

Meeting Report – Dumfries and Galloway

Date: Tues 28th October **Venue:** Youth Alive, Dumfries

In attendance: Anne McLaughlin (Youth Alive); Alan Sidaway (Unite Retired Members); Murdo MacLeod (Building Healthy Communities); Idris Dean (Dumfries & Galloway Council); Liz Forsyth (Safe Healthy Action Partnership); Cheryl Ewing (GWT); Darren Bryan (NHS).

Apologies: Ken Harvey (Lockerbie Men's Sheds); Jean Nelson (CLD Services), Scott McGill (The Food Train).

2. Generations Working Together National Update

Not much been happening over the summer however Alison has been busy working on the new training materials and meeting new organisations that are interested in running intergenerational projects.

GWT also 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 and south including Dumfries and Galloway.

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.

- **An Equality Internship (SCVO)** – GWT are recruiting a Development & Communications Internship Post to work on developing a toolkit for the intergenerational quiz to go national. This position is specifically targeted at those with long term health conditions and/or disabilities.
<http://generationsworkingtogether.org/news/development-communications-intern-vacancy-30-09-2014>
 - **GWT impact assessment** 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.
 - **Intergenerational Training – Training the Trainers Course** will be of interest to those who are keen to embed intergenerational approaches within their programme of work. Full programme of training courses now available at www.generationsworkingtogether.org
- These are free, discuss good IG practice, look at how to bring communities together and evaluate IG projects.

Eyemouth 20th November

- **GWT National Conference – March 4th @ The Lighthouse, Mitchell Lane, Glasgow**
Suggestions can be made to the GWT team as to the structure and content of the Conference, please get in touch with any ideas.
- **Intergenerational Quiz Final**
This year's final will be held at the Lagoon Leisure Centre, Paisley on 28th of November.

Funding

- The **YOUNG START** funding through the BIG Lottery – there will be an announcement in Oct about a couple of changes to the fund (good news not bad)
<http://generationsworkingtogether.org/resources/intergenerational-funding/>
<http://generationsworkingtogether.org/resources/young-start>

- **Interns to promote Business Growth**

The Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations (SCVO) has opened a new European funded grants programme aimed at supporting growth across the third sector but in particular digital, creative and green industries.

The £2 million project will enable the third sector to take on 400 interns over the next 12 months, including 120 digital interns.

interns@scvo.org.uk or digitalinterns@scvo.org.uk

- **Guidelines- Bringing Together Local Authorities and Intergenerational Practice in a Scottish policy Context**

This resource provides local authorities, other agencies and projects with guidelines that clearly contextualise intergenerational practice in terms of Scottish national priorities. This resource is a great starting point for wording that may be applied to funding bids.

<http://generationsworkingtogether.org/resources/guidelines-bringing-together-local-authorities-and-intergenerational-practice-in-a-scottish-policy-context>

Opportunities

- **Woodland Trust are offering Free Tree Packs for Community Groups and Schools. Deadline**

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

- **Luminate Festival**

Luminate takes place across Scotland throughout October, and spotlights arts activities by and for older people, as well as events for audiences across the generations. The festival showcases projects and events run by communities and arts organisations nationwide.

<http://www.luminatescotland.org/>

- **The Last Post**

The Last Post is a mass participation project which is taking place in cities, towns and collages across the UK in November 2014. Hundreds of people will unite in communities around the nation to remember the impact the First World War had on their local community and play music from the era as a mark of commemoration.

To support participants in the Last Post project, Superact is providing free resources including;

- a song book of songs from 1914
- resources to help research your local history
- tools to help you organise a free community event
- a last post plaque to display in your community to mark your involvement in the project
- expenses will be available to a limited number of events
- <http://www.superact.org.uk/thelastpost/>
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3. Round Table Project Updates

Idris – Dumfries and Galloway Council

No specific projects due to review within council. Over the last 12 months more links have been formed with the 16 High Schools in the area. The aim for the service is to have 80% of employability work to happen with young people. A recent funding bid has been secured in order to guarantee positive destination routes for all School leavers, this work should begin in March.

Members of the group felt that GWT could assist by emphasising the importance of effective partnership working for IG project work for the curriculum; and its need to be embedded rather than an add on. Cheryl to highlight specific case studies to the group that may be used as good practice evidence.

Liz – Safe and Healthy Action Partnership

Liz informed the group that YPSS are one of the groups assisting in delivery of work, to NAT 4 candidates during normal exam leave time.

Liz informed the group that her work assists with life skills. One project that is being carried out in Langholm Academy is working to break the stigma of mental health; so far separate sessions have been run for pupils and staff, the hope is to then bring both groups together. Liz has made contacts with Alzheimer UK and this could in future be an option for other sessions to be run, informing groups of what is it and how it can effect families etc.

