

Highlands Intergenerational Network Meeting

Venue: Spectrum Centre Inverness

Date and time: 27th May 10 am until 12 noon

Meeting Report

In Attendance: Asuka McKenna High Life Highland Libraries, Samantha Blyth Dingwall Community Council, Edna Clyne – Rekhy Retired artist – dress designer, Maryan Whyte Whyte Family Trust, Karen Peebles Cantray Bridge College, Sharon Robertson Whyte Family Trust, Amy Kelman The Highland Council,

Apologies: Wanda Mackay, Fraser Thomson, Isabelle McKenzie

1. Welcome and introductions

Informal introductions and some small sharing details about people's own organisations covering many topics from death and dying, to independent living, meeting teenagers in the community and how to get young people involved in community councils.

2. Conversations around inclusive communities

Edna offered the group a story off her own experiences in life including meeting young people in her community and how she has good relations with teenagers who visit her and get involved in recycling and upcycling. Edna brought along goods that she has made from rubbish that would otherwise be discarded. Edna also spoke about a book she has written on the adventures of her dog Zanussi and about dealing with death and the illness of Alzheimer's that her husband lived with.

Others spoke a great length about dealing with such subjects and different stories were shared. Talking about how our younger generations are not prepared for this. We spoke about fewer places in the community for people from different generations to meet and supermarkets could be more intergenerational if staff were offered training on how to connect etc. Discussion looked at rooms where people could sit and chat although it was realised that many community cafés are like this too. People in general were looking for ideas to connect young and old and how to connect them through storytelling or a book group in the library or what could the library do to connect generations around heritage, what could the community council do to attract younger members and keep them. Much discussion about making connections and staying connected. All agreed to look at GWT website and to contact Bella separately with any of their ideas.

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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 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

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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

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

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[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: TBC

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