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Celebration event and evaluation launch

Linking Generations NI would like to thank everyone who attended their evaluation launch on 18th March at the Belfast Queen's Quarter Crescent Arts Centre where everyone enjoyed lovely pink cupcakes on the day! The event was used to celebrate the success of LGNI’s Atlantic Philanthropies grant; those in attendance heard from some of the wonderful people LGNI have worked with over recent years. Junior Ministers Jennifer McCann and Jonathan Bell launched the final evaluation report and offered words of support and congratulations. The report clearly highlights the positive contribution and applicability of intergenerational approaches to a range of policy agendas. LGNI wants to thank Sarah McWilliams from Juniper Consulting for all her hard work on this report which can be viewed by clicking here.

Watch this space for the final evaluation document. Contact our office on (028) 9181 3022 should you like further information about any of LGNI’s work. Alternatively, you can contact us at the facebook and twitter accounts on the left of this page.
Since 2009, 29th April each year has been designated as the 'European Day of Solidarity between Generations'. The objective of this annual day of celebration is to raise awareness of the importance of engagement across the generations and offer a platform to showcase good practice and activities that promote intergenerational solidarity.

LGNI’s vision is that Northern Ireland will be an Age-friendly region: age groups will not be segregated and ageism will not exist. All-age approaches will be commonplace at community, organisational and policy level.

This year, LGNI with support from the Public Health Agency, is running a similar small grants scheme ‘Celebrating Age’. Grants of up to £150 pounds were awarded to the following groups from across Northern Ireland:

- Ashfield Garden Development Agency
- Aticall Youth Club
- Ballygowan and Dist Community Association
- Ballymac Friendship Centre
- Ballymena Inter-ethnic Forum
- Banbridge Amateur Boxing Club
- Big Telly's Spring Chickens
- Castleragh Hills Golf Club
- Chestnut Grove/Bruce House & Victoria College
- Destined Ltd
- Dunmurry Community Association
- First Ballygawley Guide Unit
- Garnerville Presbyterian Church
- Good Morning Ballymena
- Groomsport Village Association
- Harmony Men’s Group
- Include Youth
- Kilcooley Women’s Centre
- Killinchy Primary School
- Kingdom Youth Club
- Knockmore Community Association
- Larne Methodist Circuit Youth
- Larne YMCA Youth Club
- Lisannelly Regeneration Group
- Magherafelt High School
- Mindwise
- North Down Community Network
- Omagh Gateway Club
- Poyntzpass Village Group
- Quilly Rural Development Group
- Roe Valley Residents Association
- Rural Community Network
- Sion Mills Community Forum
- St Joseph’s Primary School
- The Cabbagepatchers
- The FACT Project
- Volunteer Now

For inspiration and further information on the European Day of Solidarity between Generations, see LGNI’s website http://www.centreforip.org.uk/northern-ireland/eu-day-of-solidarity

All previous intergenerational projects and case studies can be found there too. Phone LGNI’s Manager Vicki Titterington on 028 9181 3022 or email: vicki@bjf.org.uk or connect on Twitter @LinkGenNI and Facebook (Linking Generations Northern Ireland).
School-based IT projects

Pictured below are ladies from Ballygowan Senior Citizens Group and P7 pupils from Alexander Dickson Primary School who have been taking part in an intergenerational IT project facilitated by Linking Generations Northern Ireland. The project is funded through the Department of Finance and Personnel’s Go ON NI programme and focused on promoting Digital Inclusion and getting older people online. Over a 4-week period the seniors and pupils met at the school to work together on ipads to explore how to use google, create posters, make wordles, take selfies and most importantly to have FUN!

The pupils shared their technology skills with the seniors and also spent time getting to know one another during the various activities. LGNI facilitated the project and hope that this taster will give all the seniors involved an appetite for getting online more regularly. Similar projects also took place in Ballywalter Primary School with Ballywalter Seniors Group, Leadhill Primary with Grandparents and Bangor Central Integrated Primary with North Down and Ards U3A.
Generations Working Together – Glasgow Conference

LGNI would like to thank all those involved with the Generations Working Together conference in Glasgow, Scotland on 4th March. It proved to be an inspirational conference and the hospitality was very much appreciated. The event was complemented with a ‘five-nations’ meeting of intergenerational practitioners from across the UK and Ireland which focused on sharing learning and best practice. For further information about this conference and to see the presentation from LGNI’s Vicki Titterington, please click here: http://generationsworkingtogether.org/events-training/national-conference-2015-04-03-2015
Age-friendly School Project Update

This pilot project commenced in April 2014 with funding from the Belfast Health Development Unit as part of their grant scheme to reduce social isolation. It involved older members of Cregagh Community Association and pupils from Cregagh Primary School to promote the idea of an age-friendly school and develop better links with older people in the area. The project is now completed; a Celebration Event was held in Cregagh Primary school on 20th January 2015 to showcase the success and achievements to the pupils, parents, other organisations and the wider community.

