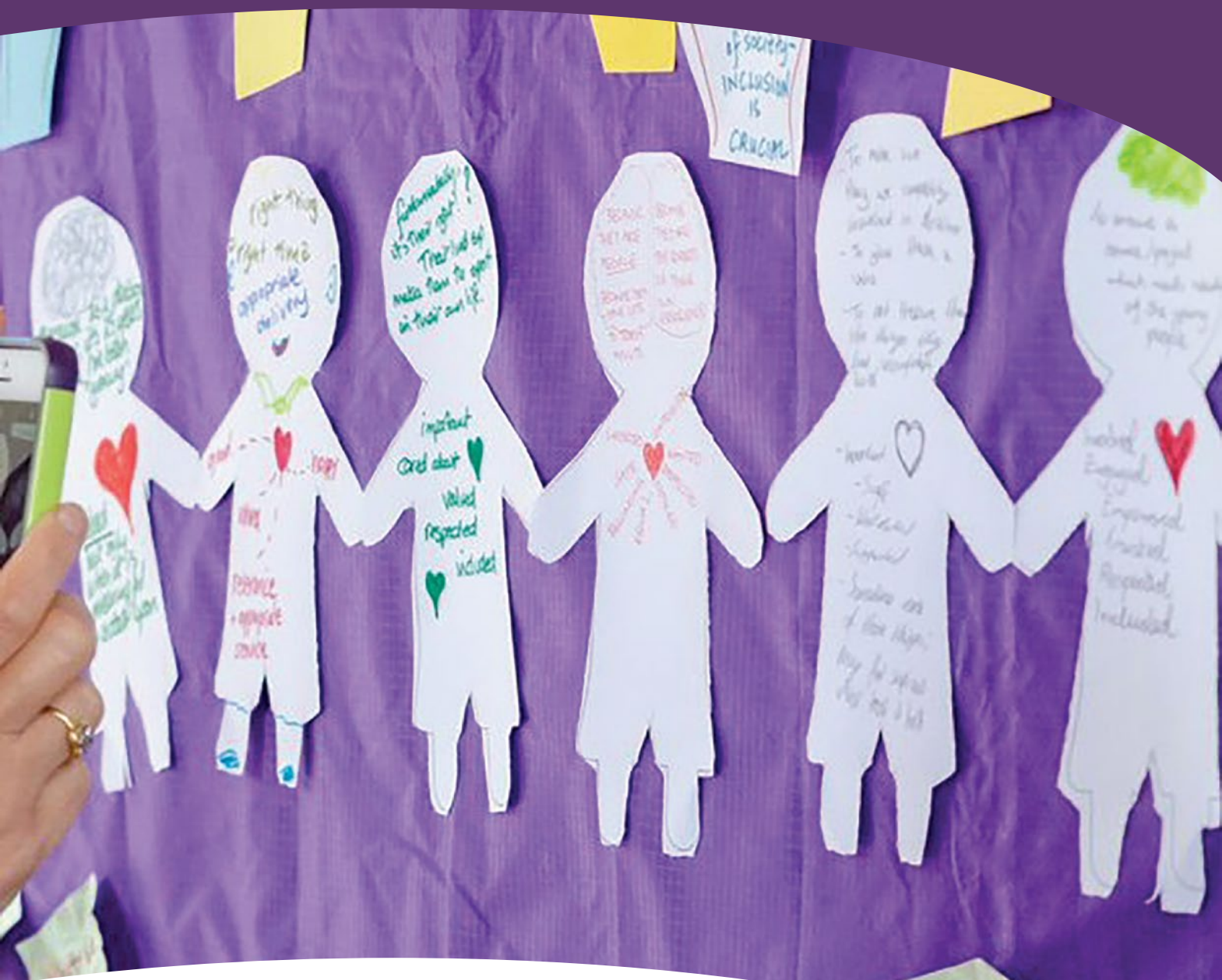


Annual Impact Summary 2021



CORRA
FOUNDATION
voice • power • change

A look back at 2021

Corra's ten-year strategy is a response to the world we live in, and to the one we want to play a part in building. It's long term because making a difference on big challenges takes time.



Between 2020 and 2030 Corra is striving to support three big changes:

The power to create change rests with people themselves

Change starts with people, and this means we *all* need to be able to participate. Corra works to support people to create change and challenge the barriers that get in the way.

People with ideas for radical change are supported, skilled, connected, and confident

Bold change is needed to tackle the big challenges facing society. The people most affected by these challenges are the ones with the expertise that could support radical solutions. Corra works to support approaches that offer trust, time and shifts of power.

