

**Ayrshire & Arran Intergenerational Network Meeting
Conversations on the way forward**

Introducing Food for Life Get Togethers update

On line via ZOOM

Date and time: Wednesday 17th June 2020, 10am – 12noon

Meeting Report

In Attendance: Bella Kerr (GWT), Sarah Wright, Alice McArdle, Carole Thompson, Linda West, Dehra MacDonald, Joan Wilson, Fiona Smith, Clare (ANAM CARA) Alison Milroy, Cathy Gibb, Sarita Taggart,

Apologies:

Councillor Grant, Patricia Harkness, Laura Harker, Pamela Maxwell, Pauline Perret, Kirsty Cartin

Evaluation

This is the online link to our new evaluation. It will give you the opportunity to feedback to us. Please let Bella know if you have any issues accessing it. GWT appreciate your feedback and completion will allow us to fulfil the requirements needed for the Scottish Government's Research Project and will assist us in looking at our practice and how we can best support our network and members at these meetings. You may have already filled this in and if so Thank You and if not this is a reminder <https://forms.gle/XvhK3qouqpiVQb2c6>

1. Apologies and introductions

See above

2. Short discussion on Covid-19 and how GWT is working to help with practical examples on how to reconnect the generations.

Bella explained to the group that Generations Working Together is committed to maintaining and developing friendships and connections across Scotland through IG activities and projects. GWT are delighted to say that with Scottish government backing, we are upscaling our activities and will engage with network members and local communities, to find practical ways to reconnect younger and older generations through technology, telephones, radio, television and paper.

Bella encouraged people to share this information so that people could become members at www.generationsworkingtogether.org and share across our communities. We know that the social distancing situation will continue for some time after lockdown and to help reconnect we will share:

- A directory of activities (with safe and simple ideas for IG work)

www.generationsworkingtogether.org

Generations Working Together is a Scottish Charity Incorporated Organisation (SCIO)
Charity Number SC045851

- Free online training for volunteers and organisations working with socially isolated and vulnerable members of the community. What is Ageism? What is IG work? And online platforms.
- GWT will provide additional support to care homes.

Cathy – Using Skype, Zoom and WhatsApp to connect families. Feels personal interaction has worked better. It is worth doing – trying to find different things for their well being.

Joan Wilson felt it was difficult for older people to grasp new technologies. In care homes it is staff who set up the tablets for face to face chats, then turn them off again. Blogging- wee visits , walking the dog, potting baskets etc.

Clare – Wind Farm donation helped purchase tablets etc. They have been able to talk with relatives. Technologies has worked well for them ie reminiscing, games. Feel positive.

Fiona Smith is trying to support phase 1 of the SCVO . Equipment going to those who are shielding. Looking at who has skills etc. Connecting Scotland Programme are trying to get more connected. Will try to keep the momentum of interaction with community going after the Virus crisis is over.

Sarita - Facebook to talk to parents – good engagement, keeping up to date new info, sending pictures. Good success.

Carole Thompson – Virtual Learning, Child protection, Parental consents

Alison – Quickly getting used to using Zoom, Microsoft Teams and other platforms. Digital media , sharing info with other group as to what is easy to use.

In general people felt that we really do need to concentrate more on digital and getting people connected although there are many cases where older people are having real difficulty and need an intermediary to assist with this process.

It was also acknowledged that many youth organisations in local communities would be good to tap into what they could get involved in through IG work and look at the free training and encourage young and older people to take it up.

Most orgs have had to adapt in some way. Feedback from nursing homes is that the skype calls and contacts through other means such as face time and Whats App have worked but generally they are better when the persons name is mentioned and it is a two way conversation rather than just staring at a blank screen.

We also discussed Spaces and places and communities with spaces that encourage young and older people and how it would be good to link people in our communities after COVID – 19 with more intergenerational spaces and places.

3. Connecting practitioners digitally – do you need help to connect?

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Sarita *'working together apart'*

Linda 'Connecting digital' hopefully bring new members, some are against virtual meetings some are not.

Joan Suggested sending activities through post such as: plants, soil, with instructions. Live instructions for use with digital means. Then show and tell. Gardening activities in their room- gradually moving seedling outside to encourage people out of their rooms.

4. Online training

- **What do your volunteers need to do IG work?**

All of the above discussions looked at the things that people know of or are involved in. People are happy to receive the information about GWT free on line training and any other resources that may be of use.

Generally volunteers are more competent in using digital, but maybe they will not have the resources such as ZOOM etc. Some children do not have laptops or tablets or internet access.

Having a decent phone will get most people on video or call show screen, face book accounts that they can contact directly.

Dehra MacDonald offered to share info from youth organisations for next meeting. Youth orgs in the Ayrshire are continuing over the holidays. They will be working with young people who have not had a positive experience in schools.

Alice The Place Standard Scotland would be something else to look at and an idea to cover this for future meetings.

Health Care Improvement Scotland has digital skills training in local hubs.

Bella mentioned the Eisner Foundation and how they have utilised a facilitator to help set up the meetings such as ZOOM etc. <https://eisnerfoundation.org/>

- **How can we get young people involved to share their digital skills?**

See all of above conversations.

T.O.Y. Project – Together Old and Young. <http://www.toyproject.net/>

Check out the TOY Project as there are lots of resources online.

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Clear Your Head - <https://clearyourhead.scot/>

This campaign is to help people destress and think about themselves, especially during these very strange times.

Scottish Older People's Assembly - <http://www.scotopa.org.uk/> A voice for older people in parliament. Encourage your older peoples' groups to take a look at their website and participate.

The Connection Coalition - <http://www.connectioncoalition.org.uk/>

GWT membership and website

Bella encouraged all in attendance to invite others to join the GWT network and to go on the website to join up. It is free and offers a real range of activities and ideas and share case studies and good practice. Bella also recommended that people sign up for the training. Bella encouraged people to think what they would like from the network meetings.

Next meeting: *We may host another zoom meeting sometime towards end of August I will get back to you with Date – Bella*

Future meeting

Date: 21st October 2020

Time: 10 am until 12 noon

Venue: **ANAM CARA Stoneyholm Rd, Kilbirnie KA25 7JE (to be confirmed and dependent on COVID-19)**

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