

BANFF AND BUCHAN AREA COMMITTEE COASTAL COMMUNITIES FUND

(Grants between £1000 and £25000)

Application for Assistance

Name of organisation:	Aberdeen Foyer
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Contact name:	Brenda Young
Position in organisation:	Funding Manager

Address (including postcode):	Marywell Centre, Marywell Street, Aberdeen AB11 6JF
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Applicants are encouraged to discuss their project with the Banff and Buchan Area Manager prior to submitting the application form.

Tell us about your group's aims and purposes (include details of your membership and evidence that the organisation has the right level of resources, skills, and capacity to deliver the project):

Organisation Overview Aberdeen Foyer exists to create positive and lasting change, working alongside 1600+ people every year who are experiencing tough life challenges and the wider system, to address and prevent the root causes of poverty and youth homelessness across local communities in Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire. **Our vision** is for people to thrive, feel connected and included in their community, where everyone has a safe, decent place to call home and access to resources to live a good life. **Our mission** every day is to support people to discover their potential, overcome challenges, and build their own positive future. We believe there is no limit to what people can achieve in their lives.

Our way of working: We serve and work alongside young people from age 12-25 and adults of all working ages living in Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire who are experiencing tough life situations that make it difficult to achieve a good life and a positive future.

We have **100+** staff who have a wide range of skills, qualifications and the experience required to reach and engage with individuals who are facing multiple and complex barriers to achieving their full potential, including early disengagement with education, long term unemployment, poverty (including in work poverty), isolation, long term mental health conditions, substance dependency, past or ongoing trauma. We work in close partnership with CAB, Job Centre, the local Health and Social Care Partnerships, Community Learning and Development and other third sector organisations, community and faith groups so we have a wide reach in terms of engagement. We are a well-established, trusted part of the local community in Banff, delivering personal development and employability programmes, counselling, housing support, digital skills support and financial inclusion programmes.

Grow @ The Vinery Summary As a result of the favourable responses to the Common Good Consultation in 2021, the Banff and Buchan Area Committee approved a 25-year lease agreement with Aberdeen Foyer for the establishment of a community project at The Vinery. The Grow @ The Vinery project provides employment support programmes including a range of skills provision i.e. basic, life, sector-based, and career skills, as well as activities such as enrichment and volunteering to improve opportunities and promote well-being. The project enables a wider family approach through the wrap-around services offered by Foyer and partners to parents, carers, siblings, etc. It also provides opportunities for greater partnership working by bringing together statutory services, third sector, and private sector with increased understanding of the needs within the community.

The project aims to empower individuals and communities by providing them with the opportunity to gain the skills required to sustain long-term employment. It also aims to create a ripple effect of awareness and positive action by encouraging individuals and communities to grow their own food and share resources. Ultimately, the project seeks to establish a legacy of community resilience.

To date we have:

- Recruited 11 members of staff
- Registered 30 volunteers
- Facilitated community consultation events to co-design service delivery
- Developed and delivered a time table of services including art, crafts, cooking, wellbeing, physical activity, gardening, IT, Financial Inclusion and accredited learning, CV and employability support, support for self employment and the development of entrepreneurial opportunities.
- Welcomed, on average, 500 visitors to The Vinery each month.

The Vinery team has been strategically structured, including Team Lead, Volunteer Coordinator, Hospitality Training Lead, Landscape and Horticulture Training Lead and Community & Business Engagement Coordinator.

Tell us what would you like to do and describe the need and support for the project? Include an explanation of how your project will be sustained in the future and also how any risks will be managed (e.g. shortfalls in funding).

You must include the site or location of your project.

Location The Vinery, Airlie Gardens, Banff AB45 1AZ

Aberdeen Foyer would like to have use of a container to securely store equipment in a watertight, safe environment on site. Many community groups have use of the Vinery space and each group will have different resources that requires space to keep their equipment safe and useable.

When the Vinery was originally developed, the consideration for physical storage requirements was underestimated. The need for storage space has emerged gradually due to the evolving demands of user groups.

In the initial development phase, the emphasis was on the functional and feature aspects of the Vinery, without adequate anticipation of the amount of physical storage space required. As the wide variety of user groups began to use the Vinery, generating and accumulating resources over time, the necessity for physical storage became apparent.

