

Intergenerational Programmes in Ireland: An Initial Overview

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February 2012



About this report

This report arises from collaboration between three organisations committed to developing intergenerational practice in Ireland:

The **Irish Centre for Social Gerontology** (ICSG) is a multidisciplinary research centre on ageing at NUI Galway, Ireland. The Centre focuses on research, education and training in the field of social gerontology in Ireland and internationally. Along with the Child and Family Research Centre and the Centre for Disability Law and Policy, ICSG forms part of NUI Galway's Lifecourse Institute. Further information at: <http://www.icsg.ie>.

Age Action Ireland is a charity which promotes positive ageing and better policies and services for older people. Age Action launched an intergenerational 'Generations Together' programme in 2011 as a means of establishing new intergenerational projects and exploring ways of developing the intergenerational aspects of its existing work. Further information at: <http://www.ageaction.ie>.

The **Beth Johnson Foundation**, based in the United Kingdom, is a national organisation that seeks to make a positive impact on the lives of older people, to gain recognition for the valuable role older people play and to challenge age discrimination through pioneering initiatives that bring together research, policy and best practice. The foundation has an international reputation for its work on intergenerational practice. Further information at: <http://www.bjf.org.uk>.

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Intergenerational Programmes in Ireland: An Initial Overview

Introduction

In recent years, there has been increasing interest in Ireland in developing initiatives that seek to bring the older and younger generations together. This reflects growing international recognition of the range of benefits for individuals, communities, and societies as a whole that can arise from intergenerational practice. In this respect, intergenerational practice can best be understood as any activity which “aims to bring people together in purposeful, mutually beneficial activities which promote greater understanding and respect between generations and contributes to building more cohesive communities. Intergenerational practice is inclusive, building on the positive resources that the young and old have to offer each other and those around them” (Beth Johnson Foundation, 2001).

Despite the growing interest in Ireland in intergenerational activities, to date no attempt has been made to draw together information about the nature of projects that bring the different generations together. Such information is likely to be of value to policy-makers, practitioners and researchers in helping to understand the current state of intergenerational programmes in Ireland and to plan future work in this emerging area. In the absence of relevant information, the Irish Centre for Social Gerontology at NUI Galway, Age Action Ireland, and the Beth Johnson Foundation – three organisations with a longstanding interest in this area – combined their efforts to undertake an exercise that not only gathers necessary information about intergenerational activities in Ireland, but also helps to identify examples of best practice in relation to intergenerational programmes. This report presents key findings arising from this exercise.

We describe this report as ‘an initial overview’ of intergenerational activities for good reason. In seeking to gather information about ongoing intergenerational programmes in Ireland, we are acutely aware of the limitations of our approach to collecting details of relevant projects (summarised below). In particular, the term ‘intergenerational practice’ may be unfamiliar to people engaged in a range of community initiatives that are, by their nature, intergenerational. For this reason, we regard this report as a first step towards providing a more comprehensive overview of intergenerational projects in Ireland.

We encourage readers of this report to send us details of activities that reflect our understanding of intergenerational practice. This information can be sent to icsg@nuigalway.ie using the form attached to this report (Appendix 1). An electronic version of the form can be downloaded at: www.icsg.ie.

Methodology

- A simple instrument was designed to collect information from intergenerational initiatives in Ireland. This was based on a template developed by the Beth Johnson Foundation and used successfully in other countries.
- The Irish Centre for Social Gerontology worked in conjunction with Age Action Ireland to identify a list of potential stakeholders involved in intergenerational programmes.
- In September 2011, the identified stakeholders were forwarded a cover letter explaining the purpose of the exercise and a copy of the data collection instrument. Projects that met the inclusion criteria (i.e. they identified themselves as being involved in intergenerational activities) were asked to return their completed templates by the end of October 2011. A reminder to participants who had not yet responded was sent one month after the initial contact. Completed templates received after 31st October 2011 were also included in the mapping exercise reported on here.
- The mapping exercise was advertised on www.activelink.ie with a link to a downloadable version of the data collection instrument. The exercise was also advertised in a number of Age Action Ireland's bulletins and on the Linking Generations Northern Ireland e-bulletin.
- In total, this exercise yielded 19 completed instruments. An initial review by the Irish Centre for Social Gerontology suggested that only one of the completed instruments were not relevant to the current exercise; details of the remaining 18 are included in this report.
- Of the 18 responses, and drawing on the definition of intergenerational projects noted above, 11 projects were identified as being clearly intergenerational in nature. The remaining seven projects were regarded as having the potential to be intergenerational; such projects would require a stronger focus on the core principles of intergenerational activity to be judged as clearly intergenerational.
- Prior to making the report available to the public, each participating project was forwarded a copy of their case study and the accompanying summary table in order to ensure their project is accurately represented. It is important to note at this point that the information provided on individual projects is largely based on self-representation and have only been edited by the research team for the purpose of consistency and understanding.

Key findings

Table 1 summarises the principal features of the 18 intergenerational projects included within this initial overview of such projects in Ireland. On the basis of the information presented by each project, key features of intergenerational initiatives can be summarised as follows:

- There is good evidence that intergenerational activity is present right across the Republic of Ireland. Such activity is not restricted to certain parts of Ireland, such as the major cities.
- The types of intergenerational activity taking place vary considerably in their scale and scope. Relevant projects encompass such diverse activities as art and craft, DVD production, story-telling, advice and mentoring.
- Some projects involve relatively few participants, while others engage with several hundred people.
- The age range of participants involved in intergenerational projects varies broadly across initiatives. The youngest reported participant was three years old; the oldest reported participant was aged 88 years. Despite the popular perception that intergenerational work primarily involves interaction between people aged 18 years and under and those aged 65 years and over, some projects currently taking place in Ireland also include participants of working age.
- In terms of time scale and duration, the majority of intergenerational projects reported on here are either continuously ongoing or occur on an annual basis. Approximately one fifth of intergenerational projects were once-off endeavours and most of these reported that they have led to other developments in terms of intergenerational activity.
- Sources of funding varied greatly across projects. Many projects were funded either publicly or privately, with some receiving funding from public-private partnerships. Only one project reported receiving no funding.
- Almost three quarters of intergenerational projects reported having been evaluated, with methods of evaluation varying across projects.
- The overwhelming majority of projects reported that they had either become sustainable after an initial period of activity or had developed further from the reported intergenerational activity. Many projects remain ongoing; in other cases, one-off projects had resulted in the implementation of, or discussion around the implementation of, further intergenerational activity.

- Almost every project (90%) produced outputs as part of their intergenerational activities. The type of outputs varied greatly, with examples including DVDs, photography, books, brochures and leaflets

Next steps: developing intergenerational practice in Ireland

This report provides an initial overview of intergenerational projects in Ireland. As such, it would be premature to make detailed recommendations concerning the future development of the field. We would anticipate being able to develop such recommendations when we have more information about other intergenerational initiatives that have not been captured in our mapping exercise to date. Nevertheless, the initial review of projects suggests the following:

- There is good evidence of an appetite for intergenerational practice in Ireland. A wide range of organisations from the public, private and not-for-profit sectors are engaged in intergenerational activities. The activities have the potential to involve large numbers of people from different generations.
- While the focus of much intergenerational activity is on bringing together older and younger generations, some projects in Ireland also involve people of working age. Greater consideration might be given to the potential to engage people from all generations and age-groups in intergenerational activities.
- There is much to be learned from the experiences of past and on-going intergenerational projects in Ireland. Such learning can be facilitated by those projects that have conducted evaluations of their activities. Projects that have not incorporated evaluation into their activities should consider doing so in order to improve the sharing of knowledge about 'what works'.
- As yet, there is no organisation that acts as the principal contact point for intergenerational activities in Ireland. As a result, opportunities to share learning and develop intergenerational practice are reduced. An organisation committed to developing the principles of intergenerational practice could act as a focal point for such activities in Ireland, acting as a repository for research evidence and innovations in practice, providing support and training for intergenerational programmes, and linking best practice in Ireland to similar approaches in other nations.
- Several projects included in this report would not fit a strict application of the definition of intergenerational practice. However, we feel that these initiatives are worthwhile and have the potential to develop their activities in ways that correspond more closely to the values of intergenerational practice. Typically, this

would involve some degree of strategic thought and planning. It might also involve the support of other initiatives that are engaged in the field.

- As an emerging field in Ireland, there is a need to develop understanding of the key features of intergenerational practice. This task should involve collaboration between the research and practice communities. In particular, applied research can support intergenerational projects to explore the effectiveness of their activities.