People are working together to respond to the big challenges facing Scotland

Corra believes that working alongside diverse people, communities and partners is crucial. The most powerful way to find solutions is by working collaboratively and bringing lived expertise to the table.

During 2021 we focused on:

- Supporting connections and reconnections within and alongside communities.
- Working alongside people with lived expertise, including through participatory and community-led grant making.
- Striving to embed Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) across all areas of our work and continuing to take action to contribute to racial justice.
- Collaborating to try and help influence positive lasting change on issues such as human rights, climate change, poverty and drugs and alcohol.



Carbrain Community Council

1. Grant Making



Delivered **24** grant programmes



Distributed over **£35m** in grants



78% success rate for organisations with income less than £100,000

Grants programmes during 2021

From small grassroots programmes to large multi-year funding opportunities, we received over **2,000 applications**, seeking in excess of **£60m**.

Pandemic Support

- Scottish Government Armed Forces Resilience Fund
- Scottish Government Travelling Showpeople Fund
- Scottish Government Third Sector Community Recovery Fund
- The Equity Programme

Children, young people & families

- Scottish Government Children, Young People, Families and Early Intervention and Adult Learning and Empowering Communities Fund.
- The Promise Partnership
- STV Children's Appeal Community Fund
- Supporting birth parents whose child(ren) have been permanently removed from their care
- Partnership Drugs Initiative

Working alongside communities

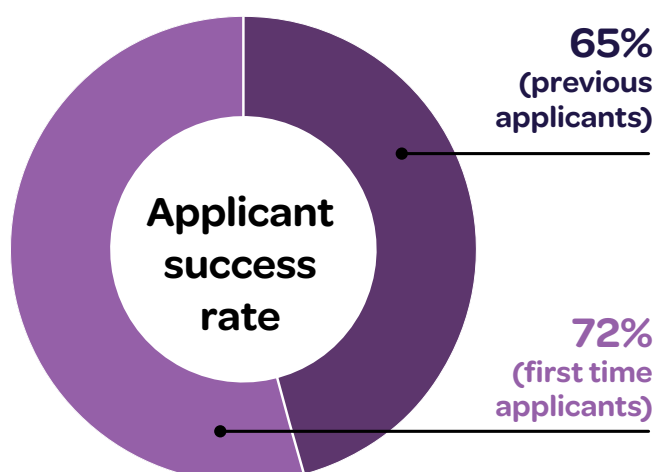
- Scottish Government Enabling Neighbourhood and Communities Fund
- Scottish Government Winter Support Small Grants Fund
- Scottish Government Family Recovery Initiative Fund

Health and wellbeing

- #ShiftThePower Scotland Comic Relief Fund
- Scottish Government Drug Services Funding
- Drug Death Taskforce Fund
- Henry Duncan Grants
- Scottish Government Third Sector Homelessness Fund
- Housing First

Strategic grants

- International Pilot Fund
- Making Rights Real
- Sheila McKechnie Foundation (to support Social Power Network Scotland)



...Continued →



46,000 people reached by funding offered through Corra



59% of funding and support was to help communities become stronger, and to reduce inequalities.

Maryhill Integration Network (MiN), a charity based in Glasgow, received multi-year funding from #ShiftThePower Scotland Comic Relief Fund for MiN Voices. This is a participatory group working with asylum seekers and refugees. The group aims to empower its members to have their voices heard and influence the structures and services that impact their lives. MIN Voices provides the opportunity for members to explore and present alternative narratives of refugees and asylum seekers, in contrast to those in the mainstream media.

