



GREC Services

Welcome to the April edition of the GREC Community Bulletin! This month has been eventful: we've seen snow, sunshine, and COVID restrictions being eased across the country, and it's not over yet!

Our weekly Language Cafe and Language Works sessions started back up again this week after a short break for the holidays, and our ESOL for Work courses will be relaunching in May. If you would like to sign up or learn more, you can get in touch with our Language & Integration team at language-cafe@grec.co.uk.

Although the GREC office is still closed, all staff continue to work remotely and can be contacted via the details opposite.

WEBSITE

FACEBOOK | TWITTER

CONTACT:

General Enquiries/Training:

info@grec.co.uk
01224 595505

InTrans:

Interpreting & translation services with special rates for the third sector.

in-trans@grec.co.uk
01224 576795

Casework:

Confidential advice, support and employability service.

casework@grec.co.uk
07857 180175

Counselling:

Confidential counselling for adults, children and young people.

mthomson@grec.co.uk

Language & Integration:

Free English language education up to four times per week.

language-cafe@grec.co.uk
01224 576797

AberdeenAIM:

Fighting illegal moneylending with support, advice and training to enhance financial wellbeing.

mmccall@grec.co.uk
01224 576796

COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS

- Earlier this month, Scotland left lockdown and re-entered the tier system.
- There are five tiers or "**Protection Levels**", with Tier 0 being the least serious and Tier 4 the most.
- Mainland Scotland is currently in Tier 4, but will move into Tier 3 on **Monday, 26th April**.
- [Click here](#) for more information about the tier system from the Scottish Government.

ONLINE ESOL FOR WORK COURSE

STARTING IN MAY - REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

Improve your English / learn about work in the UK

Mondays and Wednesdays
10:30 am - 12:00
8 Weeks

Free Course*
Registration
required before
1st May 2021

For more information, email:
language-cafe@grec.co.uk

LOCAL AUTHORITIES

[Click here](#) for the latest coronavirus updates from the **Scottish Government**.

[Click here](#) for the latest coronavirus updates from **Aberdeen City Council**.

[Click here](#) for the latest coronavirus updates from **Aberdeenshire Council**.

[Click here](#) for the latest coronavirus updates from **Moray Council**.

Statement on the Sewell Report

We were surprised by last month's report from the Commission on Race and Ethnic Disparities, suggesting that institutional and structural racism is not a significant issue in the UK. GREC's strategy addresses this explicitly. Moreover, our knowledge of lived experiences, through our support to victims of prejudice, hate crime and discrimination, as well as our work with communities, tells us that racism remains a huge issue to be tackled in the UK.

This is not only the case for overt forms of racism (which remain far too numerous), but also the experiences of minority groups when, for example, accessing services, employment, housing, and the legal system.

One of the key lessons we take from the COVID-19 pandemic is that attention needs to be placed on both overt racism and institutionalised, structural racism – only through such a holistic approach can we strive to fully understand and tackle racism with a prospect of real change.

COMMUNITIES



The **Instant Neighbour Foodbank** is currently running low on staple items and appealing for donations of: tinned meals, tuna, beans, fruit & vegetables, puddings, cereal, UHT milk, and biscuits. Donations can be dropped off to the Instant Neighbour shop at **5 St. Machar Drive** on weekdays between 8.30am and 4.30pm.

Inchgarth Community Centre have recently relaunched their Pay It Forward scheme ahead of **Peggy's Cafe** reopening on **Monday, 26th April**. The scheme allows people to donate the cost of a hot drink or meal, which will go to someone in need. [Click here](#) to donate to the scheme, or [click here](#) to visit Inchgarth's website and learn more.



Experiences of Chinese & South East Asian Communities in Scotland

Last year, GREC joined our partners at the Scottish Alliance of Regional Equality Councils (SAREC) to carry out a research project (funded by the National Lottery, Awards for All Scotland) to better understand the experiences of Chinese, East and South-East Asian communities in Scotland during the COVID-19 pandemic and lockdown. A survey was distributed to South East Asian communities across Scotland and received 218 responses.

Most participants described a negative experience during the pandemic and lockdown. The main themes expressed were related to the daily activities that people were unable to do and the harmful impact on their mental health and on their jobs or source of income. Key findings include:

- The majority of participants were unaware or unsure of where to find support or advice to help cope with the pandemic and their concerns moving forward.
- One sixth of participants (16%) felt the pandemic has been worse for Chinese, East and South-East Asian communities, with many attributing this to more prejudice directed at them.
- Up to one third (33%) of the participants potentially experienced episodes of prejudice or hate crime during the pandemic. 42% reported to know of other members of their community experiencing prejudice or hate crime, while over two thirds (69%) heard or read racist remarks towards their community during the pandemic.
- The incidence of episodes of prejudice and discrimination that was reported to authorities or organisations was very low. Only 6 incidents were reported out of 71 potential cases.

