

## **Aberdeen Network Meeting**

**Date:** Thursday 22nd November 2016

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**In attendance:** Tanita Addario (GREC), Hadiza Ida-Michaels (GREC), Paul Kohn, Rebecca Dunn (GWT), Alison Clyde (GWT), Baldeep McGarry (Aberdeen City Council), Christine Dunhill (Silver City Surfers), Freda Hasler (Pushing Out the Boat Magazine), Sandra Howard (Aberdeen City Council), Karen Milne (Aberdeen Care and Repair), Rachel Thibbotumunuwe (Aberdeen Art Gallery and Museums), Rob Mackay (Positive Steps Kemnay)

**Apologies:** Dame Anne Begg, Pamela Tarbet (Bon Accord Care)

### **GWT national update:**

- **GWT Conference 2017** – We invite proposals for presentations and workshops for our next national conference taking place on Wednesday 8th March 2017, 10am – 4pm, Stirling Court Hotel – University of Stirling, Stirling, FK9 4LA  
**Cost:** £30 per person

We are looking for proposals that meet the aims of the conference to share good practice, learn from each other, network, create new ideas for future intergenerational work and demonstrate how to successfully embed and sustain this work.

Contributions can come in different forms however we ask that they fit with one of the following themes:

- case studies – showing how intergenerational approaches benefit younger and older people
- Introducing new ideas for intergenerational work (we would especially like to hear from LGBT, disability and ethnic groups)
- Embedding intergenerational practice within policy and organisational outcomes
- Demonstrating how intergenerational work has been included in training opportunities  
Illustrating how you are sustaining intergenerational work

GWT is keen to receive proposals or suggestions which involve younger and older people. Workshop ideas must be fully interactive encouraging delegate participation. If you have an idea and it doesn't fit exactly please don't be put off, we'd still be happy to talk with you.

Please submit your ideas and proposals to Alison Clyde, National Development Manager by Friday 30th September 2016. We will be back in touch if successful by Friday 21st October 2016.

Proposal form online at:

<http://generationsworkingtogether.org/news/national-conference-2017-embed-and-sustain-25-08-2016>

- **Share your images with GWT**  
GWT is looking for high quality photographs for new promotional materials including banners and leaflets.  
If you are happy to share your high quality images from your intergenerational project showing younger and older people working together please email copies here.  
Deadline for submissions: **30<sup>th</sup> September 2016**
- **Protected Characteristics - Intergenerational Learning Events**

○ 28<sup>th</sup> Nov 2016, Town House, Broad Street/Union Street, Aberdeen AB10 1AQ  
Two already held in Glasgow and Inverness

- **Accelerating Ideas Project - Big Lottery (stage 2 submitted ) will hear on the 22<sup>nd</sup> September**
- **Intergenerational training Course for Practitioners and Trainers** - new dates now online  
Glasgow 7<sup>th</sup> October, Orkney & Shetland 8 & 10<sup>th</sup> Nov, 21<sup>st</sup> Nov Inverness, 13<sup>th</sup> Feb Ayr and 23<sup>rd</sup> March Edinburgh – cost £35.00

### **Funding**

- Cycling UK is looking for local community groups and organisations to deliver some fun, interesting and meaningful events to promote cycling as a daily or frequent journey change for both work and pleasure with the aim to promote health and wellbeing. Up to £2,000 funding available for community groups to encourage and promote everyday cycling through Cycling UK's Big Bike Revival Initiative, taking place from 19<sup>th</sup> Sept to 31<sup>st</sup> October. Cycling UK is aiming to help all areas of local communities gain the skills, knowledge and confidence to cycle more. If you are interested please contact [Richard.bowman@cyclingsuk.org](mailto:Richard.bowman@cyclingsuk.org). and I can help you get a grant application in, turn around for funding is only a few days.

### **Grampian Equality discussion –**

GREC is consulting with groups across equalities strands.

For 10 minutes: Attendees completed GREC survey 'Creating a Fairer and more Equal Aberdeen' (This survey can be found online at: [www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/creatingafairandequalaberdeen](http://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/creatingafairandequalaberdeen). GREC will finish the report by mid December).

Included below are GREC's notes on the discussion they led:

**Question 1: Do you think there are equal opportunities for people of all ages to participate in public life? (i.e. taking part in activities, joining groups).**

- **Confidence** may be a barrier for younger people feeling able to participate in public life – they are increasingly using social media and the internet.
- **Aberdeen Sports Village offers a really good opportunities** for all ages to participate in sports – it is purpose built and works well – good social space so people meet there to chat as well take part in sports. However, not all sports facilities are as inclusive or welcoming to all ages in Aberdeen.
- Although there are opportunities for over 60s or under 25s to participate in activities and groups - what do you do if you are in the middle of that age bracket?
- There are opportunities for people of all ages to participate in public life but **how do we share the information about these activities, groups and events out to people?** It can be difficult to navigate the Aberdeen City Council website.

