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From strength to strength

It is now a year since LGNI took on the lead partner in the Digital Age Project. It is currently a 2 year programme funded by the Big Lottery ‘Reaching Out Connecting Older People,’ Fund, to incorporate Information Technology (IT) into sheltered housing schemes across Northern Ireland. Sessions are delivered in the familiar surroundings of each Housing Scheme with patient and supportive tutors and provide a great opportunity to learn how to go on-line, and to enjoy some craic!

Residents have learned how to browse the internet, use e-mail, make video calls on Skype, download apps from app stores and discover how they can be used in everyday life, shop online, edit photographs using Photoshop Express and also create a Google Doc.

24 schemes from Fold, Ark, Abbeyfield, Choice, Clanmil and Abbeyfield & Wesley Housing Associations have taken part or are currently taking part in the 10 week free introduction to IT training course. More information on our recent learning seminar on page 5.

10 of these groups then took part in a 6 week additional intergenerational project using technology as a tool to link up with young people in local schools and youth groups. Participants, whose ages ranged from 8 to 96 years, worked together to create bags for life, t-shirts, calendars and wall art.

For further details about this project please visit:
http://www.centreforip.org.uk/northern-ireland/digital-age-project
Facebook: DigitalAgeProject
Digital Age Project cont...

A teacher commented: “I was amazed to see how quickly the students and residents found so many common interests. I saw a great change in some of my students. They grew as individuals and gained a much deeper interest and knowledge of the older generation in our local community. We have made a promise that over the coming years we will continue to share our bond, and attend events together to promote the linking of the generational gap in Newcastle. The students really enjoyed and benefitted from this wonderful experience.”

LGNI’s vision:
Northern Ireland will be Age-friendly: Generations will work together to build communities for all ages

Celebrating Age small grants scheme report

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.

This year LGNI, with support from the Public Health Agency, ran a similar small grants scheme as last year entitled ‘Celebrating Age’. Grants of up to £150 pounds were awarded to groups from across Northern Ireland. The report of this project which involved over 1300 participants is now available on the website it has details of all the projects involved in this year and there are many really great initiatives to consider. The report will be used to discuss further work with PHA although they have made us aware that budgets are currently frozen but will make us aware of any option they may have going forward. To read all about it and get inspired click here: http://bit.ly/207m6Qa
LGNI & MEAAP
We are delighted to be continuing our collaborative work with MEAAP. LGNI were involved in an intergenerational survey to inform their Safe and Sound Survey in the Ballymena, Larne and Carrickfergus areas as part of our DoJ funded work. We are now delivering workshops about intergenerational practice to MEAAP groups in order to support MEAAP’s ‘Generations Games’ social activities partnership opportunities.

Can we help?
Our doors are always open and we are particularly interested in new opportunities for collaboration and partnership working. Interested in adding value to current or future work by taking an intergenerational approach? Building a funding partnership?
Give us a call! 😊

Safer Communities Project Evaluation
The Safer Communities Project funded by the Department of Justice was completed in March 2015. This very successful project was evaluated over the whole period by Juniper Consultancy and the final evaluation was published in June. To read the report please click here: http://bit.ly/1ia5MvQ
Other events and activities

- We continue to bring our message to HASP (Healthy Ageing Strategic P'ship) in Belfast
- We had a stand at the launch of Positive Ageing Week Belfast City Council
- Met with Age Friendly lead in Newry, Mourne and Down Council – presentation to council officers in to promote LGNI opportunities and services to build Age-friendly communities
- Proposal submitted and accepted to present at Dublin City Universities Age friendly University Conference 2nd and 3rd November
- We are looking forward to the Newry, Mourne and Down Age-friendly Conference in November

Connecting Care Homes

Vicki and Lynn really enjoyed attending 'Improving Quality of Life in Nursing & Residential Homes'. The conference, at UU Magee focused on the ‘My Home Life’ initiative which focusses on improving quality of life in care homes for residents, staff and visitors.

We really want to engage with this initiative and use intergenerational approaches as a way of connecting care homes to community. We are very excited about the opportunities that exist for us in this important and neglected arena. If you know of a care home that would like to work with us, give Vicki a call.

Age-friendly Linkages

We have been working with the ARK Ageing programme to host this grouping which brings together key figures in the Age-friendly field. The purpose of the group is to provide updates and also identify any collaborative work opportunities. These connections have enabled us to promote our ideas about how all-age approaches can increase the impact of age-friendly environments.
Enhancing your life on-line: What works?

We hosted this seminar on October 6th in the Skainos Centre, Belfast to celebrate the achievements of the project to date and to launch the Digital Age Toolkit. The toolkit consists of over 50 learner cards to enable learning. They can be downloaded from: http://digital-age.org.uk/

Workshop using learner cards (above), attendees and speakers at the Seminar (below)
Erasmus+ Project: On-line learning Resources

This project involves partners Poland: Association ‘e’ (Lead) and the Kreisau Initiative in Germany. The focus of the project is to use the existing European Certificate in Intergenerational Learning (ECIL) course as a tool and model to progress intergenerational learning in Poland and Germany. LGNI’s role is to offer intergenerational expertise on behalf of our parent organisation, the Beth Johnson Foundation. This will include our resources, case studies examples etc. We aim to use this opportunity to develop the course for use in NI and to build our potential for future EU linkages.

The picture shows Vicki and Lynn welcoming Dominik and Beata from ‘e’ in Warsaw and Micheal from KI in Berlin to a sunny Newtownards!

The LGNI Steering Group met at LGNI offices in September for a critical meeting about our future. David McConnell chaired the meeting and welcomed Colin Hann, Chair of the Beth Johnson Foundation. Colin gave an overview of current developments at BJF and outlined some of the possibilities for future working relationships and ongoing partnership between LGNI and BJF. LGNI staff agreed to present a scoping paper for consideration at the next meeting to be held in January 2016.

New Website new branding for BJF

The Beth Johnson Foundation have a new branding and logo. The new and improved website www.bjf.org.uk - sets out clearly what BJF is about ........
- the vision of a future for all ages
- the training courses offered
- the cutting edge research being conducted
- the support advocates can offer those living with cancer or dementia
- what BJF is doing to make our community age-friendly

...and much more.

In keeping with this new brand, we are currently developing our new website – keep an eye out for it!
BSG in Northern Ireland

LGNI continue to support the development of the British Society of Gerontology in NI by helping to organise their second seminar, held in Ulster university on 27th October.

Dr Gemma Carney, QUB is pictured welcoming attendees.

The keynote speakers were:

**Professor Jill Manthorpe**, Kings College London spoke about her experiences in engaging in participative and co-productive research with older people for the past 16 years. ‘Wise owls revisited: Involving Older People in Research on Ageing’

And **Sarah Penney from Ulster University**, Project Manager of ‘My Home Life’ in Northern Ireland, Ulster University. Sarah spoke about the implementation work that she and Dr Assumpta Ryan have done, and continue to do, to bring ‘my Home Life’ to NI ‘My Home Life’ Improving Quality of Life in Care Homes in Northern Ireland

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Do you need social research services?

We can provide you with a social research and evaluation service. For further information contact Dr. Lynn Johnston on Tel: 028 9181 3022

Email: lynn.johnston@bjf.org.uk

LGNI’s vision:

*Northern Ireland will be Age-friendly: Generations will work together to build communities for all ages*