

Wellbeing and Sustainable Development Bill

Consultation Response
February 2024



Corra Foundation responded to a Scottish Government consultation on a proposed Wellbeing and Sustainable Development Bill. 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.

Do you have any views on how ‘wellbeing’ can be clearly defined in legislation?

Improving wellbeing runs throughout Corra’s work. We fund organisations that improve the wellbeing of people and communities across Scotland. Through the breadth of this work, we know that improving positive wellbeing is unique to each of us and requires a person and community centered approach.

We believe that any definition of wellbeing should recognise that:

- Positive wellbeing must be defined and realised using a person and community centered approach.
- Participation of, and listening to, communities is key to positive wellbeing.
- The wellbeing of Scotland’s people should be at the heart of decision making that affects them.

We know that positive wellbeing is unique to each of the communities that we work alongside. We’ve included some information on what wellbeing means to the communities we work alongside.

Furthering wellbeing for communities facing discrimination

In the last three years, we have made 200 grants (£9m) to support positive wellbeing. Our equity-based approach supports communities who have often

experienced the greatest barriers to positive wellbeing. This includes communities with experience of racial injustice, disability, poverty, care experience, and substance use. These grants are varied and highlight specific needs from communities for tailored wellbeing support. The grants demonstrate that we need to take an equitable approach to improving wellbeing and some communities need greater levels of support. Grants have included funding trauma therapy for people with co-occurring substance use, recovery groups for veterans, sports groups for disabled people, advocacy work to advance human rights, and advocacy and wellbeing support to address racism and its effects.

For further information, please see:

[National Drugs Mission Funds Report 2021-2023](#)

[Tackling Racism in Scotland: Consultation Responses](#)

What does wellbeing mean for communities and neighbourhoods?

We work alongside communities through our Place programme to better understand the needs of Scotland's communities. We have supported 65 (£99k) community led 'Ideas into Action' with a focus on positive wellbeing.

Communities tell us that wellbeing to them means:

- Having better access to resources and community spaces.
- Having space and places for people to connect with others in their community. An example of this is Cumnock Men's Shed. The group secured funding to renovate a community space providing a valuable resource for mental health recovery and reducing loneliness.
- Responding in a solution focused way to local environmental and economic issues. An example of this is [Cumbernauld and Carbrain Community Hub](#). The hub began with a small women's group based in the local primary school. The group had dreams of creating a community space for people in their community. The hub now hosts a range of activities focused on wellbeing and provides a safe space for people to connect and access support.
- Being engaged in and shaping what wellbeing means to them. We work alongside communities on Systems Changers – a programme that supports local people and organisations including public authorities to connect, form relationships, and develop their voices. Members of the group embarked on a journey to assess what is crucial, what is/is not working in local systems, and to examine the stigma associated with accessing services.

What wellbeing means to grassroots community groups

We have made 907 grants (£1.4m) to grassroots community led groups to support connection and positive wellbeing. These grants demonstrate the breadth of wellbeing support that communities want:

- Space to meet and connect with others.
- Enriching activities such as gardening, hobbies, sport, and creativity that promote equitable access and new connections.
- Practical support to fulfil essential living standards such as access to food, clothing, and advice.

For further information, please see the [Micro Grants for Small Community Groups report](#).

What future wellbeing issues or challenges do you think legislation could help ensure we address?

We know that some communities face greater barriers to positive wellbeing. Legislation could help address this and mandate equitable approaches to achieving wellbeing. We also know there are key things that communities need for positive wellbeing.

Legislation could support:

1. Access to community spaces for people to come together and connect.
2. Ensuring that community voices are listened to and are at the heart of decision making that affects them.

Do you have any views on the range and type of organisations that any duty should apply to?

Wellbeing is core to the delivery of services provided by a wide range of organisations. This includes national and local statutory partners alongside third sector and commercial organisations. Through our place-based working, we see how the actions of these organisations affect the wellbeing of communities. We recognise the value of legal duties in standardising the approach taken across Scotland and in shifting power to communities to advocate for change.

We also recognise the importance of collaboration and working together to improve wellbeing. We work alongside a range of partners to do this. In the past 3 years, we've distributed £14m in grants to collaborations between third sector and public sector organisations. This has included organisations funded through the Promise Partnership to improve the wellbeing of people who have experienced the care system. Additionally, 20% of our grants made in the past 3 years have been to support public sector partners to create the conditions for change in systems.

Do you have any views on how we can better report the achievement of wellbeing objectives which supports clear accountability and scrutiny of public bodies in Scotland?

Communities need to see and feel the impact of action being taken. Listening to the voices of communities must be central to assessing the progress of achieving wellbeing objectives. Reporting on change needs to be done in ways that are accessible and meaningful to communities and recognise that communities access this information in different ways. Accountability requires a commitment to open conversation, listening to communities, and publicly committing to action.

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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