

Caithness & Sutherland Network Meeting online meeting using Zoom

Date: 3rd July 2020



In attendance: Allan Tait (Senior Development Officer, Caithness Voluntary Group), Anna Patfield (Planet Sutherland), Naomi Watson (NHS Highland), Carol Shaw (Kyle of Sutherland Hub), Doreen Leith (Wick Voices), Louisa Turner (GWT), Kirsteen Campbell (GWT)

Kirsteen welcomed everyone to the meeting and went round 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 now 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 from 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](#)

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

- **Anna – Planet Sutherland** Project began in July 2019. Working with local projects and businesses about community climate issues. Lots of work around Energy/Resource savings. Have been running Carbon cafes to discuss issues and anxieties, the cafes are cross generationally. Have been growing food with schools, working lately with Golspie High school online on a Climate film. Trying to get the Global warming message across in a kind caring way. Get the message out that Growing is good. Have been done some work with Carol at the Kyle of Sutherland Hub too. www.planetsutherland.com
- **Allan – CVG – Befriending Caithness** still have their Intergenerational project where High School children were visiting the hospital and care homes, currently stopped with Covid. Befriending has been busy with a phone call service. CVG has been heavily involved with the community resilience programme for the current Covid-19 situation. Lots of great community work going on in Caithness. There has been lots of Activity boxes going out locally for older and younger people. The Green health partnership have received funding to put out 400 green health activity boxes which will go out to under privileged children in Caithness. Allan thinks this is happening in Sutherland too. Allan can see the benefits of using Zoom and has joined many meetings that he would not usually have the time to travel too. There is a concern going forward about older people being reluctant to go out again when safe to do so. Can see a bit of volunteer fatigue setting in. Moving towards recovery planning now. For more information you can go to www.cvg.org.uk
- **Carol – Kyle of Sutherland Hub** – Busy working on ways to get the hub back up and running safely when they can safely under Government guidelines. They have ordered a large marquee to set up outside to increase floor space to help with social distancing. Hoping to have in use if safe to do so by the end of July. Hoping to offer fitness for all sessions. Plan to have Family craft sessions, each family with their own table & craft box. Hoping to get funding for a casual worker to help with the activities. Hoping to offer some socially distanced games with minimal touching. Carefully watching the guidelines. Lairg learning centre & the development trust hoping to offer activities also in the marquee. Currently working on lots of risk assessments. For more information you can go to www.kyleofsutherland.com
- **Doreen – Wick Voices** – Has been busy making lockdown interviews. People have been recording their own interviews either on their phones or an ipad then sending it over for editing. Has been looking at ways to safely clean microphones etc when it is safe to return to face to face interviews. Have been collecting stories from all generations. A lot of Befriendees have been identified as having wonderful stories to share but unable to do so at the moment because of technology issues. Hopefully, this can be done when safe to do face to face interviews. Wick Society has taken the decision not to open the Heritage centre this year due to Covid-19 but are looking at online ways to show local heritage. Have put out CDs through Pulteney House, PPP & CVG. www.wickheritage.org
- **Naomi – NHS Highland** – Has been working on the new Hubs for Wick and Thurso. Still on schedule for 4-5 years' time. Still plans to have intergenerational links at the hubs. Hoping to be as Green as possible, using bikes to help people get to the hubs for appointments. Near me has been a huge asset during Covid-19 allowing people to have medical appointments safely online. There was 4 near me appointment rooms in Caithness General, due to Government funding there is currently another 4 rooms being prepared. People have also been able to use the service using their own technology. For the month of February 22,500 miles was saved for people having to travel to 105 appointments. During the Covid period it has been used even more.

Next meeting: Tuesday 6th October, 9.30 – 11.30am via Zoom. Bookings as normal through website.