



National Intergenerations' Day

19th September 2013



Intergen exists to help solve the problems of:

- Underperformance of pupils in schools
- Low aspirations of pupils
- Loneliness of older people
- Hostile intergenerational stereotypes



We do this by bringing older and younger people together in their neighbourhood schools to:

- Enrich opportunities to learn
- Raise aspirations
- Share the untapped range of skills and knowledge that older citizens have to offer
- Build stronger communities

We are a learning organisation. We want to know what our Intergeners think about us so every year we hold a National Intergeners' Day to listen to what they have to say.

We held our second such day at Stockport College, on September 19th 2013.



National Intergeners' Day

19th September 2013

Stockport College, Wellington Road South,
Stockport, SK1 3UQ

Tea on arrival

Welcome and introductions 1.00 – 1.15

Questions for Intergeners 1.15 – 2.15

Morris Dancing 2.15 – 2.45

Afternoon tea 2.45 – 3.45

Departures 3.45 – 4.00

Programme





Questions

We wanted to know about five aspects of their involvement with Intergen

Why are they involved now?

What impact does Intergen have on their lives?

Will they continue to be involved in it, in a year's time?

How can we raise the profile of Intergen?

How can we improve National Intergeners' Day 2014?

To get their answers to these matters, we asked them

1

To complete a questionnaire to tell us why they joined Interger and what they get out of it. This had two sections. The first section has questions about our Intergenerators' motivation to volunteer with us. Section 2 asked what they have got out of being involved with Interger.

2

To think about one good thing and one bad thing that they had encountered since they joined Interger

3

One year from now will you be

- Volunteering with Interger?
- With another organisation?
- Not volunteering at all?

4

How we could raise the profile of Interger?

5

What we could do to improve National Intergenerators Day in 2014



Answers to the first set of questions



What motivates you to volunteer with Intergen?

Our Intergeners were motivated to volunteer with Intergen because through their participation in it, they could find a way to express values that are important to them, such as helping others and being concerned about other people.

What outcomes have you experienced as a result of being an Intergener?

The Intergeners reported that they were able to help groups of people they are concerned about. Being able to do this was very important to them. For example they liked “being able to assist young children...to make progress”.

Answers to the second set of questions



The majority of Intergeners at the National Intergeners Day had good things to say about their experience of being an Intergener. A few had some criticism for us. We can learn from both compliments and criticisms.

Their responses about their positive experiences can be grouped into 4 themes.

These were:

About Learning

About changing their
stereotypes of the children
and schools

About the social aspects
of being involved

About feeling valued
and valuing what they were doing

About Learning

“I have learnt a lot about being tolerant and understanding, it keeps me grounded.”

“I have learnt a lot about younger children”

“I have got involved in an American charity to save animals as a result of one of the children showing an interest in these animals”

About changing their stereotypes of the children and schools

“I have got to meet children, teachers and volunteers whom I otherwise would never have met”

“I enjoy going to the school, the children are very nice to me”

“The enthusiasm and opinions of young children –a sheer pleasure.”

“I’ve grown to understand the problems of young children to-day-the split families”

About the social aspects of being involved

“We had tea and cakes at school with entertainment from a jazz band one of the Intergeners had developed with the pupils”

“I feel more part of my own community”

“Meeting new people”

About feeling valued and valuing what they were doing

“Realising how important it is for me to help young children with their literacy”

“I feel I have the opportunity to make an effort and a contribution –it is a very healthy feeling’



About the bad things they have experienced since joining Intergen.

These can be grouped into those about

Intergen directly

The schools and Intergen

The schools in which they are volunteering

Intergen directly

“Had to work alone and feel my way”

“Intergen publicity could be clearer about what we do”

“More coordinator support once in school. Was wished good luck and didn't hear again for 5 months”

About the social aspects of being involved

“Senior school really didn't understand the role of the helper; the teacher thought I would free up some time for her, but I really didn't want to lecture the students”

“After coming back from another country, the in-school coordinator was not there and I was escorted out and promised a phone call and no-one has ever rung me”

About feeling valued and valuing what they were doing

“School doesn't have a system to make best use of my skills”

“School staff room is a very uncomfortable place for volunteers / visitors, staff aren't particularly friendly/ welcoming.”

44%

of our respondents reported **no problems** had occurred since they joined Intergen