[Click here](#) to visit the SAREC website where the full report, as well as summaries in English, Simplified and Traditional Chinese, are available to download.

EVENTS



Aberdeen City Health & Social Care Partnership is running a series of meetings of its **Locality Empowerment Groups** next week. Sessions for the North, South and Central Aberdeen localities will take place from **Tuesday, 27th - Thursday, 29th April**. [Click here](#) for more information or to sign up via Eventbrite.

ABDN CASE is hosting a workshop on Tackling Sexual Violence Against Men & Masculine-Aligned People next **Thursday, 29th April** from 6pm. The workshop is free to attend. [Click here](#) for more information.

Aberdeen Foyer REACH Online Course

Next month Aberdeen Foyer are launching their new REACH online course. This employability course is free to attend, and open to anyone in Aberdeen City or Aberdeenshire aged 16+ who is unemployed and wants to gain new qualifications. Participants in this college-accredited course will gain a City & Guilds Level 1 Certificate in Employability Skills. They will also be able to work towards other nationally recognised qualifications: REHIS Food Hygiene Certificate; First Aid at Work Certificate and ASDAN Volunteering Award.

The course will begin on **Monday, 24th May**. [Click here](#) to visit Aberdeen Foyer's website and learn more, or get in touch with Ann Marie at annmarie.morrison@aberdeenfoyer.com if you would like to sign up to the REACH course.



Grampian Pride Returns Next Month!

Grampian Pride 2021 will take place on **Saturday, 29th May**. Although coronavirus restrictions mean there will be no physical parade this year, the Pride organisers are planning a fantastic programme of virtual events to mark the occasion. [Click here](#) to visit the Grampian Pride website and find out more.

Grampian Pride is currently looking for artists and performers to feature at the online event. Please get in touch by sending an email to perform@grampianpride.org if you are interested in performing or would like to find out more.

There is also a fundraiser currently running to raise money for this year's Grampian Pride celebration. Team PRIDE will be collecting sponsorships to run, walk or cycle the 472.52 miles around Grampian collectively in 24hrs. [Click here](#) to find out how you can get involved in the fundraiser.

OPPORTUNITIES

Aberdeen Foyer are currently seeking a qualified counsellor to join their Young Persons Counselling Service. The deadline for applications is 5pm on **Monday, 26th April**. [Click here](#) for more information or to download an application form.

Turning Point Scotland currently have several vacancies for Lead Practitioners in Aberdeen. Two roles are available within their Aberdeen Outreach Housing Support team, and one within their Assertive Outreach Service. The deadline for applications is **Wednesday, 28th April**. [Click here](#) for more information or to apply.



for Scotland's mental health

SAMH is currently recruiting for two roles based in Aberdeenshire. The deadline for applications for the role of Counsellor is **Wednesday, 28th April**; and the deadline for the role of Resilience Coach is **Wednesday, 14th May**. [Click here](#) to view the vacancies and find out more.

Victim Support Scotland are currently recruiting a Support Coordinator based in Aberdeen to cover the Grampian, Orkney and Shetland locality. The deadline for applications is 5pm on **Wednesday, 28th April**. [Click here](#) for more information or to download an application pack.

THIRD SECTOR FUNDING

The **Scottish Government** are now accepting applications for their **Enabling Neighbourhoods and Communities Fund**. Small grants are available for groups who work to improve wellbeing in their local communities. [Click here](#) for more information or to apply.

The **Scottish Government** are still accepting applications for their **Adapt and Thrive Programme**. Specialist advice, grants and loans are available to third sector organisations across Scotland. The deadline for applications is **Monday, 21st June**. [Click here](#) for more information or to apply.

Impact Funding Partners are seeking applications to the **Social Isolation & Loneliness Fund**. Funding of up to £1,500 is available to help tackle social isolation, loneliness, and the impact of COVID-19 on older people. The deadline for applications is **Friday, 30th April**. [Click here](#) for more information or to apply.

BEMIS recently launched their new **Vaccine Information Fund**. This will fund projects which raise awareness of the COVID vaccine programme within ethnic minority communities. [Click here](#) for more information or to download an application form.