This unanticipated growth in resources and need for activity space necessitates additional physical storage unit to accommodate the increasing volume of materials. The evolving storage needs are a consequence of the changing usage patterns and requirements of the Vinery and its user base. Adjustments and expansions in physical storage are now essential to meet the evolving demands of user groups.

We want to ensure that the container is in keeping with the beautiful surroundings and we plan to make sure that it looks nice and well kept. To do this we propose to clad the outside of the container to make it more pleasing on the eye. We will use materials that are eco-friendly and have a low carbon footprint. To give you an idea, here's an example:



To keep with the community garden and add an element of bio-diversity, a living roof will also be added.



This resource will additionally serve as a workshop space for Vinery participants, empowering them to craft items for sale, thus enhancing their skills and contributing to the Vinery project's sustainability.

Aberdeen Foyer has obtained planning permission for this unit and will provide quotes to ensure value for money.

Additional Information Regarding Accounts - As per our Reserves Policy we are required to have minimum of three months cash reserves at any time.

Risk	Impact (What is the effect of the risk on project delivery?)	Mitigation (How will you ensure that these risks are managed?)
Increase in project costs	Unforeseen circumstances or market fluctuations may lead to an increase in project costs.	Robust financial monitoring systems in place. All projects have allocated budget. Budget responsibilities sit with Team Leader and are overseen by Leadership Team. Budget reports are required monthly to Finance Manager All spending in relation to project must be approved by two signatories.
Availability and capacity of contractors	Limited availability or capacity of contractors could lead to delays in project timelines.	Engage with contractors early in the planning phase to secure commitments and assess their capacity. Identify and maintain relationships with alternative contractors to address potential availability issues. Develop a flexible project schedule that accommodates potential delays due to contractor availability.
Availability of materials	Shortages or delays in the availability of materials may impact construction timelines.	Cultivate strong relationships with reliable suppliers and secure commitments for timely material delivery. Avoid reliance on a single supplier; diversify sources to reduce the risk of material shortages.

		Maintain an inventory buffer for critical materials to mitigate the impact of unexpected shortages.	
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Please explain how your project has to tangible link to the coast and/or the sea and how it will deliver positive benefits including leverage of investment, economic growth, regeneration and rural or community development:

This strategic purchase will support the ongoing delivery of education, training and employability programmes tailored to creating local opportunities for young people to thrive in coastal communities such as Banff and Macduff. These young people experience a unique set of challenges with a combination of the decline in core industry and their geographical location i.e. being on the periphery of the country places them on the periphery of the economy. Transportation is a huge challenge for coastal communities. In Banff/Macduff there is a high incidence of young people living in low-income homes where there is no car ownership. The bus services to physical centres of learning in Fraserburgh or Aberdeen are poor and expensive.

In 2022 the number of young people (16 – 19yrs) participating in education, training or employment was third lowest in Banff and District Ward (only marginally behind Peterhead and Fraserburgh), with lowest being Macduff (86.7%) Aberchirder and Whitehills (89.5%)

Finding the right local employment and learning opportunities is vital in mitigating the risk to young people’s longer-term prospects and positive futures.

Through our links with local employers and employer engagement, the Vinery ensures onsite learning and training opportunities which reflect the needs of the local labour market and supports local industry, thereby creating opportunities for young people who might otherwise move away to improve their life chances.

Being a member of Aberdeen Renewable Energy Group (AREG) enables us to support local renewable projects and tailor training and employability support to the renewable energy sector, thereby increasing opportunities to support the local economy and promote growth.

This project also works alongside Banff Academy to maximise opportunities for Foundation Apprenticeships. This collaboration reinforces our commitment to fostering the growth and development of the next generation through practical and industry-relevant learning experiences

What is the total project cost? (The cost of everything related to your project, even the items or activities you aren’t asking us to fund)	£15,090
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Please tell us the costs of each item or activity you would like us to fund:

Item/Activity	Total Cost	Amount Requested from Coastal Communities Grant
Shipping container with refurb and delivery costs	£15,090 including VAT	£10,000
Total	£15,090	£10,000

Total funds raised to date and the amounts raised (including grants, your own fundraising activities and donations):

Source	Amount	Date confirmed
Cash donations	£2000	05/02/2024
Foyer match	£3090	05/02/2024
Total	£5090	

Other funding applied for (give details of the amount(s) and source(s) as appropriate – in particular Aberdeenshire Council sources):

Source	Amount	Date confirmed
n/a		
Total		

Will your project be completed by 31st March 2025?

