

Grampian Intergenerational Network Meeting

Date: 13.09.19

Venue: Discovery Room, John Lewis, Bon Accord Centre, Aberdeen, AB25 1BW

In attendance: Emma Roberts (Cycling UK), Lisa Mathieson (Aberdeen Performing Arts), Jo Hastie (Grampian Hospitals Art Trust), Tracey Buchan (Aberdeen health and social care partnership), Andrew Stewart (HTAP), Angela Paton (Action on Hearing Loss Scotland), Helena Leite (Aberdeenshire Council).

Apologies: Lizzie Wavell (Woodlands Nursery Ltd), John Lewis marketing staff.

Kate explained that the meeting will consist of sharing of stories, projects and challenges, as well as the big climate conversation that will include questions about Scottish Government's role in climate change, actions and objectives. This information will be fed back to the Scottish Government and is taking place across our intergenerational networks in different areas. All the answers are confidential.

GWT National Update

Intergenerational Training is taking place this autumn – we will be delivering both one day (and CPD accredited) Intergenerational Training for Trainers & Practitioners training across Scotland and our seven week online International Certificate in Intergenerational Learning, accredited by the University of Granada. The online training will run from 5th of November – 23rd December 2019. Find out more and register online <https://generationsworkingtogether.org/events-training/training/>.

Generations Working Together Conference will take place in on Wednesday the 4th of March 2020 in Glasgow at the University of Strathclyde Technology and Innovation Centre. The programme is still being developed, but it is likely that there will be some focus on environmental intergenerational projects, please let us know if you know of any or have any ideas for the workshops or activities. We are also looking for any sponsorship or marketing opportunities to help us with the conference, as well as for any organisations who would like to hold stalls on the day. The full programme will be available on our website closer to the time on www.generationsworkingtogether.org.

Generations Working Together has recently submitted evidence with Linking Generations Northern Ireland to the All-Party Group on social integration. This has highlighted the need for co-location, funding and government support. For all responses, announcements and meetings please visit the group website <https://socialintegrationappg.org.uk>.

Generations Working Together is looking for photos these will be for our banners and booklets and we require different ages (for example nursery children and older people and teenagers and older people) to showcase the diversity of intergenerational work. Please send these to Kate directly on **Kate@generationsworkingtogether.org**. You must ensure you have all the copyright permissions to submit this.

GWT Connecting Generations school project – The project is continuing in Perth and Kinross, with a new staff member Donna McGlashan who will be based in the Perth Grammar school. Donna was a previous volunteer on the project and an article on her will be on our website to learn more. The Community School of Auchterarder will continue the project as an intergenerational hub without a GWT staff member. New schools in other areas are joining the project, including potentially St Clare's primary school in Drumchapel, Glasgow.

Kate discussed a potential Christmas campaign called **Singing Generations** that is led by Linking Generations Northern Ireland where younger and older people sing carols together and film this for their online competition. There may be an opportunity this year to join from Scotland, we will post information on our website and social media about this. For more information on this project please see their website <https://www.communityni.org/event/singing-generations>.

Big Climate Change Exercise

The group undertook the Big Climate Conversation exercise which consisted of giving responses on how important is climate change action, what comes to mind after discussing a climate emergency and which actions should the government prioritise. Key actions mentioned include circular economy, taxing flying and reducing red meat. Discussion also took place on how this related to intergenerational projects and suggestions such as craft cafes, reusing and intergenerational gardening were considered. A full report will be submitted to the Scottish Government and shared on our website.

Sharing and Networking

- Jo Hastie from **Grampian Hospitals Art Trust** talked about the project she is involved in – **Silver Surfers**. This is a technology based project that started as younger people supporting older people with basic technology (such as emails), but has evolved into drop ins, work with shelter housing, DWP and local businesses. Currently WIFI is being rolled out in all common rooms in sheltered complexes and silver surfers project has been going in to help with digital skills and has worked with City Fibre, as well as gaining funding from Fairer Aberdeen Fund. There have been many success stories, such as one of the older people becoming a sound engineer volunteer as a result of new skills. The project also links well to the government's goals on digital literacy. Sign up for the newsletter and learn more about the project on their website <https://www.silvercitysurfers.co.uk/>.
- Lisa Mathieson from **Aberdeen Performing Arts** talked about the importance of intergenerational connections in the arts, specifically mentioning the intergenerational community choir that has been popular in Aberdeen with over 95 members. The ages of those involved are 1-95 years and although it is all ages, they have seen intergenerational connections flourish. To join or learn more please register on their website <https://www.aberdeenperformingarts.com/creative-learning/special-projects/community-choir/>.
- Information was shared about **Spinning Songs**, an intergenerational Opera project run by Scottish Opera that has taken place in Aberdeen, although there are also programmes around Scotland. During weekly workshops, participants are encouraged to develop their musical and expressive arts skills, together creating a series of original songs that reflect life in their local community. These are performed at an informal tea party for friends and family at the end of the project. <https://www.scottishopera.org.uk/join-in/spinning-songs/>
- Andrew Stewart from **HTAP** discussed the challenges of transport for intergenerational projects and talked about his project that connects transport volunteers across the North-east to support local people. This group may be a way to connect others or to discuss intergenerational projects. Contact them by emailing travel@thinc-hub.org.

Next meeting:

Friday 27th of March 2020, place and time to be confirmed – we are currently looking for a Grampian location.

Generations Working Together is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation SC045851