



COALFIELDS REGENERATION TRUST

ANNUAL REPORT
FOR
SCOTLAND

2025 - 2026

CONTENTS PAGE

- 1 INTRODUCTION
- 3 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
- 4 HIGHLIGHTS
- 6 CRT PLACE
- 15 CRT ENGAGE
- 20 COALFIELD WORX
- 22 CRT SUPPORT
- 28 EAST AYRSHIRE - Family Hub & Connecting Communities
- 36 CRT GAME ON
- 41 PARTNERSHIP WORKING
- 43 FUNDING
- 44 CRT HUBS
- 45 CRT PROPERTY
- 46 SOCIAL VALUE
- 47 FINANCE
- 48 HOW WE MEASURE PROGRESS

INTRODUCTION



The Coalfields Regeneration Trust (CRT) in Scotland delivers community-led, place-based regeneration in former coalfield communities through Scottish Government Regeneration funding. CRT works with local people and partners to deliver against regeneration outcomes by reducing spatial inequality, strengthening local capacity, and supporting sustainable economic and social regeneration, while progressing CRT's five missions of community, health, skills, employment and climate.

Vision

To build a successful future for people living in coalfields communities.

Mission

We want coalfields communities to provide the best opportunities for people to work, learn and live healthy lives.

Chair's Statement – Scotland (2025/26)

As Chair of the Coalfields Regeneration Trust (Scotland), I am pleased to present our Annual Report for 2025/26, reflecting another year of committed delivery in Scotland's former coalfield communities.

This has been a year of continued economic pressure, with rising living costs and persistent inequalities creating ongoing challenges. Against this backdrop, the Trust's role remains vital, supporting communities to address immediate needs while building resilience, confidence and long-term sustainability.

Throughout the year, our focus on place-based working has remained central. By supporting local place planning, community action and investment in community-led programmes, we have continued to strengthen wellbeing, employability and opportunity, grounded in local priorities and partnerships.

I am particularly encouraged by the way our work connects people, place and opportunity, recognising the links between economic regeneration, health and wellbeing, and community empowerment. Our support for families, young people and those furthest from opportunity highlights the importance of long-term relational approaches.

Collaboration remains key. I extend my thanks to our community partners, local authorities, national organisations and the Scottish Government for their continued support. I also recognise the dedication and professionalism of our staff team across Scotland.

While challenges remain, so too does the opportunity. The Trust remains committed to supporting communities to shape their own futures and achieve lasting, sustainable change.

Nicky Wilson
Chair, Scotland



Nicky Wilson
Trustee and
Scotland Committee Chairperson



Bob Young
Trustee

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

During 2025/26, the Coalfields Regeneration Trust (CRT) played a critical role in supporting Scotland's former coalfield communities, which continue to experience persistent inequality, poor health outcomes and economic disadvantage. With continued Scottish Government support, CRT delivered a comprehensive programme of place-based, preventative and community-led interventions aligned to national priorities, including child poverty reduction, community empowerment, employability, health and wellbeing, and climate action.

Despite ongoing cost of living pressures, CRT met or exceeded all agreed targets, with demand for support continuing to grow, reflecting both need and CRT's reputation as a trusted delivery partner.

Key achievements included strengthening community capacity through Local Place Plans and Action Plans; delivering integrated Family Hubs that reduce immediate hardship while supporting longer-term resilience; and enabling individuals facing significant barriers to gain skills, qualifications and progress into positive destinations. Programmes such as Game On Scotland improved physical and mental wellbeing for children and young people, while community-led climate activity ensured local priorities shaped action.

£650,000 of Scottish Government funding delivered significant impact, leveraging additional investment and community benefit. Alongside delivery, CRT progressed long-term sustainability through community wealth building and property development in Fife.

Overall, CRT continues to demonstrate how sustained, place-based investment delivers meaningful and lasting change in some of Scotland's most disadvantaged communities.

HIGHLIGHTS



203 people achieved accredited qualifications



69 training events, workshops,
seminars, consultations and surgeries
delivered



489 people/young people
participating in healthy lifestyles



22 assisted into work



Fife Council - £3.7m Regeneration Capital Grant Fund

Scotland 2025/26	Scotland			
Output	Target	Achieved	Target Met	Variance
Number of Community Action / Local Place Plans Developed	3	4	Met	1
Number jobs created/safeguarded	15	17	Met	2
Number assisted into work	20	22	Met	2
Number assisted in skills development	400	488	Met	88
Number qualifications achieved Accredited/SQA 1 and above	40	203	Met	163
Number of people participating in healthy lifestyles	200	489	Met	289
Number of new volunteers	45	47	Met	2
Number training events, event, workshops, seminars, consultations and surgeries delivered	30	69	Met	39
External Grant Funding Secured for community groups	£150,000.00	£3,789,947.00	Met	£3,639,947.00
Football		22		
Frequent Mild Exercise		10		
Frequent moderate exercise				
Number of Improved Services		6		
Number of social enterprises created/supported		0		
Number of community facilities supported/created	60	80	Met	20

During 2025/26, CRT delivered strong performance across all agreed outputs, meeting or exceeding every target set with the Scottish Government. In several areas, delivery surpassed expectations, reflecting both the scale of demand within coalfield communities and the effectiveness of CRT's place-based, preventative approach. This performance demonstrates the Trust's ability to translate national priorities into meaningful local outcomes while responding flexibly to emerging need. In addition to programme delivery, CRT secured significant additional investment, generating a further £3.8 million in leveraged funding to enhance and extend its impact. Overall, this reflects a consistent focus on value for money, partnership working and achieving positive, sustainable outcomes for individuals, families and communities across Scotland's former coalfield areas.

CRT PLACE

Across Gartcosh, Halbeath, Waterside, and Stepps and District, CRT supported communities to identify local priorities, strengthen their voice and build a clearer foundation for future action. This work helped residents engage with place-based planning in practical and accessible ways, ensuring that local knowledge, lived experience and community ambition were better reflected in conversations about change.

Working in communities facing growth pressures, infrastructure gaps, loss of local assets or the long-term effects of uneven investment, CRT's support helped turn community views into structured evidence, local priorities and so far, two formally registered Local Place Plans. Together, these programmes show the value of community-led planning in supporting stronger local capacity, more confident participation and better foundations for future regeneration.

Across all four communities, CRT Place activity responded to periods of significant change and uncertainty. Gartcosh, Halbeath, Waterside and Stepps and District are all experiencing housing growth, changing patterns of everyday life and increasing pressure on infrastructure, services, green space and community facilities.

In Gartcosh and Stepps and District, residents wanted greater influence over how development and growth would shape their communities, particularly where local identity, amenities and natural spaces mattered strongly. In Halbeath and Waterside, people were concerned that growth and change were not being matched by the right facilities, transport links, green space and opportunities for community life.

In each area, communities wanted a stronger voice, clearer routes into the planning system and greater confidence that local priorities would be recognised and taken seriously. CRT's role was to support communities to articulate what mattered most to them and to ensure that local views could meaningfully inform future planning and regeneration decisions



CRT PLACE

Programme Delivery

CRT delivered place-based, community-led support across all four areas, combining accessible engagement methods with practical planning tools.

Across Gartcosh, Halbeath and Waterside, CRT used 3 Wishes campaigns, postcards, surveys and online engagement to gather a wide range of local views, including strong participation from children and young people. In Waterside and Gartcosh, this engagement was combined with Place Standard assessments, mapping and policy-linked planning support aligned to National Planning Framework 4.

