

Scottish Borders Network Meeting

Date: 23/8/17

Venue: Borders Carers Centre, Galashiels



In attendance: Lorraine Crawford, Emma Fairley, Lynne Marshall & Ceri Hunter (Scottish Borders Council), Cllr George Turnbull, Cllr Elaine Thornton-Nicol, Cllr Andy Anderson, Eileen Clark (A Greener Melrose), Lorraine Anderson (Social Work), Susan Law (Earlston Youth Catchment), Coreen Knight & Rita Doherty (CLD), Tracey Murray & Megan Bell (Osito Nursery), Lita McHale (SBHA – Employability Advisor) & Alison Clyde (GWT)

Apologies: Cllr Kris Chapman & Cllr Kevin Drum (Scottish Borders Council), Ian Rendall (Cheviot Youth), Geraldine Strickland (Hawick Congregational Church & Kim Ritson (Wiggly Worms Children's Day Nursery)

GWT national update:

Alison welcomed everyone to the meeting noting the number of completely new attendees. GWT will aim for three network meetings each year however in practice there may only be two. This is a direct result of a reduction in funding from the Scottish Government, which will cover the next three years. The reduction in funds means that we are unable to replace the previous part time development worker (Cheryl) who left in March this year. GWT has also reduced the number of networks from 34 – 22 to allow current members of staff the chance to support the networks properly.

United Nations International Day of Older Persons and **Grandparent's Day** both take place on the 1st of October. This year we are looking to share stories, memories and photos with grandparents as part of our campaign to challenge stereotypes and ageism. Please send GWT your photos with/of your grandparents with a short story about their life or how they have helped/supported you. It doesn't need to be only biological grandparents, it can be anyone who has played a role as a grandparent in your life including those from intergenerational projects. You can send your photos and stories to kate@generationsworkingtogether.org

Channel 4 documentary (1&2nd Aug 2017) - #oldpeopleshomes4yo

Pre-schoolers share their classroom with pensioners for six weeks. What impact does this intergenerational experiment have on the health and happiness of the older group?

If you missed #OldPeoplesHome4yo, you can catch the documentary here @Channel4.

<http://www.channel4.com/programmes/old-peoples-home-for-4-year-olds>

GWT has successfully secured funding to recruit a full time IG Development Officer for Perth & Kinross who will work closely in two schools, Perth Grammar School and The Community School of Auchterarder focusing on raising attainment levels for Maths and English. Schools have contributed to this post through their Pupil Equity Funding (PEF). Other funders include Voluntary Action Fund and The Gannochy Trust. PEF is an individual fund given to schools to help increase attainment in Maths and English.

Alison explained the relationship between GWT and the Education Department in Perth & Kinross. The Head of **Education** has fully backed intergenerational work asking all schools (Primary & Secondary) to connect with older people, creating intergenerational projects. Schools have also been asked to connect with local care homes.

GWT plan to share results and resources with other schools across Scotland.

GWT is keen to talk with schools from other areas that would be interested in developing intergenerational opportunities with a specific focus on raising attainment around English & Maths.

Year of Young People 2018 aims to inspire Scotland through its young people, celebrating their achievements, valuing their contribution to communities and creating new opportunities for them to shine locally, nationally and globally. The objectives include the following:

- Provide a platform for young people to have their views heard and acted upon
- Showcase the amazing talents of young people through events and media
- **Develop better understanding, co-operation and respect between generations**
- **Recognise the impact of** teachers, youth workers and **other supporting adults** on young people's lives
- Provide opportunities for young people to express themselves through culture, sport and other activities

<http://yoyp2018.scot/>

GWT Conference - Wednesday 7th March 2018, University of Strathclyde, Glasgow.

Intergenerational Training Course for Practitioners and Trainers (CPD Accredited)

There are nine one-day training courses planned for between August and December however none planned for the Scottish Borders. Please check out the GWT website for more details:

<http://generationsworkingtogether.org/events-training/training/>

If there is enough demand Alison will organise one for the Scottish Borders in the Spring (2018).

