

# **Cross-Party Group on Intergenerational Solidarity**

**Monday 13 December 2021**

## **Attendees**

Delyth Jewell MS, Chair  
Peredur Owen Griffiths MS  
Josh Hayman, Secretariat  
Becky Ricketts, NUS Wales  
Carol Maddock, Swansea University  
Catrin Hedd Jones, Bangor University  
Dan Townsend, Youth Cymru  
Deborah Morgan, Swansea University  
Dereck Roberts, NPC Wales  
Helen Twidle, Age Cymru  
Laraine Bruce  
Liz Jones, Swansea University  
Lynda Wallis, Welsh Senate of Older People

Marie-Clare Hunter, Enrich Cymru  
Michelle Lewis, Older People's  
Commissioner for Wales  
Neil Williams, Care and Repair  
Nia Richards, Tybed  
Phoebe Brown, Repair Cafe Wales  
Steff Green, Swansea University  
Stephen Burke, United for All Ages  
Steve Milsom, Cymru Older People's  
Alliance  
Sue Egersdorff, Ready Generations  
Tim Crahart, Shared Lives Plus  
Tom Magner, Carers World Live

## **Apologies**

Mirain Llwyd Roberts, Pontio'r Cenedlaethau  
Ceri Cryer, Age Cymru  
Carole Phillips, Kidscape

- 1. Welcome and introductions – Delyth Jewell MS**
- 2. Minutes of last meeting**

The group agreed the minutes.

- 3. Ageism Priority Work – Michelle Lewis, Catrin Hedd Jones & Stephanie Green**

ML updated the group that CHJ and SG have agreed to jointly lead this strand of work. The team has put together a list of themes to look at: intergenerational conflict in the media, stories and positive examples, and a photo competition.

ML shared that she is looking to contact universities that are running journalism courses to talk about how generations are pitted against each other in the media through a guest lecture about intergenerational solidarity or produce guidance that can be shared with students and lecturers. She is also open to having a discussion with lecturers and students about other things that might work.

SG noted that she has shared a story about her experiences befriending with an older man during the lockdown – she is suggesting that we have an open competition for people to share their stories about positive intergenerational experiences ahead of intergenerational week, as well as looking at a photo completion of generations connecting. She added that

she would like MSs to be judges and to host an exhibition at the Senedd. She has also put guidance together on how people might write the stories or take the photographs, e.g. around anonymising stories.

CHJ added that she is hoping this work will raise awareness of intergenerational week but also around Wales of our work. She suggested that we have people from different generations to join the judging panel and it would be positive to have a visit to see the exhibition in the Senedd.

**ACTION: JH will share contact details for Michelle to get in touch**

DJ welcomed the suggestions and asked whether it would be one competition or two?

CHJ noted that it could be either but that the images would be positive in tackling conflict or highlighting positive intergenerational contact. She asked whether there could be any financial support made available for it.

The group approved the suggestions. DJ suggested that she and the Vice Chairs be on the panel and asked the group to think about others that could be part of the panel.

ML noted that it might be harder to judge the stories and easier for the photos – it would be good to have the stories to share with communities and as part of the exhibit. SG added that there is an opportunity to publish the stories as a short collection as well.

CM welcomed the idea of an exhibit and a collection of stories – she suggested that you give people the option when they enter the competition if they want theirs to be included in the publication.

DJ asked whether anyone had any particular expertise in involved schools in this process? NR suggested the easiest way to get it out to schools would be through consortia newsletters and she will share contacts. NW noted that he has done some work with schools previous so would be happy to share contacts.

CHJ asked whether any members knew of any funding that might be available to support the logistics of the exhibition etc.

SG suggested that Community Council could also be good avenues to explore opportunities.