In Gartcosh and Stepps and District, CRT provided direct support to develop and register Local Place Plans, working closely with community councils and development trusts to structure local priorities into formal planning documents with recognised status. In Gartcosh, earlier place-based engagement also fed directly into a second phase of work, supporting Gartcosh Development Trust to build an evidence base for a potential Community Asset Transfer.

What made the programme distinctive across all four communities was that engagement did not stand alone. Local views were organised into credible evidence, structured priorities and, where appropriate, formal plans that communities could use to influence future decisions and next stages of action.

Outputs

Across the four communities, CRT Place activity achieved the following:

- 4 Local Place Plans formally produced and registered
- 1,000+ community wishes and responses gathered across all areas through
- Strong participation from children and young people, particularly in Halbeath and Waterside.
- 40 Place Standard assessments completed in Waterside.
- 7 new volunteers
- 8 Climate Action Workshops delivered
- 17 LPP workshops delivered
- 2 Levenmouth events

CRT PLACE

Impact

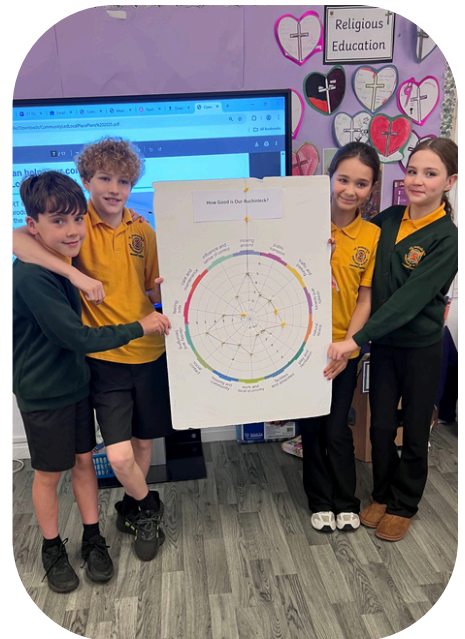
Across all four communities, the programme strengthened local confidence and capacity by giving residents practical routes to influence planning and articulate shared priorities.

Communities moved from broad concerns about growth, infrastructure and loss of amenities to more organised, credible and evidence-based responses. In Gartcosh and Stepps and District, this resulted in formally registered Local Place Plans with weight in future planning decisions. In Halbeath and Waterside, early engagement created a strong foundation for future planning, partnership working and local action.

An important outcome across all areas was that lived experience was translated into structured evidence. Community views were not only gathered, but organised into clear priorities, propositions and plans that can inform long-term change.

Outcomes

- Community Engagement strengthened
- More sustainable developments
- Improved local services
- Increased investment and funding opportunities
- Stronger partnerships and collaborations
- Increased skills and knowledge
- Enhanced local biodiversity



CRT PLACE

Case Study

Across the four communities, residents consistently highlighted the importance of everyday quality of life. Common themes included access to green space, safe routes for walking and cycling, facilities for children and young people, local services, transport, community meeting spaces and the protection of valued natural and heritage assets.

In Gartcosh, the Local Place Plan process directly informed consultation on the future of the primary school and community hall, revealing strong demand for an all-ages, health and family-centred community hub. In Halbeath, children and young people clearly articulated the need for play spaces, sports facilities, nature trails and safe places to spend time outdoors.

In Waterside, residents across several settlements identified shared priorities despite distinct local identities, including a community hub, better transport links, improved paths and protection of green space. In Stepps and District, community views were successfully shaped into a registered Local Place Plan that can now inform future development decisions.

‘CRT have an outstanding approach of bringing people together and striving for collaborative action. We’re incredibly grateful to CRT for what you do and how you do it.’ - Isobel from Gartcosh Development Trust.

“I can’t begin to tell you how grateful I am for all you’ve done helping us with that Place Plan. I know we’ve still got a way to go, but it’s such a relief to have it out for consultation. And there wouldn’t be any plan without you.” - Cordy from Waterside Community Council.

“We can’t thank you and Pauline enough for all you do. We wouldn’t be here without your encouragement, patience, advice and support.” - Alice from Stepps and District Community Council



CRT PLACE

Learning and Next Steps

A consistent lesson across all four communities was that engagement has greatest value when it connects to clear next steps. Communities are willing and able to articulate priorities, but need support to turn those priorities into structured plans, proposals and sustainable projects.

The programme demonstrated the value of combining inclusive engagement with structured planning tools, such as the Place Standard and Local Place Plans, and of providing practical templates and peer-support models that enable communities to take ownership of the process.

Going forward, continued investment in CRT Place support will be important to help communities sustain momentum, progress priorities and work with partners to turn plans into delivery. This includes support for feasibility work, co-design, partnership development and ongoing engagement, ensuring that local people can continue to shape the future of their places in line with the Scottish Government's National Planning Framework.



CRT PLACE

Levenmouth Community Action Plan & Participatory Budgeting

CRT Scotland has played a key role in supporting community-led regeneration in Levenmouth through our work with the Levenmouth Community Action Plan Steering Group, in partnership with Green Action Trust and Fife Council.

We have supported the establishment and ongoing facilitation of the Levenmouth Community Steering Group, bringing together residents, community organisations, local authority representatives and delivery partners to shape and guide local priorities.

Through this approach:

- Communities are directly involved in decision-making and programme design
- Partnerships between residents, Green Action Trust and public agencies are strengthened
- Local priorities are aligned with wider regeneration programmes, including the River Park Programme

CRT provides secretariat and coordination support, ensuring effective governance, inclusive participation and transparent decision-making processes.



CRT PLACE

Partnership with Green Action Trust

Working in collaboration with Green Action Trust, CRT is supporting delivery of the Engagement and Empowerment element of the wider Leven Programme, funded through the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

This partnership focuses on:

- Embedding community leadership within the River Park Programme
- Supporting the Steering Group to influence project delivery
- Increasing participation and engagement across Levenmouth communities

Participatory Budgeting (PB) Investment

A key element of this work is the delivery of a £80,000 Participatory Budget over two years, alongside an additional £25,000 Participatory Budget from Fife Council.

The PB approach enables:

- Direct community control over local investment decisions
- Funding for grassroots projects (£200–£4,000) led by community groups and residents
- Increased participation in local decision-making and civic engagement
- Delivery of projects that promote wellbeing, inclusion, place making and community pride

Impact

This integrated model of community action planning and participatory budgeting is delivering a stronger community voice and influence in regeneration activity. It also increases collaboration across statutory and third sector partners.

By linking community action planning with participatory budgeting, CRT is ensuring that local people are not only shaping priorities but directly resourcing and delivering the change they want to see in their communities.



CRT PLACE

Legacy and Impact of Completed LPPs – Benarty

Benarty is one example of a community where a previously completed Local Place Plan (LPP) is now delivering tangible benefits and progressing into implementation.

The Benarty LPP has provided a clear, community-led framework that has strengthened local priorities, supported partnership working, and increased confidence in moving from planning to delivery.

In recognition of the strength and ambition of the Local Place Plans across the Cowdenbeath Area, Fife Council (Cowdenbeath Area Committee) has awarded £10,000 to each of the communities in the area to support projects identified through their LPPs. Building on this investment, CRT is working closely with Benarty and neighbouring communities to help scope, design and progress these projects. Current proposals include the development of walking apps that showcase local heritage and promote active travel in two communities, enhancement of the entrance to a local woodland to improve accessibility and sense of place, and a feasibility study to explore the creation of a community garden, play area and outdoor classroom. This ongoing support demonstrates how Local Place Plans continue to act as living documents, leveraging investment, strengthening community capacity, and translating shared aspirations into practical, deliverable projects that enhance wellbeing, connectivity and local pride.



