



Fife Network Meeting

Date: 29th January 2018 **Venue:** Burgh Halls, Tayport

Attendance – George Kay (GWT Trustee), Louisa Turner (GWT Fife Network Co-ordinator), Cllr Tim Bret, Cllr Bill Connor, Cllr Johnny Tepp, Kirsty MacArthur (Fife Form), Jill Pringle (Fife Council CLD), Janet Davidson (PLANT), Jessie Roberts (PLANT), Yvonne Wynia (NHS Fife), Dave Mylrs (Foodbank).

Apologies – Alison Clyde (GWT), Karen Scott, (Fife Council CLD), Susan Budd (Army), Derek Gray (Meal Makers), Ewan McIntosh (Community Police), Stephen Gethims MP, Willie Rennie MSP, Pauline Smeaton (Libraries North East Fife), Arlene Keddie (St Andrews Girls Brigade), Kirsty Woodhouse (Kirkcaldy North Primary), Katy Dobie (Methodist Church) and Michaela Lumley (Fife Voluntary Action).

Louisa welcomed everyone and introductions were made around the table. Louisa explained that although many people were invited to the meeting, for a network to work it needed everyone to share about forthcoming meetings. Louisa also stated that many who could not make it to the meeting were very interested in intergenerational work and wanted to hear about the meeting and to meet up separately. There are some dates in the diary for this.

Louisa promoted the Generations Working Together (GWT) website and encouraged those present to register on the site if they had not already done so. Facebook and Twitter was also spoken about.

George followed by giving a brief introduction to what intergenerational work was, and the importance of mutuality for both generations involved was reinforced. GWT was outlined and George stated that although GWT can signpost projects for funding opportunities, GWT presently did not have a separate funding resource.

The employee structure and roles of individuals in GWT was explained. George commented on our intern post and how effective she has been in working with elected members at every level to push intergenerational work onto the political agenda.

George reported on the parliamentary motion by Christine Graham and the Newbyres Project. A councillor present reported that Fife Council are planning a new facility at Methil which could replicate the shared intergenerational space as in Newbyres and that there are other projects afoot in Fife.

A report from George, was given on the funded post of the GWT worker in Perth and Kinross and how the post came about using Pupil Equity funds from the two schools involved in the project. The project is to encourage intergenerational working in encouraging attainment with pupils in numeracy and literacy. Discussions led onto the increase interest in other

subjects due to increase in literacy skills – a young person was not achieving as expected in physics, but with the mentoring involvement and improved literacy skills, his physics interest and attainment rose. (More information can be found on the GWT website). Using the same model there are plans to expand a similar worker into the south side of Glasgow, Fife, Borders and Dundee. There was concern from around the table that young people taken out of class for the mentoring project may become stigmatised and bullied and wondered how the GWT worker would overcome this. Louisa suggested GWT would come back with a response to this query.

George reported on his visit to the HAGIS conference on the ageing population. Information leaflets about the project were distributed.

Discussion was had around financial literacy being poor amongst the younger generation and wanting to develop this in schools. Connections, contacts and signposting took place amongst those around the table with linking to Rotary and Probus groups for a nucleus of qualified volunteers for future intergenerational financial literacy projects. George reported that finding volunteers for such a project was not as difficult as had initially been envisaged. However it was agreed that it depends on the demographics of the area. An area may have an abundance of appropriately qualified people to be potential mentors however these same people maybe time poor. Also an area of deprivation may not have appropriate skilled volunteers to become mentors in particular fields. Louisa reinforced the valuable training in intergenerational work that GWT offer which highlights other pitfalls with volunteers across the generations.

George gave a resume of his background in private industry and the need for intergenerational projects in that environment. GWT are now looking to expand networks into employers in both the public and private sectors. A seminar with employers is to be held in the next few weeks. This seminar was heavily subscribed.

George re-enforced that planning projects was very important for effective intergenerational work. Discussions was had around the table of the pitfalls which could be encountered and the need for experience in volunteers. The consensus was that there was a need to be trained appropriately to develop Intergenerational projects to take any initiatives forward.

Louisa promoted the Cycling Without Age project. Some of those in attendance were involved with other projects and could see the possibilities which this model could bring to their communities.

Cllr Tim Bret, led discussion about the Scottish Government's 1% Participation Fund and that it is looking for volunteer projects.

Connections were made through discussions around the table. The PLANT group shared about their harvesting and home delivery aspect of their project and their connections with the group Meal Makers. The PLANT group will continue discussions with the Foodbank concerning regular harvest donations. Dave reported that the Foodbank have recently

made connections with Kettle Produce who have been kind in offering practical support to the Foodbank with produce.

Louisa promoted the Perth and Kinross 14th February 2018 event on intergenerational projects. (More details on the GWT website)

Reports about other intergenerational projects in Fife were shared – Waide Academy – computer skills, St Andrews High – silver surfers, Crail Bowling club and the local schools,

There was discussion about starting intergenerational oral history projects in the North East Fife area.

Yvonne spoke about the Community Kitchens across Fife and the resources available through NHS Health Promotion. Booklets were handed out. Yvonne explained about how cooking skills were taught and the effectiveness of Food Champions. Interest in this work was evoked from those around the table involved in the new Tayport Community Hub.

Louisa promoted the work of Hosting Hope in Kirkcaldy.

Louisa instigated a game of pairs, whereby people were paired off to get to know one another a little better with a set of questions and to report back on some specific questions.

Yvonne, Johnny and Louisa fed back to the group on their thoughts and experiences with undertaking the GWT one day training course. The consensus was that it was inspirational and a good exchange of ideas. However, it was felt what next? Louisa reported back on the online International Course on Intergenerational Learning which she is currently undertaking with GWT and the University of Granada.

Discussions was had about how could GWT support ideas for projects to see them develop in a practical way. Louisa explained that GWT could supply the tools for groups to develop their own intergenerational project, and indicate the most appropriate ways of taking projects forward. Louisa stated that she would be willing to meet up and chat to support and signpost.

There was a suggestion that future meetings begin from 10am to allow people travelling from other parts of Fife to attend on time.

The meeting closed at 11.30am and some people stayed on for more refreshments and to network further.

Date of next meetings:

- Tuesday, 8th May, 10am – 12 noon, Dunfermline Venue TBC
- Thursday 27th September 2018, 9:30am - 11:30am at Auchmuty High School, Dovecote Road, Glenrothes, KY7 5JL