

Intergenerational Conference Report

March 2011

by



on behalf of

**Bro Ddyfi Communities First
Funded by the Welsh Assembly Government's
Community Cohesion fund**

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Introduction

When: The consultation day was held on the 23rd March 2011 in Machynlleth.

Who: 35 participants were invited by Bro Dyfi Communities First and attended the consultation held at Ysgol Bro Dyfi.

The conference brought together 16 young people aged 11 yrs to 15 yrs old from Ysgol Bro Dyfi, Machynlleth and 19 adults ranging from 22 years of age through to mid 80's. The older group was drawn from 4 local groups and communities: Local Communities First Partnership, University of the Third Age, Mind Out for Music and Llanbrynmair.

Our thanks are extended to everyone who took part so willingly in the conference and to Richard Roberts of Bro Dyfi Communities First for bringing the different groups together.

The aims of the day:

- ✧ To find out young people's perception of older people
- ✧ To find out older people's perceptions of younger people
- ✧ To find out young people's perceptions of themselves, and how they think others perceive them.
- ✧ To find out older people's perceptions of themselves, and how they think others perceive them.
- ✧ To explore common ground between generations.
- ✧ To develop an action plan for changing perceptions

Background:

The intergenerational conference and consultation was funded by the Welsh Assembly's Community Cohesion Fund and held on behalf of Bro Dyfi Communities First.

The conference came about as a result an application to the Community Cohesion fund to run an event that would bring together youth groups and older people's groups to discuss stereotypes and perceptions of different generations and to look at achieving change and working together.

A key aim of the conference was to reflect and build upon community identity and belonging by bringing these groups together and giving them opportunities to share ideas, air concerns and develop a greater sense of community and unity.

Another key aim was to begin the development of a shared future plan that would focus on what brings these different groups together instead of focusing on what divides them.

Dynamix is a Welsh social enterprise that provides training, facilitation and consultation services and has built up a good reputation in this area through its 21 year history.

Dynamix specialise in working with young people and community groups using participative and fun activities to engage inclusively. Dynamix were contracted to carry

out this consultation on behalf of Bro Dyfi Communities First. The consultation was run bilingually by 2 Dynamix facilitators.

Methodology:

When facilitating a conference such as this, Dynamix make use of consultative, participative activities to ensure young people and adults feel able to give their opinions. The activities are designed to be both fun and active to maintain everyone's interest in the process. A range of techniques are used to cater to every person's individual preferences for giving their opinions, be that physically, visually, verbally in large groups or in smaller groups or in the written form and the activities do not rely on a high literacy level or high confidence level. Games are used to ensure the atmosphere is both positive and spirited as well as to balance out the strong, contemplative activities with lighter, relaxing ones.

This, hopefully, results in all participants feeling comfortable and confident enough to participate fully in the experience and to feel included and to know that their thoughts and opinions count – and are counted. However, it is also important to emphasise that this methodology does not give responses that are representative of any group in any way, that the results cannot and should not be used or interpreted in this way, and that information is gathered in a non-standardised way and so statistical analysis is not possible. Instead, it delivers a rich, qualitative narrative, useful insights and valuable information, and a positive experience for those taking part.

Dynamix draw on a range of activities that have been tried and tested over many years and evidence that they are a leading organisation in this area can be seen in the books they have published such as: “Participation: Spice it Up”, “Rights: Spice 'em up” and “Young Spice: Participation for under 11s”. As well as drawing on well tested methodology Dynamix pride themselves in being creative and adaptive to ensure fresh methods are used and they meet the needs of the specific piece of work.

Dynamix methodologies are underpinned by strong values in line with being a co-operative. Dynamix are also strong advocates of the 7 Principles of Participation identified by young people on behalf of the Welsh Assembly Government. Dynamix believe these principles are appropriate for participants of all ages.

Dynamix's commitment to these regarding the Intergenerational Conference 2011:

Information: The information and activities must suit their ages and should be easy for everyone to understand. Being up front and clear about what we are doing and why in order to ensure everyone has enough information to get properly involved. We are clear about what difference taking part will make, to whom we will give participants’ information and what changes might come about as a result of their involvement.

It's their choice: Participants should be able to decide whether they want to take part. Once we have given them information at the start, we then consult them about how they

would like to take part and in what ways. We use activities that enable people to take part as much as they want to take part.

No discrimination: We make sure that everyone feels welcome and we use activities to enable everyone to take part – whatever their needs and interests. We advocate a good representative proportion of the people you are consulting.

You get something out of it: We use fun activities and games to ensure all participants enjoy taking part. We inform the participants and we value their opinions, which empowers them and builds their confidence so that they benefit from taking part.

Respect: We give everyone a chance to have a say using a range of methods to maximise their ability to take part. We make it clear that their opinions, ideas, views and experiences are important and we respect them, take them seriously and treat them fairly.

Feedback: We are clear about what difference their contributions makes and how their ideas will be used. We advocate ensuring that everyone has access to the report and support the production of a young people's friendly version of any feedback.

Improving how we work: We take very seriously the principle that the ideas the participants give are used to make an actual difference to the decisions that get made following the consultation.

Programme Of Conference Activities

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Purpose / Issue Addressed</u>
Hello, Aims	To ensure participants are aware of the purpose of the day
Start Survey	Issue: Older and younger people's perceptions of themselves Issue: Older and young peoples perceptions of each other
Making It Work	To give participants ownership of the day
Archipelagos & Reporters	To encourage participants to mix and get to know each other
Opinion Finders	Issue: Exploring attitudes
Jigsaw	Issue: What different generations share in common
Body In The Box	Issue: Older and younger people's perceptions of themselves
Bricks In The Wall	Issue: Barriers to intergenerational cohesion and overcoming them
Letter To Self	Issue: Barriers to intergenerational cohesion and overcoming them
Finish Survey	Issue: Older and younger people's perceptions of themselves Issue: Older and young peoples perceptions of each other

Description Of Activities

Survey

As one of the aims of this conference was to look at attitudes and perceptions of different age groups and measure whether they have changed, participants were surveyed at the start and end of the conference.

