

## **Grampian Intergenerational Network Meeting**

**Date:** 15.05.20

**Venue:** Online on Zoom

**In attendance:** Susan Curran (University of Aberdeen), Lorna Glen (Torry Development Trust), Laura Burr (Aberdeenshire Council), Lorna Forsyth (Aberdeenshire Council), Louise Phillips (University of Aberdeen), David Fryer (Torry Development Trust), Fiona Alderson (Networks of Wellbeing Ltd), Cllr Anouk Kloppert (Aberdeenshire Council).

**Apologies:** Dr Jennifer Hui (Vox).

Kate explained the meeting will be less formal since it's been held online during the pandemic and as we recently held one in March, it will be more about sharing how we have worked through the lockdown and ideas and news on intergenerational practice.

### **GWT National Update**

GWT response to COVID-19 crisis. GWT has increased its presence and posting online to support members and followers. Interesting and helpful resources, included funding have been shared on the website and through social media. A directory of resources is being developed which is supported by Scottish Government funding and will be shared online for members to use locally. This will include ideas which can be used for intergenerational work. GWT is developing a range of online training sessions for volunteers of COVID-19 relief effort and our members. To undertake this work GWT has grown from 5 members of staff to 9 which includes a new Finance and Administration Officer, Denise Yap.

**Intergenerational Training** – we are currently running online training International Certificate in Intergenerational Learning, accredited by the University of Granada and are looking into potential online one day training. Training is CPD accredited. To find out about training and to register online please see our website <https://generationsworkingtogether.org/events-training/training/>.

**GWT Connecting Generations school project** – Our intergenerational project in schools is now in three councils – Perth and Kinross, Scottish Borders and Glasgow. There are currently no face to face visits but volunteer recruitment is taking place online and GWT staff are preparing for when schools reopen.

### **Sharing and Networking**

- Lorna from Tory Develop Trust talked about attending the GWT Intergenerational Conference at the start of March, including the people she talked to and what she learned from this. Lorna is very interested in intergenerational practice due to her profession in the primary school sector. She highlighted that she observed the shifting and fragmentation of families through her life and this convinced her that young people more than ever need older role models, connections and

friends. Lorna said that she particularly liked hearing about places and spaces and from younger and older people at the conference.

- Louise is a psychology professor from the University of Aberdeen who carried out research on generations and their difference, including issues around ageism. She has recently undertaken research with pupils in Inverurie High School on stereotypes and is keen to build on this work and to study and evaluate intergenerational practice. She is keen to know what intergenerational barriers there are.
- The group discussed the need for more research and that with research it is easier to show to leaders that intergenerational interventions work – GWT has a research network for researchers interested in this. This is available when joining as a member on the website and GWT plans to develop this in the future.
- David from Tory Development Trust said that he is keen to continue meetings/conversations with this group – all agreed to share emails.
- David mentioned the need for third sector to be mentioned/supported during COVID-19. This crisis shows that they are essential. MSP Fiona Hyslop has been identified as a possible supporter for this.
- Susan Curran, University of Aberdeen works in the library/cultural sector and is meeting with education outreach group online to see how they can adapt and work together through the crisis.
- Cllr Anouk Kloppert talked about her previous work in Alzheimer's Scotland and what the council has been doing to support vulnerable people. Consistency and connection are vital to people with dementia during this pandemic.

#### **Next meeting:**

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> of August 2020 on zoom from 3-5pm. To book please register online now and you will be sent the zoom code the day before. To register please book online

<https://generationsworkingtogether.org/events-training/grampian-intergenerational-network-meeting-18-09-2020>.