

Minutes

1. **Apologies:** Lesley Sloan (Education), Dr Ann Wilson (DG Voice), Gail Copeland (NHS Dumfries & Galloway) & S. Bain (Head Teacher, Dalbeattie H.S.)
2. **Attendees:** Eileen Johnstone (Family Learning Coordinator), Morag Halliday (Age Scotland), Idris Dean (Neighbourhood Link Worker), Alan Sidaway (OPCG/D&G Seniors/Unite Retired Members Association), John Magill (D & G College), Simon Kennedy (Stewartry Community Safety), Ian Bradley (Strathclyde Police), Dorothy Aitchison (Integrated Children's Service Officer), Liz Forsythe (NHS D & G), Cllr Lorna McGowan & Cllr Alastair Witts (D & G Council), Sandy Brown (D & G Council), Iain Howie (Stewartry Community Safety Forum), Anna Robertson (Carers Support Worker), Jackie Kettle, Marie McClafferty, Margo Potinger & Caroline Binding (Homelink Workers), Mary Harper (H.L.W. Dalbeattie Cluster), Mary Ann Riddell (Family Learning Coordinator), Angela McNay (Childcare Support and Dev. Off). Morag Davies (H.L.W. – Upper Nithsdale), John Murray (Homelink Worker Mid Nithsdale), Harriet Oxley, Ali Butler & Billie Lockhart (Community Learning & Dev. Officer), Lindsay Callander (Community Learning Assistant), Stephen Bradley (Relationship Scotland), Susan Howell (Dundrennan Community Council). HM Bradley (Stranraer Academy), Rene O'Reilly (D & G Community learning & development) & Pat Friel (Dept. for Work & Pensions, Partnership Manager)
3. **Introductions** –round the room
4. **Generations Working Together (GWT) update**

GWT began in 2007 as a direct result of the Scottish Executives strategy 'All our Futures – Planning for a Scotland with an Ageing Population'. GWT is the Scottish Centre for Intergenerational Practice and works with public, private and voluntary sector organisations, to gather and share best practice, provide information and support and develop new opportunities for Intergenerational (IG) working in the communities.

The **development of local networks** of organisations, groups and individuals interested in furthering IG work is a key component in the Centre's strategy.

Each local network is organised to meet local needs. It is led and supported by Alison Clyde, National Development Officer and local coordinators. We are **seeking to recruit volunteer** coordinators who would like to help coordinate the Dumfries & Galloway network. Local coordinators will have access to free training from the centre, expenses paid for all travel to GWT meetings, training and events including yearly conference.

Action: Alison to catch up with Idris Dean & Liz Forsythe who are interested in helping coordinate the network.

Local network membership of GWT has the following benefits:

- priority access to training
- IG projects by theme and location
- networking opportunities

- regular local network meetings –(2-3per year)
- monthly e-bulletins& quarterly newsletters
- access only section of website (new website planned for early 2012)
- receive guidance and information on funding opportunities.

Local network membership forms were circulated around the room.

GWT can be followed on:

Facebook - www.facebook.com/GenerationsWorkingTogether

Twitter – www.twitter.com/GenerationsWT

You Tube - www.youtube.com/user/GenerationsWT

GWT Contact numbers

Office– 0141 559 5024 (For Alison or Betty (Administrator))

Mobile – 07769629988 (Alison)

National Conference planned for March 2012 in Glasgow

Other information

Intergenerational Practice (IP) can make a positive contribution to meeting the Governments targets in the following broad policy areas – community cohesion, community safety, health & well-being, older people, children & younger people and families.

In terms of local priorities, IP is an adaptable approach which can be used by local authorities to help them meet many of their NI targets whether working independently or through cross sector and cross party working.

GWT are working with the National Forum on Ageing – futures group and together are building a **Local Authority Framework** showing how they can embed IG work to help achieve the national outcomes and local indicators. We are interested in hearing from local authorities that would like to work with us in developing this framework fro their local area during 2012.

GWT are working closely with **Education Scotland** through their family learning network as well as developing a toolkit, which will clearly show how community groups could work with schools linking IG activities, projects & events to curriculum for excellence. To show case the benefits of IG work in schools GWT are setting up a Glow account.

