

Ayrshire & Arran Intergenerational Network Meeting

Venue: CLASP Resource Centre 10 Alexander Place Stevenston KA20 3AE

Date and time: 19th May 1.30 – 3.30pm

Meeting Report

In Attendance:

Nicola Pitt CLASPS Hope project, Martin Quigley Eden Project Communities, Marie Oliver VASA, Gavin Ferguson North Ayrshire Council Connected Communities, Wilma Love East Ayrshire Council, Lyn Carten Westbank Care Home, caroline brown east ayrshire council, Jackie Blair South Ayrshire council, Sandra McMath South Ayrshire Council, Catherine Brannan YES Your Entire Self, john macdonald north ayrshire council connected communities, Kirsty Craig-Paton, Maria Thomson Bellsbank Early Childhood Centre EAC, Shona McDowall Tarbolton Primary School and Bella Kerr GWT.

Apologies: Fiona Brown Craigie Care Home.

1. Welcome and introductions

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

2. Conversations around inclusive communities

Talking about inclusive communities and sharing some ideas and how early years and intergenerational work links community with older and younger generations. Tarbolton Primary have hosted tea dances, burns suppers, knit and sew and gardening club, they are looking into working with men and maybe wood working. Others spoke of befriending and early years and a gardening project at Spring Hill gardens. Also spoke about opportunities for events and IG happenings taking places in green spaces.

The conversation went on to talk about foodbanks and how it had changed how we think and live.

3. Martin Quigley Eden Project

Martin introduced the [Eden Project](#) and gave an overview of national events and about cooking in the community, growing and sharing, sharing books, sharing ideas he explained that the [Eden project is expanding and going to be built in Dundee](#). He also spoke about the Big Lunch and how it is the perfect vehicle for celebration this summer. Martin shared slides he can be contacted to enquire about them if required.

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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 Ayrshire & Arran network consist of almost **328** 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.

4. 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:

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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 offered to send links to resources [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

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

[Links to further information](#)

Next meeting: 25th August 10.30 am 12.30 with venue to be confirmed.

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