

LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM

Report to: Policy and Oversight Board

Date: 18/09/2023

Subject: Intergenerational Practice in Hammersmith & Fulham

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SUMMARY

In 2022, the newly elected Labour administration produced its manifesto, 'Rising to the challenges of our time, together'¹. One area highlighted as requiring attention was that of loneliness and social isolation. The manifesto specifically acknowledges that support should be provided to the population - particularly older people - living in single-unit housing, and lacking access to local support and family connections.

The Manifesto also specifically recognises that older lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, queer/questioning, asexual, non-binary and pansexual (LGBTQ+) people can face challenges in accessing support, family connections, and services to help in addressing loneliness and isolation. Intergenerational practice is identified as a way to address social isolation and loneliness, as well as the disconnect between age groups. Research suggests that younger and older people have different needs and different motives for attending intergenerational projects. Ensuring activities are appropriate and maintaining the interest of both groups must be considered.

This report sets out the current status of intergenerational practice in the borough and opportunities for developing and embedding intergenerational activities to address loneliness and social isolation.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That Policy and Oversight Board discuss what further opportunities there may be for intergenerational practices in H&F and provide a steer on the way forward.
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Wards Affected: All

¹ [The Administration's Manifesto - Rising To The Challenges Of Our Time, Together](#)

Our Values	Summary of how this report aligns to the H&F Values
Building shared prosperity	Intergenerational practice (and learning) is inclusive and builds on the positive resources that younger and older generations have to offer each other and those around them.
Creating a compassionate council	By developing and supporting existing projects that combat social isolation and loneliness through intergenerational activities.
Doing things with local residents, not to them	Intergenerational activities can be resident led and are dependent on resident voices to be successful.
Being ruthlessly financially efficient	Intergenerational practice acts as a valuable knowledge and skills exchange between generations which can reduce the need for interventions to improve outcomes.
Taking pride in H&F	Building more cohesive communities and connections between generations in the borough.

Background Papers Used in Preparing This Report

None.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Research and Early Engagement

1. H&F Policy and Programme Management Office team has produced a background research briefing. The briefing clarifies the definition and function behind intergenerational practice, highlighting the potential benefits and limitations to these endeavours, and outlining the key enablers required to effectively facilitate activities. Case studies of activities undertaken by several local authorities to address social isolation and loneliness have been included in Appendix 1.
2. The research briefing also sheds light on the subject of the intergenerational contract, particularly focusing on the disparity being experienced by younger people in terms of employment, pensions, housing, and asset wealth.

3. In March 2023, H&F officers joined Councillor Homan in meeting with economists from Think-tank, The Resolution Foundation to discuss key areas of concern regarding intergenerational inequality. The Resolution Foundation has produced findings on this matter² and collaborated with the Institute for Fiscal Studies^{3,4}.
4. The Resolution Foundation has offered to be a sounding board to H&F and is happy to provide feedback on scoping documents. The Resolution Foundation will share future publications this year including its next Intergenerational Audit, expected to be published in Oct/Nov 2023, and research into wealth inequalities.
5. The H&F research briefing from March 2023 has been attached as Appendix 1.

Introduction

6. *Intergenerational practice* according to the Beth Johnson Foundation, aims:

“To bring people together in purposeful, mutually beneficial activities which promote greater understanding and respect between generations and contribute to building more cohesive communities.”

7. This report highlights examples of intergenerational practice in Hammersmith & Fulham and opportunities for development of activities to combat social isolation and loneliness.

Existing Practice

Third Sector

8. The Council’s Third Sector Investment Fund (3SiF) funds a range of local organisations. The current funding arrangements support organisations who applied for a grant on the basis that they could deliver against the following priorities:
 - Improving health and adult social care
 - Everything we do – delivering social inclusion
 - A stronger local economy with more jobs for local people
 - Ensuring a safer, cleaner borough
 - Providing the best start for young people
 - Empowering and enabling local communities
9. The organisations listed below currently deliver intergenerational activities to support the 3SiF priorities they have committed to as part of their grant funding arrangement.

