to meet people new and have a brew or two!



Torry Memories & Heritage Society

Help! Can anyone help name this possibly 1930's/1940's Victoria Road shop?

If anyone knows or has an idea please contact us at -- torrymemoriesheritagesociety@gmail.com



Balnagask Community Centre

Balnagask Community Centre are holding a fundraising bingo event on Sunday the 4th of November. Doors open at 6:30pm and entry costs 60 pence per person. The money raised will go towards their OAP group on a Friday morning.

Torry Community Council

Due to the closure of Torry Academy Torry Community Council meetings will now be held at Tullos Primary School during term-time. These meetings start at 7pm and are open to anyone who lives in the area.

Meetings will be held in a different venue in the community during the school holidays but these are arranged when needed.

Keep up to date with your local community council by looking up Torry Community Council on Facebook.

News from Torry St Pitticks Church

Roof Repair Project

By the time you receive your Torry's Vision the work on the church roof should be started.

We have completed the new all at the manse and the insulation of the large hall.

Our aim was to raise £72k – we have now reached this target and on behalf of the Roof and Repair Project Team we would like to say a huge thank you to everyone in Torry who has supported us along the way.

Dates for your Diary

10TH NOVEMBER 2PM
fundraiser – Wartime sing-a-long and refreshments. Tickets are now on sale at £7 each.

14TH NOVEMBER
12 – 4pm – lunch club

17TH NOVEMBER 10AM – 12PM
Christmas coffee morning

17TH NOVEMBER 4 – 6PM
messy church

28TH NOVEMBER 12 – 4PM
last lunch club of the year

9TH DECEMBER 4 – 9PM
Pot luck supper and carols



Grampian Credit Union

Best wishes for Autumn to everyone in Torry!

Great news - Grampian Credit Union is available for anyone living or working in Torry. The credit union offers adult, Christmas and junior savings accounts, which are safe and easy to access. Loans are fair and affordable from £200 to £5,000 - repaid from 6 months to 36 months. We can help you pay for holidays, home improvements, car, Christmas or family event.

If you live in Torry, you are welcome to join Grampian Credit

Union - details of savings and loans services are on our website: www.grampiancreditunion.co.uk and our office is now at 250 Union Street, Aberdeen AB10 1TN, tel 01224 561506.

We help local people have safe accessible savings and fair affordable loans. Our Christmas savings accounts help you have money available when you need it most. Good money management can help you have enough for the good times, and funds available to fall back on when things need sorting out.

NESCU Dormant Accounts

North East Scotland Credit Union (NESCU) went into administration earlier this year which meant the majority their members who had saved and borrowed with them were contacted and advised on what steps to take next.

However, the credit union had some members who had, for different reasons, moved address and not informed them, stopped saving or had forgotten about junior accounts which meant they were not contacted when the organisation went into administration.

These members were not contacted because staff and volunteers at NESCU did not want to send out notice of a payment to an unconfirmed address. However, they still have a record of what is due to any member who has not claimed their savings back from them.

If you think this might apply to you, they would like you to get in touch and they will advise on the next steps. You can email info@nescu.co.uk or call 01224 899688.

They would also like to advise any members who had taken out a loan with NESCU that they must keep making payments on it as the administrators are still dealing with them.

Fundraiser for new shmuHQ

Station House Media Unit (shmu) are in the midst of fundraising to kit out our new building in Woodside. We held another fundraising event in Torry on Friday the 7th of September in the Golden Tee Pub. We raised £480 through ticket sales and raffles, and we are so grateful to everyone who came along to support us - it was a great night!

At the time of printing we had raised just over £3500 through community fundraising but we still have a long way to go.

shmu works to transform lives through creative media - giving regeneration areas in Aberdeen opportunities in training, employment, increased confidence and most importantly a voice and all the money raised from these events is going towards buying new equipment to bring the facilities in our new building up to industry standard.

We're planning lots more fundraising events over the next few months before we move back to our new building in Woodside so if you would like to get involved we would love to see you there!

Check out our Facebook – Station House Media Unit, Twitter – shmuORG and Instagram – shmuorg for more information on upcoming events.

If you fancy volunteering with shmu, whether you've always wanted to see your name in print or think you've got a face for the radio, then get in touch with Laura on 01224 515013 or email laura.young@shmu.org.uk.



Councillor Yvonne Allan

Well that's the summer gone, and didn't we have a good one for a nice change? Here's hoping that we don't have to pay for it with a severe winter.

It's been good to see the window replacement programme going on up at Garden City – Mansfield Road/Place Tullos Crescent etc. This should help to be keeping folks a bit warmer over the winter and perhaps help a bit with the heating costs.

