Free Intergenerational Practice Training

Dates for LGNI’s 2014 free training sessions will be set in the New Year and will be emailed to all Newsletter contacts. Type 1 training (introductory) is suitable for anyone interested in learning about the process of setting up an intergenerational project from recruitment stage through to evaluation.

A second type of training (which we call themes training) is suitable for those interested in applying for a small grant. Please note that you are not required to attend the introductory training to participate in the themes training. This session focuses on how you can link your intergenerational activity to wider social justice themes. Our emphasis is currently on tackling issues of Generational Equity, supporting the Age-Friendly concept, contributing to Safer, Shared & Confident Communities and Building the Peace. Participants are encouraged to discuss these topics and explore their relevance to Intergenerational Practice while discussing ideas for planning and implementing an intergenerational project.

Small grant application packs will only be available at these ‘themes’ sessions; attendance is required to apply. N.B. LGNI small grants are only available in Northern Ireland. Please contact our office on (028) 9131 3022 or email infolgni@bjf.org.uk to register for our training sessions.

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LGNI Small Grant Recipients

Two additional groups have been awarded funding for intergenerational projects that address social justice issues. The successful groups all attended LGNI training making them eligible to apply for a small grant. There are various closing dates throughout the year for those wishing to apply. The most recent groups include:

Shankill Women’s’ Centre – Intergenerational Programme
Londonderry YMCA – Link-a-lot

The next closing date for application is 31st January 2014. You must have attended an LGNI themes training session to apply. Contact our office with any queries on (028) 9181 3022 or infolgni@bjf.org.uk.

LGNI staff visit Washington DC

LGNI staff Vicki Titterington and Lynn Johnston attended the Generations United Conference in Washington DC at the end of July. LGNI hosted a workshop which highlighted their work in Northern Ireland and took advantage of the opportunity to find out about intergenerational and age-friendly initiatives from across the globe. Beth Johnson CEO Alan Hatton-Yeo attended as did Paul Kelly, a Dublin colleague working on intergenerational initiatives (pictured left with LGNI staff). LGNI would like to thank Generations United for a wonderful few days and great hospitality.

Queen’s University

In December 2013 the LGNI and Belfast Age-Friendly initiative jointly hosted a professional development seminar for Queen’s University Belfast students in the School of Sociology, Social Work and Social Policy entitled: ‘Thinking about Age’. Thanks to Janet Anand-Carter from Queen’s University for facilitating this opportunity.
Opportunity Europe Workshop
Putting the You(th) in Age-Friendly

Linking Generations NI delivered a workshop ‘Putting the You(th) in Age-Friendly’ as part of the Opportunity Europe event in St Georges Market on the 22nd October 2013. The workshop explored the opportunities that the European and International Age-Friendly movements offer young people to engage and participate as active European citizens. During the workshop participants also discussed what the term ‘Age-Friendly’ means through the creation of posters and discussion also focused on how young people can contribute to local Age-Friendly initiatives.

Age-Friendly Cross Border Exchange

Linking Generations Northern Ireland and Age Action Ireland, in conjunction with Belfast & Dublin City Councils, worked together to host a day in each city. Older and younger people from both cities took part in activities that involved assessing the AGFE Friendliness of Belfast and Dublin; they also contributed suggestions on how they could be improved! A DVD and report are being produced.
Pensioners’ Trust

LGNI attended the Age Sector Platform’s event on 24 September launching the Pensioners’ Trust. The trust will be used to improve the lives of older people in Northern Ireland by engaging with them to identify areas of concern and support projects which tackle these concerns. Sarah Boyle spoke on behalf of young people at the launch event giving support for the trust and highlighting the positive contribution that intergenerational work and dialogue makes. Sarah, pictured right with LGNI Manager Vicki Titterington, had previously been involved in an intergenerational project with Newry Youth Forum & Senior Citizens Consortium.

Linking Generations NI Team staffing

Ken Irvine, LGNI’s new Regional Development Worker, joined Linking Generations NI in November 2013 and is working primarily on the newly funded ‘Intergenerational Safer Communities’ project. Ken’s background is in community work, counseling, education and training. His formal education was in theology, counseling and training delivery. He is a recognised trainer for the British Safety Council and for the Institute of Leadership and Management.

