



## CONTACT:

### General Enquiries/Training:

[info@grec.co.uk](mailto:info@grec.co.uk)

01224 595505

### InTrans:

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

[in-trans@grec.co.uk](mailto:in-trans@grec.co.uk)

01224 576795

### Casework:

*Confidential advice, support and employability service.*

[casework@grec.co.uk](mailto:casework@grec.co.uk)

07857 180175

### Counselling:

*Confidential counselling for adults, children and young people.*

[pbooth@grec.co.uk](mailto:pbooth@grec.co.uk)

### Language & Integration:

*Free English language education up to four times per week.*

[language-cafe@grec.co.uk](mailto:language-cafe@grec.co.uk)

01224 576797

### Financial Inclusion:

[mmccall@grec.co.uk](mailto:mmccall@grec.co.uk)

01224 576796

## GREC Updates

Welcome to the August 2023 edition of the GREC Community Bulletin!

It's that time of year again when our **Annual General Meeting** is fast approaching! Join us at our office on **Wednesday 29th November** to find out what we've been up to over the last year.

In this bulletin we have updates on our **Language Cafe & Drop In** and a special spotlight article by our **No Recourse to Public Funds** Project Coordinator Susan Bains all about the work our NRPF Project does. You'll also be able to read an extended version of Susan's article on our website very soon.

We also have news about upcoming community events including **Black History Month**, **Hate Crime Awareness Week** and **Scottish Interfaith Week**. Thanks for reading!

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# GREC UPDATES

## NRPF Project: Tackling & Preventing Destitution

Have you ever heard of NRPF? Most people have never heard this term, let alone understand it. It stands for 'No Recourse to Public Funds' and applies to non-UK nationals living in the UK.

In a nutshell our project aims to explain NRPF properly and work in partnership with many organisations in the Grampian region to mitigate the problems it can cause when they arise. We also run a lived experience group where people with first hand experience of NRPF can share their expertise on these problems. Let's give an example:

Most international students have NRPF status, which for students restricts work to 20 hours a week. Many will encounter no problem during their study, but some may find themselves in financial difficulty due to a sudden crisis and they will not be able to access benefits or Local Authority homelessness support system when things go wrong.

## Language Cafe & Drop In

Do you want to practice your English, make new friends, or get help and advice? If so, you should join us at our weekly Language Cafe & Drop In!

The Language Cafe & Drop In runs every Thursday between 11am and 3pm at Aberdeen Arts Centre, 33 King Street. Our Language & Integration team run activities to help you improve your English, while our Caseworkers can give advice and support on a range of equality related issues.

Our resident artists from North East Culture Collective will also be on hand to lead you in fun creative activities, and on the last Thursday of every month we run special Family Sessions suitable for all ages- so you can bring the kids along too!

Started in July 2022 and supported by the Fairer Aberdeen Fund, our NRPF project builds on the work done by the No Recourse North East (NRNE) partnership since 2014. NRNE brought together over 40 third and public sector organisations working with non-UK nationals subject to NRPF, and possibly facing destitution due to this.

NRPF can be a complex subject. There is a misconception that 'no recourse to public funds' means everything provided by public money, but this is not the case - there is a fixed list of certain 'public funds' for immigration purposes and beyond that, people may access some help.

Please have a look at our website at [nrnepartnership.org](http://nrnepartnership.org) for resources and information, or contact me if you have any questions about NRPF, the lived experience group or about how we can help you or your organisation with training - by email at [sbains@grec.co.uk](mailto:sbains@grec.co.uk)

No Recourse  
North East  
Partnership



fairer  
ABERDEEN  
fund

Our Cafetistas also have the opportunity to go on field trips all over the North East. We recently took a trip to Banchory Barn, where Cafetistas watched a play and chatted with the creatives involved, as seen in the photo below.



# COMMUNITY UPDATES

## LOCAL IMPROVEMENT CONSULTATION

As part of their Local Outcome Improvement Plan refresh, **Community Planning Aberdeen** are hosting a series of drop-in engagement events for local residents at various locations across the city.

Community Planning Aberdeen is a partnership of public, private and third sector organisations and communities working together to improve lives across Aberdeen City. This is your chance to provide feedback to Community Planning Aberdeen partners on how they can help your communities.

Aberdeen North		
North Priority Neighbourhood Partnership	Saturday 7 October 2023 10am – 12pm	Cummings Park Community Centre AB16 7AS
North Locality Empowerment Group	Wednesday 1 November 2023 7 – 9 pm	Danestone Community Centre AB22 8ZP
Aberdeen Central		
Central Priority Neighbourhood Partnership	Saturday 14 October 2023 2 – 4pm	Tillydrone Community Campus AB24 2UY
Central Locality Empowerment Group	Saturday 28 October 2023 10am – 12pm	Powis Community Centre AB24 3YX
Aberdeen South		
Torry Partnership	Saturday 14 October 2023 10am – 12pm	Tulloch Primary Assembly Hall AB11 8FJ
South Locality Empowerment Group	Saturday 28 October 2023 2 – 4pm	Altens Community Centre AB12 3SE

## BLACK HISTORY MONTH

October is Black History Month, and both **Robert Gordon University** and the **University of Aberdeen** are running events throughout the month to mark the occasion.

Follow the hyperlinks above to find out what's happening around Aberdeen for Black History Month 2023!

## SCOTTISH INTERFAITH WEEK

Scottish Interfaith Week 2023 is coming up next month. The week runs between the 12th-19th November, and this year's theme is "community".

Aberdeen Interfaith will be running a series of events throughout the week, and are also celebrating their 30th anniversary this year! **Click here** to view the schedule of events happening locally.



The schedule for the engagement sessions is available in the table opposite. Community Planning Aberdeen are also running an online consultation for those unable to attend in person, which is open for responses from now until the **5th November**.

**Click here** for more information, or scan the QR code above to access the online consultation.



## HATE CRIME AWARENESS WEEK

National Hate Crime Awareness Week 2023 is happening soon, from Saturday 14th-21st October. This week is an opportunity to support and empower communities and individuals affected by hate crime- something GREC is proud to do every day of the year!

**Click here** to access National Hate Crime Awareness Week information and resources from Stop Hate UK.