Connections and support through the pandemic



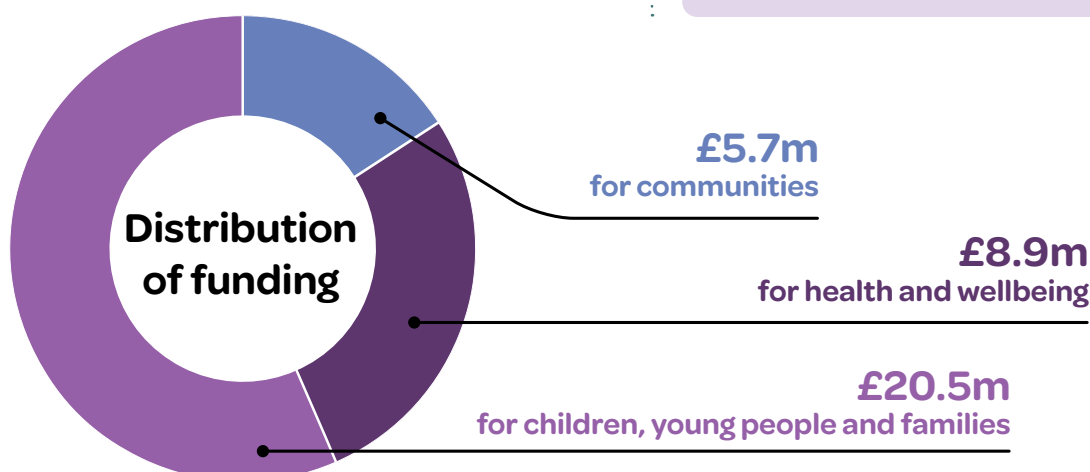
Corra reviewed over **1,200** applications and administered grants totalling over **£1.6 million** in emergency funds.

2021 was another challenging year. Evidence from across Corra's work highlights how the pandemic, rising levels of poverty and the impacts on people's mental health were key challenges for communities and organisations.

We worked with a range of partners to help quickly get funding to groups supporting those most impacted by the pandemic.

The Scottish Veterans Residences is a charity that provides housing support to over 200 members of the armed services community who are experiencing, or at risk of, homelessness. They received a grant of £55,101 through the Third Sector Armed Forces Resilience Fund, providing support towards core operating costs, including staff salaries and contribution to additional pandemic-related cleaning requirements.

Corra's Grantmaking



Extending our reach

During 2021 we extended our reach to new organisations and communities.
As we develop these relationships we will listen and learn so that we can support people's aspirations for positive change.

£5.9m

distributed to
first time applicants
(46% of groups applying
for the first time)

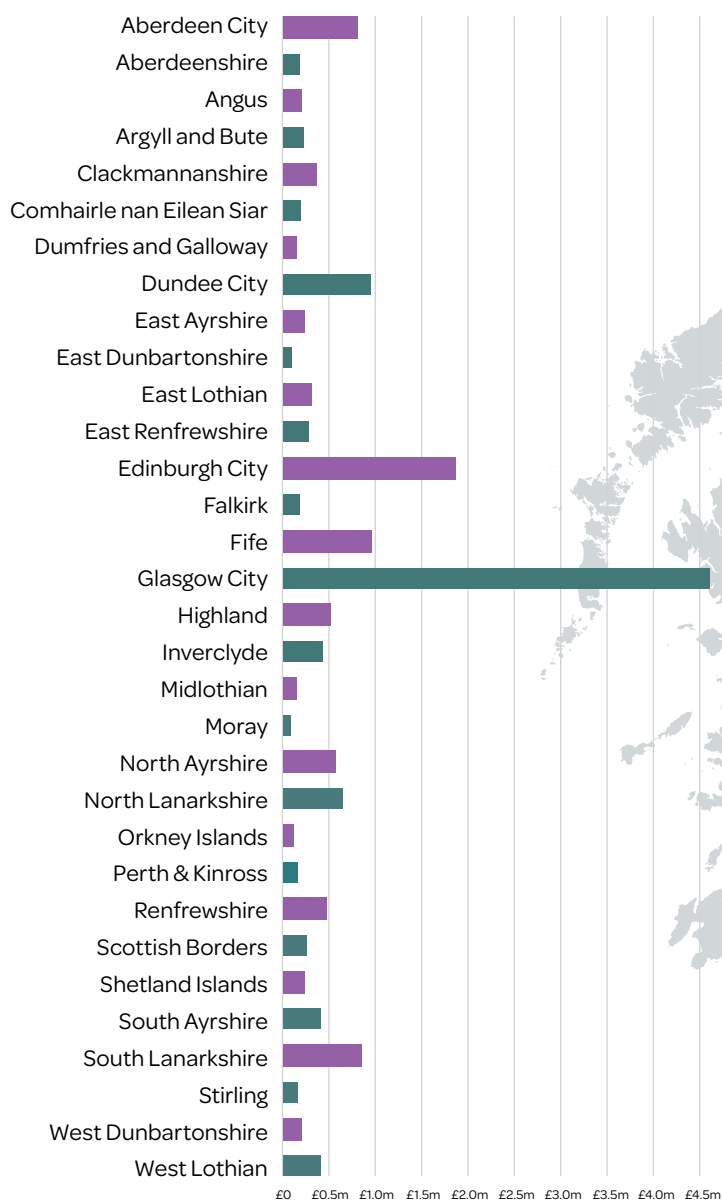
387

people took part for
the first time in
community activities
supported by Corra

580

capacity building support
sessions delivered
to applicants and
organisations

Funding has reached every local authority in Scotland



2. Voice and participation – shifting power

People who have direct experience of issues are best placed to know what needs to change.

