

## Scotland's Generations Working Together National Conference 1<sup>st</sup> October 2009

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The idea behind the conference was to celebrate the great things that generations can do together. Intergenerational working belongs to this generation as people live longer and children are increasingly able to know their grandparents and great grandparents.

Fergus Ewing (the MSP for Community Safety) highlighted the need to learn about and understand the good things that are happening locally and to educate young people to ensure that they know what is right. It is also important to provide young people with more affordable and accessible activities. Currently money taken from drug dealers is used to fund this work and has so far reached £30million.

Fergus Ewing also discussed how intervention and diversion are needed to help young people to escape their problems and get back on track. To highlight this point Mr Ewing used the example of Street Pastors - <http://www.streetpastors.co.uk/>

The conference highlighted a number of projects –

### **North Edinburgh Intergenerational Project (NIPS)**

Run by Sacro and funded internally by Sacro and Lloyds TSB Foundation for Scotland, this project is aimed at reducing the intergenerational conflict in North Edinburgh and increasing the understanding. They are focussed on feeling safe in the community and looking for solutions to misunderstandings between generations.

Initially started with consultation between the young and older people in North Edinburgh, the project has established that the hopes, fears and aspirations of the generations are the same and that they must look for

ways to communicate effectively. This is done through mediation, events and conflict workshops and the development of regular exchange.

Problems have arisen through young people hanging around in groups which makes the older generation feel intimidated which leads to conflict. The young people feel like there is very little to do in the area and are therefore forced to just hang around. NIPS gives them a focus and has resulted in increased communication and understanding between the generations.

### **Youth for Old Bikes (YOBS)**

Established in 2004, this project is aimed at promoting health, bringing young people together and increasing the quality of the intergenerational relationships in the area.

The project is based in Drongan, Ayrshire and it is an area with very little to offer young people; to such an extent that many leave the area. The group was formed through consultation with young people through a volunteer group called the Drongan Health Initiative. The project was then developed to combat negative youth stereotypes which were borne out of a high youth crime rate and unemployment. The scheme helps to produce role models for the community.

The volunteers (young people), are given a bike for one week which they are able to use for any purpose. On the Saturday they are required to then use this bike to deliver fresh fruit and vegetables to the elderly. The service is considering expansion to include those who have recently left hospital. The produce is negotiated with local shops and purchased at cost price.

This project has won the Philip Lawrence award and they are hoping that other communities can adopt the idea.

### **Playbusters**

This project was originally set up in the East End of Glasgow to facilitate safe play for children but has expanded over the years owing to community need. They have also been awarded significant Lottery money (£294,278 over 5 years).

Playbusters looks to break down the intergenerational boundaries through a variety of fun workshops, visits and also through sharing of skills – examples used included the older people teaching the young people knitting, and young people teaching IT skills.

It was interesting to note that this project has been funded by Robertson and the Tudor Trust.

### **Queen Margaret University; Intergenerational Kitchen**

The idea behind this project is to help older people who live alone to eat well and is called Recipe for Life.

A practice development phase of this project identified that many older people eat bland and unexciting diets with barriers being access to facilities and also nutrition.

The kitchen focuses on snacks which are often recommended for frailer older adults as a way of encouraging greater food intake and there is little information available about the likes and dislikes of older people. A consultation event (afternoon tea) was held. This event was attended by young people from 3 schools as well as older people. The pupils had received three sessions in school around the ideas of dignity and respect; nutritional requirements in later life and snack development before attending. They prepared the food for the afternoon tea.

The event was then used to find out about the young people and older adults likes and dislikes and in doing so broke down barriers in communication and understanding.

A full report and evaluation of the results is available at:

[http://www.qmu.ac.uk/copa/publications/research\\_reports.htm](http://www.qmu.ac.uk/copa/publications/research_reports.htm)

### **Singing Together – Naturally**

[www.singtogether.org](http://www.singtogether.org)

Delivered by SCOTCIP, this project encourages people to come together and sing. It began in 2007 in Dumfries and Galloway with pilots in Cromarty, Carnoustie and Arbroath, this is a free service.

Part of the real value is in the post event “get together” which result in community cohesion.

The projects have always been popular with 40 attending the first session and at the last session 96 – this is close to capacity for the project.

## **Working Rite**

[www.workingrite.co.uk](http://www.workingrite.co.uk)

An employability organisation with 9 projects and a 75% success rate of working with young offenders.

The project takes young people away from their peer group and puts them with self employed tradesmen.

The projects work directly out of housing associations and are developing a "rite of passage" approach, whereby the young person is judged by their responses to challenges and tasks that develop them into adults.

Working Rite believes that there is an encouragement in society for young people to stay in their peer groups from an early age. Working Rite takes them out of this comfort zone and into the adult world.



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