

About the awards

Generations Working Together (GWT) is pleased to announce the 2022 Awards for Excellence in Intergenerational Work. This year due to the pandemic we have changed the categories to reflect what has been taking place across the country.

Covid-19 has changed the way in which we all live our lives. The emphasis on physical and social distancing as the principal tool for limiting the spread of the coronavirus has limited our contact with family and friends and forced us all to find new ways of sustaining and developing our social relationships.

This has had a major impact on the shape of intergenerational practice which has positive and purposeful relationships between generations at its heart. When the pandemic first struck, a great deal of IG work came to an abrupt halt because it relied on face-to-face interactions and involved vulnerable people. Over time, people began to develop innovative and creative responses to the changed circumstances and find new ways of connecting people at a distance enabling them to support each other through a very challenging time.

As the country learns to live with Covid-19, the challenge continues. Intergenerational relationships has now an even more important contribution to give to our communities. However, these need to be developed and managed in safe and sustainable ways.

This year's GWT awards sit within this context and will recognise the many ways in which organisations and communities are rising to the challenge and adapting to a vastly changed context.

There are five award categories:

1. Creative use of Space and Place

Generations Working Together recognises that connections between generations in the spaces and places around us is an essential part of our collective recovery from Covid-19.

This award recognises projects that make creative use of spaces and places to connect generations in mutually beneficial relationships. This might be in built or natural environments, community or workplace.

2. Creative use of technologies

Generations Working Together recognises that technology is now, more than ever, a significant part of connecting and improving lives and relationships.

This award recognises projects that have embraced diverse technologies and used them creatively to connect all ages together in mutually beneficial activities and intergenerational relationships. This could be across sectors, communities and care environments.

3. Enabling Inclusive Communities

Generations Working Together recognises that intergenerational connection requires inclusion and respect for differences in identity and lived experience.

This award recognises projects and initiatives that have made particular efforts to challenge ageism and promote age-friendly diversity and inclusion in communities.

4. Social Justice and Dignity

Generational Working Together is committed to supporting intergenerational initiatives that ensure older and younger people are not held back by age-related barriers, discrimination or prejudice.

This award recognises projects that tackle adversity and promote fairness and human rights through intergenerational practice and relationships.

5. Tackling Climate change

Generations Working Together recognises that we cannot fight climate change alone and that all generations must work together to make a difference.

This is a new award created during COP26 in order to encourage intergenerational solidarity to tackle climate change. The award is open for projects and initiatives that connect generations through green activities such as community gardening, green initiatives in local communities and campaigning.

Award eligibility & assessment criteria

These awards provide individuals, groups and organisations an opportunity to showcase their work and creativity on how they were able to and how they plan to in the future connect different generations together through using an intergenerational approach. To be eligible for any of these awards, nominees must:

- deliver their work in Scotland;
- bring people together in purposeful, mutually beneficial activities, which promote greater understanding and respect between generations, and contribute to building more cohesive communities;
- involve people from different generations, generally with a minimum 25-year age gap between participating generations.
- clearly show the level of contact with and between participating generations.

Assessment

The five awards will be assessed in relation to a common set of criteria:

- the project has clearly stated aims and goals;
- the project has a clear rationale for adopting an IG approach;
- the project is well planned (within the context of good intergenerational practice);
- the project gives equal priority to the needs of all participants;
- the project demonstrates relationships between different generations;
- the project can evidence positive impact (the areas for impact would vary according to award category);
- the project has a strategy for sustainability – either for the project or its participants;
- the project is innovative (in its context);
- the project can be clearly shown on the [continuum that tracks the levels of contact](#) with and between participating generations.

Award process

Nomination forms to be submitted by **Monday 31st January** at **12 noon** to:
bella@generationsworkingtogether.org

Only email applications will be accepted, unless in exceptional circumstances and with prior agreement. A project can be entered for more than one award category, providing it meets all of the relevant criteria.

Nomination forms for projects can be submitted by projects themselves, or by individuals or agencies on their behalf.

All of those submitting nominations, whether for a project or the creative idea award, are asked to supply:

- the name and contact details of an independent referee. This should be someone with knowledge of the project or individual who is willing to be contacted in relation to the nomination. Please note that not all referees will be contacted;
- a maximum of three high resolution photographs which in some way capture the essence or activity of the project. These pictures will be used as part of promotional material for the awards and may be included in subsequent GWT on and off-line publications.

A confirmation email will be sent within five working days of the receipt of your form.

All eligible applications will be assessed by a panel of GWT Trustees and staff. Individual assessors will score each project using the following framework:

Assessment criteria	
Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • clearly stated aims and goals; • has a clear rationale for adopting an IG approach; • well planned (within the context of good intergenerational practice); • has a strategy for sustainability.
Delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • clearly stated aims and goals • has a clear rationale for adopting an IG approach; • well planned (within the context of good intergenerational practice); • has a strategy for sustainability.
Impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • making and can evidence positive impact
Innovation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • is innovative (within context)
Improvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • clearly identified need and scope for improvement; • clear improvement in the quality of practice and on impact.
Levels of contact	The project can be clearly shown on the continuum that tracks the levels of contact with and between participating generations.

Scores will then be compiled to give an overall score for each Project.

What do we mean by Impact?

The impact of a project is ***the difference that it makes to people and communities***. This depends on the nature of your project and what you are trying to achieve.

For example:

Project Focus	Examples of short-term Impact
Digital innovation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young and older people are more motivated and enthusiastic about their learning • Younger and older people feel more connected and have increased their time of connection • Participants have developed positive relationships with each other
Tackling ageism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participants have more positive attitudes to people from different generations • Increased empathy towards different generations • Participants feel safer in their community
Social isolation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participants have developed positive relationships with each other • Participants make new friends and feel less isolated • People enjoy more regular social contact with others

For those nominating ideas for the **‘Creative ways to Connect Award** feel free to adapt the criteria to suit the development of a new idea.

What do we mean by evidence?

When we talk about providing evidence of impact, we’re simply trying to find out ***how you know what difference you are making***.

Evidence can be gathered in many ways – some questions could include:

- what did you enjoy most?
- what has been the biggest surprise about interacting with other generations?
- has it changed how you think, feel and act around other generations?
- what difference has the project made to your learning?
- what is the most positive thing you have to say being with people of a different age?

- To staff, family members and volunteers ask questions like what changes have they observed regarding the participants behaviour as a result of interactions?

Other evidence could be collated via personal stories and gathering “before” and “after” information. Measuring impact will help you to know how well you are doing and to help you develop and improve your project.

You will almost certainly be collecting this information as part of your work. All we ask is that you tell us ***what difference you are making*** and ***how you know what difference you are making***, when submitting your nomination.

The Awards will be announced at our National Conference taking place online between Monday 7th – Friday 11th March 2022.

Submit your nominations by 31st January 2022 at 12 noon to [Bella Kerr](#).

Good luck!