

People in Place – Annual Update 2017: Methil, Fife

Introduction

This brief update highlights the work being undertaken by Corra Foundation (previously called Lloyds TSB Foundation for Scotland) in Methil, Fife, including the learning gathered so far through the People in Place programme.

➤ Initial community selection process

We first met with members of Fife Council Community Learning and Development team on 15th December 2016, and followed up with the pledge as to how we would set out to work alongside the communities of Fife.¹

This initial meeting was followed up with:

- Local area team meetings.
- A community walkabout.
- Local community meetings.

As a result of the combined research and community walkabout it was agreed that Methil had all the ‘ingredients’ for the People in Place work. These included:

- A willing appetite from the local team to support our work.
- A central venue for the worker.
- The population size met our criteria.
- The area is a self-defined community.
- The area had different community spaces.

Iyaah Warren was recruited and began working in Methil in July 2017. This brief report contains a snapshot of the work she has been undertaking.



➤ Snapshot of work during the past year

Phase	Activity
<p>Mapping and Research</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Community based research including regular walking in the area. ➤ Induction meetings and visits. ➤ Range of desk based research. ➤ Development of asset based and statistical area profile.
<p style="text-align: center;">Engagement</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">MAGNET bringing people together</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Introductory meetings with key statutory and voluntary sector partners. ➤ Series of informal conversations with community leaders and groups. ➤ Building relationships and trust with community connectors through attendance and participation at local groups. ➤ Corra’s neighbourhood focus is adding value to Community Learning and Development and Health and Social Care partners work by supporting progression to community involvement and community led initiatives. ➤ Specific activities include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ‘Pop up Shop’ activities with Welfare Reform Anti-Poverty partners, one school based, one street based. • Consultation with S3-S6 pupils. • Capacity building and partnership work with a community centre management committee on community consultation and engagement. • Introducing new members to a weekly activity and friendship group and supporting members to contribute their views and take an active role. • Community mapping consultation with older people and carers.
<p style="text-align: center;">Development of ideas into action</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">TO FIND SOLUTIONS that are appropriate and work</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ New community led creative writing group accommodated at Sailors Rest community centre. ➤ Supporting a community based adult learning group to deliver a regular programme within the community. ➤ Heritage programme of tours, talks and tea in partnership with local heritage centre with a view to involving participants in the development of heritage boards and artefacts in Methil’s built environment. ➤ Working with local parents who want to start a youth club for children and young people with additional support needs, in particular ADHD.
<p style="text-align: center;">Brokering role</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Working with Levenmouth Foodbank, Arden House Projects, Community Trades Hub, St Agatha and St Giles Ladies Group and Methil Creative Collective to raise awareness and confidence about applying for funding.

<p>PROVIDE THE GLUE to stick everything together²</p>	<p>➤ Sharing knowledge about neighbourhood opportunities and resources e.g. a medical practice requested attendance at support group for people recently diagnosed with cancer to inform participants about local opportunities.</p>
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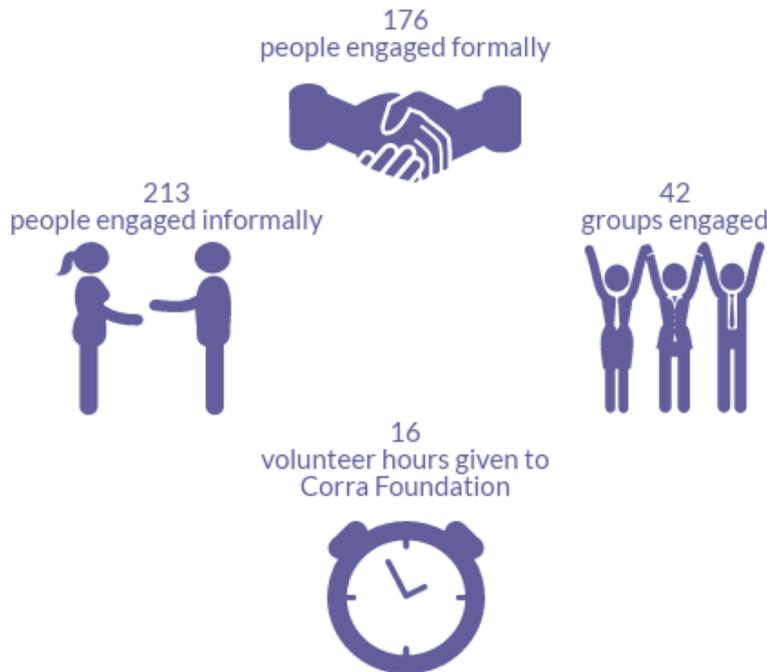


All designed to: **SUPPORT** the community to achieve their ambitions.

