

Inter-Generational Project

A project to engage older and younger people on joint learning programs using common themes such as the football club, local history and sport in general, as a hook.

Introduction

The project uses the appeal of a football club, sport in general and local history to develop activities bringing together younger and older generations to increase understanding between the groups and to promote community cohesion.

The objective is to develop a theme that can engage both groups which can be the subject of an exhibition, a school's project or just used to stimulate discussion at sessions bringing together the different groups.

The subject matter can vary according to local needs, available material and school's curriculum, for example the club's history or local history as a theme.

Initially the project can have a taster session, if it is deemed successful then a series of events can then be organised.

The project is based upon a successful inter-generational project run by the Federation of Stadium Communities.

Project Outline

Sessions are held, preferably at the football club, which can be facilitated by a trust member if they have the necessary skills and/or for example a local historian. It would really depend on the subject matter.

Ideally the club should be brought into the project, especially their community department. They should already have established links with local schools, which should help with the project's development.

Possible Programs

The broad outline will have been agreed with partners before the start of the project and will include elements of:

- Oral history, capturing stories of former players and people associated with the club and it's community

- Creative Writing: developing new sporting heritage connections among diverse communities and generations
- Skills for Life (Literacy, Numeracy and English for Speakers of other Languages (ESOL)
- Information and Communications Technology: self-defined internet research projects around the history of the club and local area
- Health and wellbeing awareness for both generations exploring for example, past and present diets and exercise

Target Numbers

- A minimum of 16 (8 older, 8 younger) and a maximum of 30 (15 older, 15 younger)

Sessions

- An initial taster session is advisable. If successful, a series of sessions can follow, perhaps 6 – 8 sessions over 3 – 6 months

Benefits

- Increasing understanding between two generations who tend to have a little contact apart from through family relationships
- A successfully run project should result in the trust building relationships with local schools, groups for the elderly and possibly other groups such as with the local authorities archive department or libraries service
- It should also develop links with the club, especially the community department
- Intergenerational projects are increasingly be used by agencies and local authorities as it is viewed as producing many benefits for both groups and for community cohesion. It can work very well at football clubs and this is an opportunity for a supporters' trust to be driving a project that is of local strategic importance
- Intergenerational projects have been demonstrated to play an important role in challenging ageism, increasing understanding between these different generations and providing an opportunity for older people to enhance their quality of life. It has also proved to be beneficial for younger people in areas such as learning and citizenship
- The project will help raise the profile of the trust and provide good PR opportunities

Costs & Funding

- Possibly facility hire, although if your football club was involved they might be able to provide a suitable room
- Some costs associated with the production of materials
- Refreshments would be needed for any sessions held
- Most costs would be dependent on the sessions held, for example, if the theme was local history a local historian may be required. However, this can be provided free from the local authority or the libraries service
- Sessions may need to be promoted which may entail some costs
- Intergenerational projects may be able to secure grant aid to finance the project. Only a relatively small grant would be required to fund the project. Project outputs and outcomes would need to be identified to justify the funding, which would probably relate to health and wellbeing.
See grant guide for suitable grant giving bodies guidance on writing successful grant applications or speak to your local authority.

Risk

- The project requires quite a lot of development work which requires the time and effort of trust members. Appropriate links need to be established with schools and organisations working with the elderly, as well as other theme specific organisations such as the libraries service. The themes also need to be developed and material needs to be produced or collected for the sessions.
- An appropriate person needs to facilitate the sessions otherwise the project might not meet its objectives
- Financial risk is minimal

Roles & Responsibilities

This is a general guide and will need to be adapted according to the specific theme's needs.

- A project manager needs to be appointed from the trust membership.
- Identification and development of the theme.
- Links with appropriate organisations has to be established and managed.
- All material needs to be produced.
- The event needs to be timetabled and agreed with all relevant parties.
- Promotion of the scheme, if necessary.
- Adults, probably CRB checked, to welcome and supervise children and senior citizens.

However, another option would be for the teachers to take on this role but a trust presence is still recommended.

Outline of Steps

This is a general guide and will need to be tailored. It is primarily to outline the level of work that is required to successfully develop and deliver the project.

- The required skills should be identified and then appropriate trust members identified to form a steering group. Communicate the proposal with your membership to hopefully secure volunteers with the appropriate skills.
- Develop a timeline, it should be noted that schools plan one term in advance.
- A theme and rough outline of the project should be developed. The benefits for the participants should be a key piece of this work. If it is with schools try to link the proposal with their curriculum or demonstrate how it is connected to educational strategies such as the renewed Primary Framework.
- Participating schools/groups should be identified and contacted. It is worth consulting with your membership to identify any possible contacts.
- Once the participating schools/groups have been agreed a more detailed timetable of events is required and all material etc should be produced.
- A pre-event meeting should run through each part of the session, which should be agreed by all relevant groups.
- Agree the dates and good luck!