Yes

If you answered no, can your project be delivered in phases and if so please explain how this can be done?

N/A

Aberdeenshire Council Priorities**Tick the Council Priorities your project helps to deliver? (you must tick at least one)**

A strong, sustainable, diverse and successful economy	√
Have the best possible transport and digital links across our communities	<input type="checkbox"/>
Provide the best life chances for all our children and young people by raising levels of attainment and achievement	<input type="checkbox"/>
Work with parents and carers to support children through every stage of their development	<input type="checkbox"/>
Encourage active lifestyles and promote well-being with a focus on obesity & mental health	√
Have the right mix of housing across all of Aberdeenshire	<input type="checkbox"/>
Support the delivery of the Health & Social Care Strategic Plan	√
Work to reduce poverty and inequalities within our communities	√
Deliver responsible, long-term financial planning	<input type="checkbox"/>
Have the right people, in the right place, doing the right thing, at the right time	√
Protect our special environment, including tackling climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions	√

Give details of how your project meets the requirements of the Equality Act 2010 ensuring that it will be inclusive and not discriminate against any members of your community:

Grow @ The Vinery is designed to be inclusive and comply with the requirements of the Equality Act 2010. Here are details of how the project ensures inclusivity and non-discrimination:

Target Audience:

- The project serves a diverse range of individuals, including young people aged 12-25 and adults of all working ages, living in the local community
- Services are tailored to address the needs of individuals facing multiple and complex barriers such as early disengagement with education, long-term unemployment, poverty, isolation, mental health conditions, substance dependency, and past or ongoing trauma.

Partnerships and Collaboration:

- Aberdeen Foyer collaborates with various organisations, including CAB, Job Centre, Health and Social Care Partnerships, Community Learning and Development, and third-sector organisations.
- This collaborative approach ensures a wide reach and engagement, making the project accessible to diverse communities.

Community Consultation:

- The project involves community consultation events to co-design service delivery. This ensures that the services provided are reflective of the needs and preferences of the community.
- By actively involving the community in decision-making, the project addresses specific challenges and preferences of various community members.

Wide Range of Services:

- The project offers a diverse range of services, including art, crafts, cooking, wellbeing, physical activity, gardening, IT, financial inclusion, and accredited learning.
- These services cater to different interests and abilities, making them accessible to a broad spectrum of individuals.

Staff Diversity and Skills:

- The project employs a team with a wide range of skills, qualifications, and experiences.
- The diverse staff composition allows for better understanding and engagement with individuals facing different challenges, promoting inclusivity.

Volunteer Engagement:

- The project has registered 30+ volunteers, indicating a commitment to involving the community actively in its initiatives.
- Volunteering opportunities provide a platform for individuals from various backgrounds to contribute and engage with the project.

Accessible Location:

- The Vinery is located in Banff, making it accessible to the local community. The central location enhances participation from different demographic groups.

Employment Support and Skill Development:

- The employment support programmes and skill development initiatives aim to empower individuals to sustain long-term employment, irrespective of their background or circumstances.

Workshop Space and Craft for Sale:

- The inclusion of a workshop space for participants to craft items for sale contributes to the sustainability of the project while enhancing the skills of participants from diverse backgrounds.

Applicant Declaration:

I certify that the information contained in this application is correct, and that I am authorised to make the application on behalf of the above group. I understand that decisions made by the Banff and Buchan Area Committee are final.

Name (Please print)	Brenda Young
Signature	Redacted
Date	05/02/2024

Checklist – please attach the following items:

- Constitution or Memorandum & Articles of Association • ✓
- Your most recent verified accounts • ✓
- Two most recent bank statements • ✓
- Quotes/specifications • ✓

The application should be emailed to – banffandbuchanamo@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

Please note that successful applicants will require to provide a short report on the project by no later than 31st March 2025.