People will be pleased to hear that there is movement in the site of the Victoria Road School. At the City Councils City Growth and Resources Committee on the 18th of September Grampian Housing Association

were awarded preferred bidder status. They will be working with the Torry Development Trust to deliver affordable housing at the same time retaining the historic granite building. As well as the social housing the proposal includes community facilities. I believe as things progress there will be public consultation into the details of the plans for the future of the sight.

I went to a workshop held by The Big Noise in the Arts Centre. The Torry children, along with other children from the projects throughout Scotland, were led in a work shop by the famous violinist Nicola Benedetti. It was a joy to watch the children working

so hard together and progressing their skills under her guidance.

The new Torry Harbour at the Bay of Nigg is causing some residents issues with night time noise. I am following this up and have already had meeting with staff at Dragados the company responsible. They are putting in more noise monitors in different places, so I will be keeping an eye on the situation and looking for improvements.

Stay warm over the winter

Yvonne Allan (Cllr)

Get in touch...

Email: yallan@aberdeencity.gov.uk

gov.uk

Phone: 01224 523013

Summer Musings and Planning for Autumn

We have experienced a glorious summer across Scotland, and Aberdeen was no exception. Over the summer recess period I spent lots of time meeting people out-and-about in the constituency, as well as in my constituency office.

The warm dry weather was a delight, however there is no doubt it did bring with it some 'pongy' side effects. On several days myself and my staff experienced the awful smell coming from around the Dee and around the South of the city. Having raised this with SEPA they confirmed there was a significant rise in complaints of a smell lingering in Torry and beyond during the last week of July, however inspectors from both SEPA and Aberdeen City Council were unable to identify one source, but rather believe it was a combination of factors stemming from the warm weather, and subsequent low water levels in the Dee. I asked

for checks to be carried out around the Nigg Waste Water Treatment plant and the Sewer system; neither were found to be contributing to this particular issue. As ever, it is important that residents follow the correct reporting procedure for any future smells to allow SEPA to track these accordingly.

Readers may recall in the last issue of Torry's Vision I discussed some of the legislation the SNP Scottish Government had taken forward in the first half of the year, and our progress with the Social Security (Scotland) Bill, which is in stark contrast to the way the government in Westminster are dealing with social security, particularly in regard to Universal Credit.

The so-called 'full service' roll out of Universal Credit will begin in Aberdeen at the end of October, and this will be a considerable change in how people receive their benefits. Claimants in Scotland are eligible

for Universal Credit Scottish choices, which means payments can be received twice a month, and part of your Universal Credit can be paid directly to your landlord to cover your rent. If you have received any type of social security payment in the past, it has likely been done on a weekly basis. Universal Credit means it may be trickier to balance your usual household costs and this can be worrying if you begin to get into debt or rent arrears. This is even more important now as before we know it we will be dealing with the expensive time that is Christmas. My office staff will be undertaking specific Universal Credit training over the coming weeks, and will be readily available to help should anyone feel they require additional support, particularly around assisting with what financial support services are available in the community and the importance of personal budgeting.

Community Contacts

Alcohol

Alcoholics Anonymous 0800 9177 650

Drinkline 0300 123 1110

Crime

Crimestoppers 0800 555 111

Drugs

Drugs Action Helpline 01224 594700

Dentist

Emergency - G-Dens 111

Doctors

NHS 24 Emergency 111

Electricity

If you have a power-cut 105

Family Planning

Aberdeen Community Health and Care Village 0345 337 9900

Gas

Gas Emergency 0800 111 999

Gas emergency with a meter 0845 606 6766

Housing

Emergency Repairs 01224 219 282

Call Centre Emergency 0845 608 0929 or 116 123

Police

Non-emergency 101

Samaritans

Need to talk 01224 574 488 or 116 123

Social Work

Social Work Duty Team 0800 7315520

Emergency Out-Of-Hours 01224 693936

Young Carers 01224 212021

Water

Scottish Water Emergency 0800 0778 778

CFINE

01224 596156

Home-Start

01224 693545

Pathways

01224 682 939

Cash in your Pocket

0800 953 4330

Citizens Advice

01224 569750

Balnagask Community Centre

01224 871206

Old Torry Community Centre

01224 894925

Tullos Learning Centre

01224 291882

Walker Road Primary School

01224 879720

Tullos Primary School

01224 876621

Torry Academy

01224 876733

Torry Medical Practice

01224 01224 894600

Torry Community Council

contactus@torrycommunitycouncil.org.uk