Table 1: Summary of intergenerational projects in Ireland

Project Name	Lead Organisation	Project Type	Participants		Duration	Evaluation	Funding
			How Many	Age Range			
Intergenerational Projects							
DVD Generations	Louth County Council and Louth Comhairle na nOg	Older people and Younger people jointly produced a DVD capturing attitudes of both groups towards one another	6 people; 3 younger people and 3 older people	16 - 18 years and 65 +	3 Months	✓	Public
Get your folks online	Google Ireland Ltd	Website encouraging younger generations to spend time passing their internet skills to older people	Not yet known	Marketed at younger professionals aged 25-35 years and older people in their lives	November 2011 - ongoing	✓	Private
Intergenerational Local History Programme	Ballymun Whitehall Area Partnership	Primary School Based Local History Programme	5 Older people, 185 younger people	8-12 years and 55+	September to June annually	✓	Public
<i>Changing Generations:</i> Towards a new national dialogue on intergenerational solidarity and justice in Ireland	Irish Centre for Social Gerontology, NUI Galway and Social Policy and Ageing Research Centre, Trinity College Dublin	Qualitative longitudinal project exploring intergenerational solidarity and justice in Ireland	Unknown yet	18+ years	2 years (2011 - 2013)	x	Philanthropic

Project Name	Lead Organisation	Project Type	Participants		Duration	Evaluation	Funding
			How Many	Age Range			
Living Scenes	NUI Galway	Intergenerational programme	1485 people to date	16-65+ years	1999 - ongoing (12 years)	✓	Public/Private Partnership
Mahon Intergenerational Photography Group	Mahon Community Development Project	Intergenerational Digital Photography Project	4 younger people, 4 older people	16-18 years and 63-70 years	March 2011 - ongoing	✓	Private
-	Pavee Point Travellers Centre	Workshops involving older and younger travellers	-	-	Ongoing	✓	Funded by Pavee
Rahoon Intergenerational Art Project	Youth Work Ireland Galway, Rahoon Youth Project (Corrach Bui)	Visual Art and Creative Writing Intergenerational Activity	20 people; 10 older people and 10 younger	10-65 years	9 months	✓	Public/Private Partnership
Sligo Arts and Health Programme	Sligo County Council Arts Service	Primary school-based intergenerational arts project	60-65 young people; 10-15 older people; 5 artists	9-12 years and 55-80+	Academic School year, annually	✓	Public
The Visiting Aphasia Scheme	Speech and Language Therapy Department Ennis and University of Limerick	SLT students visiting older people with aphasia	Up to 45 people; 28-30 students and 14-15 people with aphasia	Most students in their 20's and people with aphasia aged 50 - 80+	10 weeks on an annual basis	✓	Public
Wizard of Words (WoW)	Barnados	School based intergenerational reading programme	-	Primary school aged children and older people 55+	Academic School year, annually	✓	Public

Project Name	Lead Organisation	Project Type	Participants		Duration	Evaluation	Funding
			How Many	Age Range			
Recruitment of Retired Members into IMPACT	IMPACT	Retired members union	500 people approx	55+ years	April 2011 to ongoing	x	Not funded
Projects with a potential to be intergenerational							
Family Programme	National Gallery of Ireland	Creative family workshops	1283 people (in 2010)	3-65+ years	1995 - ongoing	✓	Public
Galway Crochet Craft	n/a	Crochet and craft group	200 + since beginning	11-88 years	6 week workshops ongoing	x	not funded
Getting Started Programme	Age Action Ireland	Digital inclusion programme	Over 11,000 people	18+	2006 - ongoing	x	Public and Private
NFTE Ireland	Foroige	Business Mentoring Programme	-	18+	Ongoing throughout academic year	x	Private
Out of homelessness -Prison Life Skills Group	Exchange House National Traveller Service	Addiction Support Group	52 women	20-50 years	1 year (Mar 2009 - April 2010)	✓	Public
Tallaght Stroke Support Group	Primary Care Team - Dublin South West, HSE & AMNCH Tallaght Hospital Stroke Team	Stroke support group	30-50 people per group	20-80+ years	Jan 2011 to ongoing	✓	Public

Intergenerational Projects

Case Study: 'Generations' DVD

Lead organisation: Louth County Council and Louth Comhairle na nOg

Contact details:

Name: Mary Deery

Role in organisation: Administrative Officer

Telephone number: 042 9324 389/086 803 268

Email: mary.deery@louthcoco.ie

Mailing Address: Louth County Development Board, Louth County Council
St Alphonsus Rd, Dundalk

Description of Project:

Louth County Council is leading the national roll out of the World Health Organization's Age Friendly Initiative in Ireland. During public consultations older people expressed an interest in doing an intergenerational piece with younger people. During the same period, at the annual Comhairle na nOg event, young people agreed to do a project with older people as their contribution to the Age Friendly County Initiative. When a group of older people and younger people were brought together they chose to produce a DVD capturing the attitudes of younger people towards older people and vice versa.

The DVD is based on ten key questions which were asked of both the older and younger people. Their responses were captured on camera. The learning experience from making the DVD has been exceptional for all concerned and it has touched the hearts of many people in Louth. The DVD can be accessed on www.louthagefriendlycounty.ie in the Positive Ageing and Events page under intergenerational activities.

The DVD was showcased at an international conference on age-friendly communities, held in Dublin in 2011.

Evidence of need:

Both Older people and young people saw the need to change attitudes from both age groups towards each other.

Participants:

The DVD included three young people (16 -18 years) from 'Louth Comhairle na nOg' and three older people from the 'Louth Older People's Forum'. There were also other younger and older people in the preparatory workshop sessions which started the conversation on attitudes in general.

Activities/events:

There were approximately four facilitated sessions with both older and younger people. The young people who took ownership of the project spoke to a researcher in Dundalk Institute of Technology in order to assist them in understanding ageing. There were approximately four preparation sessions with the young people in which they were trained to do the filming and editing.

The DVD production was supported by Coexist, the development support for Comhairle na nOg.

Evaluation:

The project has not been evaluated but the review and feedback has been excellent. There were no negative reports from the project. The project provided an insight into the current attitudes of both age groups towards each other. The DVD is now on www.louthagefriendlycounty.ie and allows further discussion to take place.

Outputs:

DVD - "Generations" www.louthagefriendlycounty.ie

Funding:

The project is funded by Louth Comhairle na nOg and Louth Age Friendly budget in Louth County Council.

Sustainability/Developments:

There are many more intergenerational pieces being carried out by the Louth Age Friendly County. These projects will be included on the Louth Age Friendly County Website. There is currently a project.

Case Study: Get Your Folks Online

Lead organisation: Google Ireland Ltd.

Contact details:

Name: Sinéad Gibney

Role in organisation: Social Action Manager

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Email address: sgibney@google.com

Mailing Address: Google Ireland Ltd, Barrow Street, Dublin 4, Ireland

Description of Project:

The *Age Engage* programme leverages Google Ireland's core competencies to improve Internet engagement by older people to better their lives and better the Internet. We aim to build a self-sustaining, scalable model for Internet engagement by older people, and drive awareness of the issue in the general public in Ireland.

Age Engage encompasses a number of separate programmes, including our Internet training, which we run on-site with Google volunteers, and through funding of courses run by Age Action, our partners.

This document will focus on www.GetYourFolksOnline.ie (GYFO), a website launched nationally in November 2011, encouraging younger generations to spend time passing their Internet skills on to the older people in their lives.

Evidence of need:

Our umbrella programme, Age Engage, has two major work streams - education and awareness. GYFO is the main part of the awareness programme and we hope to tap into the scalability of family support by introducing the intergenerational element.

Participants:

This programme is aimed at the general public, the older person as the end user and the younger person as the teacher. Our marketing campaign targets young people in the 25-35 yr age bracket. We feel that people in this age group are at a stage in their life where they may realise what their parents have given them and wish to give something back.

As part of the launch for the website, our audience was reached through:

- 3 national radio interviews / mentions

- a 3-hour broadcast of the Ray D'Arcy Show from Google European HQ in Barrow Street, with an invited audience of listeners who were engaged in teaching their folks Internet skills
- 5 local radio interviews
- 7 pieces of national print coverage
- 4 pieces of local print coverage
- 3 pieces of online coverage
- an insert in both the Sunday Times and the Metro Herald

Activities/events:

The younger person leads the session in a one to one face to face environment, using the website to guide them through the appropriate courses.

Evaluation:

The website is being evaluated on an ongoing basis through Google analytics and through surveys.

We currently have 21,000 hits on the site, 18% of which are returning visitors.

Outputs:

- www.GetYourFolksOnline.ie website, plus corresponding hard copy material.

Funding:

Privately funded by Google, and many partners who provided pro bono or subsidised support, e.g. Acorn Marketing, HH Printing, Today FM.

Sustainability/Developments:

It is planned to scale this across Europe, and to continue to promote it as a resource within Ireland.

