

People in Place – Annual Update 2018: Buckhaven, Fife

Introduction

The People in Place programme works at communities' pace, focussing on inclusive engagement and sustainable investment. A dedicated Community Co-ordinator in each place, brings people together for conversations and helps them identify shared priorities.

Louisa Cocris has been working alongside the community in Buckhaven since July 2017. Louisa works alongside and in partnership with local people to identify the strengths, talents and skills within the local community. The programme helps facilitate and enable capacity building within the community; widening community participation; seeking out voices that are seldom heard; and ultimately resulting in locally-led actions being taken.

What is People in Place aiming to achieve?

By working alongside communities and partners, the People in Place programme aims to support sustainable long-term change in each place and at a systemic level.

The aim is to appreciate the distinctiveness of each local area, understand the aspirations of local people and develop ways to help meet these so that communities can:

- 🌀 Develop community influence and control
- 🌀 Ensure assets and resources can be maintained into the future
- 🌀 Build social connections and networks.

The ambition for each community that we work alongside is set by the people in that place. Our commitment is to help create the conditions and connections for bold results to be achieved. It is informed by the following key themes that have emerged from the work to date:

- 🌀 Voice
- 🌀 Space
- 🌀 Participation
- 🌀 Investment
- 🌀 Learning & Development

Snapshot of work during the past year

Engagement – Bringing people together

- ☼ Louisa is continuing to build capacity within the groups which have been supported in Buckhaven so far, such as; Cycle Club, Community Café, Gala Group, and the Beehive Pottery Group. All groups have now organised events in the community which have generated; funds, new members, and increased community awareness. The cycling group have developed new links with Active Fife and Cycling Without Age, to bring new members to the group and importantly, people with additional support needs who require additional specialist equipment in order to take part in the family rides.
- ☼ Additionally, Louisa has set up a new group in the residential home operated by Bield Housing in Buckhaven. The purpose of this group is to address loneliness and isolation experienced by some of the residents and to offer the opportunity for weekly games session and chat.
- ☼ Buck Brass Beginnings (the junior section of the Buckhaven and Methil Miners Band) have been connected to Corra Foundation funding which will enable them to recruit more young people from the local schools to the band and have the opportunity of playing in this well-known and highly respected local group. The junior band will host a musical event in the community in the summer which will bring together other local music groups and showcase to the wider community the depth of talent and opportunity in Buckhaven for people to be involved in.

Development of community Ideas Into Action

- ☼ The community bakery which has been in the pipeline for development through earlier months in 2018, opened in October 2018. Nine bakers attended two taster sessions, and all returned to complete the course until Christmas and are now formed as Buckhynd Community Bakery.
- ☼ The Buckhaven Primary School Parent Teacher Council are being supported by Corra Foundation in Buckhaven to improve green facilities in the school playground and start up a productive garden which will be run by parents and children in the playground with a view to having allotments and poultry in the near future.

Brokering role – Provide the glue to stick everything together

- ☼ Louisa has brought the community together over the past 12 months through a number of initiatives. The Buckhaven Soup event which Louisa organised with BRAG is an example of this.
- ☼ Louisa has built positive working relationships with of local groups, such as the Parent Teacher Council at Buckhaven Primary School, the newly formed Community Council. She has also taken on the role of Chair of the Local Planning and Delivery Strategy Group and improved links with Fife College and the providers/tutors there.

Key themes in Buckhaven

- ☼ Power: working to increase community involvement in ideas, action and decision making.
- ☼ Space: there is not a shortage of community buildings in Buckhaven but they are currently underutilised. In addition, there are opportunities around derelict or unused land.
- ☼ Participation: increasing participation in local activities is supporting 'active community planning', and increased use of local facilities.
- ☼ Voice: the formation of the Community Council has strengthened the community's voice in local decision making.
- ☼ Relationship building on an individual level is one of the best ways to get things moving.
- ☼ Independence and autonomy is key for Community Co-ordinators.

