



Centre for
Intergenerational
Practice

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Editorial

Happy New Year and welcome to the Winter edition of the newsletter, and what a cold snowy start to the year it is!

The Centre's conference in October, in partnership with National Youth Agency, was a great success with thought provoking speeches and presentations, plus a charismatic conference chair. You can read more in the news article below and view information and images from the day on the [CIP website](#).

With the ever growing interest in intergenerational practice it's really great to see that a volunteer leading an intergenerational project has been recognised for their work and won a national award; see the Talk Talk unsung hero award article. Also the Museums Libraries and Archives are supporting an intergenerational learning award this year; more information below.

Please take time to check out the resources section, there is a new practical guide from the Beth Johnson Foundation to resources around evaluating intergenerational projects. A candid review on a resource that seeks to ensure that young people get their voices heard, supported by adults, confronts adult views of young people; our thanks to Pip McKeever, North Tyneside Council for taking the time out to analyse this resource.

Five organisations have recently been awarded the Approved Provider Standard, and we send our congratulations to them; read more in the article.

Please keep us updated on your intergenerational projects so that we can continue to pass on ideas and good practice; our thanks to everyone who has contributed to this issue.

Best wishes for 2010

Louise & the CIP team

Louise Middleton
National Development Manager

News and Events

Intergenerational Conference Back to the Future: Networks for All Ages

So what did you miss!

Over 150 people attended the joint conference with the National Youth Agency in October. Delegates attending ranged from volunteers and practitioners through to government officials and policy makers. We were incredibly fortunate to work with London Youth and engage with one of their young people to chair the conference. Siana Bangura did a fantastic job of chairing and managing the proceedings, and was a truly inspiring chair. All but one of the workshops involved volunteers, younger and/or older, in their presentations with one being delivered by two volunteers. It was stimulating to have presenters and delegates ranging in age from 9 to 81 attending the day, making it a multi-generational conference indeed!



The conference brought together the learning from the National Youth Agency [Youth Intergenerational Pilot Programme](#) and the early findings from the [Generations Together](#) programme. The ever increasing interest in intergenerational practice attracted an impressive panel of keynote speakers including; Baroness Sally Greengross, Anne Weinstock Head of the Youth Task Force and Thomas Fischer Senior Researcher involved in European intergenerational work.

To view the conference programme, including speaker presentations, and conference images go to the CIP website: <http://www.centreforip.org.uk/default.aspx?page=24363>

Approved Provider Standard (APS)

Congratulations to Magic Me, Elders Voice and Liverpool Primary Care Trust for successfully gaining the award in November; and to London Borough of Camden and Age Concern Kensington & Chelsea for successfully gaining the award in December. The APS is a UK benchmark for organisations providing intergenerational programmes. It has been designed and developed by the Centre for Intergenerational Practice (CIP) to provide a realistic and credible basis for assessing core practice by organisations of any size, and to take account of the rich diversity of intergenerational programmes.

The Centre will provide support to organisations throughout the process, which is free of charge; the cost of processing applications is £60. For further information check out the [website pages](#) or contact Louise louise@bjf.org.uk

Talk Talk award for unsung digital heroes

East Midlands region won by intergenerational project volunteer!

The Intergenerational Project Worker for Derbyshire County Council (DCC), Gill Clarke, nominated Gill Farrington of Swadlincote 50+ forum for the above award – Gill not only won the East Midlands regional prize but went on to be the overall national winner, winning a whopping £10,000 to extend intergenerational IT projects in the area plus free broadband for 18 months!

Gill arranges IT classes in local schools, giving older members of the community the chance to learn about the benefits of digital technology from pupils, whilst helping to break down barriers between different generations. For more information check out the DCC

website: http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/community/helping_all_ages/news/default.asp and the Talk Talk website: <http://www.talktalk.co.uk/digitalheroes>

Intergenerational Learning Award - Museums Libraries and Archives

(MLA) As part of the Adult Learners' Week Awards, in 2010, MLA is sponsoring an Intergenerational Award for intergenerational learning in a museum, library or archive.