Making It Work

A quick discussion activity in which participants discuss, amongst themselves and feed back to the facilitators, the way in which they would like the conference to go i.e. number of breaks, preferred language, setting the pace, how to keep attention and focus etc. This creates a shared sense of ownership of the event as well as an agreed set of ground rules for the day.

Archipelegos

This is an activity that gets people moving around, talking to each other and finding out

each other's names. Participants are asked to arrange themselves, into a circle, according to different criteria e.g. distance travelled, month of birthday, alphabetically, etc. and then take the opportunity to find out a piece of information from the people either side of them. This is a good ice breaker.

Reporters

Following on from Archipelagos, participants are given an opportunity to feedback the information they have found out about other participants. It makes participants feel valued by the other participants and creates group cohesion.

Opinion Finders

This is an activity to generate discussion. Each participant is given one of a number of Opinion Finder sheets with a statement written on it and then asked to interview the rest of the participants. The statements are designed to stimulate discussion and participants answer with either Agree Strongly/Agree/No Opinion/Disagree/Disagree Strongly. This contrasts with a traditional survey in that each person only asks one question and everyone in the room is actively involved, creating an energized hive of activity.

Jigsaw

An activity used to get people into random groups and as an information gatherer. Participants are given a piece of a jigsaw, find the participants that hold the other pieces of their jigsaw, fit the pieces together and then follow the instructions written on the completed jigsaw.

Body In The Box

An information gathering exercise in smaller groups, which enables quieter, or less confident voices to be recorded. Each group was given large sheet of paper with an outline of a person drawn on it. Inside the body they list their self perceptions, while on the outside they list other people's perceptions. Although this is a written activity, the grouping of participants allows those who are confident and happy in their writing skills to take the lead in copying down everyone else's ideas.

Bricks In The Wall

An activity that gives small groups of participants an opportunity to list barriers to an objective/ service/activity/goal by building up a physical barrier of card bricks. Each brick has a barrier written on it (by participants). Once the barrier has been built up the participants are invited to take the card bricks away as long as they write a potential solution/way around the barrier on the reverse of the card.

As above, although this is a written activity, the grouping of participants allows those who are confident and happy in their writing skills to take the lead in copying down everyone else's ideas.

Letter to Self

This is a quiet, personal activity enabling participants to individually reflect upon the day and make a commitment to intergenerational cohesion. These letters will then be returned to participants one month after the conference.

Reviewing the Programme

The conference was held in Ysgol Bro Dyfi, Machynlleth and was run as a bilingual event with the majority of the materials and discussions being presented in English and Welsh. Due to time constraints we had to adapt and condense some of the activities as the day went by, but all aims were achieved and the day was enjoyed by all.

After an introduction from Bro Dyfi Communities First and a short survey on perceptions of different generations, the day began with a series of icebreaking activities and name games, with the aim of getting participants to mix and get to know each other in preparation for discussion later in the day. All participants took part and enjoyed the process.

After a short tea break we moved on to activities that explored similarities and differences between generations. There was an interesting discussion about childhood memories and it was great to see people of different ages comparing games and activities and exploring similarities and differences between them.

The next session split the group up into age categories and explored the participants' perceptions of themselves. There was plenty of discussion around the tables as people considered how media/society/community might view or label them followed by a discussion on what labels they would like to project about the age groups they belong to.

The final part of the day, after lunch, was to consider the barriers to intergenerational cohesion and a sense of community. Once again people were asked to sit in small groups and generate ideas. It was worth noting that the list of barriers generated by the participants was quite sizable, but so was the list of possible solutions. This indicates that the participants are motivated to make a difference and be involved in any future intergenerational plans. This was also reflected in the 'letters to self' activity.

Overall, the day went well and participants said they had enjoyed the day and the process.

Results:

Issue : Exploring Attitudes.
Activity: Opinion Finder.

The participants were asked to each give an opinion on 7 statements. Below you can see the statements and the tallied opinions of all participants along with any additional comments.

<u>Statement: Machynlleth is the best place to live</u>				
Agree Strongly	Agree	No Opinion	Disagree	Disagree Strongly
8	12	4	7	12
COMMENTS: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• None				

<u>Statement: Consultations Never Change Things</u>				
Agree Strongly	Agree	No Opinion	Disagree	Disagree Strongly
0	2	10	15	5
COMMENTS: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Working together works.• They should consult, not go to war.				

<u>Statement: Some public places should be 'child only' or 'adult only'</u>				
Agree Strongly	Agree	No Opinion	Disagree	Disagree Strongly
7	11	3	5	5
COMMENTS: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• None				

<u>Statement: There is nothing for adults to do</u>				
Agree Strongly	Agree	No Opinion	Disagree	Disagree Strongly
3	1	5	6	20
COMMENTS: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• None				

<u>Statement: Children shouldn't work until they are 14</u>				
Agree Strongly	Agree	No Opinion	Disagree	Disagree Strongly
11	10	1	16	6
COMMENTS:				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children need an education before working in a professional job • Okay around the garden • Depends on the work 				

<u>Statement: Adults need leisure time</u>				
Agree Strongly	Agree	No Opinion	Disagree	Disagree Strongly
13	4	1	1	6
COMMENTS:				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None 				

<u>Statement: Young people lack the motivation to change things</u>				
Agree Strongly	Agree	No Opinion	Disagree	Disagree Strongly
0	9	1	17	14
COMMENTS:				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was the young people who felt they lacked motivation 				

NOTE:

- The number of participants for this activity included workers from Bro Dyfi Communities First as well as the 35 invitees
- Not all participants answered all questions in the time allocated, hence the difference in tallies.

