

GWT Conference 2022 - Webinar synopsis

Day 1 - Monday 7th March 2022

Linking the Generations in Singapore

Speaker: Associate Professor Thang Leng Leng, National University of Singapore

In the recent decade, we are witnessing more efforts in Singapore to promote intergenerational (IG) bonding. Such opportunities to connect the old and young are important in preventing social isolation, reducing the generation gap and contributing towards the building of a more caring and harmonious all-age friendly society.

This presentation shares developments in Singapore focusing on policies and practices that characterise the intergenerational approaches in the family and community spheres. Through the framework of “intergenerational contact zone” (ICZ), it argues that a truly all-age friendly society is one which makes holistic efforts committing to strengthen both the hardware and software aspects of IG-building with collaboration across sectors for the promotion and sustainability of an ‘intergenerational nation’.

Webinar 1: Young people at the heart of intergenerational work

Speakers: Wanda Mackay, Youth Development Officer, Highlife Highland & Fraser Thomson, Assistant Youth Worker, Cromarty Youth Café

The focus has been on developing positive outcomes for young people through effective intergenerational working. We strive to promote opportunities for older and younger people to come together in purposeful, mutually beneficial activities, building greater understanding and respect between the generations. In this way we aim to develop a stronger sense of an integrated community of all ages.

Young people are at the heart of our intergenerational work. They build trusting positive relationships with the young at heart (though older in age), with unlimited amounts of smiles and laughs on the way. We will share stories about our "Recycled Teenagers" who gained the love and respect of our actual teenagers through many fun activities – cooking, singing, signing, techno and lots more.

The pandemic placed many hurdles in our way as we worked to develop our community of all generations. But, working together, we have been creative in overcoming them all, providing at times outdoor opportunities, virtual online sessions to keep older people connected so they were not lonely and isolated, and doorstep deliveries to help improve health and wellbeing.

Our young people have shown an outstanding contribution and dedication to keeping our older people connected throughout the Covid pandemic. Young people have volunteered over 15,00 hours and gained many awards on the way. They have gained many skills for life and formed many new friendships. Older people have improved their quality of life and the project has given them a huge

boost to their wellbeing. Our older people have built trust and confidence in our young people and they love working with them.

In a nutshell we want the Black Isle in Scotland to be the best place to live and die for our older people, and for our community to be founded on intergenerational understanding and support. We still have work to do, but we have made a heart-warming start!

The National Leadership Network (young people with care experience)

Speakers: Gary Brown and Lisa O’Leary National Leadership Network (young people with care experience)

Gary will share ideas on how the network aims to encourage intergenerational practice in the care experience community and plans to lead a conversation with conference participants on how best to do this.

The National Leadership Network is a Life Changes Trust legacy project. It aims to encourage, signpost and facilitate personal and professional development opportunities and experiences. The Network plans to strengthen personal and organisational relationships and alliances in the national care experience community. It will focus on leadership in all its shapes and forms and will have young people front and centre in paid and voluntary positions determining the path of the Network moving forward.

We believe intergenerational practice in the Network is integral to meeting our aims. People of all ages play such an important role in shaping the Scottish care experience landscape on many levels.

Webinar 2: Keeping people at the heart

Speakers: Amanda Jackson & Maxine Dinnes, Leonard Cheshire in Scotland

Learning from lived experience - This session will focus on sharing stories of intergenerational partnership working and learning in an online community setting. Leonard Cheshire is a leading local to global pan disability charity. We work in partnership with people and communities, to develop more inclusive communities and empower individuals to live, learn and work as independently as they choose. In Scotland we provide a range of supported living and other community-based services, initiatives and programmes.

Speaker: Janis McDonald, The Alliance

Janis will raise awareness of communication barriers, particularly those related to the hidden disability of deafness and other protected characteristics. She will indicate the importance of accessible information and adoption of an inclusive communication approach to work across communication and language barriers. She will explain these terms.

In a human rights approach, information, communication, and language are essential to meet the PANEL Principles and aid any participation in formal care, children’s plans or community planning and social activities. Janice will share different forms of communication and language access options and will look at tools that we as intergenerational practitioners should consider and be aware off when connecting different generations.

Speakers: Ruth Hart & Adam Lodge, Deaf Blind Scotland

The Dare to Dream project established a group of deafblind ambassadors who work together as peers, using their lived experience to ensure deafblind people's experiences and views are heard. This group also created the Manifesto of Deafblind People's Rights, created in consultation across the generations of Scottish deafblind people. This manifesto formed the basis for Deafblind Scotland's 5 Year Strategy and Policy Influencing Plan 2022. Providing training on human rights and empowerment for deafblind and visually impaired people. Ensuring they have opportunities to participate in public life and have a tangible influence on the decisions that affect them. The team will share stories from their Touching Lives project, where deafblind people deliver training to increase awareness of how to recognise and support dual sensory impairment, encouraging inclusive communities and partnership working.

