

## Edinburgh & West Lothian Intergenerational Network Meeting Notes

Meeting Held 6<sup>th</sup> September 2023, 10am-12noon

Sight Scotland Veterans, Linburn Centre, West Lothian



**Attendees:** Louisa Turner, GWT, Alison Hennessy, University of Stirling, Gemma Wright, Vintage Vibes, Ken Greenshields, Link Group, Mary Johnston, Sight Scotland Veterans

**Apologies:** Hetty Malcom-Smith, Scottish Older Peoples Association (SOPA), Lorraine Bruce, Sight Scotland Veterans, Jacqui Salter, Sight Scotland Veterans

### Introductions

We introduced ourselves by undertaking a Penny Activity. The penny activity was a demonstration of an intergenerational activity icebreaker. The conversations which came from the activity would help practitioners with their planning of future activities.

### Intergenerational Planning Activity

An intergenerational planning tool was then followed to create a fictitious project. Those in attendance were divided into groups and met with people whom they did not previously know to plan a project.

During the process the Matt Kaplan levels of intergenerational contact was explained. The levels one to seven demonstrate the various contacts which an intergenerational project could have. Reassurance was given stating that level 1 was not lesser than level 5 or that

the aim was to reach level 7. The important part is to understand that it's not meaning that the higher-level number was better but that our own situations may always remain at a certain lower level due to the circumstance/environment in which we deliver intergenerational projects. The most important part is the quality of intergenerational relationships which take place at each level. Though we can move through the levels too.

## **Local Network Updates**

**Edinburgh and West Lothian Network is without a coordinator. If you feel that you would like to volunteer your time with GWT to help coordinate Network meetings – arrange a venue and encourage people to attend, then please do get in touch with Louisa – [louisa@gwt.scot](mailto:louisa@gwt.scot)**

**GWT's 9<sup>th</sup> AGM will be held in Brunswick House, Wilson Street, Glasgow on Monday 13/11/23 from 4pm – 5pm. Each Network area has two votes, and we are looking for two people from the Edinburgh & West Lothian Network to vote on behalf of members.**

If people are unable to attend on the day they can still vote online. We will be having a couple of changes to our constitution. Please let Louisa know if you would be interested in becoming a voting member. Before the AGM some paperwork will be forwarded to voting members to read over.

**At the meeting** - Louisa shared about her role within GWT as part of the National Lottery Community Fund Creating Intergenerational Communities Programme Pilot and how she was engaging with communities across Scotland to trial out a new intergenerational Guidance Tool to support practitioners when delivering an intergenerational project. Louisa explained that Sight Scotland Veterans was one of the organisations who would be involved with the Pilot.

Mary shared that she was new to post and found the intergenerational connections an exciting prospect. Mary shared about the links with Firhill High School and how the young people had visited the centre with the veterans going to visit the school soon to enable a two-way interaction. She said the veterans had got a lot from the young people visiting and the some of the young people asked when they could return as they left the building.

Conversations flowed between everyone, and a number of topics were discussed.

Alison shared about her research mentoring work and the challenges she faced with older volunteers and the young people. Discussions and advice was given from everyone, sharing their experience. After the discussions Alison was keen to step up a steering group to support the intergenerational project.

We shared about some obstacles in setting up a digital intergenerational project for basic skills and confidence building. Examining whether there was demand or a need for such a project remembering to consult with potential participants on what they would like to do rather than assume that it would be a good thing for them. Regarding digital courses we discussed the home opportunities for people to practice on their own equipment and whether it was practical for them to fully engage.

Gemma shared that Vintage Vibes had begun a relationship with Corstorphine Primary and was in the middle of a staged process of the children getting to know what it would be like to be around older people and discussing stereotypes.

**Hetty Malcom-Smith, from SOPA, could not attend the Network meeting but wanted to share: -**



**The Scottish Older People's Assembly (SOPA)** successfully submitted a bid to the Tudor Trust in 2021 to develop Age-friendly Communities across Scotland and work started in earnest in early 2022. SOPA is leading on this work to stimulate local and national action to achieve better outcomes for people in and approaching later life, using the World Health Organisation (WHO) Age-friendly Communities Framework.