Area in Numbers

➤ Engagement numbers

As part of our learning and evaluation framework we have developed systematic ways in which to keep track of how we are working in the community using both qualitative and quantitative data. Below is a snapshot of engagement the Methil community co-ordinator has done over the year.



Showcase

➤ Brief case study

A six-week heritage programme in partnership with Methil Heritage Centre:

A lady who has lived in Methil all her life thought Methil should have heritage information boards, mosaics and other artefacts in its streets to remind people about the town’s impressive history. Another resident of Methil and founder member of Methil Heritage Centre started our programme with three short tours about old Methil. We viewed collections and heard talks in the Heritage Centre and travelled to Buckhaven to learn how community group CLEAR created heritage boards and community art pieces there. Week six of the programme was a group discussion on what we need to do now to establish heritage boards and artworks in Methil.

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² A snapshot of some of the connections being made can be found in the ‘Connections Mapping’ section of this report

Some quotes regarding the **visit** to CLEAR Buckhaven and tour:

"So interesting and inspiring"

"I could work on a Heritage Lottery application if you would help me ..."



Look Ahead

➤ Over the next few months Corra Foundation will:

- ❁ Continue the outreach and engagement work in Methil to raise awareness of Corra Foundation People in Place mission, continue mapping assets and promote community involvement in Methil.
- ❁ Develop further the heritage work, building and maintaining interest through more tours, visits and art work while we seek resources for boards and artefacts.
- ❁ Continue to support parents of children and young people with additional support needs to research, plan and test their youth club idea.
- ❁ Continue to support the growth and development of the creative writing group
- ❁ Continue to support the fledging community centre based community group to integrate new members, deliver their programme and raise funds.

Co-ordinator Contact Details

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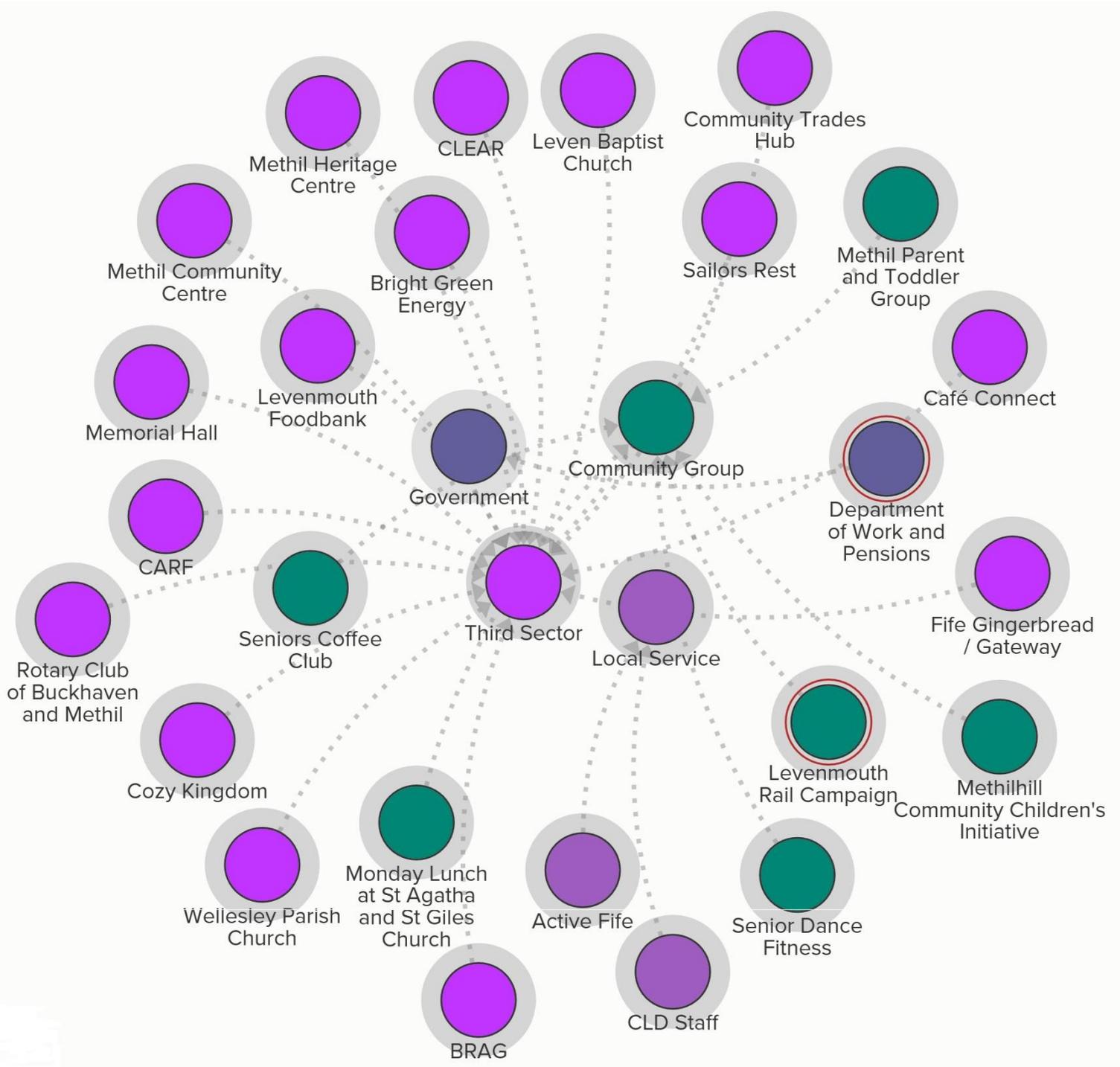
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Connections Mapping

