

## Meeting Report – Caithness & Sutherland Intergenerational Network

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**Date:** 28<sup>th</sup> August 2012

**Venue:** Pulteney Centre, Wick

**In attendance:** Alison Clyde (GWT), Catherine Patterson (Caithness Volunteer Centre), Sharon Potinger (Northern Loops), Andrea Madden (Highland Council), Pauline Morgan (Befriending Caithness), Katie Webster (Caithness Health & Happiness), Keith Moncur (High Life Highland), Oliver Merger (Timespan Museum & Arts Centre), Gordon Cook (HIFRS), Vince Walker (Putleney Centre), Alison Kirk (ROCHG) & Margaret Allan (Laurandy Day Centre).

**Apologies:** Roxanna Meechan, Christine Gunn & Deidre MacKay

**Notes:** The notes below are a general summary on the key topics/themes discussed at this meeting.

### **GWT Update**

GWT are setting up a short life-working group drawn from a variety of partners (Education Scotland, youth organisations, NHS etc) to help inform and support a new strategic approach from GWT on how we integrate intergenerational practice within curriculum for excellence.

GWT are working in partnership with NHS Health Scotland to develop a briefing paper showing a clear relationship on how IP can contribute to a healthier Scotland. Dissemination should be early 2013. Alison is keen to hear from anyone currently running health projects with an intergenerational approach.

GWT also plan to work with Third Sector Interfaces and a range of relevant organisations to encourage intergenerational volunteering to help both active ageing and community cohesion. It has been suggested that GWT bring together representatives from third sector organisations & vol organisations to discuss further.

An evening reception was held at Scottish Parliament on the 28<sup>th</sup> June to raise awareness of our newly published **Guidelines: Bringing Together Local Authorities and IP in a Scottish policy context**. GWT are ready to work alongside Local Authorities and welcome discussion on how the Guidelines can be implemented. For more details contact [alison@generationsworkingtogether.org](mailto:alison@generationsworkingtogether.org)

A big thanks to Sharon Potinger for helping set up the local network in Caithness & Sutherland. Sharon is now standing down from the position however will still be an active member of the network. Alison is now looking to recruit another local coordinator to help coordinate the network. Anyone interested in helping developing the network contact Alison.

**Intergenerational photograph and video competition** for amateur photographers and filmmakers now open for entries. The competition is for the BEST photograph or video taken **BY** a younger or older person **OF** younger and older people together, and should demonstrate the importance of intergenerational connections. There are two categories: Photo and Video, each with a first prize of £150 and a second prize of £75. Deadline: 28<sup>th</sup> September 2012.

For more details check out the website at [www.generationsworkingtogether.org](http://www.generationsworkingtogether.org)

A new **website is currently being designed for GWT** – If anyone has any intergenerational projects or activities they'd like to write up and showcase then please get in touch with alison at [alison@generationsworkingtogether.org](mailto:alison@generationsworkingtogether.org)

We hope to launch the website towards the end of September.

GWT annual **conference** 13<sup>th</sup> March 2013, St Paul's & St George's Church, Edinburgh – Now looking for feedback from members as to what they'd like to hear and see at the conference. Potential stall holders spaces may be available.

**Feedback** from members suggested it would be good to hear about other examples of IG projects. Alison also to look into video conferencing (VC) and possibly link up to the college which has access to VC.

### **Intergenerational Course - Training the Trainers**

This course will be of interest to those who are keen to embed intergenerational approaches within their programme of work. This year we have run nine training courses across Scotland and have plans to organise another four before Christmas.

**Action:** Alison to organise a training course for the Highlands (possibly near Golspie) during the first week in November – check out the website for further details.

### **What is intergenerational practice? – Definition**

Intergenerational practice aims to bring people together in purposeful, mutually beneficial activities, which promote greater understanding and respect between generations, and contributes to building more cohesive communities. Intergenerational practice is inclusive, building on the positive resources that the young and old have to offer each other and those around them. (Definition of Intergenerational Practice: Beth Johnson Foundation, April 01)

### **Presentations were given by:**

Catherine Patterson from Caithness Voluntary Centre kindly explained how the Protecting Vulnerable Groups scheme worked. Catherine is the Intermediary Link and provides a free service for voluntary organisations. Catherine also offers free confidential information on all aspects of volunteering and can be contacted at [volunteering@cvg.org.uk](mailto:volunteering@cvg.org.uk)  
Catherine provided handouts and offered advice and help to everyone in need.

### **AOB**

- Due to a heavy workload Gordon Cook, Highlands & Islands Fire & Rescue Service reported that it would be very unlikely that he would attend other meetings unless a particular topic was of interest. He will however continue to be a member communicating by email.
- Margaret Allan reported that the Laurandy Care Centre participated in the Go for Gold Challenge however didn't register officially for the event. The event was a great success. Activities ranged from folding fifty napkins, catching and throwing a ball fifty times, throwing a beanbag into a bucket at a specified distance, seated exercises and a table top skittles and hoopla competition.

### **Other IG Opportunities**

There are opportunities for organisations and groups to get involved in the **sporting memories network** – [www.sportingmemoriesnetwork.com](http://www.sportingmemoriesnetwork.com) and the football memories project which has gone national. For more information contact Michael White 07906 239582.

**Luminate:** Scotland's creative ageing festival, is being launched nationwide in October 2012 to celebrate and profile people's creative lives as they age. [luminate@agescotland.org.uk](mailto:luminate@agescotland.org.uk)

**Baldy Bain Theatre:** Better late than dead on time looks at the impact of reckless behaviour from drivers and pedestrians upon one family. The issues are dealt with sensitively and are primarily presented in a humorous but realistic way to focus awareness and discussion in the audience. This production is being funded by Road Safety Scotland and is offered free to community organisations for a ten-week tour in Spring 2013 (Feb-April). For further details contact: [administrator@baldybane.org.uk](mailto:administrator@baldybane.org.uk)

**EY2012 Awards** –Deadlines 16<sup>th</sup> September

I've had communication from the EY2012 organisers that so far there are only 6 UK nominations for awards, which is a shame as this does not reflect the amount of fantastic work that is going on out there by all of you, and by your networks of members, supporters, and volunteers. Details of the awards, the different categories and links to entry forms and guidance are now on the official EY2012 website and can be found at: <http://europa.eu/ey2012/ey2012main.jsp?catId=1026&langId=en>

**Funding Opportunities**

**Young Start Funding** from the Big Lottery – has an intergenerational strand available for up to £50,000 for two years. Contact 0141 242 1500 for further information or check out the website at [www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/youngstartfund](http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/youngstartfund)

**Date of next meeting: Wednesday 7th November, 10am - 12.30pm, Pulteney Centre, Huddart Street, Wick, Caithness, KW1 5BA**