



Meeting Report – Edinburgh and Lothians Local Network

Date: Wednesday 15 May 213

Venue: St Joseph's Primary School, Whitburn

In Attendance: Yvonne Coull, GWT Local Network Development Officer; Maureen McNaughton, Head Teacher St Joseph's Primary School; Caroline Donaldson, The Mood Project; May Weir, Answer Project; Len McCaffer, West Lothian Council; Jim Swan, Whitburn Community Council; Beryl Hofman, WHEC, Elaine Cook, West Lothian Council.

Apologies: Glenda Watt, City of Edinburgh Council and Chris Pilley

Visitors arriving at the school were met and welcomed beautifully at the door by a pupil and taken to the office to sign in, then to the meeting room. The children were a real delight!

The meeting was opened by Yvonne Coull who handed over to Maureen McNaughton to welcomed everyone to the school. Maureen explained that the children were going to talk about their involvement with the Mood Project.

First there was an introductory talk by **Elaine Cook**, Head of Education at West Lothian Council. Elaine explained that she knew little about intergenerational practice or Generations Working Together before coming to the meeting. She had therefore undertaken some research around the subject and also where it might fit within the school environment. What she discovered were a number of topic and policy areas that fitted very strongly between education and the theme of intergenerational practice and she outlined what these were for those attending. Her conclusion was that the profile of intergenerational practice needed to be raised among educationalists and that she felt a strategy from the education department would be able to assist with this. She requested assistance from GWT with this which Yvonne said they would be happy to do. Yvonne also added that 'Education' was a focus for GWT (see below) and that it may be possible to tie the two together in West Lothian.

Caroline Donaldson from the Mood Project outlined the work of her project based at Answer House in Whitburn. The project supports those older people either with or at risk of depression. Part of the remit of the project is to collaborate with the local community and intergenerational practice is an ideal way for this to happen. The project works with a number of schools in Whitburn and Caroline outlined how she began to work with St Joseph's. Four children from St Joseph's then presented their thoughts and experiences of working with the project. A fifth child then detailed a project which they are about to undertake and for which they have received funding. It is the renovation of a derelict piece of woodland next to the school. They want to speak to local residents to find out what the woodland was used for in the past and then gain ideas from the local community about what should be done to improve the woodlands today. A request was made that local people should come forward to help out with this project. The children, Caroline and Maureen then answered questions.

In summing up it was highlighted the importance not only of intergenerational practice happening in the school, but that schools also needed to go out into the community. The benefits of such practice in breaking down barriers, providing a sense of pride, contributing to the curriculum and community cohesion could not be stressed enough.

Yvonne Coull, GWT Local Development Network Officer provided the following **Generations Working Together Update**.

- **GWT's new website** was launched end of Jan 2013 – please check out the network section your area at www.generationsworkingtogether.org
Members have the opportunity to place details of their IG work on the local news section. Please email to Yvonne any pictures, news, requests etc.
yvonne@generationsworkingtogether.org
- **GWT** continues to develop the new local networks with another nine being created over the next couple of months giving a total of 29 local networks across Scotland
- **GWT annual conference** went extremely well and evaluated very positively – all powerpoints and handouts now available to download from the website. Photos are on our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/GenerationsWorkingTogether
- **Objective - Education** working group – if anyone is interested in joining one of the sub groups – strategy, education, mapping case studies or marketing please contact Alison@generationsworkingtogether.org. Really looking for input to strategy group and to help with the education group which looks at the resource pack and training element. However, we are also needing case studies and Alison would be keen to write these up. For more details contact Alison
- **Objective – Health** research paper on benefits of IG practice to health drafted – NHS Health Scotland will help disseminate once paper is finished
- **Training the Trainers** courses organised for Orkney, Inverness & Fort William. This course will be of interest to those who are keen to embed intergenerational approaches within their programme of work. Book online on the website.
- **Guidelines - Bringing together local authorities and intergenerational practice in a Scottish Policy Context** – How can we encourage local councils to become interested in IG work and adopt the Guidelines document? Copies available on the web site.
- **Photo & video competition** – deadline September 2013 –leaflets distributed – online application form now available on website
- **GWT are in partnership with Age Scotland to publish another round of walk in our shoes – act on our issues**. The pack is part of Age Scotland's campaign to end isolation for older people. Act on our issues is an activity that community groups can do to