we want this to be

100%

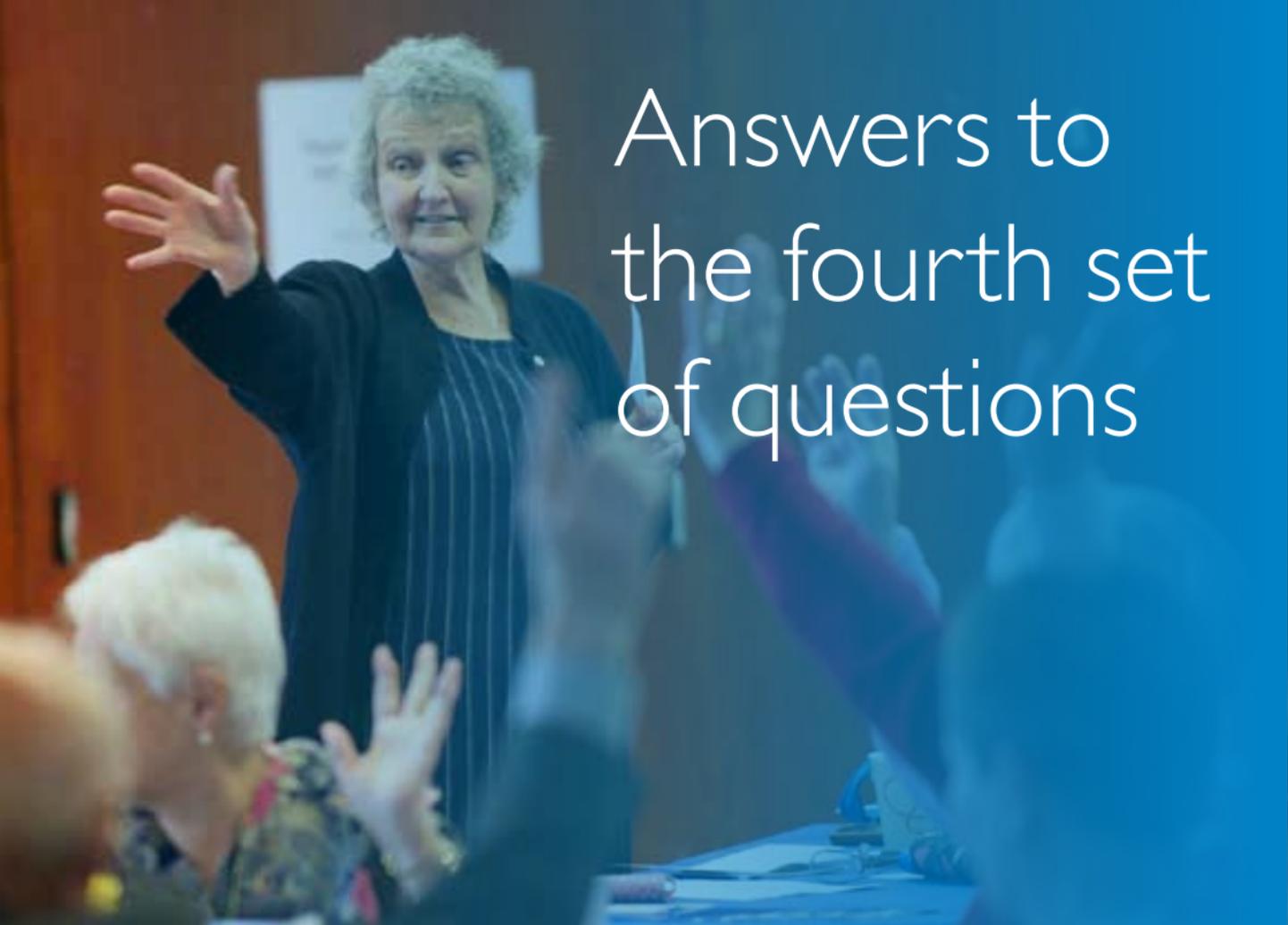
so clearly we have a way to go but we are at least heading in the right direction



Answers to
the third set
of questions

100%

of our respondents
said they would be
volunteering with us
in a year's time



Answers to the fourth set of questions

There were many suggestions as to how we could raise the profile of Intergen.

These were:

- Lottery, government and council funding
- Involving big companies
- Car stickers
- Calendars
- Open day
- Newspapers
- Libraries
- Collections
- Local TV and radio
- More advertising
- On Intergen posters make clear 'share your skills and knowledge in schools'
- School's send messages to grandparents
- Bracelets with Intergen logo £1 each
- Badges
- Rugby and football clubs
- Age Concern or similar –link with
- Intergen weeks
- School fairs
- Hands on – I will do something locally

Answers to the fifth set of questions



A number of suggestions were made about how we could improve things at the National Intergeners' Day in 2014

- Make sure we were not in a room with a high-pitched ceiling so that it would not be difficult for some people to hear
- Even though a cup of tea or coffee had been provided this year on arrival, following recommendations from last year's National Intergeners' Day, it was suggested that it was a long time to wait for afternoon tea
- The parking was poor
- Everyone there regarded the afternoon tea, when it came, as excellent. We will certainly use the Young People Support Foundation as caterers again
- Some people said they would have liked to have met more people and also learnt more about what other Intergeners were doing
- Whilst most people enjoyed the Morris Dancing others said they couldn't get involved.



What was good about the day?

“Meeting like-minded people, learning what other clusters did”



“Food excellent”



“Opportunity to meet and contribute ideas”



“Very informative”



“Welcoming and good opportunity to swap table”



“The Morris dancing was fun and the food was excellent”





Special Thank You's to...

We would like to thank a number of people who made the day so enjoyable. These were:

Gemma Walsh
Stockport College

Lara Datta
Young People Support Foundation

Judith Bellini
Stockport College

Howard Barlow
Photographer

Catherine Bird
Young People Support Foundation

Roy Blick
For the Morris dancing

We would like to thank the Intergeners who gave up their time to spend the afternoon together and teach us new things about Intergen and its impact on their lives.

Norma Raynes, Executive Director of Intergen and Ben Bolt, Intergen Services Manager developed the programme for the day.

Ben Bolt Intergen Services manager made all arrangements for the day with the assistance of the Intergen cluster coordinators



Norma V Raynes
Executive Director



Professor Carolyn Kagan
Chairman of Intergen



Ben Bolt
Service Manager



Councillor John Pantal
Stockport Council

The Coordinators



Estelle Longmore
Chorlton Coordinator



Maureen Crane
Stockport Coordinator



Eric Edwards
Tyldesley Coordinator



Mari Hall
Bethnal Green Coordinator



Roy Blick
Droylsden Coordinator



Roger Bysouth
Whalley Range Coordinator