The NIACE definition of intergenerational learning includes learning between different generations and learning within the family through activities which:

- involve two or more generations
- involves different generations learning from each other and/or learning together
- may or may not involve members of the same family

Nominations for all the 2010 Adult Learners' Week Awards, including the MLA Intergenerational Award, can be submitted on paper or online via the Adult Learners' Week website at <http://www.niace.org.uk/alw/nominations/default.htm>

The Adult Learners' Week website contains detailed guidance on completing the 4 page forms at <http://www.niace.org.uk/alw/nominations/guidance-notes.htm>

The deadline for nominations is **5pm Friday 29th January 2010**.

Vetting and Barring Scheme

The Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA) has released the latest official Guidance in relation to the introduction of the initial phase of the Vetting & Barring Scheme (VBS).

Increased safeguards have now been introduced under the Vetting and Barring Scheme, from October 12th 2009. To read more visit <http://www.isa.gov.org/> The guidance document can be accessed: http://www.isa.gov.org.uk/PDF/VBS_Guidance.pdf

Intergenerational Project Photography Shoot

Pieces of Sky were inundated with responses from organisations wanting to take up the chance of having their Intergenerational Project documented free of charge. It has been announced that a project based in Ledbury, Herefordshire has been successful; the project is linked to the library services. The project will be looking at examining the challenges of teenage life today and as it was fifty years ago. Pieces of Sky will follow the project over a period of time to produce a suite of images which can be used in promoting and celebrating their work: [Pieces of Sky Photography](#)

Events

Intergenerational Network Meetings

South West – Thursday 28th January

London – Thursday 11th February at Studio 3 Arts

North East – Wednesday 24th February at Norham Community College, North Shields

Yorkshire and Humber – Tuesday 2nd March, Bradford

North West – Wednesday 10th March, Runcorn

West Midlands – Tuesday 27th April at St George's Post 16 Centre

Do you want the chance to **network**, build links in your area, **learn** of intergenerational projects and **share** your experiences – this is your opportunity to do just that! The focus of network meetings is to build people's knowledge on projects and their delivery, offer an opportunity to discuss and improve intergenerational work, network and engage with a

range of practical, policy and research work. Attendees can find out more about topical issues, latest projects and resources, speak to presenters and find out the latest developments on a national and local level.

The Networks are for anyone with an interest in intergenerational practice, to share information and find solutions to problems in an informal environment. The regional structure is a guide; people are welcome to attend meetings outside of the geographical area they are working in. Contact [April Lewis](#), Regional Development Worker, for further information or [book now](#). If you interested in hosting a meeting please contact [April](#) to discuss and find out what is involved.

Silver Surfers' Day 2010, Friday 21st May

This event focuses on developing and improving I.T skills for those over 50 to build confidence in the use of internet, blogs and email for social networking. Silver Surfer Day taster days are held on various locations. To find out more on how you can hold an event visit <http://www.digitalunite.com/> <http://ssdflyer2010.notlong.com>



Resources

Evaluating Intergenerational Projects: A Practical Guide to Useful Resources

The Beth Johnson Foundation Centre for Intergenerational Practice (CIP) has produced a new guide, which is a practical support for people involved in intergenerational projects. The document is designed to assist those who are seeking to evidence the impact their work makes or starting to think about this process. The guide can be downloaded free of charge from the CIP website: <http://www.centreforip.org.uk/default.aspx?page=23489>

Empowering young people: adults as allies - Review by Pip McKeever

Young people and adults within the Diversity Hub of the Arts council, England, wrote this publication. The introduction explains concisely, the current national and international focus on the welfare and rights of children and young people and the many initiatives that 'ensure children and young people can get their voice out and heard, and which aim to ensure their participation and empowerment' This quote captures the essence of this booklet, because it aims to share their knowledge with adults who are working or ready to start work with young people. The message is that adults should not only be enabling participation, but also be conscious that they ensure that young people are at the centre of that process. This builds dialogue and authentic relationships across different generations.

Each chapter introduces theory and concepts, activities and case studies that challenge the reader's current approaches. It encourages reflection of the reader's own childhood experiences of oppression from adults and how 'oppression' of younger people affects their relationships with adults, who are seemingly there to enable participation. The authors' give insight into how adult approaches can often have the opposite effect and sabotage their role as 'allies'.

