

People in Place – Annual Update 2018: Langlees, Falkirk

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.

Angela Smith has been working alongside the community in Langlees since June 2017. Angela 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

- ☼ Locality meetings with Falkirk Council Children’s Services and Aspiring Communities.
- ☼ New connections to NHS community care staff working across communities.
- ☼ Community walkabouts
- ☼ Informal drop in days
- ☼ Pop up Prom event. Angela partnered with a local dress maker Forth Valley community focus
- ☼ Celebration event
- ☼ Attendance at the Langlees school learning event. School brought together local partners to show what was going on in the local area. This raised awareness of the work that Corra is doing alongside the community, particularly the work with Dawson Sports Development Association.
- ☼ Outdoor community summer event
- ☼ Delivered six-week Christmas crafts
- ☼ Christmas wreath making workshops
- ☼ First Christmas Festival
- ☼ Setting up the Food Initiative
- ☼ Linking with the local primary school for the Christmas Food Appeal
- ☼ Partnership working with the local authority & third sector organisation CVS to support the Sports Development Group that will take forward the new multi sports pitch.

Development of community Ideas Into Action

- ☼ Supported young person to hold a barbecue and outdoor fun day
- ☼ Connected with local social enterprises to deliver a celebration event
- ☼ Worked with partners to remove barriers for young people attending school proms
- ☼ Attendance at local events connecting with partner organisations to promote local activities – raising the profile of the new Dawson Sports Development Association.
- ☼ Worked with partners to create a food network and collated data to form a list of all local food banks.
- ☼ Supported the development of a weekend surplus food initiative, helping reduce food poverty to those that use it as well as reducing food waste that would otherwise go to landfill.
- ☼ A partnership between the local primary school and local community groups resulted in Langlees first community Christmas festival.
- ☼ Supported the delivery of 2 food parcel days as part of a ‘Christmas food appeal’. Community members who needed extra help with food could receive it through a referral and non-referral process. The Christmas food appeal was part of the Christmas festival, in partnership with the ‘Keep Inspiring Change’ group.
- ☼ Supported the delivery of craft workshops on a weekly basis for four weeks in December. The participants are looking to form a long-term group in the New Year.
- ☼ Continue to work with partners to support the sports development group to open the new multi sports pitch.
- ☼ Working alongside the local high school and social work department, supported a young person in Langlees with work experience. This provides an opportunity to learn skills in the community. The young person is supported by her social worker to be involved for 2 hours a week.

Brokering role – Provide the glue to stick everything together

- 🌱 Developed partnerships with local schools, colleges and universities to keep links open to allow a flow of connections for communities.
- 🌱 The community identified food poverty as an issue and were looking for ways to reduce food poverty. They linked in with supermarkets to support the food initiative twice a week.
- 🌱 Connected the local school to a local printing business, safety signs were put up outside the school to raise awareness of road safety.
- 🌱 Provided space to deliver workshops, which has allowed people to create further ideas for moving forward.
- 🌱 Supported people involved in the development of a new multi sports pitch to become a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation.

Key themes in Langlees

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 Angela's work in Langlees.

- 🌱 Power: balance of control between community stakeholders.
- 🌱 Space: the availability of agenda free community space.
- 🌱 Participation: people are active in new activities and have taken part in 'active community planning' through use of the Place Standard tool.
- 🌱 Voice: building on use of the Place Standard tool, people now have a way of talking about the things that are important to them in the community. The next stage of this will be to develop ways in which this voice can be used and heard.

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 Langlees from January to December 2018.



158 hours of support provided by community members



797 people engaged or involved in activities



389 new people reached



140 people engaged through Facebook

Langlees Food Initiative case study

During a consultation the community identified a need to access free or low-cost food locally, in a similar way to a Foodbank but without the formal referral process. This issue also came up regularly from the children's consultations.

To gain more information on how this could be implemented, connections were made with similar organisations to gain knowledge on ways that Foodbanks deliver to communities. It was difficult to find much information on the process of requesting a referral to a Foodbank. It transpired that the process would be to speak to your Local Authority Housing Department, local Councillors, Social Work, Schools or Children Services although this is not openly advertised.

Weekend availability of foodbanks and food larders also came up as another barrier. This was leaving people hungry over weekends with no way of accessing food.

"Having this at the weekend is great as sometimes the other food larders don't have anything to offer, so this is helping so much." **Resident of Langlees**

There is the added pressure of the new welfare system which has been implemented across the council area which was leading to hunger. This was compounded by a wait of up to six weeks for people to wait for money while they fully rolled over to Universal Credit.

