Dads Care formerly known as Dads work Aberdeen an ex Aberdeen Social work run group who provided support to fathers with care and their children.

Dads Care now a registered charity (SC043682) has a wealth of knowledge over several years working with all kinds of fathers and social backgrounds providing the frameworks for positive outcomes and working towards GIRFEC standards.

Dads Care is one of the very few charities in Scotland that has a proven track record in helping men overcome their reluctance to engage in both personal or in group workshops.

Dads Care are fully trained mentors one of the first charities to embrace this high value based skills providing the new intakes with proper evaluations and signposting if our services does not meet the requirements of our respective clients.

Dads Care operates in various locations around Aberdeen and the Shire but As we are a Scottish charity any like-minded charity or group can ask us for advice and further information which may include traveling to their places to provide workshops and further guidance if required.

Dads Care believes very strongly in further adult education this gives all our staff and clients the confidence of what can be achieved by little steps at first progressing to higher qualifications, in the future this has many benefits including opening up the possibility of better financial opportunities and better prospects for their children.

Dads Care works with others in many different fields we work closely with the WEA workers education association and Grampian Opportunities (GO) we actively engage with the HMIE to make sure we are providing the right level of educational requirements for all our end users and staff.

Dads Care provides high levels of interactions with dads and their children we do this because family life is busy, these small positive steps tend to improve family life and build stronger relationships with fathers and their children.

Only one in eight dads takes the lead on reading with their children, according to research by Book trust. That's a very depressing statistic, Given what we know about how important it is for fathers to aid in their Children's learning and development from an early age, at Dads Care we hope to change this in the very near future.
Dads Care runs healthy cooking groups we plan to expand this service in the
near future as we have found the dads have been becoming experts in their
own kitchens, everyone now sees the benefits of healthy eating and making
sure their children get their five a day in fruit and vegetables brings huge
benefits in cutting child behaviour problems, we give free fruit bags to all our
clients at least once a week using the local Cfine charity.

Dads Care provides other kitchen education where we run day groups with
the Food Standards Agency where fathers engage and learn how to prepare
foods and storage thereof, we also run full hygiene classes so our clients can
either help their partners or themselves with food preparation, storage and
safe clean up protocols to help protect all their family from dangerous cross
contamination and lessen the risks of food related Illnesses.

This also helps with partnerships and relationship building by sharing
workloads! Most service providers in the above fields have commented we
are one of the very few male groups to provide this service in the entire
country.

Dads Care believes passionately in sporting activities, we strongly believe in
healthy bodies helps one to a healthy mind.

We have discovered that men that refuses to engage in sharing their views on
parental issues with others in group work start to engage with others after a
friendly game or two this is because they have to work as a team they quickly
discover working with others has many benefits they may have forgot about
from or after leaving school, it may be small steps but we have had fast
results from this approach this helps in growing confidence and develop
higher personal capacity, showing greater willingness to help plan and
organise group activities, join other community groups and take up adult
learning opportunities.

Dads Care trustees are a highly motivated team every one of us has come
through our program together this also provides new users to one day have
the confidence to run their own workshops in other locations as we provide full
training at the same time as doing the group work because we empower them
over time to be DadsCare facilitators in the future.

Dads care activities tend to be more of the outdoor variety rather than indoor
all our day trips involves some form of relationship and team building
exercises.

We have found dads and children faced with challenging tasks like coaster-
nearing and gorge walking builds very strong father and child bonds that are
daring and fun that last longer in one's child's minds than other mundane
family outdoor activities.

DadsCare services are badly required in all areas of Scotland and beyond,
Dads Care is unique in getting fathers to engage not only with other dads but
more importantly with their children, happy children equals happy parents,
which in turn uses less resources, less court time and less social work involvement.

DadsCare works with others that may have come from the criminal justice system Dads Care can be proud of many years of success in this regards because we build confidence in them to overcome what to them is unsurmountable hurdles and biased ideas move forward, gain new skills in both parental and socially acceptable behaviour towards others in our Communities so much so we have one of the lowest reoffending rates of any group in Scotland.

THE FUTURE
We all want Dads Care to have a long and very successful life span we hope to do this by building strong foundations with our present and future partners which at this time includes:

Aberlour Trust;
Ashgrove Family Centre;
ACVO;
C-FINE;
Children in Scotland;
Clik
Cornhill Community Centre;
COSLA;
CO-OP Media Group;
Co-Network
Early Years Collaborative;
Fatherhood Institute;
FNS
FSA;
Grampian Opportunities;
HALLA;
Homestart;
Kaimhill Learning Centre;
NCT;
NHS Scotland;
Scottish Government;
Penumbra;
WEA

The Scottish Government recently stated they were crying out for men to engage, local government up and down the land has tried it for years with very little success and local communities are desperate for charities like ours to encourage men to be all they can be.