Issue : What different generations share in common
Activity: Jigsaw

Participants were asked to list 5 games they played when they were under 10 yrs old. Below you can see the list of games they played in order of their frequency. The number indicates the number of times the game or was mentioned by different participants.

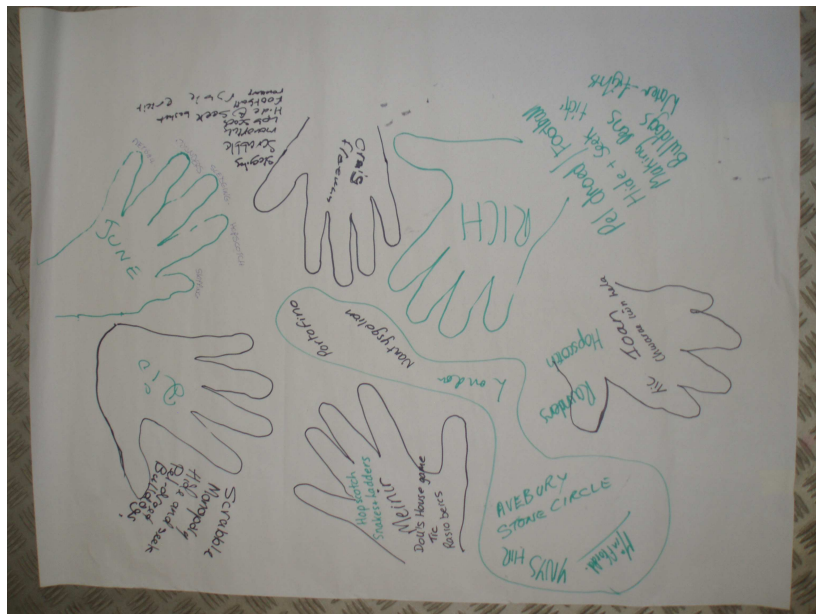
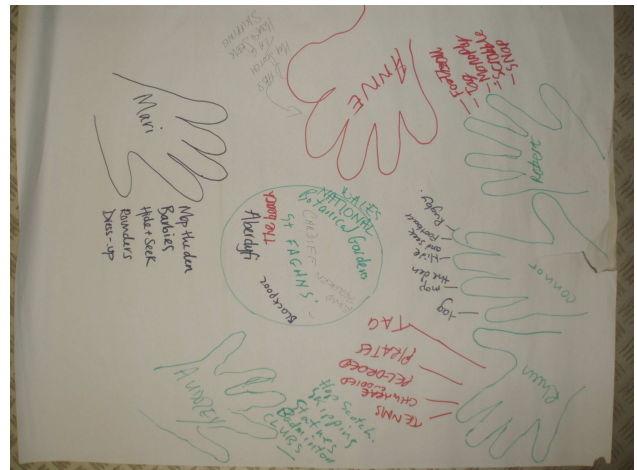
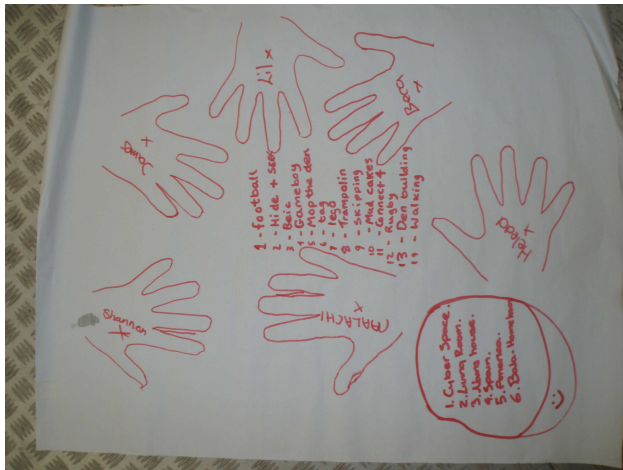
Games we played when we were 10

<u>SPORTS</u>		<u>BOARD/CARD GAMES ETC</u>		<u>GENERAL PLAY</u>		<u>OTHER/UNKNOWN</u>	
Football	10	Monopoly	5	Tig/Tag	13	Statues	2
Rounders	7	Draughts	4	Hopscotch	10	Racing bikes	1
Rugby	3	Scrabble	3	Hide & Seek	10	Pass the parcel	1
Netball	2	Snakes & Ladders	2	Skipping	7	Tippy cat	1
Badminton	2	Dominos	1	Mob the den	4	Hopping Charlie	1
Cricket	2	Marbles	1	Making dens	3	Tin Can Topper	1
Table tennis	2	Connect 4	1	Bulldogs	3	Kingy	1
Polo	2	Ludo	1	Stuck in the mud	2	Clubs	1
French cricket	2	Chess	1	Sledging	2	Treasure hunt	1
American football	2			Queeny Queeny	1	Wink murder	1
Dodgeball	2			Kiss chase	1	Indian and the tippe	1
Tennis	2			Mr Blaidd	1	Postmans knock	1
Sack race	2			Water fights	1	Squeak piggy squeak	1
				Acting	1	Red letter	1
				House	1	Dou's house game	1
				Barbies	1	Blind Mans Bluff	1
				Dress-up	1	Farmers in the den	1
				Bike	1	Grandma's footsteps	1
				Lego	1	Gameboy	1
				Mud cakes	1	Trampoline	1
				Walking	1	Pirates	1
						Dabs	1

The second part of the Jigsaw activity was to list favourite places to visit. The list below shows this.

