

National Update – Shetland Network Meeting

Date: Tuesday 21st October 2014 **Venue:** Isleburgh Centre, Lerwick



In attendance: Denise Nicolson (SIC Adult Learning), Neil Pearson (Voluntary Action), Astryd Jamieson (NHS Shetland), Steve Mullay (NHJS Shetland/Alzheimer Scotland), Ann Williamson (Alzheimer Scotland), Martin Summer (SIC Youth Development) & Alison Clyde (GWT)

Apologies: Kate Coutts, Marghie West, Laura Whittall, Susan Hinton, Hazel Anderson & Wendy Hand

GWT national update:

- **GWT staff changes** - GWT welcomes Cheryl Ewing (Local Network Development Officer) who started in July. 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, East & West Dunbartonshire allowing Alison to support the Highland networks.
- **Education resource pack** - 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 resigning due to health problems. Alison hopes to send letters later in the year. Alison will keep everyone posted and is happy for schools to contact her directly to request the 4-hour training course.
- **Equality Internship (SCVO)** – GWT is shortly to recruit a Development & Communications Intern 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.
- **Date for your diary** - Our next national conference will take place on Wednesday 4th March in the Lighthouse, Mitchell Street, Glasgow. Alison hopes the programme will be confirmed December time.
- **Highlands & Islands Conference 2014** held in Eden Court, Inverness was a great success. GWT hope to repeat on 29th April 2015 again possibly at Eden Court, Inverness. 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 the Highlands & Islands.
- **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** – after discussion it was agreed that Alison would contact everyone who'd already attended the training course in Orkney

Round the Table

Denise attended a session of the Older People's Assembly recently. The Assembly is similar to the Youth Parliament, has direct contact with ministers and can influence change. The introduction of the bus pass was one Assembly achievement. Attendees were mostly representatives from organisations working with older people – there were few older people in attendance, yet the

purpose of the meeting was to gather views and concerns to take forward to the Assembly in the Scottish Parliament. There is not scope for another meeting involving more older people, however, the facilitator suggested this was something that could be taken forward locally. Any subsequent group could participate in Older People's Assembly meetings in the future. There is a strong youth voice locally and Denise is interested in the possibility of setting up something similar for older people. It would potentially be an intergenerational project, as youth representatives could work alongside older people, giving support, guidance and advice and the benefit of their experience. A long-term aim might be to have an annual meeting between both groups.

Martin can advise.

Action: Denise will meet with Martin and other interested parties early 2015 to find out if this is a worthwhile project and, if so, how it can be progressed.

Stephen Mullaigh from the NHS outlined the work, which takes place in relation to Dementia and the Dementia team vision for how that work can be developed with input from other partners. He presented statistics in relation to Dementia. It is estimated there are currently 400 people in Shetland with dementia. That the figure will double in the next few years. It is an issue for people of all ages and will affect society over the next 20 years. There is a need to raise common awareness. One of the issues is lack of volunteers.

Ann endorsed this and updated the group on the current activities and groups, which she facilitates and supports along with Laura Whittall.

Neil thought their drop-in was a potential opportunity for youth volunteers, as were other activities run by the team. Youth volunteers can struggle to find places. Disability Shetland has dropped the age of their volunteers to 14 and is reaping the benefits from this. They take 12 year olds, but as assistant helpers. This model may be worth exploring. He outlined the processes of recruiting and monitoring youth volunteers.

Action: The Dementia Team will meet and discuss how they could potentially tap in to this. They will follow up with Neil.

The Shetland Youth Volunteer Awards are due to take place in November. 4 out of 10 are participating in intergenerational activities, or similar. YouthLink Scotland has an Intergenerational Award. Neil may nominate someone for this, if they are the winner of the local outstanding contribution award, which is awarded in partnership with BP and the Rotary Club.

Martin spoke about a youth heritage project with Historic Scotland – working with young people to educate them about the importance of historic sites. This will involve older people and their experiences. He also spoke about the Spirit Dancer project – an exchange project between Shetland and Canada, which is about bringing communities together. One aspect which has been highlighted is the Native Canadian respect for their elders. There is potential to do more around this theme. Martin also spoke about the Youth Legacy Ambassadors and the work they are doing. He is interested in finding ways they could support older people.

Action: Alison to send Martin a case study template to record some of their IG work.

Astryd told the group that every locality has a local based health practitioner now. Mental Health is one of their key themes. They could link in to projects related to dementia in the future. Their work links with the Older People's Strategy. There could be links with Youth Ambassadors through the Active theme. Age Scotland has a campaign to reduce isolation and identify areas of concern. There is scope for young people to help do a campaign to raise these concerns. Chair based activity is an area for development.

Action: Denise to include Astryd in the meeting with Martin in 2015

Funding Opportunities

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

Other funding opportunities can be found on the GWT website:

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

Next meeting: Thursday 19th March, 1.30 – 3.30pm, Isleburgh Community Centre, Lerwick

GWT is pleased to confirm that the Highlands & Islands Conference will take place on:

Wednesday 29th April, 10.30am – 3pm, Eden Court, Inverness – further details will follow Jan 2015