² [\(2019\) A New Generational Contract. The Resolution Foundation.](#)

³ [\(2022\) Intergenerational Income Persistence: Evidence for the UK. Institute for Fiscal Studies.](#)

⁴ [\(2022\) Wealth is the growing economic divide in the UK today. Institute for Fiscal Studies.](#)

3SiF Organisations that Deliver Intergenerational Activities

Organisation	Service Summary
Age UK Hammersmith & Fulham	<p>The Connect Project: The service includes a lunch club café, IT training for older people, information and advice, a weekly programme of physical and mental activities, talks and workshops, befriending and other services, from shopping to light gardening. Service is provided with the help of over 400 volunteers and reaches over 1000 residents each year. It also attracts income from other sources to the borough.</p> <p>Website: www.ageuk.org.uk/hammersmithandfulham/</p>
Alzheimer's Society	<p>Dementia Support Worker: Provides support and information for people facing problems with dementia, and their carers. Includes a regular service for people with dementia living in the community and a Saturday dementia café.</p> <p>Website: www.alzheimers.org.uk</p>
The Creighton Centre	<p>Homeline: A telephone befriending service including casework, home visiting, monthly lunches, Christmas parties and other social events for older people, also digital inclusion classes. Important for isolated older people.</p> <p>The Creighton Community Centre: Community centre at Creighton House in Lillie Road, offering space to local groups to provide education, arts and crafts, health and wellbeing and other activities.</p> <p>Website: www.creightonhouse.org</p>
Doorstep Library Network	<p>The Doorstep Library Network: A home visiting library and reading support to low-income families with children aged 1-12. Operate on several housing estates across the borough. Volunteers support children to improve their reading, help signposting families to other services and information.</p> <p>Website: doorsteplibrary.org.uk</p>
Fulham Good Neighbour Service	<p>Fulham Good Neighbour Service: Practical neighbourly support to mostly older people in the Fulham area. Volunteers support residents with befriending, DIY and gardening, transport, escorting and social events.</p> <p>Website: www.fulhamgoodneighbours.org/gardening</p>

Hammersmith Community Gardens Association	<p>Growing Communities: The service maintains and develops four sites in the borough; also delivers community environmental events and training opportunities. Attract high numbers of 300 corporate volunteers and work with local schools.</p> <p>Website: Hammersmith Community Gardens Association – We are an environmental charity managing four community gardens in Hammersmith and Fulham (hcgga.org.uk)</p>
Urban Partnership Group	<p>Invest-at-Masbro: Supports the Masbro Community Centre, providing a wide range of activities, volunteering opportunities for local people, and help with Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks for third sector organisations.</p>
	<p>Masbro Older People Access Service: The service offers befriending, home support, social events and recreational activities to older people.</p> <p>Website: Urban Partnership Group (UPG) community services Hammersmith/Fulham</p>

A request for information on other organisations in the borough delivering intergenerational activity found an even richer base of existing intergenerational projects in the third sector than anticipated. These organisations are not formally funded through 3SiF but form part of the third sector in H&F. Highlights include intergenerational repair workshops for electronics and an intergenerational programme for people of African and Caribbean heritage that encourages discussion through literacy and art.

Adult Social Care (ASC)

10. Nubian Life who are one of our older peoples day services providers have produced a presentation on how they have and continue to be involved with intergenerational project. Their presentation has been enclosed with this report as Appendix 2.
11. Nubian Life have delivered several intergenerational projects and continue to develop this practice. They cite the benefits of the activities as follows:
 - Creative Approach to Community Development
 - Strengthening of Community Relationships
 - Promotes Active Citizenship
 - Challenges Systematic Ageism
 - Creates Welcoming Spaces for residents

- Builds Community Resilience
- Person/Interest Centred Activities/Services

12. Their past projects include:

- PEACE Wall (2016) -Young People and Wider Community created a PEACE Wall showcased at Westfield and poems were submitted across the borough on the meaning of PEACE in the community.
- Westside Young Leaders (2017) – The project created an Academy for black boys to develop leadership skills by completing tasks at the centre, having community meals with elders, and running a Community Challenge Day. This project relied on partnership working with the Young Offenders Service who helped match the young people to opportunity.

13. Nubian Life run two current intergenerational projects. The first is a garden project at the Josiah Braithwaite Community Garden. The project is in partnership with Fulham Good Neighbours and is in its final year of 5 years funding from the National Lottery Community Fund. The project has had excellent feedback and was reviewed by Imperial College winning an award for best poster.

14. On the back of the success of the Garden, Nubian Life have launched a second activity session, the Nubian Sewing Club. The Nubian Sewing Club is about sharing knowledge and skills to develop practical and creative abilities. The sessions are run on a Friday for two and half hours. The Club is open to those from the local community as well as those who regularly attend the day centre.

15. Elgin Resource Centre and Elgin Close Extra Care service which are co-located have a partnership with Hammersmith Academy and have recently started working to relaunch intergenerational projects. Planned projects are:

- A photography project which will focus on portraiture and building relationships between A-Level students and Elgin residents or day centres visitors.
- Tea and chat sessions to reduce social isolation for residents whilst supporting pupils with volunteer credits for their Duke of Edinburgh Award.