The Celebration began with an overview of the project. The pupils and some of the older participants then helped to tell the story of the project and spoke about their experiences. Photos were projected for the audience to see. Each of the participants was then presented with a certificate by Councillor Tommy Sandford. Memory Boards were also presented to the school and community association.

When speaking about the project’s success, the Acting Principal of the school, Mr Heggarty, noted its commitment to the community and commented that “the links between the school and community are becoming more and more blurred …. and we don’t see each other in terms of age, but others that live and work in our community”

"Great project – inspirational – should happen in all communities." "Greatly enjoyed every minute of it – the kids were great to work with – thank you." "Best year of my life – great kids!"

Older participant comments

"I really liked the project but my favourite part was meeting all the older people." "I thought it was really good mixing and knowing people from the estate." "Amazing older people – best thing ever!"

Younger participant comments

Moving forward there are many opportunities for Cregagh to continue on the Age-friendly journey through further joint activities, especially at key times of the year. The school can act as a hub for intergenerational engagement.

For further information

Intergenerational Safer Communities Project Update

An LGNI conference ‘What Works? - Intergenerational Approaches to Community Safety in Northern Ireland’ was held on 12 March 2015 in Crumlin Road Gaol, Belfast. This event marked the end of LGNI's Department of Justice funded 'Intergenerational Safer Communities' Project (Sep 2013 to March 2015). The day was very well attended by members of the policing and community safety family, with 80 delegates from a wide range of community and statutory sectors.

The event provided an opportunity for participants to share learning about their experiences of taking intergenerational approaches to tackling community safety issues across Northern Ireland.

Guests/speakers included David Ford, MLA and Minister for Justice. Claire Keatinge, Commissioner for Older People Northern Ireland was also in attendance as was Koulla Yiasouma, Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People. Sarah McWilliams from Juniper Consulting also presented preliminary evaluation findings. Workshops were hosted by groups who had facilitated intergenerational activities throughout the project: Ballymoney PCSP member Steven Phillips, PSNI Neighbourhood officer Sheila Watton and Harry Hughes, from the Cabbagepatchers.

To view presentations made on the day by Vicki Titterington, Claire Keatinge, Koulla Yiasouma, Lynn Johnston and Sarah McWilliams as well as our short highlights video of the event, please visit Linking Generations NI Youtube channel:

https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=Linking+Generations+Northern+Ireland

For further pictures of the day, click here:

https://www.flickr.com/photos/lgni/sets/

For an overview of the work completed on this project, please see click on

The final external evaluation document will also be available soon.
Digital Age Project update

The Digital Age Project (DAP) is a 2 year programme funded by the Big Lottery Fund to incorporate Information Technology (IT) into sheltered housing schemes across Northern Ireland.

It will help older residents to understand how technology can enhance their lives through improved communication, access to information and services, and hobbies and interests to reduce social isolation and promote a better quality of life. There is also an opportunity for schemes to link up with a local school/youth group for an additional fun intergenerational project.

The programme provides free, in-house, 10 week IT courses. Tablet computers are provided each week for participants to use, learning resources are provided and one new laptop will be provided to each participating scheme for residents’ to access.

Any sheltered housing scheme with reliable broadband/ wi fi and a minimum of 10 older residents (including local residents/ members of local groups) who are interested in taking part can contact Lynne Bennett at lynne.bennett@bjf.org.uk or call 028 9181 3022 for further details.

OFFICIAL RE-LAUNCH

The Digital Age Project was re-launched at Elmgrove Manor sheltered housing scheme in East Belfast in February 2015 alongside residents who had recently taken part in the 10 week sessions. One learner commented "taking part in this project will help my ego and to keep up with my grandchildren!" To date, 10 sheltered housing schemes across Northern Ireland from Fold, Ark Housing, Clanmil, and Oaklee/Trinity Housing Associations have taken or are currently taking part.
Those include:

- Abbeyfield House, Downpatrick
- Elmgrove Manor, East Belfast
- Glen Fold, Newcastle
- Donard Fold, Newcastle
- St Elizabeths Court, Dundonald
- Ardnaskea Court, Coalisland
- Sperrin Court, Cookstown
- Kerrington Court, South Belfast
- Cumain House, Portaferry.
- Abbey Court Fold, Belfast

The schemes who have completed their initial 10 week IT course are now in the process of being linked up with pupils from a local school/youth group to enjoy an additional 5-week intergenerational creative IT project. This will build on the residents’ IT skills and interest and develop links between the generations in the community.

For further details about this project please visit:  
http://www.centreforip.org.uk/northern-ireland/digital-age-project

Or visit the Digital Age Facebook page at:  
https://www.facebook.com/DigitalAgeProject