

Cross Party Group on Intergenerational Solidarity

16 July 2021 – 10:30-12:00

Microsoft Teams

Attendees

Delyth Jewell MS (DJ) – Chair
Rhys Jackson, Older People's Commissioner for Wales (RJ) – Acting Secretary
Ceri Cryer, Age Cymru (CC)
Deb Morgan, CIA, Swansea University (DM)
Dereck Roberts, National Pensioners Convention Wales (DR)
Gino Parisi, Aneurin Bevan University Health Board (GP)
Heléna Herklots, Older People's Commissioner for Wales (HH)
Jayne Bryant MS (JB) – Vice Chair
Lynda Wallis, Welsh Senate of Older People (LW)
Michelle Lewis, Older People's Commissioner for Wales (ML)
Mirain Llwyd Roberts, Gwynedd Council (MLR)
Neil Williams, Care and Repair (NW)
Peredur Owen Griffiths MS (POG) – Vice Chair
Philippe Demougin, Hafod (PD)
Stephanie Green, Swansea University (SG)
Steve Milsom, COPA (SM)

Apologies

Altaf Hussain MS
Carol Maddock, Swansea University
Catrin Hedd Jones, Bangor University
Eleri Williams, Future Generations Commissioner for Wales
Josh Hayman, Older People's Commissioner for Wales
Laraine Bruce
Liz Jones, Swansea University
Llyr Gruffydd MS
Nia Richards, Tybed
Phoebe Brown, Repair Café
Sharon Ford, Amgeuddfa Cymru
Stephen Burke, United for All Ages

Welcome and Introductions

DJ welcomed attendees to the meeting and asked for each member to introduce themselves to the Group.

AGM – Nomination of Chair and Secretariat

JB nominated DJ as Chair of the Cross-Party Group – this was approved by the Group with no objections. JB, POG and Altaf Hussain were nominated as vice-Chairs of the CPG by DJ – this was approved by the group with no objections.

DJ nominated Josh Hayman from the office of the Older People’s Commissioner for Wales as secretariat of the Cross-Party Group – this was approved by the group with no objections.

Agreeing Priorities and Opportunities in the Next Senedd

DJ told the group that if anyone would like Welsh translation in future meetings then the group can apply to the Senedd for this. She also welcomed contributions to the meeting in Welsh.

DJ reminded the group of the priorities from the last meeting of the group which were:

- Tackling Loneliness and Isolation
- Lifelong Learning
- Ageism
- Skills and Economy

DJ asked about people’s thoughts on these priorities.

MLR was supportive of the priorities but argued that the intergenerational work should include Covid-19 recovery. She also called for an all-Wales approach and to learn from other nations such as work in Scotland and Northern Ireland.

SM was supportive of the priorities and agreed with the need for an all-Wales approach to make the best use of resources. He said there needs to be a move from creating a strategy to working to get things done, calling for an action plan. DJ said that once the priorities are agreed, the challenge will be how to take these on and work out what the group needs to do. She highlighted the possibility of inviting Welsh Government ministers to the group.

HH agreed with these points, noting the importance of keeping intergenerational bonds during work on Covid-19. She mentioned the Strategy for an Ageing Society, which discusses intergenerational contact, and noted that its action plan will be published by the end of the year. She called for the CPG’s priorities to be a part of this action plan. She said the work of the CPG should be cross-governmental, noting the importance of aligning the CPG’s work with the government’s priorities. She mentioned the Older People’s Commissioner’s work to developed age-friendly communities, highlighting work to bring older and younger people together to audit their communities for age-friendliness. DJ said the CPG could look to help the OPCW with this community working.

NW agreed with the points raised and highlighted the public health agenda. He said there are natural conversations to be had between vulnerable children and vulnerable older people, noting falls can be of these. He highlighted the National Falls Taskforce would like to look at the intergenerational risk of falls, noting the possibility of the CPG working on this. DJ argued that expectation of older and younger people's abilities is to do with the way society designs urban areas, rather than vulnerability. NW agreed, noting that the challenges are for society and communities to address the factors that disable the young and old, which often inadvertently create risks or don't actively remove them.

DR noted his experience of being a school governor and Councillor in Swansea, highlighting the terrible impact of Covid-19 on younger people. He said they want to be back together with their friends and that there will need to be a lot of work to rebuild communities. DJ said rebuilding after a crisis tends not to include the very young and very old, noting this could be some work for the CPG – to look at how to include such groups.

