



## 'Linking Generations in Northern Ireland'

Work Report January – March 2011

### **Introduction**

The period from January to March 2011 has yet again been a busy one with continuation of the Ards area and Regional grants Schemes, intergenerational training seminars and events. The LGNI initiative continues to contribute to the concept of intergenerational practice becoming more widely recognised across the sectors in NI and also its importance to community development, safety and strategic issues. This report will give a good indication of the work LGNI staff have been involved with in the last three months.

During this period work also continues on the extensive external evaluation of the whole LGNI initiative being undertaken by Juniper Consulting.

### **Regional Intergenerational Small Grants Scheme**

(Running April 2010 – March 2011)

The combination of funding from the Atlantic Philanthropies and The Department of Justice of the Northern Ireland Office supports this programme. The successful groups listed below have either completed or are currently finishing off their intergenerational projects which will be elaborated in a publication of overall work to be launched at the regional event on the 12<sup>th</sup> May 2011. LGNI Staff continue to support these groups through the process of their projects which currently involves financial returns, collection of evaluation resources and planning for their participation in the regional event.

Sunnymead Residential Home & Saints & Scholars Primary Armagh  
Breakthru & St Patricks School Dungannon  
Warrenpoint Community Association

Cloughmills Community Action Group  
Destined Londonderry/Derry  
Creggan 60<sup>th</sup> Feile & Creggan Neighbourhood Partnership  
Cloney Rural Development Association  
Alzheimers Society Antrim  
Moyallon Primary School Portadown  
Opportunity Youth Belfast  
Volunteer Development Agency Belfast  
COSY Club & St Ethas Youth Club Londonderry/Derry  
Westwinds Residents Association  
Dunloy Community Development Association  
Maghaberry Community Association  
Hostelling International Northern Ireland  
Good Morning Colin Neighbourhood Partnership  
The Logic Cafe Moira  
LASI Lesbian Advocacy Services Initiative Belfast  
FARM Support Group & Mountnorris Young Farmers

### **Newtownards Area Grants Scheme**

(running June 2010– March 2011)

Continuing funding from Ards Community Safety Partnership enabled a grants scheme for 13 intergenerational projects across the Ards Borough. The successful groups listed below have either completed or are currently finishing off their intergenerational projects which will be elaborated in a publication of overall work to be relaunched at the event on the 19<sup>th</sup> May 2011. LGNI Staff continue to support these groups through the process of their projects which currently involves financial returns, collection of evaluation resources and planning for their participation in the Ards event.

East End Residents Association  
Glenward Community Development Association  
Movilla High School  
Ballygowan Senior Citizens and Alexander Dickson Primary School  
Killinchy Senior Citizens and Killinchy Primary School  
Millisle Youth Forum

St Anne's Primary School & Parish Donaghadee  
Portaferry Integrated Primary & Portaferry in Bloom  
Carrowdore Primary School  
Andrews Memorial Primary Comber  
Comber Primary School  
Ballywalter Youth & Community Cooperative  
Kirkistown Primary School Cloughey

### **Additional Work Activities January 2011 – March 2011**

**Regional Event Mossley Mill 12<sup>th</sup> May** – LGNI staff have planned an event to celebrate and recognise the success of the regional grants scheme and also the NI wide initiative including training, development and events. The event will offer projects the chance to showcase their work to invited guests, have an input from guest speakers, the LGNI evaluator and also a trainee of the training programme. A publication of all of LGNIs recent work will be launched on this day.

**Ards Event Queens Hall 19<sup>th</sup> May** - LGNI have organised this event which will celebrate and recognise the success of all of the groups involved in the Ards area grants scheme. Jim Shannon MP has kindly offered to open this event with input from all 13 projects involved, guest speakers and the LGNI evaluator.

**Regional and Ards area steering groups** – LGNI continue to chair and facilitate both steering groups which offer and advice and support to the relevant LGNI initiatives.

**NI Training Programme** – LGNI has continued its successful NI wide training programme throughout January to March at the following dates and locations - 25<sup>th</sup> January 2011 Strabane Library, 8<sup>th</sup> February 2011 Bridge Centre Lisburn, 16<sup>th</sup> February 2011 Millennium Forum Londonderry and the 8<sup>th</sup> March 2011 Aisling Centre Enniskillen. This has ensured that LGNI has reached the target of 12 seminars although a further seminar is planned for the 1<sup>st</sup> of June in Belfast and there are also hopes of a cross border seminar in the near future. The attendance of trainees at these seminars has been high with over 175 people so far and feedback extremely positive.

**Cross Border Contacts** – Through the months January to March LGNI has continued to build upon their cross border contacts. This has involved a site visit to the building of an intergenerational centre in Naas managed by Nás na Ríogh Housing Association, attendance by cross border groups at the Enniskillen training seminar and plans with Youthnet to facilitate a cross border event.

**Intergenerational Consultations on the Draft Community Safety**

**Strategy** – LGNI have submitted their own response to the draft strategy but have also supported the following groups in discussions and submissions relevant to this document – Breakthru Dungannon, The Age Sector Platform and Northern Ireland Youth Forum and the EastEnd Residents Association Newtownards.

**Newtownabbey Senior Citizens Event 18<sup>th</sup> March Mossley Mill** –

LGNI facilitated an event for Newtownabbey Community Safety Partnership involving approximately 60 older people from the Newtownabbey Borough. The event explored relations between and perceptions of younger people within the area and offered an opportunity to discuss potential intergenerational developments. The feedback from this event was positive and it is hoped that an intergenerational initiative will be the next step.

**Belfast City Council Youth Forum & Brookvale Fold** – LGNI have been working in partnership with Belfast City Council to bring together their Youth Forum with a group of older people from Brookvale Fold situated in North Belfast. Single identity workshops have been facilitated with each group individually and plans are in place for a joint meeting which will then be developed into a programme of activities.

**RNNI** – Vicki continues to sit on the RNNI board of management strengthening the link between RNNI and LGNI.

**Girls Model** – LGNI has been working in partnership with the Girls Model in North Belfast to bring together pupils with a senior citizens group in the area. This women's project which is also cross community focuses on the sharing of memories and experiences between the two generations. The school has funding through the extended schools

programme and it is hoped that this project will act as a model for good practice and can be replicated in other schools in the future.

**Funding Partners** – LGNI continue to create links and partnerships with other organisations both in potential funding bids and also in kind support. LGNI is currently involved as a working partner in two funding bids with the New Mac and also with the WEA and NIYF.

**Feile FM 14<sup>th</sup> March** – Vicki and David were invited to take part in the Feile FM afternoon delight radio programme delivered by older people for older people. The interview session lasting approximately 30 minutes involved discussion on current intergenerational relations and issues.

**Ards Over 50's Forum** – Vicki continues to be a member of the Ards Over 50's Forum who meet monthly to discuss older people's issues in the Ards area. The Forum is made up of statutory, community/voluntary organisations and older people's group members. The Forum regularly arranges events focusing on issues that affect older people e.g. health, safety.

**Link Steering Group Research** - Vicki continues to be a member of the Link Centre Newtownards steering group for research into older people's memories of the past and in particular the 'Troubles'. This research is due to be completed in coming weeks and will hopefully lead to an intergenerational programme to address this issue.

**Introduction to Intergenerational Programming Pittsburgh University** – Vicki has completed the online based introduction to intergenerational programming course and is using this element to progress to the Intergenerational Specialist Certificate. The certificate will involve the completion of a portfolio on the Ards area intergenerational initiative and participation in the Generations United Conference in Washington DC in July 2011.