



# Generations Working Together

## Scottish Borders Network Meeting

Online Meeting Using Zoom

**Date: 26<sup>th</sup> May 2020**

**In attendance:** Nicola Shaw (GWT), Donna Wood (Community Learning & Development SBC), Pauline Grigor (The Bridge TSI), Stephanie Logan (Volunteer Centre Borders), Danielle Johnstone (SBC), Kelly Brown (Locality Leader Alzheimer Scotland), Elaine Thornton-Nicol (Councillor & Older Peoples Champion), Lorraine Anderson (SBC), Brian Lawson (Volunteer Centre Borders)

**Apologies:** Catherine Hashar (Earlston Primary), Douglas Pringle (Dep for Wages & Pensions), Juliana Amaral (Local Area Co-ordinator, Older Adults)

Nicola welcomed everyone to the meeting, informal introductions from everyone.

- Nicola asked for permission to record – yes

**Covid-19** Discussions were had about the halt of Intergenerational Projects since the Covid-19 outbreak, everyone agreed that encouraging people and to become reconnected is a necessity.

**Connecting Digitally** Nicola updated everyone about GWT funding from Scottish Government as part of this we will engage with network members, local communities, care homes, and look at practical ways to reconnect our younger and older generations in the face of the crisis.

Nicola reported GWT are producing a Directory, the first edition will be ready this week. The directory will be a tool to connect people across local areas to existing projects.

It was advised that GWT are adapting and developing Intergenerational training to Online. The first of which will be ready to go live next month. There will be 7 courses in total and will be free of charge.

Nicola urged the group to keep a check on the GWT webpage for updates, and to use the resources and tools offered. Also to take a look at some of the successful stories and activities that are taking place which are shared.

## Update and discussion

- Pauline Grigor reported on Connected Scotland, the Scottish Government £5 million mentoring scheme to connect vulnerable adults and notes of interest received.
- Donna Wood is currently seconded to Cheviot Community Response Team – Covid-19. Donna is keen to make Intergenerational relationships for the youths and discussions on connection were made.
- Elaine Thornton-Nicol is having success at keeping people connected via children's art work and knitting squares programme. She is hopeful that 'knitted tree' will still go ahead in the village.
- Kelly Brown reported on Dementia Awareness Week 2020, 1-7<sup>th</sup> June. Details to follow and circulate.
- Danielle Johnstone reported on isolated adults without any digital technology. Phone calls are continuing to the adults and a recovery plan moving forward is being made. Danielle shared her concern at the decline in mental health due to isolation.
- Stephanie Logan reported on her youth ambassadors who are very keen to be making Intergenerational Connections and offer digital support. They can be reached at [vcbonlineambassadors@gmail.com](mailto:vcbonlineambassadors@gmail.com)  
Creative Happiness Project has been very successful, Stephanie urged everyone to circulate details for more artwork from children if possible.
- Lorraine Anderson reported on Garden View Care Home Intergenerational work.

## Big Lunch 6/7<sup>th</sup> June 2020

We discussed previous and upcoming Eden Project Big Lunch. Elaine is hoping to continue this with a 'piece and a cuppa' hopefully end of June 2020. Nicola advised resources and packs are available on line from Eden Project.

## Barriers

It was agreed by everyone that the greatest barrier to making connections at this time is the lack of technology and lack of knowledge to using digital devices.

## Online Evaluation Form

Nicola advised the group of GWT new online Evaluation Form and how valuable it is to have this form completed by meeting attendees. A link to the form was put in the Zoom Chat and followed up by email after the meeting.

**Our next meeting** is planned for Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2020, 10.00-12.00. This may feel some way off, however please feel free to connect with us at anytime if you need support or guidance in setting up Intergenerational Projects.

The September meeting will be held in Jedburgh, however if that is not possible the meeting will be run online using Zoom.