**What is an Age-friendly Community?**

An Age-friendly Community is somewhere where local people come together to make life better for the people who live there, particularly as they age. These places make it possible for people to continue to stay living in their homes, participate in the activities that they value, and contribute to their communities, for as long as possible. Being Age-friendly means designing services and facilities with older people, not for them.

South Lanarkshire Council became the first council in Scotland in June 2023 to be classed as an Age Friendly Community.

**Next meeting will be in 2024 with date/venue to be confirmed. If you would like to host a meeting, please do contact Louisa – [louisa@gwt.scot](mailto:louisa@gwt.scot).**

**Keep a look out on the e-newsletters and website for thematic network dates and the monthly online intergenerational drop-in clinics.**

## **Generations Working Together National Updates**

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### **1. Intergenerational Roadshows in 2024**

We are changing the format of our usual annual conference and will not be hosting an International Conference in 2024. We will instead be moving to a bi-annual conference, alternating with Generations United in the USA, the first of which will take place in 2026. In place of our conference, in 2024 we plan to host a series of roadshows across Scotland. Look out for the information and dates that will follow in the coming months. We are keen to form partnerships with local organisations and local councils to open the roadshows and explore intergenerational work in our communities across Scotland. The roadshows will be hosted in:

- Highlands – [contact Bella](#)
- Ayrshire & Arran – [contact Bella](#)
- Dumfries & Galloway – [contact Bella](#)
- Glasgow - [contact Ruairidh](#)
- Grampian – [Contact Ruairidh](#)
- Dundee – [Contact Louisa](#)

More info to follow on this. Please get in touch if you wish to take part or find out more.



## **2. Excellence Awards 2024**



Here pictured are the award winners for 2023. Super well done to them all for the amazing intergenerational work that they are involved in. The awards will be open this year and information will be sent out soon.

[Look here to see this years information.](#)

## **3. Community Knowledge Fund Research**

The Community Knowledge Fund allowed Generations Working Together the time to explore community safety and looking at intergenerational solutions to bring generations together in our communities and test if doing so would alleviate perceived fear of crime. The funding was made available through the UKRI and administered by the Young Foundation.

[Read more about it and watch the short film.](#)

## **4. Global Intergenerational week 2023: 24<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup> April 2024**

We had a really successful Global Intergenerational Week 2023 (GIW), which you can read all about in our [2023 Impact Report](#). The week-long campaign will now take place on the same dates each year. GIW week looks to inspire individuals, groups, organisations, local/national government, and NGOs to fully embrace intergenerational practice, connecting people of all ages especially the younger and older generations. Information for GIW24 will be available soon.

## **5. Thematic Network Sessions**

The thematic sessions in Ageism, Intergenerational Housing Places and Spaces, Research and The Care Home Network continue to take place.

[Look on our website for future dates.](#)

## **6. Online Intergenerational Drop-in Clinics**

To support the growth of grassroots intergenerational projects and to continue the momentum of Global Intergenerational Week, GWT are opening a monthly online intergenerational drop-in clinic, to enable people to find out more about intergenerational work. Clinics will be led by Lorraine George, GWT Learning & Development Officer.

Drop-in clinics will start on Tuesday September 5th at 12 noon and will also run on October 4<sup>th</sup> and November 13<sup>th</sup>. Come and join the intergenerational movement.

[More information and booking details can be found on the events page here](#)

## **7. Creating Intergenerational Communities Programme**

Excitement abounds as Scotland (GWT) engages communities to formally sign a Partnership Understanding to be part of the Creating Intergenerational Communities Programme Pilot.

Networking and training have been taking place across Scotland, England, Wales, and Northern Ireland, engaging with diverse communities who are planning intergenerational connections, whilst following the Creating Intergenerational Communities Programme Pilot.