SG said taking an approach involving Covid-19 makes sense and also supported the previously agreed priorities. She asked whether the group should invite Penny Hall of Welsh Government to give an update on the intergenerational summit held in March. DJ was supportive of this.

POG discussed the importance of sharing life experiences between generations, arguing this will build solidarity. He argued this could be a part of the way the CPG works. DJ agreed on the importance of sharing experiences, highlighting previous discussions of the CPG on this.

SM said that there are many projects that have taken place recently across Wales that could be beneficially shared, arguing that some sort of mapping work and report would help enormously to promote understanding and awareness. DJ said this could be a part of the working of the CPG.

MLR highlighted the creation of a Facebook group to share good practice and learn from each other in Wales. She asked for people to join if they are interested:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1401957830167151/>

LW highlighted previous work undertaken with young offenders and the positive development of conversations that came along with this. She said that the younger people wanted to know what life and society was like in the past, noting that it was a 'terrific' project.

DM joined the meeting.

MLR highlighted research by Diane Boyd who is working on sustainable intergenerational cafes, noting the possibility of linking in with the work being done on Repair Cafes. She argued intergenerational work can have an impact on the

regeneration of town centres, noting that such work should be linked in with regeneration projects.

GP said that there needs to be a distinction between primary and secondary schools when discussing intergenerational work, noting it is much harder to engage with secondary schools. Aneurin Bevan UHB has worked with some schools to incorporate work in with the Welsh Baccalaureate but have found it harder to link in with other subjects due to the curriculum.

MLR said that she has been able to engage through schools working on Duke of Edinburgh and Agored Cymru. She said she hopes the new curriculum will be very beneficial for Gwynedd Council to get into schools. She also said that schools need to understand as well how intergenerational work can help recruit into 'care' careers as well.

DJ said that it is important to help children keep their joyful nature as they grow, noting stress and expectation cause many to be unhappy. She said intergenerational work, that helps enrich lives, can help with this.

DR said Swansea will soon have a new 50+ Older People's Forum following recent appointments. He noted work at Dylan Thomas School which has been part of the Johan Cruyff Foundation. This involves the creation of 3G pitches, which DR hopes will make the school a centre of the community. He said bringing key services to schools is important for the community. He also called for more focus on the Welsh Baccalaureate. SM was supportive of the news.

JB and POG left the meeting.

PD was supportive of previous priorities but warned against spreading the CPG too thinly. DJ suggested that the CPG sets aside a portion of time at the start of every meeting to highlighting good work and a rolling conversation to set out new projects. She also said a focused action plan is needed to help advance the agenda. She called for bringing in the Education Minister first to a meeting to discuss some of these aims.

LW highlighted the importance of changing the perceptions different generations have of each other, noting previous discussions she has had with younger people where barriers have been brought down by having open discussions. DJ highlighted the possibility of inviting members from the Youth Parliament to be apart of the CPG, as well as hosting a dialogue with younger people. She noted that it would be useful to engage with younger people who do not normally engage with such projects. LW said it is important to have some representation from younger people, to understand how they feel about intergenerational work.

DJ asked what the CPG would want to begin working on, noting that she and Josh Hayman will work on an action plan following input from the group. LW argued that it

would be useful to work from a draft before agreeing on this. NW said a top priority for him would be to begin a national conversation, praising LW's contribution.

DM argued a national conversation could be a 'quick win', that could be furthered via multiple ways such as the media, press releases etc. She also said that work could be done with CADR on this. DJ said the new academic year would be an opportunity to approach younger people. She said planning work will need to be done over the summer to hit the ground running in the autumn.

SM highlighted that Covid is making the planning of events and work currently difficult, with the need to do health checks etc. He argued that there needs to be planning for 2022 where such planning will not be as much of a consideration. He supported the priority of a national conversation and to co-produce a strategy for an Intergenerational Society. He said the work needs to incorporate a ground-up movement.

DJ praised the work done by SG on mapping intergenerational provision and other work.

DJ asked for the CPG to think of anyone from the younger generation who may want to be a part of the CPG.

Actions

- DJ and JH to create a draft action plan, working on what has already been discussed and involving new conversations. This will be shared via email and further discussion will be had on what needs to be done over summer. This will provide a narrow focus and will cover what could be asked of the different ministers. DM was happy to help with this work.
- DJ/JH to set up a doodle poll to find a date for the next meeting.