- Similarly, there are opportunities for people of all ages to participate in public life but **transport and the cost of public transport** is an issue and potential barrier (buses in Aberdeen). It can be a challenge to get accessible taxis for people with disabilities. Some participants mentioned the challenges around getting to hospital – medical and social implications – struggle to get around the city.
- In Aberdeen there are single sex swimming sessions for women – more inclusive, encourages participation in sporting activities.

**Question 2: What do you think Aberdeen City Council can do to challenge age discrimination and promote intergenerational activities?**

- **Council staff should get out and about** and meet people – get out behind their desks and find out what is going on in local communities.
- There should be more opportunities for **networking** between different organisations – this way can share good practice and find out more about what is going on, i.e. events and activities.
- Active community learning was dismantled and there have been **changes in terms of resources and priorities**.
- There is a need to **identify gaps in services** so we can find out what more could be done to challenge age discrimination in Aberdeen.
- Shifting council hubs/partnerships – difficult to keep up to date with all the changes.
- It would help to have a **transparent organigram** with job titles instead of names so that there could be a network of community contacts on intergenerational working. If there are job titles instead of names, then this means if people move onto other jobs, then the contact and role is not lost.
- **Council website** needs to be improved.
- **Avoid duplication** of information – sometimes the same information is circulated around many times.
- **Funding** is very important – can be a challenge to find out about sources of funding.
- Aberdeen City Council have supported the **PVG checks** for those working in schools – Silver City Surfers – this shows support for intergenerational practice.

- Generations Working Together (GWT) and ACC will try and work more in future together to promote intergenerational activities – introducing GWT and intergenerational practice into other services such as housing and care homes – there are real benefits of GWT and intergenerational work. **GWT has had good working relationships with the Aberdeen City Council's Equalities Team.**
- **The loss of OPAG** (the Older Person's Advisory Group) has been an issue – option to make better use of the Aberdeen Voice questionnaire – have more questions in relation to age. Aberdeen Voice is issued once every four months.

### **Activity – Images of generations working together.**

We asked what sort of images you would like to see representing GWT on e.g. a promotional banner. Answers included:

- All ages, not just old and young
- Unified – showing shared interests across generations
- Inclusive – a wide representation
- Positive
- Real people
- Photographs taken by participants (idea of putting themes to participants and asking them what e.g. 'fun' or 'active' means and showing that through photographs)
- Linking pictures to stories/ context (having a multimedia presentation with sound and pictures for example)
- Laughing, fun!
- Photobooth fun – dress up etc. :)
- Showing sharing of skills – reciprocal
- Active

### **Context Café**

We posed the questions:

- ← What does a successful flourishing intergenerational project look like?
- ← What would a flourishing intergenerational community look like?

Overall question posed by the group in response to this: Question of definitions and language – do we recognise intergenerational practice when it happens? Do we use these terms?

- ← What does a successful flourishing intergenerational project look like?
  - Reciprocal benefit
  - Challenge stereotypes
  - Promoting respect
  - Fun
  - Natural
  - Communication
  - Celebrating diversity
  - Using methods of communication that work for all involved e.g. place, workshops, social media

- Including schools – a good way to increase capacity for young people and older people to interact.
  - Shared Learning
  - Embedding funding but if this is not possible ensure there is an 'exit strategy' - signposting to services.
  - Building relationships and friendships
  - Clear idea of the outcomes – focus on outcomes to help build your project. Outcomes to include young people, older people and community.
  - Recording evidence
- ← What would a flourishing intergenerational community look like?
- A safe and welcoming place to mix and meet – opportunities to meet and speak to each other
  - A shared aim and vision
  - A shared social space such as a community cafe.
  - Purpose built venues
  - Shared spaces – think about everyone in every development. Not 'older people only' housing, but inclusive spaces where people of all ages interact.
  - Informed and engaged so that activity can continue and development
  - Involve as many sectors as possible
  - Geographic community
  - Using walking as a way to bring people together

### Sharing news

- Karen Milne, Manager, Aberdeen Care and Repair spoke of project placements for young people which link to paid jobs working with older people. An increase of understanding between these older and younger people has been seen. Less judgement, more empathy. This model could be translated to other 3<sup>rd</sup> Sector organisations and Karen mentioned including it in the organisation policy and working towards having it embedded within the company.
- Christine Dunhill, Co-ordinator, Silver City Surfers spoke of intergenerational practice taking place in an exchange between Kingsmeed Home and Kingswells school. Students have gone to the home to take part in creating murals and gardening with the residents. Other intergenerational activities are taking place such as photobooth fun at sheltered housing, students walking there.

### AOB

**GWT Constitution – copies available on request** –Please continue to seek your two voting members per network (cannot be a member of staff however one place could be the volunteer coordinator). The normal term of office for a voting member will be 2 years however people may stand for re-election at the end of each term of office.

### Next meeting:

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2017 (venue TBC)

AND

Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2017 (venue TBC)