Although the specific circumstances are often very different, key themes are being identified across the communities that we are working alongside. The key themes have been incorporated into a Strategic Framework for the People in Place programme and will be used to inform the development of a local operational plan for Louisa's work in Buckhaven.

Area in Numbers

As part of our learning and evaluation framework we have developed systematic ways to keep track of how we are working in the community, using both qualitative and quantitative data. Below is a snapshot of engagement in Buckhaven from January to December 2018.



457 hours of support provided by community members



767 people engaged or involved in activities



562 new people reached



269 people engaged through Facebook

Case study

Buckhynd Community Bakery

The idea for a community bakery in Buckhaven came out of a series of discussions I had in the community in the early stages of work in Buckhaven. The council were upgrading the kitchen in the community centre and it was highlighted by a number of people that it would be a good idea to use this space for training and also for combining this bakery skills course with providing a much needed community space.

After several months of research and planning, the first taster sessions for a 9 week bread making course took place in October 2018. The course was oversubscribed and we have ended up with 7 bakers (the absolute maximum for the space). The group have progressed significantly and already

baked the bread and cakes for the Buckhaven Soup Event in November 2018 and are planning to cater for another community event in early March 2019.

Plans are now well underway to open a café alongside the bakery which will provide delicious local produce and a friendly attractive space for the community to enjoy.

The group have decided on the name Buckhynd Community Bakers. We have been very well supported by a number of organisations including Scotland the Bread and the High Rise Bakery in Glasgow. Over the past few weeks, the bakers have been to meet the miller who provides our locally grown flour and we have plans to organise peer training sessions with our friends at High Rise in Glasgow.

Look Ahead

Over the next few months Corra Foundation's People in Place Community Co-ordinator will:

- ☼ Continue to support Buckhynd Community Bakery to grow and develop further opportunities for new members to join
- ☼ Start running family sessions in the bakery to be led by the bakers and supported by Corra co-ordinator
- ☼ Support the garden project at Buckhaven Primary School
- ☼ Work alongside Buck Brass and other community music groups to put on the community summer music event
- ☼ Continue to work with the Baptist Church to achieve their fundraising ambitions and kitchen improvements
- ☼ Maintain the relationships with all the other groups and individuals in the community and support them with their plans and projects over the next few months.

Connections in Buckhaven

[The Buckhaven network map](#) represents the network of relationships between organisations and groups in Buckhaven. As a first attempt, the mapping is from the perspective of Louisa the local Community Co-ordinator. The software used to create the map, 'Kumu', can be used to highlight key influencers, find the most efficient paths for information to flow through the network, and describe the assets and attributes that each organisation or group has. In future versions, the intention is to seek multiple perspectives from across the community in order to create robust maps that show the development of networks and relationships over time.

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Summary of the People in Place programme so far

Corra Foundation understands that the challenges facing communities are complex and dynamic, and that traditional grant making alone will not support communities to address these issues. In response to this, and following an extensive period of research and development, the People in Place programme was launched in 2014.

Since 2015 this pioneering programme has been underpinned by a Funder Collaborative that brings together five partners with a shared commitment to learning and financial investment totaling £1.5M to June 2019.

This combined knowledge and investment has supported Community Co-ordinators to begin working alongside nine communities across eight Scottish local authority areas. Through the delivery of the programme 'on the ground' we have gained rich learning about the challenges and opportunities for specific communities - and broader systemic issues that resonate at national and policy level.

Strong foundations have now been laid for the [Getting Alongside Communities](#) programme and communities to create positive change at an increased pace. This Annual Update provides an illustration of the work in individual communities and draws out key high-level learning points which have been incorporated into the Strategic Framework for People in Place from 2019 onwards.

As People in Place has evolved, additional and integrated areas of work have been developed using investment from Corra Foundation and other sources. These are:

Appetite for Change: we are committed to working collaboratively to support the development of new place-based approaches at the scale of a Scottish town or city.