One intergenerational volunteer reviewed the document and commented that "I have become more conscience now about being receptive to our young people. I have learned to adjust a bit, to look at myself and rein myself in a little bit. In our groups I shall be more aware of respecting contributions and not belittling the children. I want to let young people grow."

The publication progresses, to open the readers eyes to how stereotypical views of young people by individual adults can ultimately lead to institutional oppression and of universal acceptance of harmful adult solutions to “problem” youth in our society.

The terminology used is specific to this field of work and therefore words such as ‘adulthood,’ ‘allies’ ‘mistreatment’ and ‘oppression’ may be a little off putting. However, the text addresses the origins of the terms used.

To conclude, this document will make you feel uncomfortable. It is thought provoking and challenges our own approaches towards young people in our lives. Adults are often unaware that their approach is undermining the growth of young people, because this same behaviour happened to those adults as children and is seen therefore as ‘part of growing up’. This acceptance is misguided. If this is therefore negative learned behaviour, that is being passed down the generations, then this document should be classed as “essential reading.” Adults should face the discomfort, learn new strategies and move on towards becoming proactive allies in championing young people’s role in our society.

For more information you can check out the website <http://www.diversityhub.org.uk/> or contact Val Carter: 0116 222 9975 val@diversityhub.org.uk

Altogether Now:

The role and limits of civil society associations in connecting a diverse society

The summary report of the recent NCVO/ Carnegie UK Trust ‘Bridging’ seminar series provides an overall view of the presentations and discussion on bridging social capital from the series; including ‘Intergenerational Connections’. The seminar series explored the dynamics of bridging social capital in a number of different contexts and provided an opportunity for civil society practitioners, academics and policy makers to share insights into how bridging social capital is generated. To read more download the report: <http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/socialcapital>

Getting On: well-being in later life (Institute of Public Policy and Research)

This report aims to set out a wider agenda for policymakers and practitioners. From an intergenerational point of view it highlights the following:

- That on the whole there is considerable contact between generations, though this differs around the UK
- There is ref to the Generations Together programme which refers to the govt taking "small steps to promote IG activities"
- "benefits of IG activities increasingly understood, but more support and funding for such initiatives is need"
- There is reference to the governments ageing strategy and the 12 Generations Together pilots
- There is a recommendation to "expand activities to improve contact between generations"

<https://www.ippr.org/publicationsandreports/publication.asp?id=719>

Connecting Generations: A Guide to Best Practice

Generations Working Together has produced a new publication, ‘Connecting Generations: A Guide to Best Practice’. This Guide to Best Practice has been compiled from the experience of community organisations across Scotland involved in running successful intergenerational programmes. Each of the projects featured demonstrates effective methods of working between generations, in a wide variety of settings.

You can download a PDF from the Scottish Centre for Intergenerational Practice website: http://www.scotcip.org.uk/files/documents/Connecting_Generations_Web_version.pdf

Intergenerational Futures inquiry report launched - December 2009

Early in 2009, the Intergenerational Futures All Party Parliamentary Group decided to carry out an inquiry which would investigate concerns around intergenerational fairness, employment policy and practice. Following collation of evidence the final report offers conclusion and recommendations to Government and employers. The report [*Achieving intergenerational fairness in employment policies and practice*](#); was launched on 8th December in the House of Commons, and is available on the CIP website news page: <http://www.centreforip.org.uk/default.aspx?page=23454>

Intergenerational Directory (England & Wales)

You check and we update!

The Directory is being updated this is to enable us to maintain the upkeep of the information held; our aim is to ensure details are accurate and therefore need your support. Please check your entries and inform us of any changes; a new directory will then be uploaded for your benefit. [Intergenerational Directory to September 2009](#) includes contacts for Wales and is available to view online on the Centre's website. Practitioners/organisations must give permission for their details to appear in the directory, if you would like to be included please contact [Nasreen](#) or [Gemma](#).