Webinar 3: Professional development; the intergenerational pathway building on from good practice

Speaker: Lorraine George, Learning and Development Officer, GWT and a Winston Churchill Fellow

Lorraine will explore the journey from intergenerational practice to becoming a recognised intergenerational practitioner. Find out what training opportunities are available to you, the networks that can support your intergenerational development, the pathways for children and young people and the quality standards to embed into your practice.

This session will support intergenerational practitioners of all ages in understanding the variety of pathways they can follow with regards to building on their existing learning, as they develop an intergenerational element to their practice or care within the community. We will explore how knowledge changes multi-generational work into intergenerational good practice and how recognised intergenerational quality standards should be embedded into everything we do. As part of building a field of intergenerational practitioners we will then explore the training currently available in the UK and the benefits of networking within a community of intergenerational practitioners.

Day 2 - Tuesday 8th March 2022

Celebrating International Women's Day

Speakers: Kaukab Stewart MSP (the first elected MSP woman of colour) and Zarah Al Hilaly, UN Women Consultant and Law & Journalism Student in Australia

To celebrate International Women's Day, we are inviting women of all ages to come together for an intergenerational conversation to discuss the importance of the day and to share their experiences and challenges and why equality matters in the women's movement.

The theme of the 2022 Women's Day is 'Equality today for a sustainable tomorrow' and it's never been more important to learn from different generations and come together to make a change.

Day 3 - Wednesday 9th March 2022

Volunteers as intergenerational learners, leaders and innovators

Speaker: Professor Matt KAPLAN, Ph.D., Professor of Intergenerational Programs and Ageing at the Pennsylvania State University in the U.S.

One of the challenges that many intergenerational programs face is finding funding and retaining skilled staff members to assist with programme planning, activity facilitation, and programme evaluation. This presentation will provide diverse examples of a multi-platform strategy for tapping into the potential of older adult volunteers for helping to drive the process of intergenerational programme planning and development.

The framework is based on Penn State University's ILI (Intergenerational Leadership Institute) model, which is a certificate-training program designed for older adults (55+) seeking new lifelong learning experiences, intergenerational programming skills, and opportunities to contribute to innovation and change in their communities. Older adult "volunteers," trained to be "leaders," are at the center of the ILI model. They are given leeway in: the types of local organisations they approach as potential project partners, the intergenerational engagement strategies they develop to address priority issues, and the roles they create and negotiate for themselves throughout the programme planning and implementation process.

Webinar 4: Project GOALD (Generating Older Active Lives Digitally): An Intergenerational Co-Production Approach to Health Promotion in Later Life

Speaker: Professor Catherine Hennessy, Chair in Ageing, University of Stirling

Catherine will share details of this exciting 3-year project which is examining the feasibility and impact of bringing older and younger people together to inform and support the design of digital applications for healthy ageing. This seminar workshop will highlight the intergenerational collaboration around GOALD's work to create a digital approach to two activities for promoting health and well-being in later life--intergenerational physical activity and sports-based intergenerational reminiscence. In partnership with 20 intergenerational co-production groups, project researchers and digital designers together with SMEs are engaging in a process to develop ideas for and pilot digital products in these areas. The project's aims related to enhancing intergenerational relations including younger and older persons' perceptions of the other age group will be a key focus of this presentation.

Webinar 5: Practice that transforms intergenerational programmes: A model of theory and evidence informed practice

Speaker: Dr. Shannon Jarrott, Professor of Social Work, Ohio State University, US

Shannon will present a model of intergenerational practice informed by theory and tested over decades of community-based collaborative research with intergenerational practitioners, participants, and scholars. The model builds on Jarrott's and others' research and includes tools for program planning and evaluation

Webinar 6: Ageism, intergenerational tension and solidarity: Future directions to a world for all ages

Speaker: Liat Ayalon, Ph.D., Bar Ilan University, Israel

Liat will discuss the manifestation of ageism in varied contexts and its impact on young and old members of society highlighting instances of intergenerational conflict and tension. Future directions to a world for all ages will be outlined with an emphasis on solidarity between the generations.

