

Greater Renfrewshire & Inverclyde Intergenerational Network Meeting

Venue: West College Scotland, Finnart Street, Greenock Ardgowan Room 1

Date and time: Tuesday 17th May 2022, 10am – 12noon

Meeting Report

In Attendance

Callum McLellan (Community Learning & Development, Inverclyde Council), Karen Phin (Calderwood Lodge Nursery, Glasgow), Anna Barclay (Calderwood Lodge Nursery, Glasgow), Margaret Tolan (Mosswood Care Home, Linwood), Susan Craynor (Community Learning & Development, East Renfrewshire), Bella Kerr (GWT), Paul Ferguson (West College Scotland), Ashley Adair (Mosswood Care Home, Linwood).

Apologies

Diana Knox (Greenock Medical Aid Society), George Jack (hc-one), Graham Gardiner (Ardgowan Hospice), Kirsty Cartin (Rashielee Care Home), Isabella McCorkindale (Hillend Day Services), Anna Barclay, Suzy Alexander (Momags Kids Club), Jacqui (Blairmore Nursery School), Eilidh Sanderson (CVS Inverclyde).

1. Welcome and introductions

Informal introductions and some small sharing details about people's own organisations.

2. Conversations around inclusive communities

A general discussion took place with the attendees as this was the first face to face meeting in the area with GWT network for over 2 years. People offered information on their own circumstances even now as far as IG work is concerned there has been little progress for many places to open and receive other groups in and much of the work is still separate. Though attendees expressed hope that things will open more and some managed to continue their IG relationships from a distance such as nursery children waving to older people from a distance and in the garden.

Some group work has begun and **Calderwood Lodge** brought along a wonderful IG Floor book to share the photos of interactions around food and sharing time with recipes and making focaccia (among other things). **Karen and Anna** told the group that they managed to keep relationships alive during lockdown by doing exercise, and they did a Christmas workshop where they all wrapped presents separately then swapped them safely, they also did Easter Bonnets at Easter time, and present day is opening further to allow the children in and they will be taking part in cookery demonstrations with 8 residents from local nursing home, 4 nursery children and 4 school children sharing afternoon tea and forming relationships. Interesting

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evaluation has shown that the children tend to choose the same people to sit with each time and it is noted that relationships are being formed. One example was offered of an older man who joined in painting session one day, at first it looked that he would not join in and he sat for 10 minutes not getting involved, but then he joined in and he was singing and this was the first time the nursing home had heard him say words. They also mentioned use on paint pots / paper, playdough, glitter and just having creative fun while getting to know each other.

Margaret (Mosswood Care Home) pointed out that care homes have space and love children to come in and play with toys, drawings, book bug etc. It was expressed that it can at times be difficult for activity coordinators in nursing care homes to get everything done as there are not a big number of coordinators in the home. They also do work with Gryffe High School and did a Spanish class sharing tea and cake. Its all adapted to suit what people are interested in. Margaret noted that they have lots of space at Mosswood and they have invited mums and children and the children always want to sit on the floor.

Susan (CLD (East Ren)) spoke about their own work spanning across different groups such as youth work, young mums, older people and a conversation took place around Participatory Budgeting (PB) in local council areas (some of the group were unaware what PB was) Susan spoke about locality planning and explained that during lockdown there was not as much adult work carried on. They work with P& with transition work and this links in with care homes. Susan also mentioned the intergenerational Quiz that was used in Renfrewshire and Bella explained that it was still used. Susan also spoke about the Duke of Edinburgh awards for young people and volunteering that could fit in with an intergenerational aspect although the younger people choose what they wish to do. Mearns High School works with 5th and 6th year pupils through behaviour support and learning and links in with local sheltered housing and care homes local to the school.

Callum (CLD (Inverclyde)) mentioned MAN ON Inverclyde (a suicide prevention group who set up in the area for men across generations) Callum mentioned how this may be intergenerational in its relationships, though it is specific groups set up to combat suicide in men in the area. (['Man On!](#) is a suicide prevention peer support service for the men of Inverclyde. We are involved in this due to the impact suicide has had on our own lives through our own experience, friends or family members.) Callum expressed that there is a lot of IG work going on in Inverclyde that is maybe not seen as IG.

Ashley mentioned that there is a similar initiative / group in Johnstone/ Paisley area called ['Kicking ON'](#) which is set up for men and mental health. Ashley and Margaret (Mosswood Care Home) mentioned resources that they use for reminiscence such as a bean bag that is thrown with a question on it, that spurs conversation among older people, they said that many older people cannot remember what they had for breakfast but they can recall whole details of a first date what they wore where they went etc.

Paul (west College Scotland) Spoke about his own work that he is involved in at West College on a Youth Programme for young people getting the opportunity to become college employees, a summer internship programme. It started in August 2021 and now within the college there can be 5 generations working together. Paul offered good examples of different communication types and how some people communicate by text, some by phone and some want to meet face to face. Paul used the term that we sometimes use to explain different generations such as millennials, generation z, or baby boomer generation.

