

Lanarkshire Intergenerational Meeting

Venue: Airdrie Town Hall, Stirling Street, Airdrie, ML6 0AS

Date and time: 14th June, 2022, 10.30 – 12.30

Meeting Report

In Attendance

Bella Kerr GWT, Carolyn Hamilton Community Learning and Development, Sharon Granger Older & Active in East Kilbride, Deborah McArthur North Lanarkshire Council, Laura McIver North Lanarkshire Council, Denis O'Keefe Voice of Experience Forum, Elizabeth Bowie, Margaret Wilson, Ann Gibbons, Megan McTeggart A Wilderness Way, Agnes Coleman NLC health & Social Care, Nicola Welsh Getting Better Together.

Apologies

Niamh Mullin South Lanarkshire Council, Susan Drummond CACE & North Locality Consortium, Laura Biggart Befriend Motherwell, Donna McCallum Equal Futures, Eileen MacPhee NHS Lanarkshire, Elaine McAlinden Glenboig Development Trust, Sue Perks Barclay House Care Home, Jennifer Newman NHS Lanarkshire.

1. Welcome and introductions

Bella made introductions and a brief background about Generations Working Together. People started to introduce themselves.

Sharon from **Healthy and Active in East Kilbride** explained that they used to work with older people but now its 18 + , they have a community café, alternative therapies, bus services. Sharon is new to IG work and interested in finding out more.

Agnes works with **North Lanarkshire Council** and Adults with disabilities she has been involved in some IG work and has worked with a primary school and is interested in being involved in more IG. She has access to a plot in the area and is actively looking for volunteers to be involved.

Carolyn North Lan CLD is a home link worker, and she works with people in a family learning centre from birth to 5 years and then with all ages across she community. She has been in touch with GWT, and she has been involved in all sorts of IG work. She was awarded the Sustainability Awards for connecting with communities.

The team from [A Wilderness Way](#) Transforming children's lives through a unique approach to residential care, health and education. They introduced their work and they have not been involved in any IG work but attended to find out more. Bella suggested it would be good for them to join GWT it is free (Bella will contact them to look at the memberships). They all expressed the following- They would like to see

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young people having more opportunity to meet with others in South Lanarkshire. Young people get loneliness too. They are interested in building a community. One person gave an example from a personal view of seeing people in the prison service and how people often do not get the help that they need. The team at A Wilderness Way are going to look at IG work and see what they can do to connect their young people to the local community intergenerationally.

Nicola from [Getting Better Together Shotts](#) is interested in IG work and looking at how to improve the mental health and wellbeing of everyone. She has not been involved in IG work and plans to start a programme. Spoke about how some IG happens by chance such as walking football, she would like to set up more and is looking for more information on activities. They have transport and have some work with nurseries and care homes and they have access to a garden.

Denis from [Voices of Experience North Lanarkshire](#) works with people 60+ and looks at effective communication and open consultations. He covers health and social care for older people consultation now and will look see if there are any gaps in IG work that can be added to this. During COVID he did a newsletter twice monthly and covered areas such as when blue badges run out etc. They also offered training on tablets, training on MIFI and 22 older people have been trained. They can now use pay pal, buy online. They use an asset-based approach and Denis is interested in doing some IG work. He has been involved in stuff in past and is interested in setting something up between younger and older people maybe more with teenagers.

Debbie and Laura both from **North Lanarkshire Council Arts Department** offered information about the service that they offer to groups and communities to widen art its about what people are going to do. The artist way is asking people to show them and [painting and drawing is away of connecting with community. They put on classes over past few years with an open programme. They are aware that barriers can exist with fees charged for classes and they are open to partnership work with maybe another organisation meeting them halfway with fees. Their remit is young people, but they can see how an IG programme would work well. Talked about possibilities of using art and how it has worked well with a men's group they have worked with. Talked about place, people and power and how important it is to find out about the history of an area and what people want to do. They are keen to consult to find this out. Group talked about exit strategies and the importance of having one.

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.

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We looked at Matt Kaplans levels of IG engagement and had a brief discussion about this we also talked about how placing children in front of older people at xmas to sing songs is not truly intergenerational, it cannot be something that is done at people, but it is done with them.

We talked about

Case studies and resource that are free.

Food and how it has become such a big factor.

Strawberries and how we could use the activity as a conversation starter.

Theatre in a van.

Available plots of land.

Pot of money with greenspace planted egg boxes with seeds.

Sunflower competition during lockdown.

We then went on to do a small activity (20 minutes) on planning an intergenerational activity. People had a look at this and feedback was that they had not thought about all the planning and it would be useful to think about. Bella suggested that people should think about the training in IG work as this would help them to plan and even to write funding for a project.

One idea that came out of the planning exercise was to work on the plot of land they have but to film it and show others – Viewpark Allotments North Lanarkshire and see if anyone is looking for volunteers. A young person can utilise their own skills to make the video and this is a way of gaining skills and doing something that is of interest to them.

Another idea was a young person being able to put in a raised garden bed in an older persons garden. They would involve Men's Sheds / Sheila's Sheds to cut wood and organise the young person with seeds etc. The young person could get veg and offer maintenance and the older person offer a piece of their garden to the young person.

Other idea greenspace – they have a pocket of funding and would like to do a simple exercise potting strawberries and sharing. Also mention of Calderglen Park and folklore, mindfulness, getting people outdoors, greenspace, sensory garden.

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 **Lanarkshire** consist of almost **279** 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

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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.

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](#)

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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

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

[Dates for training here](#)

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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:

Wednesday 14th September 2022, 2:00pm - 4:00pm
Larkhall and District Volunteer Group Registry House, 55 Victoria Street, Larkhall,
ML9 2BL

[Book here](#)

There will also be a meeting in Biggar on Wednesday 14th September 2022, 10 am – 12 noon Venue to be confirmed

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