



People in Place – Annual Update 2018: Fernhill, South Lanarkshire

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.

Cath McNally has been working alongside the community in Fernhill since June 2016. Cath 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

- IT Classes - Local people highlighted a desire to brush up on IT skills. A basic introduction to computers began in Fernhill community centre, taking advantage of the new resources and internet connection within the centre.
- Pop-up Café - In many informal consultations within the community a café has been highlighted as something people would like to see. A pop-up café was trialled at the community centre and proved very popular, specifically among parents with young children and older residents.
- Holiday Club, School's Oot Group - Supported local parents to come together and plan and deliver a series of events and activities throughout the school holidays, bringing together families from across the community each week.
- Pre-school Group, Toddling About Group - Supported local parents to come together and create a weekly parent and pre-five group in the community.

Development of community Ideas Into Action

- Holiday Club, School's Oot Group - Supported the group to come together and plan a series of events and activities aimed at local families, addressing issues around accessing free social opportunities, often providing food, helping to mitigate issues around poverty and food insecurity.
- Pre-school Group, Toddling About Group - Supported the group to come together weekly and provided an opportunity for parents and children to get to know each other and form this new group, which now meets on a weekly basis.

Brokering role – Provide the glue to stick everything together

- Holiday Club, School's Oot Group - Brokered connections between the group and other groups and organisations that could help them deliver their summer programme and achieve their goals.
- Pre-school Group, Toddling About Group - Brokered connections between the group and other organisations that could help them deliver their weekly sessions and plan future activities.

Key themes in Fernhill

- Space: the availability of affordable and agenda free community space.
- Voice: work is ongoing to increase the range of voices in the community.
- Power: balance of control between community stakeholders.
- Investment: funding for established local groups. A participatory budgeting process is being explored.
- Participation: working to address barriers to getting involved, and towards identifying agreed local priorities.

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 Cath's work in Fernhill.

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 Fernhill from January to December 2018.



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



**663 people engaged or
involved in activities**



**311 new people
reached**



**43 people engaged
through Facebook**

Case study

by Kirsten Moore, community member

In the beginning...

I really wanted to put something in place over the summer for local families; I feel like there is a gap in the community where there is nothing for children up until the age of 5 and then between 14 and 19 years. I know that parents worry about keeping their kids occupied over the summer holidays so I wanted to work with other local mums to put on weekly activities so folk could plan their week ahead and come along with the kids. The events were all free and food was provided for the kids which I think eased the burden on families. I really just wanted people to come together and build friendships at an inclusive event that would help with the kids boredom over the holidays.

Along the way...

I initially connected up with some local mums that were quite vocal about what they wanted to do, and through this I met the Community Co-ordinator from Corra Foundation which really opened my eyes and showed me what was possible in the community. I have a personal connection to most families in the community. In speaking to them about what they would like to get involved in over the summer, and really listening to what they were saying, we could deliver events that met the needs of local families. As the summer progressed, more and more people were becoming invested and asking what they could do to get involved with delivery.

In the end...

I realised just how popular the summer programme of events and activities actually was. Local people began asking if we would be doing it again and how they could get involved. I think the

biggest challenge I faced was working with others. Sometimes people can be working to achieve the same thing but they have very differing views on how to achieve this end goal. However, I feel the positives far outweighed the negatives from the programme and I believe the biggest success for the programme was seeing families coming together to have a good time, inspiring parents to come along and get involved in connecting with their community. One local mum who grew up in Fernhill said “I never felt part of this community until this summer”.

And I learned...

Just how much work is involved in delivering the kind of summer programme we delivered, but it won't put me off. I will just make sure next time I am open to more voices from the start of the process and hopefully with more voices and more people helping it will make it easier. The more people you involve in planning large scale programmes and events in the community, the more it will benefit the whole community.

Look Ahead

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

- 🌀 Support a group to develop and deliver a Participatory Budgeting project for Fernhill
- 🌀 Continue to support and develop ideas with the local community
- 🌀 Support parents from Toddling About to take ownership of their group

Connections in Fernhill

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

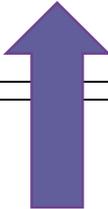
- 🌱 **Power**
- 🌱 **Poverty**
- 🌱 **Inequality**
- 🌱 **Social Isolation**

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.