The group generally agreed that there was lack of education on what is acceptable after having discussion about an older person wanting to take pictures of young people singing to send to his wife who was unwell. Discussion around child protection and how one person had to ask a parent not to video children playing football in her child's football team. Our world has changed and there needs to be more information about acceptable practice.

Bella offered some info about **Generation Working Together** resources on website with ideas for use such as case studies and tool kits. Bella gave out a couple of copies of [Storytelling Resource](#) that has recently been put together with PLAY Scotland and GWT. This is a great resource to use you will find it packed with best practice, steps to take you through how to get started and other useful free resources from GWT and Play Scotland, alongside case studies and practitioners' top tips and suggestions.

We know through GWT that Greater Renfrewshire and Inverclyde network consist of almost 300 members and Bella explained that people can go onto the network and reach out to other organisations in their area who may wish to form a partnership and carry out some intergenerational work. [Look at the link here](#) to see the membership and see if you can find someone who would be interested in linking in with you.

3. Updates from Generations Working Together

Thematic Network Meetings

We continue to host the thematic network meetings online via zoom, here are the links, you can read more about them and choose which one would suit you most;

[Ageism Network](#)

Together with our membership GWT will host conversations around how intergenerational approaches can be used to address ageism. The network will meet 3 times each year inviting guests from across the globe to share their expertise knowledge and experience to guide us in identifying ways on how we can deliver programmes and initiatives which will reduce ageism for younger and older people.

[Housing, Places and Spaces Network](#)

Join GWT's new network which will meet 3-4 times per year to share the latest information and resources from the field, facilitate peer learning, and grow the community of intergenerational housing, places and spaces. There is increased

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interest in designing and building housing developments and communities with intergenerational elements being at its core whether its co-housing, multigenerational housing, co-located/shared sites etc. Housing has been increasingly segregated between generations with many different types of specialist housing for older people and new housing being designed and marketed towards specific groups of people. We spend a lot of our time in and around the immediate environments of where we live. These spaces have great opportunities for enabling purposeful and mutually beneficial intergenerational relationships to form which enhance our understanding and respect for people of different generations.

Research Network

Our aim is to connect practitioners, policy makers, academics and researchers who are actively or interested in investigating the impact of intergenerational work/relationships on both younger and older aged participants to come together to discuss and explore the following:

An overview of research studies conducted to date- and the strengths and weaknesses of this work (identifying gaps in the knowledge produced to date). Where demand for new research is coming from – the public sector and policy makers, consumers, practitioners, investors? Are there specific fields within intergenerational research that should be prioritised?

Potential for research project development at multiple sites across the UK and collaboration further afield.

Discussion of methodologies and potential project ideas – is there an appetite to attempt to run a multi-site intergenerational impact assessment project? If so, what might that look like?

Care Home Network

To build on the connections made with care homes across Scotland during the pandemic GWT would like to further develop these links by developing a thematic Care Home Network. The Network will provide an opportunity for care home managers and activity leads to learn more about intergenerational work through supportive conversations with colleagues and the sharing of good intergenerational practice.

The overall aim of the Network is to:

- Raise awareness
- Upskill & train
- Build intergenerational partnerships
- Provide networking & mutual support

Soil Association, Food for Life Get Togethers

GWT work with the Soil Association on Food for Life Get Togethers and we have a My Intergenerational Food Network meeting some time in August. The session are interesting and we have covered junk food versus granny and grandads recipe – eating well, cooking from scratch etc. Bella gave out a resource [Strawberry Wellies](#) and you can find more resources that are free on the [food for life website here](#) Get in touch if you want more information bella@generationsworkingtogether.org or telephone 01415595024

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Eden Project

[The Month of Community](#) is a time when we come together to celebrate everything that makes our communities great. Last year, over 15 million people took part in the first ever Month of Community, so don't miss out, join in this June - whether you want to say cheers to volunteers, connect with your neighbours, support a cause you care about, or simply to say thank you, it's all part of the Month of Community!

On behalf of IFIC Scotland and the ALLIANCE

GWT worked on this and are pleased to share the final report of the discovery project on Wellbeing in Later Life. Overall, 70 organisations and communities in Scotland participated in our virtual Wellbeing in Later Life learning community that involved older people and organisations from different sectors. The knowledge exchange was further enriched by international learning partners and through two webinars on healthy ageing involving people from 22 countries.

Highlights of the 11 interactive sessions and links to relevant resources are contained in [flash reports available here](#).

[The Wellbeing in Later Life report can be accessed here](#)

Intergenerational Training

1. Intergenerational Training Course for Practitioners and Trainers – full day training CPD Accredited (£100 - Full / £70 Concession)

[Dates for training here](#)

2. Short online course FREE with a digital badge to download on completion

[Links to courses here](#)

3. International Certificate in Intergenerational Practice 8 week online course CPD accredited, runs usually twice a year

[Links to further information](#)

**Next meeting: 1st September in
Johnstone Station Seven
Community HUB 1 pm – 3pm
[Book here](#)**

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