His last position was Head of Professional Development for CIH, the Professional Body for Housing. This involved work with housing organisations, further education colleges and universities to deliver professional services across the housing sector. He is a voluntary board member of a Housing Association and is Vice Chair of the Board and Chair of the Audit Compliance and Risk Committee.

His interest in training and education led him to be a voluntary board member of Asset Skills, the Sector Skills Council for Housing and Facilities Management. He is chair of the Fountain Cancer Support Group and a member of Safezone, an organisation that works with the Management of Bangor town centre to ensure people get home safe after nights out. Welcome Ken!
Linking Generations wins EMIL award

LGNI recently won an award from the network European Map of Intergenerational Learning (EMIL). The award promotes public interest and awareness of the essential role and value of intergenerational communication and highlights how intergenerational work adds value. It also showcases intergenerational work currently taking place throughout Europe fostering exchange and cooperation between practitioners, researchers, policymakers, business and others. LGNI’s award in the Other category recognizes the Have Your say event held at in April to celebrate http://www.emil-network.eu/.

West Winds Celebrates 10 Years

LGNI were pleased to be invited by Jackie Robinson (Community Development and Health Worker with the South Eastern Trust) to attend the West Winds Development Association’s ‘Fun Day’ in the estate to celebrate its tenth year. They received funding from the Department of Social Development to support their activities this year and as part of this, LGNI were asked to partner with them to help facilitate a new intergenerational project in the estate. Lynn Johnston attended the celebration day to recruit participants for this project and represent LGNI (pictured below). Belfast Exposed came along to the first session at the end of September to support and develop the groups’ photography skills to produce a ‘family album’ for the estate which captures the history and the identity of West Winds.
Generations for Peace Showcase Events

LGNI have been working in partnership with Cooperation Ireland on several PEACE III projects over the past couple of years. The ‘Generations for Peace’ project was commissioned by the North West Peace cluster of Derry, Strabane and Omagh; four workshops were delivered related to peace-building themes in schools across these areas. The project was exceptionally ambitious and also worked in partnership with The Playhouse and The Nerve Centre in Derry/Londonderry. Around 25 schools took part in four creative and exciting workshops which addressed sectarianism and racism with not just pupils but also other adult family members (many of them grandparents).

Reflections on the intergenerational involvement of the project were positive. Those schools who embraced this aspect of the project concept reported that bringing adult family members in to school meant that the workshop learning is more likely to be transferred into the community. The project steering group learnt about some of the barriers to engaging family members which will be valuable information for future project planning.

Exploring Participation & Intergenerational Dialogue

Dublin City Council

On the 30th September Dublin City Council hosted a seminar for the European Network Cities for Children working group’s Children’s Participation & Generation Dialogue.

LGNI presented at this event (pictured right) giving examples from their work as to how participation through Intergenerational dialogue can be progressed.
WEA & LGNI Digital Age intergenerational project update

Due to interest and positive feedback from participants in year 1, the number of intergenerational projects to be delivered across Northern Ireland in the 2nd year has been increased from 8 to 10. LGNI have been matching up sheltered housing schemes that have completed the initial 10-week WEA digital course with interested local primary, secondary/grammar schools and youth groups to work together on digital media projects. This is with the aim of creating digital and social inclusion, establishing and encouraging links in the community and developing friendship, understanding and respect between the generations.

The four groups listed below are due to complete their projects December/early January. They have been using digital media to research and produce content for resources such as calendars, ‘Big Cook Little Cook’ recipe booklets and a Digital Timeline.

Bessie Bell Court & Newtownstewart Model Primary School in Newtownstewart
Slemish Court & Waveney Youth Centre, Ballymena
Somme Park & Lisneal College, Derry/Londonderry
Brennen Court & St Marys Grammar School, Magherafelt

An additional group, Templar Court & Lurgan Junior High School are starting in January 2014.

Comment from younger participant:
“I liked that the older people were friendly and listened to what we had to say.”

Comments from older participants:
“I learned that if you show young people respect they will return it. “This Project was a great opportunity for developing interpersonal skills.”