➤ Visual snapshot of the connections being made



Legend

- Connection
- Third Sector
- Community Group
- Government
- Local Service

Summary of the People in Place Programme

Corra Foundation (previously Lloyds TSB Foundation for Scotland) launched the place-based programme “People in Place” in 2014 after a strategic review which highlighted that traditional grantmaking was not reaching many of Scotland’s communities, and yet these communities are among those facing the greatest daily challenges. Corra Foundation believes that by supporting communities and increasing participation, individuals and therefore communities will become more confident, more able to challenge the structural barriers that impact on everyday life and in this way the programme will achieve systems change.

People in Place has an overarching theory of change for this work. The key indicators of this are:

- ❁ To reach places in Scotland where Corra Foundation and other grant-makers struggle to reach.
- ❁ To work in partnership with the community to identify assets and encourage participation, engagement and action.
- ❁ To create a network of connections that help to increase resilience and facilitate access to sustainable resourcing for the long term.
- ❁ To increase awareness of the importance of place and how this affects life chances and opportunities, through learning and sharing.

Culminating in creating long term social change.

In 2014 we set out to establish a programme, working alongside communities in nine local authority areas that were in receipt of proportionately less independent grant funding. We are now working alongside eight communities in seven of the original nine local authority areas with the remaining two due to begin in 2018.

Sharing Lessons and Learning at Programme Level

➤ Emerging programme level learning

- ❁ Early insight shows us that by focussing on engaging and listening in small communities we are reaching people who are often seldom heard, working to provide a platform for them to be heard.
- ❁ There is an increased understanding as to why communities do not access independent grant funding. Reasons include:
 - The formal process of having to be a registered charity or fully constituted group.
 - The skills and capacity needed to complete the process.
 - The fear and time it takes to complete applications.
 - The fact that groups need to alter their idea to fit criteria
 - Worry about what will happen if the funding runs out and the impact this could have.
 - For many groups, the idea is short lived or a one off so the formal process of accessing funding is too daunting.

- There is still a big reliance on the council doing things and a belief it is their job. This, coupled with the lack of belief within the communities where the programme is working, means that the great ideas people have never come to fruition as there is a perception that there are too many barriers and they are unsurmountable.
- ❁ Early indicators are that to really foster resilience in place, different financing models need to be developed to fit with the communities' ambitions; this will be a focus for the coming year as the programme grows.
- ❁ Effective engagement takes time, developing trusting relationships to allow participation to increase organically.
- ❁ Community, agenda-free space is vital to foster relationships.

➤ Support groups

- ❁ The People in Place programme continues to benefit from strong commitment from the co-investors who provide ongoing support as well as investment, members of the Place-based Advisory Group (P-bAG), who meet three times a year to challenge and support on the operational aspects of the delivery, and the Observers group, who meet twice a year to focus on the macro impact emerging from working across multiple areas.

➤ Development of the learning framework

- ❁ People in Place has developed a framework through which to capture learning both as individuals and as a team.
- ❁ This framework involves weekly capture of reflections on what is happening in each community using qualitative and quantitative data, and bi-monthly meetings to discuss the learning coming out of these weekly reflections.
- ❁ The evolving evidence base is capturing what works and what doesn't for engaging with people in different communities, and particularly with the people who are identified as being seldom heard in those communities.

➤ Looking forward

- ❁ In the longer term, it is envisaged that this framework will help us to better understand what enables positive change.
- ❁ Support will continue to be given to develop community co-ordinators in their ability to gather evidence and listen to the stories, experiences and aspirations of the people they are working alongside.
- ❁ Our work has led to the Scottish Government funding Corra Foundation to undertake a short-term project to convene a cross-sector group to explore what makes place-based approaches effective and make recommendations for change.