

Cross Party Group on Intergenerational Solidarity

16 May 2024: 16:30 – 18:00 on Microsoft Teams

Attendees

- Delyth Jewell MS, **Chair**, Senedd Cymru
- Rhys Jackson, Older People's Commissioner for Wales
- Vikki Howells MS
- Merryn Thomas, Swansea University
- Sharon Ford, National Museum Wales
- Heather Ferguson, Age Cymru
- Marie-Clare Hunter, ENRICH Cymru Advisory Board
- Rebecca Deverell, NUS Cymru
- Phoebe Brown, Repair Café Wales
- Rachel Bowen, Older People's Commissioner for Wales
- Dave McKinney, Older People's Commissioner for Wales
- Leola Roberts-Biggs, Youth Parliament
- Mirian Llwyd Roberts, Gwynedd Council

Apologies

- Peredur Owen Griffiths MS, Senedd Cymru
- Ellis Peares, Youth Parliament
- Catrin Hedd Jones, Bangor University

Actions

1. The CPG will look to invite the Cabinet Secretary for Education to a future meeting to discuss how to increase intergenerational practice and conversations in educational settings.
2. The CPG will invite its members to think about how the group can involve more younger people with the CPG.

Welcome and Introductions – Minutes of Last Meeting

There were no issues with minutes from the last meeting.

Heather Ferguson, Age Cymru – The Impact of Climate Change on Older People

Heather Ferguson (HF) talked about the impact a changing climate can have on older people and said that older people are some of the most affected by climate change. She also mentioned that extreme flooding and high winds can severely

impact older people, with power cuts leaving older people vulnerable. As 1 in 5 older people live in relative income poverty, they do not have the disposable income for repairs when climate change causes extra costs.

HF said there needs to be a shift towards more reliable public transport to encourage the disuse of cars. Age Cymru's recent polling has found that 24% of older people have found that transport has been a challenge in the last 12 months and that 10% of bus routes have been lost.

She also argued that the decarbonisation of homes needs to be carefully considered as older people are more likely to experience fuel poverty and have extra costs, which will impact on older people financially.

HF said that ageism is leaving older people out of the climate change debate and that there's stereotyping that the generation are not engaged, even though 58% of older people aged 60 or over believed climate change is a global emergency.

HF challenged the group to think about how generations come together to tackle climate change and to bring together collective voices about what is needed.

Rachel Bowen (RB) thanked HF for the presentation, agreeing with her that many older people do care about climate change.

Marie-Clare Hunter (MCH) spoke about the 'blame' the older generation sometimes gets from the younger generation concerning climate change, noting that work needs to be done to encourage the younger generation to become allies with the older generation.

Merryn Thomas, Swansea University – Co-Creating an Intergenerational Climate Pack

Merryn Thomas (MT) gave an overview of the OPTIC project, which seeks to understand older and younger people's climate change perceptions. She highlighted the 'Climate Comic' which was created from five intergenerational workshops that were to encourage intergenerational conversations about climate change. In one session six students who had previously spent time in a care home talking to older people included older people into their comics (compared to none who had not

attended the care home), which shows the importance of intergenerational conversations for changing assumptions.

MT said there is work progressing on an intergenerational activity pack which can be used in schools, care homes, and libraries and includes activities such as quizzes and games. The pack will have intergenerational engagement tips and have relevant materials and links. The OPTIC team will also work with care homes to discuss what else can be included in the pack and the plan is for the pack to be finished by Christmas. DMc highlighted a resource from the WHO network about low-cost ideas for the engagement of older people and offered to share the resource with the CPG.

MCH praised the resource and asked the group to consider asking the Senedd to create an intergenerational award for schools, to encourage intergenerational actions such as schools working with local care homes to encourage more intergenerational conversations. Vikki Howells (VH) agreed with this, noting a previous intergenerational project in Aberdare funded by CWMPAS to bring digital teaching into care homes by younger people. DJ also agreed and suggested she and VH work to encourage such work in the Senedd. MT approved of the idea. DJ said that such a project could be primarily online but involve in-person contact during the summer holidays.

DM wondered whether there is a way schools can work more with older people still living at home to ensure more of a community. MT said that every workshop undertaken by OPTIC believed that building stronger communities is important to combatting climate change. Phoebe Brown (PB) noted that Repair Cafés are community spaces that are inherently climate friendly while encouraging intergenerational work. She said that they encourage older people to attend, which helps alleviate loneliness and isolation, while encouraging environmental activism.

David McKinney (DMc) echoed the importance of communities, noting an intergenerational project that was [undertaken](#) in Trefnant in north Wales that has developed into further relationships and resulted in a book containing intergenerational stories.

DJ highlighted the importance of creating tangible and relatable intergenerational stories to encourage such relationships.

RB raised the possibility of using the new Welsh curriculum to encourage more intergenerational practice around climate change. MCH supported this idea, noting the need to not reinvent the wheel but highlighting that an award would encourage schools to strive for something tangible. MT noted that although accreditation would incentivise schools to strive for such an award, she said schools will need help to work on this. DM said this would have to be handled sensitively to ensure work with older people doesn't become a 'tick box' exercise.

VH highlighted that in when she was a teacher, her school put on events for the local older population as part of the student's Welsh baccalaureate work.

DJ said the idea for the new curriculum should include local history and questioned whether the CPG would want to invite the new Cabinet Secretary for Education to attend a future meeting to get their thoughts on how to open up a space for more intergenerational practice and conversations. The CPG was supportive of the idea.

Matters Arising – General Discussion Space

RB called for anyone in the group who have connections with younger organisations or younger people themselves, to think about how the CPG could encourage more younger people to join the group.

Close

Date of Next Meeting: 11th November 2024 on Microsoft Teams