CRT PLACE

Legacy and Impact of Completed LPPs - Clackmannan

Clackmannan also provides a strong example of how a Local Place Plan and associated Community Action Plan can translate into long-term, transformational outcomes for a community.

The redevelopment and future use of Clackmannan Town Hall was identified as a priority within the community's Local Place Plan/Action Plan, reflecting a clear aspiration to secure, protect and bring an important local asset back into community use.

Building on this community-led vision, Clackmannan Development Trust has successfully achieved a Community Asset Transfer of the Town Hall, securing local ownership of a key civic building. Throughout this process, CRT provided practical support, advice and guidance to the Development Trust, helping the organisation to navigate the asset transfer process, strengthen governance and progress plans for the building's future use. This outcome demonstrates the lasting value of the Local Place Plan approach, with a completed plan continuing to influence investment decisions, unlock community ownership of assets and support sustainable, locally driven regeneration beyond the point of plan completion.



CRT ENGAGE

Training & Learning

The Training & Learning programme builds skills, confidence and capacity within individuals, community groups and partner organisations across coalfield communities. By working collaboratively with local groups and anchor organisations, the programme extends access to training opportunities that support personal development, employability and community resilience.

The programme is delivered within a community-based context, responding to locally identified needs and aligning provision with wider regeneration and economic priorities. Through partnership working, CRT ensures that training is accessible, relevant and targeted towards those who may face barriers to participation.

This approach strengthens the capability of community organisations to deliver services and sustain activity, while equipping individuals with the skills and confidence to access employment and further opportunities. In doing so, the programme supports improved life chances, contributes to local economic growth, and underpins long-term regeneration within Scotland's former coalfield communities.



CRT ENGAGE

Programme Delivery

During 2025–2026, the Training & Learning programme continued to extend its reach across Scotland's coalfield communities through a collaborative, community-based delivery model. Of the 372 individuals who expressed an interest in training, 363 new delegates accessed provision, demonstrating strong demand and high engagement.

In total, 37 courses were delivered across East Ayrshire, Fife, South Lanarkshire, Clackmannanshire, and Dumfries & Galloway.

Provision included a mix of accredited (22 courses) and non-accredited (15 courses) training, ensuring a flexible offer that responds to local needs. Accredited training focused on areas such as Emergency First Aid at Work (EFAW), Food Hygiene, Mental Health First Aid, and Health & Safety, supporting both individual employability and organisational capacity. Non-accredited provision included Deaf Awareness, British Sign Language (BSL), Mental Health Awareness, Customer Service Skills, Digital Skills, and Family First Aid, broadening access to learning and supporting confidence building.

Delivery was closely aligned to community need and partnership working. For example, staff at Yip World in East Ayrshire achieved REHIS Mental Health First Aid certification, strengthening their ability to support service users. In Auchterderran, 12 volunteers from a community group completed EFAW training in response to local incidents, increasing confidence and ensuring safer delivery of community activities. Targeted engagement with young people was also achieved through Teen First Aid sessions in Cumnock, delivered in partnership with local organisations, equipping participants with essential lifesaving skills.

Support was also provided to community organisations to enable service delivery, including training for staff and volunteers at Kirkconnel & Kelloholm Development Trust to support the operation of their community café. In addition, partnership working with Pets As Therapy has enabled the introduction of wellbeing-focused sessions within communities, contributing to broader health and wellbeing outcomes.

Overall, the programme has strengthened individual skills, improved community resilience, and enhanced the capacity of local organisations to deliver services safely and effectively, contributing to wider regeneration and wellbeing outcomes across former coalfield communities.



CRT ENGAGE

Outputs

- 188 people assisted in skills development
- 203 qualifications achieved Accredited/SQA 1 and above
- 7 assisted into work
- 37 training courses delivered across five local authority areas: East Ayrshire, Fife, South Lanarkshire, Clackmannanshire and Dumfries & Galloway
- 22 accredited courses (including First Aid, Food Hygiene, Mental Health First Aid and Health & Safety)
- 15 non-accredited courses (including Deaf Awareness, BSL, Digital Skills and Mental Health Awareness)
- 5 improved services
- 15 community facilities supported/created

Case Study

Throughout 2025 – 2026, CRT have supported Ochiltree Community Hub to strengthen its workforce capacity and enhance the quality of services delivered to the local community.

CRT provided accredited Level 3 Supervising Food Safety training to both staff and trustees. This training has ensured that the Hub maintains up-to-date knowledge of food safety legislation and best practice, supporting compliance and enabling the delivery of a safe, professional and high-quality service within its café and community facilities.

In addition, CRT supported the development of the Hub's youth provision, working with a dedicated group of young people aged 13–16 who are actively involved in the operation of the café. Recognising the importance of building employability skills at an early stage, CRT delivered tailored customer service training to both café staff and the youth team.

Feedback from the Hub highlights that the training has had a measurable positive impact on day-to-day operations, increasing staff confidence and contributing to a more welcoming and professional environment for visitors.

This support demonstrates the value of targeted skills development in strengthening community-led assets, improving service delivery, and providing meaningful development opportunities for young people within coalfield communities.



CRT ENGAGE

Impact

The Training & Learning programme has delivered a positive and measurable impact across Scotland's coalfield communities by improving individual skills, strengthening community capacity, and supporting wider regeneration outcomes.

Through accessible and locally delivered provision, the programme has increased confidence and capability among participants, equipping individuals with practical skills in key areas such as first aid, health and safety, mental health awareness and food hygiene. This has enhanced community resilience, with more people able to respond effectively in emergency situations and contribute safely to local activities.

The programme has also strengthened the capacity of community organisations by upskilling staff and volunteers, enabling them to deliver services more effectively and sustainably. This includes supporting community assets such as cafés, youth provision and local groups, ensuring they are better equipped to operate and grow.

In addition, the training offer has supported improved employability and progression opportunities, particularly for individuals who may face barriers to accessing formal learning. By providing a mix of accredited and non-accredited courses in trusted community settings, the programme has widened participation and created accessible pathways into further learning, volunteering and employment.

Partnership delivery has been central to impact, ensuring that provision is responsive to locally identified needs and aligned with wider community priorities. This collaborative approach has enabled targeted engagement with key groups, including young people, volunteers and frontline community organisations.

Overall, the programme contributes to improved wellbeing, increased resilience, and stronger, more sustainable communities, while supporting long-term economic growth and regeneration across former coalfield areas.



CRT ENGAGE

Outcomes

- Enhanced self-confidence & skills development
- Community organisations services safeguarded
- More people have improved skills and knowledge
- Increased employment opportunities
- Increased community engagement.
- Improved workforce and volunteer capacity within community organisations through targeted training provision.
- Increased community resilience and safety, with more individuals equipped with practical skills such as first aid and food safety.
- Enhanced employability and progression opportunities through skills development and accredited qualifications.
- Targeted engagement with priority groups, including young people and community volunteers, supporting inclusive access to training.
- Strengthened partnership delivery, ensuring training provision responds directly to locally identified needs.

Learning & Next Steps

It is anticipated that demand for skills development will continue to increase across our communities. The Training & Learning team therefore, will continue to explore opportunities to expand the range of training available within our coalfield communities. This includes assessing potential collaborations with The Open University & other accredited training bodies. The team are also considering how the Qualifications Scotland Approved Centre can be further developed to enhance future learning and accreditation opportunities.