People with lived expertise should be at the heart of shaping systems, policies, practice and projects. In grant making, this is reflected in 'participatory grant making'. This means grant making processes and decisions are designed and owned – at least in part – by communities themselves.

Within Corra, we've increasingly focused on participatory approaches across our work. This has included having **lived experience panels** whereby people are involved in various stages. This can include helping design the programme, through to informing or making funding decisions.

Our participatory approaches have also encompassed 'community led grant making' **like that used within the #ShiftThePower Scotland Comic Relief Fund** (delivered by Corra). Here, communities have designed and delivered funding, with Corra's role being solely to support them to do that.



Cumnock community members

Participatory grant making



19 participatory grant-making approaches were progressed in 2021

During 2021, Corra shared a new series of reports, reflecting on what worked well and what could work better when setting up two decision-making panels. These were for the **Scottish Government's Challenge Fund** and the first round of the **#ShiftThePower Scotland Comic Relief Fund**.

We have learned the importance of:

- Creating the right space and support structures that enable people to fully participate.
- Having dedicated staff who are there to listen and respond.
- Understanding how emotive language is and the impact it has, and agreeing the language we use.

'All panel members interviewed valued the experience, felt they had been listened to and were able to influence the decision-making process.'

**Comic Relief – Shift The Power
Lived Experience Panel Reflection**

The Promise Partnership is a programme delivered on behalf of the Scottish Government with investment from Cattanach Trust and STV Children's Appeal. It's designed to ensure the findings from the Independent Care Review are implemented.

People with care experience have been at the heart of the process, working to shape and challenge the criteria and application materials and make all funding decisions. Working with an advisory group and decision makers panel, the programme benefited from diversity of skills and depth of lived experience. Feedback from those involved highlights how the process enabled meaningful co-production.

"What is foremost in them (Promise panel members) is their intelligence, diverse skills, incisiveness and passion, which, coupled with an intimate knowledge of 'the system' makes them a potent force for change."

Promise Partnership panel member

We've also funded focused work led by communities we work alongside. Often, this is in response to communities' desire to impact lasting change, rather than only responding to immediate needs. This is reflected, for example, in Corra's funding of Making Rights Real, Social Power Scotland and Systems Changers.

System Changers in Kilwinning is a programme supported by Corra and Lankelly Chase. Twelve people who either live or work in Kilwinning have come together to understand what change is needed locally. Since the summer of 2021, System Changers has created the space for people to explore, observe and reflect. Participants have supported each other to develop the skills and confidence to use their voices to improve or change the system.

"I hope that I can carry forward what I have learned and continue to use my skills to make changes in the system."

System Changers member

"I hope we continue to work together, support one another to help bring about positive change. Whether this is little fires or an inferno, one change will lead to another."

