



People in Place – Annual Update 2018: Cumnock, East Ayrshire

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.

Shaun Lowrie has been working alongside the community in Cumnock since late June 2015. Shaun 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

Mapping and research

- Continued engagement with community groups and interested individuals. Built stronger connections with external agencies and increased awareness of the role of Corra Foundation's People in Place team.

Engagement – Bringing people together

- Increased understanding of Cumnock and the needs of the wider community by hosting pop-up engagement conversations at community events – Big Lunch, Cumnock Highland Games and Christmas Festival.
- Big Lunch specifically allowed us to carry out engagement specific to Tower Street project. We also carried out engagement in the town square – capturing in total 110 comments and ideas for the project.
- Increased social connectedness because of an increased number of opportunities for community to participate.
- Continued engagement with wider community groups has increased Co-ordinator awareness of services and facilities and highlighted opportunities for partnership working – Garden Group linking with local hospital; Sewing Group using their skills and talents as part of Armistice Events.
- Increased awareness of skills and talents across the community – local photographer assisting with events, landscape architect volunteering time to draft up memory garden plans, horticultural experts providing input at gardening group sessions.
- Increased engagement with seldom heard groups – Things Tae Dae, Riverside and Lisalanna (disabilities), leading to participation in community wide activities such as bulb planting, litter picks, the Big Lunch and Armistice events including cooking classes and stone painting project.
- Funding and information event provided an opportunity for 170 individuals representing 70 different organisations to come together, chat with funders and chat with each other about their project ideas. This resulted in increased connections and awareness of community-based organisations.

Development of community Ideas Into Action

- Launched a microgrant to encourage participation in “Get Creative” – leading to a £1500 small local grant being made available by Cumnock Action Plan to local organisations.
- Supported the setup and initial meetings of Cumnock Gardening Group. This was an idea from a community representative as a way of driving up support for specific themes/priorities from within the Action Plan.
- Increased environmental improvements in the community.
- Identification of community solutions for derelict open space within Cumnock Town Centre – Tower Street.
- Ongoing support of the Memory Garden project – asset transfer and engagement with Central Scotland Green Network Trust.
- Project funding required for Cumnock Gardening Group. Supported application to Greggs Environmental fund, which was successful for £2000.

- ✿ Supported Cumnock History Group to deliver a series of successful activities as part of their Cumnock Armistice events – including supporting a funding application for £5k from Big Lottery and hosting wider community engagement sessions.

Brokering role – Provide the glue to stick everything together

✿ Gardening Clubs

- Brokered connections with seldom heard individuals within the community, encouraging their participation in the group.
- Brokered connection with NHS and Gardening Group with the aim of identifying local voluntary opportunities. Unfortunately, the amount of bureaucracy put the group off proceeding.

✿ Armistice events

- Hosted two community engagement sessions to attract interest in the project and identify volunteers, as well as local skills, knowledge and interested individuals with stories to tell.
- Brokered connection between Cumnock History Group and 6 local primary schools and around 8 other community groups to participate in the stone painting memorial project.
- Brokered connection with Morrison Construction to secure resources and financial support for the project as part of their developer's contribution in line with the Barony Campus development.
- Brokered connection with Baldy Bain Theatre to secure costume hire for the homecoming dance.
- Brokered connection with GB Soundz and Smalltown Audio for technical equipment used at the homecoming dance.
- Brokered connection with Wee Sewing Bee and Gardening Group to produce banners and poppies for the events.

✿ Funding & Information Fayre

- Created opportunity for 70 organisations to engage with 23 exhibitors at a third sector information event in Cumnock Town Hall. This was made more accessible as it was organised for late afternoon > early evening. It was marketplace event, which allowed people to come and go as they chose.
- One successful application from East Ayrshire Women's Aid to Tudor Trust happened after the event.

✿ Brokered further connections between the local authority, Scottish Government and Cumnock Action Plan trustees.

- Linked arborist with the outdoor activities subgroup to advise on orchard development
- Connected in with Transport Scotland in relation to A76 upgrades in line with locally identified priorities.

Key themes in Cumnock

- ❁ Power: Key partnership with East Ayrshire LA, supports local action and systemic change.
- ❁ Participation: continues to grow in community activities, Cumnock Action Plan and local democracy.
- ❁ Voice: importance of meaningful consultation with 60% of households provided legitimacy to, and direction for, the Cumnock Action Plan group.
- ❁ Space: good progress made to develop stalled spaces, potential to develop a centrally located community facility.
- ❁ Investment: minimal financial investment required to date, through harnessing local skills/enthusiasm, but as the scale of ambition grows so will the level of investment required.

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 Shaun's work in Cumnock.

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 Cumnock from January to December 2018.



**640 hours of support
provided by
community members**



**2972 people engaged
or involved in activities**



**339 new people
reached**



**9026 people engaged
through Facebook**

Look Ahead

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

- Revisit themes and projects identified within the action plan and decide collectively with volunteers what the key actions should be for the year ahead. Also, identify any capacity building opportunities.
- Co-ordinate another funding and information event scheduled for March 13th with 28 confirmed partners attending to date.
- Support ongoing development of Memories Garden project, facilitating partners meetings and exploring funding opportunities based on the costings received from Central Scotland Green Network Trust. Also support neighbourhood engagement to rally local support.
- Focus some attention on Tower Street project, ensuring licence to occupy meets needs of the organisation. Support funding applications for work to commence on site.
- Share learning with another 'People in Place' community regarding the organising of a Big Lunch and the outcomes gained.

Contact Details

Name: Gordon Mclean

Email: gordon@corra.scot

Address: Corra Foundation
6th Floor Riverside House
502 Gorgie Road
Edinburgh
EH11 3AF

Phone: 0131 444 4045

Website: www.corra.scot

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:

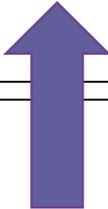
- 🌿 **Power**
- 🌿 **Poverty**
- 🌿 **Inequality**
- 🌿 **Social Isolation**

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.