Favourite places to visit

<u>Florida</u>	<u>Cyberspace</u>	<u>Cardiff</u>	<u>Barmouth</u>
<u>Garden</u>	<u>Living room</u>	<u>St Fagan's</u>	<u>Petra</u>
<u>Old Trafford</u>	<u>Nan's house</u>	<u>Aberdyfi</u>	<u>Venezuela</u>
<u>Horse stables</u>	<u>Spain</u>	<u>Blackpool</u>	<u>Cae Du Campsite</u>
<u>Conwy</u>	<u>America</u>	<u>National Botanical Gardens</u>	<u>Cader Idris</u>
<u>Stanford bridge</u>	<u>Bala</u>	<u>Tafolwern</u>	<u>London</u>
<u>Nantysgolion</u>	<u>Portofino</u>	<u>Avebury stone circle</u>	<u>Ynys Hir</u>
<u>Minfordd</u>	<u>Anglesey</u>	<u>Seaside</u>	<u>Italy</u>
<u>Llanbrynmair</u>	<u>Italy</u>	<u>France</u>	<u>Penfordd Las</u>
<u>Germany</u>	<u>Swansea</u>	<u>Manchester</u>	<u>Berlin</u>



Issue : Older and younger people’s perceptions of themselves.
Activity: Body In The Box.

Participants were put into small groups according to age (Groups under 25yrs and groups over 50yrs). They were then asked to fill the space outside the outline with how they feel their age group are perceived.
 The second part of the activity was to fill the space inside the outline with how they would like their age group to be perceived.
 Finally the groups were asked to take a tour around the room looking at each others sheets and look for similarities and differences of different age groups.

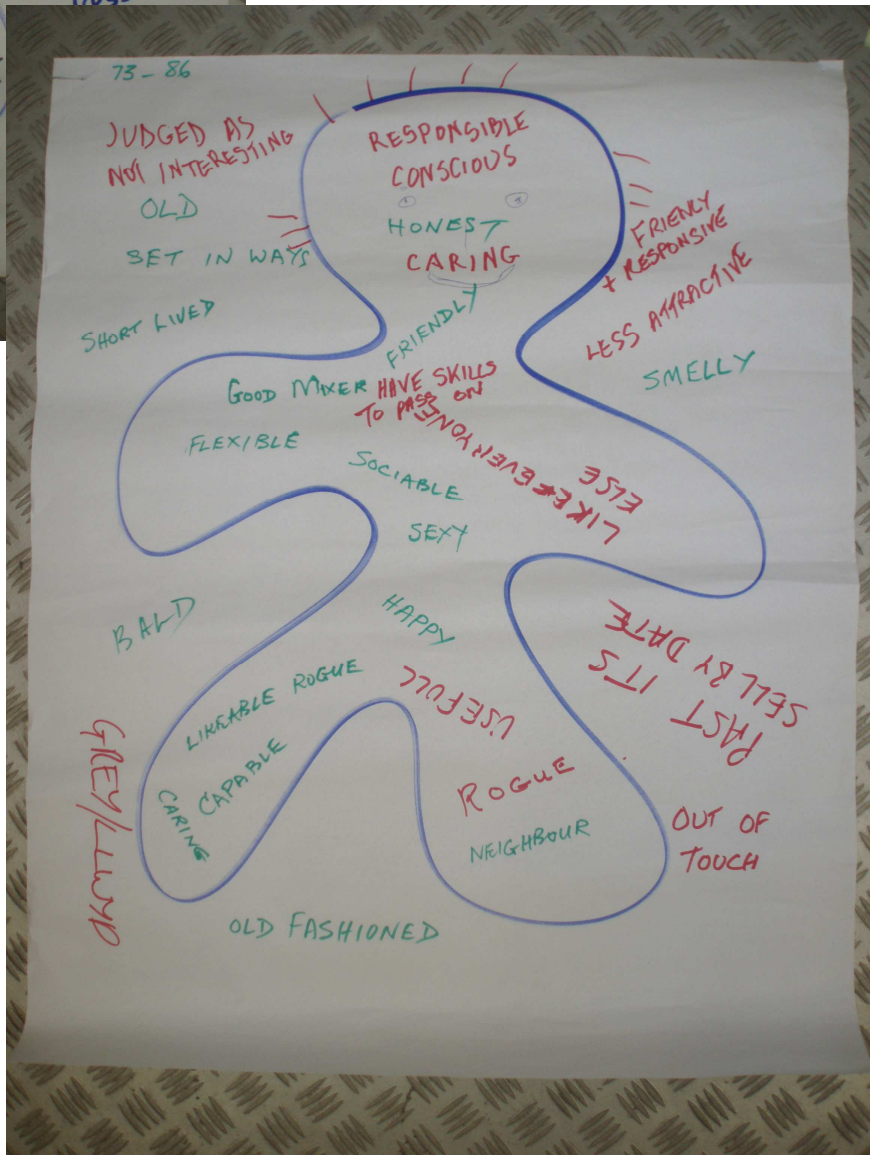
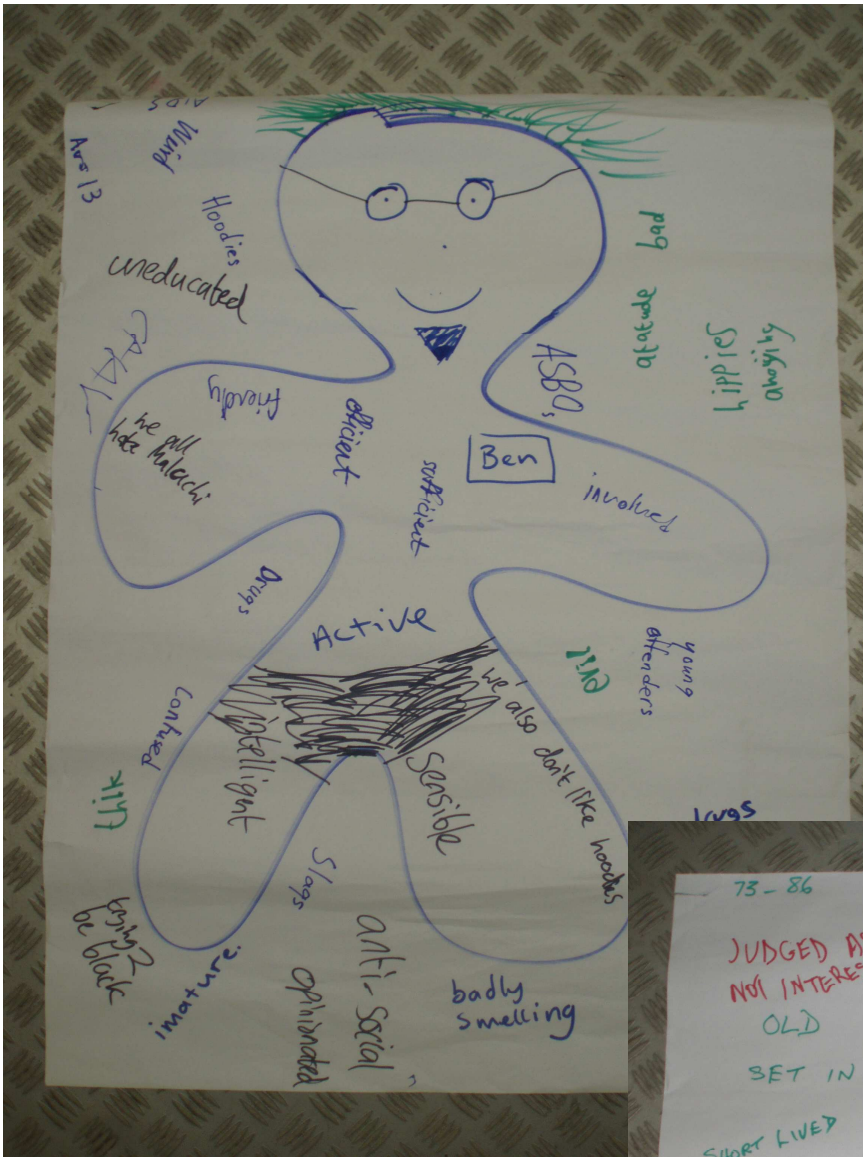
People aged 11-25?

