



# Aberlour News

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# Cash Now Families Always



Ahead of the Scottish Parliamentary elections, Aberlour launched its **Cash Now, Families Always** manifesto, which, as CEO, I am proud to support and promote.

Recent research by Professor Morag Treanor has highlighted the stark level of poverty and deprivation for so many families across Scotland. Before Covid-19 around 1 in 4 children in Scotland were living in poverty.

As a result of the pandemic, many more families across the country are struggling to make ends meet and risk falling, or being pushed deeper, into poverty.

Aberlour has taken urgent action asking all political parties to commit to the manifesto's six points to help struggling families across Scotland as the cost of living continues to rise and the pressures on families continue to mount.

**"We think the best way we can do this is by making sure families have the means to provide for themselves – Cash Now – and that families who need extra help get the support they need, when they need it and how they want it – Families Always."**

As part of our ongoing work to influence Scottish Government policy, and to overcome poverty, disadvantage, and discrimination, we will also demand that our new government doubles the Scottish Child Payment to £20 per child per week to help low-income families survive. You can help us achieve this by signing our petition and sharing it with your friends, family and networks and encourage them to do the same.

While low-income families welcome the new £10 per week per child benefit, increasing the Scottish Child Payment to £20 per child per week by 2022 will enable families to do more than just survive and it is estimated that it could lift an additional 20,000 children out of poverty.

Right now, thousands of families in Scotland are living in the grip of poverty and despair and are being forced to choose between feeding or clothing their children or heating their homes. This can't be right.

Together, with your help, we can change minds. Thanks for your support!

*SallyAnn Kelly*

**SallyAnn Kelly**  
Aberlour CEO



## Haley's Story

Single mum Haley, from Falkirk, has really struggled financially and has found it hard to keep her six-year-old daughter and baby girl fed and clothed whilst paying the gas and electricity bills.

She has been given help from Aberlour's Urgent Assistance Fund with basic essentials such as food, baby clothes and cot, a child's bed, clothing, toiletries and household cleaning equipment.

Already living hand to mouth and finding it hard to make ends meet, Haley worries that even the slightest set back would leave her and her family desperate for more help.

Doubling the Scottish Child Payment from £10 to £20 per week per child would give Haley, and thousands of other low-income families, peace of mind and a chance to provide for her children properly.

**"An additional £10 per child per week would make a massive difference to the girls and me. The cost of living is going up all the time and just knowing that we could afford everyday essentials like food and clothing, without having to rely on charities, would be so good."**

**On behalf of all families who are finding it tough financially we would be really grateful if you could sign this petition. Thank you."**

**Sign our petition...**

to ask for the Scottish Child Payment to be doubled and help lift families and children out of poverty  
[www.aberlour.org.uk/petition](http://www.aberlour.org.uk/petition)



**The impact of the pandemic on Scottish families, one year on**

Before COVID-19, around **1 in 4 children in Scotland were living in poverty**

**As a result of the pandemic and successive lockdowns, many more families are struggling to make ends meet and risk falling, or being pushed deeper, into poverty and debt.**

Employment and job security for these families was fragile anyway. The pandemic caused income opportunities to dry up overnight, with widespread redundancies, reductions in working hours and dependency on Universal Credit (with a minimum 5 week wait for payment). Families have been left without the means to provide basics for their children, like food, clothing and heating.

**“Can I please say a MASSIVE THANK YOU for making this award – my young person and her son can have hot meals and now can get cleaning products to keep their home safe”**  
Mary, Participation Worker

Thanks to you, our generous donors, Aberlour continues to provide support for these families through our Urgent Assistance Fund, which gives small grants to families with children under 21 in desperate financial need.

At the height of demand for the fund we saw a 1,400% rise in applications as families, left with nothing to support their children, applied in their thousands. Some families have needed our support several times.

The pandemic highlighted a level of need across families in Scotland that is fundamental and absolute, and the problem is not going away; in fact, with the furlough scheme ending in September 2021, we expect demand for our fund to rise again.

The generosity of Aberlour supporters in donating to our Urgent Assistance Fund has been vital for many families’ survival through successive lockdowns.

**On behalf of all the families and children you have helped last year, thank you.**

**Watch our video**  
Our thank you message to you – our generous supporters.  
[aberlour.org.uk/thanks](http://aberlour.org.uk/thanks)



**In the last year...**

We granted a total of **£942,826** to 3,362 families with 7,346 children from every Local Health Authority in Scotland.



 We have given out **£3,722** per day to families.

We were saddened but not surprised by why families were applying...

- 60%** couldn't feed their children
- 50%** couldn't afford to keep their homes warm for their children
- 29%** couldn't afford children's clothing
- 21%** applied because their children didn't have a bed to sleep in
- 10%** needed baby supplies and milk



## Aberlour helps family from Sierra Leone make Glasgow their home

In February 2020, just before the first national lockdown, Zaria\*, Idris\* (16), Kadie\*(15), Marie\* (14) and Binta\* (12) arrived in Glasgow from Sierra Leone.