COALFIELDS WORX

Community Trade Hub

Purpose

This programme responded to ongoing educational inequality and disengagement among young people living in former coalfield communities across Fife. Many of the young people supported face structural barriers linked to deprivation, limited access to alternative learning pathways and challenges within mainstream education settings.

Delivered in partnership with secondary schools across Fife, the programme contributed to wider efforts to close the attainment gap by providing accredited, practical learning opportunities rooted in place and responsive to local need.

Programme Delivery

The programme focused on strengthening local delivery capacity while improving outcomes for young people. Funding supported the development and retention of three staff members, enabling them to train, upskill and grow into delivery roles while remaining in employment.

Delivery was place based and partnership led, embedded within school settings and closely aligned with Pupil Support services. A key feature of the model was investment in staff progression alongside delivery, ensuring high quality, sustainable provision of structured and accredited learning outside traditional classroom environments.

Outputs

- 3 staff members recruited, retained and developed into delivery roles
- 160 young people supported across secondary schools in Fife
- Engagement across 8 schools, including Levenmouth, Kirkcaldy and Dunfermline
- 160 full SCQF level awards achieved
- 640 individual SQA units achieved through the accredited centre
- 3 staff enrolled in Train the Trainer programmes
- 1 staff member progressing through the SQA Assessor pathway
- 300 assisted in skills development

COALFIELDS WORX

Impact

The programme has delivered meaningful early outcomes for young people who were struggling to engage with traditional education pathways. Participants increased their confidence, re-engaged with learning and gained recognised qualifications through alternative, practical routes.

Young people developed transferable life and employability skills including communication, teamwork, timekeeping, respect and health and safety awareness. These outcomes have supported progression into college courses, further education and pathways towards employment.

At a community level, the programme strengthened local capacity by developing skilled staff able to deliver accredited learning in school settings. This contributes to longer term resilience within coalfield communities and supports systemic approaches to addressing educational inequality.

Case Study

Rather than focusing on a single individual, the strongest evidence of impact lies in the collective progress of approximately 160–180 young people engaged through the programme.

Many participants had previously felt disengaged or excluded from mainstream education. Through access to practical learning and recognised qualifications, young people experienced renewed confidence and a sense of achievement. For several, this acted as a turning point, enabling progression into college, vocational learning or further positive destinations.

Learning and Next Steps

The programme demonstrated, as have previous Coalfields Worx Programmes, the value of investing in workforce development as a foundation for impact. Structured mentoring, training and progression opportunities enabled staff to build confidence and capability, directly improving outcomes for young people.



CRT SUPPORT

The CRT Capacity Building Support Programme primarily offers advice and help to charitable and community groups operating in former coalfield communities that would previously been able to apply for a CRT grant. The individual circumstances of many of these groups (size, geographic isolation, constitutional status) can frequently impact on their eligibility to apply for mainstream funding sources. Additionally the Programme offers support to groups considering undertaking a community asset transfer to further their aims; and has provided administrative support for an externally funded grant programme, the River Leven Community Fund. As was the case with CRT's grants programmes, the support was primarily delivered in areas defined as former coalfield communities containing two or more data zones in the top 20% of the SIMD score. In effect this meant projects operating in specific areas of Clackmannanshire, Dumfries and Galloway, East Ayrshire, East Dunbartonshire, East Lothian, Falkirk, Fife, Midlothian, North Lanarkshire, South Ayrshire, South Lanarkshire, Stirling and West Lothian.



CRT SUPPORT

Programme Delivery

In the first instance enquiries for funding were responded to by phone, with information gathered on items such as the group's core activities, current financial state, constitutional status, longer term goals and funding requirements. From this a report was generated of applicable funding bodies detailing individual eligibility criteria, exclusions (geographic, activities and type of group), closing dates, match funding requirements and other relevant details. Potential applicants were offered support in tailoring their applications to specific funders and planning their projects in such a way as to maximise their likely chance of success, for example in preparation of quotes and descriptions of why and how they planned to achieve their aims. These measures could take place over a period of months through face to face meetings as well as by phone and email.

Community Groups planning to undertake an application for community asset transfer from the local authority were offered advice over a period of several months according to need, with assistance being offered in completion of business plans, preparing expressions of interest, and signposting to additional agencies for advice and funding.



Individual support was also available to applicants to the River Leven Community Fund, administered by CRT on behalf of Fife Council. The Fund offered awards of up to £2,000 to community groups in the Leven area delivering projects addressing leisure and sport, history and heritage, nature or arts and crafts. Potential applicants were able to discuss their project ideas at a number of locally held advice sessions and were invited to consult prior to making an application, the final decision on which took place at a participatory budget community event.

A bespoke level of interaction with and support for applicants throughout the three elements of the Programme is what gives it its key distinctive feature. Support is made available according to need and via the most suitable means for as long required by the candidate group.



CRT SUPPORT

Outputs

- 51 funding enquiries received during 2025/26
- 2 organisations outside eligible areas signposted to alternative support (TSI and CAB)
- 11 local authority areas covered
- 3 community organisations supported with asset transfer advice and development (including Expressions of Interest, business planning and financial forecasting)
- Ongoing support provided to 1 community hub progressing a capital project (demolition and redevelopment phase)
- £25,000 grants programme delivered in Fife (River Leven Community Fund):
- 15 community groups supported
- 3 Network Events
- 49 community facilities supported/created

Impact

Unlike monitoring award spend, capturing the efficacy of providing funding advice is difficult to quantify in that recipients tend not to maintain contact once the information is received. For this reason a formal record isn't maintained of the number of successful applications made as a result of information provided by CRT.

Of the three projects undertaking Community asset transfer applications, two remain ongoing whilst Clackmannan Development Trust succeeded in their application to Clackmannanshire Council to take on the running of the former town hall and library.

The projects funded through the River Leven Community Fund are due to complete spend in the next 6 months. Their planned beneficiaries will be participants taking part in projects delivering environmental benefits (Buckhaven Gardening Group, Bats' Wood Growing Space, Kennoway Community Shed, Buckhyne Bees), healthy activities and those encouraging movement (Wildhearts, Carnegie Cyclones, Leven Las Vegas, Mums on Wheels, Enigma Gymnastics, Buckhaven Baptist Church) cultural activities (Levenmouth Band Camp, Largo Communities Together, Leven Amateur Musical Association) heritage projects (Buckhaven Heritage Group), and arts and crafts (Knit Together Methil). Direct number of beneficiaries of each project will be between 6 and 40 with secondary beneficiaries numbering far higher



CRT SUPPORT

Case Study

Clackmannanshire Development Trust was successful in taking on the former town hall and library annexe in Feb 2026 with a purchase made possible by an award from Scottish Land Fund. The process was the culmination of input and advice from Community Enterprise in producing a business plan, Community Ownership Support Service to work on the application and Scottish Land Fund to offer grants advice, all of which were facilitated through CRT involvement, as noted in an email from Sandeep Dhariwal, CDT Community Development Manager.

“I would like to thank you on behalf of CDT for all your support getting us going with the Asset transfer request to the Council for the Town Hall. Not sure if you have heard but we were successful in our application to the Council. We also managed to get funding from the Scottish Land Fund. We could not have got this far without your support and guidance in the initial stages. Thank you for being a sounding board and for all your efforts in supporting us.”



