

## Shetland Network Meeting

Date: Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2016



**In attendance:** Denise Nicolson (GWT Coordinator/Adult Learning), Kaylee Mouat (Scottish Youth Parliament), Brendan Hall (Shetland Islands Council), Sonia Inkster & Sharon Jack (Scalloway Youth Centre) & Alison Clyde (GWT)

**Apologies:** Wendy Lowe (Shetland Islands Council), Dr Stephen Mullan, Sanna Aitken and Neil Pearson

As Alison's flight was delayed from Edinburgh, Denise started the meeting with introductions and round the table networking:

### **Denise Nicolson:**

Adult Learning was recently involved in 'A Gie it a Go Family Day' in Mossbank which was held in the Mossbank Community Hall and Mossbank Primary School. The organising group hoped that the 'Gie it a Go Family Day' would bring the community together, provide a positive experience and enable them to develop family sessions responsive to the needs and wants of the community. Various activities were laid on; the Hall committee provided teas and home bakes and the Parent Council provided a barbecue. Local groups who provide activities for children in the area were invited to showcase their organisation and highlight opportunities for parents and grandparents to become involved. Over 50 people came along on the day, which was an excellent response in an area where, traditionally, there is a low participation rate. Feedback from the event has been taken back to the Mossbank Community Capacity Group and funding will be sought to further develop family learning in the area.

Denise is currently developing an intergenerational project, which is essentially about linking dialect and traditional crafts. The project will focus on language, literacy and ICT as well as cultural awareness and appreciation. The theme of the project is the elements; air, fire, earth and water. Using photos (taken by local amateur photographers) as inspiration, dialect poems will be produced. The poems will then be used as stimulus for craft work which must incorporate Shetland wool in some form. Craft workshops will take place e.g. felting, knitting and weaving, to help with the craft element. A photographic record will be kept during the project, which will then be used by members of the group to produce a digital photo story or booklet. A display/event will take place at the end of the project to showcase the work done.

### **Sonia Inkster:**

Sonia has been involved in intergenerational work over a number of years, including a number of reminiscence projects and the Joint Youth Action Awareness Group in Burra. Sonia is currently involved with the Scalloway Youth Centre and is looking at ways to increase community use. The Youth Centre is Community owned and serves the whole community. The aspiration is to change it to a Community Centre and further develop its potential. Sonia is interested in finding ways to develop intergenerational and family learning within the Scalloway community and has identified the Youth Centre as an ideal venue for projects and opportunities. Following a recent Age and Opportunity Fayre, Sonia is going to set up a group for older people. The new group might be interested in participating in intergenerational projects.

### **Sharon Jack:**

Sharon is employed by the Scalloway Youth Centre. She is currently investigating a Health and Wellbeing project which could draw in all sectors of the Scalloway community. She works with both junior and senior youth clubs and the Youth Cafe and is keen to involve these clubs in a wide variety of activities and experiences, including intergenerational work.

### **Brendan Hall:**

Brendan works for Community Planning and Development on the Community Planning side. Community Planning is about public, private and voluntary organisations working together, and with communities, to plan and deliver better services which make a difference to people's lives. Brendan works closely with statutory agencies, trusts and the third sector on strategic planning. He is heavily involved with the Community Planning Partnership which agrees outcomes and priorities for Shetland; these are contained in the Community Plan.

Shetland Partnership's Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP) 2016-20 sits underneath the Community Plan and describes how the Shetland Partnership will deliver the Shetland Community Plan. It identifies the priorities - these priorities are then tasked with 'owners' who will lead on them. The plan is currently in draft form and is available on the SIC website.

[http://www.shetland.gov.uk/communityplanning/documents/SOA2016-20draftstructure\\_redraft\\_070316.pdf](http://www.shetland.gov.uk/communityplanning/documents/SOA2016-20draftstructure_redraft_070316.pdf)

Brendan explained that the LOIP not only contains specific outcomes and priorities, but it also includes a section 'Ways of Working'. Ways of working are approaches and philosophies that will help to tackle the outcomes and priorities effectively. This is where Intergenerational working fits in. Brendan feels optimistic about the progress that is being made, and although it is early days, he is confident the Community Planning Partnership is heading in the right direction.

