



## Letter of Support

Date: 7<sup>th</sup> June 2021

Gael Og  
Highland Rail House  
Station Square  
Inverness  
IV1 1LE  
01463 717227  
Fax: 01463 236335  
[www.actionforchildren.org.uk](http://www.actionforchildren.org.uk)

Action for Children run 7 different projects/services from our Gael Og service in Inverness where we work with vulnerable children and families funded by Highland Council, Scottish Government and the local authority (Inverness and other parts of Highlands). Scottish Government generally invest in communities and have found that over the past 18 months COVID has put more pressures and increased demand for our services.

Food poverty is one of our biggest issues, but this is not just about giving handouts but involving those affected so they are empowered and families are supported - this idea of 'field to fork' fits with this gap as it gives people the chance to have a bit of control.

When I first made contact I was originally looking for allotments as something that would fit with our services and when I came across the information on Knocknagael I got in touch as it ticks all the boxes for what we are looking for. We believe that Knocknagael add another dimension to the project on access to food/food poverty and also that that we are looking for outdoor community spaces as a resource for volunteers getting together.

The location of the site is ideal as it is close enough to be accessible from the town centre but is also part of the countryside and provides access to the outdoors which many of the deprived communities they work with have limited experience with.

Going forward we will continue to the focus on looking at outdoors and outside spaces, advocating these as a way to work with families and volunteers to enable them to continue to do their work and are keen on outside community spaces.

Both myself and Action for Children are very keen on engaging with the Knocknagael project and putting our weight behind to support the project.

**Grahame Cooper**

**Children Services Manager**