

Cross-Party Group on Intergenerational Solidarity

4 October 2021

MS Teams

Attendees

Delyth Jewell MS – Chair	Dr Deborah Morgan, Swansea University	Nia Richards, Tybed
Peredur Owen Griffiths MS – Vice Chair	Eleri Williams, Future Generations Commissioner for Wales	Nina Finnigan, Bryncynon Strategy
Josh Hayman, Older People’s Commissioner for Wales – Secretariat	Gino Parisi, Aneurin Bevan UHB	Philippe Demougin, Hafod
Becky Ricketts, NUS Wales	Dr Liz Jones, Swansea University	Pheobe Brown, Repair Café Cymru
Carole Philips, Kidscape	Michelle Lewis, Older People’s Commissioner for Wales	Rhys Jackson, Older People’s Commissioner for Wales
Dr Catrin Hedd Jones, Bangor University	Mirain Llwyd Roberts, Gwynedd Council	Sharon Ford, Museums Wales
Dereck Roberts, NPC Wales		Steff Green, Swansea University
Dan Townsend, Youth Cymru		

Apologies Received

Altaf Hussain MS, Vice Chair
Lynda Wallis, Welsh Senate of Older People
Laraine Bruce
Stephen Burke, United for All Ages

1. Welcome and introductions

2. Covid-19 Recovery

DJ opened the discussion about how the group can influence work on recovery from Covid-19. She asked the group for suggestions and ideas that could be put forward to relevant Ministers.

DR raised issues around the introduction of a Covid passport and the barriers that are part of the process – he also raised the high levels of cases that we still have and the high level of hospitalisations.

NF raised issues around funding for voluntary organisations that want to set up intergenerational projects – there has been a lot of funding put in during the pandemic to support people, but it must be maintained going forward. She raised that loneliness has

been highlighted during the pandemic and will remain unless communities can support people to get out of loneliness. DJ noted that the group could ask for a plea for information on how long funding will be available.

BR raised the loneliness facing students that have been spending a lot of time over the last year in their student accommodation, but there have been good examples of community projects run by universities and students' unions. She noted that there has been a desire amongst students to support their communities. DJ suggested that we could create a database of good practice and asked if BR could send across any examples she has.

DR raised that there is funding being provided for 50+ groups for this year and that these groups used to run successful intergenerational events. It would be good for this funding to be extended beyond this year.

CHJ highlighted one of the recommendations in the Welsh Government's strategy on loneliness for seed funding for intergenerational work and it would be good to remind Ministers of this, which should be for recovery from Covid and maintained beyond.

SG asked whether we could work to influence any plans already underway for the Covid recovery? She also raised about future proofing these suggestions and looking at what might happen in any future pandemics. She referenced a housing project that is looking at creating 'household bubbles' if there needs to be another lockdown in the future. She raised concerns about care homes being locked down again if this is not addressed going forward. DJ suggested that we could look at how schools and students' unions could be involved in these kinds of communities. There is a good opportunity with this letter to try and feed into suggestions.

ACTION: Letter to be drafted to Ministers on intergenerational approach to Covid-19 Recovery

3. Draft Action Plan

JH discussed the creation of the action plan, highlighting that members of the group are welcome to take the lead on the priority areas of the plan. He asked for members to contact him if this is something they would like to do. He will send out an email following the meeting, reiterating this point. JH asked for members to contact him if they have any further points on the Action Plan.

DJ told the group that members can do as little, or as much work as they want for each priority area.

4. Engaging with Young People

DJ raised that the group has previously discussed about getting more young people and people representing young people involved in the group. She asked for any other ways the group could engage with the group.

CHJ asked whether there had been a request to the Urdd and MLIR asked whether the group had got involved with Young Farmers? Suggestions were also made about engaging with the Youth Parliament, youth forums in each local authority areas, youth wings of political parties and trade unions.

BR suggested the group could take a strategy to address the stigma between intergenerational work given some of the stereotypes that exist in the wider community – for example, perceptions about how older and younger people work – we need to look at breaking down these barriers. She suggested that looking at lifelong learning and skills are good ways of breaking down barriers. Reframing the discussions around us all being together can be a good way of taking things forward.

MLIR highlighted projects being undertaken at Bangor Students' Union to work intergenerationally with the community, including tea parties and digital heroes.

SF suggested that museums and heritage can provide a hook for bringing generations together.

CHJ suggested we find young individuals to work within each identified area.

DT highlighted the need to engage with primary and secondary school level – it is about getting them to feel about being part of their community.

BR also raised the importance of intersectional intergenerational solidarity and the Betty Campbell event was an example of having solidarity events that recognise and value intersectional heritage.

DR highlighted work that NPC will be doing to tackle some of the narratives about intergenerational fairness – they are hosting an event about intergenerational solidarity in the next few weeks. He highlighted the good route is to get schools involved.

DJ suggested we could also look at tackling issues beyond the priorities set out – could Citizens Panels look at issues such as climate change and taxation?

DM raised work she had done with student volunteers about how to engage with and talk with older people for those who were nervous about it. She asked whether we could bring older and younger people together to share stories around a particular issue to show that there are things that unite generations. She suggested that it could be around any themes – this could be done from bottom-up. CHJ suggested we could display these in events like the National Eisteddfod.

NR highlighted work that she is doing with a primary school and group of older people in the community with an architect to come together to learn/enquire together about what concerns and worries them. What they have realised is how disconnected the children are from their communities and are living a lot of their lives online.

DJ suggested we are looking at engaging people in discussions but also about people sharing their stories through a variety of different methods.

NF shared her experiences of working with care home residents to look at ensuring services met their needs – in one care home they brought in students from a local Welsh language school and realised the residents were Welsh speakers but had no opportunities to use the language. She also worked with a local church to create a film of bringing younger and older people together.

DJ summarised that we need to collate examples of good practice, look at an idea of asking the Welsh Government to look into intergenerational citizens panels, and looking at tasking someone to do something to celebrate people's stories.

BR raised about the opportunity to do some research to find out what the main issues are for different generations to look at the issues of similarity or those that are particularly different – and look at how those affect people in different ways.

DM suggested that we could do a short survey, which wouldn't require funding but would need to go through ethics approval. To go down the stories line, there would need to be research funding. CHJ suggested that we look at the expertise we have in the group and whether we could discuss what the survey could do and what it could achieve.

5. Any other business

MLIR raised that she has been contacted by Lleol at S4C about intergenerational history projects – they are interested in doing more across Wales and to hear more about ideas and want a lot of their content to be intergenerationally based. She also raised that the dates for the Intergenerational Week had moved to the last week of April (25-29).

LJ raised that she wants to continue working with MLIR on the issue of local history in Troedrihwfuch – she has been trying to look at archiving history but also restoring war memorials in the village – it is an ongoing intergenerational project.

SG suggested we include one of the more formal definitions of intergenerational as part of the action plan.

Date of the next meeting: 13 December

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