

## Meeting Report – Aberdeen Local Network Meeting

**Date:** Wed 26 June 2013

**Venue:** Town House, Aberdeen



# Generations Working Together

**In Attendance:** Yvonne Coull, Local Development Network Coordinator; Sandra Bruce, Aberdeen City Council; Shona Omand-Smith, Aberdeenshire Council; Sarah Bonnamy, North East Sensory Services; Lyn Elrick, Home-Start; Dr Fiona-Jane Brown, Hidden Aberdeen Tours; Elaine Molden, Ashgrove Children's Centre; Celia Tremain, Silver City Surfers; Hayley Buchan, Aberdeen City Council; Archie Weir, Cummings Park Community Flat; Dora Forbes, Cummings Park Community Flat; Donna Sim, Cummings Park Community Flat; Julie Milne, Aberdeen City Council; Hazel Reid, Sport Aberdeen; Lesley Dunbar, Aberdeen City Council (part).

**Apologies:** Councillor Jenny Laing; Councillor Sandy Stuart

1. Yvonne Coull, Local Development Network Officer, Generations Working Together (GWT) opened this meeting of the Aberdeenshire Local Network, welcomed everyone and thanked Sandra Bruce and Aberdeen City for hosting the meeting. She then introduced the Generations Working Together organisation and history.
2. The members then undertook a task in groups entitled 'Is it or Isn't It?' They were given a small number of cards with outlines of projects and activities on them and were asked by Yvonne as a group to discuss them and decide whether or not they were, or were not, an intergenerational activity. When this was completed there was a discussion around each table about those that were easy and those that were more difficult and why they were difficult. The group moved on to discuss what constitutes intergenerational practice and the main principles. From this a common understanding of what intergenerational practice actually is was discussed. The principles are contained in the Guidelines available from the GWT web site [HERE](#).
3. Sarah Bonnamy, North East Sensory Services (NESS) then told the group about her Young Start funded intergenerational project called Stepping Stones. This is a two year project where young volunteers of school leaving age will deliver activities to older people, enabling all participants to learn new skills and gain confidence. It is all very new.

NESS historically works with young people and those 65+ but these groups are normally isolated from each other. NESS are trying to create more community cohesiveness by both groups working together. With the younger people there are connections to Curriculum for Excellence making them confident citizens and confident learners. Sarah is also hoping to make the Sing Signer Choir an intergenerational project in the autumn.

Having attended the Train the Trainers course Sarah is aware of activities to undertake before bringing generations together so that joining is not intimidating. Singing carols is of common interest and provides a common ground. There will also be an open day – open to everyone – where she will undertake some of the activities from the Train the Trainer course.

There is also going to be a school leavers group – getting them prepared for transition to work, college, uni. She hopes to create positive role models that will come back and talk to the next set of leavers. Older people will act as interviewers for mock interview panels and provide the leavers with feedback.

There is also a Blog Project in the future. It will be based around 'when I was young or in my day'. This gives a common ground of experiences – childhood games/school/music/food.

There will be creative writing in the blog, video etc for use on ipads. Young people will teach the older people how to use them and the older people will help the younger people to write the blogs and stories. Young people will aim for the Youth Achievement Award and the older people can try for SQA Wider Achievement Award and there is also the Discovery Award.

4. Yvonne updated the group with information from GWT.

- **GWT's new website** was launched end of Jan 2013 – please check out the network section your area at [www.generationsworkingtogether.org](http://www.generationsworkingtogether.org)  
Please offer members the opportunity to place details of their IG work on the local news section
- **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 now up on our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/GenerationsWorkingTogether](http://www.facebook.com/GenerationsWorkingTogether)
- **Objective - Education** working group – please ask if anyone would be interested in joining one of the sub groups – strategy, education, mapping case studies or marketing. Really looking for input to strategy group and to help with the education group which looks at the resource pack and training element. However if there is lots of work happening in Inverclyde we'd be keen to write up some case studies. For more details ask them to contact Alison
- **Objective – Health** paper drafted – NHS will help disseminate once paper is finished
- **Training the Trainers** courses organised for Orkney and Dundee. 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 the Council to become interested in IG work and adopt the Guidelines document?
- **Photo & video competition** – deadline September 2013 – distribute leaflets – online application form now available on website
- **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 attached 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](http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/youngstartfund)  
Basically he 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.**

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

- **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 1<sup>st</sup> July as this year's Go for Gold 2013 Challenge Week. For more information (handout attached) contact either:

Bob Laventure – [bob.laventure@ntlworld.com](mailto:bob.laventure@ntlworld.com)

Edith Macintosh - [edith.macintosh@careinspectorate.com](mailto:edith.macintosh@careinspectorate.com)

- **Older people's day 1 October** – [www.olderpeoplesday.co.uk/](http://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.

