

# Scottish Intergenerational Summer School

University of Strathclyde, 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> September, 2009

## Introduction



The first Scottish Intergenerational Summer School took place at the University of Strathclyde from 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2009, beginning and ending with networking lunches.

The 30 delegates came from across Scotland; from the Western Isles to Edinburgh, and from the Black Isle to Dumfries and Galloway. Their backgrounds were equally mixed: a variety of council departments and voluntary organisations; fire and rescue; and funders.

## The programme

After an introductory session, one group set off to visit Playbusters, in the east end of Glasgow, and the other to Fruity Express, at Knightswood School. A feedback session was followed by dinner at Babbity Bowster.

Sue Mayo started the second day with a presentation about Magic Me, which provides intergenerational arts projects in Tower Hamlets, East London. This was followed by a very interactive session, trying out some of their methods.



In the afternoon, joined by a group of visitors from Taiwan, delegates had a choice of two workshops: exploring community safety and intergenerational conflict; or developing intergenerational learning and mentoring.

After a short break, they reconvened to listen to a challenging talk by Alan Hatton Yeo, and to join in a lively discussion about the evidence base for the benefits of intergenerational practice; a discussion which continued over dinner at the Corinthian.



The focus on day three was on the role of the public sector. Sally Chandler spoke about the journey Manchester City Council and its partners have taken, and the challenges they have faced, in developing their approach to intergenerational working. The group then discussed how we could apply the learning in Scotland.

The final activity was a short feedback session, which highlighted the creativity of the group, producing both an acrostic and a poem (after McGonagall!).

## Feedback

The feedback was overwhelmingly positive.

Most of the negative comments were about the student accommodation, which was quite basic, and situated up a significant number of steep steps.

Some people felt that the summer school could have been condensed into two days, but they all came from the central belt and may not understand that this might mean four days for people coming from further afield. There were also criticisms of the timing on the second day.



However, these comments were hugely outweighed by the positive feedback. The sense during the summer school that the group was working well together was supported by everyone's comments. Participants talked about enjoying the company; the networking opportunities; the opportunity to meet new people; and the fact that all of these were made easier by living and eating together. The food, particularly the dinners, was also praised.

Sue Mayo's presentation on Magic Me and the discussion with Alan Hatton Yeo were the subject of almost universally positive comments. Sue's workshop was 'fun, interactive and informative'. It was 'fabulous and really got us engaged'. Alan's enthusiasm was remarked on by a number of people; and, despite the late hour, there was a sense that people would have been happy for the session to go on for longer.

The site visits were also popular.

What people took away with them was a very evident enthusiasm to help to drive this agenda forward both locally and across Scotland. For some people, it had enhanced their understanding of intergenerational practice; for almost everyone it had stimulated their thinking about where it fits within their work, their organisation, and their local context.

There is a real appetite for the group (and they did very much see themselves as a group) to form the nucleus of a national network.



Report by Pat Scrutton  
Photographs of the Magic Me workshop and Scott Telfer by Lynda Scott