



Come join England's largest intergenerational project!



A project from:



We are a national social action project bringing together young people aged 5-14 from schools and youth organisations with older people living in care homes.

Over 4,000 participants from schools, youth groups and care homes across England will take part from 2021-2022!



About us

Care Home Friends and Neighbours: Intergenerational Linking is a partnership between two organisations - My Home Life England and The Linking Network – bringing together expertise with young people and schools and with older people and care homes.

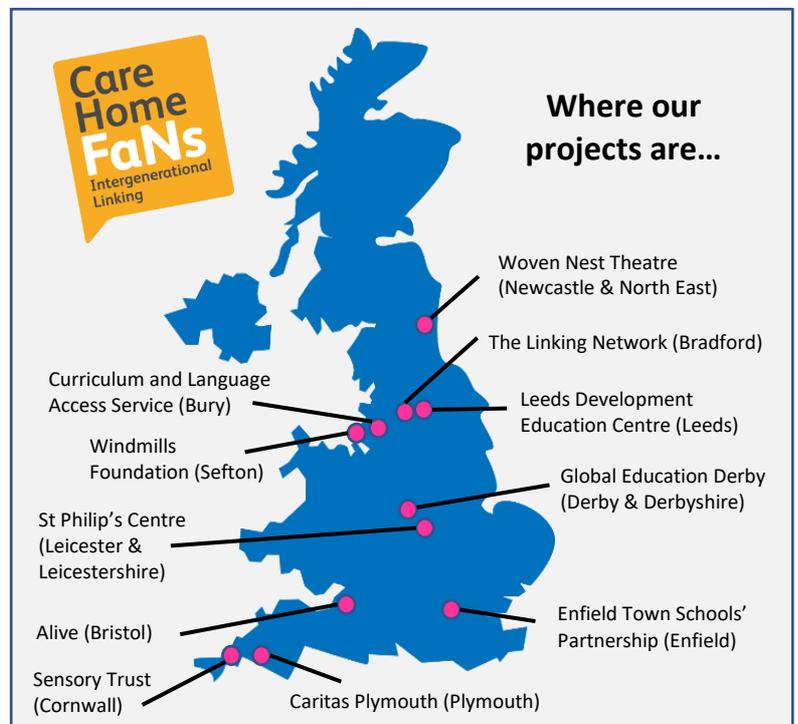
Through our project, young people aged 5-14 from schools and youth groups in less socio-economically advantaged areas of England are supported to link with older people living in a local care home. We're creating a network of intergenerational links across England and at the same time conducting research into what intergenerational linking between schools, youth groups and care homes looks like at its best.



Where we're working

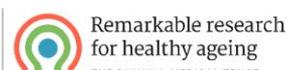
As a partnership, we are supporting charities and organisations to lead the project in 11 different areas across England.

This is the first time that a group of charities and organisations have been funded to start intergenerational linking in different parts of England *at the same time*, making Care Home Friends and Neighbours: Intergenerational Linking England's largest scale intergenerational project!



Our funding

Our project is funded by The Dunhill Medical Trust and the #iwill Fund, from The National Lottery Community Fund and the Department of Digital, Culture, Media & Sport. The #iwill Fund supports the #iwill campaign, which aims to get young people involved in social action and supports and empowers them to be active citizens and make a positive difference in their local communities.



Our approach

Younger and older people will come together, form new friendships, and share in new experiences. They will have the freedom to choose the direction of their project. In line with the aims of the #iwill Fund's campaign, young people will be empowered to develop their leadership skills and take ownership of activities, with the hope of helping inspire a long-term habit of engaging with social action.

Capturing learning across the 11 local areas is built into this England-wide project. The local organisations are participating in a 'Sharing Network' as a cohort, supported and facilitated by partner organisations My Home Life England and The Linking Network. The Sharing Network meets regularly to exchange ideas and learning. This supportive network is intended to strengthen each local Intergenerational Linking project and help it flourish.

Outcomes

We hope to:

- improve young people's confidence
- develop young people's leadership skills
- create opportunities for older people to participate in the lives of younger generations
- reduce isolation for children and older people
- connect care homes to their communities

We are also:

- undertaking research into what makes intergenerational linking successful across England
- supporting communities to embed and sustain their new intergenerational links



Our research

Alongside the project we are conducting a research study hosted by My Home Life England at City, University of London, focussed on what happens when intergenerational linking begins between schools, youth groups and care homes. To do this, we will follow the journey of the 220 schools and care homes that take part. By signing up to the study, participants are helping to inform research into what great intergenerational linking between young people and older people living in care homes looks like! Our hope is that the insight from this national project will pave the way for more intergenerational connections in the future.



Sustainability

Care Home Friends and Neighbours: Intergenerational Linking as an initiative is the start of something bigger - the spark that ignites a lasting connection between younger and older people within local communities.

As part of this project, each local area is forming an Advisory Group with the voices of both younger and older people represented, with the aim that this group will support the project and champion it into the future. This approach will help embed and sustain the project beyond the end of current funding, and help Intergenerational Linking become a part of a local community's ethos.

Join us!

Contact your local community broker from The Linking Network:

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Twitter: @IntergenLinking

Web: carehomefans.org/intergenerational-linking