Case Study: Intergenerational Local History Programme

Lead organisation: Ballymun Whitehall Area Partnership

Contact details:

Name: Colma Nic Lughadha

Role in organisation: Education Programme Manager

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Email address: colma@ballymun.org

Mailing Address: Ballymun Whitehall Area Partnership, North Mall, Ballymun Town Centre, Dublin 11

Description of Project:

Older members of the local community (over 55s) volunteer to visit primary school students in their classroom to tell them what life was like when they were in school. The volunteers receive training in Child Protection and Storytelling. Once in the classroom, the volunteers tell the students about what life was like for them when they were growing up. They talk about the games they played, the food they ate etc. The older people's input complements the primary school history curriculum. The students then ask questions that they have prepared with their class teacher prior to the talk. Students receive a pack containing a local History Trails Map and worksheets and take a walk of their local community, with the volunteer and their teacher, discussing the sites listed on the History Trail Map.

This intergenerational programme serves to build a connection between young people and older people from their own community and reduce the isolation of older people by encouraging them to become involved in voluntary activity. It enhances pupils' experience of the primary school history curriculum and it also enables the class teacher to become more familiar with the locality in which the children in their classroom reside.

Evidence of need:

In the Ballymun/Whitehall area there are over 13,000 people aged over 55 years (CSO, 2006). Based on a Ballymun Partnership and Hibernian Consulting report in 2008, it was suggested that ways to reduce isolation for older people should be developed and that there should be more social activities for older people.

In the primary school curriculum, there is a local history section. In 2008, in an evaluation of another Partnership programme called "Introduction to the Community for New Teachers", a teacher expressed a need to connect local history to the school curriculum. It was thought that it could be therefore beneficial for students to hear local history from local residents.

This project was therefore specifically devised to link two needs within the community. The first need was to link older people with children, serving as a means to reduce isolation for older people and enhancing their life experience. A second need was to enhance the education experience for local children, through the medium of local history delivered by local Older People. A desirable outcome identified was the enhancement of the local knowledge of teachers working in local schools.

Participants:

In 2011, five volunteers took part in the project. They delivered the Intergenerational History Programme to 185 students in local Ballymun Primary schools – to a total of 9 classes ranging from fourth to sixth class. Initially, Ballymun Whitehall Area Partnership staff liaised with school principals on the availability and interest of the schools. All schools responded positively. Volunteers were recruited through various older people's networks, local clubs and organisations.

Activities/events:

Volunteers visited local schools in the morning time and the whole programme, including in-class time and the history trail walk, took an hour and a half to deliver. Most volunteers presented to two classes each. Staff members from the Education and Community Development sections of Ballymun Whitehall Area Partnership co-ordinated and supported these sessions (including providing learning materials etc.). In most cases, the class teacher or school principal liaised with Partnership staff in order to ensure children were prepared for the visit from an older person.

Evaluation:

The project was evaluated in previous years. In July/August 2011, a comprehensive evaluation of the project took place; questionnaires were administered to class teachers, the volunteers took part in a focus group, and the school pupils completed an activity sheet.

The evidence suggests that the programme was a successful means of meeting local need – to the benefit of the volunteer, student, and teacher. The school was supported in meeting objectives of the history primary school curriculum; volunteers gained many benefits from sharing their knowledge and stories; students gained great knowledge of what life was like in the past as well as many interesting stories relating to sites and events in their locality. Overall, the programme was highly beneficial to all of the stakeholders involved. Evidence suggests that even greater preparation and follow-up visits might help to enhance the learning experience for students. Also, the involvement of new volunteers might increase the positive benefits to other members of the community who may be feeling isolated and who are willing to give their time.

Outputs:

- Local History Trail maps developed in 2007 with 3 differing trails that can be used depending on the specific locality of each school
- A PowerPoint presentation was created in 2009/10 in order to add to the delivery of the presentation by the volunteers if they wish to use it
- The History Trail maps are provided to each child in a folder also containing word searches, activity sheets and a pencil.
- Evaluation sheets are given to participating children, class teachers and volunteers.

Funding:

The intergenerational programme is funded through the core funding of Ballymun Whitehall Area Partnership; namely the Local and Community Development Programme from the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government. In 2009 this funding came from what was then called the Local Development and Social Inclusion Programme from the Department of Community, Rural and Gaelteacht Affairs.

Sustainability/Developments:

It is hoped that this programme will continue to run. Feedback has been very positive and the programme may inform future initiatives in the Partnership. Extension of the programme to the Larkhill area of the Partnership area is being considered. Challenges within this development are the recruitment of volunteers, personnel resources to co-ordinate any expansion and the sourcing of a budget and personnel resources to develop local history materials for that area.

Case Study: *Changing Generations*: Towards a new national dialogue on intergenerational solidarity and justice in Ireland

Lead organisation: This is a collaborative research project undertaken in joint partnership by the Irish Centre for Social Gerontology (ICSG), National University of Ireland Galway and the Social Policy and Ageing Research Centre (SPARC), Trinity College Dublin.

Contact details:

Name: Gemma Carney

Role in organisation: Postdoctoral Researcher

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Description of Project:

This is a new qualitative longitudinal research project, which will provide the evidence base necessary for a constructive discussion on intergenerational solidarity and justice in Ireland. Through in-depth interviews with 100 men and women belonging to different birth cohorts, the project will create a rich dataset that will be used to draw out understandings on intergenerational solidarity. The project aims to ensure that the views of the most marginalised groups in Irish society are included and represented in project findings and national dialogue that follows the study. The study uses grounded theory methodology. Leading international expert on grounded theory, Professor Kathy Charmaz is the international member of the scientific advisory board for this project. A novel aspect of the study is its commitment to engaging relevant stakeholder organisations in the project from the outset. The longitudinal element of the project ensures that it will yield information and contribute to the national discussion well beyond its initial two-year duration.

Evidence of need:

Demographic ageing and a changing economic and social context in Ireland means that the time is ripe to initiate a constructive national discussion on intergenerational solidarity and justice. Similar discussions have taken place in other developed world contexts, sometimes with strong suggestions that intergenerational conflict is inevitable in the future. While there is little research evidence of serious intergenerational conflict, it is important to gain a deep understanding of what different cohorts in Ireland think about intergenerational solidarity in order to inform this emergent discussion.

Participants:

As of February 2012 approximately half of the interviews have been conducted with men and women from a diverse range of socio-economic and ethnic backgrounds who are currently living in Ireland. Participants belong to a range of different birth cohorts in order to reflect contrasting understandings of intergenerational solidarity and justice that are likely to exist in Ireland.

Activities/events:

The main activities of this project will be the in-depth interviews undertaken by the two research fellows engaged on the project. An initial stakeholder meeting took place in October 2011 in Dublin. Professor Charmaz will travel to Ireland to give a workshop on grounded theory in March 2012. A conference to mark International Day for Intergenerational Solidarity will be held in Galway in April 2012.

Evaluation:

n/a

Outputs:

The project is at an early stage.

Funding:

This project is funded by The Atlantic Philanthropies.

Sustainability/Developments:

This project is one of a suite of projects across NUI Galway and TCD. At NUI Galway, the Life Course Institute is developing its expertise in social and economic research on ageing, disability and children and families. Many of these projects have an intergenerational dimension. At Trinity, the Irish Longitudinal Study on Ageing (TILDA) and the Growing Up in Ireland study are significant sources of research evidence. *Changing Generations* plans to offer a qualitative evidence base which will complement these larger quantitative studies. The aim is to establish a significant body of knowledge on ageing, the life course and intergenerational solidarity in Ireland.

Case Study: Living Scenes

Lead organisation: National University of Ireland Galway

Contact details:

Name: Dr. Mary Surlis

Role in organisation: Director, Living Scenes Programme of Intergenerational Learning

Telephone number(s): 091 493040

Email address: mary.surlis@nuigalway.ie

Description of Project:

Living scenes is an intergenerational programme of learning designed, implemented and funded by NUI Galway. It is currently operating in six schools in the Western Region. As a programme of intergenerational learning, Living Scenes seeks to promote and cultivate the enriching relationship that has been established in the course of the programme's 11-year history. The relationship is that of the bond between older and younger adults in an educational setting. In a curricular context, the programme is primarily focused on developing links between teenagers and retired adults in a school setting as part of the school curriculum and transition year ethos. The programme listens and responds to the needs of younger and older adults in our society through specifically designed media that allows a platform of equal expression for both groups.

Evidence of need:

Living Scenes responded and responds to an identified need both at a community and second level school context.

Participants:

To date 1,485 teenagers and older adults have taken part in the programme. The project currently has 180 participants ranging in age from 18 to 60+ years. These participants are recruited by school-based coordinators.

Activities/events:

Modules: Art, Music, Drama, Writing. 30-week programme. Facilitated by NUI Galway-trained facilitators.

Evaluation:

The National University of Ireland Galway is carrying out an evaluation of the programme which is ongoing in all 8 centres. This is qualitative and quantitative evaluation which is examining the effects of intergenerational learning in established sites throughout Ireland.

Outputs:

Books, DVDs, exhibitions, public performances.

Funding:

NUI Galway funding 6 centres; Society of Saint of Vincent De Paul Croí na Gaillimhe – self-funded.