Note: The LOIP references the GWT definition of intergenerational practice:

#### ***Intergenerational working:***

*Bringing people from different generations together can have wide ranging benefits for communities, families and individuals: "Intergenerational practice aims to bring people together in purposeful, mutually beneficial activities which promote greater understanding and respect between generations and contributes to building more cohesive communities. Intergenerational practice is inclusive, building on the positive resources that the younger and older have to offer each other and those around them"*

#### ***It goes on to say:***

*The Shetland Partnership encourages all partners to take an approach of 'generations working together' to address the challenges and realise opportunities in Shetland. Partners should seek opportunities to bring together people of different age groups together to share and exchange skills, experience and perspectives in a way that increases community cohesion and has mutual benefits across generations.*

### **Kaylee Mouat (MSYP):**

Kaylee has done much in her role as MSYP but has been heavily involved in several projects in the past. She was involved in a Truth about Youth intergenerational project. The Truth About Youth project, run by Young Scot in partnership with the Co-operative Foundation, aimed to challenge and change negative perceptions of young people and promote the positive contributions of young people in Shetland in the media and to local communities. A small group of committed young volunteers applied for a small pot of funding to create an intergenerational project between them and the elderly in care homes. The young people made planters for the care homes and spent time with the elderly throughout the project. She was also involved in the InIT project.

InIT was a youth group who came together, with the support of Adult Learning and Youth Services, for the purpose of aiding older members of the public to develop their knowledge of I.T. skills. The group worked on IT aspects that could be delivered and developed their communication and tutoring skills over six sessions, with a further session planned to deliver to older people. Kaylee felt that she had gained valuable skills during the initial sessions, but that there had not been much uptake from the older people, which was disappointing.

Denise had taken part in the Age and Opportunity Fayre, which Sonia had organised, and during the event had compiled a list of older people who wanted tuition in working their tablets, mobile phones and laptops. Adult Learning will provide classes to meet the need, but will not be able to support the group in the longer term. There may be an opportunity to revive the InIT project now that the need is identified and the request for tuition is being driven by the older people. Brendan highlighted that this could fit in with the Inequalities

Agenda. Denise will follow this up, and investigate possible funding. Sonia hopes to set up an older people's group in the Youth Centre shortly, and there could be potential for a joint project.

Unfortunately Alison arrived just as the meeting was closing however she was able to give some of the following information over as follows:

#### **GWT national update:**

- **The GWT Conference** took place on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2016 in the University of Strathclyde (174 delegates). Presentations are now available on the website. GWT received an amazing 50 applications for our recognitions awards and were able to celebrate 8 winners and 5 projects with certificates of achievement.
- **Highlands & Islands Conference** – Friday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2016 - Centre for Health Science, Old Perth Road; Inverness IV2 3JH  
**Speakers include** Dr Paul Monaghan MP and Angus Hardy, Scottish Community Alliance  
**Workshops** – Age Awareness, Digital Participation, Higher Education goes Intergenerational, Highland Youth Arts Hub, Become an Urban Detective & Living Life well in Care Homes  
<http://generationsworkingtogether.org/events-training/highlands-islands-conference-29-04-2016>
- **GWT have recruited a P/T Finance and Administrative Officer** –Sorina Oprea,
- Alison attended a **European Conference on Intergenerational Practice** aimed at bringing together people with a demonstrated interest in intergenerational issues (e.g. learning, relationships, policies, practices) in order to exchange ideas and develop collaboration so that a group of 'critical friends' could be initiated. Academics and professionals from seven countries were involved including UK, Spain, Netherlands, Poland, Germany, Belgium & Australia. There is some exceptional IG training, research and projects taking place across Europe especially in Spain, Germany, Poland and Belgium.
- **International Certificate of Intergenerational Learning (ICIL)** - Alison will be working closely with the University of Granada in Spain to develop an English version of ECIL an online intergenerational training course that we hope will be ready late summer 2016. The course will take 50 hours to complete  
**Denise is keen to get involved as a potential ICIL tutor for the new online course**
- **Accelerating Ideas Project - Big Lottery**  
In partnership with Linking Generations Northern Ireland (LGNI), GWT have secured 6 months development funding to develop a 4-year project to share good practice between Scotland and Northern Ireland. If successful LGNI would be using our network model to create 11 local networks across Northern Ireland and GWT would be looking to set up age friendly school projects and adapt existing NI intergenerational toolkits for Scottish cities & communities who are working towards the age friendly agenda.
- **Intergenerational Training Course for Practitioners and Trainers - Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> March – Lerwick** - If we have enough interest GWT can arrange another training course on **Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> October** in Lerwick or somewhere else if more appropriate. Contact [Alison@generationsworkingtogether.org](mailto:Alison@generationsworkingtogether.org) if interested in attending or helping to arrange.

#### **AOB**

- The R S Macdonald Charitable Trust's charitable objects enable them to make awards in four general themes: Neurological conditions, Sight loss and visual impairment, Child welfare & Animal welfare. The trust is keen to fund intergenerational projects working with people with dementia. [www.rsmacdonald.com](http://www.rsmacdonald.com)
- Alison and Denise meet with Brendan Hall after the meeting to discuss the improvement plan further and were delighted to hear that intergenerational working has been included acknowledging that bringing people from different generations together can have a wide range of benefits for communities, families and individuals.

**Next meeting:** Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2016, 10am – 12noon, Adult Learning Huts, Lovers Loan, Lerwick