International Certificate on Intergenerational Learning (ICIL) – 20 students participated in the first online training course, which GWT delivered in partnership with University of Granada, Spain. The course has been a big success and the tutors are now busy reviewing feedback and making improvements to the materials. GWT plan to run the 6-week course starting on Tuesday 7th November and finishing on Monday 18th December 2017. There will be an approximate cost of £100 per person for the course, which takes approximately 50 hours to complete. The course includes tutor support. Further details will be available around September time.

Voting members

GWT became a charity two years ago and are now a membership organisation. Each network has voting rights at the annual AGM. There are two available in the Borders and one is still to be taken up. Lorraine Anderson said that she would be happy to put herself forward for two years if no one else was interested.

Network coordinator vacancy for the Borders - Lynne Marshall and Diana Findlay had been carrying out the role through the Borders Seniors Networking Forum but Diana has already stood down due to other commitments and Lynne also has to give this up. Alison feels that given the geographic spread of the authority, two people would be a good idea. In other networks it is often only one person. If anyone is interested in taking on the role of coordinator please get in touch with Alison for further details. Eileen Clark is considering the role.

Isolation & Loneliness is a big issue in Scotland and across the world. Intergenerational work has huge potential to help in reducing the incidences of loneliness and isolation in both younger and older people. The Scottish Government has committed to producing a National Strategy.

The charity called Campaign to End Loneliness has a range of resources and tools for measuring isolation and loneliness. There are four scales to choose from including both positive and negative wording. <https://www.campaigntoendloneliness.org/>

Generations Working Together is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation SC045851

The Rickter scale could also be used in conjunction with the loneliness measurement tool.
<http://www.socialimpactscotland.org.uk/understanding-social-impact/methods-and-tools/the-rickter-scale/>

Sharing and networking –

- A Greener Melrose is planning a science project around food, which should appeal to all ages. The group has been trying to attract young people to their activities and are now working with Susan Law and Coreen Knight (CLD) on an intergenerational food project.
- Osito Nursery has linked to Glenfield Residential Home and would like to do more intergenerational work. The nursery would like to talk with other older people's groups to create more opportunities.
- Lita McHale who represents Philliphaugh Community Centre mentioned they were looking at the potential for Bannerfield to be a dementia friendly community. Alison mentioned that there are a number of intergenerational dementia projects highlighted on their website.

Coreen mentioned that she would be happy to put people from other orgs in touch with appropriate CLD contacts in schools.

Councillor Turnbull mentioned the need to be much better at design for community use and at promoting and facilitating intergenerational use of buildings and open spaces.

Issues and challenges in the Borders

- Apparent disconnect between generations and fear amongst older people in communities. This means that many people are afraid to go out and become very isolated.
- Borders rurality-contributes to isolation. Transport is a continuing problem. Need to be more creative.
- 16/17 yr. olds with low self-esteem who perhaps have not had the best start in life. They feel they have nothing to offer. No good simply offering them volunteering hours in charity shop.
- Young people are frightened to travel into Edinburgh

GWT is meeting shortly with the Deputy Chief Constable of Police Scotland to talk about how intergenerational approaches can be used to make people feel safer in their local communities.

Actions: Invite Community Safety Officers, Schools, Care Homes and SWI members to meeting in Feb. Alison to contact Jane Douglas, Queens House, Kelso and Raymond Pratt - SWI

Alison asked Elaine (older peoples champion) how she saw her role. Elaine has a meeting with the Chief Social Worker for Health & Social Care Integration coming up so that may help to inform her role. She has to date seen her function as very much being about fighting the corner of older people. Elaine feels that we have spent so long putting up barriers between the generations that we should not be surprised that ages don't mix as they did previously.

Meal Makers flyers were distributed - the pilot project is working in Gala, Selkirk and Hawick areas with a shopping service also being trialled. Base was to be Heatheryetts in Gala-**post meeting note – project taking up lease of premises in 11 Market Street (first floor) in Gala at end of August.**

Next meeting: Wednesday 15th February 2018, 10.30 – 12.30pm, Hawick Congregational Community Church, 26 Bourtree Place, Hawick, TD9 9HL