Although the referral process does serve a process, locally it was clear people needed access to food at low or no cost, and the ability to access it without going through a referral process. Listening to people's stories and how many barriers people faced to accessing support was overwhelming.

"Just want to say the food bank at the Sub building really benefits me as I am struggling on my own. The girls do an amazing job helping families in the community. It would be good if it could be open one day during the week as well." **NHS Nurse**

Links were made with relevant organisations that could support a food project to be sustainable. That led to a partnership between Corra Foundation the local community, Fairshare UK and Tesco Superstores. Every day, good food that has reached its sell by date but still within date to eat goes to landfill unless the food is distributed to charities/local groups.

The benefit of setting up this project means the community can access fresh vegetables, bakery and fruit. The impact is people can stay healthy and it is also allowing people to have social contact with other community members. This has led to new ideas – one of which is a new knitting group to be set up.

"I started using the food initiative after seeing a post on Facebook. I went along one weekend as my neighbour was struggling and could do with a little help for her family. I now pop in almost every weekend for a chat with the girls who run the initiative as they are very friendly. I am a keen knitter and have suggested about starting a knitting/sewing group." **Janet 68 yrs.**

Impact

Food initiative impact from September 2018 – March 2019

44	<i>Collections</i>
669kg	<i>Collected food</i>
1472	<i>Meals equivalent</i>
2142kg	<i>CO² savings</i>
126	<i>Individuals reached</i>

Lessons learned / challenges

The biggest challenge for the community is the cost and ease related to letting the building to hold the food initiative, particularly over a weekend. Corra Foundation has provided funds to enable this to happen. Corra Foundation has also directly supported weekend opening of the building through Angela acting as the designated key holder and being present for the whole time of the let. On a normal basis, caretakers are not available to open and close the building at weekends. In order to make this more sustainable, the hope is that the volunteers can become a key holder and not be reliant on Angela opening the building for them.

The most important lesson for the community is that there are ways of taking back control and making changes to the way systems are implemented. The initiative has not only opened up access to food for those who need it but has also had an impact by saving good food going to landfill.

Look Ahead

Over the next few months Corra Foundation's People in Place community coordinator will:

- 🌱 Support Dawson Sport Development Association to develop of a new multi sports facility.
- 🌱 Reconnect the former regeneration group through promoting new members for the group.
- 🌱 Work with organisations across the community to develop a project looking at your community past to present.
- 🌱 Continue and promote Langlees Surplus Food Initiative (non-referral)
- 🌱 Revisit consultations and supporting students to use the Place Standard tool.
- 🌱 Working with partner organisations to facilitate ladies support network group.
- 🌱 Community wide leaflet drop through all letter boxes to promote upcoming events, groups and local information that is available for people to access.

Connections in Langlees

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

Co-ordinator Contact Details

Name: Angela Smith

Email: angela@corra.scot

Address: Excellence in Childcare Building
Dawson Campus
David's Loan
Bainsford
FK27GT

Phone: 07830 800 828

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.

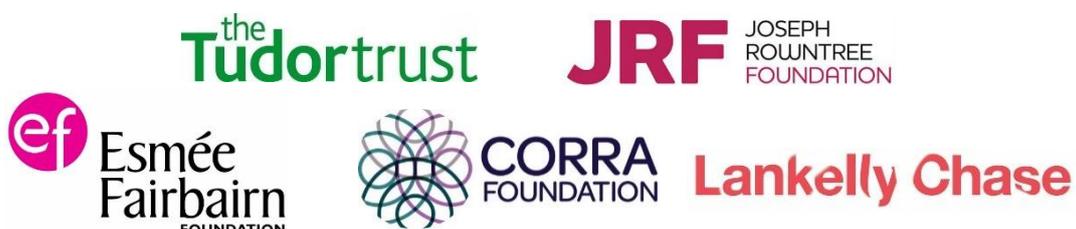
Strong foundations have now been laid for the [Getting Alongside Communities](#) programme and communities to create positive change at an increased pace. This Annual Update provides an illustration of the work in individual communities and draws out key high-level learning points which have been incorporated 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:

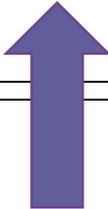
- 🌱 **Power**
- 🌱 **Poverty**
- 🌱 **Inequality**
- 🌱 **Social Isolation**

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.