#### **4. Homeshare Wales – Tim Crahart, Shared Lives Plus**

TC is the Homeshare Wales development officer at Share Lives Plus and shared a presentation about the work he is leading on. He noted a number of examples across England but so far there are none in Wales. He noted that they had been provided with funding by Welsh Government for 3 pilots in Wales over the next 3 years. He shared that they are awaiting news over the coming weeks about their first pilot programme in Wales. He has a survey running about Homeshare and that will be shared with the group after the meeting.

**ACTION: JH will share the presentation and survey following the meeting**

DM asked about the support mechanisms in place in case a homeowner passes away or a homeshare moves on? TC responded that if a homesharer is moving on, they do look at

replacing them with another suitable person – where a householder does pass away, they also look to relocate any homesharers. DM noted that once you have made a meaningful relationship with someone, it can be hard to create that with another person.

SM welcomed Homeshare's progress in Wales and offered to link with the 50+ forums in Wales to send out information and facilitate any follow up. TC welcomed the offer and is happy to physically attend meetings or do so online.

LJ asked about the locations of the 3 pilots? TC noted they are on the verge of announcing the first and are looking at opportunities in north Wales. He suggested people keep an eye on their Twitter page.

DR noted that NPC Wales will also circulate that and would find it useful to have an example of the pilot to go out with that.

BR noted how the work resonates with the work NUS has been doing on the quality of student housing and that many students are seeking alternatives to HMOs. She asked how long term the idea of a homeshare project would be? She asked whether there needed to be campaigning to government to support potentially vulnerable students or older people to ensure they are not entirely reliant on the homeshare? TC noted that even without additional support, there is a belief that Homeshare does still have a benefit to people and that it is a mutual benefit.

## **5. Ready Generations – Sue Egersdorff**

SG noted her background in working on Surestart and upon her retirement, she started Ready Generations to plug some of the gaps whilst bringing generations together. She asked how far Wales had got with the UNICEF baby standards and initiatives and that it may be something the group wants to think about. She shared that she had run a campaign around 'pocket stories' where younger and older people had to create stories about the things they had in their pockets.

SG shared about a project she is running in Chester where a knowledge hub is running with a nursery inside. She noted the importance of taking an integrated approach to intergenerational work. The Centre is opening in April 2022 and they are looking for a shift in approach to residential village. She shared that the project is looking to create a community that is empower to be in control of the action they take.

She noted that this model looks at the strengths that younger and older people have to share with each other. For example, children and young people can be excellent companions to older people, and older people often have something to give back to young people. The project uses the UN Sustainable Development Goals to bring younger and older people together to think about the future.

SG noted the importance of a connecting environment, for example the outdoors, and engaging in nature is often common across generations – there is an outdoor nature element to the new centre being developed. There will be a nursery for 25 children and it will be a research nursery – they are involved with universities including Stirling and Liverpool JM. The nursery will be open 7 days a week and will support workers that are working throughout the week. There will also be an intergenerational library, a garden room, learning hub and a

nature room. Older people will be seen as learners, alongside the younger people and children, and enabled to continue to contribute.

SG noted the 'transformational leadership' needed to enable this work to happen and the training that is involved in developing the model. She noted the considerations needed to be given to safeguarding given the 'natural' nature of the environment and the issue raised earlier about bereavement.

**ACTION: JH will share contact details of Sue with the group.**

## **6. Update on Action Plan**

JH suggested that the group take forward discussions as priority groups to develop ideas for the action plan.

SM noted the importance of developing a sustainable action plan, rather than doing it quickly.

The group agreed the suggested way forward.

## **7. Ideas for next meeting**

DJ asked for any ideas for people that wanted to present at the next.

JH suggested we could have a discussion about plans for Intergenerational Week.

LJ raised the Troedyrhiw project that was discussed at the last meeting and it would be good to discuss at the next meeting.

SG asked about the idea to write to Ministers about Covid-19 recovery plan? DJ suggested it may be something we want to come back to in the Spring given the changing situation and agreed to meet with JH to discuss it further.

## **8. Any other business**

None.

**Date of next meeting: Friday 18 February 2022, 11am-12:30pm**