The premises will allow expansion of CDT's various projects whilst securing its financial future in its own premises. CDT links the numerous community groups of Clackmannan which will now be able to enjoy the advantage of a shared space in which to meet. The projects cover activities of interest to all age groups: a Heritage Group organising walks and creating trails and maps, River Custodians monitoring pollution in the Black Devon, the Community Garden offers a green space in the town centre maintained by volunteers and pupils from the local school, Active Travel encourages cycling across all age groups with guided rides and loans of bikes, Caring and Connected is a partnership between the local police, parish church, community council, tenants and residents association to work together to face issues being faced by the community such support for the elderly, rising energy costs and social support needs, the Community Space offers weekly access to a warm space with games for children, free Wi-Fi, and access to outreach services from Citizens' Advice, Home Energy Advice, a community larder and adult social care drop-in.



CRT SUPPORT

Learning and Next Steps

That community groups in former coalfield communities still face difficulties in funding their projects is self-evident given the number and range of enquiries and requests for assistance received from across our eligible areas. In addition to basic funding needs a number of groups have more specific requirements on which CRT has been able to advise and facilitate contact with appropriate agencies. With the continued financial pressures experienced across the third sector environment it is likely that the challenges faced by coalfield groups will increase as fewer funders exist to serve an expansive potential client list. CRT Scotland will continue to develop its offering in adapting to client needs and introducing partner organisations where appropriate in order to deliver maximum individual project benefit.



Scottish Conference 2026: Building Community Wealth – Summary

The 2026 CRT Conference focussed on “Building Community Wealth” and explored how coalfield communities can develop stronger, fairer and more sustainable local economies.

Discussions emphasised that community wealth extends beyond financial resources to include natural, human and physical assets such as skills, infrastructure, environmental resources and social connections. This broader understanding underpinned conversations on Community Wealth Building (CWB) as a practical, people-centred approach to local economic development.



CRT SUPPORT

Delegates highlighted the growing importance of CWB in response to economic uncertainty, climate pressures and inequality. The proposed Community Wealth Building (Scotland) Bill was broadly welcomed, though participants stressed the need for effective translation of policy into meaningful local action.

Roundtable discussions identified key challenges and opportunities, including the need for stronger community involvement in decision-making, better cross-sector collaboration, and improved alignment between policy, funding and local realities. Concerns were raised around the shortage of secure, well-paid local jobs and the limitations of short-term funding models, both of which impact long-term sustainability.

Overall, the conference reinforced strong support for Community Wealth Building while highlighting the need to bridge the gap between national policy and local delivery, ensuring communities are empowered, resourced and central to future development.



EAST AYRSHIRE

Family Hub & Connecting Communities

Family Hub & Connecting Communities

The Family Hub Initiative within East Ayrshire serves as one element of the important continuation of the successful work done as part of the Coalfields Communities Landscape Partnership's Connecting Communities work.

The Connecting Communities work has been and continues to be a key element to the success in our ability to develop and continue meaningful partnerships and connections within communities across East Ayrshire. Having direct links with communities and understanding their needs acts as a driver for collaboration and meaningful support to be offered, and has created the groundwork for the Family Hub Initiatives to be established and developed within East Ayrshire, in the Communities of Drongan and Dalrymple.

The Family Hub programmes established to respond to persistent rural deprivation, where many families living within our Coalfields communities have limited access to services, economic opportunities and wellbeing support due to geographic isolations and poorly invested services.

The programme is designed to support local people and families, grassroots organisations, and local partners living in areas that sit within the lowest 20% of deprivation, with high levels of unemployment, and health inequalities, referenced in the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation.



EAST AYRSHIRE

Family Hub & Connecting Communities

The Family Hub initiative in East Ayrshire builds on the strong foundations established through the Coalfields Communities Landscape Partnership's Connecting Communities programme. This work has been instrumental in developing trusted relationships and meaningful partnerships across local communities.

Through sustained, direct engagement, Connecting Communities has enabled CRT to understand local needs in depth and respond collaboratively with targeted support. This approach has laid the groundwork for the successful development of Family Hubs in Drongan and Dalrymple, ensuring they are rooted in the priorities of local people.

The Family Hub programme has been designed in response to persistent rural deprivation across coalfield communities, where many families experience limited access to services, economic opportunities, and wellbeing support due to geographic isolation and historic underinvestment. It supports individuals, families, grassroots organisations, and partners in areas within the lowest 20% of deprivation, as identified by the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation, where unemployment and health inequalities remain significant.

While often less visible than urban deprivation, rural inequalities present distinct and deeply embedded structural challenges. These include poor transport connectivity, restricted employment opportunities, and limited availability and accessibility of public and private services.

CRT's continued presence and engagement across East Ayrshire communities enables a clear understanding of these local challenges and opportunities. In response, CRT works alongside communities and partners to drive regeneration, strengthen resilience, and improve life chances. This includes providing tailored support that enhances access to opportunities, supports community-led solutions, and promotes long-term sustainability and wellbeing.

Our work in East Ayrshire is important due to rural inequalities as they are often less visible than other deprived areas. However, equally shaped by structural challenges, such as poor transport links, limited employment opportunities and the lack of services and the accessibility to services provided by either the local authority or private sector. The work done through direct regular engagement across multiple East Ayrshire Communities under the banner of Connecting Communities allows the CRT to build a picture of and understand this local need.

CRT supports communities and partner organisations to drive economic growth, regeneration and wellbeing. It focuses on building resilience, sustainability, and improving life chances by providing tailored support that responds directly to local needs and helps people, families, and organisations access opportunities.

EAST AYRSHIRE

Family Hub & Connecting Communities

Programme Delivery

Family Hub

A core element of CRT's programme delivery is the Family Hub model, delivered through a community-based approach that provides direct support to families within trusted, local settings. A key feature of this offer has been the establishment of an affordable afterschool provision, creating a safe, supportive and structured environment where children can build confidence, develop skills, and engage positively with peers. This provision also enables parents to access wider services, with the reassurance that their children are cared for in a secure and nurturing environment.



The Family Hub model was piloted successfully in a neighbouring community, evidencing a clear demand for this type of wraparound family support. Delivery has been place-based and partnership-led, working closely with local authorities, schools, third sector organisations and community groups to ensure support is targeted at families most in need.

Core activity within the Family Hub includes family wellbeing support, signposting to relevant services, and improved access to skills development and employment opportunities. By embedding services within community settings and offering consistent engagement, the model creates accessible pathways for families who may otherwise not engage with support.

This approach contributes to improved wellbeing, stronger resilience, and enhanced life chances, while supporting wider economic growth and regeneration within Scotland's coalfield communities.

Connecting Communities

CRT's Connecting Communities work focuses on sustained, community-based engagement with local groups, organisations and Community Councils. Through regular attendance at meetings and consistent direct interaction, CRT builds a detailed understanding of local needs and provides tailored support to strengthen capacity within communities.

EAST AYRSHIRE

Family Hub & Connecting Communities

This approach has enabled CRT to develop strong, trusted relationships and become a recognised and accessible presence within the communities it supports.

Core activity includes group and event support, guidance on community-led projects, and targeted support to improve access to skills development and employment opportunities. A key area of growth has been the provision of grant identification and application support. This aligns with the increasing availability of community wind farm benefit funding, including through the 9 Community Council Group (9CCG) and other community benefit schemes.

CRT's support helps ensure that community groups can access available funding in a fair, inclusive and equitable way, enabling them to take full advantage of resources to which they are entitled and deliver local regeneration activity.

In addition, CRT continues to provide practical support such as videography and photography for community events and projects. This has been well received, supporting the promotion and recognition of community activity, while also contributing to monitoring and evaluation evidence.

Through this sustained programme of engagement and support, linking Communities activity strengthens community capacity, supports local economic growth, and contributes to long-term regeneration outcomes.

