

## **People in Place – Annual Update 2018: Dunterlie, East Renfrewshire**

### **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.

Laura Mathieson has been working alongside the community in Dunterlie since May 2017. Julie Aitken has been covering Laura's maternity leave since September 2018. Laura and Julie work 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 to connect with organisations and community groups working in East Renfrewshire beyond Dunterlie.
- Developed links with East Renfrewshire Council Departments and opportunities available. For example a new connection with the Unpaid Work Team and the Health and Social Care Partnership.

### Engagement – Bringing people together

- A Foodshare pilot was held in summer 2018, bringing new people into the Dunterlie Resource Centre. Local people are now working towards setting up a weekly Foodshare to directly reduce food insecurity and food waste.
- Dunterlie Planning Group set up and continuing regular meetings to address local needs and provide updates across groups
- Community members ran events such as a Macmillan Coffee Morning and The Big Lunch. These events engaged with new people and provide fun opportunities for people to get together
- Dunterlie Baby and Toddler Group and Green Giggles have expanded this year and have been supported to access several funding opportunities and resources from third party organisations
- Supported organisations and groups to meet through provision of space, refreshments, time, and materials. This has resulted in delivery of work, which is more responsive to local need, has encouraged new initiatives and ideas to be set up and formation of stronger community relationships with new people working together within the area.
- Supported the opening of Dunterlie Resource Centre five days per week with an open-door policy, providing opportunities for people to sit down for a cup of tea and a chat. This has been very successful in encouraging several new groups and activities to be set up. This has also generated lots of new connections for Corra Foundation with other local services and local people.
- Established new partnerships, bringing people together to maximise resources (e.g. School Holiday Activities, East Renfrewshire Council Young Persons Services/Band F/St John's, Parent Network Scotland/Barrhead Housing Association).

### Development of community Ideas Into Action

- Facilitated project feedback sessions, enabling local communities to shape ideas for change within projects (e.g. DIY Dunterlie)
- Arranged drop-in funding sessions and a funding directory – enabling local groups to access pots of money and speak with funders directly.
- After Dunterlie Resource Centre was opened, different operating times were tested to see what works for local people. This has resulted in the delivery of a new programme of school holiday activities delivered by a local partnership of organisations, a weekly Foodshare activity, a knitting and crochet group, a fitness class, and one-off events such as theatre performances, afternoon teas, and pop up support sessions from funders and the fire service.
- Facilitated and supported informal consultation of funding bids relating to the area (e.g. Barrhead Housing Association Climate Challenge Fund bid). This has resulted in funding

applications which are reflective of; local need, people's ideas and visions for local space, and building of trust and stronger partnership working.

- ☼ Supported local groups to resolve banking issues. This involved local people working together to solve problems. This has been particularly important with new groups who have not had a bank account and constitution in place at the point of receiving Participatory Budgeting funding. Through working with another local group and Corra Foundation's facilitation of this, the group was able to accept the funding and work towards getting a bank account set up.
- ☼ Organised events and activities to address local needs, e.g. desire to meet other people – coffee morning/The Big Lunch, food poverty – Foodshare initiative.
- ☼ Supported individuals with ideas e.g. Parents Football League (facilitating and arranging meetings, chasing up contacts etc.)
- ☼ Brought people together to share resources to enable Dunterlie Resource Centre to open up on weekends.
- ☼ Supported partner events and consultation activity e.g. Barrhead Housing Association's launch of DIY Dunterlie. Also ran democracy matters session.

### Brokering role – Provide the glue to stick everything together

- ☼ Corra's role in brokering relationships has been particularly important this year as the centre has seen a number of changes and big investment from key local organisations.
- ☼ Introduced 6 weekly key partner meetings to discuss forward planning and opportunities to work together.
- ☼ Supported volunteers to get involved
- ☼ Connected local people and staff at local organisations – resulted in new activity being delivered in the resource centre (Saturday activity and drama classes)
- ☼ Established new partnerships, including those between local people and organisations who can support with funding/connections. This has led to the development of a School Holiday Partnership including community groups, members, and organisations working together to deliver activity. Linking Parent Network Scotland with Barrhead Housing Association has resulted in the delivery of weekend family hubs at Dunterlie Resource Centre.
- ☼ Supported local individuals to attend key meetings with Health and Social Care Partnership, Council Staff, MSPs etc.

