

Shetland Network Meeting

Date: 17th May 2019 **Venue:** Kirkwall Library, 44 Junction Road, Kirkwall, Orkney, KW15 1AG.



In attendance: Elsie Cooper (Home Start Orkney), Arlene Montgomery (Adult Befriending, Voluntary Action Orkney), Moira Budge (Marengo Centre) & Josh Brown (GWT).

Apologies:

Introductions and discussion:

Given the low numbers in attendance there is brief discussion about the clash with a number of local training sessions, including a Local Authority Child Protection training. Better communication with local council could avoid this in the future.

EC gives details of their work going into Eunson Kloss Sheltered Housing where they run intergenerational sessions. This came about as a result of a conversation between Linsey Drever (Network Coordinator) and senior management and it has really progressed over time. There's been a significant change in the perceptions and understandings residents have of the young people in particular. They visit once a week and run a drop-in where the families they support can bring their children and engage in the IG activities – including play, snack, singing, play doh/craft etc. There are more details on the [Home Start Orkney Facebook page](#).

JB suggests that some photos and a few paragraphs on the project (and others) could be sent to Kate@generationsworkingtogether.org to be shared on social media and the news pages of our website.

EC mentions it would be good to have people from Book Bug in the room.

MB mentions the Marengo Centre in St. Margaret's Hope, which runs a Thursday lunch club, with an average age of 82.5 years. They haven't done much IG work before but have had people bringing young children along recently and realised how beneficial it is. Paula Peace, PT at Hope Primary School, had hoped to join us today but was unable due to staffing commitments. She has been involved in the project which is only 3 weeks in at present. MB explains how positive it's been. Beginning with simple activities that involve gentle physical activity and natural, relaxed engagement between the children and older people, it's sounding like the work will develop in to something long-lasting. There's already been evidence of relationships building and meaningful impact happening for individuals.

MB adds that Paula is looking to create a booklet for the project

AM mentions the 'Getting to Know You' ball as a great icebreaker for bringing groups together.

There's a brief discussion around the importance of organisations working well together and communicating clearly to make projects run as smooth as possible. Also staffing pressures are obviously an issue across all sectors. It can also be problematic if organisations are unable to share details of individual participant's needs/health concerns etc. whilst also not being able to spare staff to properly support the activities.

AM mentions the 1-to-1 befriending she's involved in, as well as working with pupils at local secondary schools, Kirkwall Grammar and Stromness Academy. She explains she works with young people who are perhaps disenfranchised or disengaged for a number of reasons. IG work forms part of the support and activities offered to these individuals. She talks too about her work at Eunson Kloss where she has a longstanding connection, as well as 'Friday Friends' and a young person's group. She mentions that often the groups can be small but this doesn't matter as the focus is always on what the individuals gain from coming together.

AM mentions that Life Changers Trust and Age Scotland recently visited for a partnership project and that Alzheimer Scotland also delivered dementia training to a number of their volunteers.

There's more information about [Voluntary Action Orkney on their Facebook page](#).

Generations Working Together is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation SC045851

JB agrees to share the following:

[Generations On Screen video from a Renfrewshire project.](#)

[CAPA/Physical Activity](#)

AM explains that the last meeting was incredibly well attended and that local councillors who were there were amazed at how much was going on. This should be considered for the next meeting.

GWT national update:

- Professor Peter Whitehouse visits GWT

GWT is delighted to announce the arrival of Professor Peter Whitehouse, President of the [Intergenerational Schools International](#), Cleveland, Ohio, USA. We are delighted and honoured that Peter will be spending four days with Generations Working Together during a three month stay at Oxford University. Peter has agreed to give a series of conversation meetings during the first week in June to people interested in how intergenerational approaches can be used in schools.

You can register for the Glasgow event on Weds June 5th below:

<https://generationsworkingtogether.org/events-training/a-conversation-with-prof-peter-whitehouse-05-06-2019>

- **The Intergenerational workshop for Early Years' practitioners** was held in August. The workshop was aimed at Early Years practitioners involved in intergenerational projects or who would like to develop projects but have faced barriers. GWT launched it's a new publication at the National Conference in March – An Intergenerational Guide for Early Years Practitioners, with guidance on:

- planning an intergenerational project and setting appropriate outcomes
- what activities work and don't work
- ideas on who to connect with to create new partnerships
- benefits of intergenerational work for early years
- evaluating and measuring the impact

A similar workshop was held on Thursday 4th October for care home staff to contribute **to a new intergenerational guide for care homes**. A new publication will follow from this too later in the year. Both are/will be available to download direct from the GWT website.

TRAINING:

- Intergenerational Training Course for Practitioners and Trainers (CPD Accredited (£75 - Full / £50

The next scheduled training session is in Dumfries & Galloway but we are able to offer sessions on request as long as we receive sufficient bookings. Hosts also get a free place – if you'd like to host or think your area would benefit, please get in touch.

You can book a place on planned sessions or see the learning outcomes here:

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

ICIL – we currently have a session of the International Certificate in Intergenerational Learning (ICIL) underway, but we also run the course in the autumn. Find full details here:

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

We also have a new workplace training session that can be delivered to up to 16 people at a cost of £400 for the session (a total cost for all participants, not per person). Visit our website to get in touch and find out more.

- National Conference in March

If you were unable to attend, or if you would like to revisit some of the talks, presentations are available on our website here:

- Soil Association partnership

You'll find full details of our new partnership with the Soil Association, on the Get Togethers programme here:

<https://generationsworkingtogether.org/news/generations-working-together-joins-forces-with-the-soil-association-on-food-for-life-get-togethers-project-24-04-2019>

- Dr. Ali Somers' research

Dr. Ali Somers was one of the guests again at this year's conference and spoke about her recent research in to the benefits for residents at Apples & Honey Nightingale in London of Intergenerational activities. You can find out much more here:

<https://generationsworkingtogether.org/resources/intergenerational-programme-at-nightingale-house>

- The Small Ideas, Big Impact Fund

As part of the Eat Well Age Well initiative, funding from £50 to £5000 is available for organisations using food as a means of bringing people together to help improve health and wellbeing. Find out more on their website:

<https://www.eatwellagewell.org.uk/smallideasbigimpact>

- **Our YouTube channel** has lots of useful videos with case studies, animations and more which may help with planning and inspiration. You can find a link at the bottom of our website.

A.O.B.

Next meeting -