Intergenerational practitioners participating with the Pilot will receive support to deliver projects whilst following a Guidance Tool which includes testing of intergenerational Quality Indicators and reflecting upon their practice. To keep up to date with the progress of the Pilot visit <https://generationsworkingtogether.org/news/creating-intergenerational-communities>

## **8. Age Friendly Communities**

The Scottish Older People's Assembly (SOPA) successfully submitted a bid to the Tudor Trust in 2021 to develop Age-friendly Communities across Scotland and work started in earnest in early 2022. SOPA is leading on this work to stimulate local and national action to achieve better outcomes for people in and approaching later life, using the World Health Organisation (WHO) Age-friendly Communities Framework. [Read more here](#)

## **Resources**

### **[New tools for measuring impact of intergenerational work](#)**

The World Health Organisation has published two relevant evidence and gap maps on reducing social isolation and loneliness, which would prove useful to intergenerational practitioners seeking evidence to boost funding bids.

### **[Play and Storytelling: Connecting Generations \\*suite of resources\\*](#)**

PLAY and STORYTELLING are for every age, supporting connection, learning, tradition, culture, health and wellbeing when used intergenerationally. The golden strands of play and

story connect kith and kin, as well as build strong connections 'from cradle to grave' so Play Scotland and Generations Working Together have developed this suite – or family – of resources to support the building of intergenerational connections and best practice.

### **Growing Together Naturally case study**

Childminders & Grandfriends Forest School, Torbay

This intergenerational project was funded by Connecting Actively to Nature and Orchard Forest School. Particularly during the last couple of years, with the pandemic, we learnt very quickly that our over 50's group had been expressing how much that they were missing the physical contact with their younger family members due to the lack of contact and ability to travel up and down the country to visit, so we decided to pilot an intergenerational approach in an outdoor space.

### **9 Standards in intergenerational work**

This document explains the 9 Standards in intergenerational work written by Sanchez, Clyde & Brown (2019)

## **Intergenerational Training Courses**

### **International Certificate in Intergenerational Practice (ICIP)**

This course now sits within GWT's own Moodle platform however we continue to run and develop the course in close partnership with the Macrosad Chair of Intergenerational Studies, Professor Mariano Sanchez at the University of Granada.

The dates and discounts for 2024 are:

ICIP 5            25% discount for early birds

**16<sup>th</sup> January 2024– 11<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

ICIP 6            25% discount for early birds

**7<sup>th</sup> May 2024 – 1<sup>st</sup> July 2024**

### **Short online courses**

1. What is Intergenerational Work?
2. Overcoming Ageism through an Intergenerational Lens
3. Planning your Intergenerational Project

4. Intergenerational Housing, Places and Spaces
5. Measuring the Impact of Intergenerational projects

### **Intergenerational Training (1 day)**

Edition 3 - Our one day introductory training course has recently been refreshed and updated bringing new activities and topics to the fore.

Costs: £70 – Concession: GWT Member / Third Sector Under 250K / GWT Member

Public £100 – Full: Non-member/Private/Public

Dates:

- Wednesday 25th October – Fife
- Thursday 26th October – Bishops Briggs
- Thursday 9th November – Lanark
- Tuesday 28th November - Online

### **Workplace (2.5 hours)**

Age Awareness Training for Intergenerational Teams (Workplace)

The training is based on the latest academic research in intergenerational practice and will be delivered on-site by GWT's expert staff.

Up to 16 participants per session Cost £500.00


**A Scotland wide online Winter Meeting for all networks will be held January 2024 with the date TBC.**


### **Funding Opportunities**


The funds below have been shared from Connection Coalition, Jo Cox Foundation, September 2023 Newsletter.


<https://www.jocoxfoundation.org/>





 Asda Foundation's Empowering Local Communities Grant. Applications open: 28 August to 3 November. Funding for activities & events: Before 1 March 2024.

 The Happiness Fund is available to enable and support projects which improve mental health, wellbeing, inclusion, learning and skills development in local communities. Applications open 4 Sept and close 6 Oct.

 The Linnean Society's Our Local Nature Grant scheme provides young people with an opportunity to take the lead on projects that involve their local nature. Grant applications for 2023 are open until 22 Oct.

 The KFC Foundation Community Grants Programme is for work that helps young people to create firm foundations, by addressing their needs through early intervention.

 The Foyle Foundation Small Grants Scheme is designed to support charities working at grass roots and local community level, in any field, across a wide range of activities.

 The Edge Fund is for work with the primary objective of creating long-term change in society by addressing the causes of injustice and inequality.