Ageism is defined as stereotypes, prejudices, and discrimination towards people because of their age. It can be either positive or negative and directed towards people of any age group. Ageism also impacts the relationship between generations and may result in intergenerational tension and conflict. This session will demonstrate the way ageism is manifested and its impact on intergenerational relationships in varied contexts, ranging from the workplace to climate change. Ways to overcome ageism in order to live in a world for all ages and to foster intergenerational solidarity will be highlighted.

Day 4 – Thursday 10th March 2022

Changing the narrative around intergenerational work

Speaker: Eunice Lin Nichols, Vice President, Encore, USA

Information to follow shortly

Webinar 7: Shared Sites

Speakers: Kevin Smith, CEIS and Allen Lindsay, Knightswood Community SCIO

The story of how a community enterprise is working to stimulate the development of a shared site.

How do you develop a derelict building that you don't own and don't have responsibility for, and turn it from a community liability into a community asset? This is the journey that Knightswood Community SCIO embarked on in 2018, with the help of the social enterprise support company, CEIS.

Allen is the Chairperson of KCSCIO, which manages and operates Knightswood Community Centre in Glasgow, who will introduce the organisation and explain its motivation for undertaking this 'third-party' development role. Kevin is a business adviser with CEIS who will describe the research and development work carried out so far, in taking a speculative approach to developing an intergenerational shared space as a community asset. Also, the current status of the project and how it might now progress, particularly if there are any prospective lead-operators in the audience! Both will highlight the issues and obstacles encountered so far in what remains a 'work in progress' development project.

Speakers: Judy Crabb, Heart of Newhaven Trustee

Heart of Newhaven with Judy Crabb, Trustee will share their journey starting with blue sky thinking back in 2019 on how a community could use a redundant Victorian building (Victoria Primary School). Hear about the Community Asset Transfer process, how we accessed funding from Scottish Land Fund to buy the building and our plans for the opening of 'The Heart' as an intergenerational hub.

Victoria Primary School in Newhaven, Edinburgh is a Grade B Listed three story building with a modern single-story annex. In January 2021, its pupils began term in their new school a few minutes' walk away on Western Harbour. Judy will share their vision, what they did, and how they turned their vision into the reality of an intergenerational hub. Judy will share about meetings with architects, community, and partnership working along with the impact of the pandemic.

Speaker: Robbie Crockatt, City of Edinburgh Council & Carl Baker, Collective Architecture

Robbie will share the Powderhall proposals in Edinburgh which will be one of the first shared sites in Scotland. They include an intergenerational Passivhaus facility that combines an Early Learning and Childcare Centre for 128 children with 27 older person's independent-living homes above. It is hoped that this new approach to place making by City of Edinburgh Council will offer health and wellbeing benefits for residents, and new learning and social opportunities for children attending the nursery. This webinar will introduce the project, setting out its origins and the approach taken by City of Edinburgh Council and by the architects, Collective Architecture in developing the final design.

Webinar 8: Tackling climate change using an intergenerational approach

Speaker: Jon Molyneux, Scottish Green Councillor and FareShare worker

Jon Molyneux will talk about the need to build on COP26 and how the community and council must work together to achieve our climate targets and change through community action, campaigning, and intergenerational practice. Jon is a councillor in the Pollokshields ward in the southside of the city and he is also passionate about food growing, sharing, and community building. Jon also currently works for FareShare which redistributes quality surplus food to groups working with vulnerable people in and around Glasgow and the West of Scotland. Serving meals is a way for organisations to directly engage with their service users and using FareShare food enables them to redirect funds into improving their own services.

Speaker: Maureen Sier, Interfaith Scotland (information to follow shortly)

Speaker: Emily Bird, Magic Me

Emily will be speaking about Magic Me's most recent intergenerational project, bringing older and younger women together to explore the climate emergency and what it means to be a climate change activist. Emily will share project highlights and learning, focusing on the power of intergenerational activism in the climate justice movement.

Webinar 9: It's never too early to bring generations together; learning is lifelong!

Speaker: Lorraine George, Learning and Development Officer, GWT and a Winston Churchill Fellow

Intergenerational learning is primarily perceived as something joyful to do, that improves the well-being of residential adults. The benefits to our youngest children are often, not considered, neglected, or just not understood despite being supported by a growing bank of research.

This session will consider the benefits that come from creating intergenerational learning opportunities for early years children, and why as early years or social care practitioners the question we should be considering is not 'Why would we do this?' but rather 'Why wouldn't we?' We will explore the tools you need to highlight the importance of developing an intergenerational element to your practice and how this impacts positively upon your practice, your business and your community as well as upon the participants.

For more detail on the actual timings and daily topics please check out the conference programme.