Outputs

- 182 people/young people participating in healthy lifestyle activities
- Supported 100 + through targeted programmes and one-to-one support.
- Reached 12 individual communities across East Ayrshire & Dumfries and Galloway
- 3 jobs created
- Supported 123 People to access learning and development opportunities
- 3 assisted into work
- Supported 1 community in successfully be awarded £24,500 for the refurbishment of their community centre to support ongoing use and engagement
- Directly supported local groups in securing over £55,000 in additional external grant funding
- 1 Establishment of an affordable after school care in Dalrymple
- 22 new volunteers safeguarded for local community groups.
- 1 improved service

EAST AYRSHIRE

Family Hub & Connecting Communities

Outcomes

- Increased employability
- More people have improved skills and knowledge
- Improved local services
- Stronger partnerships and collaboration
- Strengthened community organisations and volunteer bases
- Increased health and wellbeing
- More opportunities for families to become economically active

Impact

The activities supporting families within our communities are bringing them together and providing a supportive environment with access to additional support if required. This is supporting families and children giving them new opportunities by investing in the whole family and community. This leads to creating healthier, and more resilient communities which can help decrease long-term costs related to social services, health care, and crime.

Training opportunities facilitated by the engagement done via the connecting communities work has provided participants with increased confidence due to a sense of accomplishment and personal growth, expanded their tangible skill set, and given them better prospects by securing accredited certification which will enable them to further their ambitions and goals either through employment, community work or supporting their own family.

The support around grant writing is supporting communities to access funding to secure investment directly within their communities, working towards supporting regeneration and increased opportunities for areas facing inequalities.

Continuing to engage with and support communities on various levels has led to increased local capacity strengthening community groups and volunteers to be more able to respond to the needs of their communities.

The impact provided by the CRT's work in East Ayrshire continues to be meaningful creating genuine change within some of our most deprived communities. Even though a number of meaningful outcomes can be seen currently, it is important to acknowledge that with the ability to continue investing into these areas we will see that greater positive impacts will continue to emerge from the work taking place.

Case Study

Supporting a parent into employment and skills development.

One of the key elements of the family hub model was the establishment of an afterschool provision, delivered by a partner organisation within the community of Dalrymple, creating two local part-time jobs.

One family living in this area faced barriers to employment. One of the parents was a stay at home mum caring for her child who had health needs. She spent 18 years out of employment due to this and limited local job opportunities and poor transport links, which created further barriers to accessing training or employment opportunities.

Through CRT support and community engagement, she heard about the local job and contacted our partner organisation for further information. CRT provided support and guidance to accessing a job application. After successfully securing the role as childcare support worker, she was able to re-engage with learning in a way that fitted around her caring responsibilities.

We worked with her to build confidence and identify her strengths providing training to develop key skills in childcare, safeguarding and communication. She now confidently supports 16 children daily at the afterschool provision supporting them to build relationships, confidence and develop skills.

This outcome has not only supported her and her family with financial stability it has improved her confidence, independence and long term career prospects. She continues to develop her skills and ambitions to further progress within childcare.

Quote from Childcare worker:

“It has been great getting back into employment and learning new skills. Having managed to get a job locally is ideal and allows me to continue supporting my family. I really enjoy working at the afterschool and the support that I have been given has been amazing. It’s been great to be part of this new service and hear all the praise from the school and parents as well as seeing the children have fun during their sessions”.



EAST AYRSHIRE

Family Hub & Connecting Communities



Learning and Next Steps

CRT has learned that supporting community groups to lay strong foundations, while helping them establish projects and initiatives, delivers positive outcomes and strong value for investment. By working in partnership rather than taking full control, communities are able to build their own capacity, enabling them to sustain and develop activity over time with reduced reliance on ongoing support. This approach allows CRT to maximise its impact by directing resources to where they are most needed.

This learning will continue to shape future delivery, with a strong focus on building effective partnerships that strengthen community capacity across former coalfield areas. With continued investment, this approach will help sustain positive outcomes in some of Scotland's most deprived communities. It reinforces CRT's long-standing view that collaborative, community-led working delivers stronger social and economic returns than working in isolation.

The success of the Family Hub initiative further demonstrates this approach in practice. The outcomes achieved have been built on the foundations established through Connecting Communities work in East Ayrshire, highlighting the value of sustained engagement and partnership working. This collective approach ensures that communities are supported to drive their own progress, delivering value for money and long-term impact, while underlining the importance of continued investment to support ongoing positive change.

EAST AYRSHIRE

Family Hub & Connecting Communities

Legacy and Impact of Family Hub 2024/25 - Netherthird

The Family Hub investment in Netherthird has delivered sustained benefits for children, families and the wider school community, with impact continuing beyond the initial Scottish Government and CRT funding period. Developed as a place-based response to the cost of the school day, the programme embedded practical support within the school, ensuring that children from low-income households could access learning and social experiences without financial barriers.

Flexible delivery enabled the school to respond directly to local need, combining immediate support with longer-term resources. Families were supported through access to free school uniforms, improving attendance and readiness to learn, and reinforcing efforts to reduce the poverty-related attainment gap. Children were also able to participate fully in workshops, trips and the Primary 7 residential, ensuring no one missed key developmental experiences due to cost.

A key legacy is the installation of on-site laundry facilities, which continues to provide discreet, practical support for families. This allows clothing to be cleaned and redistributed, reducing household costs and removing barriers to attendance. The provision of cleaning and laundry products has further extended support beyond the school environment.

Wider engagement has been strengthened through workshops such as cooking on a budget, helping build skills and strengthen relationships between families and the school. Investment in equipment, including a freezer, is enabling the school to continue developing food-based support into the future.

Overall, the programme has normalised inclusive practice within everyday school life, reducing stigma and supporting dignity. It demonstrates how targeted, flexible investment can deliver both immediate relief and lasting change, creating a sustainable legacy that continues to improve outcomes for children and families in this coalfield community.



CRT GAME ON

The Game On initiative was developed in response to persistent social, health, and economic inequalities in Scotland's former mining communities. Evidence from reports such as The Scottish Coalfields in 2020 highlights that these areas experience disproportionately high levels of deprivation, child poverty, and reduced employment and skills outcomes compared to national averages.

Within this context, Game On is designed to tackle a set of interconnected challenges affecting individuals and communities:

- **Poor Health Outcomes** - Coalfield communities experience higher levels of inactivity alongside lower skills, confidence, and social cohesion, contributing to long-term health inequalities.
- **Limited Opportunities for Engagement** - Many young people and residents lack access to positive, structured activities that promote physical wellbeing and strengthen community connection.
- **Barriers to Participation** - The cost of sports equipment, facilities, and transport continues to restrict access, particularly for low-income families, reinforcing inequality.
- **Economic Inactivity** - A lack of confidence, skills, and support pathways can prevent individuals from progressing towards employment.

Programme Delivery

Through projects like CRT Football 5ives, Game On Girls, Game On Active and Game On+, the programme uses sport for social change to improve the quality of life in coalfield communities.

CRT Game On was delivered across 8 Local Authority areas in 2025/26.

By working collaboratively alongside local partners including Local Authority, community anchor organisations, community sports clubs, Police Scotland and Community Alcohol Partnership we have managed to broaden our reach and have bigger impact with limited resources. Partnership work has not only proved economically beneficial but also widened CRT reach and engagement with local people across often underutilised local facilities in the heart of their communities.



CRT GAME ON

CRT Game On have also piloted initiatives such as walking groups and walking sports through collaboration identified by local working groups involving NHS, Local Authority services/facilities.

