



SNAPSHOT

Corra's work to support community priorities in 2022 included

- Supporting the development of Cumbernauld and Carbrain Community Hub to
 - secure larger and more accessible premises in the town centre
 - formalise the group and gain charitable status
 - gain funding to enable group delivery
- Developing and supporting the Sharing Time Initiative
 - Bringing together local community organisations to aid collaboration and also to map local services and support around cost-of living crisis support
- Resourcing and supporting family cooking classes
 - Delivery of family focussed cooking classes to help address issues around food insecurity
- Funding support for the Free Church in Carbrain
 - Enabling the space to become more open to the community and increase opportunities for participation

Keep reading to find out more about what's been happening in Carbrain in 2022

What's been happening?

2022 has seen our communities emerging out of the pandemic but facing a difficult economic climate and rising cost of living. However, despite the challenges and uncertainty this year we have learned that the strength and resilience of our local community organisations mean that they continue to find ways to deliver for people successfully.

Cumbernauld and Carbrain Community Hub

The newly formed Cumbernauld and Carbrain Community Hub grew organically from a women's group which formed in Carbrain Primary School that Shazia supported. The group was made up of local women who had aspirations to create a community space that could be used to provide services within Carbrain and throughout the covid-19 pandemic the group focused its attention on providing cooked meals and food parcels for those in need within the local community.

Through partnership working with Corra, Carbrain and Hillcrest Community Council and Cumbernauld and Kilsyth Care, Cumbernauld and Carbrain Community Hub developed as a new charitable enterprise this year and moved from Lenziemill to a community space within Cumbernauld Town centre in April. The Hub now provides a holistic approach to supporting local communities and works to tackle inequality and poverty.

Current services include - community food pantry and fridge, clothes swap shop, mental health groups, family support, breakfast groups, IT support and community gardening. The Hub has always put local people at the heart of decision making through trustees, volunteers and continuous engagement to ensure the development of a community space that meets the needs of local people. Shazia will be looking to support the development of paid staff roles this year as the services currently are delivered by volunteers.

“Walking through the door you feel relaxed and its warm. You know you've got a place to sit and you always have a volunteer offering you a coffee and having a chat



“Community is the main priority and the many supports here are incredible! ... you need to see it and appreciate it for yourselves

Sharing Time Initiative

Sharing Time Initiative is a meeting of local organisations working in Carbrain and Cumbernauld which was brought together by Stuart MacDonald MSP, Corra and Sanctuary Housing with a particular focus on the cost of living crisis. This is about partnership working with organisations who are already supporting the community in a way that is empowering and useful and not bureaucratic and time-consuming. This is a networking forum of organisations and individuals deciding how to better coordinate and cooperate so that services are more accessible. For example the development of community mapping and services available locally has been beneficial in drawing up a detailed poster of all food banks/pantries and warm space provision services across Cumbernauld over the festive period so that service providers and users could refer or use services according to need. This was shared widely to partners and on social media successfully.



Family Cooking Classes

Funding cooking classes co-produced by families in Carbrain to address food insecurity caused by the cost of living crisis and the struggle that many people have with rising food prices. The sharing of cost-effective recipes, freezing and batch cooking tips as well as linking in with the food pantry and community fridge in the Hub continue to support families' access to affordable and dignified food provision in this difficult economic climate. Classes were also a good opportunity to undertake cross-Carbrain working by inviting parents and children from both Carbrain and St Margaret's Primary School to overcome some of the territorial stigma which prevents people from across Carbrain from going to other locations in the area.



Community Spaces

Funding the Free Church in Carbrain enabled its development as a community facility by increasing the availability of rooms for wider community activity and for meetings such as the Sharing Time Initiative. Their Parent and Toddler group and the Friday youth group is being used by a wider cross-section of the community which is also addressing some of the territorial barriers that are apparent.

What have we learned?

We have learnt that coming out of the pandemic and cost of living crisis this year, there have been difficulties and challenges as communities continue to struggle. However, we also recognise that despite this, communities and organisations have proven to be flexible and resilient, adapting to changes and seeking support and networking opportunities.

Partnership working has been critical to the development of the Hub and many of the projects listed above, for example Cumbernauld and Kilsyth Care who share the town centre space and resources; Croy Hub who share food and van travel, CACE, Tesco, Marks and Spencer and Fareshare have all contributed to the successes of this challenging year. Going forward it is clear that partnership working is likely to increase given the difficult economic environment for our community. The development of long term trusting relationships and networking support provided by Shazia to people, groups and organisations locally has been critical in developing and delivering many of the projects during this year and important in supporting community aspirations in 2023.

Space is an important determining factor where communities can come together, where ideas can be exchanged and realised giving confidence, skills and empowerment to the community. It has been inspiring to see the development of the Hub moving to become a charity with a board of trustees and the development of services such as the food pantry, women's group, wellbeing group, baby massage, men's



What have we learned? contd.

group, community fridge and now a local authority designated warm space. The importance of having a physical space to launch these ideas and services cannot be underestimated. I will also continue to work with the Free Church in Carbrain to support their intention of becoming a community hub and developing local ideas going forward.

What happens next?

Continue the look for funding sources to support the ongoing development of the Hub. Shazia is looking to further support the development of the Hub through working with partners to fund paid staff roles this year, as the services currently are run by a dedicated group of volunteers.

Continue to support the development of a community space in Carbrain where local community aspirations can be realised.

Support residents, Parent Councils, community cafes and organisations to make positive changes in Carbrain through connecting, collaborating and capacity building on ideas going forward.



People in Place - Moving Forwards

Communities are facing a critical moment of transition as they begin to emerge from the pandemic and grapple with the rising cost of living. We are seeing and hearing, in addition to deep and difficult issues, new priorities emerging and an urgency to act from community members.

The time is now! We know from communities, local authorities and other partners that this a 'moment in time' for communities to create changes that address immediate issues and to truly imagine a better future.

To support that process, we will focus our work around three key elements.

- Priorities – we know that communities' priorities are changing. We can play an important role in supporting priorities to be shaped and shared.
- Plans – supporting communities to set out their priorities and actions to achieve them in a 'community-owned' plan.
- Partnerships – we have a key role to play in connecting with partners who can help to produce the plan and/or help deliver on community priorities.

These 'three P's' help build upon the strong foundations – of skills, knowledge, trust and relationships - that have been established to date and will continue to be instrumental in the work.



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