Sustainability/Developments:

There are currently 50 secondary schools on a waiting list.

Case Study: Mahon Intergenerational Photography Group

Lead organisation: Mahon Community Development Project (CDP)

Contact details:

Name: Viv Sadd

Role in organisation: Project Coordinator

Telephone number(s): 021-4359070

Email address: viv@mahoncdp.com

Mailing Address: Mahon CDP, Unit 7, Avenue de Rennes, Mahon, Cork.

Description of Project:

This was an Intergenerational Digital Photography Project. The older people and younger participants met on a weekly basis with a digital photography tutor, a development worker for older people and a youth worker. The group learned digital photography skills and put together a thematic exhibition, 'Young and Old', which was displayed publicly.

Before the larger digital photography group came together, the younger and older participants met separately. This facilitated session aimed to establish and record any existing attitudes and prejudices. A mid-point review was also held at which stage both groups were reminded of their original comments. This was an opportunity to observe if there was any difference in opinion. A DVD captures the views and learning of the participants. It highlights the stereotypical views that can exist prior to engaging with another age group, and how after some time the preconceived ideas can be transformed, with a mutual respect developing.

Evidence of need:

It became obvious through discussions between the youth worker and development worker for older people that there was very little interaction taking place between the two generations.

Through ageism workshops in the schools and youth groups, workers became aware of ageist attitudes and stereotypes among some young people. It also became apparent that some older people had stereotypical views on younger people, and in fact some older people had fears in relation to younger people.

We felt that we could bring the two age groups together to begin some interaction between the generations with a view to tackling these opinions.

We chose the medium of digital photography as it is a general subject and can be applicable to any group without being gender or age specific. We felt it was a good vehicle to use given that it is common to all age groups, both male and female. We had also previously been asked by members of the community to develop a digital photography course, due to the wide ownership of digital cameras but people feeling that they could not utilise them to their full extent.

Participants:

An equality of participation was implemented in line with best practice. Four older people and four younger people took part in the project. This was further broken down into four female and four male participants to create a gender balance. The younger people ranged in age from 16-18 years and the older people from 63-70 years. The local youth worker recruited the four younger people involved, whilst the development worker for older people recruited the four older people. All participants had an interest to develop their skills in the area of digital photography.

Activities/events:

The group met once a week in Mahon CDP at an agreed time that was suitable to both older and younger people. The youth worker and development worker were present and the photography tutor led the session. The tutor taught the group new skills in relation to digital photography. In later weeks, they worked towards creating images for a public photography exhibition, based on a theme of 'Young and Old'.

Evaluation:

There was a midpoint review of the project with participants. This review was filmed for future use. Participants were reminded of their comments at their original meeting and were given the opportunity to give their current views having spent a number of months together. It was clear to see that everyone was enjoying the project immensely and had changed their opinions having spent time together. Participants also commented that they would like to get involved in similar projects in the future. These comments and opinions were recorded on DVD as a learning resource.

What did and did not work, and what was the evidence?

Initially four young people showed an interest in being involved in the project. However one of the younger people did not attend the sessions. We could not afford to lose any of the members of the group as it was originally designed with a gender and age balance in mind. However, the group had progressed too far to introduce a new person. In the future, if there is an apparent lack of commitment from any member of the group, the space would be filled early on so as not to upset the dynamics of the group. Otherwise it worked well.

What were the outcomes for all generations involved, and the community?

Both age groups were able to contribute in a meaningful way to the group as a whole but also on an individual level whereby, in one particular case, one of the younger people assisted an older man with operating his camera, in return, the same man gave the younger person a brief history on the subject of his photograph, which was of an old manor house in the area. This was a clear demonstration of the fact that both generations have a lot to teach each other and learn from each other.

Some positive relationships were established which has led to a reduction in the divide between the age groups.

Through completing an initial session before both age groups met and also a mid-point review, we were able to identify and tackle traditional stereotypes that exist between the generations. The group were given the opportunity to engage with people that they would not ordinarily have met. This was evidential from our initial meetings with the groups whereby both groups stated that they do not have day to day contact with the other age group.

The community and wider area benefited from being able to view the public exhibition, which was held in the City Library. The exhibition contained the images and a description of the image and a profile of each participant. The public left comments commending the exhibition and were pleased to observe that intergenerational work was taking place. The project also garnered national press coverage of this initiative, in conjunction with coverage of international intergenerational training that Mahon CDP had implemented.

Lessons learned:

Overall the project was a huge success. The meetings held with the individual age groups prior to coming together as a larger group were very valuable. It identified existing opinions of the age groups and gave us a base on which to re-evaluate at a future point.

The gender balance and age balance worked well and has been repeated with the formation of a new group. The involvement of the different workers, i.e. youth worker and development worker for older people, was beneficial as each worker knew the participants well. This was a vitally important component.

The medium of digital photography was a good focal point as all participants had an interest in learning more on the subject. Working towards the exhibition introduced a new energy into the group and having the theme of 'young and old' encouraged the participants to view their images in a new light.

Outputs:

- A collection of photographs of the group in action.
- Framed images used for the exhibition, as well as profiles written by the participants.
- A DVD based on the views of the participants both before they met each other and after they had worked together for a number of weeks. The DVD highlights the stereotypical views that can exist prior to engaging with another age group, and how after some time the preconceived ideas can be transformed, with a mutual respect developing.
- The project also garnered national press coverage of this initiative, in conjunction with coverage of international intergenerational training that Mahon CDP had implemented via the European Union's Youth in Action Programme.

Funding:

Charitable funding agency.

Sustainability/Developments:

- The work that was previously displayed in the City Library will be displayed locally within the community, to provide people with a further chance to view the images and profiles.
- We will be expanding the boundaries of the Digital Photography group to make it an Intergenerational Activity Group. The group will try new activities such as water sports etc.
- The Intergenerational Digital Photography Group will form the base of a new Intergenerational Photography Club to be established.
- A new Intergenerational Group has been set up which will follow the same format as the original group. Both groups will join together in the future to create an intergenerational Photography Club.

Case Study: Pavee Point

Lead organisation: Pavee Point

Contact details:

Name: Fran Keyes

Role in organisation: Joint Coordinator of Primary Health Care for Travellers Project

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Description of Project:

Pavee Point's work with older Travellers is ongoing and over the past few years a variety of activities/projects have taken place. These included a piece of research with Older Travellers living in Finglas/Blanchardstown area of Dublin and a report 'Auld Pavee Beiors and Glokes' was published and is available on our website.

An intergenerational event was held in Pavee Point and young travellers and older travellers were involved in workshops discussing what the issues are today for younger travellers, how things have changed for travellers, and how young and older travellers could communicate with one another to ensure culture and history is handed down. A paper on the profile of the traveller family was also published as part of our work with the Family Support Agency.

As part of the Bealtaine Festival a day was organised celebrating the value and work of 'Older Travellers'. Statutory organisations, traveller organisations, older groups and a variety of organisations working with older people were invited to this event. This event was a celebration of Traveller culture and history. Two older Traveller women spoke about their lives and presented the findings of the All Ireland Traveller Health Study as well as talking about the work that they do as Traveller Community Health Workers. Two Older Traveller women were presented with certificates from UCD for Fetac level 7 module that they had completed on older people. A Traveller specific poster on Alzheimer's Disease was launched at this event as well as our position paper on 'Travellers and Positive Ageing' (available on our website). The event was opened by Minister Kathleen Lynch and was very well attended.

We have also produced a DVD: 'Pavee Beiors Our lives in the 20th Century'.

In short, our project aims to highlight the age profile of older Travellers; create an awareness of the needs of older Travellers; and identify ways in which older Travellers can be included.

Participants:

A number of older and younger travellers.

Activities/events:

See project description above.

Evaluation:

No formal evaluation.

Outputs:

- Report – ‘Auld Pavee Beoirs & Glokes’
- DVD – ‘Pavee Beoirs Our lives in the 20th Century’
- Paper on the profile of Traveller Family
- Position paper on Travellers and Positive Ageing.

Funding:

- Activities supported by Pavee Point

Sustainability/Developments:

The intergenerational activities of Pavee are ongoing

Case Study: Ragoon Intergenerational Art Project

Lead organisation: Youth Work Ireland Galway, Ragoon Youth Project (Corrach Bui)

Contact details:

Name: Anne Pigott

Role in organisation: Project Worker (Youth Development)

Telephone number(s): 091 589832 Mobile: 0879374119

Email address: corrachbui@youthworkgalway.ie

Mailing Address: Corrach Bui Community Centre, Circular Road, Ragoon, Galway

Description of Project:

The Ragoon Intergenerational Art Project is a youth-led intergenerational project with two elements: a visual art activity (painting on canvas) and a creative writing activity. The visual art element was completed in October 2011; the creative writing activity element is ongoing.