Society see us as...		We want to be seen as...
<u>POSITIVE</u>	<u>NEGATIVE</u>	
Cool	Stupid	Friendly
Cool	Stupid	Friendly
Cool	Immature children	Friendly
Friendly	Immature	Independent
Friendly	Unsensible	Reliable
Popularity	Irresponsible	Mature and wise
Talented	Childish	Serious
Humour	Thick	Sensible
Funny	Uneducated	Intelligent
Personality	Unreliable	Efficient
Opinionated	ASBO	Responsible
	ASBO	Involved
<u>NEUTRAL</u>	Anti-social	Loving
Serious	Druggies	Free
Serious	Drugs	Funny
Weird	Fag heads	Stupid
Young	Violent	Childish
Controlled	Hoodies	Sexy
Going through puberty	Chav	Active
Gay	Alcoholics	Rebel
Confused	Slags	We also don't like hoodies
Trying to be black/American	Bad smelling	Sufficient
	Young offenders	
	Evil	
	Hippies	
	Annoying	
	Attitude	
	Bad	

People over 50 yrs?

Society sees us as...	We want to be seen as...
<p align="center"><u>POSITIVE</u> Someone you admire Someone you'd like to grow up as Young Friendly</p> <p align="center"><u>NEUTRAL</u> Sensible Responsible Conventional dress Settled</p> <p align="center"><u>NEGATIVE</u> Past it Lacking compassion Hope not to grow up like them Censorious Past it Boring Impatient Different standards Burden on society Impatient Judged as not interesting Old Set in our ways Short lived Less attractive Smelly Bald Grey Old fashioned Out of touch Past sell by date</p>	<p align="center">Sparkling Still making a contribution It doesn't matter what other people think, except for my friends Motivated Fun Warning When I grow old I shall wear purple Tolerant Fun Lots to offer Experience Young at heart Wisdom Creative Energetic Enjoyment Age should not be a barrier Neighbour Caring Capable Likeable rogue Happy Sexy Sociable Flexible Like everyone else Have skills to pass on Good mixer Friendly Caring Honest Conscious Responsible</p>

Note: The responses of how people believe they are perceived have been segmented into Positive, Neutral and Negative statements by Dynamix post-conference.



Issue : Barriers to intergenerational cohesion and overcoming them.
Activity: Bricks in the Wall.

Participants were put into small of groups of 3 or 4 people and asked to visualize a community where all ages of people get along and support each other. They were then asked to discuss what barriers there might be to intergenerational cohesion, and write each one down on an A5 paper brick and place them on the wall.

The second stage was for the groups to take a brick written by another group and propose a solution. If a solution could be suggested it was written on the other side of the brick and placed to one side. If a solution could not be proposed then it remained on the wall. All solutions are encouraged no matter how creative they may seem.

Below are the barriers as perceived by the participants and the respective solutions. Any barriers without solutions have also been noted.