### Key themes in Dunterlie

- ☼ Space: opening Dunterlie Resource Centre has been a catalyst for new ideas and activities.
- ☼ Participation: increasing range and involvement in community activities is stimulating new ideas and a desire to be involved in decision making.
- ☼ Voice: Dunterlie Planning Group, although at an early stage, is giving the community a stronger voice.
- ☼ Investment: making better use of existing resources, such as connecting to separate participatory budgeting initiatives.
- ☼ Relationships: significant time has been spent supporting communication between organisations, agencies and community members.

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 Julie and Laura's work in Dunterlie.

## 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 Dunterlie from January to December 2018.



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



**701 people engaged or involved in activities**



**288 new people reached**



**375 people engaged through Facebook**

## Case study

### Dunterlie Resource Centre

Dunterlie Resource Centre is the only community space in the Dunterlie area of Barrhead. It has previously housed a library, offices for local organisations, and council staff alongside rooms available to hire for community groups and functions. It sits within Dunterlie Park which features an astro pitch, small play park, and green space. By 2017, the library had been relocated to a central location and no staff were based permanently in the building. The football pitch is closed for bookings due to health and safety concerns. The centre therefore was only opening for community group access across a maximum of 3 days a week.

Through consultation and discussion with the community, Corra identified that opening the centre more regularly could be of benefit to the wider community, helping to foster new activities and engagement with those not attending existing groups. This could be done both in partnership with local community members alongside anchor organisations.

**Corra undertook a number of direct actions alongside brokering and bridging work. This included:**

- 🌀 Experimenting with opening the centre on different days, times, and activities. Some of these run and funded by Corra, others in partnership.
- 🌀 Starting conversations with local people which led to ideas and groups. E.g. Dunterlie Baby and Toddler Group, Foodshare.
- 🌀 Laura and Julie were based in the centre whenever it was open. Leading to full time when the centre opened 5 days a week in October 2018.
- 🌀 Working with Barrhead Housing Association to support funding applications to increase regular lets in the building across a period of 18 months.

### **This action has resulted in:**

- ☼ Increased footfall through the centre.
- ☼ New groups and activities have been set up as a result of the centre being already open and therefore easier and cheaper for rooms to be hired by small groups.
- ☼ Community links are strengthened because there is meeting space for people to come together.
- ☼ Formation of Dunterlie Planning Group.
- ☼ Resources and skills are shared through these networks and conversations with other people.
- ☼ Corra is able to be a first point of contact with local people and services at the centre, providing a brokering role alongside direct practical support for individuals and groups such as PVGs, insurance, funding, constitutions etc.

### **Ongoing concerns:**

- ☼ Providing activity and resources needs a collaborative effort between the local authority, anchor organisations, and local people. To maintain the ambitious plans to keep the centre open 5 days a week beyond the period when large funding pots disappear needs careful planning. Corra is in an ideal place to look at this and begin conversations with organisations and local people.
- ☼ With multiple organisations delivering work in Dunterlie, it is important to discuss openly how this work sits alongside existing community groups and addresses local need.
- ☼ With so much activity taking place in the centre, it becomes difficult to book space. Forward planning of activities, knowledge of what is already taking place, and open communication with partners will help ensure that space is available for local community groups and individuals.

## **Look Ahead**

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

- ☼ Continue to develop partnership working, focussing on transparent communication and addressing questions of ownership.
- ☼ Encourage open conversation about decision making within these partnerships.
- ☼ Be involved in conversations surrounding centre developments and support the community to have their voices heard.
- ☼ Continue to facilitate and support Dunterlie Planning Committee.
- ☼ Develop overview of Dunterlie Activity – what's on, who's who etc.
- ☼ Continue to support local people to deliver positive change e.g. summer holiday activities.
- ☼ Encourage new people to access the centre.

## Connections in Dunterlie

[The Dunterlie network map](#) represents the network of relationships between organisations and groups in Dunterlie. As a first attempt, the mapping is from the perspective of Julie and Laura the local Community Co-ordinators. 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:**

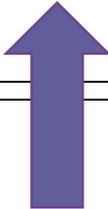
- 🌿 **Power**
- 🌿 **Poverty**
- 🌿 **Inequality**
- 🌿 **Social Isolation**

**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:**

🌿 <b>Relationships</b>	🌿 <b>Independence</b>
🌿 <b>Bridging</b>	🌿 <b>Building local capacity</b>
🌿 <b>Brokering</b>	🌿 <b>Trust</b>



## 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.