

Excellence in Intergenerational Work Award Guidelines 2021



**Generations
Working
Together**

www.generationsworkingtogether.org

Generations Working Together (GWT) is pleased to announce the 2021 Awards for Excellence in Intergenerational Work. Due to the pandemic this year, we have changed the categories to reflect changes and developments across the country.

Covid-19 has changed the way in which we all live our lives. The emphasis on physical and social distancing as the principal tool for limiting the spread of Covid-19 has limited our contact with family and friends and forced us all to find new ways of sustaining and developing our social relationships.

This has had a major impact on the shape of intergenerational practice which has positive and purposeful relationships between generations at its heart. When the pandemic first struck, a great deal of intergenerational work came to an abrupt halt because it relied on face-to-face interactions and involved vulnerable people. Over time, people began to develop innovative and creative responses to the changed circumstances, creating new ways of connecting people at a distance, enabling them to support each other through a very challenging time.

As the country learns to live with Covid-19, the challenge continues. Intergenerational relationships have an even more important contribution to give to our communities now. However, these need to be developed and managed in safe and sustainable ways.

This year's awards sit within this context and will recognise the many ways in which organisations and communities are rising to the challenge and adapting to a vastly changed context.

There are four award categories:

1 Innovation in the Community

We are looking to recognise projects which have found new and creative ways to sustain and develop their intergenerational relationships over the period of the pandemic.

2 Digital innovation

This year has seen a massive growth in the use of digital and online technology to support social, educational and economic activity. We are seeking nominations for projects that have embraced digital technologies and used them creatively to connect all ages together in mutually beneficial activities, building and strengthening intergenerational relationships.

3 Tackling ageism

Ageism occurs when people are treated unfairly because of their age. Intergenerational work tackles ageism by developing mutual respect and understanding between people of different ages. Covid-19 has impacted negatively on people from different generations. Reports in the media have portrayed older and younger people unfairly, setting one generation against another. We are looking to recognise projects and initiatives that have made particular efforts to challenge ageism over a very difficult period in our lives and communities.

4 Creative ways to connect after Covid-19

We live in hope that sometime in the near future, a vaccine and treatment will make it possible for people to live a more normal life. How do we recover from the loneliness and isolation after this prolonged period of social distancing and lockdown?

We can and will need to throw everything at this problem once we open up again. It will require the government's investment in public spaces, such as libraries, parks, gardens and public squares. It means planners and architects designing houses and workplaces around shared facilities and common areas that encourage interaction between people of all ages.

For us as individuals and practitioners we shall need to make an effort to create physical connections in real time. For this award, we want to hear about your ideas for re-establishing connections between the different generations. Ideas could operate at different levels – they could relate to specific contexts, such as a school, community centre or street. Alternatively, they could have a wider focus on your village, town or community of interest. Share your idea, how it will work, who your partners and participants will be, what difference it will make to people's lives, how you will evaluate it and if you know, how much it will cost and how it will be funded.

We hope these awards provide individuals, groups and organisations an opportunity to showcase their work and creativity on how they were able to and how they plan to in the future connect different generations together through using an intergenerational approach.

Eligibility

To be eligible for any of these awards, nominees must:

- deliver their work in Scotland;
- bring people together in purposeful, mutually beneficial activities, which promote greater understanding and respect between generations, and contribute to building more cohesive communities;
- involve people from different generations, generally with a minimum 25-year age gap between participating generations.
- clearly show the level of contact with and between participating generations.

Assessment

The four awards will be assessed in relation to a common set of criteria. Each project should:

- have clearly stated aims and goals;
- have a clear rationale for adopting an IG approach;
- be well planned (within the context of good intergenerational practice);
- give equal priority to the needs of all participants;
- demonstrate relationships between different generations;
- evidence positive impact relating to the award category;
- have a strategy for sustainability – either for the project or its participants;
- be innovative in the context of the award category;
- be easily placed on the [continuum that tracks the levels of contact](#) with and between participating generations.

The Award Process

Nomination forms to be submitted by **Friday 5th February 2021 at 12 noon** to:

bella@generationsworkingtogether.org. Forms are available as a Word document, or you can also submit it on Google Forms here: <https://forms.gle/dyqmNnuhLjsSRiV7>

Only email applications will be accepted, unless in exceptional circumstances and with prior agreement. A project can be entered for more than one award category, providing it meets the relevant criteria.

Nomination forms for projects can be submitted by project organisers, or by individuals or agencies on their behalf. All nominations, whether for a project or the creative idea award, are asked to supply:

- the name and contact details of an independent referee. This should be someone with knowledge of the project or individual who is willing to be contacted in relation to the nomination. Please note that not all referees will be contacted;
- a maximum of three high resolution photographs which in some way capture the essence or activity of the project. These pictures will be used as part of promotional material for the awards and may be included in subsequent GWT publications, both online and offline.

A confirmation email will be sent within 5 working days of the receipt of your form. All eligible applications will be assessed by a panel of GWT Trustees and staff. Individual assessors will score each project using the following framework:

Assessment criteria

Planning

- clearly stated aims and goals;
 - has a clear rationale for adopting an IG approach;
 - well planned (within the context of good intergenerational practice);
 - has a strategy for sustainability.
-

Delivery

- clearly stated aims and goals
 - has a clear rationale for adopting an IG approach;
 - well planned (within the context of good intergenerational practice);
 - has a strategy for sustainability.
-

Impact (see below)

- making and can evidence positive impact.
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Innovation

- is innovative in the context of the award category.
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Improvement

- clearly identified need and scope for improvement;
 - clear improvement in the quality of practice and on impact.
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Levels of contact

- The project can be clearly shown on the [continuum that tracks the levels of contact](#) with and between participating generations.
-

Scores will then be compiled to give an overall score for each Project.

What do we mean by Impact?

The impact of a project is the difference that it makes to people and communities. This depends on the nature of your project and what you are trying to achieve.

For example:

Project focus	Examples of short-term Impact
Innovation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Young and older people are more motivated and enthusiastic about their learning▪ Younger and older people feel more connected▪ Participants have developed positive relationships with each other▪ Participants have developed digital skills and increased confidence
Tackling ageism	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Participants have more positive attitudes to people from different generations▪ Increased empathy and respect towards different generations▪ Participants feel safer in their community
Social isolation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Participants have developed positive relationships with each other▪ Participants make new friends and rediscover joy and happiness from these relationships▪ People enjoy more regular social contact with others

For those nominating ideas for the 'Creative ways to Connect' award, feel free to adapt the criteria to suit the development of a new idea.

What do we mean by evidence?

When we talk about providing evidence of impact, we're simply trying to find out **how you know what difference you are making.**

Evidence can be gathered in many ways – some questions could include:

- what did you enjoy most?
- what has been the biggest surprise about interacting with other generations?
- has it changed how you think, feel and act around other generations?

- what difference has the project made to your learning?
- what is the most positive thing you have to say being with people of a different age?
- To staff, family members and volunteers ask questions like what changes have they observed regarding the participants behaviour as a result of interactions?

Other evidence could be collated via personal stories and gathering “before” and “after” information. Measuring impact will help you to know how well you are doing and to help you develop and improve your project.

You will almost certainly be collecting this information as part of your work. All we ask is that you tell us **what difference you are making and how you know what difference you are making**, when submitting your nomination.

The Awards will be announced at a GWT webinar on Friday 12th March 2021.

Submit your nominations by Friday 5th February 2021 at 12 noon to:

bella@generationsworkingtogether.org

Good Luck!