

## Network Meeting

Date: 27/10/2016

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**In attendance:** Kay Robertson (Voluntary Action Angus), Gail Melville (Activity Coordinator), Jeanette Gaul (Angus Council), Judi Young (Scottish Fire & Rescue), Sandra Livingston (Angus Council), Laura Cowper (Monikie & Newbigging Primary), Claire Morrison (Monifieth High School), Carol Stobie (Scotland's Urban Past), Rebecca Dunn (Generations Working Together)

**Apologies:** Marie Fenton (Angus Council, St Margaret's Primary)

### Introductions -

#### **GWT (Generations Working Together) national update:**

1 The next GWT national conference is taking place on Wednesday 8th March 2017, Stirling Court Hotel – University of Stirling, Stirling. The aims of the conference include 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.

The conference cost is £30 but cost is waived for local Volunteer Coordinators and voting members. Volunteer coordinators also get their travel expenses covered for this.

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

#### **2 Share your images with GWT**

GWT is looking for high quality photographs for new promotional materials. If you are happy to share your images from your intergenerational project showing younger and older people working together please email copies to [Alison@generationsworkingtogether.org](mailto:Alison@generationsworkingtogether.org)

➤ **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 (includes CPD accreditation)

### **Funding**

The Climate Challenge Fund is OPEN for applications.

#### **Climate Challenge Fund and Young People**

You can find out more about previous and current climate action projects, led-by and involving young people through the videos at [www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org/youthclimateaction](http://www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org/youthclimateaction)

#### **Climate Challenge Fund 2017/18**

- In 2017/18 the Climate Challenge Fund (CCF) will focus on funding projects which deliver the greatest reduction in carbon emissions and support Scotland's most deprived communities, with grants up to £150,000 per project available.
- Keep Scotland Beautiful manages the CCF on behalf of the Scottish Government and encourages community-led organisations interested in applying for grants to check the criteria, application process and upcoming application deadlines.
- For new applicants the deadline for the first stage of the application process, an Expression of Interest, is 28 October 2016.

Learn more about CCF criteria, the application process and deadlines:

[www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org/ccfhowtoapply](http://www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org/ccfhowtoapply)

### **£4million grants to boost volunteering among over 50s**

With life expectancy in the UK increasing, a valuable opportunity has opened up for greater numbers of volunteers to share their skills and talents with others in later life - offering a rewarding experience for both sides.

Today The Office for Civil Society and Nesta, the innovation foundation, have announced three new grant funds totalling £4million to explore how more charities and public services can better tap into the skills and experience of volunteers over 50 for the benefit of all society. The three grant funds are the first to be funded by government through the second phase of the Centre for Social Action and will be managed by Nesta.

Older volunteers already make an important contribution in supporting our hospitals, schools and local councils, and in roles such as magistrates, first aiders and youth club leaders. As people live longer<sup>1</sup> and research shows volunteering can contribute to wellbeing in later life<sup>2</sup>, these new funds will explore how more can be encouraged to volunteer and how their talents and experiences can be retained.

The three funds now open to application are:

- **[The Second Half Fund - Sharing Time and Talents for Life](#)**: Will provide grants of up to £250,000 to support the growth of new ways of mobilising the time and talents of people aged over 50 specifically in support of: children and young people, parents and families, ageing well, creating resourceful and resilient local places.
- **[Join In Stay In](#)**: Will award grants of up to £50,000 and significant non-financial support from behavioural science experts for organisations to undertake Randomised Controlled Trials (RCTs) to understand what works best to encourage volunteers to continue to give their time regularly.
- **[Give More Get More - Exploring Intensive Volunteering](#)**: Grants of up to £100,000 to support organisations to trial intensive volunteering placements for people over 50 - approaching or in retirement - that work alongside public services. These might include 'gap years', such as those VSO offers for experienced volunteers to give their time abroad.

For more information and to apply please visit the Nesta website ([www.nesta.org.uk](http://www.nesta.org.uk)).

The findings, which will be published in 2017 and 2018, will be shared with policymakers and the public sector to help inform future volunteering programmes and initiatives.

The launch of these new funds follows on from the [Centre for Social Action Innovation Fund](#), a programme of work from Nesta and The Office for Civil Society that mobilised volunteers to work alongside public services. The three year programme rallied more than 70,000 people to help 176,000 people including helping the unemployed get back into work, peer mentoring for young people online and imparting emergency lifesaving skills to high risk young people.

**Minister for Civil Society, Rob Wilson, said:** "These funds represent an excellent opportunity to replicate our fantastic achievements in youth volunteering and I urge as many organisations as possible to apply. The funds will encourage more people over the age of 50 to follow the example of their children and grandchildren, get out in their communities and help us build a Britain that works for everyone."

**Vicki Sellick, Director in Nesta's Innovation Lab, comments:** "We know that many over 50s are already generously giving their time to help others - from reading to children in classrooms to keeping patients company in hospital. Given that those that do report far higher levels of wellbeing, and that more local communities could benefit hugely from their skills, we want to see how we can bring to bear the talents and experience that the over 50s possess to benefit even more people."

