

# SCOTLAND'S GENERATIONS WORKING TOGETHER 2009 CONFERENCE

The Scottish Centre for Intergenerational Practice



## *Engaging all ages in the community*

### *Workshop A*

How to make existing group leaders think inter-generational?

- appealing to the child in everyone (fun)
- mutual benefit and exchange (creating bond)

### Identify key issues

- Targeting 30 + age group
- Engagement – fractured community
- Get back to 'caring' society
- What appeals to all?
- How do we gain 'mutual respect'?
- Media – negative perceptions
- Generations not getting together
- Too much emphasis on age
- Nanny state? – instead of community helping each other

### Prepare realistic solutions

- Parents involved in schools – early links
- Community newspapers – Who would fund?
- Just speak to each other!
- Face the problems
- Prevention – create early links
- Families – bonding and respecting each other

- See the person, not the age
- Churches have a role to play – lots of current projects to learn from
- What brings us all together?
- Media campaign to change attitudes

### Everyone contribute an idea

- Build community (all definitions of community – geography/identity/interest) not to segregate (e.g. age/gender/ethnicity)
- Keep trying! It's worth it!
- Initiate communication and relationship between generations from the family level
- Create positive relationships before there is a need for confrontation
- Build from the bottom up and from the earliest point
- We are all Jock Thomson's bairns
- Get community councils on board and give them funding to do it

### Issues

- Poverty/funding
- Awareness raising of existing transferable skills
- Isolation and social exclusion
- 'Scared' to get involved
- TIME POOR

### Solutions

- Skills swap – exchange of practical skills
- Challenge stereotypes
- Active campaigns to get positive media coverage of all age groups and activities
- More partnership working/info/skills exchanges via existing services

- Raising awareness of other client groups
- Get people together to produce inter-generational projects

### Recommendations

- Set up an intergenerational website forum
- Partnership working/advice
- Initiatives/projects – register them to get publicity (if inter-generational)
- Community sections
- Geographical regions
- Funding advice