A computer class has also been running in the Youth facilities in Langholm, the classes are open to all ages but as of yet have only had uptake from over 60's. Liz has been trying to involve local youth groups and schools; this is an area that requires some more attention in the hope that the group can be self-sustaining. Cheryl to direct Liz to case studies of IG IT projects.

Liz has been facilitating a long term condition group in the area, recently younger people have been brought by service workers from their school, this has increased the age range of group from 14 – 93. It has been noted that this is an evolved IG project that may benefit from some training and support for the service workers. Liz to pass on training details.

Darren – NHS

Recently appointed to the role, Darren has been working with Annan Community Garden. Links have started to be made with local mental health and drug support teams, as a relaxing environment for service users. The group were also informed that there is possible interest for a men's shed in the Annan area.

'Let's Cook' sessions have also been running in conjunction with the community garden, enabling the group to learn how to cook with what they have harvested.

Murdo suggested contacting Claire Thirwall, health and wellbeing officer who is involved with the local Mental Health Strategy. claire.thrlwall@dumgal.gov.uk

At this point the group discussed briefly the needs of the Lockerbie Men's Sheds in Ken's absence, the men have been meeting over the past few months but as of yet have no premises. The suggestion was made to try and partner up with a local school however it is thought that previous attempts to run a pilot project were dismissed due to the school in questions PPP status with Amey. Cheryl to help gather information of successful projects in other PPP facilities across Scotland.

Tea and Tennis, is a 50+ group being run in Seaforth Tennis Courts in Annan, although some participants have come along under this age limit.

Alan – Unite Retired Members

Update to group, of the SOPA National Conference will take place on Friday 31st of October, at the Scottish Parliament building in Edinburgh.

An annual Youth Festival ran in May/June, highlighting the work of the union and build cohesion between younger and older workers.

Alan also wished to raise with the group the issue of Kinship Care, that grandparents taking on caring responsibilities are not able to receive funding/financial support. It would be appreciated that if any funding or opportunities that could help assist these carers comes of light that the information is passed on.

Anne – Youth Alive

Youth Alive have been running 6 month long employability projects, 2 young people have been involved in work with the groups polytunnel. The project is looking for local experienced gardeners or those with a good horticultural knowledge to assist the growth of plants, fruit and vegetables. The facilities at Youth Alive also enable service users to learn how to cook with harvested produce, and provides a seated area for the group to come together as a unit and eat together.

Cheryl suggested there may be help, opportunities with RHS, and also that the Grow Wild campaign have also opened applications for their 2015 seed kit.

<https://www.rhs.org.uk/communities/get-involved>

<https://www.growwilduk.com/seed-kit>

The group has also been awarded Scottish Whiskey Foundation Funding that will enable their PARTY (Provide Alcohol Related Training for Youth) project to facilitate a Scotland wide Training the Trainer course next year. Anne to send over information to Cheryl when details are finalised in order to put on GWT website.

The group have also been providing the areas schools with Sexual Health Groups that last for a period of 6 weeks. Diversion for youth services also run out of the Youth Alive facility on Monday and Thursdays, the Thursday group specialising with those in inclusion.

A film project is about to start with young people deciding to create a documentary style film looking at the alcohol in the area, the idea of making this an IG project was suggested.

Murdo – Building Healthy Communities

A weekly Intergenerational Arts and Crafts project has been running, bringing together a diverse group of ages and abilities. One of the first projects that the group took on was a 12ft x 4ft mural for the Aberlour building in Stranraer. Looking at the past and present in the area, the group built on the positives of the area to raise community spirit.

Recently the group have been targeting local events and were able to design a three 8ft x 2ft banners for the Queens Baton relay. A community effort enabled the banners to be graphically printed and hung on the baton route. The success of this was recognised by local council members and the banners were placed in the nearby leisure centre for the duration of the commonwealth games.

Currently the group are working with the Burns centre in Stranraer looking at the legacy of art.

A secondary project is underway relating to social media and digital technologies. Primary school pupils have been gaining interviewing skills and working with local writing/poetry groups, it is the hope that both the social media project and art project may link with the pupils being able to document the work of the art group and showcase this. A successful funding bid was made to the Hollywood Trust in order to buy equipment. An exhibition will be take place in March 2015, showing the work of both groups.

To Do for Next Meeting

- Cheryl to highlight specific case studies to group that may be used as good practice evidence.
- Cheryl to direct Liz to case studies of IG IT projects.
- Liz to pass on training details.
- Cheryl to invite Clare Thirlwall to next meeting claire.thirlwall@dumgal.gov.uk
- Cheryl to help gather information of successful projects in other PPP facilities across Scotland.
- Anne to send over information to Cheryl when details are finalised in order to put on GWT website.

Next Meeting: Monday the 9th of February 2015, Time and Venue TBC