- **Luminate 2013** – Age Scotland have launched the application process for Luminate 2013. Luminate takes place across Scotland and features creative activities with, by and for older people, as well as events for audiences and participants across the generations, and intergenerational projects. The festival takes places from 1-31 October, and projects can be put forward online at <http://www.luminatescotland.org/luminate-application>; the deadline is 28<sup>th</sup> June.
- **Changing Lives Through Literacy** – Education Scotland is running this event to mark International Literacy Day on 6 September. They are inviting those who have access to Glow to join them. They are providing resources on creative literacy on Glow after the summer. They are asking all those working in literacy in Scotland with children, young people and adults to come together through Glow to celebrate with storytelling, film and creativity. It is a for all ages. For further information contact: [Enquiries@educationscotland.gov.uk](mailto:Enquiries@educationscotland.gov.uk)
- **Scottish Book Trust Annual Campaign – Treasures** - Scottish Book Trust is collecting your stories about your most treasured objects. Is there a special something that has touched or shaped your life?

It could be from your past or your present, but you'll never forget it. Whether it is cheap or expensive, it is priceless to you. Whatever or wherever it is, whether it is yours or lives in a museum, has passed down through your family, was found on a beach, a gift, a souvenir or an everyday object, your Treasure holds a story, the story of what it means to you.

They have put together resource packs for schools and adult learning tutors (which can be found in the resources section of the website <http://www.scottishbooktrust.com/reading/treasures/resources>) and we would very much appreciate it if you could publicise the campaign and the resources to your networks. We have also made an additional pack for secondary schools providing a structured way in which the Treasures project can be developed to support transition between primary and secondary schools. Treasures could be used as an intergenerational project, with school pupils collecting and sharing stories with older people in their community. This is not an element included in the resource pack but would be most welcome.

- **Climate Challenge Fund** – Yvonne provided detail of this funding stream and details can be found at [www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org](http://www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org) They will consider intergenerational projects and if in doubt please contact them.
- If members are speaking to funders about programmes could they ask if they fund intergenerational projects and pass on that information to Yvonne Coull. Often funders have not thought about IG projects and this is a good way to encourage them to have an IG strand.
- **Living it Up** - Can you imagine a place where you could find and create opportunities within your own community that could improve your health, wellbeing and quality of life?

Living it Up is the place to help you do exactly that! Living it Up will provide you with better connections to information, products, services and the community to help you manage your health and wellbeing. These services can be delivered to you through familiar technology like a TV, mobile phone, games console, computer or tablet.

During this first phase of the project, the LiU team will recruit 1500 people to act as 'test users' in the development of the project's key services – Hidden Talents, Exchange, My Care and Keeping Connected. We want to work with you to find and review the best products that will help you, to point to and share information to support you and to find ways to use familiar technology, like your computer or mobile phone, to help you keep connected.

We can't create these new services and exciting ideas without your help. For more information on the engagement work that's already happening, please click the relevant pages. [www.livingitup.org.uk](http://www.livingitup.org.uk)

5. Round Table Update – members were invited to share news and points of interest.
  - Sandra Bruce from Community Planning & Equalities in Aberdeen City Council introduced herself and promised support for the group as intergenerational practice is very important to the work she is doing. She can be contacted for further information on [Sandrab@aberdeencity.gov.uk](mailto:Sandrab@aberdeencity.gov.uk)
  - Julie Milne from Communities Team noted that she was the person to contact regarding Enterprise, Innovation and Funding. Those looking for further information should contact her on [JuliMilne@aberdeencity.gov.uk](mailto:JuliMilne@aberdeencity.gov.uk)
  - Hayley Buchan is in charge of Well-being of the over 65's. She noted that she had undertaken an intergenerational project and there were some real difficulties. However, having attended the Train the Trainers she now knew why there had been difficulties and saw a real benefit for her in the training. She is planning to use some of the activities in future projects.
  - Archie Weir is involved with a man's group bringing men and children together. He is looking for funding and for partners and would like to partner with Aberdeen Adventure.
  - Donna Finn explained about the different parts of her project. She has funding coming in for a community garden and she wants to involve the very young to the very old (using the experience and knowledge of the older people). She is also hoping to have an

intergenerational group to look at computers and mobiles (texting) where she hopes to raise overall self esteem and expectations. There may also be a men's group. A Ladies group meets on the Thursday am and there is communication through craft, cooking etc. She is hoping to have an open day and themed fun days to assist with community communication – she's there to help!

- Celia introduced the work of Silver City Surfers tutoring the over 50's. They have an intergenerational project which is the over 55's and Tullis Primary School and they also undertake training for the Police Cadets who do one or two weeks training with them, volunteering. They have funding for an intergenerational project with 5 schools and older people but more information on that will follow later.
  - Shona's job is with older people and care homes where she is promoting best practice. She has an activity network of 5 small groups across Aberdeenshire. She encourages activity coordinators to integrate with the community and intergenerational practice would be an ideal way of doing this.
  - The following members introduced themselves and their organisations as above: Elaine Logan, Resource Worker working with young children; Lynne Eldrick, support for families but also those with children under 5; Hazel Reid, active ageing.
6. Yvonne then noted that there was little funding for the network and that continuation would rely on the membership hosting the meetings. Sandra and Julie would continue to support but a local network coordinator (volunteer) was required. Yvonne explained that she undertook this role for the Edinburgh group and that it was not onerous. The group discussed the number of meetings per year and four were thought to be about right. Yvonne asked to speak to those who could contribute to the next meeting at the end of the meeting and anyone interested in the volunteer role should contact Yvonne below.

Yvonne can be contacted on [Yvonne@generationsworkingtogether.org](mailto:Yvonne@generationsworkingtogether.org)

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