For the visual art activity, two intergenerational groups worked together on the theme of age-stereotyping and represented their ideas in individual and collaborative art pieces. A series of separate preparation meetings for young and older participants focused on age-stereotyping (positive, negative and ambivalent), commonalities across the lifespan and connections between negative stereotyping, prejudice and discrimination. Two intergenerational groups were then formed, balanced, as far as was possible, for age, ethnicity and gender. Groups completed 20 individual art pieces and two group collaborative pieces for exhibition in Westside Library, an event in Galway City Council's Social Inclusion week of the 18th October 2011.

Evidence of need:

It was important to run this project as there was evidence of:

- negative age stereotyping
- low levels of social cohesion across age groups at local level.
- disconnect between age-groups
- Evidence of isolation

It was also deemed necessary to promote positive well-being.

Participants:

There were 20 participants involved in the visual art element of the project - 11 young people from Corrach Bui (aged 10-17 years) and nine adult participants living in the Westside community in Galway (aged 28-65 years).

Activities/events:

Planning was youth-led, supported by the Project Worker and a Youth Work Assistant on Community Employment. The young people drafted an application form requesting involvement of older participants. This form was circulated to key workers, working with older participants, in local community agencies. Three structured preparation sessions were facilitated by the Ragoon Youth Project Worker. Ten Painting sessions (five for each group) were facilitated by a Community Artist from Corrach Bui and co-facilitated by the Project Worker and Youth Work Assistant.

The Project Worker documented the project.

A roadmap and activities for the second element of the Ragoon Intergenerational Art Project (creative writing) is being developed by the youth participants supported by their youth workers.

Evaluation:

The project worker carried out an interim evaluation using structured evaluation forms and verbal feedback from all participants.

What did and did not work, and what was the evidence?

While feedback from all participants was very positive, Youth Workers felt more time was needed in the art sessions in order to avoid rushing tasks to meet the deadline for the art exhibition.

What were the outcomes for all generations involved, and the community?

- A safe place to discuss positive, negative and ambivalent stereotypes with respect to age
- An awareness of commonalities across the lifespan
- A creative opportunity to represent ideas discussed.
- A 'feel good' moment in the local community- the public event of exhibiting individual and collaborative art pieces and helping to fundraise.
- Young people helping older participants to fundraise for activities in which older participants were involved
- Enhanced teamwork skills, inter/intrapersonal skills

Lessons learned:

There was a positive group dynamic in both groups whereby all participants enjoyed the activity. However in the future we would allow more time to meet deadlines. There is a need to explore ways to involve more participants in the 30 – 45 age range and also more males. Additionally there is a need to consider ways of maintaining links with groups.

Outputs:

- Exhibition brochure
- 2 collaborative art pieces and 20 individual art pieces
- Group photos

Funding:

- Society of Saint of Vincent De Paul funded art materials, exhibition costs and cost of art tutor (€990).
- Youth Work Ireland Galway (Rahoon Youth Project) provided two support staff (a Project Worker and Youth Work Assistant), space for art sessions, administration, IT and publicity, processed funding application, organised content and facilitation of preparation meetings, completed progress reports for St Vincent de Paul, mapping exercise and co-facilitated all sessions.
- Fourteen paintings were sold at exhibition, 50% of takings to individual artists and 50% to be divided between the two funding organisations, Youth Work Ireland Galway and St Vincent de Paul.

Sustainability/Developments:

The ongoing creative writing activity represents the second element of the project.

Case Study: Recruitment of Retired Members into IMPACT

Lead organisation: IMPACT

Contact details:

Name: Edwina Jones

Role in organisation: Hon. Secretary,

Phone number(s): (01) 4942855

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Mailing address: Retired Members' Vocational Group, IMPACT, Nerney's Court, Temple St., Dublin 1.

Description of Project:

IMPACT is a trade union. It is primarily concerned with working members but also includes a number of retired members. The structure of the union is such that there are branches run by committees, that would in the majority consist of working members of various disciplines and grades. Each branch also includes a small number of retired members. The idea is that for the most part offices of the branches will be working members but that retired members add their experience into discussions and decision making processes. Another aspect is that the retired member has more free time to do union work – with union representatives having less time for union work due to staff shortages in the public service.

Participants:

The retired members (of which there are approximately 500) are managed by an elected committee of 23 members. Two representatives from that committee, the President of IMPACT and the Deputy General Secretary of IMPACT have formed a group to lead the project.

Activities/events:

The elected committee meets once a month to discuss relevant business (mostly around pensions, health care and recruitment) and there is a general meeting of all retired members, annually.

Evaluation:

The project commenced in Spring 2011 and no evaluation has taken place. It is hoped to have an initial report after the first year.

Outputs:

- It is hoped that a brochure aimed specifically at the recruitment of retired members will be available in due course

- There is currently a policy to actively promote the recruitment of retired members. Branches have been written to, asking that they appoint someone with responsibility for their retired members

Funding:

There is no specific funding for this project, however, when finance is required it is provided by IMPACT.

Sustainability/Developments:

A similar project is being planned for the recruitment of younger members.

Case Study: Sligo Arts and Health Programme

Lead organisation: Sligo County Council Arts Service

Contact details:

Name: Rhona McGrath

Role in organisation: Assistant Arts Officer

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Email: rmcgrath@sligococo.ie

Mailing Address: Sligo County Council, Riverside, Sligo

Description of Project:

As part of its annual Arts Programme, Sligo Arts Service manages a number of two-year, schools-based Intergenerational Arts Projects in communities around County Sligo. The projects offer participants opportunities to collaborate with professional artists in high quality, person-centred experiences of the arts. At the core of the Intergenerational Arts Project is a creative journey taken by the pupils in the local school and the older people who live in the same neighbourhood along with an artist. Over two years, the pupils, older people and artist come together for a series of high-quality, explorative arts experiences to explore who they are, where they live and what constitutes their sense of place and community.

Evidence of need:

It was important to implement the programme for the following reasons:

- To enhance social relationships drawing on personal and group creativity, reflecting growing evidence that good relationships are a major determinant of health.
- To promote better understanding of health and well being using creative projects as a means of expression.
- To initiate projects that bring communities and health promotion closer together through the use of creative methodologies to explore, disseminate and communicate health messages.
- To celebrate creativity in older age through the Bealtaine Festival.
- Work and professional development opportunities for professional artists in all art forms.

Participants:

The young people are generally in 5th and 6th class or in smaller schools, 3rd class through 6th class. The older people range in age from 55 years to 80+. On average 60-65 young people, 10-15 older people and 5 artists take part annually.

Activities/events:

Activities take place weekly for a period of 8-10 weeks during school terms one and two. A lead artist facilitates the sessions assisted by a number of other artists depending on the art activity.

Evaluation:

There have been three evaluations to date, as follows:

- Sligo County Council Arts Service in association with the Sligo Arts and Health Steering Group commissioned 'He+Art: A participatory Arts and Health Strategy for Sligo 2007 – 2012'
- Sligo County Council Arts Service published 'Space for Art: Sligo arts plan 2007 – 2010'
- Sligo County Council Arts Service published 'The Maugherow Project: Unwrapping Creativity 1998 -2001'

What did and did not work, and what was the evidence?

Our biggest challenge was moving the emphasis from the Pilot Project in Maugherow to mainstream it as a 2-year project which could be accessed by schools & communities around the county. However the investment in The Maugherow Project was necessary to build partnerships and funding and to research, evaluate and disseminate outcomes – as detailed above in the current 2 year Intergenerational Arts Projects.

What were the outcomes for all generations involved, and the community?

The benefits of intergeneration arts partnerships are as follows:

The School

This programme will support the core educational mission of the school and, in line with the Primary School Curriculum, will aim to:

- Celebrate the uniqueness of each child and to nurture the child in all dimensions of their life - spiritual, moral, cognitive, emotional, imaginative, aesthetic, social and physical.
- Encourage pupils to value and appreciate different ways of learning and different forms of intelligence.
- Give pupils a deeper understanding of their own creative potential and greater confidence when engaging with different arts experiences and art forms.
- Make direct connections between strand units in SPHE (Social, Personal and Health Education) and different subjects on the Arts Curriculum such as Visual Art, Drama and Music. The school and the pupils will benefit from the closer connections that will be made to older people living in their local community and to the breaking down of pre-conceived conceptions and stereotypes of older people, replacing them with positive attitudes towards ageing and older people.

The Older People and the Wider Community

Participation in an intergenerational arts project will bring different groups in the community together for a shared creative experience and so help make connections between individuals and help break down social isolation. Such projects open up dialogue and conversations between people who may not otherwise be in direct contact and thus break down pre-conceived conceptions and stereotypes. The wider impact of the programme will result in developing a shared sense of community between the pupils and the older people and so make stronger connections between the school and the local community.

On an individual basis, the older people will have the opportunity to engage in high-quality arts encounters, to explore their own creative impulses and to discover new ways to express themselves and reflect on their lives and experiences.