<u>Barriers</u>	<u>Solutions</u>
Ageism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More intergenerational social events/parties
Suspicion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bridges • More networking
Not enough things to do for youngsters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage friends or isolated people to join
Hoodies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Re-educate 'anti-hoodies' through more intergenerational consultations/dialogue
Society problems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Informal intergenerational get-togethers
Drug addicts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Find out if it is a real problem. • Contaminate or modify drugs
Stereotypes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Show them we are different to what they normally believe • Get to know people before making judgments about them
Inequality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teach them that all men and women are created equal
Language	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learn as much as possible
Bigots / Racists	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Put yourself in their place
Lack of agreement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More opportunities to get together • Facilitators
Different age groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Different groups to work together to achieve goals

People could become complacent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You need people who believe in a Utopia
Fear	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop self esteem • Smile and greet people
No cinema	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intergenerational films at The Plas
Gangs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Start clubs to divert aggression
Trust issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Persuade them that there are people that can help
Alcohol	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learn more
Lack of cooperation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make friends and talk to each other and talk talk talk.
Commitment to community interaction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Festival • Get together
Attitude of immigrants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interact with local people and organisations • Learn local languages
Not thinking about things before doing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learn from mistakes
To foster community spirit you need a meeting place	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community meeting places already exist
Family	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Get counselling
Lack of originality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Give them something to aim for
Challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be brave • Step up
Lack of respect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Get together and talk
Negative media	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do something different • Celebrity to help us • More people from different cultures
Litter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pick it up • Put fun things that will make people bin it.
Transport Links / Public Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More buses and trains to run • Better networks • Lobby • Community bus • Give more money towards funding bus companies • Lower petrol prices • Buses every half hour (more efficient) • Cycle paths

Lack of opportunity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More opportunities • Keep young people in the area
Recession	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sack the government • Control your spending
Money	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Put the prices down. E.g. Half price or something.
Banking System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Get involved in politics to look at changing the system
Lack of work / Unemployment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Urge council to create jobs
Broken town clock	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knock sense into council
No intergenerational musical get-togethers	
Morality	
War	
Age	
Not enough collaboration / sharing / caring	
Need a noticeboard for interaction	
High petrol prices	
Health services	



Issue :	Barriers to intergenerational cohesion and overcoming them.
Activity:	Letter to self.

At the end of the day participants were asked to reflect upon the day and the activities before thinking of ways that they could encourage intergenerational cohesion. These were separated into things they could do this week, this month and this year.

Below is a summary of the relevant actions people were prepared to take. These have been categorised by Dynamix post-conference.

THIS WEEK

Creating New Opportunities

- To discuss the idea of arranging an intergenerational scheme where issues can be discussed and ideas taken forward
- Get to know more of the young people in my village
- Work together with others; get involved in my community
- I will think of different ways that I can interact with more young people with the expertise that I have
- To discuss with my colleague how we might harness what we have learnt U3A/young people
- To look for the young people on the streets I will ask my next door neighbours if they want me to baby-sit their children
- I will look at how I live my life in a way that I can help others and try to be part of local community events
- I will start a group so I can expand my group of friends and meet new people.
- Think about the experience of the intergenerational consultation day
- Talk to Welsh Language Board about plans for dialogue between Welsh speakers and learners
- This week is fully booked with activities which do not specifically embrace youngsters but if opportunities arise to communicate with youngsters I will make a point of doing so
- Do more clubs
- Say hello to all the people I've met today whom I didn't know before.

Helping Others

- I am not going to litter and I am going to put everything in the bin
- Think about the things we have been talking about
- I will help the elderly couple across the road to cut their hedge
- Help others
- I will go to my grandmas/granddads and tell them of this day

- Do more work in the garden and enjoy it
- Put up notices offering saxophone tuition to anyone - Clock Tower Musicians
- I'm not going to litter

Altering Outlooks

- I will not think of older people as moody and grumpy
- I will convince my friends that old people are very fun and cool not grumpy and boring
- Be more positive
- Convince my friends that over 50's are lively too
- Do not jump to conclusions about young people; turn the internet off! Don't believe the media
- Convince my friends that over 50's aren't the stereotype they think they are
- play less x-box; get out of the house more

THIS MONTH

Creating New Opportunities

- Link today's session with meetings we have arranged for the students and their families in the Wales, Europe and the World course at the school
- To present our ideas to U3A with the hope that we can initiate a format to work to
- Look at ways we can include this in our work programme within my work
- Find out the opinions of local people re. improving public transport
- Be positive about observing youngsters' activities in Mach and when possible get involved if only in being present and encouraging. Also to let them be aware of any activities of elders that could embrace them
- Convince my friends that over 50's aren't the stereotype they think they are
- Contact CAMAD about making a community fundraising music event
- Find out more information about what young people do in my village

Helping Others

- I will help someone with something they need
- Ask my nan what games she did when she was young
- Help others
- Take my auntie's dogs for a walk and feed them
- I will help my neighbours but not for money – just to do something positive
- I will start helping them in their garden
- I will ask my neighbour if they want a babysitter Try to do more in my community
- Would offer individual help to any pupil needing one to one (eg reading)

Altering Outlooks

- Be nicer to others.
- Try to prioritise my activities for maximum effect
- Play less x-box; get out of the house more
- Engage more with young people in Mach
- Allow myself to try new things where the opportunity arises. It's never too late! You regret the things you don't do more than the things you do.
- Turn the internet off!; Don't believe the media; Motivate
- I will try to solve everything that's wrong in my life
- Be tolerant
- I will think about how lucky I am to be living here

THIS YEAR

Creating New Opportunities

- Find some way of organising a social intergenerational event
- Carry on organising the El Sueno Existe festival with ideas for the day incorporated
- Set up a new club
- Do some activities with people who are over 50
- Make sure something comes out of it at the end. That is what makes the day worth doing
- I will get a job and see if I can help older people
- Consider bringing up some of the topics discussed at the community council
- Encourage more people to join village activities
- To try to develop a short project in the town to show that young and old can work together
- Talk to young people about music groups for the town centre and the clocks
- I do not plan a year ahead at my age. I contribute as opportunity arises
- (In 4 years) I will set up my own bus company that will help the community by linking all the local towns