16. This demonstrates that providers are willing to be inclusive and flexible in their delivery models and shows scope for further embedding of intergenerational activities in social care settings.

Children's Services

17. In children's services, intergenerational practice is characterised by small-scale and intensive projects. There are three areas within which activities take place:

- Education
- Community spaces
- Health

18. **Education:** Intergenerational activities in the context of the 'Creativity, Action, Service' component of the International Baccalaureate; this can include older volunteers mentoring 'vulnerable' children in need of support; for example, older people discussing wartime experiences with children studying the period or; 'Philosophy 4 Children' delivered in schools with older volunteers supporting the pupils.
19. **Community spaces (including Family Hubs)** to provide a space for older people to care for their grandchildren and meet other grandparents, parents and young children also attending sessions. Grandparents are currently welcome to activities within family Hubs however more targeting of grandparents could increase numbers of older people attending Family Hub activities. There is also potential for intergenerational cookery groups involving preparing and eating healthy lunches together, health and fitness activities; bringing young and older people together for activities that promote positive health and well-being, such as sessions on healthy living and well-being.
20. **Family Hubs** are predominantly aimed at 0-19 (25 with SEND) age group. However, there may be opportunities to explore how intergenerational practice could be incorporated into any Family Hub offer. There are issues with regards to availability of space due to competing demands of the number of services which will operate out of each centre. There are also considerations with regards to safeguarding where young people and children will be interacting directly with adults.
21. If the adults use the service themselves, they may not require the DBS check, however there would need to be staff presence who are both DBS checked and have relevant Safeguarding training. Safeguarding would require all employees and volunteers to have an enhanced DBS check to work with children and young people.
22. We will review options for intergenerational practice as part of the Family Hub programme to see if there is a natural fit for services that will operate from the hubs. This will include the following:
 - Grandparent-friendly Family Hubs
 - Grandparent-specific Family Hub sessions
 - Associated services and information for grandparents/carers
 - Identifying school's offer in intergenerational practice

Opportunities for Further Development

ASC Day opportunities

The success of Nubian Life Centre's Garden and Sewing Club provides an opportunity for other day centres and day opportunities providers to develop their own intergenerational activities. Elgin Resource Centre have developed a plan of activities in partnership with Hammersmith Academy. Social care will continue to monitor the outcomes of intergenerational projects as part of the review of day opportunities in Hammersmith & Fulham to see if there is scope for further development as part of the day opportunities offer.

The review of day opportunities for adults in the borough may provide an opportunity to embed intergenerational practice as part of the offer. There is currently three commissioned and three in house day services in the borough.

The commissioned day services are for older people, one that is dementia specific (Alzheimer's Society), one that supports Hammersmith & Fulham's Caribbean community (Nubian Life) and the other a generic older peoples offer (Elgin Resource Centre). The average age of attendees at the commissioned day centres is 88 years old.

Contract monitoring and management

There is the opportunity within people services to explore intergenerational practices discussions with current providers as this will highlight more instances and models of this practice but also encourage providers to better understand the health and wellbeing benefits to residents we serve.

Volunteering

The role of the Community Engagement Team in engaging with the voluntary sectors needs further consideration. The Voluntary sector are our grassroot organisations and play a critical role ensuring community cohesion. H&F Volunteers Centre can be asked to co-operate by targeting suitable volunteers and matching them with projects.

Providers of older people's services could utilise existing volunteer schemes for young people such as the Duke of Edinburgh Award and the National Citizens Service. Each of these schemes requires young people to complete volunteering and/or social action hours.

3SiF and Small Grants

We could consider what opportunities there are for encouraging application to promoted intergenerational practices through small grants, but this will need to be in liaison with relevant Cabinet Members for Adult Social Care, Children and Education, and Social Isolation.

LGBTQ+

The Labour Manifesto (2022) specifically recognises that older LGBTQ+ people can face challenges in accessing support, family connections, and services to help in addressing loneliness and isolation. There are currently no identified intergenerational projects that specifically support people from LGBTQ+ backgrounds. It is recommended that coproduction is done with this community to understand how and if intergenerational activities could support to reduce loneliness and isolation.

Tri-borough Music Club (www.triboroughmusicclub.org)

There is also the opportunity to further explore the role H&F Music or the Tri-borough Music Club can play in delivering intergenerational practice.

LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – H&F Research Briefing: Intergenerational challenges & opportunities

Appendix 2 – Nubian Life Intergenerational Practice Presentation

Appendix 3 – Related documents and further reading