The Strategic Partners (Sligo Arts Service, Health Service Executive) and the Artists Community

Through the Intergenerational Arts Programme the partners will make connections with people who may not otherwise have had any previous access to the Arts or Health Services and will open up their provision to new groups of people. Artists will be stimulated and inspired by engaging with people previously unfamiliar with the arts who will bring a fresh, new perspective to the creative process. Overall partner service provision will be enhanced

Outputs:

- Publications
- Exhibitions
- Leaflets
- Photographs
- Films
- Policies
- Professional Development for Artists and Health Staff

Funding:

Publically funded through Sligo County Council, Sligo Borough Council, HSE West and Arts Council of Ireland.

Sustainability/Developments:

The project is ongoing as part of Sligo County Council Arts Service Annual Programme.

Case Study: The Visiting Aphasia Scheme

Lead organisation: Speech and Language Therapy (SLT) Department Ennis and University of Limerick

Contact details:

Name: Emer Ni Mhaoileoin, Olive Gowan & Sarah Curran

Role in organisation: Trainers/organisers

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Mailing Address: Willow Unit, St. Joseph's Hospital Ennis, Co. Clare

Description of Project:

Older people with aphasia following stroke often experience isolation as a result of their communication disability and have little opportunity for conversations. This scheme is a joint initiative to help reduce that isolation of our clients. Olive Gowan from UL and two speech and language therapists collaborated to implement the scheme in Co. Clare under the title of *The Visiting Aphasia Scheme*.

The project provides older people living with aphasia with a young conversation partner for one hour per week. This initiative was borne of the need to provide SLT students with a greater understanding of the impact of the loss of conversation following stroke and the constant challenge for the speech and language therapists in the community to meet the needs of older people with aphasia in the long term.

The scheme provides reciprocal benefits in increasing social contact for older people with aphasia and meeting students' learning needs.

Evidence of need:

It was our experience that older people with aphasia became isolated as a result of their communication difficulty when formal speech and language therapy has ended. There was a need to provide social contact in the older persons own home rather than in a clinical environment to encourage a friendship developing between the older person and the students.

Participants:

Annually, 28-30 students are paired with 14-15 older people with aphasia for the visiting scheme. The visits can take place in a variety of settings, including nursing homes and the person's own home. Most students are in their 20s and the people with aphasia range in age from 50 years and upwards. The speech and language therapists select the most

suitable candidates for the scheme each year; one group to train the students and give them feedback on their skills in supporting conversation, and another group to receive weekly visits.

Activities/events:

“Training the trainers” training sessions take place every two years in St. Joseph’s hospital in Ennis. This trains the first group who provide feedback to the students. There is opportunity for students to meet people with aphasia who give them feedback on their supported conversation skills every year prior to the visiting aphasia scheme in the University of Limerick

Evaluation:

The project was evaluated by the University of Limerick after the first year. It was very successful overall. However, it was noted that the project worked best in the domiciliary setting rather than the hospital setting and this was a result of hospital constraints.

The older person had increased social interactions and conversations with the younger generation, serving to reduce the isolation our clients were experiencing. The younger generation had an increased opportunity to learn from the older clients, which is a valuable resource. For example, valuable insight was gained in living with a communication disability, the lived experience of ageing and coping with a disability, as well as an exchange of life experience between the generations. Friendships were formed and social contact continued after the project in some cases.

Lessons learned:

Having the involvement of next of kin in the background supported the project. Often this was not the case in the hospital setting and therefore was much more difficult. It also worked well when time was taken prior to the visits to gather information such as interests etc. and also to prepare for the interactions.

Outputs:

- Collage of photographs from training days

Funding:

University funding.

Sustainability/Developments:

As a result of this project, it is planned to run a “Chatterbox Coffee Morning” in a local theatre coffee shop. The premise of this morning, which will run monthly, is to provide an opportunity for older clients to drop in for a chat with people in a similar situation and to chat with ourselves, SLT students and volunteers. It will provide an informal setting for

increased social participation and development of friendships. It is hoped that it will provide support for clients, spouses and carers to be able to meet families in similar circumstances. We will be looking for funding to help develop this project.

Case Study: Wizards of Words (WoW)

Lead organisation: Barnardos

Contact details:

Name: Maura McMahon

Role in organisation: WoW Project Leader

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Mailing Address: 10 Newlands Cross Business Park, Clondalkin, Dublin 22

Description of Project:

Barnardos Wizards of Words (WoW) is an intergenerational reading programme that pairs trained volunteers over the age of 55 years with children from first and second class. The older volunteers work with the children, who are behind in reading, throughout the academic year for two to three 30-minute sessions per week. WoW uses a guided-reading approach where the volunteers adopt a three-stage process during each one-to-one session. Children are withdrawn from the classroom for WoW - all reading assessment data and anecdotal information is fed back to teachers and parents at regular reporting times throughout the year. The programme's goals are to improve children's emotional well-being, and increase reading achievement in four key areas (i.e. vocabulary, phonics, comprehension, and fluency).

Evidence of need:

WoW is a needs-led service based on national analyses indicating that one third of children from disadvantaged areas leave school with serious literacy difficulties.

Participants:

Volunteers over the age of 55 years were recruited for the programme in accordance with funding parameters from The Atlantic Philanthropies. Schools were chosen initially on the basis of pre-existing relationships with other Barnardos projects (based in disadvantaged areas). Children are nominated by their classroom teachers as lagging behind in reading, and standardized assessments are used to screen children, based on quantitative reading criteria. Children who meet programme criteria are approached for parental consent to enter the programme, and then asked for their consent.

Activities/events:

Volunteers attend mandatory training sessions throughout the academic year, and meet with the children to read 2-3 times weekly. Children attend the programme 2-3 times

weekly for 30-minute sessions. School personnel participate in mid-term reviews throughout the year.

Evaluation:

An experimental evaluation of the programme is nearing completion; a draft report will be completed in late spring 2012. The evaluation also includes an assessment of implementation issues. The Child and Family Research Centre at NUI Galway have been contracted by Barnardos to conduct the evaluation. All participating WoW schools and children were recruited to the evaluation - children completed assessments; teachers and principals participated in interviews and the former completed a survey for each child in the programme; volunteers completed surveys about the children they tutored and participated in focus group discussions; and WoW staff and managers participated in one-to-one interviews.

Lessons learned:

Things that worked well included:

- Open communication between all stakeholders
- Understanding of the school environment
- Flexibility
- Role of the project leaders in facilitating the evaluation
- Establishing a steering group and meeting regularly

Challenges included:

- Managing and co-ordinating the consent process
- Simultaneous programme initiation and child assessments
- Encouraging teacher participation in completion of surveys
- Being able to identify appropriate assessments to measure reading enjoyment and reading confidence
- Communication
- Meeting tight timelines

Outputs:

- Informational DVD
- Programme participation request pamphlet/tear-off
- Volunteer manual
- Project leader's manual
- 3 conference presentations (Reading Association of Ireland, Irish Association of Teachers of Special Education, School Completion Programme)
- Publication in professional journal (Reading Association of Ireland)
- Radio interview (Richard Crowley, RTE)

Funding:

Fully funded until June 2012 by The Atlantic Philanthropies.

Sustainability/Developments:

Will be sustained until 2012 at least.

Projects with a potential to be intergenerational

Case Study: Family Programme

Lead organisation: National Gallery of Ireland

Contact details:

Name: Dr Marie Bourke

Role in organisation: Keeper, Head of Education

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Email address: mbourke@ngi.ie

Mailing Address: 89 Merrion Square, Dublin 2

Description of Project:

The NGI Family Programme is a free workshop where adults and children are guided by professional tutors working with a theme related to the collection. The learning can work both ways in this workshop, which children learning from adults and vice versa. It runs Saturdays from September to May each year.

Evidence of need:

There is a high demand for creative workshops from Gallery visitors. The Gallery does not have the staff resources to allow full supervision of unattended Children. The Family Programme (and the Family Packs provided at the Information desk free to borrow, year round) is an important opportunity for children and adults to work together.

Participants:

The participants are children with parents, grandparents, carers and/or guardians, so the age range is from babies and toddlers to elderly people. In 2011, the NGI held 35 family programme workshops, and these were attended by 1,296 people.

The Education Department has a large mailing list of people who are interested in Children and Family activities, and a brochure detailing 6 months of workshops is sent bi-annually by post and/or e-mail. This brochure is also available to pick up in the Gallery, and details of all of the events are on the NGI website.

Activities/events:

The workshop is free and no booking is necessary. All materials are provided, which also encourages families to drop in. Participants are encouraged to participate by the professional tutors who run the workshops each week. They are given tasks, which are broken down into steps, and encouraged to work as a family.

Evaluation:

The workshops are subject to continuous evaluation. The tutors change every week, but the supervisor remains the same, and she provides valuable feedback about the success and potential changes that could be made, plus materials needed, etc. On occasion, the Family Programme is the subject of an Internship Programme Project.

