

Meeting Report – Caithness & Sutherland Intergenerational Network

Date: 29th March 2012

Venue: Pentland Hotel, Thurso

Attending: Sharon Gunason Pottinger (Northern Loops), Alison Clyde (Generations Working Together (GWT)), Irene Bruce (United Reformed Church), Steven Grogan (Highland Council Children's Disability Team), Pauline Morgan (Befriending Caithness) & Olive Whittleston (Northern Loops).

Apologies: Christine Gunn (Caithness Horizons)

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

GWT History

GWT was created in 2007 and is the Scottish Centre for Intergenerational Practice. GWT work with public, private and voluntary sector organisations, to gather and share best practice, provide information and support, and develop new opportunities for intergenerational working in communities.

The Scottish Government recently agreed to continue to fund GWT for the next three years (31st March 2015).

The **development of local networks** of organisations, groups and individuals interested in furthering IG work is a key component in GWT's strategy. Each local network is organised to meet local needs, and are led by Alison Clyde, National Development Officer and a local coordinator (Sharon Gunason Pottinger).

GWT are also working with the **National Forum on Ageing** – futures group and together are creating a **Local Authority Framework**. The guidelines show how Local Authorities can embed IG work into policy and practice, which can contribute towards achieving national outcomes and local indicators. GWT are now interested in hearing from local authorities who would like to develop this framework for their local area during 2012.

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 2001)

Common themes arising from intergenerational programmes and activities include:

- Community safety
- Enterprise & employment
- Family & early years
- Health & well-being
- Learning & teaching

- Regeneration
- Volunteering & community
- Arts/culture & heritage
- Natural & built environment

Group discussion – next steps for network

- Meetings should be informative showing good practice, examples of intergenerational projects, guidelines to how to run projects & activities and provide networking opportunities (contacts list for network)
- Look at how to link with schools
- Address problems around PVG scheme (arrange a speaker for next meeting)
- Provide opportunities to recognise examples and successes (not just for young people should be multi generational awards)
- Invite community policing officer to next meeting
- Look at intergenerational stereotyping
- Volunteering for transferable skills

Action: Alison to contact Catherine Patterson (Volunteer Centre), Thurso High School, Andrea Madden (falls prevention) and Pulteney People’s Project in Wick. Pauline will email some contacts over to Alison. Everyone agreed to circulate details of the next meeting around their circle of contacts.

Training for Trainers course

This course will be of interest to those who are keen to embed intergenerational approaches within their programmes of work. Courses are being planned throughout Scotland. For further details check out the GWT website at www.generationsworkingtogether.org

Information on the following topics was circulated:

Go for Gold Challenge
 European Year of active ageing and solidarity between generations
 Photo & video competition
 Young start funding
 YPI – Youth Philanthropy Initiative Scotland
 GWT local network leaflet
 GWT National Network leaflet

You can follow GWT on:

Facebook www.facebook.com/GenerationsWorkingTogether
 Twitter <https://twitter.com/#!/GenerationsWT>
 You Tube <http://www.youtube.com/user/GenerationsWT>

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 28th August, 10am – 12.30pm, Pulteney Centre, Huddart Street, Wick, KW1 5BA