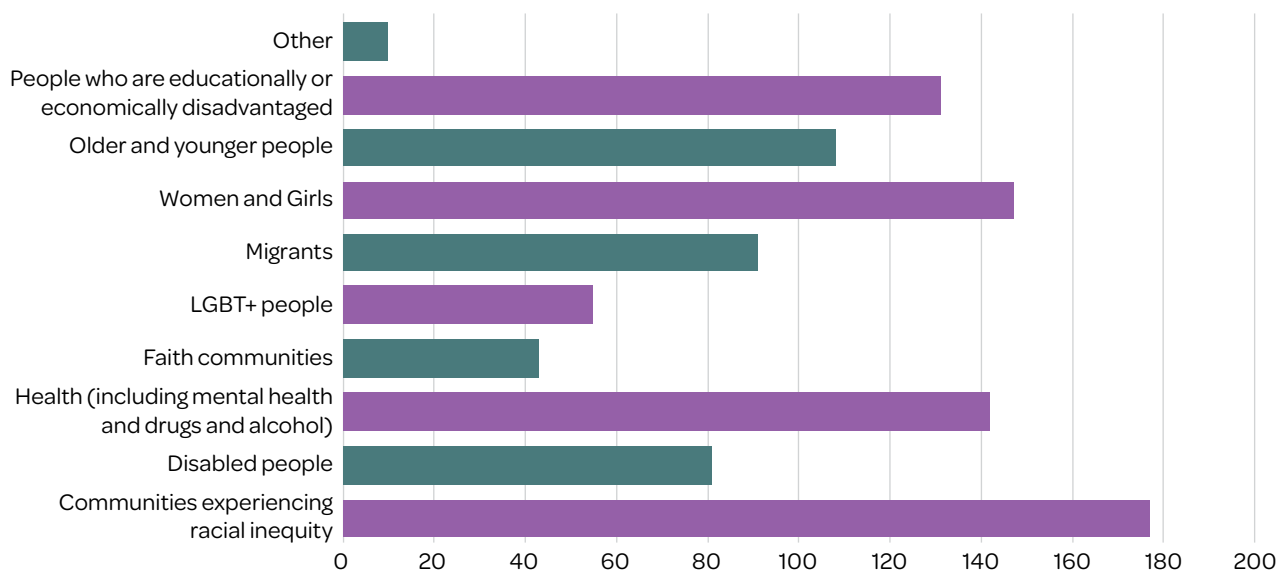
System Changers member

Supporting community led work

In 2021 we received 311 applications led by people with lived/shared experience.

- 35% were applying to Corra for the first time.
- 67% were representative of multiple groups.
- 62% successful grants.

Number of times shared identities selected by applicant (multiple entries possible)

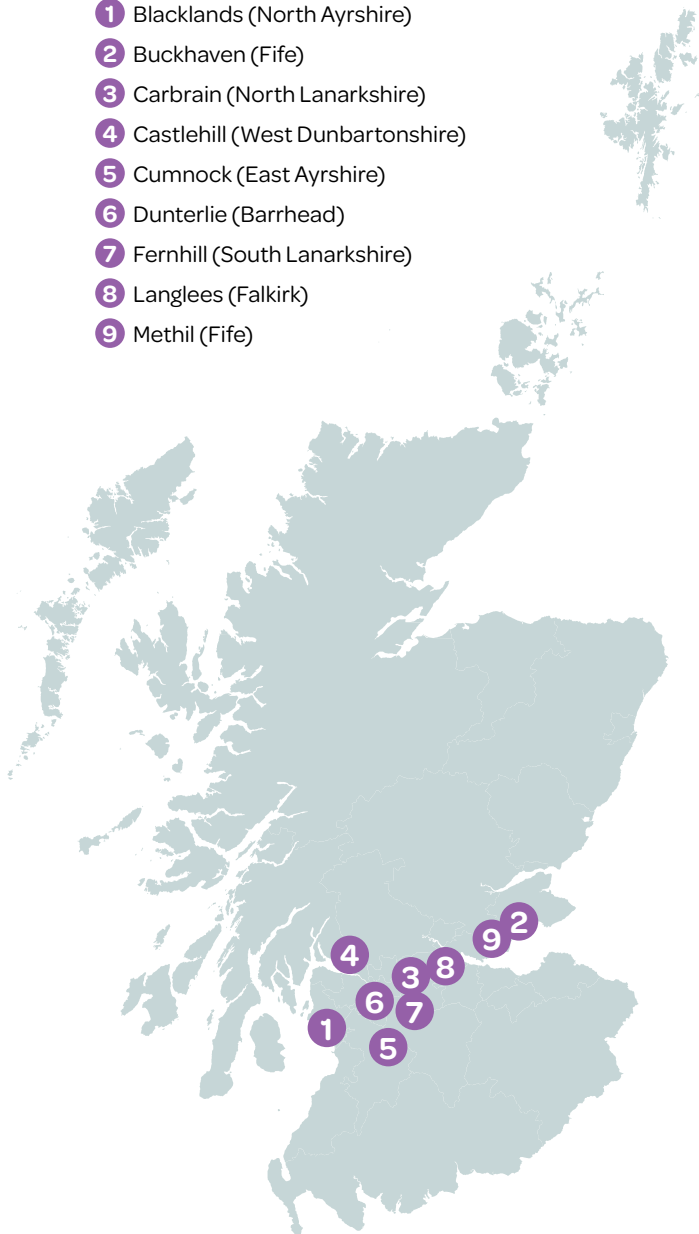


3. People in Place – connecting communities and creating change

As part of Corra's Getting Alongside Communities programme, Community Co-ordinators work alongside nine geographic communities.

They support local people to connect, collaborate on ideas and take action to create positive change.

