



The sky's the limit: the amazing growth in all things intergenerational

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Celebrating and learning

- Growth in intergenerational activities in the UK
- Why – the benefits of mixing for all ages
- Why – the next generation
- How – the sliding scale of intergenerational interaction
- Exemplars of projects on the sliding scale
- Where next – new ideas and directions
- Making it happen in every community – next steps
- Think big – start small, be ambitious, change the world











Where are we at in 2019?

- Huge growth in intergenerational projects
- And in profile: media coverage, social media
- ‘The right thing to do’ – not government-led
- Beyond care homes/nurseries/schools
- Intergenerational housing and communities
- From looking elsewhere for examples to the UK leading the way

Why are we here?

- Britain is one of the most age segregated countries
- Services and communities are siloed by age
- Families are increasingly fragmented
- Segregation => lack of connection and trust, division
- Children/young people and older people face crises
- Care, childcare, housing, communities are in crisis
- Intergenerational justice, climate change
- **#tacklingbigissues #mixingmatters**



The benefits of mixing

- Older people – health, care, loneliness, engagement
- Children and young people – confidence and communication, skills and opportunities
- Families – more than two generations
- Providers – economic and quality benefits, USP
- Staff – recruitment/retention, career development
- Communities – united, facilities/shared spaces
- Regulators – quality of learning and care
- **#intergenerationalresearchnetwork**

We do not inherit
the **earth** from
our ancestors,
we borrow it
from our **children.**

– NATIVE AMERICAN PROVERB

The next generation

- Starting early – childcare and early education, parenting, confidence and empathy
- Raising attainment – communication skills, school readiness, curriculum, learning
- Changing attitudes – ageism, awareness
- Solving tough issues – youth crime, poverty, mentoring, health, sustainability
- Shaping the future – youth parliaments, co-operation and collaboration, training and work

A sliding scale of intergenerational interaction

- Occasional visits eg faith/seasonal events
- Regular weekly/fortnightly visits and activities
- Co-located or adjacent care
- Shared sites or centres for all ages
- Intergenerational housing schemes
- Strategic approaches to communities for all ages

- Every provider/agency can be somewhere on this scale



Exemplars across the UK

- Older people's care homes and sheltered housing schemes linking with nurseries/schools
- Parent and toddler groups set up specially to visit care homes weekly eg The Together Project, Acorns 'n' Oaks
- Care homes sharing space with childminders eg Torbay or adjacent to nurseries eg Chichester
- Integrated shared sites or centres for all ages - new build and existing sites eg Wigan, Chester, Fife
- Multi-purpose centres and sites/villages eg Cynon Linc
- Local authorities with an all ages approach





New directions?

- School room in a care home – Isle of Wight
- Eldercare services in schools - Redbridge
- Football foundations – Liverpool, Cardiff and Brentford
- Sheltered housing with young parents - Haringey
- Mentoring – online schemes with Brightside
- Colleges – training care/childcare workers
- Community hubs for all ages - Cynon Linc, Aberdare
- Intergenerational connectors – Aneurin Bevan UHB

The UK's first primary school with an eldercare day centre





Next steps

- Ambition: every child/older person/family/community, every nursery/school/college, every council/HB etc – 500 centres for all ages across UK by 2023
- Evaluation, evaluation, evaluation: measuring impact and benefits to secure more funding and investment
- Strategic approaches at all levels of government
- Champions – shouting from the top and the grassroots
- Profile-raising, relationships, linking to key agendas
- Thinking big, transforming the UK for all ages







Keeping in touch

- Share progress, lessons, ideas, outcomes
- News, resources, events, partners, consultancy

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