Helping Others

- Convince my friends that over 50's aren't the stereotype they think they are
- Spend more time with my friends and family
- I will clean my nan's car!
- I will help my nan more
- Help others
- To try and make life better in my community
- I intend to do all that I can to make the world a better place for all

Altering Outlooks

- Turn the internet off! Media (don't believe it); Treat people kindly
- Be a nicer person
- Keep on going! If it ain't broke don't mend it!
- To give the idea a chance to grow
- Not sure

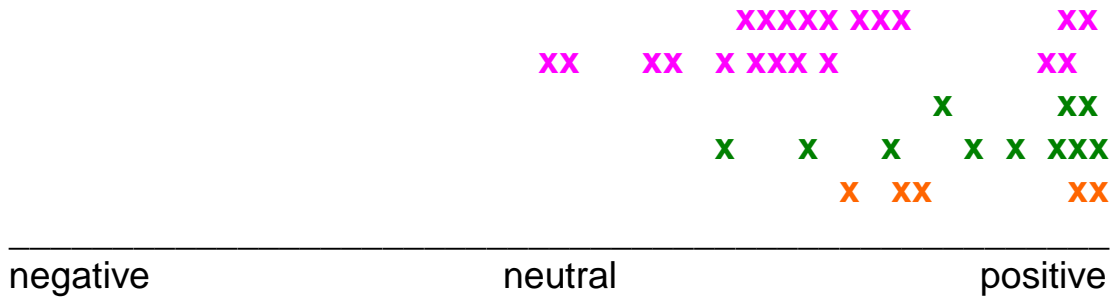
YOUR attitudes to over 50's

11-25's = x

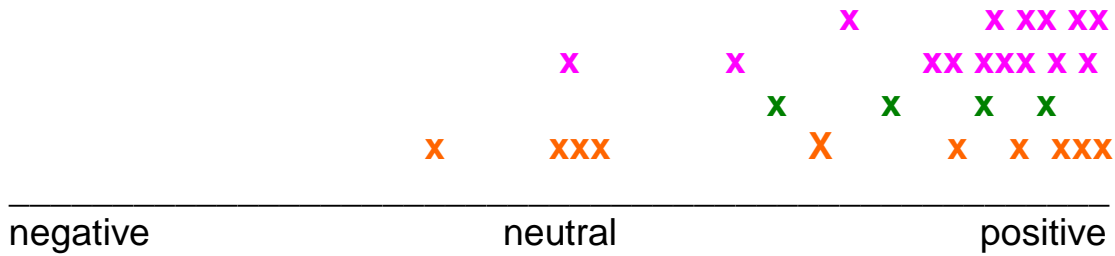
Over 55's = x

Unknown = x

START



FINISH



CONCLUSIONS & SUMMARY

Summary:

Below we have looked in detail at the ideas contained in the activities of the day and drawn conclusions. These conclusions pertain to:

1. How the conference will continue to have a sustained impact on the future through the individuals' own action plans
2. Conclusions that can be drawn for shaping how any future intergenerational activities should progress
3. Other conclusion relevant to Communities First Activities.

Individual Participants' Action Plan

Actions identified by individuals included:	Source/Activity
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✧ A commitment to changing their own outlook towards different age groups ✧ A commitment to making a difference to their peers' attitudes to other generations – providing a drive for peer education to break down barriers ✧ A commitment to taking a friendlier approach to people from other generations in every day life ✧ A commitment to get more involved in community activities generally ✧ A commitment to volunteering within their own families and neighbourhoods to interact more with other generations 	Letter to Self
<p>An interesting and unexpected result of the day was the expression by two young people that the conference had inspired their future careers. One young person decided to seek employment that enabled them to work with other generations and another young person decided that in four years time they would set up a bus company that would tackle the shared problem of transport within their community.</p>	Letter to Self

Recommendations for future work to promote intergenerational work

Comment	Source/Activity
<p>There is a strong desire to run more intergenerational events as well as participants suggesting that they involve more people of different ages in their own groups. Future development work to tackle intergenerational issues might be to form an intergenerational planning group consisting of members of all ages.</p>	Letter to Self
<p>Many participants felt that 11-25 yr olds were not perceived positively by society. It is quite likely that this has a huge impact on the motivation and self esteem of that age group. Conversely, most participants felt that people over 50 yrs were perceived positively by society, and even more positively at the end of the day.</p> <p>However, most people personally felt mostly positive towards people age 11-25 yrs, with a few on the neutral side. By the end of the day there was a significant shift of all participants toward perceiving people age 11-25 positively. This is possibly as a result of people sharing their thoughts and getting a chance to talk to each other.</p> <p>At the end of the event most under 25's had improved their perception of older people. On the other hand, people over 50 appeared to change their opinion ever so slightly in a negative trend towards their own age group. Could this be due to recognition of how their own generation has misunderstood young people?</p>	Survey
<p>However, most people felt mostly positive towards people age 11-25 yrs, with a few on the neutral side. By the end of the day there was a significant shift of all participants toward perceiving people age 11-25 positively. This is likely to have been as a result of people sharing their thoughts and getting a chance to talk to each other.</p>	Survey
<p>There needs to be an emphasis on building self esteem within both groups. The number of negative comments compared to the number of positive or neutral comments indicates this quite strongly.</p>	Body In The Box
<p>Both age groups emphasized that they want to be seen as friendly and approachable, to be valued and considered to be able to make genuine contributions to society. Both groups wanted to be seen as mature, experienced and wise. It is useful to note that the question of 'how you want to be seen by others' is a valuable method of arriving at common ground and promoting intergenerational understanding.</p>	Body In The Box

