



## **WAVOCC Intergenerational Networking Meeting – 18<sup>th</sup> February 2010**

### **Q&A with Louise Middleton of the Centre for Intergenerational Practice**

#### **1. Michael Conroy Harris, Haybridge Sixth Form**

*“In terms of CRB checks who does and doesn’t need them? Where can information be found?”*

Louise suggested that the CRB website was a helpful resource, and that the Office of the Third Sector website had a useful volunteering section which included information regarding CRB checks. She also recommended the DCSF website and commented that over the last 6 months the Beth Johnson Foundation had been researching this, as they sit on the Steering Group for Generations Together. She noted that Government Departments need to provide guidance for intergenerational projects regarding CRB checks, and have reported their findings to the relevant government agencies.

#### **2. Jim Smith, WAVOCC**

*“Has any research into the health benefits of intergenerational work been undertaken?”*

Louise responded that there was some research but that it was quite bitty. There is a lot across Europe, for example the University of Granada and also in the USA but it is not so well funded here. There is also a lack of evidence, as people don’t write projects up. People don’t share successful projects, if they did this and provided it to the Beth Johnson Foundation then there would be more evidence. The Beth Johnson Foundation work hard to get case studies to support projects. Academics at the University of Durham did a study, but this only says that there are benefits, but no evidence.

Recently the NFER has been commissioned to do 5 evaluation studies.

#### **3. Marlena Atkinson, Princes Trust**

*“How do you work with the Private Sector?”*

Louise answered that the Beth Johnson Foundation are part of an all party parliamentary group and are currently undertaking a positive ageing stream of work – looking at intergenerational issues in the workplace.

This is relevant for both younger people, for example finding jobs, and older people, for example a person made redundant at 50 and unable to find new work.

#### **4. Cathy Clement, WCVYS**

*“There are lots of groups who have been doing intergenerational work for a long time but not badging it as intergenerational work. What are the benefits of naming it?”*

Louise responded that the word ‘Intergenerational’ is being more widely used, but the benefits depend. There is more work with funders, and more intergenerational work is recognised. The issue that the Beth Johnson Foundation have is people labelling things as intergenerational when they aren’t.