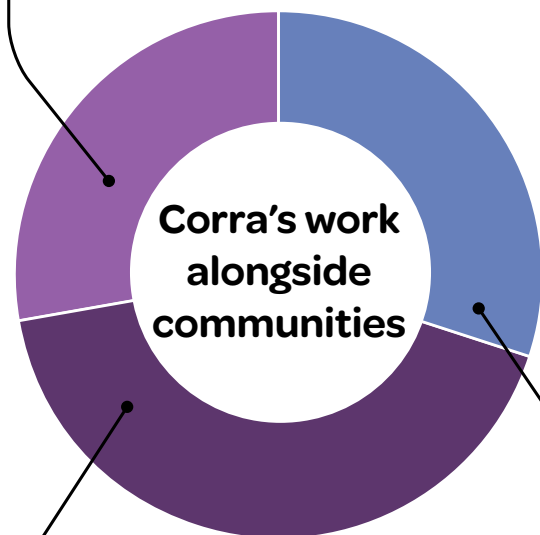
- 1 Blacklands (North Ayrshire)
- 2 Buckhaven (Fife)
- 3 Carbrain (North Lanarkshire)
- 4 Castlehill (West Dunbartonshire)
- 5 Cumnock (East Ayrshire)
- 6 Dunterlie (Barrhead)
- 7 Fernhill (South Lanarkshire)
- 8 Langlees (Falkirk)
- 9 Methil (Fife)



During 2021 communities developed projects and ideas across a range of areas including:

- Local activities and events that bring people together, form relationships and combat loneliness.
- Creating space for people to meet, build connections and develop ideas to enable community change.
- Responding to the ongoing impacts of the coronavirus pandemic.
- Supporting people experiencing inequality in the community and tackling the stigma associated with poverty.

27% of time maintaining and building relationships to better understand ongoing and changing needs of communities



38% of time supporting local action to happen (e.g. co-delivering groups, helping people develop ideas)

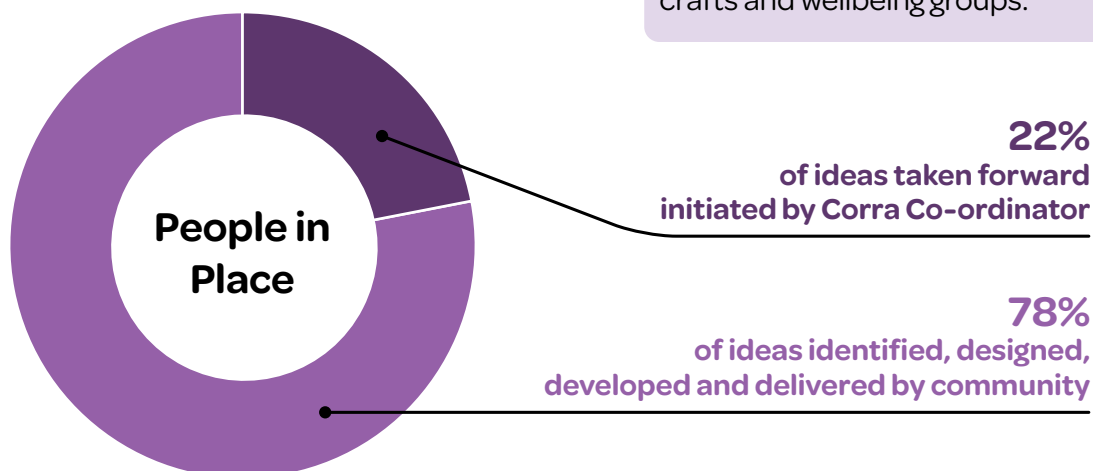
35% of time facilitating and helping communities connect with other networks, organisations and communities (locally and across Scotland)

Corra's Community Co-ordinator in Cumnock has been working with **Moving Up, Moving On (MuMo)**, a local recovery group for those who struggle with addiction. The group was established in 2020 and started to meet again after pandemic restrictions eased. The group has been developing ideas and identified that they would like to come together for a regular music making activity. Funding from Corra and others enabled the purchase of second-hand musical instruments and other equipment. The group is continuing to grow, organising other activities (such as a Christmas lunch and wreath making) and establishing connections with other groups and organisations in the local area.

The areas we work alongside were originally identified as places Corra, and other independent funders, haven't been good at reaching. Over time, we've have seen local groups access more funding opportunities.

During 2021 £114,000 was distributed by Corra in grants to groups working in the nine areas.

Corra has a small pot of funding that communities involved in People in Place can access. In 2021, the large majority of ideas seeking financial support were identified, designed, facilitated and led by local people.



Spaces to meet and connect with others



10 of the ideas progressed by people in their local community centred around spaces and places to meet.