Nesta has today published the evaluation and impact data of the 39 projects supported through the Centre for Social Action Innovation Fund and will publish further key findings and recommendations later in the autumn. Visit [www.nesta.org.uk](http://www.nesta.org.uk).

### **Report - A Plan for Scotland – Putting People in charge and creating opportunities**

The Scottish Government have announced in the above report that they will develop a National Social Isolation Strategy to ensure a holistic approach across government to problems of loneliness and isolation.

<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0050/00505210.pdf> (see page 76)

**Tools to measure loneliness** - The organisation 'Campaign to end Loneliness' has produced a resource called 'Measuring your impact on loneliness in later life'. Download the resource here:

<http://www.campaigntoendloneliness.org/wp-content/uploads/Loneliness-Measurement-Guidance1.pdf>

**We are seeking 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. Copies of the GWT Constitution are available on request.

#### ➤ **Sharing stories of intergenerational work in care homes**

### **Balhouses Lisdun Care home – Gail Melville**

Balhouses Lisdun Care Home is interested in reaching out to the community and establishing as a care home in its own right which is directly beneficial to the residents. Gail is concerned with asking what do the residents want. Something that keeps coming up is sociability; being part of a community.

Gail has been reaching out to local schools and community groups and spoke of examples of successful intergenerational projects.

A collaboration with Northmuir Nursery – children of 3-4 years old interacting with up to 85-90 year olds was very successful. In Gail's experience, the activity is not so important. What's important is the people and the space. When handed craft materials to paint stones the older and younger people instinctively knew how to react to each other. The sharing of skills came naturally. Gail mentioned the breaking down of the institutionalisation. For example, if a staff member were to do crafts with the residents there is often hesitation in the residents, and they feel the need to ask what it is OK to do. However the older people seemed to step into a familiar role of guiding and teaching the youngsters and that hesitation disappeared. This has been empowering for the residents. The activity acted as a tool to get the older and younger people interacting and conversing and it was a very positive experience.

On an Easter celebration held at the home positive outcomes were seen through the inclusion of external group, the Harley Davidson Appreciation Society. The visual of the bikes and people

dressed in their leathers was different and stimulating for the residents. There were ages of a few months old up to 97 years old at the event, and some people brought their pets. It was an interactive day that helped to spark memories and feelings in those attending. Again simple activities proved to be the best way to encourage sociability and interaction across generations.

The care home has also had pupils from Websters High School volunteering, of ages 14-17 years old. This helps with the pupils curriculum and for the care homes intergenerational objectives. It has been helpful for the young people in thinking about careers and some of them are talking about pursuing a career in medicine or in art therapy, due to their volunteering at the care home, showing it has been a positive experience for them.

The three examples above are among some of the intergenerational work which Balhousie Lisdien Care home has been doing, some of which not mentioned has been based outside of the care home itself, when small groups of residents have travelled to locations.

Gail noted that sometimes initially the younger people are a bit frightened of coming in to the care home but that an honest approach helps them ease into it. The residents are usually very open and honest about their situations with the younger people, in a way they might not always be with peers or staff due to pride or embarrassment.

#### ➤ **Scotland's Urban Past presentation – Carol Stobie**

This is a one year old, Heritage lottery funded project with funding for 5 years. The project is aimed at 'urban' communities, which means 3000 people or more.

There is training and support available for groups who want to do something about their town/ community. The activities can also be linked to other outcomes such as intergenerational, creative etc.

An example of intergenerational activity that has already been undertaken through this project took place in Clydebank. Children received photography training and worked with sheltered housing to create a layered map of the town.

There will be a film available to watch soon in which older and younger people share the meaning that particular places hold for them in their town.

Have a look at Scotland's Urban Past's website for more information, and to find out about events and training in your area (e.g. there is a conference coming up in Aberdeen, and one in Inverness): <https://scotlandsurbanpast.org.uk/>

#### ➤ **New ideas for intergenerational collaboration - discussion**

#### ➤ **Further sharing and networking**

Sandra mentioned a young skaters group.

People of 17-19 yrs old, supported and mentored by 4 adults from community, are working towards the conversion of the old Brechin Leisure Centre into an indoor skate park. They are currently undertaking a funding and feasibility study and a survey is going out to the community.

The young skaters have become more active in the community through their work on the skate park. Now this young group and older people of the community talk to each other and are less unsure about approaching each other.

Several people discussed the issue of transport specific to care homes. Events such as a Christmas tea at a primary school are being organised with a view to invite residents of local care homes. It can be problematic organising the transport for residents.

It was highlighted that churches and the befrienders scheme have good transport resources so it might be worth getting in touch with them.

Sheltered housing now has Community Resource Workers (used to be called TSOs). You can access them through 'Care About Angus'

## **AOB**

### **GWT Constitution – copies available on request – Lesley/Cheryl**

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:**

January/ early February 2017. Still TBC, Claire to check with pupils of Monifieth School and befrienders so we can set the date. Gail also hopes to bring Websters pupils to share what they've been doing.