GWT are also working closely with **NHS Health Scotland**

5. **Updates from local areas** – attendees were invited to talk about IG work, which was currently being taken forward across the area.
6. **Activities** –attendees were spilt into three groups and asked to discuss the following questions:
 1. Identify types of IG work already happening in D & G.
 2. Identify themes of IG work those attending were interested in trying to set up
 3. Identify possible partners for IG work

Discussion around question one resulted in the following:

- Leisure & sport – Active Schools
- Mediation – in families, children, parents, grandparents (keeping families together (Relationship Scotland))
- Children/parents/grandparents learning together
- Family learning – gardening, cooking, history, writing
- Forgotten voices – young people asking & talking to older generations (how was it when you were young?)
- Volunteering in schools – activities in the community
- A youth drop in – volunteers – variety of ages (youth councils & community councils)
- Safer living etc
- Community consultation to then run activities and groups with a cross section of ages
- Community councils – representatives of all ages
- DG Voice – volunteer action, SCVS (all do intergenerational work)
- WRVS – starting projects
- Community groups introducing handcrafts to young people
- DG Play – actively looking to do intergenerational work
- Federation of village halls
- Langholm HMI Insp. Report/Theatre Group 8=80 – volunteering together
- LEADER Programme for example – darts/dominoes event
- Food Train
- LOGS Project – delivery of logs sourced from region
- Community Guardians (nominated neighbours)
- Young people volunteering at Day Centre
- Princes Trust Team – community projects such as decorating, beach tidy (16-25)
- Befrienders
- Gardening/allotment projects
- Parents/grandparents interacting/volunteering in schools, clubs such as Heston Rovers
- IT events
- Senior Citizens (Springhall) Thursday club – working with school (local history club)
- Dalbeattie High School – allotments
- Castle Douglas Skate Park?

Discussion around question two resulted in the following:

- joint fundraising,
- energy saving, life skills and living,
- budgeting,
- health & well-being,
- history (to evolve it), arts,
- safety,
- employability,
- environmental & regeneration/conservation
- joint volunteering (not only elderly also include McMc group)
- skill sharing – practical household, D.I.Y.,
- community skills – social inclusion at all levels regardless of age/stage
- mental health intergenerational group
- heston Rovers – sporting academy
- sheltered housing/care homes – connecting with schools
- summer activities for example walking groups

- cooking
- work experience
- solway disabled ramblers – need support n- parent helpers using railcard.

Discussion around question three identified the following partners for IG work:

- Everyone & anyone
- Community learning & development
- Social work
- NHS
- Schools
- WRVS
- Red Cross
- P.C.T.
- Sheltered housing
- Youth groups
- Elderly groups
- Voluntary groups

Other general comments gathered from the discussions included the following:

- removal of barriers to allow access for IG work
- promote positives through press/media
- stop older people being afraid of youngsters – reciprocal agreement
- schools are the social hub of the community
- combat isolation in all age groups
- greater coherence between all agencies
- be realistic
- reduce and remove suspicion of older people
- how do we get round the barriers to adults going into schools.

7. **1 day - Training for Trainers Course** - This course will be of interest to those who are keen to embed intergenerational approaches within their programme of work.
8. **GWT's National Network** meets regularly throughout the year in different locations across Scotland. Meetings provide opportunities for members to influence and inform GWT priorities as well as local and national policies and strategies, keep up to date with the work of the National Centre, learn about interesting practice from colleagues in Scotland and further afield, engage in discussion about opportunities, ideas, issues and challenges and network and parent with other national organisations.

The National Network **invites policy makers** with responsibility for areas related to intergenerational practice such as arts, community safety, environment, health and well-being, learning and teaching, regeneration, enterprise/employment, volunteering, family and heritage. **Managers of staff working intergenerationally** and **managers of projects themselves** area also invited to join.

Next meeting - Wednesday 12th October (community safety theme) then Thursday 12th January 2012 (health & well-being)

9. Date of Next meeting – Monday 27th February 2012 from 11am – 1.30pm in Castle Douglas Community Centre