



News From GREC

Welcome to the latest edition of the GREC Bulletin!

The bulletin is where we share updates of what we've been up to recently, as well as up-coming opportunities and events.

This bulletin reaches GREC members, partners and community contacts, but we're also keen to hear and share news and events from community organisations, so please get in touch with us (info@grec.co.uk) if you would like us to publish some information about other relevant events.

www.grec.co.uk

[FACEBOOK.COM/GRAMPIANREC](https://www.facebook.com/GRAMPIANREC)

[TWITTER: @GRAMPIANREC](https://twitter.com/GRAMPIANREC)

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 and support service (Aberdeen).

casework@grec.co.uk
07857 180175

Counselling

Confidential counselling for adults (Aberdeen), children and young people (Grampian).

pbooth@grec.co.uk
01224 595505

Language and Integration

Free English language learning opportunities.

language-cafe@grec.co.uk
01224 576797

Financial Inclusion

mmccall@grec.co.uk
01224 576796

Community Gathering - May 13



Community Planning
Aberdeen

COMMUNITY GATHERING

Saturday 13 May

10am-1.30pm

Cowdray Hall
(via Aberdeen Art Gallery)

Free
admission

Drop in
and enjoy
the fun

Tea, coffee,
food, stalls,
raffles, and
activities for
children

COME AND JOIN US

Find out what's going on in your community, connect with
community groups and find out how to volunteer.

Sign up to participate in workshops on the day →



NIHR | National Institute
for Health Research



GREC is excited to be part of Community Planning Aberdeen's first Community Gathering event, taking place on Saturday, 13 May. The event will run from 10:00am to 1:30pm at the Cowdray Hall (within Aberdeen Art Gallery).

The Community Gathering is part of a new Community Engagement Strategy for Aberdeen. The event aims to be a space for communities to share the great work that they are doing, to promote opportunities for other community members to get involved, and for Community Planning Aberdeen to hear from communities about how engagement can be improved in the future.

The event is free and family-friendly, with refreshments provided. Drop in on the day or sign up here:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/community-gathering-tickets-584888305667>

Iftar event - reflections

GREC were honoured to be invited to an Iftar (breaking of the fast during Ramadan) celebration held at Aberdeen Town House on April 12. Our team member Louise Henrard attended the event and shared the following reflections after the event

This was the first Iftar held in the Town Hall in Aberdeen. It felt a quite a historic moment for the Muslim community and our host, Steve Delaney, the Depute Lord Provost.

It was a small affair shared by around 20 people who were local councillors and members from the Muslim community. In certain cases, both. It felt quite special for GREC to be invited. For myself, still a relatively new member of the team, it reflected what our values of improving community relations mean in practice.

We learnt from Imam Ibrahim and Councillor Fatima Joji about what Ramadan is and also what it means to them as individuals. Some attendees from the AMIC (Aberdeen Mosque and Islamic Centre) Board of Trustees also answered questions

Following on from the various speeches, we broke the fast with delicious dates. Then, it was prayer time and after that, we all shared food and continued talking and sharing at our respective tables.

Overall, it was a very cosy atmosphere (to quote one of the attendees). I feel everyone who attended left with a renewed sense of friendship.

There are plans to make next year's event bigger but as the first of its kind for the Council, it was intentional to keep it small. I felt very fortunate to have been able to attend.

New Scots resettlement updates and welcome event

The past few years have seen significant changes in terms of refugee resettlement and asylum dispersal in the North East of Scotland. This has included the establishment of “contingency” hotels in the region accommodating people seeking asylum. In addition to a hotel in Aberdeen being used for this purpose for 18 months, hotels are now being re-purposed in Aberdeenshire and Moray, Further hotel capacity is also being identified in Aberdeen.

We recently published our position paper on New Scots resettlement, which you can read on our website here: https://grec.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/position_paper2.pdf

GREC was proud to work with the Shared Futures partnership to develop an event entitled “Welcoming people seeking asylum and other New Scots to Aberdeen”. The event attracted over 70 people, who heard presentations from Scottish Refugee Council’s Policy Officer, the City of Sanctuary Co-ordinator for Scotland, the New Scots Leads at Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Council, as well as several inputs from GREC staff members.

A recording of the event can be found here: <https://youtu.be/bQVjOITYVy8>

A follow up networking event is scheduled for June 20th as part of Refugee Festival Week Scotland.

WELCOMING PEOPLE SEEKING ASYLUM TO ABERDEEN

Tuesday 25th April, 6pm

Join us on Zoom to learn about resettlement in Aberdeen, and how to provide an active welcome to asylum seekers and other New Scots in our communities.

Follow the link below to book your ticket, or email dblack@grec.co.uk with any questions.

TICKETS:
[HTTPS://SHARED FUTURES APRIL 25.EVENTBRITE.CO.UK](https://sharedfuturesapril25.eventbrite.co.uk)



Project spotlight: GREC Drop-in and Language Cafe

Since September last year, we have been piloting a new way of delivering our Language Cafe project, bringing it together with our Casework (advice and help) service for a full-day drop-in at Aberdeen Arts Centre.

Since the re-location of our office to 680 King Street (within Langstane Housing Association's office), we were keen that there was one day a week that people could find GREC right in the City Centre. The Arts Centre has been an excellent host, and it has been great to build up a partnership with them over the past 9 months.

Maintaining the approach of previous Language Cafes, each week sees a different topic being explored, often with presentations and activities by guest speakers or organisations. Our most recent sessions have included topics such as financial inclusion, education in Scotland and we celebrated International Women's Day.

Members of GREC Casework team are available throughout the day to answer informal queries, provide information on a variety of topics for people living in Aberdeen and to explore more complex issues in a private setting.

The new set up has been popular to date, with around 35 to 60 participants every week. People attending come from a variety of backgrounds and they get assistance from volunteers to help them boost their confidence using the language.

We've also been getting creative with North East Culture Collective, encouraging participants to share their culture and heritage whilst improving their confidence to use English.

With the summer approaching, the Drop-in and Language Cafe sessions will be adapted to ensure that we take advantage of the weather so make sure you join our mailing list or follow us on Facebook to keep up to date with weekly events.

grec

Drop-in & Language Café

Thursdays, 10 am - 4 pm
Aberdeen Arts Centre
33 King St, Aberdeen, AB24 5AA

*Free and Confidential.
Language support available.*

Do you need help with...

- English language practice?
- Finding English classes?
- Information about life in Aberdeen?
- Knowing where to find help?
- Dealing with racism, homophobia, or other kinds of prejudice?

... Come and join us!

For more info, please phone: 01224 595505
or email: lid@grec.co.uk
or language-cafe@grec.co.uk

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