

Lanarkshire Network Meeting

Date: 15th Sep 2017

Time: 10:00am - 12:00pm

Venue: 294 Main Street, Bellshill ML4 1AB

In attendance: Sorina Oprea (GWT) Kate Samuels (GWT), Rachel McMullan (Forgewood Housing Cooperative), Robert Piper (Orbistown neighborhood Centre), Sandra Fallon (New College Lanarkshire), Fiona Fotheringham (North Lanarkshire Council), Becky Mitchell (Getting Better Together - Shotts), Claire Delahay (Glenboig Neighbourhood House), Jenny Winsley (Stonelaw Preschool), Laura Biggart (Befriend Motherwell), Colin Weir (Befriend Motherwell), Neil Connelly (The Advisory Group Tag), Kamil Tomzik (Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire), Maurice Donohue (Sporting Memories Network)

Apologies: Stuart Matson (New College Lanarkshire), Carolyn Malone (Abbeyfield Scotland), Jackie Morton (Tapas Travel)

Introductions

Sorina 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.

Participants at the meeting introduced themselves and explained in a few words the reason/s attending the meeting:

- An IG project: Arts & Photography – Shoots now and then: one of the issues is developing the intergenerational link between younger and older people;
- To hear about the network
- To get into community groups
- How the council could help community groups in Lanarkshire
- How to start an intergenerational work
- How to grow and become more sustainable
- See the networks
- To champion IG work in Bellshill area
- To grow our network and to make new connections

- How we can develop sustainable projects
- Making contacts
- To find out if anyone in the network is delivering a project on digital inclusion

GWT Updates

Kate talked about the **United Nations International Day of Older Persons and about our campaign Grandparent's Day** both taking 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. So please send us 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 from intergenerational projects. You can send the photos and stories to our fb messenger or e-mail our communications intern Kate at kate@generationsworkingtogether.org

Also, Kate mentioned about **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 last night, you can catch up here @Channel4. <http://www.channel4.com/programmes/old-peoples-home-for-4-year-olds>

We shared with the attendees that funding was secured to recruit a full time **IG Development Officer for Perth & Kinross** who will work closely with two schools, Perth Grammar School and The Community School of Auchterarder focusing on raising attainment levels for Maths and English. Schools have contributed through their Pupil equity funding. Other funders include Voluntary Action Fund and The Gannochy Trust.

The funding for the **IG Dev Officer in Perth & Kinross** was possible through 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. Generations Working Together 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. Objectives

- 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
- Recognize 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/>

Intergenerational Training Course for Practitioners and Trainers (CPD Accredited)

Sorina talked about GWT forthcoming intergenerational training courses this autumn:

- 20th Sep 2017: Glasgow
- 21st Sep 2017: Fife/Dundee
- 26th Oct 2017: Highlands
- 6th Nov 2017: Fife
- 9th Nov 2017: Stornoway
- 30th Nov: Shetland

For more details and learning outcomes please search here:

<http://generationsworkingtogether.org/eventstraining/training/>

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.

As the training is still being tested we shall only be offering approximately 20 places.

Voting members

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.

Network coordinator vacancy – GWT is looking for a Volunteer Network Coordinator for the Lanarkshire Network. If anyone is interested in taking on the role of coordinator please get in touch with Alison Clyde at Alison@generationsworkingtogether.org for further details.

GWT Conference - date and venue confirmed – Wednesday 7th March 2018, Technology & Innovation Centre, University of Strathclyde, Glasgow. Price TBC

Isolation & Loneliness

The Scottish Government has committed to producing a National Strategy to tackle social Isolation and Loneliness (Scottish Government) – a draft strategy consultation is due out after the summer. We discussed about tools for measuring isolation and loneliness and the toolkit that organisations can use to measure the impact their projects have on reducing isolation and loneliness. There are four scales to choose from including both positive and negative wording. The Befriending project has used one of the loneliness measurement scales however the questions didn't really work for them. 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/therickter-scale/>

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

Other useful resources:

- Making Intergenerational Connections – an Evidence Review, Lisbeth Drury Dominic Abrams Hannah J. Swift, Centre for the Study of Group Processes University of Kent
- SCOPING REVIEW social relations, Anne-Marie Bagnall, Jane South, Salvatore Di Martino, Ben Mitchell, Gerlinde Pilkington, Rob Newton, Centre for Health Promotion Research, Faculty of Health and Social Sciences, Leeds Beckett University
- The Place of Kindness Combating loneliness and building stronger communities, Zoë Ferguson, Carnegie Associate

Sharing and networking

Participants at the meeting were given the time to network and to ask questions about intergenerational work/practice. Also, Sorina prepared two activities with the attendees to encourage everyone to interact and to come up with more ideas related to their projects or just to boost creativity. Also, attendees had the chance to ask questions about intergenerational training course and about the current case studies which are a great resource for intergenerational practice.

People also mentioned that they find most information about intergenerational work from the following sources:

- GWT website
- Conference: which provides information, fresh ideas, workshops, real life stories etc
- Funding applications from Bikeability Scotland
- Happy and Healthy in Cambuslang

Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire shared information about their **Locator Tool** that could be useful to all the organisations in Lanarkshire.

<http://locatornl.org.uk/>

Next meeting: TBC soon