

## Forth Valley Intergenerational Network Meeting

January 2017

### Raploch Community Partnership's Connect Project

1. RCP – A Community Regeneration and Development Project based on the Community Campus in Raploch. Community Hub, digital suite, job club, employability and computer courses, toddler and Craft groups.
2. In 2014/15 we ran an intergenerational ROC Garden Group with local schools and Volunteers (Young Start funded). Used links with parents, involving them in group to build relationships with the local schools on the Campus. V successful, gardens / wild flowers/ planter competition. Funding ended as did Group.
3. ROC Group so popular with young and adults, needed to find further funding - led to our successful application to VAFs SIALF. Launched our Connect Project July 2016.
4. Connect Aims – to focus on Connectedness for vulnerable members of the community to build resilience and tackle social isolation by increasing number of interactions someone has.
5. We recruited 10 volunteers to plan the Connect groups and activities for people to get involved in. First on list was the ROC Garden Group. Met with eco Group teachers to plan, Started up again, same schools, eco groups, + the local nursery. Working weekly on school gardens. Great fun
6. Kids described the group as” fun, Caring, Amazing, exciting, spectacular.” Adults “wicked, fun, awesome, learning all the time. “Best bit having everyone in from the campus” “ the laugh we all have together” “ mixing with different ages”

7. Forthbank Nursing Home. Idea from how to reach local elderly, at risk of loneliness? Fortunate to have care home nearby. Connected them, build relationship with Activities and Volunteer Coordinator, reciprocal visits. Took interested volunteers to visit home. Dementia Centre visit. Supported volunteers to get involved in arts and crafts, reminisce journals, letter writing and lots of seasonal events.

- Other intergenerational groups now evolving.
- Art Group. Initially a small supported group with adults. Grown into parent led, using the model as Gardening group.
- Guitar Group in school
- Community Choir – linking with Big Noise Project
- Soup and Social

8. We started off with 2 distinct “Intergenerational Projects”, garden group and Forthbank Volunteers. But finding now that nearly all of our Connect Activities are evolving to be intergenerational.

We are now using our partnerships with schools, care home and Big Noise to bring the generations and Community together for everyone’s benefit.

EG: Linked our Volunteers with Big Noise and Forthbank so children gave a concert at Nursing home. Children grew in Confidence, older people, conducting!

: Community Choir with our Volunteers sang Christmas Concert at Care home.

:Adults from Gardening Group now joining forces with Care Home residents to renovate their Gardens, with our Young Gardeners joining in with Spring picnic and gardening afternoon.

9. Once good partnerships are established intergenerational ethos can begin to run throughout what we do in Connect. Each group finding ways to expand, share and learn across the generations.