Dunterlie Centre User Group (Dunterlie Action) has been involved in positive conversations around local community plans with East Renfrewshire Council's Community Learning and Development and Environments team. They have supported consultation processes and have made strong contributions to planning conversations. Dunterlie Action is now a constituted group and is taking action to support more local people to access Dunterlie Resource Centre, a valuable community space.

Cabrain Community Hub is a community space and group led by local people for local people. The community hub is already home to a food pantry, as well as providing a communal space for people to meet. The Community Hub will soon be home to a clothes and furniture swap shop as well as providing a valuable space for local activities to take place such as arts and crafts and wellbeing groups.

4. Contributing to Change

We can only rise to the challenges we face if we work together across groups, organisations and sectors. The most powerful way to find solutions is by bringing lived and learned experience to the table. Shifting power and working collaboratively is key to Corra's strategy.

Our approach to grant making

At Corra we're committed to being the best grant maker we can be. Our approach is based on supportive relationships, openness and trust. In 2021, we celebrated one year since signing **IVAR's pledge towards being an Open and Trusting Grant Maker**. As well as working to become more transparent and flexible, we've tried to remove unnecessary bureaucracy, for example by simplifying application forms.

We've also been learning and improving in response to our annual customer experience survey, as well as driving improvements using the Stronger Foundations work developed by **the Association of Charitable Foundations (ACF)**. During 2021, we've worked towards:

- Greater accountability to the people we seek to serve.
- Shifting power so that funding is increasingly shaped by people with lived expertise.
- Greater equity in where Corra's funding goes.



Ullapool Community Garden

Voices Relationships and Partnerships in International Development

is a pilot programme. It aims to better understand how to shift the power between funders, grant holders and between partners in Scotland and overseas. A total of 11 organisations were involved from India, Malawi, Rwanda, Scotland and Uganda. Corra worked alongside all partners to better understand their needs through the application and monitoring stages. The work has highlighted the value placed by people on the relationships they have with funders.

“Shifting the power strengthens mutual partnership between the granters and grantees because it builds and enhances a conducive environment for grantees to share honest feedback, which fosters transparency and accountability.”

International Learning and Pilot fund participant

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI)

Too many people feel their voice isn't heard, or listened to, and that decisions that affect them are taken by other people. A focus on DEI is crucial to countering that, and to pursuing Corra's strategy in which voice, power and change are central. In 2021 we made a series of commitments to action within our **DEI Statement**.

As part of this work, we've continued to deepen our understanding of, and response to, racism. As a funder, we're part of a system in which racism is embedded, and where much philanthropic wealth has its roots in colonialism. During 2021 we've worked to increase diversity among our staff and Trustee team, address racial bias within our grant making processes, and take action to increase equity in the reach of our funding. We plan to continue exploring how we can contribute to racial justice, through existing programmes, and by helping to build resources that support Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic led organisations.

We were privileged to be one of the first funders in Scotland to support the **2027 Programme**. This was an opportunity to access new talent and support someone passionate about forging a career in grant making. The associate role was open to people who would bring more diverse perspectives and who have lived or worked in the communities Corra seeks to serve. We particularly sought applications from people from Black, Asian or Minority Ethnic communities.

"My interest was in grantmaking; to learn more about the process of where funds come from and how they are distributed. I wanted to understand the whole picture of how the third sector works, and to be a part of change for the better. This was my motivation to apply for the **2027 Programme, which is looking to change the sector in a way that makes it inclusive."**

2027 Programme Associate

£740,000

distributed to groups led by people experiencing **racial injustice**



Mohila Ogrojatra Women's Group

Participatory grant making alongside Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities

Corra developed **The Equity Programme** with a donation of £150,000 from Stewart Investors. This was designed as a participatory grant making programme, led by people from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities.

Building relationships with communities needs space, time and trust. This work also requires approaches and processes that are flexible and inclusive for the groups, so that their voices and ideas for change are at the centre.

£65k was distributed across **six groups**, who were supported by Corra staff to design how they would spend the funds:

- A group of Roma and Romanian community members in Fife, supported by Fife Migrants Forum.
- A group of Bengali Women in Edinburgh and Lothians who had newly formed to build connections, confidence and skills.
- A group of men focusing on mental health and wellbeing with the support of MCASS (Minority Communities Addiction Support Service).
- A group of women focusing on mental health and well-being with support from MCASS (Minority Communities Addiction Support Service).
- A group of Black and People of Colour young people supported by Intercultural Youth Scotland.
- Families, young people and communities supported by Multi Cultural Family Base in Edinburgh.