<p>Some statements were deliberately controversial, e.g. the statements relating to 'adults have nothing to do' and 'adults need leisure time' were a deliberate challenge to the idea that it is young peoples' activities that the community should prioritize as their needs are paramount. This was used to generate awareness of adults having needs too and identifying this as a common ground. Tackling perceptions should be at the heart of any future intergenerational projects.</p>	<p>Opinion finder</p>
<p>More of the participants felt there was value in 'child only' and 'adult only' activities, than those that did not, which highlights the recognition that different age groups have different needs. However there was still a significant proportion of people who disagreed. This tells us that there is value both in activities that target specific age groups and activities that bring all age groups together and that a balance must be met between the two in all community development.</p>	<p>Opinion finder</p>
<p>The feeling that young people are motivated to change things was mostly positive amongst the group. Although it was noted that it was mostly adults that believed this, some young people were less convinced. This positive perception of young people needs to be promoted and celebrated in future intergenerational work.</p>	<p>Opinion finder</p>
<p>The range of games and activities was interesting. Sports and structured activities were popular and spanned generations. But the largest and most diverse list were games and activities that were outside and loosely structured or totally unstructured</p> <p><i>“I was surprised at how many outdoor games the children played. It’s not all computers after all.”</i></p> <p>The fact that the two age groups began to find common ground in an analysis of the different games they played in childhood can be used to promote future intergenerational work.</p>	<p>Jigsaw: Games we played</p>
<p>There were a lot of local places that people chose as their favourites. These could be picked up as a possibility of locations for future events or trips.</p>	<p>Jigsaw: Favourite places</p>
<p>There were requests for more events like the Intergenerational Conference. Many barriers proposed in the Bricks in the Wall activity had solutions that involved more opportunities for people of different ages to interact, talk and share. We can draw some conclusions about the nature of these opportunities both from the bricks in the wall and the individual's statements in their letters; these opportunities should be informal, and can be imaginative, social activities, such as intergenerational film nights, parties, festivals and music events. There was also the suggestion that the intergenerational agenda should be added to existing community events. It was felt by participants that venues and space for intergenerational</p>	<p>Bricks in the Wall Letter to myself</p>

<p>activities existed. A first action for future intergenerational work would be to draw up a list of both these existing venues and community activities that are relevant to the intergenerational agenda.</p>	
<p>Transportation was a big issue for participants, and was one of the barriers that generated the most responses. Many people felt that this was quite a serious barrier to intergenerational and community cohesion.</p>	<p>Bricks in the Wall</p>
<p>The social problem associated with young people relating to alcohol and drugs was raised and it is clear that education both in tackling older people's misconceptions of young people's drug and alcohol abuse, and education in supporting young people to manage issues of alcohol and drugs are well supported by the community.</p> <p>Furthermore, a progressive approach to intergenerational work might be to make use of older people's experience in life, which can be seen as one way that older people can be involved in finding the solutions to social problems associated with young people, rather than feeling powerless to do more than simply to bare witness.</p>	<p>Bricks in the Wall Letter to Self</p>
<p>The most important conclusion to draw from the Letters To Self activity is that there is a strong groundswell of goodwill and impetus to make a difference amongst the group. This really needs to be harnessed and made the most of.</p>	<p>Letter to Self</p>
<p>There was recognition of the strong links that can be forged between intergenerational projects and education. Specifically, the young people identified the part of their curriculum of their Welsh Baccalaureate that pertains to intergenerational projects (Wales, Europe and the World). The older generation felt that it was also relevant to their adult education through the University of the Third Age. These links should be made the most of in future intergenerational work.</p>	<p>Letter to Self</p>
<p>As a result of the day a lot of participants simply stated that they would help more people. This is a very positive outcome and an indicator that there is willingness to improve community cohesion.</p> <p>As well as the high level of personal motivation to initiate helping in the community there is clearly potential for the use of voluntary work between generations to breakdown intergenerational tensions. Appropriate voluntary projects for young people that were identified included gardening projects, tackling litter, and doing household chores. Appropriate voluntary projects for older people that were identified included literacy support for young people in schools, child care, Welsh language projects, and skills share. Appropriate voluntary projects that could bring both generations together in volunteering were those that campaign about local issues, such as the campaign for repairing the broken town clock, and transport issues.</p>	<p>Letter to Self</p>

<p>It is worth noting that some of the participants requested opportunities to share skills during the conference. They wished to know what young people wanted to learn and explore the possibility of supporting them by sharing their knowledge and experience. Unfortunately, there was not time during the conference to accommodate this, but it should be noted as a possible theme for another intergenerational conference.</p>	<p>General observation</p>
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Other conclusions

<p>Comment</p>	<p>Source/Activity</p>
<p>An equal number of people rated Machynlleth positively and negatively. If these groups' attitudes are a good representation of the community's attitudes to Machynlleth then it should be noted for future development work. From those members of the community who look positively on the area there is a good groundswell of support for and pride in Machynlleth and this enthusiasm can be harnessed and celebrated to promote growth. Furthermore, a close look should be taken at the reasons that the other half of the community looks on the area negatively, in order to address what needs to be improved in the area.</p> <p>NB: Bro Ddyfi Communities First have already done a significant piece of research into this issue with their report on the retention of young people in the area. Click here to view the Will they Stay or Will they Leave report.</p>	<p>Opinion finder</p>
<p>The large majority of the participants felt that consultations are worth doing. This is positive encouragement for Bro Ddyfi Communities First. In many areas of the UK, the concept of people feeling over-consulted has been mooted but one conclusion from this result is to give a green light to future consultations in the area.</p>	<p>Opinion finder</p>