



# Linking Generations Northern Ireland

## Background

Linking Generations Northern Ireland (LGNI) is an intergenerational initiative and part of the Beth Johnson Foundation. LGNI is the only organisation solely advocating the development and promotion of intergenerational practice (IP) as a catalyst for social change in Northern Ireland.

*Our vision: Northern Ireland will be Age-friendly: generations will work together to build communities for all ages*

## What We Do

We specialise in the promotion of intergenerational practice. We create opportunities in all sorts of places and for all sorts of reasons for **different generations to learn from, support, meet and enjoy each other**. Since 2009, we have been supporting lots of amazing people all across NI to bring generations together in the places where they live and work. We take our inspiration from the incredible stories they tell us about the power of bringing generations together.

Intergenerational practice provides structured opportunities to link generations, improving understanding and increasing mutual support. This contributes to the **building of age-friendly communities** where we respect each other, have a voice and get to play our part.

IP aims to tackle age segregation and bring people together in purposeful, mutually beneficial activities. It is globally recognised as an appropriate response to both tackling the challenges; and embracing the opportunities of our ageing planet. Based on our experience and research, we encourage focus on promoting **greater understanding, closer relations and respect between age groups and provide opportunities to address shared problems**.

## Since 2009, we have:

- Delivered training about intergenerational practice to over 350 people.
- Engaged over 4000 people in intergenerational activity across NI
- Supported over 100 groups to build their intergenerational work with small grants and development work
- Worked with over 80 schools
- We have 1 full time and 3 part time staff members

We work across the age spectrum because we believe that interaction between all generations is the ideal. Whilst many of our projects have worked with Primary School Age

children, (age between 4 and 11), activities with very young children are more rare. This is an area that we are very keen to expand our work in and to understand better what approaches are effective in developing benefits for both age groups.

The photograph below was an activity hosted by a local group in 2015 to Celebrate EU day of Solidarity between Generations, 29<sup>th</sup> April.



For examples of our recent activity or to get in touch with us to talk about collaborative possibilities, please visit our website at [www.linkinggenerationsni.com](http://www.linkinggenerationsni.com) or call us on +442891 813022

Lynn Johnston, Linking Generations NI