What did and did not work, and what was the evidence?

Originally, in 1995, the Family Programme was open to all ages and children aged 8-14 years were the dominant age group. This pattern has gradually changed downwards over the years. The workshops are now aimed at families with children aged 4-10 years old. This is not strictly enforced, and in reality, the children tend to be 3-7 years old. When they are younger, the instruction and tasks can be too complicated for them. This encourages them to return when the children are a little older.

What were the outcomes for all generations involved, and the community?

One of the main outcomes is that it encourages children and families to view visiting a museum and taking part in a museum activity as a normal everyday thing. All generations are introduced to or continue their relationship with the NGI collection as a result of these workshops. It is also a great opportunity for families to work together to create a finished work of art, and to engage in conversation about creativity and art.

Lessons learned

The Family Programme is reviewed/evaluated on a regular basis in order to note the changing patterns of the public (e.g. note the downward trend of the age group). As a result it is appropriately amended to suit the age groups. The Programme works extremely well, is very popular and it is planned to continue it into the future. It is hoped that the NGI will get a studio-like education space in the future that can be used for workshops, despite which it currently manages well within the space limitations.

Outputs:

- The Family Programme is detailed in the bi-annual brochures produced by the Education Department
- The National Gallery achieved two awards: the **Guinness Living Dublin Award** (Highly Commended) specifically for the Family Programme, and an **AIB Better Ireland Award**, under the heading: '*National Gallery Engages with the Community*', in which the Family Programme and events formed a part of the entry.

Funding:

The workshops are funded by the NGI Education Department, and are free to participants. They are currently supported by Matheson Ormsby Prentice Solicitors.

Sustainability/Developments:

The Gallery also delivers mid-term break workshops and other family events, such as the annual Drawing Day, which are all inter-generational - these are organised through the Education Officer – Administration (Joanne Drum).

Case Study: Galway Crochet Craft

Lead organisation: Not applicable

Contact details:

Name: Anne Quinn (co-tutor Mary Fallon)

Role in organisation: Tutor/Founder

Telephone number(s): 087 7548741

Email address: anne.quinn@nuigalway.ie or anneoharaquinn@gmail.com

Mailing Address: 135 Dangan Heights, Galway

Description of Project:

Beginner and intermediate crochet groups are facilitated twice a week in the Westwood Hotel in Galway. A beginner course lasts for six weeks and there is a two-hour class weekly (i.e. 12 hours of tutoring in total). There is often a demand from some participants to continue on with some more intermediate crafting, so we offer three-week (2 hours per week; 6 hours in total) add-on classes. From time to time, we recall previous participants who have expressed an interest in intermediate level to return and take these classes. The project is intergenerational and multicultural – there are no boundaries in crafting.

Participants:

Participants are female ranging in age from 11 years to 88 years. Over 200 participants have taken part in the crochet classes to date. Participants are recruited via parish newsletter notices, posters in libraries and shops, and also through an advertisement placed in the Galway Advertiser. For volunteers to participate, they would have had to have taken a workshop with us.

Activities/events:

A crochet class meets once a week for two hours and is facilitated by two instructors.

Evaluation:

The project was not evaluated.

Outputs:

- Poster of an event organised in conjunction with NUI Galway Arts and Theatre office.
- Training resources: a necessity to photocopy patterns for class

Funding:

No funding provided from any sources.

Sustainability/Developments:

- We had for a one-day 'Crochet and Carrickmacross Lacemaking Workshop' at Galway City Museum on a Saturday in November 2011.
- We have upcoming 'Vintage and lace fashion show' in the National University of Ireland Galway, in conjunction with the Arts and Theatre Officer, on 20th March 2012. The event will take place in The View, Aras na MacLeinn.

Case Study: Getting Started

Lead organisation: Age Action Ireland

Contact details:

Name: Pauline Power

Role in organisation: Development manager of 'Getting Started' programme

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Mailing Address: 30/31 Lower Camden Street, Dublin 2.

Description of Project:

'Getting Started' is a training programme for older people to encourage and help them to use computers, the Internet and mobile phones. Classes are run by volunteer tutors with small groups of learners, in local, non formal learning settings.

Participants:

All our tutors are volunteers. Almost 1,000 volunteers have been involved with the programme, people of all ages, from all walks of life who want to share their skills with older people.

Activities/events:

Volunteers teach people the basics of computer use, how to search the Internet, how to set up an email account and how to send and receive emails. Computer courses run for 4 to 8 weeks, one session per week and classes are between one to two hours in duration.

Evaluation:

The Project has not been evaluated but the feedback has been very positive and this has been reflected in the continued funding.

Outputs:

- Tutor lesson plans
- Handouts for students
- Age page newsletters

Funding:

Funding has come from a variety of sources such as government grants, private corporations, charitable foundations and Dublin City Council. The Getting Started programme has received government funding since 2009 under the Department of Communication, Energy and Natural Resources BenefIT scheme for digital inclusion.

Sustainability/Developments:

Age Action is partnering with Limerick Community Connect, Dublin City University and National University of Ireland Galway to train 4,600 people between November 2011 and June 2012 as part of Benefit 3 scheme.

Age Action runs classes in Dublin, Galway, Cork, Waterford and Louth. The programme remains ongoing.

Case Study: NFTE Ireland

Lead organisation: Foroige

Contact details:

Name: Keelin O'Donnell

Role in organisation: Programme Officer

Telephone number(s): 01 7007439

Email address: keelin.odonnell@foroige.ie

Mailing Address: NFTE, Invent, DCU, Dublin 9

Description of Project:

NFTE delivers entrepreneurship training to young people in low-income areas in Ireland. We have been delivering this programme since 2004 and in 2012 we will deliver the programme to approximately 1000 young people throughout Dublin, Limerick, Tipperary, Cork, Belfast, Galway and Donegal. NFTE is an international programme that is widely viewed as a world leader in youth entrepreneurship education. NFTE teaches young people to think like entrepreneurs: to take risks, to be open to learning, and to be empowered to own their futures. NFTE is committed to helping young people reach their full potential through educational and entrepreneurial opportunities. As part of the NFTE programme, we engage people of all ages from the business community to act as mentors to the young people in assisting them to complete a business plan. The mentors also act as judges in our many competitions and as guest speakers, this is known as the Business Volunteer Programme (BVP).

Participants:

NFTE participants are young people from 12-18 years old living in areas of low-income throughout Ireland. Participants of the Business Volunteer Programme are employees of various companies that sign up to NFTE. They belong to all age ranges from 18 upwards.

Activities/events:

Activities of the Business volunteer Programme are; All mentors visit the youth centre/school either once a month or four times during the academic year depending on their availability. Teachers and youth workers facilitate these visits. During these visits mentors get involved in all activities associated with the NFTE programme. NFTE is taught in a non-academic manner with each module using activities and exercises to encourage participants to learn about business by doing. Mentors also assist young people with their business plans and business development. Mentors also sit on judging panels to select overall winners for the Youth Entrepreneur Competition.

Evaluation:

No formal evaluation of the Business Volunteer Programme has been undertaken to date. Research on the programme itself has been conducted internationally in association with Harvard and nationally with DCU.

Outputs:

On completion of the programme young people will be able to;

- Develop a vision for their future that includes an engagement with education, employment, entrepreneurship or training.
- Demonstrate improved self-confidence, self-esteem and interpersonal skills.
- Young people are consciously and actively involved in their development and the development of society.

Funding:

NFTE generally is funded by corporate, philanthropic, and individual funders.

Sustainability/Developments:

The programme has been ongoing since 2004.

Case Study: Out of homelessness – Prison Life Skills Group

Lead organisation: Exchange House National Traveller Service

Contact details:

Name: Penelope More

Role in organisation: Team Leader

Telephone number(s): 01 872 1094

Email address: familyteamleader@exchangehouse.ie

Mailing Address: 61 Great Strand Street, Dublin 1

Description of Project:

The aim of this project was to empower Travellers accessing Exchange House to address their addiction, and access addiction services which would in turn alleviate the associated problems that come with their addiction and ultimately find stability in terms of accommodation and family life. The project was open to all individuals in the south inner city area who became homeless due to addiction-related issues. A life skills programme was designed by the family support department, which encompassed all aspects of the participant's addiction. The participants were supported in a holistic way to improve their life skills in order to access and sustain accommodation for the future. Most of our clients have low levels of literacy and, as a result, it was deemed necessary to provide this service.

The project also included prison work in the Dochas, Mountjoy Prison. This part of the project included participants of all ages. The purpose was to get the varied age groups to share their common life experiences through the ages, learning a range of skills in the process so as to empower them around varied issues.

It was identified that Travellers with addiction issues were more likely to become homeless upon their release. During this time, Exchange House developed a very good working relationship with the probation service. Upon release, prisoners were aware that Exchange House was there to assist them in relation to whatever issues they needed support around. Throughout this time many of the participants stated that they felt more confident about addressing their addiction and linking in with other community-based organisations.

