
In attendance: Anne Macdonald (HSCN & Age Scotland), Graeme Rose, Claire Mackenzie (Highland Council, Childcare Manager Lochardil), Amy Kelman (Highland Council, Early Years Practitioner), Nicky MacLennan (Soirbheas Development Officer), Hayley Young (Highland Council Early Years Practitioner), Cllr Isabelle Mackenzie, Bellanne O'Brien (Development worker Lewis Volunteering Western Isles), Kirsteen Campbell (GWT)

Apologies: Maggie Lawson, Marea Burnett, Fiona & Angela Paton

Kirsteen welcomed everyone to the meeting and went around the virtual table for introductions

Covid-19 – link to Coronavirus Third Sector Information Hub on home page of website, follow GWT's social media and newsletter for updates.

GWT staff are working online from home and reconnecting with local networks and projects. IG work came to a complete halt however there are signs that people are looking to reconnect in different ways, and we are seeing lots of great pen pal projects starting up.

GWT are going to be offering 7 online training courses shortly and more one to one support for care homes to reconnect, this is currently taking place as part of the Covid-19 project. All network meetings will take place online until further notice. GWT is working in partnership with tech company Verizon to look at how we can reconnect the generations digitally, safely, by using avatars. The Corporate plan will be available soon on the website.

[National Awards for Excellence in Intergenerational Work 2020.](#)

1. **Award for contribution to reducing loneliness and isolation** - Winner – Auld Yins and Wee Yins, Wellpark Children's Centre, Inverclyde
2. **Intergenerational volunteer of the year** - Winner – Heather, Granny Bees, Jaybees Childcare Ltd, Lockerbie
3. **Most innovative project** - Winner – Little Hands Big Hands, Windyhall Care Home, Ayrshire
4. **Most improved project** - Winner – Anam Cara's Wee Pals, Anam Cara, Ayrshire
5. **Award for promoting achievement and attainment in education** - Winner – Old's Cool by Citadel Youth Centre, Leith, Edinburgh
6. **The Yvonne Coull, Local Network Coordinator Award** - Winner – Louisa Turner, Fife Network

GWT National Conference March 2020 – presentations available on the [GWT website](#)

International Certificate in Intergenerational Learning (ICIL) – Edition 5 starts today with 28 students from 9 countries (Scotland, England, Wales, Spain, Australia, America, Canada, Singapore & Korea). We have been able to increase our numbers this course from 20 due to an additional tutor joining the team. We hope to be able to offer 30 places on the next course due to commence end of October.

Generations Working Together is recruiting two enthusiastic, committed, dependable and proactive volunteer trustees to replace two board members who retired at our AGM last month. We are looking for a new treasurer and a trustee who have experience of working in the voluntary, public or private sector who want to become actively involved in progressing intergenerational work across Scotland.

Update and discussion

- Bellanne (Western Isles Volunteering, Lewis) – Have been helping with Foodbanks, helping match people up with community groups etc. IG work was cut short due to Covid, now seeing pen pals' projects being set up. They have photos of the older people so that the young people know who they are writing too. Sheltered housing. Been lots of dancing, piping, and singing to the tenants at their windows. They have been playing knots and crosses too, with the older person on the inside of the window and the younger person on the outside. Making plans for some outside activities. There is a new care home being built with assisted living.
- Anne (HSCN & Age Scotland) – Before Covid there had been lots of great IG work happening. Black Isle carers and Fortrose Academy had been working together. There had been an IG awareness course. Get to know your techno. Both sides are missing the activities. Pen Pals project happening now. Schools are reluctant to do more at the moment. Community Garden. Black Isles men shed. Concern about both age groups after this period. Hello Campaign for HSCN. Has been some issues with IT & Wifi issues. Age Scotland were offering friendship calls, help line was busy. Hello campaign you can film yourself and pop it on Facebook or Twitter with the @highlandhello
- Isabelle (Councillor) – Very passionate about IG work. Has seen a lot of technology issues, ability net might be able to offer help. Everything is so unknown at the moment because of the virus, social distancing issues, we might not get a vaccine. Confidence is a huge issue; people are scared to go out. Would be nice to organise a socially distanced tea party.
- Claire (Childcare Manager) – Plans for the outdoor nursery are currently on hold, hoping to be able to open by October. It will be completely outside, there is a wee hut for shelter, toilets are also outside. There will be 8/10 children at one time with 2 members of staff. The area is very calm and peaceful. They plan to do lots of IG activities such as baking/cooking, wee café where the kids can serve the older people, then enjoy lunch together. Beside the Mackenzie centre. It will be a Monday to Friday service from 8.30am to 4.00pm. Need to recruit staff. Will be such a benefit for all ages. At Lochardil there has been regular visits to the local care home.
- Amy (Early Years Practitioner Lochardil) – Been visiting the local care home Ach an Eas since October 2018. It took a bit of time to build up the relationship. Now have a great relationship. Both age groups love the visits. There was a Questionnaire sent out to parents asking them how their children enjoying the activities, it was very positive. They go in 6 week blocks. 18 children and 2 staff members. Amy goes each time which has really helped to build the relationship. They have done lots of activities together – baking, games, jigsaws, playdough, singing & stories. Great for the fine motor skills. Was lovely to witness the reactions from both age groups. Covid stopped all the visits. Now making pictures and sending to the residents. The care home has made a thank you video for the kids.
- Nicky (Soirbheas) – Glenurquhart has a good relationship with the school and assisted housing. There is currently transport issues because of Covid. It's hard not knowing when visits can return. Technology has been hard, some have access some don't. They have run a photo competition, the categories are projects, out & about, made you smile & residents. The annual flower & veg show has been cancelled, could it be done online? Befrienders is now offering a telephone service. N4H has a weekly walk on zoom. A good working group of older and younger meets once a year and plan what they would like to do in the coming year. Has to mention Moo the great facility in the Muir of Ord.
- Hayley (Early Years Practitioner Lochardil) – Have kept in touch with the Mackenzie centre during lockdown. Have a Facebook page, post videos, followed by families. It is lovely to still have a connection.
- Graeme's looking for something to do when he retires, got lots of insight from the meeting.

Our next meeting is planned for Thursday 1st October 2020, 9.30am – 11.30am via Zoom.