

Network Coordinator's Volunteer Meeting Report

Date: Wed 2nd May 2018

Venue: Brunswick House, Glasgow

In attendance: Ashleigh Macaskill (Western Isles), Becky Mitchell (Lanarkshire), Michelle Manzie (Highlands), Kirsteen Campbell (Caithness & Sutherland), Linsey Drever (Orkney), Louisa Turner (Fife), Sorina Oprea, Alison Clyde, Rebecca Dunn, Kate Samuels & Maureen O'Reilly (Generations Working Together),

Apologies: Sue Northrup (East Lothian and Midlothian Network), Denise Nicolson (Shetland Network), Caitlyn Cooper-McCulloch & Shonagh Ferguson (Dundee and Angus Network), Victoria McRae (CVS Falkirk), Anne Horn (Argyll & Bute) Georgia Artus & Cat Young (Edinburgh & West Lothian)

Welcome and Introductions

Network Volunteer Coordinators Agreement:

- Alison requested that those coordinators who hadn't already signed the volunteer agreement to read sign and return one copy to GWT.
- A copy of the GWT expenses policy was handed to all the volunteers who attend the learning event. Alison went through the policy and everyone had the opportunity to ask questions about it. A copy of this policy will be put up on the GWT website.

GWT national update

GWT Conference 2018 – presentations are now available to view on the website:

<https://generationsworkingtogether.org/news/gwt-national-conference-2018/>

Date now confirmed for next year on **Wednesday 6th March 2019**, Technology and Innovation Centre, University of Strathclyde, Glasgow.

Recognition Awards 2018

The five categories Winners of 2018 were:

- New intergenerational (IG) project (Less than 12 months) – 'Blethering Buddies Harris' Academy
- Established IG project (Greater than 1 year) – 'Back to Life' Newbyres Nursery and Newbyres Village Care Home
- Building successful partnerships through IG work – Intergenerational Befriending Caithness
- Yvonne Coull, Local Network Coordinators Award – Louisa Turner, Fife Intergenerational Network

Certificates of outstanding contribution were also awarded to:

- New IG project (Less than 12 months) – 'Difference in Age and Time' Balhousie Primary School
- Building successful partnerships through IG work – 'Old's Cool IG Project' Citadel Youth Centre

<https://generationsworkingtogether.org/news/gwt-recognition-awards-2018/>

International Certificate on Intergenerational Learning (ICIL) will run Tuesday 23rd Oct to Monday 3rd Dec 2018. Further details and costings will be circulated in July. Approximate cost £150. The course is not profit making however it has to be cost recoverable.

Intergenerational Training Course for Practitioners and Trainers (CPD Accredited)

Alison is programming training course across Scotland from Sept to June 2019. If your area is in need of a one-day course, please get in touch with Alison.

Intergenerational workplaces

GWT invited a variety of private sector businesses to a workshop, the aim being to discuss issues relating to intergenerational practice in the workplace. In essence this means issues which arise as a result of not only having an ageing workforce, but particularly the resulting increased gap between the oldest and youngest employees. We hope to address not only the difficulties, but also the potential benefits and opportunities that might arise in an intergenerational workplace.

The session was followed up by a second workshop involving GWT members at the conference. Findings have been collated and a plan is being drafted to help resolve the issues possibly by offering an inquiry of the organisation to identify gaps and challenges and/or provide training to help organisations benefit from their intergenerational workforce.

Raising attainment in numeracy and literacy through intergenerational work

Maureen provided an update on the pilot education project Connecting Generations in Perth & Kinross. <https://generationsworkingtogether.org/events-training/perth-kinross-intergenerational-learning-event-03-11-2017>

BBC Alba is making a documentary this Spring about Intergenerational projects in Scotland – should be shown in the Autumn

Apples & Honey Nightingale House is a co-located intergenerational nursery situated in a care home in London. There is a case study on their website.

<https://www.applesandhoneynightingale.com/>

The Journal of Intergenerational Relationships (JIR) is planning a special issue on Social Isolation and Loneliness to be published in 2019, guest edited by Alan Hatton-Yeo and Alison Clyde. We are currently seeking submissions for this special issue and have extended the deadline to August 31, 2018.

<https://generationsworkingtogether.org/news/journal-of-intergenerational-relationships-13-03-2018>

GWT is recruiting volunteer trustees to join the board members and have received an excellent response with 5 new potential volunteers attending the board meeting in May.

Please continue to promote the Year of Young People 2018 which 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.

Intergenerational Objectives

- **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
- <http://yoyp2018.scot/>

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.

