

Meeting Report – Forth Valley Network

Date: Wed 27th August 2014 **Venue:** The Hub, Alloa

In attendance: Alison Clyde (GWT), Jean Porter (St Mark's Parish Church), Vanessa Paynton (macrobert Arts Centre), Anna Mayo (The Conversation Volunteers), Jude Clarke (Heal the whole of me), Simon Bradbury (Alva Academy), Mary Fox & Alison Young (Clacks Council Youth services).

Apologies: Maureen Hill, Julie McGrath, Amy Copsey, Marie Urquhart, Florence Miller, Carol Anderson, David Cairns & Sandy Donoghue, Jessie-Anne Malcolm, Caroline Horwood.

GWT national update:

- GWT welcome Cheryl Ewing (Local Network Development Officer) who started with us last month. Cheryl is taking over the coordination from Alison of 8 local networks across the central belt including Glasgow, Renfrewshire, East Renfrewshire, Inverclyde, South & North Lanarkshire, and East & West Dunbartonshire.
- Slight delay in letters being sent to Director and Heads of Education re training (planned for end of Aug) due to Yvonne Coull, our other Local Development Network Officer and Trainer, being on long-term sick. Alison hopes to send letters probably around October time. Will keep everyone posted. Alison is happy for schools to contact her direct to request training.
- **Equality Internship (SCVO)** – GWT is shortly to recruit a Development & Communications Internship Post to work on developing a toolkit for the intergenerational quiz to go national. The intern will also develop recognition awards which will be presented at our national conference in March next year.
- **GWT impact assessment** – is being carried out by ANIMATE Consultancy – a survey will shortly be sent to all members and those who have taken part in our training courses. Alison asks if you could take 5 – 10 minutes to complete the survey being very honest and letting us know what ways we could improve the networks, training courses etc and if there is anything we could do extra to provide you with support. There is also two focus groups being held for network coordinators and partners – a big thank you to those who have agreed to take part.
- **Date for your diary** - Our next national conference will take place on Wednesday 4th March in the Lighthouse, Mitchell Street, Glasgow. Alison is looking for projects and groups to showcase their intergenerational work at the conference. Please contact Alison if you have a project which you feel would be of interest to other groups and organisations from across Scotland. Alison hopes the programme will be confirmed by December.
- **Copies of our Education Resource Pack and the publication known as 'Intergenerational approaches to improving health and wellbeing'** can be found on the GWT website at www.generationsworkingtogether.org

Intergenerational Training – A course has been planned for Forth Valley members on Tuesday 16th September from 10am – 4pm in the CVS Falkirk & District Office, Callendar Business Park, Falkirk. Only a few spaces left. To book please click the following link:

<http://generationsworkingtogether.org/events-training/training/>

Round the Table

- **Clacks Council Youth Services** – Alison Young & Mary Fox provided an update on the intergenerational work that Youth services are and have been involved with including X Skills project, allotments, gardening and men's sheds.

X Skills is a project currently run in the Ben Cleuch Centre and Bowmar Centre, which brings older and younger people together to share skills. The benefits of intergeneration skills exchange are huge, bringing together young in people, adults and older adults in a way that is positive for all concerned, helping to bridge the skills gap between generations and promoting mutual respect and understanding in the process.

Skills exchanged have included, IT and cookery however many other topics are being discussed. Alison is now looking for more younger and older people to join the project. Simon and Jude were interested in getting involved.

Action: Alison to email a few lines to GWT for inclusion on the Forth Valley network page and e-bulletin. Jude offered help to promote their project through the website 'Heal the whole of me'

- **Macrobert Arts Centre** – Vanessa mentioned that there was a similar production being planned for later this year to Bunty and Doris, which was an intergenerational dance project however this time it was around singing.
- **St Mark's Parish Church** – Jean talked about their new intergenerational history project where older and younger people together create story bags from their own school days. They will then both work together to dream and create a story bag for what they think school life will be like in 2064. Jean is currently looking for some funding to recruit for a couple of art workers. The project is planned over approx. 8 weeks followed by a large event to celebrate.
- **Alva Academy** is very interested in being involved in intergenerational work. Simon will pass information to Anne McEwen who is involved in an allotment project in Tillicoultry. Simon may also be able to help Alison Young access some more youths for the X Skills project.

Funding Opportunities

YOUNG START funding will be making an exciting announcement in Oct about a couple of changes to the fund (good news not bad). Keep an eye out on their website at

<http://generationsworkingtogether.org/resources/young-start>

Other funding opportunities can be found on the GWT website:

<http://generationsworkingtogether.org/resources/intergenerational-funding/>

AOB

The Woodland Trust is offering 4,000 free tree packs for schools and community groups.

<http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/plant-trees/in-your-community/>

Next meeting: Wednesday 3rd December 2014, 9.30am – 11.30am – CVS Falkirk and District, Unit 6, Callendar Business Park, Callendar Road, Falkirk, FK1 1XR