Journal of Intergenerational Relationships

Programs, Policy, and Research - The Journal of Intergenerational Relationships is a medium for intergenerational practitioners to stay in touch with the latest research, practice methods and policy initiatives focusing on the intergenerational field. For information view the website: <http://jir.ucsur.pitt.edu/>

Funding

Please find below some possible funding options for intergenerational projects:

Comic Relief:

Older People's Programme (UK)

This programme aims to support older people to bring positive change to their community by helping older people feel less isolated. Grants are expected to be of between £15,000 and £40,000 per year for up to 3 years. Organisations wishing to apply should submit a letter of interest by the 11th January 2010:

http://www.comicrelief.com/apply_for_a_grant/uk/olderpeople

Sport for Change – promoting positive community Change (UK)

This fund will be of interest to community based projects that are using sport as part of a broader programme of work that intends to bring about change at an individual and/or community level. Deadlines for submitting an initial letter of interest are 11th January 2010 and the 21st May 2010: http://www.comicrelief.com/apply_for_a_grant/uk/sport

Co-op Group Community Dividend Fund (England & Wales)

Community and voluntary groups as well as charities are able to apply for funding of between £100 and £5,000 to support projects that benefit the local community. To be eligible, the project must benefit a local community in which at least one Co-operative group business trades. The type of activities supported must fulfill a perceived need in the local community by addressing community issues. Applications can be made at any time:

http://www2.co-operative.com:8080/ext_1/ScottishR.nsf/0/216514c83711c88880256c0d0052a46c?OpenDocument

Wales

Communities First Trust Fund

Communities in Wales' most disadvantaged areas can still apply for grants of up to £5,000 for projects or activities that provide local benefits. The deadline is the 29th January 2010. Further information and to find out if your community is a Communities First ward and therefore eligible to apply for funding, contact the Communities First Helpline on 0800 578 8898:

http://www.wcva.org.uk/news/dsp_news.cfm?pressid=1393&display_sitedeptid=21&display_sitetextid=93

Projects

A Healthy Risk

By Ivan Riches, Freelance Film Maker

I have been commissioned as a filmmaker for a few intergenerational projects for Age Exchange based in Greenwich, London. But between January and October 2009, I was commissioned to make a documentary. Not to facilitate a young film crew to interview older people, or train old and young to film with me. This was by far the most unusual and daring brief that I had ever had to ponder before embarking, a job just too unusual and original to resist. I was offered absolute freedom to follow an intergenerational drama project from concept to performance, whatever the outcome, warts and all. A brave, possibly even foolish thing to do for an organisation who had freshly procured funding from the Arts Council and the Big Lottery to realize a project they had waited 4 years to take on. The subject was 'The History of Care' gathered from 8 reminiscence projects carried out in care settings across London, as well as 42 filmed interviews with older people and healthcare professionals including nurses. This first stage of the project took place in 6 London boroughs and included work with many frail Londoners, including those living with dementia.

The first meeting was tense and that never let up, right to the end of the final performance and into the editing. I suppose that was why David Savill and Bernie Arigho (2 of the directors of Age Exchange) decided to call the film 'A Healthy Risk'. As far as I could see the reputation of this organisation was about to be hung on a public washing line. And in these days of spin and secrecy, this was a much needed breath of fresh air, and that put me in standing to be as open and honest as them, to take 'A Healthy Risk' in the making of the film. As far as I could envisage, every older participant on this project was going to open up and tell a difficult story about care. At that meeting, in a pub near Kings Cross the brief was surprisingly simple. "Do what you like" Just follow an organisation of actors, artists, health care professionals and volunteers through a trial by fire. This being where David and other memory workers would interview some 40 older people, then those experiences of caring of husbands, wives, sons, daughters, mothers, fathers and grandparents. Then I was to film them taking those raw narratives into scripts, facilitating many of the storytellers to act alongside young people from local schools and colleges to work together and perform their often harsh memories on a professional stage.

