

SILVER UNITED

INTRODUCTION

Silver United was a cross-generational project to scope and test the potential for long-standing, mutually beneficial partnerships between uniformed youth groups and retirement living venues.

Working with Intergenerational Music Making (IMM), and funded by Royal London Insurance, 4 music-based intergenerational pilot projects were delivered between December 2022 and July 2023 across the UK. These projects involved uniformed youth groups from Boys' Brigade, Girlguiding and Scouts, visiting retirement living venues and working with the residents on music projects to kickstart meaningful relationships.



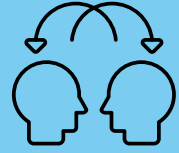
SILVER UNITED

KEY MESSAGES

KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE SHARING

The pilots allowed older adults to share their life experiences, wisdom, and skills with younger generations, passing down valuable knowledge and traditions.

Resident A was a Scout leader and we invited her to visit our unit meeting and deliver sessions for the young people to share her wisdom which has been a resounding success' (Deborah, Scout Leader, Scotland).



BREAKING STEREOTYPES

By spending time together, different age groups were able to break down stereotypes they held about each other, fostering empathy, and understanding.

After taking part in the project, young people had a 43% reduction in nervousness in meeting the elderly residents.



SOCIAL CONNECTION

The projects reduced social isolation and loneliness for the older adults as well as providing social and emotional benefits for the young people.

After taking part in the project, residents had a 100% increase in mental health and well-being and Young People had an 88% increase in mental health and wellbeing.



MUTUAL LEARNING

Both older and younger participants learnt from each other, gaining insights into different perspectives and life stages.

'You see the development of how they've appreciated the different needs of older people and making sure everyone's included.' (Natalie Whipday, Director of Operations, Boys' Brigade)



ENHANCING COMMUNITIES

The projects strengthened community bonds and created a sense of unity among diverse age groups in the community.

Child B expressed that his favourite part of the project was 'meeting the older residents and getting to know them as they were really funny and friendly. Really nice to be around. They were also really excited to see us, so much that there were happy tears. And that made me want to cry happy tears.'



POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

The young people gained positive role models and in some cases mentors, contributing to their personal growth and development.

After taking part in the project, young people had a 47% increase in confidence.



AGE-FRIENDLY SOCIETIES

By promoting intergenerational connections the pilots contribute to the creation of age-friendly societies that value and include people of all ages.

'The first week they were really nervous and apprehensive to come in. By week 2, they're running in, they've made relationships, you can see the confidence shine through. The residents are really excited to see them, and the kids are excited to take the lead.'