For more information, photos and comments check out www.wea-ni.com Digital Age Project intergenerational projects.
NI Minister of Justice David Ford attends ‘Intergenerational Safer Communities’ Project Launch December 2013

LGNI has a long history in linking intergenerational practice outcomes to community safety issues and the Community Safety Strategy for 2012-2017 ‘Building Safer, Shared and Confident Communities’ recognised the evidence we had presented. The strategy made commitments to ‘support’ and ‘promote’ intergenerational approaches to tackling community safety issues. In particular, the strategy has recognised that anti-social behaviour and fear of crime are two issues where intergenerational good practice can make a valuable contribution.

On 3rd December LGNI and Belfast PCSP hosted a workshop and presentation and launched our ‘Intergenerational safer communities’ project. The Department of Justice approved a financial contribution of £99,600 towards the project, which runs from September 2013 to March 2015. The funding will enable us to work with Policing and Community Safety Partnerships (PCSPs) to develop innovative ideas and develop intergenerational approaches to community safety. Speaking at the launch event and workshop on 3rd December, Minister for Justice David Ford, pictured below, said:

“Our Community Safety Strategy recognises the importance of working across generations. This funding will allow us to address issues in a sustainable way that makes a difference to everyday living.”

“Linking Generations, who have much experience and knowledge in this area, will work with PCSPs across Northern Ireland to provide training and guidance.”

Participants pictured right at the 3rd December workshop discussing how all-age approaches may add value within their own work practice and neighbourhoods.
Progress to date on Intergenerational Safer Communities Project

Through October, November and December Lynn Johnston and Ken Irvine have been meeting with PCSP Managers and their representatives from all over Northern Ireland. The purpose of these meetings was to discuss the ideas that we have for this project and to start work alongside PCSPs to understand how we can best support them to incorporate and/or develop intergenerational approaches to tackling community safety issues in their neighbourhoods and communities. We have been delighted but not surprised at the positive responses and warm welcomes we have had across Northern Ireland. To date, several clustered council areas have decided to host a workshop to build understanding and skills about intergenerational practice. These are being hosted by the PCSPs and LGNI will be facilitating the workshops. As we anticipated, each PCSP knows their own area best and so approaches differ greatly across council areas. One interesting development is that some PCSPs are already considering connecting this work to Good Relations work and PEACE III partnerships and we are excited to see how this may progress over the next year!

The following workshops have been scheduled and are being organised by the PCSPs in brackets below:

- 17th January @ 9.30am (Ballymena, Ballymoney, Moyle and Limavady)
- 21st January @ 7.00pm (Omagh and Fermanagh PCSP)
- 30th January @ 6.00pm (Derry/Londonderry and Strabane)

If you are interested in attending, please contact the local PCSP. Places are limited in some areas to PCSP members.

LGNI Present at ‘D’ District ‘Policing with the Community’ Workshop

Lynn Johnston was invited by Chief Inspector Darrin Jones, commander of ‘D’ District, to present to the ‘Policing with the Community’ workshop in September 2013. The workshop was attended by a group of around 20 policing staff including area commanders and neighbourhood officers. Lynn took the opportunity to publicise LGNI’s ‘Intergenerational Safer Communities’ project and the audience responded positively to the potential for intergenerational approaches to community safety issues in their policing areas.

Pictured above: Chief Inspector Darrin Jones, Lynn Johnston (LGNI), Superintendent Michele Larmour, Detective Chief Inspector Colin Gillis, Chief Inspector Natalie Wilson.
Craignavon PCSP Intergenerational Project Celebration

On 26th November, Lynn and Ken attended Craignavon PCSP’s celebration of a project which saw a local sheltered housing complex ‘The Oaks’ link with Hart Memorial Primary School, just around the corner. Craignavon PCSP Project Officer Arlene Barton brought together a range of resources providing a variety of fun activities for the participants. They produced sculpture, undertook art activities, engaged in an interactive community safety drama with local PSNI officers, participated in community sport activities and also reflected on what makes their community safe and not safe.

Residents of The Oaks with pupils from Hart Memorial Primary School attended a celebration of their intergenerational project with Craignavon PCSP members and staff in Craignavon Civic Centre in November 2013.