Our offering provides 'real' change and opportunity to those communities often within rural areas where access is a challenge and facilities not at a premium. We will put in the effort to provide an offer where other organisations will not. We understand the challenges within our communities and will not monetise our offering. With the long term view of upskilling local people, increasing health and wellbeing and providing a pathway to employment opportunities.

Outputs

- 1768 young people participating
- 2 jobs created/safeguarded
- 12 assisted into work
- 18 new volunteers
- 24 sessions
- 21 delivery partners
- 6 community organisations supported
- 497 woman and girls participating
- 6 vocational qualifications delivered
- 307 people/young people participating in healthy lifestyle activities
- 2 Football Events – Community Cup/Home Internationals
- 16 community facilities supported/created



CRT GAME ON

Outcomes

Over 1,700 individuals across Scotland engaged in CRT's free, at-the-point-of-access sport and physical activity programmes. This sport-for-change approach has improved access to physical activity while delivering positive outcomes in physical, mental and social wellbeing.

By bringing young people together from a range of backgrounds, the programme promotes social cohesion, builds pride in local communities, and creates opportunities for participants to represent their areas. Beyond physical activity, participation supports the development of key transferable skills, including teamwork, communication, confidence, resilience and time management.

The programme also contributes to employability and progression pathways. Coaches and volunteers are supported to apply learning from further education, alongside gaining practical experience and access to accredited training and recognised awards, including Scottish Qualification Volunteering Award.

Delivery is informed by local insight and partnership working, with 21 active partnerships across Scotland ensuring provision is targeted to areas of need or complements existing services. For example, in Cumnock and the Doon Valley, CRT has worked with local organisations and statutory partners to expand provision, creating new opportunities for participation.

Partnership work with the Community Alcohol Partnership (CAP), Police Scotland and local stakeholders has also supported early intervention and diversionary activity, helping to address risk-taking behaviours and reduce anti-social behaviour.

Overall, the programme strengthens local capacity, supports positive outcomes for young people, and contributes to healthier, more resilient communities.



CRT GAME ON

Case Study

Everyone who attends CRT Game On has their own story, and each person experiences the programme's impact in different ways, whether through improvements in health, skills, community engagement, or progression towards employment and other positive destinations.

While we often focus on engaging hard-to-reach or minority groups, there are many other success stories that can sometimes be overlooked. The disruptive individual, the young person craving attention and often dismissed as a nuisance, or those heavily involved in high-pressure performance sports are all groups we take pride in supporting long term. Through this support, we help build confidence, resilience, maturity, and prepare young people for the next chapter of their lives.

One example is Dylan, who first attended our CRT Game On Easter Camp while in Primary 5. Dylan arrived with little interest in sport and lacked the confidence to participate independently, often being dropped off by a parent or guardian. A self-described “geek,” he had few friendships and a limited support network at home due to additional challenges. At the time, coaches may have described Dylan as disruptive and, at times, poorly behaved. However, rather than simply enforcing the code of conduct, coaches gradually built trust, friendship, and, where appropriate, flexibility to ensure Dylan remained engaged and connected to CRT Game On.

Over time, Dylan became one of the programme's most consistent attendees across weekly sessions and holiday camps. Whether walking in the rain, hail, or shine, or being dropped off by his gran, Dylan was always there. Even after breaking his arm, he continued to attend, choosing to sit alongside coaches and friends simply to remain part of his community.

While this may seem small, over a three-year period Dylan has grown significantly — not only physically and through increased activity levels, but also in confidence and personality. Once viewed as an outsider, he has become a central figure within the group: confidently holding conversations with peers and coaches, bringing humour and energy to sessions, and acting as a role model for younger participants.

These are the softer skills that the power of sport and trusted relationships can help develop.



CRT GAME ON

Dylan is now a young person with confidence both within sessions and in the wider community as he transitions into high school. Previously, there would have been real concerns around his ability to build friendships or positively contribute within a group setting. CRT Game On's open-access approach to participation has undoubtedly had a hugely positive impact on Dylan's personal development and provided him with a platform to grow.

Throughout his time with us, Dylan also attempted to transition into community club settings, but these experiences were often unsuccessful, primarily because other environments lacked the patience, understanding, or willingness to provide the additional support he needed.

Learning and Next Steps

Over the last year we have taken time to take stock, reevaluate and create a consistent offer across the UK with fresh emphasis and commitment to CRT communities.

CRT directly invested in CRT Game On programme in November 2025 with the view to recruiting two additional development officers to scale up delivery across those communities most in need and those not currently serviced by existing organisations and local programmes. In addition this will allow for current staff to leverage and source additional funding sources to support CRT investment.

An example of this would be the partnership and funding from Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) in Wales where we have recruited additional human resource to support with the development, co-ordination and delivery of Tennis activity and facilitating access to local community facilities. This is a model we are keen to now explore in Scotland and have had early conversations with Scottish Golf and Scottish Cycling as we look to diversify our Sport for change offering and engage with wider people, local facilities and continue to break down barriers to participation.



PARTNERSHIP WORKING

Forth Green Freeport

During 2025–26, CRT initiated early partnership work linked to the emerging Forth Green Freeport to address ongoing economic inequality and limited access to secure employment pathways within coalfield communities in Fife. The programme is being developed in response to significant local barriers to employment, particularly for young people and those with caring responsibilities, and aims to ensure communities are positioned to benefit from future economic opportunities.

Initial development has focused on establishing a structured, place-based pathway into training and employment, delivered through partnership with organisations including Fife Gingerbread. The approach is designed around a staged progression model, supporting participants from early engagement through to training, paid work experience and progression into employment, with flexibility to respond to individual needs.

Early activity has concentrated on programme design, partnership development and identifying participants. Engagement stages include introductory volunteering, accredited training (such as SQA Steps to Work) and skills development to build confidence and readiness. Further stages are intended to support small cohorts into paid training and work experience opportunities, linked to potential employer partners, alongside a flexible training fund to address additional barriers identified through referral pathways.

As an early-stage initiative, outcomes are currently focused on engagement, confidence building and improving employability skills. The programme is expected to strengthen pathways into training and employment over time, while ensuring that coalfield communities are able to access opportunities associated with the Green Freeport.

Early learning highlights the importance of strong partnerships, flexible delivery and clear progression routes. Next steps will focus on securing funding agreements, progressing delivery into training and work placements, and supporting participants into sustained employment opportunities.

PARTNERSHIP WORKING

Thriving Tomorrow – Culture for Climate

During 2025–26, CRT supported the development of Thriving Tomorrow – Culture for Climate, a pilot programme designed to address gaps in participation in climate action among low-income and working-class communities. Focused on former coalfield areas within the Northern Corridor (including Stepps, Chryston, Muirhead, Gartcosh, Glenboig and Moodiesburn), the project responds to the legacy of past energy transitions and aims to ensure climate action is accessible, relevant and community-led.

Funded through the Alliance for Socially Engaged Arts, the 6–8 month pilot brings together local partners, artists and national organisations to develop creative, inclusive approaches to climate engagement. CRT has contributed as an advisory partner, ensuring the work reflects local context, supports just transition principles, and is shaped by community priorities.

Early delivery has focused on relationship building, co-design and creative engagement. Around 60 local residents have participated in workshops and artist-led activity, alongside 10–15 local practitioners and community leaders. The programme has supported approximately 12 engagement activities, structured across phases of community engagement, creative development and learning. Outputs include a place-based creative response reflecting local climate priorities, alongside a learning report to inform future practice.