Evidence of need:

The purpose of this was for young and older people to work together to investigate and share their common life experiences through the ages, learning a range of skills in the process so as to empower them around the varied issues especially addiction and homelessness.

Participants:

Participants in the prison were all Traveller women aged between 20 and 50 years. A total of 52 women participated.

Every Friday, the Family Support Team runs a clinic at the Dochas. This clinic is facilitated by a social worker and an addiction worker. It was through the clinic that participants were recruited. It was highlighted to them that they have skills and resources within themselves that we wanted to tap into that they may share and that they also would benefit by learning new skills. At the end of the project all participants received certificates.

Activities/events:

Participants were involved in artwork. This included making cushions, birthday and Christmas cards, and picture frames. They met on a weekly basis for 2 hours. Sessions were facilitated by a social worker and an addiction worker.

Evaluation:

The project was evaluated.

What did and did not work, and what was the evidence?

It did not work well in instances where participants who were enthusiastic about their learning were got moved to another prison midway through the group. A positive outcome of the project was the new skills participants learned, including artwork and literacy. Some of the participants on the group upon release joined Exchange House Local Training Initiative and community employment scheme.

What were the outcomes for all generations involved, and the community?

Knowledge was exchanged as participants learned from each other. New skills were learned and participants had a renewed sense of self worth and pride in themselves.

Lessons learned

Participants came to the realisation that they had a lot to offer and this brought out their dormant potentials. In the future we would seek to develop more outputs.

Outputs:

- A story book was developed called 'Traveller Tales'

Funding:

Public funding.

Sustainability/Developments:

Yes (not specified).

Case Study: Tallaght Stroke Support Group

Lead organisation: Primary Care Team, Local Health Authority-Dublin South West, HSE and AMNCH Tallaght Hospital Stroke Team.

Contact details:

Name: Niamh Barrett

Role in organisation: Senior Speech and Language Therapist

Telephone number(s): 0868503791

Email address: niamh.barrett@hse.ie

Mailing Address: Community Services HSE, Trust Us The Fold Building, New Seskin Court, Whitestown Way, Tallaght, Dublin 24.

Description of Project:

It was recognised that there was no Stroke Support Group in the Tallaght area, despite the catchment area having a high population of stroke survivors. The Primary Care Team (occupational therapist, speech and language therapist and registered health nurse) contacted all stroke patients on their case-load, identifying a need for a support group. The Primary Care Team in conjunction with AMNCH Hospital subsequently set up a monthly Stroke Support Group in Killinarden Community Centre for stroke patients and their families/carers to attend.

The group is facilitated by the local primary care team (occupational therapist, speech and language therapist, physiotherapist and the Stroke Specialist Nurse in AMNCH) who provide education, training and information regarding available services, and invite guest speakers who provide additional information about stroke.

It also provides a social aspect for people to meet others in similar situations. The main aim of the group is to:

- Increase knowledge about stroke and services available.
- Provide specific strategies and assistance with communication/physical/cognitive/emotional difficulties people may be experiencing.
- Increase social interaction and overall wellbeing and quality of life.

Evidence of need:

As highlighted above the need for a Stroke Support group in the Tallaght community was identified by the local PCT. There are a large number of young Stroke survivors in this catchment area and it was important that the group was inclusive of all age groups and not

just the older population as previous perceptions were of Stroke survivors. It was also clear that patients and carers wanted to receive education and training from the PCT who have experience in stroke care after being discharged home from Hospital.

Participants:

Participants include stroke survivors, family, friends and carers, healthcare professionals (occupational therapists, physiotherapists, speech and language therapists, nurses, stroke consultant, pharmacist, dietician, social worker etc.). Community and hospital links have also been established and speakers from agencies and organisations are invited to attend the group. For example, the local counselling services and local community welfare officer have attended group sessions.

Overall, approximately 30 to 50 people attend each group, with new members arriving on a monthly basis.

Stroke survivors range in age from 30 to 80+ years, with husbands, wives, partners, daughters, sons and friends ranging from 20 to 80+ years.

Activities/events:

Ten successful groups have been held to date. They included an array of speakers on topics that members sought information on. Speakers included healthcare professionals (stroke specialist nurses, stroke consultant, physiotherapist, occupational therapist, pharmacy, dietician, psychologist), voluntary agencies (Headway, Employability, SWAN, Carer's Association, AWARE) and stroke survivors speaking about their own experience of stroke.

It was recognised after the first few groups that a more informal arrangement was more conducive to participation among attendees. Therefore, now the chairs are arranged in a circle, after an hour there is a tea/coffee break where members have the opportunity to chat with one another and the second hour of the group is focused on discussion/questions and answers with members being encouraged to share their own personal experiences or concerns they may have. Members are always reminded that whatever is discussed is confidential within the group. Some members are reluctant to participate in the first sessions, especially if they have communication difficulties secondary to their stroke. However, as they get to know members and feel comfortable in the group they do engage more openly.

Evaluation:

Members are regularly asked to complete feedback forms after the group. The forms are reviewed as part of the primary care team. Subsequent groups are planned based on the feedback. It is hoped to evaluate the project further at the end of year one.

What did and did not work, and what was the evidence?

We identified that formal/lecture style room layout was not encouraging to participation. As the room is quite large, some members with hearing impairments find it difficult to hear other people speaking. We are hoping to move the group to the local Library in Tallaght which is a smaller room and has microphone facilities. This is also a more social location beside a coffee shop and shopping centre which may promote the social aspect of the group further. It is also more accessible by public transport.

What were the outcomes for all generations involved, and the community?

The intergenerational members involved interacted well together and both the younger and older members were able to offer information and support to each other. Members also liked the approachable style of the group and openly discussed issues within the group. Members also benefited from hearing about local services within their community that were accessible to all ages that they may not have known about or needed previously.

Lessons learned:

As stated above having the chairs in a circle and taking more an informal style worked better for the group. Also the new venue should help with the noise levels and accessibility issues. Organisation is imperative for the group to work well from organising speakers, sending invites to members/agencies, promoting the group etc. It was also great have the community and hospital links and having the Hospitals support in informing patients about the group before they were discharged home to promote continuity of care.

Outputs:

- Monthly invite sent to all clients on the mailing list.
- Poster circulated to local Hospitals (AMNCH, St. James's and Peamount Hospital) and to Stroke Specialist Centres (Stroke Unit, Baggot Street Hospital, National Rehabilitation Hospital) and to Voluntary Stroke Services (Irish Heart Foundation, Headway, Bri, Volunteer Stroke Scheme) for distribution among users.
- The group has also been advertised in the Echo newspaper, the local library and local parishes.

Funding:

- €300 funding received from The Irish Heart Foundation to set up the group for 2011.
- €100 funding received from Dr. Ronan Collins, Stroke Consultant AMNCH for 2012 (new venue will be free to rent).

Sustainability/Developments:

It is planned to continue the group throughout 2012 and to carry on advertising the group to inform the wider community. As long as there is an identified need for the group, it is hoped to continue and develop it into the future.

Appendix: Mapping Instrument Template

Intergenerational Programmes in Ireland Case Study Template

Project name

Lead organisation

Contact details

Name:

Role in organisation:

Telephone number(s):

Email address:

Mailing Address:

Brief Summary (max 150 words/section)

Please give a concise summary of the case, highlighting its key distinguishing features, achievements and what others can learn from this case.

Project information (*applicable for both completed and current projects)

Location/venue (*Who was the managing institution? Where did the learning activities take place?*)

Duration (*Start and end dates, if applicable?*)

Evidence of need (*Why was it important to run this project? Why was it important for it to be intergenerational?*)

Purpose (*What did you hope to achieve or change? Were you trying to meet specific problems and/or needs within a community? What were the intended aims and objectives?*)

Participants (*Who were they? How many took part? What were the age ranges? How were they recruited/ involved? How were participants encouraged/motivated to participate? Were there any barriers to involving volunteers/ participants?*)

Activities/events (*What activities/events were organised? How often did participants meet? What did they do together? Who supported/facilitated sessions?*)

Evaluation

Was the project evaluated? Who was involved in the evaluation?

What did and did not work, and what was the evidence?

What were the outcomes for all generations involved, and the community?

Lessons learned: What worked well? What could be done differently in the future?

Outputs (*e.g. leaflets, photographs, DVDs, toolkits, training resources, policies*)

Funding (*e.g. public, private, public-private partnership, no funding*)

Sustainability/Developments

As a result of this project, are any other intergenerational activities being delivered or planned by the lead organisation or partner organisations?

Other applicable information (*e.g. any other relevant information you wish to share*)

Date of case study:

Please return completed templates by **31st October 2011** by post or email to:

Post: Intergenerational Mapping Exercise,
Irish Centre for Social Gerontology,
School of Business & Economics,
College of Business, Public Policy & Law,
NUI Galway.

Email: icsg@nuigalway.ie