



People in Place - Annual Update 2018: Castlehill, West Dunbartonshire

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.

Janice O'Connor has been working alongside the community in Castlehill since early November 2016. Janice 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

- 🌱 Promotion of the programme and activities being delivered across social media and through newspapers article
- 🌱 Family walking group/walking group
- 🌱 Spring family event
- 🌱 Development of a women's group
- 🌱 Development of a community's event group led by local people.
- 🌱 Dalreoch school community garden provided by the Leamy Foundation
- 🌱 Cooking course provided by the local community
- 🌱 Foodshare in the community
- 🌱 Build a Den Day with local Greenspace workers
- 🌱 Support local organisation with the opening of the community centre
- 🌱 Community walkabouts
- 🌱 Supported the opening of the Phoenix Centre through community consultation, social media, delivery of leaflets and informal engagement with community members.

Development of community Ideas Into Action

- 🌱 Supported the development of a community events group
- 🌱 Supported Glasgow University student with their placement
- 🌱 Supported student to develop a women's group. Held drop in sessions to ask women in the community; level of interest in the group, what they would like to do and how development of the group can be supported
- 🌱 Spring family event
- 🌱 Build a Den Day work with West Dunbartonshire Council Greenspace
- 🌱 Engagement with St Michael's Primary School, to identify what parents think young people want to change in Castlehill. This included mini consultations, community walkabouts with P7s and coming up with projects such as quizzes involving parents. This is starting to make a difference for example getting the playpark cleaned up
- 🌱 Halloween event support local community members from the community event group run their first family event in the community
- 🌱 Supported local organisations connect with the local community.

Brokering role – Provide the glue to stick everything together

- 🌱 Connected the local Foodbank to the wider community by supporting the delivery of cooking courses
- 🌱 Shared and attended events within the community
- 🌱 Picnic in the Park event planning, which brought local services together
- 🌱 Supported the Phoenix Centre opening and event by connecting them to organisations that could contribute and engage the wider community.

Key themes in Castlehill

- ☼ Space: Lack of space for the community to gather apart from the Phoenix Centre
- ☼ Power: Developing relationships with community stakeholders.
- ☼ Participation: Encouraging progress around community events, building towards 'active community planning'.
- ☼ Voice: There are an increasing range of community voices, including young people in Castlehill.

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 Janice's work in Castlehill.

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 Castlehill from January to December 2018.



243 hours of support provided by community members



1301 people engaged or involved in activities



912 new people reached



10,767 people engaged through Facebook

Case study

Bringing the Community together through cooking

West Dunbartonshire Community Foodshare approached Corra Foundation to help deliver a 4-week week basic food course in the Castlehill area. The course aim was to reach families that may need support in cooking and basic budgeting. On completion of the course the participants would receive a free multicooker alongside an easy to use recipe book which is designed to feed a family of 4 for less.

Through the use of social media, we were able to get 10 participants to take part in the cooking course. All ten members of the course were women. The course ran on an evening for 90 minutes. This was due to the time constraints of the participants due to child care, and trying to find a suitable time that would allow them to attend.

The cooking course looked at low budget meals that were healthy, low cost and easy to make. Some of the participants felt that time and money was a factor in cooking meals in the home and often found that getting takeaways was cheaper than buying and cooking a meal. Most of the meals that

the group made took no longer than 30 minutes to make and they found that the appliance was easy to clean and store away.



During the course, the participants developed a bond and shared stories of cooking disasters, home life and had fun taking part which has led to some of participants joining the women's group.

Working with WDC Foodshare helped to bring members of the community together through cooking. Food and shared life experiences connected these women by being able to share their struggles on life while providing hints and tips on how they cook. The women loved the fact that the activity was available locally and at no cost, which allowed them to have easier access to the course than one that was further away.

Group members felt able to opt in and out, without feeling the pressure of turning up each week and letting people down. Some of the women liked the fact that the course was short and there wasn't a long-term commitment. Each week after the class, the group would share positive messages about the course and often shared pictures of their meals. One woman's husband is especially keen on the sausage casserole, which she was happy about as he doesn't usually like a thing she makes and now the dish is a weekly meal for her family.

The group shared pictures on Facebook, which has resulted in interest from the community for more cooking courses to take place. We will help support West Dunbartonshire Community Foodshare to deliver this.

Look Ahead

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

- 🌀 Support the development of the local community centre
- 🌀 Work with local primary schools to connect with the community
- 🌀 Work with and support local organisations and partners
- 🌀 Support the family walking group
- 🌀 Support the women's group
- 🌀 Encourage local people to volunteer in the community
- 🌀 Develop ideas with the community to reach those that currently engaged
- 🌀 Support the local event group to deliver more local events.

Connections in Castlehill

[The Castlehill connection map](#) represents the network of relationships between organisations and groups in Castlehill. As a first attempt, the mapping is from the perspective of Janice 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:

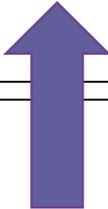
- 🌿 **Power**
- 🌿 **Poverty**
- 🌿 **Inequality**
- 🌿 **Social Isolation**

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.