tackle barriers such as uneven pavements, public toilets closures, poor street lighting, unsafe road crossings and inaccessible shops – leaflets distributed for anyone who is interested.

- **Young Start Funding** from the Big Lottery has an intergenerational strand available for up to £50,000 for two years. www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/youngstartfund
They have made clear that the Connected strand has to have two elements:
 - * only connecting young and older people (and not age groups in between). If it connects everyone it is seen as 'Community'
 - * the two groups should share expertise/knowledge rather than learn together side by side. Although the latter approach can be taken, it carries far less weight with them.
- **Celebrate?** - Celebrate will support new and existing events and activities that mark the 2014 Commonwealth Games through arts, heritage, sports and local community celebrations. It will fund local celebration events and activities which stimulate greater involvement in community activity and develop our understanding as citizens of the Commonwealth.

Celebrations can be a single one-off event or activities which end with a celebration event. To achieve our aim we want to fund projects that meet one or more of the following outcomes:

- **Communities come together through arts, heritage, sports and local celebrations of the Commonwealth Games.**
- **Communities celebrate the people, places and culture of the commonwealth.**

Follow the link to application form and guidance <http://www.celebrateit.org.uk/> The programme will be administered by Big Lottery Fund

- **Go for Gold 2013 Challenge week** - In 2013 the Go for Gold team are planning to continue implementing the 5 physical activity challenges with partners across the care sector in Scotland, (the Games Challenge, the Dance With Me Challenge, the Walk With Me Challenge, the Try-athlon Challenge and Creating Your Own Challenge and we will also look to enhance the Go for Gold 2013 programme through developing the themes of intergenerational activity and community engagement.

To provide some consistency with 2012, and help your planning, they have agreed that July should continue to be the focussed week for Go for Gold 2013 and the **week beginning Monday 1st July** as this year's Go for Gold 2013 Challenge Week.

For more information (handout attached) contact either:

Bob Laventure – bob.laventure@ntlworld.com

Edith Macintosh - edith.macintosh@careinspectorate.com

- **Older people's day 1 October** – www.olderpeoplesday.co.uk/ - People are living longer and 23% of the UK will be aged 65 and over by 2035. The aim of the above

website is to celebrate the achievements and contributions that older people make to society and tackle negative attitudes and outdated stereotypes.

The website includes a news section: the opportunities to post news, stories and add your own comments, and promotes your event by featuring your brochures, posters or links to your own website.

- **Positive Realities Project** - Positive Realities has been funded by the Edinburgh Community Health Partnership from Scottish Government Carer Information Strategy money to provide a service to support young carers and young adult carers across Edinburgh, called '*Staying on Course*'. To refer someone please contact Lorna Wynn in the first instance at the contact details below.

The Project :

Are you a young carer, or help support someone in your family?

If you are aged 11-25 years old and live in Lothian we offer:

1-1 Free Life Coaching (all our coaches are trained and PVG checked)

Life coaching for 30 young carers or young adult carers.

Two support groups for young adult carers studying in Edinburgh on campus if possible

What are support groups - These are groups that let you share your experiences with other young people in the same situation. This can be a powerful way of feeling supported and sharing tips and ideas on how to make your life better.

Positive Realities is a new, exciting organisation for young people in Edinburgh. It will offer young people opportunities to explore and reflect on their lives and give support and encouragement to enable them to gain more control over the direction of their lives. It does this through providing life coaching, advocacy, courses and support groups for young people. Email: Change2wynn2@gmail.com

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