

Community Learning and Development

Consultation Response
March 2024



Corra Foundation responded to a Scottish Government consultation on Community Learning and Development. This document reproduces the response that Corra sent in.

When we respond to a consultation or provide evidence, we do so based on the learning gained from our work and insights gathered from grant holder reports. For this consultation, we only provided answers to questions that we had evidence to support forming a position on.

12. Is there anything else that you want to tell us about Community Learning and Development?

Corra Foundation is a charity foundation that is about strengthening and amplifying people's voices and their power to make change. We work alongside communities, third sector organisations and local authority Community Learning and Development (CLD) teams through our Place Programme. Through this, we see the variety of approaches taken across Local Authorities to CLD and recognise that central to each is an aspect of community development. We are concerned that opportunities to understand communities' insights on Community Development may be missed in this consultation.

Community Development is an integral part of Community Learning & Development and has an important role to play in community planning and delivery of the Community Empowerment Act. Community Development is a key part of developing communities, their skills, and confidence in being able to input into decision making. The focus of this consultation on learners may exclude communities who are accessing community development support. Many people that we work alongside and who have developed into confident community leaders would not consider themselves as a learner and therefore not contribute to this review.

The focus on the formal learning aspect of CLD may miss the learning journey of community members who develop skills and confidence to deliver

activities/services, establish community groups and organisations, as well as manage local assets. Often, rather than formal learning courses, these skills are developed through informal local groups and long-term, open ended participation in community activity. This allows time for building relationships, connections, and community specific support to be developed.

To fully consider the positive outcomes in line with Scottish Government priorities that CLD contributes to, we would encourage a broadening of this review to encompass, at least, Community Development work delivered by Local Authorities.

There could be further value in broadening the scope to consider a range of place-based initiatives which are working with communities across Scotland. Corra would be happy to share insights from our work in relation to this and make connections with the Place-based Learning Exchange whose membership has continued to grow since the publication of the [Working Better Together in Place Report](#).

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.

Our ways of working

At Corra we have a set of principles that we strive to put into practice across our roles as an employer, independent funder, charity and partner, as well as in our influencing activity.

We will:

- Listen and respond to people, communities and organisations and amplify voices that are less well heard – their wisdom is at the heart of Corra's approach.
- Build relationships, always working alongside others on the basis of shared power, mutual trust and shared learning.
- Pursue diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI), trying to challenge structural discrimination and contribute to radical shifts in the funding sector.
- Be an open, trusting and flexible grant maker.
- Ensure we contribute to tackling climate change, through our investments, operations and grant making and encouraging others to take action alongside us.
- Be bold, taking considered risks and supporting others to do the same.

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