Intergenerational Forum – June 2022

With Time and Talents

Introducing intergenerational spaces and programming:

What is the role of programming in supporting the **visibility** of different generations to each other?

For example, what is the difference between a **community** space and an intergenerational space, and how might this impact how it is interacted with by staff and visitors?

After two years of social distancing, what is the role now of remote intergenerational practice?

*remote intergenerational practice defined as different generations contributing to a project that, when it is brought together, represents intergenerational contributions.

Discussion points:

Where is your intergenerational practice going now? Where is it now from where it was?

What are the remote activities?

What are the in-person activities?

What informs the balance of delivery and what are the implications of either? The challenges? The benefits?

How are the lack of government guidelines impacting your participants, and what do they need now?

From breakout rooms, the following key points came up:

What is the wider intergenerational environment like? What is **funding** like? Where are the **representatives** supporting this work (for example House of Lords)?

What does **sustainability** look like when we're running a project? What happens when the funding/project is finished? What is the **legacy**?

What is the dynamic in the group? What is the tone of **collaboration**? Does one group *act on* another – for example in a training setting?

Post-covid individualisation? From very directive government interventions to no government guidelines, and a shift to finding your own post-covid recovery plan: how do you then create an intergenerational project that meets people where they are at?

And how do you reset the **tone** to focus on everyone's equally important **wellbeing**? For example, some projects can feel like one group should be involved for the benefit of the other group, rather than a **mutually beneficial** experience.

How do we collectively ask for people's **patience**? What are the time frames imposed on our work? For example, where senior management or commissioning services recognise the importance of intergenerational practice but not the time it takes to build those relationships as being intrinsic to the impact of intergenerational experiences.

What is our role in supporting people to make **informed** decisions? What opportunities to build organisational or project guidelines in **consultation** with the people who might want to attend?

What is the participant experience like in **hybrid working**? (When there is a mix of in-person and online attendance, people online can often be side-lined).

Process versus product. Where is the focus? And what is the impact of different stakeholders having a different focus? For example, the practitioner caring about the experience of the making, and the participant caring about the quality of the outcome.

Precaution versus restrictions. Precaution as something that can be enabling and confidence building.

Is proximity enough?

How do we keep including people in the communities that were created online? This is not just about Covid, but generally, how does project and programme design bring people along?

Space. Who comes to who? And how is this **transition** felt? For example, younger people going to care homes and now people from care homes being encouraged to go out to other spaces.

What opportunities are there for adaptation and what gets communicated in these decisions on how or if to adapt?

Any other business – topics for future Forum meetings:

What does funding and sustainability look like in the intergenerational space?

Speed-dating-style opportunities to share ideas for projects and find possible partners?

Who's responsible for the intergenerational space? Who is looking at this work, it's impact and the longer-term landscape? Who is taking care of us?

Is there an APPG and is this something we can collectively look to bring about?