

# Supporting Birth Parents Invite for a Storyteller

March 2025



## Learning Brief

Corra Foundation (Corra) is looking for a storyteller that will help to illustrate the insights and impact of Supporting Birth Parents Fund, which aims to support birth parents whose child(ren) have been permanently removed from their care.

The purpose of this brief is to help us sensitively and thoughtfully tell the stories and experiences of birth parents who have accessed the services supported through this Fund – using creative methods of gathering and sharing stories in a method(s) chosen by the birth parents who choose to participate in this project.

We anticipate that any creative output (e.g. a book/a play/artwork) will be ready for public display at a high-profile event planned for late August 2025.

## Introduction

In 2021, The Scottish Government contracted Corra to deliver the ‘Supporting Birth Parents’ Fund. The fund aims to improve support for birth parents who no longer have care of their children because of state intervention. In April 2022, 13 organisations received funding to deliver front-line, intensive, relational support services in areas across Scotland. Further information on the work of the fund can be accessed in [Supporting Birth Parents Fund Report Summary](#).

## Storyteller Requirements

The appointed partner will work alongside existing grant holders and birth parents to capture reflections and stories from parents, in their own words (or pictures). The topics to cover will be agreed with grant holders and birth parents – but we anticipate that the organic and creative nature of this work will mean what and how stories are shared will develop as the project begins, and relationships between the appointed storyteller and birth parents develop.

It may be that the stories focus on personal experiences, challenges, what has helped them and what aspirations or wishes they may have for the future. This work is **not** to re-share any individual stories explicitly, but rather to look at how we can shine a light on the importance of the support services - directly from those who have accessed it. It may be that compound stories or creative interpretations of individual stories are a useful method for this project.

The appointed partner will work with parents and grant holders to identify, design and create the right approach to share the experiences. It is vital that the appointed partner understands the significant trauma and stigma birth parents have experienced and are confident in their competency and skill in working with groups of people who are vulnerable.

We are looking for an organisation who can capture the reflections from parents, in their words (or pictures) on how and what has helped them and/or on what else is needed to support people with similar experiences. This work will complement and contribute to a greater understanding of where work is impactful and draw out practice examples; what is working well, overcoming challenges and steps to help sustain the changes.

## Skills & Experience

The appointed partner must have extensive experience in creative communication and storytelling, and ability to share these stories in a way that is impactful and thoughtful. The appointed partner must also be skilled in evaluative practice and methods. The appointed partner will be expected to:

- Hold supportive spaces and help design stories in a safe and trauma informed way.
- Have flexibility and can work sensitively and thoughtfully at the pace of parents.
- Manage logistical requirements including liaising with grant holders to arrange appropriate times to visit and conduct the work.
- Provide safeguarding support measures for people engaged or participating in the project. Keep both grant holders and Corra informed of any flags or concerns.
- Understand the potential demands grant holders may already experience. It is important grant holders feel this work will be valuable and will not be expected to lead this work themselves.

It is vital that the appointed partner is highly skilled in trauma informed practices and confident in their ability to support people to share their stories in a sensitive and safe way. The partner will be expected to facilitate and hold spaces and conversations with grant holders and parents enabling parents to reflect and share their thoughts and experiences.

We also require that the partner has excellent facilitation skills that supports active listening. We expect that the partner will be able analyse and make sense of complex and emotive issues and enable supportive group sessions for people to discuss and think critically about their own and each other's work.

It would also be beneficial for the learning partner to have a good understanding of social justice issues and stigma. Understanding of trauma and stigma is vital for this work, and prior experience of working with people affected by drugs, alcohol, care experience, bereavement, child loss or removal, learning disabilities, domestic violence will be an asset.

## Core Activities and Outputs

We are looking for the appointed learning partner to help design and deliver a plan that will support and produce six in-depth stories. The partner's proposal should detail how they would carry out this work. We expect this to cover:

- Co-ordinate with grant holders on relevant logistical requirements (e.g. meeting arrangements, venue, support for parents in attending sessions).
- Building relationships with potential participants working with them to feel connected to the overall process.
- Offer solutions on how to present stories that is meaningful and sensitive. Specifically, the co-design of outputs with parents, and the facilitation and management of the design and delivery of final outputs.
- Produce accessible final stories/creative output for sharing.
- Work with Corra staff to deliver a launch event in August 2025.
- Work with parents, grant holders and Corra staff to produce a tangible output from the work. This may be a printed/published book, a video/audio recording of any performances etc.
- Produce short learning report for Corra on the process.

Corra will obtain rights to the resources and will be identified as the owner/funder of the work on any published documents.

The appointed organisation/person will ensure they have all relevant policies and insurances in place to support collation of stories, data and information management and sharing. Including but not limited to privacy, GDPR. The appointed partner must have relevant safeguarding policies, processes and training (including adult and child protection). They/their staff will have a full Enhanced Disclosure<sup>1</sup>.

## Timeframe

It is anticipated that the work will start in April 2025 and conclude August/September 2025.

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|--------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| • Completed proposals with Corra           | 21 <sup>st</sup> March 2025 |
| • Decisions made                           | 28 <sup>th</sup> March 2025 |
| • Inception meeting and contract agreement | 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2025  |
| • Project work begins                      | 15 <sup>th</sup> April 2025 |

## Budget

Total budget up to £40,000 (inclusive of VAT). This should include all staff costs, travel, venue and materials in relation to the storytelling and visits and meetings with grant holders and parents. The budget should include all design stage elements for the final creative output.

Corra will separately meet the costs of a launch event, small remuneration for grant holder/parent involvement in the project. Corra will also negotiate separately with the appointed partner on any publication costs for physical materials (i.e. final output).

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<sup>1</sup> Please note Corra will not cover any costs associated with obtaining Disclosure Checks for the appointed contractor of the project.

## Proposal Requirements

Proposals should be no more than 10 pages and must include evidence of meeting the required criteria, offer further thoughts on ideas on how to shape the proposal brief. The proposal also needs to include:

- Timeline for meeting the brief.
- Trauma Informed practice, safeguarding and ethical statements.
- Details of the team of people who will work on this project including relevant skills and experience.
- Provide contact for project manager.
- Breakdown of proposed activity and budget.
- At least two examples of previous relevant work.

All proposals must be completed electronically to [learning@corra.scot](mailto:learning@corra.scot) by **5pm 21<sup>st</sup> March 2025**.

Please email [rowan@corra.scot](mailto:rowan@corra.scot) if you have any questions in relation to this work.

# About Corra Foundation

Corra Foundation exists to make a difference to the lives of people and communities. It works with others to encourage positive change, opportunity, fairness and growth of aspirations which improve quality of life. Corra wants to see a society in which people create positive change and enjoy fulfilling lives.

In 2020 Corra launched a ten-year strategy. It is long term because making a difference on the big challenges will take time. At its heart is the strong belief that when people find their voice, they unlock the power to make change happen.

## Our ways of working

At Corra we have a set of principles that we strive to put into practice across our roles as an employer, independent funder, charity and partner, as well as in our influencing activity.

We will:

- Listen and respond to people, communities and organisations and amplify voices that are less well heard – their wisdom is at the heart of Corra's approach.
- Build relationships, always working alongside others on the basis of shared power, mutual trust and shared learning.
- Pursue diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI), trying to challenge structural discrimination and contribute to radical shifts in the funding sector.
- Be an open, trusting and flexible grant maker.
- Ensure we contribute to tackling climate change, through our investments, operations and grant making and encouraging others to take action alongside us.
- Be bold, taking considered risks and supporting others to do the same.

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