“Since joining the group we have found that we have gained more confidence in talking and listening. We can interact and speak with confidence and some ladies have even managed to get themselves a part time job. I feel very happy that I have been a part of this group Mohila Ogrojatra and I have made lots of new friends.”

Mohila Ogrojatra group member

Applying a racial justice lens to our grant making

We acknowledged that racial injustice impacts on mental health and wellbeing and that many Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic led organisations deliver vital support. However, we also realised that by only offering funding to charities with a core aim of supporting people’s mental health, our criteria would inadvertently exclude many groups. Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic led charities do vital work on mental health, however this is commonly delivered as projects within organisations with a wider focus. There are many reasons for this, including the historic under-funding of specialised mental health support for Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities.

One of the barriers identified was the application form. We explored how the format and structure of our application form had the potential to create inequity. We updated the form, created easy to read guidelines and offered both one-to-one advice and tailored advice sessions. These steps helped Corra understand context, whilst offering a supportive environment for people applying.

Poverty

Many of the people and communities Corra exists to serve have experience of poverty and much of our grant funding helps to support immediate needs. We also draw on evidence and insights from our work and use these to try and influence change to tackle the underlying causes of poverty.

We have the privilege of being able to listen to the expertise of communities and help amplify people's voices, especially those whose voices are often less heard. We hope that by listening, creating spaces for people's stories and connecting these with decision makers, we can help bring about lasting change, shaped by people with experience of poverty.

Home-Start Clackmannanshire received £15,000 over five years in August 2020 through Henry Duncan Grants. They have continued to provide support to 229 families during the pandemic and have plans to move to support families face-to-face.

"We are excited to continue to expand on our group work to help families climb out of poverty. Our face-to-face cooking course is starting soon. Our group work provision will develop further by offering a 'parent only' group to concentrate on parents' mental health, budgeting and financial planning, and looking ahead to volunteering, education and employment, given their children (aged 2 years +) are now attending nursery/school."

£890,000

distributed to groups led by people who are **experiencing poverty**

In late 2021 we distributed **145** grants totalling just over **£500,000** through the Scottish Government's Small Grants **Winter Support Fund**. The fund supported organisations to distribute cash or vouchers directly to families on low incomes.

We have continued to hear about the pressures people are facing, and how communities are responding. We know from the communities we work alongside that community fridges, larders and pantries are working to address stigma and access.

In Castlehill, one of the local food initiatives found that people's concerns about queueing outside a food bank prevented them from accessing it. In response to this, the group offered a meal delivery service. This enabled them to extend their reach to more families as well as signpost people to other local services. **Ending the need for food banks, Corra Foundation response**

"Families have told us that they need mental and emotional support to help make lasting change. They need autonomy and independence; they don't want to be relying on support from charities. They would like to work towards being able to support themselves."

Moray School Bank

Human Rights

Working towards an independent human rights funding agenda for Scotland

The past few years have seen significant developments on human rights. At UK level, there are plans to replace the Human Rights Act, whilst in Scotland there has been a commitment to introduce new legislation to incorporate a wide range of rights.

Against this backdrop, Corra has been working with fellow funders and human rights organisations to explore the role of independent funders at this crucial time. In March 2021, in partnership with Making Rights Real and Human Rights Consortium Scotland, we published **Bold and Fearless – Towards an independent human rights funding agenda for Scotland**.

“For us human rights has been both the lens through but also the practical tool to empower communities to really be able to make a difference.”

David Sampson, Baring Foundation – Bold and Fearless



Sunday Soothers Cumnock

Climate Change

We have continued to progress actions as part of the Funder Commitment on climate change, including reporting on environment, energy and carbon in our annual report for the first time.

5. Partnership – achieving more by working together

At Corra we're deeply grateful to all those we work with.

Working hand in hand with people with both lived and learned expertise, communities, third sector groups, government, and fellow trusts and foundations is a source of energy, inspiration and learning for us and amplifies the impact we would have individually.



During 2021 we've worked with **40 partners**

About Corra Foundation

Corra Foundation exists to make a difference to the lives of people and communities. It works with others to encourage positive change, opportunity, fairness and growth of aspirations which improve quality of life. Corra wants to see a society in which people create positive change and enjoy fulfilling lives.

In 2020 Corra launched a ten-year strategy. It is long term because making a difference on the big challenges will take time. At its heart is the strong belief that when people find their voice, they unlock the power to make change happen.

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