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Creating Place-Based Intergenerational Hubs for Social Wellbeing: An Ethnographic Case Study Approach

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Research Overview

- Several socio-demographic shifts in society have contributed to increasing segregation between the generations. A direct impact of these changes is the vulnerability of young and older people.
- Social issues, such as social isolation and exclusion from public participation and spaces, disproportionately impact young and older people.
- These groups have been observed to share unique synergies and developmental needs, and a relationship that affords mutual benefits.
- Intergenerational practice, an extra-familial paradigm, has emerged as a strategy to address a widening generational gap in society.
- The research intends to contribute to this gap by exploring the potential for place-based intergenerational hubs to bring generations together and to support the social wellbeing of individuals and communities.
- The research explores the facilitators and barriers to developing place-based intergenerational hubs via the first-hand experience and perspectives of intergenerational participants and practitioners at two organisations.

Objectives

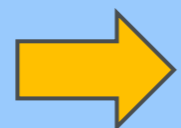
- The research has three key objectives:
- to establish how intergenerational hubs can deliver improved social wellbeing for individuals and communities.
 - to determine the facilitators and barriers to developing intergenerational hubs within communities drawing on case study evidence from intergenerational programmes.
 - to develop a toolkit for organisations, planners, and policymakers on how to establish and evaluate intergenerational community hubs for improved social wellbeing.

Ethnographic Case Study Research

An ethnographic case-study research approach will be adopted to explore the behaviour and interactions of a group across two intergenerational programmes in the UK using a multi methods approach.

METHOD 1: Ethnographic Participant Observation

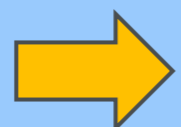
Recording ethnographic participant observations in the field in a volunteer capacity at the case study organisations.



OUTPUT: Interpretive account of group behaviours and interactions of intergenerational participants at the case study organisations.

METHOD 2: Qualitative Document Analysis

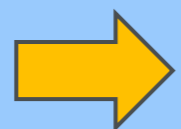
Analysing organisational documents e.g. programme and participant generated outputs, meeting minutes, funding applications, planning and evaluation processes.



OUTPUT: Identifying commonalities in facilitators and barriers to planning, delivering and evaluating intergenerational practice and the social outcomes of interventions for participants.

METHOD 3: Semi-Structured Interviews

Recording the experiences and perceptions of intergenerational practitioners and past participants within the case study organisations.



OUTPUT: Participant-led account of facilitators and barriers faced by practitioners in planning, delivering and evaluating place-based intergenerational practice.

METHOD 4: Photo Elicitation Interviews & Focus Group

Conducting individual photo elicitation interviews and a focus group discussion with programme participants.



OUTPUT: participant generated photo stories capturing lived experiences of how intergenerational practice impacts participant social wellbeing.



Conclusion

Intergenerational place-based supports seek to bridge the generational divide by bringing generations together in meaningful activities that produce mutual benefits. The community-led intervention seeks to address shared social issues such as social isolation by developing programmes that build on the unique synergies and developmental needs of younger and older generations. The intended outcome of the research is to develop a toolkit to guide organisations, planners and policymakers on how to develop and evaluate place-based intergenerational hubs for the improvement of social wellbeing in communities and towards an intergenerational society.