



Centre for Intergenerational Practice, Research & Development, England

Briefing Paper

CIPRD: Centre for Intergenerational Practice, Research and Development (England)

Apples and Honey Nightingale in partnership with the Beth Johnson Foundation are resurrecting the Centre for Intergenerational Practice, Research and Development (England).

'Intergenerational practice aims to bring people together in purposeful, mutually beneficial activities which promote greater understanding and respect between different generations and contributes to building more cohesive communities. Intergenerational practice is inclusive, building on the positive resources that the younger and older generations have to offer each other and those around them.' (Beth Johnson Foundation, 2009).

Background and rationale

The partnership is supported by a newly formed UK Intergenerational Executive Team which will directly connect Intergenerational experts from England, Northern Ireland, Scotland & Wales. It is hoped this will engender more cross border working across the UK as well as internationally. Each organisation is an active member of the [Global Intergenerational Week](#) Executive Team ([Apples & Honey Nightingale/The Beth Johnson Foundation](#), [Bridging the Generations](#)/the Welsh Network, [Generations Working Together](#) and [Linking Generations Northern Ireland](#)) and are respected and recognised for their work across the globe.



The Beth Johnson Foundation (BJF), established in 1972 is a national charity based in Stoke-on-Trent dedicated to making a future for all ages.

The BJF believes that as a society, we need to make changes at a strategic and practical level to support ageing communities. Conducting cutting edge research, advising policymakers, and initiating pioneering age-friendly programmes, BJF is at the forefront of making those changes happen (www.bethjohnsonfoundation.org.uk).

The BJF, originally established the Centre for Intergenerational Practice (CIP) in 2001 and was instrumental in the development of intergenerational practice across the UK, Europe, and internationally. It recognised the need for a structured approach to

promoting and supporting connections between generations and an identified organisation to coordinate and consolidate the development of this work. For many years CIP acted as a coordinating body for practitioners providing advice/support, training, small grants, and networking for practitioners, organisations, and policymakers who were interested in adding value to their work and addressing social issues with an intergenerational approach (BJF, 2011). BJF's definition of intergenerational practice is still the most commonly used definition in the field of intergenerational work.

BJF supported the growth of IG work across the UK by originally securing funding from the Atlantic Philanthropies Fund to create Linking Generations Northern Ireland, which remains to this day part of the BJF. It also supported the Welsh and Scottish Intergenerational field to develop further. With guidance and support from the BJF, the Scottish Steering Group secured funding from the Scottish Government to create the Scottish Centre for Intergenerational Practice (later renamed to Generations Working Together). In Wales, funding opportunities saw a variety of projects and support given to the Welsh Assembly. This was a big step forward in the support for, and recognition of, intergenerational approaches throughout the UK and was the beginning of the social movements we see today through the work of Generations Working Together (GWT) and Linking Generations NI (LGNI).

Today, LGNI remains part of the BJF, benefitting from their experience and international connections, and GWT is now a Scottish constituted charity. LGNI works closely with Generations Working Together in Scotland as the only two country-wide 'intergenerational' development bodies in the UK and have strong connections with a range of organisations across Europe and internationally which they use to further develop the reach and credibility of intergenerational practice and approaches.

As more intergenerational projects are developing in England, it is time for the BJF to re-visit its position as the founding organisation of IG practice to support other IG projects, research and development to expand and grow the reach of intergenerational opportunities and translational and transformational learning. The BJF has deliberately partnered with AHN to develop its CIP into a hub of IG training, networking, mentoring, development, and research.

Working in partnership



AHN is England's first co-located IG setting in a Care Home with a focus on daily, intentional, mutually beneficial IG engagements. It has a proven record of outstanding practice, and, like BJF, its Director is on the executive team of Global Intergenerational Week.

AHN has also developed the first accredited Suite of level 3 qualifications in intergenerational practice providing another pathway for career progression for both educators and those working in social care. CACHE/NCFE is an organisation similar to City & Guilds. They specialise in vocational qualifications for the Early Years, Education, Health and Social Care sectors. Accreditation by CACHE/NCFE assures the quality and rigour of a qualification. More information available via [AHN Education and Training](#)

AHN is already working with GWT, LGNI and Wales to develop quality indicators in intergenerational practice. This project is funded by the Lottery Fund, supported by an international advisory group consisting of the leading academics in intergenerational practice from across America, Spain, Australia and the UK. With an international advisory panel, it is hoped that the resultant quality standards will become the benchmark for outstanding IG practice across the globe.

AHN encourage the development of IG community spaces, offering advice and training and mentoring fledgling IG projects. In the public sphere, AHN are partnering with the Local Government Information Unit whose regular briefings will include articles about our intergenerational work over the next 12 months. They are also working with the Government's Education and Training Foundation ETF through which they will reach a nationwide audience of tutors and teachers.

Our international connections with academics across the globe, including at the University of Granada, Spain, Penn University, USA, and Griffin University, Australia and with the Eisner Foundation enable us to be at the forefront of intergenerational research, development and practice.

The BJJF and AHN have a shared vision to support the development, and raise the awareness and profile, of high-quality intergenerational practice, development and research across England, and to encourage and nurture more sustainable and lasting relationships between people of different generations (specifically older and younger generations). The Centre will encourage and grow connections across all sectors and levels (from grass root to government); establish networking opportunities; build strong cross disciplinary partnerships; develop and facilitate intergenerational training; and promote intergenerational research.

Roles and responsibilities

As Directors of the Centre for Intergenerational Practice, Research and Development (England), we see our roles as:

- Acting as a coordinating body for individuals, practitioners, policy makers, academics and organisations providing guidance/support, training, small grants, and networking opportunities and events across England
- Promoting intergenerational advocacy
- Building a central resource bank/library for sharing, inspiring and learning
- Acting as a conduit for conducting, sharing and supporting cutting edge research, evaluation and impact reports
- Representing England on the UK Intergenerational Executive Team and Global Intergenerational Week's Executive Team
- Embedding cross border working with colleagues in Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales

- Encouraging England to be an all-age-friendly society.
- Establishing relationships with funders to increase opportunities for intergenerational programmes across England.
- Working with our International partners in developing and extending
- Intergenerational practice and research worldwide.

Future developments/We are in the process of:

- Establishing funding to support the necessary infrastructures for our work.
- Identifying members of a Steering Group to help support the development of the vision and direction of the national organisation.
- Developing a membership for England of people and organisations keen to develop and further intergenerational approaches in their work.
- Developing a network across England which could be led by key organisations across the country and then feed into an English network to share. The network could be a mixture of online and in person meetings (possibly 3 times each year per area).
- Critically exploring a number of advisory groups to strategically capture the developing themes across the current intergenerational arena and work in partnership with organisations leading in this area.
- Establishing connections with National Government and policy directives.
- Developing a model of good practice to integrate the voices of people (younger and older members) throughout the Centre.
- Creating a social media channel for the centre

Please note roles, responsibilities and future developments would evolve as the steering group and networks feedback their ideas, needs and expectations for the centre. After consultation with members and interested parties the Directors will create a working document identifying realistic and future goals for the next 5 years.

Get Involved!

Interested in being involved in CIPRD? As a starting point please sign up to become a member of our England Network to receive all news, updates and opportunities

Sign up to the CIPRD England Network via <http://eepurl.com/imFvyM>

If you would like more information on CIPRD, to discuss joining the steering group, or have any other questions/ideas please feel free to contact us:

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