“Generations on Screen” project – Nov 2017 – Oct 2018

Generations Working Together has been awarded a grant of £10,000 by Big Lottery Fund to run an innovative and exciting intergenerational project. GWT recruited 4 primary schools and 4 care homes located in Paisley - Ferguslie Park/Glenburn and Johnstone area to take part in this intergenerational project called “Generations on Screen”. With the aim of positively engaging younger and older people, this project will encourage those involved to develop further intergenerational projects with the aim to build long standing relationships between the Primary Schools and Care Homes to support this intergenerational approach to sustain beyond the life of this project.

“Generations on Screen” project has been developed through work with care homes across Scotland, whose staff and carers have been keen to increase intergenerational relationships for their residents with younger people. The final screening event will be an opportunity for all participants, their families, teachers and carers to come together and celebrate their collective achievements. The showcase will take place on 12th or 26th September 2018. It is hoped that the participants will continue their connections and that GWT will have a variety of short films for use in promoting intergenerational projects

Notes

- Regarding the application form for the GWT Awards in intergenerational practice, someone noted that it is very hard to condense a full project in 250 words, suggesting that the words limit be changed.
- Completed award nomination forms are not showcasing the intergenerational relationships within the project. They talk about the activities and forget to talk about the impact between the generations.
- Louisa Turner, Coordinator for the Fife network, is preparing to become a trainer and will deliver GWT training courses in the following months.
- Please note that the training course for primary school teachers is a 4h course and it focusses more on how it fits within the Curriculum for excellence (10 and 12 participants required).
- Louisa reported that she had really enjoyed the ICIL online training course and that the platform was easy to use
- Becky Mitchell (Coordinator for Lanarkshire): the school in my area (South Lanarkshire) would be interested in the Intergenerational Training Course for Trainers and Practitioners
- The Big Lunch will take place on Sunday, 3rd June 2018, however are flexible with the dates that you hold your own big lunch on within the community. GWT encourage you to find out more about this as it can easily bring together younger and older people within communities across Scotland. For more details contact 0845 850 8181 or email communities@edenproject.com
<https://www.edenprojectcommunities.com/thebiglunchhomepage>
- **Inspiring Purpose – Between the Generations**
This is a poster project for young people to complete at home with a grandparent, relative or family friend from a different generation. Or for intergenerational projects connecting

younger and older generations. Through this partnership, both participants have the opportunity to reflect on important events of the past and share a brighter vision for the future. Completing the poster with someone from an older generation will help you learn about the heroic stories of those who fought and suffered, and of course, those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

Each network will receive £100 when they sign up for the activity. Contact Alison for further information and check out the attachment with further details.

<http://generations.inspiringpurpose.org.uk/>

- **Scottish Book Trust**

Louisa Turner reported on her “Book Bug sessions” and a project called “Adopt a Granny”. If you want to find out more about the Book Bug Sessions and about the new intergenerational writing competition run by Scottish Book Trust, please visit:

<http://scottishbooktrust.com/>

- **The Attic theatre production**

Louisa Turner mentioned “The Attic” theatre production involving few organisation from Fife network were involved in this project

- The costs for bringing in the theatre company and the pack was 200£
- The production can take place in any school (gym hall) and it’s very easy to perform and engage older and younger people. Full details about this can be found here:

<https://generationsworkingtogether.org/downloads/5ad72f024eaaa-The%20Attic%20Teacher%20Resource.pdf>

- **Single Shoe production** – see leaflet attached

- **Digital Toolkit from Linking Generations Northern Ireland (LGNI)**

<https://generationsworkingtogether.org/resources/developing-digital-activity-within-a-care-home>

- Georgia Artus and Cat Young will be sharing the role of Volunteer Network Coordinator for Edinburgh and West Lothian Network
- The consultation on loneliness and social isolation is now closed. We thank you to those who gave us their feedback on this consultation.
- Fife Council just announced the building of an Intergenerational Care Home Village.

Network updates

Lanarkshire Network – Becky Mitchell

- There is lots of intergenerational work happening in the Lanarkshire network. Becky’s job is to bring intergenerational work into the area and to get intergenerational work recognised. Becky is trying to link schools with care homes at the moment
You can find out more about us at <http://shottshealthyliving.com/on.html>

Western Isle Network – Ashleigh Macaskill

- I was interested in the coordinator vacancy and IG work as I was already involved in community work in the Western Isles and saw an advert about intergenerational work in Voluntary Action Western Isle newsletter. Lots of people are saying that they are doing intergenerational work, however we are not as yet sure what exactly they are doing as we have a wide variety of groups in the Western Isle network.

