

Argyll & Bute Network Intergenerational Meeting

Venue: Three Villages Community Hall, Arrochar

Date and time: 9th June, 2022, 10.30 – 12.30

Meeting Report

In Attendance

Fiona Paterson Generations Communities Group, Colette Toal Crosslet House Care Home, Heather Gillies COSLA, Maureen King Stepping Stones Nursery, Sharon Straub Argyll & Bute HSCP, Rosemary McKenzie DWP, Maureen Evans CLD Live Argyll, Bella Kerr GWT, Lorraine George GWT

Apologies

Alex Wrens WDHSCP, Jesamine Griffin Cornerstone, Carly Smith Cornerstone, Marjory Barton Beechwood,

1. Welcome and introductions

Special thanks to Fiona Paterson for keeping everyone involved whilst we were late as Bella got a flat tyre and had to wait on AA. Welcomes and intros was a bit later than intended.

2. Conversations around inclusive communities

We looked at gestalt images and held a discussion about our communities and how often young and older people do not meet each other. The gestalt images acted as an icebreaker to get people to talk about what they could see and how sometimes we just see one picture when we first meet someone and can judge on appearance. People spoke about a mixture of intergenerational learning and working with children and adults.

Fiona shared with the group that the people she works with managed to keep in contact and meet together in the hall.

We spoke about other projects that are running and how they could be intergenerational such as Bothy walks and bikes and electric bikes.

Action Bella :A befrienders organisation in Dunoon which Bella will link in with to invite along to a future meeting when the meetings take place in Dunoon.

Colette spoke about her work over the past 5 years in a council run care home, Crosslet House, they had no visitors over covid and have been careful about young people coming into the home. They have had a meeting a few weeks ago with children face to face – P3/4 this year and they are 'excited about it'. They are being mindful about the distance (keeping space between young and old) and they have a

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large garden with 3 courtyards. They are planning poetry, dancing, songs and sharing. Recently the school were awarded a National Educational Award for Scotland (Crosslet Primary). They responded to a request from the BBC about a lady who had her 100th birthday in Hector House Care Home. The children had the confidence to talk to the film crew and the lady, Edna, was interviewed by Billy Connolly on BBC. They made it through to the last 3 finalists. Colette spoke about dealing with death and that their pen pals project came across someone who had died and it was explained to the children that the person had been unwell.

Colette also mentioned 4 school pupils on work placement from college getting a bit of experience and the placement helps with their learning with a reflective account of nursing and assisting.

Fiona spoke about the Generation Group connecting with others outside in their community and older people meeting with others from a different generation. Fiona offered a brilliant example of an activity to get people talking, put questions in balloons and people throw balloon to someone they pop it and ask the question.

Other examples included Basic IT with young people from Oban High School and the work has been carried out with children from two groups. It was difficult to find the right balance and some young people got more out of it (the young people who maybe had more issues got more out of it but they did not always turn up whereas the other group always did but maybe did not gain so much). Some of the young people from one of the groups had issues with social interaction and it was seen that they did not know how to interact and express themselves and the link with the older people gave them the satisfaction of helping someone else. The older people are most appreciative.

Group mentioned that Argyll TSI were working on a 6 month project with under 25s around mentors in business where people received £30 on top of their benefits.

We looked at **Matt Kaplans levels of interaction**, the soil associations growing ideas and chatting about food, ideas for intergenerational activities and we looked at circle of self to take away and get ideas for a project.

People agreed to get back in touch with Bella with what they plan to do and keep in touch and utilise the website and ideas.

Group offered suggestion of using TSI HUB in Inverary for next network meeting.
Bella will explore this.

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.

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We know through GWT that Argyll & Bute consist of almost **162** 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 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.

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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

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

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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: 13th September 10.30 – 12.30
Inveraray HUB TSI, 27a Front Street, Inveraray, PA32 8UY

[Book here](#)

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