Sadly, all four children, who are not related, had lost their parents. Vulnerable and without their own families Zaria had taken them all in and they had lived together as a family for several years in Sierra Leone. However, it was no longer safe for the family to stay in their own country and they had to seek safety elsewhere.

“The children were in danger living in Sierra Leone. My husband and I knew I had to get them out of the country. So, he and a friend helped us escape. We had to get a flight to Europe and travelled to Scotland from there. However, when we arrived in Scotland the people who helped us get here took our passports and left us” explained Zaria, guardian of the four children.

On arrival into Glasgow the family were supported by Aberlour’s Scottish Guardianship Service. While this service usually only helps refugee children who have arrived in Scotland without their parents or a guardian, the Home Office asked our service to step in and support the family.

“When we first arrived in Glasgow, I was very excited. It was the first time I felt safe” said Idris. “But it was very, very cold. The jacket I had was no use for the very cold weather.”

Megan, from our Guardianship Service, helped the children understand their rights and assisted with legal processes for their asylum claim.

She provided the link between all the agencies which the family had to navigate (e.g. Home Office, Social Work) to ensure the family could access all the support they needed and feel safe.

Once lockdown was lifted, Megan introduced Idris to Johnny from the Aberlour Family Support Service based in the city. “I love football and I was looking to join a team. Johnny helped me find a local team and get to know the other players” said Idris.

**“I am really proud of how well we are all doing in school.”**

Johnny and his colleague, Julie, were introduced to the rest of the family. They quickly realised that the family needed more help to make Glasgow their home. The family needed passports; to register with the Home Office to gain the official papers to allow them to go to school and to register with a doctor.

This was one of the most important things Aberlour helped with. Now all the children are in full-time education at a local school and registered with their local GP.

“I am really proud at how well we are all doing at school. We all love going. I love reading; John Grisham is my favourite author at the moment” said Idris.

**“Aberlour has helped us make Glasgow our home.”**

“Not only have they helped the children into education and get the medical treatment they need, but they also helped with furniture for the house, food and clothes. They give us advice about lots of things we don’t know so we can settle here. Very importantly, I now have guardianship of the children so we can stay together” said Zaria.

Johnny and Julie just want the children to be kids and enjoy their new home.

“Recently Johnny got us bikes! In Sierra Leone girls are not allowed to ride bikes. I fell off a few times, but I loved it and can’t wait to ride my bike again.” said Binta.

The future is looking bright for this young family.

“Kadie, Binta and me all want to be doctors. We know we need to work hard at school, but we want to be doctors and stay here in Glasgow.” said Marie.

**And to Aberlour’s supporters the family want to say...**

“Thank you. Thank you for letting Johnny and Julie come into our lives. Without them we would not have the support to go to school, to go to the doctors, to make a home. We feel safe here because of the help we have had and now Glasgow is our home.”

### Support Aberlour

By supporting Aberlour you will ensure we are there for the long haul. Donate by visiting [www.aberlour.org.uk/donate](http://www.aberlour.org.uk/donate)

\*Names changed to protect anonymity.

# New service opens in Angus to keep families together

We are delighted to open a new service in partnership with Angus Council, to support families in the council area.

The new service will help struggling families to stay together, by giving them the help and support they need, when they need it, to prevent a child from being taken into care.

Aberlour's approach is to create positive partnerships with families through genuinely listening to them, understanding their needs, and jointly finding solutions to challenges they experience.

Our Family Workers will spend time with children, young people, parents, and carers helping them develop their strengths and engage with their local communities.

The service will help families build safe, nurturing, loving homes, where children can thrive, and families can stay together.

This new service builds on the success of our other similar services across Scotland, which are designed by listening attentively to what families tell us they need. Families have said their problems do not wait until Monday morning, so the service is available and accessible in the morning, evenings, weekends and on public holidays.



**Jim Wallace, Director of Children and Families at Aberlour said:**

"Aberlour is delighted to be working in partnership with Angus Council to introduce this new tried and tested service to families in Angus."

"Aberlour will provide the right support in the right way at the time families need it most. We believe all families have amazing strengths and capacities and we will focus on helping them through tough times and overcoming the difficulties that they face."

**Kathryn Lindsay, Director of Children, Families & Justice at Angus Council added:**

"In Angus we want to provide the best outcomes for our children and young people and their families. We know families face many challenges which is why we are working with Aberlour to ensure they get the right help and support at the right time, helping prevent problems becoming crises and allowing families to stay together."

"I'm glad you are here, thanks for your help"

Parent

"I am enjoying the walks and talking to you"

Young Person

"I feel more confident to have your support"

Parent

## Aberlour supporter, Rebecca, shares her experience...

of having her will prepared by professional solicitors free of charge



"Last year my dad had a heart attack and my world just stopped. Thankfully, he survived and recovered, but one of the first things he did when he got home from the hospital was to begin making sure his affairs were in order. He knew that sort of admin was the last thing we'd have wanted to think about should the worst have happened.

"This experience reminded me of how fragile life is. I'm only in my mid-30s, but I realised that if anything were to happen to my husband and me, there was nothing in place to say what we'd want to happen to our baby and house.

