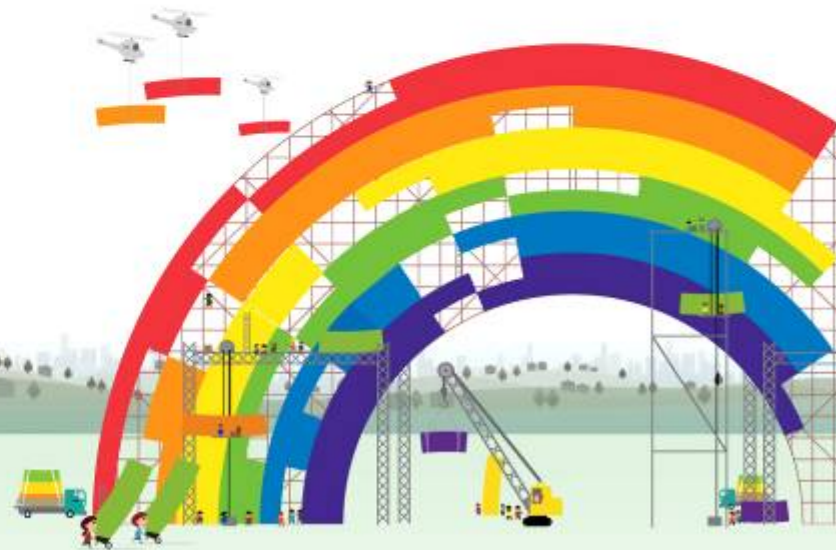


Growing Together

Increasing intergenerational activity

Victoria Dare



department for
children, schools and families

Why the Government is acting

- Changing family patterns, living arrangements and the development of age-segregated activities contributing to a lack of interaction between 'the young' and 'the old'
- Increasing fragmentation has led to more fractured families and communities
- A lot of people, young and old, view different generations with distrust.
- Structured activities which bring together young and old can help to combat this trend



Why the Government is acting *now*

- 2008 is the first year over 65s will outnumber under 16s.
- We have the wealthiest retirees in history, but a huge number of older people struggle to live independently
- Despite having a generation of young people who are more likely to volunteer than any before them, there is still a negative perception of young people that needs to be broken down.
- If we do not act now, this situation will only get worse.



Influencing local areas from the centre

Three main elements of this work:

- raising the profile, and highlighting the benefits of intergenerational activity; not just to our delivery partners, but to the public at large;
- offering guidance and examples of good practice to those groups that are interested in running intergenerational projects, and
- embedding an intergenerational element into existing and forthcoming work.



Raising the profile

- Older People's Day on 1 October had an intergenerational theme.
- Ministerial champions.
- Local champions.



Offering support and guidance

- Local projects, local people, local priorities.
- Guidance on delivering the national commitment to increase meaningful interaction, and some specific guidance on intergenerational activity will sit alongside.
- Financial support for voluntary sector partners, with a focus on shared learning, and spreading good practice.
- Consider what further we can do in light of the next spending review.



Becoming the norm

- Intergenerationalism is now part of the criteria for Children and Young People's Grants.
- Potential for **myplace** facilities to be used to promote intergenerational activity.
- Embedding principles of intergenerational work as part of the Department of Health's prevention package for older people .
- Including intergenerational dialogue as a strand of the work to increase in meaningful interaction between people from different backgrounds .