The Fatherhood Institute said we were one of the very few male groups working in Europe that had the perfect working model and that was three years ago where we have since went from strength to strength and honed and complemented our skills with educational qualifications financed by the head of service at Aberdeen Childcare Services.
SOME INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT SINGLE PARENTS.

There are 3 million children living in a single parent household (23% of all dependent children)

Around 8 per cent of single parents (186,000) are fathers. The average duration of single parenthood is around 5 years. Only 6.5 per cent of all births are registered alone, and 10 per cent are registered to two parents who live apart.

Single fathers are more likely to be widowed than single mothers (12 per cent of single fathers are widowed, compared with 5 per cent of single mothers), and their children tend to be older.

Just under half of couples divorcing in 2009 had at least one child aged under 16. Over a fifth (21 per cent) of the children in 2009 were under five and 63 per cent were under eleven.

DadsCare breaks down most of these barriers by providing core support by engagement, by helping dads become more aware, by changing their daily routines and finally by helping them develop better relationships with their children and facilitating closer networking relationships with other charities and groups and finally helping all dads to self-support each other now and in the future.

Last year DadsCare was asked by the Scottish government to take part in a short film, we were delighted with the response at the official screening although the film company claimed on the credits we were from Aberdeen Social Work this was incorrect as we were a registered charity at the time you can see this short film and see the positive outcomes we develop at: http://vimeo.com/channels/537658/#/channels/537658/67453431

Virtually no other charity or group can do what DadsCare have been providing for the last several years, we are current and very unique!

DadsCare breaks down barriers.

DadsCare makes a difference to everyone that accesses our services. DadsCare actively supports free adult further education from Int 1 level ¾ and upwards so they may further their own aims and goals and perhaps help their families to gain a stronger long lasting future within whatever family unit they are currently supporting.

In the last 12 months we have completed and passed every WEA education course with 100% attendance and no drop-outs in WORKING WITH OTHER and INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY to SCQF Level 4 and everyone having 12 National credit points.
This funding was given by Anne Donaldson children’s service manager ACC which we are truly grateful for to her. This was the first real qualifications most of the fathers ever attained in their entire lives.

The feedback has been marvellous most have said they feel like they can now go on a do more as they never thought it was possible to succeed but their relationship with their children has blossomed as older kids are understand more what their fathers went through and a very proud of their academic achievements and hard work which in turn is pushing them on in their own class rooms.

Dads Care fully engages with many partners, we are members of Children in Scotland and have taken active roles in all kinds of workshops as we are recognised as being leaders in the field of getting men to engage no matter their respective backgrounds and giving them the power to be all they can be.

DadsCare provides better outcomes and better futures for the family unit and can evidence it!

DadsCare has plans to help businesses with new fathers as everyone can benefit from our programs, companies lose to many working hours due to new fathers not being able to cope especially with new-born babies, we can help them directly or signpost them to other services, currently there is no service we are aware off that offers this type of services.

Without DadsCare, who will take up and do this work?

Equal Opportunities.

There is no denying men with sole care in particular feel they are victims of the system and that’s especially true if the men have come from being either referred through the criminal justice or any kind of social work involvement and these are well documented and mostly understood.

At DadsCare we don't dwell on the negatives we quickly find what they are good at with their children and build /instil that confidence so they project themselves better and fully engage with all services at core meetings.

On issues they are struggling with either signpost or one of our trustees will work directly with the client in a form of a mentor, mentee relationship. After a short while most men only project positive outcomes and have a greater understanding of what the processes are and why it is done that way, we don't have to agree any of the procedures are correct but the vast majority learn to work with others and complete the tasks that any directives are asked of them, this frees up services to do other things and makes dadsCare a cost effective solution going forward.

FUNDING
Our biggest costs is transport and food. Every organisation that has ever tried to get men to engage have found it virtually impossible to get men to turn up to events no matter what they try, in order for us to succeed in our aims and goals we need to pick them up and return.

This very costly and time consuming and the fact Aberdeen is not as small as some might think makes it even harder. Fresh food and fruit plays a big part in our educational program this has huge benefits for all group participants including their families and especially their children.

Unlike most other charities we try to use buildings that are free to use, ACC has recently stopped charities from accessing free lets and now charging £12 per hour, we are trying very hard to find a base at this time, not what most charities would say but we are being honest about our current needs.

Bad news is our charity is running out of funds fast, we may be experts at fathers problems but are novices at funding application's not helped by Aberdeen City Council interfering with our bank account for over a year, RBS has now given us written proof they were breaching our data protected information and blocking our bank account at the councils say so.

Up to this date Aberdeen City Council has intercepted over £9000 that was claimed using our charity name DadsCare and has so far refused any communication regards to this or repayment schedule and last week we reported this to Audit Scotland and the ACC chief executive, Valarie Watts.

Can the committee advise/recommend on our funding issues going forward?

DadsCare
5 March 2014