"We support Aberlour and found out recently that they offer a **free will writing service in partnership with trusted solicitors.**

"It was really handy to use their solicitors' free will writing service to make these provisions: the service was friendly, straightforward, and sensitive.

**"Making a donation to Aberlour after I'd made my will was a no brainer, I'd made plans for my own child's future while making a positive difference for another child's future"**

If you are interested in booking your free will appointment with a solicitor, you can contact Aberlour's Legacy Manager Dario Lozza who'll be happy to help you on **0777 222 6632**, or by emailing him at **legacy@aberlour.org.uk**.

You can also contact him if you already have a will, but your circumstances have changed and you would like to have it reviewed by a solicitor.



**Get involved!**

As the weather starts to improve and the days become longer, it's a great time to get out and about. We've got lots of exciting challenges for you to take part in throughout 2021 to raise vital funds for children and young people across Scotland.

### Introducing... the aberlour big cycle

We're so excited to tell you about our amazing new cycling challenge, the Aberlour Big Cycle.

The Aberlour Big Cycle will take place on Sunday 29 August 2021 starting at the beautiful Lochore Meadows Country Park, just outside Lochgelly in Fife. The event has three routes to choose from: 5, 20 or 45 kilometres.

The shorter route takes place within the park but for those completing the two longer routes, you'll pass through some beautiful Fife countryside and picturesque towns and villages. Whether you're an absolute beginner or an experienced cyclist, this family oriented, community cycling event is open to everyone.



#### Sign up today!

To register for the Aberlour Big Cycle, visit [www.aberlour.org.uk/aberlour-big-cycle](http://www.aberlour.org.uk/aberlour-big-cycle)



In 2021, The Kiltwalk is set to bring both a virtual and live event back to Scotland.

The virtual Kiltwalk will take place from 23 – 25 April 2021 and you can take on any Kiltwalk inspired challenge from home. Whether it's running, cycling, jumping on a trampoline or even a family scavenger hunt, you decide your challenge – anything goes!

Or join us in Glasgow on Sunday 29 August 2021 as Kiltwalkers from all over Scotland are reunited for Scotland's Kiltwalk.

Visit [www.aberlour.org.uk/events](http://www.aberlour.org.uk/events) and help children across Scotland facing poverty, disadvantage and discrimination.



Put on your tartan for Scotland's children!  
For every £1 you raise, the Hunter Foundation will donate a further 50p making it one of the best ways to fundraise for Aberlour.

### Start and Don't Stop

2020 was a year like no other and one that many of us will want to forget.

With the start of 2021 not being what we had hoped for, many of us have decided to use our time spent at home to learn something new, do something daring or improve our health and well-being. Aberlour's Start and Don't Stop challenges you to set yourself a goal and not stop until you've achieved it, raising money for Aberlour as you go.

Whether you decide to get healthy and have fun by taking part in the Aberlour Big Cycle, take part in our One Shirt One Month style challenge or fundraise virtually by holding a quiz night with family and friends you'll be helping vulnerable children across Scotland.

Visit [www.aberlour.org.uk/start-and-dont-stop](http://www.aberlour.org.uk/start-and-dont-stop) to get involved.



If you have any queries about any of our events, email us at [fundraising@aberlour.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@aberlour.org.uk) and we'll be happy to help.

\*Please note, events could be subject to change in line with Government COVID-19 guidelines.

# I'd like to make a gift to help children in Scotland



## 1 I would like to make a regular gift

I would like to give:  £5  £10  £12  £15  £20 or my choice £ \_\_\_\_\_ each month

Starting on 1<sup>st</sup> / 15<sup>th</sup> of the month

Name(s) of account holder(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Bank/Building Society account number

Sort code

### Instruction to your Bank/Building Society

Please pay Aberlour Child Care Trust Direct Debits from the account detailed in this instruction subject to the safeguards assured by the Direct Debit Guarantee. I understand that this instruction may remain with Aberlour Child Care Trust and, if so, details will be passed electronically to my Bank or Building Society.

## 2 I would like to make a one-off gift

I enclose a cheque for:  £15  £25  £50 or my choice £ \_\_\_\_\_ made payable to Aberlour

Please debit my  Mastercard /  Visa /  Maestro /  CAFcard  £15  £25  £50 or my choice £ \_\_\_\_\_

Name on card \_\_\_\_\_

Card number

Start date

Expiry date

## 3 Your contact details

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ Tel \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

We'd love to keep in touch. Please tick the box below to indicate how you prefer to receive further communication from Aberlour.

by post

by telephone

by email

You can change your preferences at any time just by contacting us at [hello@aberlour.org.uk](mailto:hello@aberlour.org.uk) or 0141 260 9190. We store your details securely and will never share them with any third parties for the purposes of their marketing. See website for full privacy statement.

## 4 *giftaid it*

I want to make my gift worth 25% extra at no cost to me.

I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax in the current tax year than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

Signature(s) of account holder(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Thank you

Completed forms can be sent to  
Aberlour, Kintail House, Forthside Way, Stirling, FK8 1QZ.

Aberlour Child Care Trust | Scottish Charity no: SC007991 | Company reg no: SC312912  
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Spring 2021

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