- There is a certain stigma about older people who are speaking Gaelic (a lot of Gaelic speakers are in the retired groups).
- We are working on a project with the local Library to redesign the space and the use of it.
- Also, we will be running an event with the occasion of the Royal Wedding on 19th May. On this project we are working in partnership with the Befriending Caithness.
- One of our independent groups are going every fortnight in a care home and they are very excited about this project.
- Another idea is about connecting younger people and older people vis Skype as one of the project is trying to do: to transmit live the show performed by younger people into the care homes.
- I noticed that some people are apprehensive to join the network.

Aberdeen Network – Rebecca Dunn

- There is a variety of different activities and projects going on in Aberdeen
- One of the primary schools has paired with a Day Centre for Dementia
- For the first time, the next network meeting will take place at Aberdeen University and we hope we can attract younger people into the network.
- Looking for a new volunteer coordinator

Aberdeenshire Network – Rebecca Dunn

- The next meeting for the Aberdeenshire network will take place in Inverbervie Primary School where there is an intergenerational gardening project being established
- Looking for a new coordinator

Dundee and Angus Network – Rebecca Dunn

- Along with the help of two volunteer coordinators Rebecca is trying to keep the members from Dundee and Angus engaged in the network now that the two networks joined together
- We have a new Volunteer Network Coordinator for Dundee and Angus Network - Caitlyn Cooper-McCulloch but, unfortunately, she couldn't attend the meeting today.

Fife Network – Louisa Turner

- With help from our Chair, George Kay who lives in Fife, we have been campaigning with the Local Council
- Louisa is hoping that a few of the Fife schools will take part in another school project similar to the one in Perth & Kinross
- Fife is a very diverse community
- Louisa goes out and meets up with people encouraging them to join GWT and be part of the Fife network
- There are IG Choirs, Community Coffee and Book Bug Sessions
- Louisa's been working with Healthy Living Lives
- The schools are going for more mentoring schemes now
- The uninformed organisations Louisa find s very hard to engage however in the North of Fife the Scouts and Guides clubs are already doing IG work with other organisation (especially in Tayport area)
- Sometimes people and organisations have the wrong impression that intergenerational work is mainly about intergenerational work between care homes and nurseries/primary schools.

Orkney Network - Linsey Drever

- We are also running Book Bug Sessions

- Story & Telly Festival in Orkney
- Our Development Worker is currently taking a reading project
- What I took away from the Conference on 7th Mar 2018 was the workshop “Fitness Ageing”
- We are getting involved in Dementia Awareness week (we have a Dementia Worker joining)
- We are currently having discussions with Home Start
- We run IG craft groups – once a month
- Once a year we do an IH Lunch with the Sea Cadets (we do fundraising for this event)

Caithness Network - Kirsteen Campbell

- Promoting intergenerational work across the area
- I hope more opportunities will be created
- When I tell people what intergenerational work is, they are a bit apprehensive when they hear that the age gap is 25 years
- We have good support from local MSP

Highlands Network – Michelle Manzie

- Age and Friendly Communities in Highlands
- There is an intergenerational project between a nursery and a care home
- I’ve been in touch with Yoni Lefevre from the Glasgow School of Art (she also did the Intergenerational Training Course for Trainers and Practitioners)
- There are two pilot projects taking place and they both involve two local primary schools
- We look to develop a Man’ Shed and a Community Garden
- “*De cafe*” which was a dementia friendly group
- “*Wheels and wheels*” project in the Black Isles
- There is a lot happening out there but nothing specific that I could pick up
- A useful contact up in the Highlands is Joanne McCoy

Some ideas to take further

- Twitter training for all Volunteer Network Coordinators
- A GWT banner for the local networks to have something to carry out to local events.

Alison discussed an article that recently appeared in the Dementia Scotland newsletter. The article had Intergenerational wording in the title however it was not describing a real intergenerational project. We need to be aware how easy it is for people to label their projects intergenerational. Some people and organisations need help to increase their understanding and knowledge of what constitutes real intergenerational work. This project was very one sided and not intergenerational.

Next Volunteer Network Coordinator Learning Day:

Wednesday 26th September 2018, 10.30am – 3.30pm

<https://generationsworkingtogether.org/events-training/gwt-volunteer-network-coordinator-day-26-09-2018>

Tea/coffee will be available from 10am for those who arrive early and for those wishing to network before the meeting.