So I did. I began with a double interview of David and Bernie who frankly expressed their reasons and hopes for the project. From that moment I captured integrity, honesty, naked fear and thank god, a side salad of humour. This project was so close to their hearts that I was feeling rather intimidated by the whole thing. Apart from having to record older volunteer's sad and often horrible stories amongst the witty recalling of loved ones personalities and antics, I would have to record all peaks and troughs of the project. The

first rehearsal was the most difficult day. Amongst the chaos of a first workshop and rehearsal my camera caught a brave consummation of determination from professionals and volunteers, young and older people sharing the fact that from that day they had to work hard together to see this painful process through. From then on my metal as a filmmaker was to be stretched as far as the hope, fears and abilities of everyone there. It was to be a learning curve for all of us. All that was truly intergenerational in this project it was consolidated on that day and my camera, some how captured it without instigation or interview.

I must add that I was not the only filmmaker to capture this project Simon Purins covered a rehearsal day and a set of interviews. Also another cameraman Ben filmed the dress rehearsal and second performance with me. What was fascinating about filming was the openness of the cast and their willingness to be interviewed, particularly the younger participants. What would the idea of caring for someone mean to them? Wow, they had all assimilated each older person's story and taken it on board as actors, they were proud of their roles and their play, as much as the storytellers. This was truly an intergenerational experience.

Filming David, Bernie and Malcolm Jones (co-director and co-writer) plotting the structure of the play was a revelation. Scripts were banded across a rickety table as they discussed the order and merits of each scene. I felt I had captured something of a process seldom witnessed, let alone exposed. Those three were brave and arguably foolhardy to let that day out on digital tape. The final footage was an inspiration to edit and I was able to show the whole structure of the play interspersing snippets of the final performance as they went through the scenes, powerful stuff.

The first rehearsal at the theatre was both exciting and painful to film, everyone was on edge and when interviewed they whispered to camera. We were all pretty fearful. Fortunately Malcolm managed to smile and boom out his voice to give the filming day humour and hope. Even then the scripts were being changed. Throughout all the rehearsals the scripts were taken back to the interviewees and they would comment on whether they worked or not. This gave the whole play its authenticity. It was humbling to watch David asking his storytellers to help him through his own performances when they acted together. I have to commend David's bravery and honesty, yes he often got it wrong and so did I. By the end of the last performance I knew I did not have enough interviews to explain the whole process of the project to an outside viewer. I now had to put myself on the line like David and ask project participants what would make my film better. It was through that painful experience that I was able to go back to David, Bernie Malcolm, and three of the project participants to interview them about their experiences in retrospect. Proving that it is never too late to go back to the people involved. When you watch 'A Healthy Risk' (all 57 minutes of it) you will see pure bravery from everyone involved, their commitment to the project and their honesty to the viewer. This is a real inside story of an intergenerational project, warts and all.

For further information on Age Exchange check out the website: <http://www.age-exchange.org.uk/> or you can contact Ivan Riches direct, ivan.riches@ntlworld.com

Action Transport Theatre recently completed - 'Generations'

By Jessica Egan, Producer

Generations is an intergenerational performance project, devised, inspired by, performed and produced by local young people and older people (over 55) from Ellesmere Port. The performances took place in July after a nine month process.

A newly completed set of **documentary films of the project** are now up and running on youtube which you may be interested in taking a look at:

<http://www.youtube.com/user/actiontransportvideo>

On the page you will find a 3 minute trailer which we produced to promote the performances in July and the new documentary in two 6 minute parts which gives more background to the project and some production shots.

Action Transport Theatre is an award winning new writing theatre company creating brave, collaborative theatre, for, by and with young people.

We make exciting, innovative professional touring productions and participatory productions involving both writers and performers.

All our work is creative, ambitious and accessible. Our strands of work often cross over, making our approach and each project unique.

We work locally, regionally, nationally and internationally.

We are also in the process of developing a new professional touring play for intergenerational audiences currently titled 'The Fool on the Hill'. The final draft of the play is now complete and we intend to tour the play nationally in 2012. For more information on this please contact Jessica Egan, Producer on tel 0151 357 2120 or

jess@actiontransporttheatre.org

***Don't forget! ***

If you would like to contribute an article or would like information promoted in the newsletter or on our website, we will be pleased to hear from you.

People reporting on their projects and experiences of intergenerational practice continue to add value to our work and publications.

Please note the deadline date for inclusion in the next edition of the newsletter is:

25 March 2010

