Four teams made up of four older people and four school pupils battled it out over a series of challenges which include speed texting, playing a game of bowling on the Wii, playing dominoes and hanging washing on a line.

In preparation for the event, teams meet every two weeks to learn from each other. The quiz was part of East Renfrewshire Council’s quest to reshape care for older people.

The focus was to enable older people to become part of their community and help break down barriers and stereotyping by having them work with young people. This event and the work leading up to it has many benefits including reducing isolation, improving mental health and providing structure to an older person’s week. This event enabled partnership working with the CHCP, Community Planning Team, Education and Housing Services.

Community link worker, Alan Stevenson, who set up the project was ‘quizmaster’ at the event and said: “Changes in all our lives has resulted in many community activities becoming age segregated and this has resulted in older and younger people having less positive exchanges”.

“This event was a great opportunity for all taking part to show the positive outcomes that can be achieved by people of all ages working, learning and volunteering together.

“I would like to thank all the schools, our partners in Paisley and all the participants for their time and effort in the development of the first ‘IQ Quiz’.”

Councillor Alan Lafferty, convener for social work and health added: “There are many benefits to intergenerational working and it creates great opportunities for young and old to learn and share together. This project is a positive way to provide a structure and sense of purpose to all.

The event was a great success and culminated in 140 people attending Carlbar School. Previous to the event, all participants were invited to attend Pulse FM to participate in a radio show that was aired on three occasions. Tony O’Hare attended the event on behalf of the Kirkton Service and representatives from Renfrewshire Council were in attendance.

Since the event, discussions with Renfrewshire Council have indicated they will be hosting the event in 2014. I have been asked to speak at the Generations Working Together National Conference in March about the quiz, detailing the benefits of Intergenerational Practice as well as the process of developing the event and its positive effects on Community Capacity Building.

You can look at pictures and videos of the event at: https://www.facebook.com/GenerationsWorkingTogether
Thanks to all Partners.

Uplawmoor Primary School and local senior residents.
Gallowhill Primary School.
Glencairn Amenity Housing (Paisley).
Carlibar Primary School
The Kirkton Service.
Carolyn Russell Community Link Officer (Renfrewshire Council).
Eastwood High School Senior Pupils
The Community Planning Team
Young Persons Services
Generations Woking Together.
Get Together
Bellfield Court