

SCOTLAND'S GENERATIONS WORKING TOGETHER 2009 CONFERENCE

The Scottish Centre for Intergenerational Practice



Making Communities Feel Safer or Be Safer

Workshop B

Issues

Behaviour

- Public substance abuse
- Noise – music
- Fear of terrorism
- Assumptions
- Football
- 'Hearsay' – level of intolerance
- Attitude
- Lack of respect
- Aggressive/abusive language
- Feelings of vulnerability
- Misconceptions
- What if?
- Self-centred
- Fear of being a victim
- Gang violence
- ASB
- Diverse lifestyles
- Chaotic families

Solutions

- Communication – positive, 360degree, all age groups, methodology – personal, embrace new ways
- Community engagement – consultation – priorities – ownership/responsibility, hard to reach – 'certain type of person'
- Investment – where it can make a difference
- Co-ordination/partnership working – police instead of wardens – community cops, campus cops

- Planning Design – ‘secured by design’, care not to create exclusion zones
- Employment – break the cycle
- Education – interpersonal skills, being allowed to play and learn naturally, classes – parental responsibility
- Community role models
- Trust in younger people
- Local Media – share good news stories, facts!
- Target groups at risk of crime – young males, elderly people (certain types of crime)
- Justice is done – sentencing, perceptions
- Diversionary work

Everyone contribute an idea

- Responsibility of media – vehicle to promote positive and negative images – sensationalise
- Involving communities – has to be bottom up
- Media – papers – raise fear of crime
- Communication within communities needs to be improved. Many people do not attend breaking down barriers/fears of who might be at meetings including encouraging younger people to get involved e.g. youth parliament.
- Meditation – can aid communication
- Empowering communities – need broader reach (same people attending meetings – problem!)
- Community festival in Edinburgh/free event/family oriented/connecting youth workers with harder to reach good practice – need more of this. Funding?
- Interagency working is essential due to limited funding
- Fear isn’t necessarily about conflict, its about physical environment e.g. lighting, litter, graffiti, maintaining public spaces – increased pride in community will reduce fears

- Community Education
- Inspiring people through mediation (e.g. NIP crew numbers) through referral by police
- Using young people as mediators (training)
- Breaking down barriers/territorialism
- Address territorialism by getting different communities together
- Raising expectations through youth engagement
- Are we overly legislative and preventing intergenerational work from happening?
- Family-based projects
- Socio-economic differences/different areas=different fears. Projects need to target specific areas/address specific issues.
- Legislation/enforcement can widen gaps between generations + reinforce differences e.g. an ASBO is a challenge/badge of honour need more positive support
- Criminality needs to be addressed e.g. Glasgow is adopting a zero-tolerance campaign through the police taking best practice from New York.
- Balance between zero-tolerance and positive, practical support for children for the most vulnerable.
- Long-term sustainable solutions to address crime/youth disorder.
- Communities having a say about how local funding is spent. (wider community involvement)