Place-based Learning & Sharing: The focus for this work in 2018 was the Place-based Working Project (PBWP). Convened by Corra Foundation, this research project has explored best practice in place-based work along with the policy and legislative frameworks that support (or hinder) its application in Scotland. The project culminated in Scotland's Place Leadership Summit which brought together cross-sector leaders - from communities, third sector, public, private and national government - and launched the [Place Principle](#).

The evidence base and momentum created by the project provides a platform for People in Place to increase collaboration at a range of levels. On the strength of the work to date, **Corra Foundation trustees have confirmed a minimum 10-year commitment to People in Place.**



Our overall ambition is to support sustainable long-term change in each place and at a systemic level by:

- 🌿 **Developing community influence and control**
- 🌿 **Ensuring assets and resources can be maintained into the future**
- 🌿 **Building social connections and networks**

Our work responds to wider societal factors including:

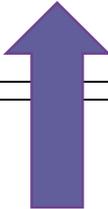
- 🌿 **Power**
- 🌿 **Poverty**
- 🌿 **Inequality**
- 🌿 **Social Isolation**

Key Themes

- 🌿 **Voice**
Seldom heard voices
Storytelling (individual, community, Corra)
Citizen Journalism
- 🌿 **Space**
Supporting use of available space
Making new spaces available
Exploring asset transfer and community ownership
- 🌿 **Participation**
In community/community activities
In Local Democracy includes ‘active community planning’
Participatory Scotland
Participatory Budgeting/grant making
- 🌿 **Investment**
Helping communities to access funding
Collective investment (from funders) into places
Collective investment (across sectors)
Kinder procurement
Inclusive Growth/Community Wealth Building
- 🌿 **Learning & Development**
Sharing what we learn to shape practice [ours & others]
Sharing what we learn to shift policy
Linking team and programme development
Connecting with national and international networks
Using our learning to support system change

Our approach is built on some key underpinning principles:

🌿 Relationships	🌿 Independence
🌿 Bridging	🌿 Building local capacity
🌿 Brokering	🌿 Trust



Where we are going

Corra Foundation's independence, reputation and commitment to collaboration mean that we are well placed to act as a *catalytic agent* that can support positive change in local communities, nationally, and at a systemic level. Through People in Place:

We work on system change – bringing together the voices and resources of all those in communities to bring about fundamental change.

We convene – as an independent foundation we use our knowledge to facilitate collective work and create the spaces for conversation in places.

We listen – because we cannot convene without knowing about a place from the people involved with it.

We are curious and adaptive – because where we begin is not the destination and shifting course requires awareness of what is changing with the collective and place.

Corra Foundation's current 10-year commitment to People in Place extends to 2026. By working alongside communities and partners, **People in Place aims to support sustainable long-term change in each place and at a systemic level.**

The ambition for each community that we work alongside will be set by the people in that place.

Our commitment to them is to create the conditions, and connections, for bold results to be achieved. We will continually learn, share and adapt our approach across the following programme elements:

Getting Alongside Communities: Our existing commitment to working alongside ten communities will continue. Over the next three years our relationship with these communities will evolve as local aspirations, agency and influence grow. The role of Community Co-ordinators will continue to progress from hands-on involvement, to a facilitative role, to the provision of ad hoc support – in turn, this progression will create capacity to support work in new communities.

There is an interest from local authorities we are currently working with in developing 'clusters' of communities and potential to develop Getting Alongside Communities outwith the local authorities that were originally identified.

Appetite for Change: In collaboration with Participatory City Foundation and with high interest from the Scottish Government we intend to take forward Participatory Scotland by adapting the place-based model from Barking and Dagenham to a Scottish context. In addition, we are actively exploring other collaborations to design and deliver new place-based approaches at the scale of a Scottish town or city and in coastal and rural settings.

Place-based Learning & Sharing: Building on the learning from the 'delivery strands' of the People in Place programme, and the cross-sector collaboration of the PBWP, we will continue to convene broad conversations and focused collective action in specific places to support place-based working as a catalyst for broader system change.