As an early-stage, learning-focused initiative, emerging impacts include increased awareness, confidence and participation in climate-related activity, particularly among groups who are less likely to engage through traditional approaches. The pilot is helping to test inclusive methods, strengthen local partnerships and identify practical ways for communities to influence local planning and action.

Early learning highlights the importance of accessible engagement, strong local relationships and clear pathways for participation. With continued investment, the programme has the potential to provide a transferable model for equitable climate action, ensuring that communities most affected by transition are supported to shape and benefit from future change.

FUNDING

Funding Applications Submitted

During 2025 / 2026, CRT submitted two significant funding bids to support delivery in East Ayrshire; however, both were ultimately unsuccessful.

CRT applied to the CashBack for Communities Programme through CRT Engage – CashBack East Ayrshire, which aimed to support 300 young people aged 10–25 through a structured programme of sport, personal development, training and family support. The project aligned with the Universal A strand and combined inclusive physical activities with accredited training and wellbeing support, alongside a strong focus on youth participation and community-led delivery. A total of £307,141 was requested to deliver the programme over two years.

CRT also submitted an application to the Whole Family Wellbeing Fund to expand its established Family Hub model across Drongan and surrounding communities. The proposal set out a place-based, whole family approach, offering early years support, after-school provision, youth activities and tailored support for families with Additional Support Needs. Integrated wraparound services included health, parenting, financial wellbeing and employability support, alongside initiatives to address food insecurity. The total request was £289,646.

Both applications built on CRT's strong track record and demonstrated alignment with Scottish Government priorities on child poverty, mental health and early intervention.

CRT HUBS

Kincardine Hub

We have increased the community usage of the Hub following the closure of Kincardine Community Centre, with weekly access provided to local groups as well as Andy's Mans Club.

We have expanded external engagement, including hosting Forth Valley Chamber of Commerce to promote the Hub's facilities. FVCC are promoting the office space and hot desk opportunities via their regional business networks.

Dalmellington Hub

The Hub is operating as CRT's East Ayrshire office base while supporting external use through rental agreement with Brockwell Energy, utilising the Hub as a local office.



Industrial Development – Cowdenbeath (Fife)

In partnership with Fife Council we are progressing the development of new industrial units at Glenfield Industrial Estate in Cowdenbeath. This project represents a significant investment in economic regeneration within a former coalfield community, focused on delivering modern, flexible employment space for small and growing businesses.

In March 2026, Fife Council secured £3.7 million through the Regeneration Capital Grant Fund (RCGF), representing approximately 50% of the total project cost. The development has a total value of £7.4 million and will deliver approximately 51,500 sq ft of industrial floorspace. Construction is expected to commence in 2026, subject to planning approval, with completion anticipated in 2027.

The project will make productive use of existing industrial land and respond directly to local demand for high-quality business space. It is expected to support local economic growth by enabling business start-up and expansion, attracting new enterprises, and increasing access to employment opportunities for local residents. The development will also help retain economic activity within the area and contribute to wider supply chain and multiplier effects.

Once operational, the units are forecast to generate approximately £130,000 in annual rental income, which will be reinvested into CRT's programmes in Scotland. This will support ongoing delivery of employability, skills, health and community development activity in coalfield communities.

The development forms part of CRT's wider property investment model, which aims to create sustainable, income-generating assets that underpin long-term regeneration. The Cowdenbeath project is a key example of this approach in Scotland, aligning with Scottish Government priorities around inclusive growth, place-based regeneration, and community wealth building, while delivering both immediate economic benefits and long-term social impact.



SOCIAL VALUE

CRT have created a new data base to calculate Social Value using proxy values.

The £650,000 Scottish Government grant generated £13.63 in value for every £1 invested, demonstrating strong value for money.

Health

Health outcomes deliver the strongest return, generating over £7.5m in proxy value. This is driven primarily by high levels of participation among young people, alongside meaningful engagement from adults in physical activity. The scale of these outcomes demonstrates significant preventative value, contributing to improved health and wellbeing and reducing longer-term demand on public services.

Skills

Skills activity generates over £1.03m in value through a combination of accredited and non-accredited training and volunteer engagement. The balance of formal qualifications and broader participation reflects an inclusive approach to skills development, strengthening employability, confidence and progression opportunities while delivering a strong return on investment.

Jobs

Employment outcomes deliver targeted economic impact, with over £264k in value generated from individuals moving into work, alongside 17 jobs safeguarded. These outcomes represent both immediate financial benefit and longer-term stability within local labour markets, demonstrating effective support for those furthest from employment.

Community

Community investment generates substantial value, including £3.79m secured from the RCGF fund for CRT Property development in Cowdenbeath. This reflects strong leverage of external funding and lasting community infrastructure improvements, supporting resilience and long-term sustainability in coalfield communities.

Total

Overall, the programme delivers a total proxy value of £8.86m, representing a high return on investment across multiple outcome areas. The balance of health, skills, and employment and community impacts demonstrates a well-rounded and effective approach to delivering measurable social and economic benefit.

FINANCE

Spend

(Head of Ops; 2 x Programme Manager; 1 x Learning Manager; 3 x Development Officers; 1 x Admin	315,403
Core costs (HR, Finance, training, governance, etc.)	45,000
Office costs (phones, rent, stationery, travel etc.)	80,000
Coalfields Worx	65,000
Strategic Interventions - East Ayrshire Programme	110,000
CRT Place	15,000
Training and Learning	17,000
Network	2,597
Total	650,000

Additional Funding/income

Game On – CRT Central funds	91,490
Programme Support Officer – CRT Central funds	15,655
CYPFEI & ALEC funding	26,250
Green Action Trust	4,000
Dalmellington Hub	14,000
Total	151,395

HOW WE MEASURE PROGRESS

CRT is part of the following initiatives to support high quality delivery of activities:

CRT is a Mindful Employer and part of a national initiative supporting employers to take a positive approach towards mental health at work.

CRT is a Living Wage Employer, accredited to be paying the real living wage to employees.

CRT is approved as a BSC ISO 9001 organisation with the BSI Kite Mark awarded to organisations delivering high standards in their services.

CRT has the Matrix Mark for delivering high quality advice and guidance.

We are therefore committed to effectively measuring progress, monitoring and evaluating our programmes and services. To that end we report on progress quarterly to the CRT's Scottish Committee, with regular updates on specific programmes to the CRT's UK Board with annual reporting and also quarterly risk assessment updates.

Reporting to our service users is at network meetings and through our social media channels.

Six principles guide us. We will;

- Continue to consult with our communities and stakeholders to review our work in relation to the needs of coalfield communities
- Embed a robust evaluation processes in the delivery of our activities to review performance and impact to help inform our future plans through an evidenced based approach
- Provide the necessary resources to measure impact and our effectiveness in coalfield communities
- Continue to develop our customer satisfaction processes to help inform the development of our activities
- Continue to develop effective communication channels with our communities to inform them of our plans, activities and achievements

HOW WE MEASURE PROGRESS

- Maintain our ISO9001 quality mark ensuring effective systems are in place

CRT uses our Sage CRM software which helps businesses improve customer relationships by organising and automating communications and activities across all customer-facing departments

We also use a number of tools depending on the purpose of monitoring and evaluation

- STAR – Situation Task Action Result Tool
- Social Value Impact - Measuring the value of social interventions in financial terms
- Finally, we track how our programme and project outcomes follow through to CRT high level outcomes and Scottish Government National Performance Framework outcomes.



**coalfields
regeneration
trust**