

Family Action Plan

Priority	Outcome	Objective	Strategies and Objectives	Evaluation/ Measures	Audit Dec 2012
1. Family Violence	All families are safe in their homes and in the community	To increase education opportunities locally for both Early Years Sector professionals and families	<p>Provide education and professional development opportunities to increase understanding of legal/ early intervention/ cultural relevance/ preventive factors/ agency information/ resource and referral pathways to family violence services by engaging with the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early Childhood Development Project (2011) • Family Service Training Calendar (2011) • 2011 Early Years Conference (August) • Partnering in Community Events and Forums (responsive/ongoing). 	Survey participants & service providers to establish percentage of increased understanding and confidence and to identify ongoing education needs	<p>Worked with Whittlesea Community Futures to plan and deliver forum on Family Violence for service providers within the municipality – forum held December 2011.</p> <p>WEYP, and particularly the Early Years Family Violence (EYFV) Working Group supported and contributed to the successful roll out of resources and activities, including professional development sessions, of the ECD project in the municipality. WEYP has taken on responsibility for the ongoing maintenance and electronic distribution of these resources.</p> <p>Monthly meetings of the EYFV Working Group occurred, incorporating professional development.</p>

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					<p>100% of participants of the EYFV Working Group reported an increase in knowledge following participation in EYFV working Group meetings (incorporating training/information sharing, discussion and peer support).</p> <p>Sessions delivered through Family and Youth Training calendar</p> <p>EYFV Working Group supported community events and education throughout the year, including Clothesline Project; White Ribbon Day; Council's Gender Equity strategy.</p> <p>EYFV Working Group featured in DHS publication <i>'Good practice: working together to support children and young people experiencing family violence'</i> (July 2012) demonstrating 'influencing practice through system change'.</p>

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		<p>To decrease the rates of re-notifications to child protection</p> <p>To advocate for childcare policy changes within Whittlesea in relation to Family Violence.</p>	<p>Partner to educate and resource early education service providers around prioritising intake of children at risk of family violence - via Whittlesea's:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child Care Co-ordinators Network (March/June) • Early Childhood Development Project (2011) • Family Service Training Calendar (2011) • 2011 Early Years Conference (August) • Local skills exchange projects (2011). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of sessions run. • Number of services engaged. • Percentage increase of children at risk participating in childcare. • survey of relevant child care policy and changes. 	<p>The ECD Project, a project of the North East Child & Family Services Alliance, has operated in the City of Whittlesea over the last 2 years with a range of activities aimed at increasing the access and participation of the most vulnerable children and families into services. The project has focused on working towards systemic improvement for vulnerable children (aged 0-5). ECD Project Resources include the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whittlesea Early Years Referral Pathways (For Early Years and Family Services professional working with children and families, providing a snapshot of services, funding and supports) • Paving the Way a toolkit of resources (resources to support and sustain participation of vulnerable children in early years services). Through the ECD Project linkages were established with the Children's Protection Society (CPS) led Working Group

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					<p>undertaking advocacy work in relation to Child Care Benefit (CCB) and priority of access to childcare for vulnerable families.</p> <p>CPS specialist attended Child Care Coordinators Network and presented information regarding opportunities and priority access utilising CCB and skills exchange which will be developed at the CPS Child Care Service.</p>
		To establish an Early Years Family Violence (EYFV) Working Group for local practitioners	<p>Create EYFV Working Group (March /June 2011) by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confirming membership / lead agency • Developing Terms Of Reference (TOR) • Mapping local FV services, groups and resources • Identifying education needs/gaps for practitioners <p>Establish priorities and timelines.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group established. • TOR completed. • Mapping completed. • Education needs & priorities confirmed. 	<p>EYFV Working Group established in May 2011, including Terms of Reference, membership criteria and timelines</p> <p>Educational priorities identified and themes for each meeting allocated.</p> <p>EYFV Working Group meeting held on a monthly basis.</p> <p>Thirteen agencies participating in Working Group meetings with an average of 70% attendance (9 representatives) at each meeting.</p>

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					<p>10 Working Group, training / information sharing sessions conducted throughout the year.</p> <p>Training/information sharing, discussion and peer support incorporated into monthly meetings, with each meeting addressing a priority area as identified by the group members. Focus on capacity building, skill development and knowledge enhancement for practitioners and peer support.</p> <p>100% of participants reported satisfaction with the EYFV working Group meetings (incorporating training/information sharing, discussion and peer support).</p>
		To increase participation in other relevant (regional) Family Violence Networks and their associated activities.	<p>Provide effective representation and act as conduit to and from WEYP on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Whittlesea Domestic Violence Network (WDVN) Ð prevention/ education focus (2011) Early Childhood Development Project Steering Group (Child FIRST/ Family Services NE catchment Ð (2011 / 2012). 	<p>Regular attendance WDVN/ECD Networks.</p> <p>Percentage of participation in, and promotion of WDVN /ECD activities and resources undertaken by WEYP partners.</p>	<p>WEYP representative attends WFDN meetings and Representative of WFDN attends EYFV Working Group meeting on a bimonthly basis.</p> <p>Continued involvement in ECD Project Steering Group and ongoing support of ECD activities.</p>

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		<p>To inform the development of robust strategies, policies and working practices to decrease the incidence of family violence in the city of Whittlesea.</p>	<p>Advocate for research and benchmarking on a range of issues, that informs the development of robust strategies, policies and working practices locating evidence of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communities/cultures/countries where family violence incidents are low. • Children witnessing domestic violence. • Success factors in Community Policing. • And presenting the findings to appropriate local and state forums. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrated participation and partnering with WCF around broad range of family violence projects and advocacy. • Percentage of research and benchmarking activities achieved. • Number of presentations made. 	<p>EYFV Working Group featured in DHS publication ‘<i>Good practice: working together to support children and young people experiencing family violence</i>’ (July 2012) demonstrating ‘influencing practice through system change’.</p> <p>Participated in the consultation process for the development of the City of Whittlesea Advocacy paper re ‘Prevention and response to violence against women and their children’</p> <p>WEYP, EYFV Working Group, through Community Futures has supported broader Regional Advocacy Strategies and funding applications. The group was also supportive of WHIN’s (Women’s Health in the North) submission to the <i>Action Plan Consultation Framework - Addressing Violence against Women and their Children</i>.</p>

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2. Early Childhood Intervention	All children will have optimal opportunity for language, cognitive, physical and emotional development.	<p>To increase rates of parents reading to their children</p> <p>To establish broader awareness of early childhood development through community education (formal and informal).</p>	<p>Provide opportunities for parents to gain knowledge, confidence and skills through :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Let's Read Project • Bookaroo and YPRL Library Story Times • Community and Supported Playgroups, My Time Playconnect, Rhythm & Rhyme groups • Schools as Community Hubs • MCH New Parent Groups & Parent Sessions • 2011 Family Services Training Calendar and Parent Newsletter 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of sessions run • Number of resources distributed • Number of families involved in activities. • Percentage of parents involved reporting increased • confidence in reading to their children • knowledge of child development. 	<p>Let's Read initiative has been rolled out across 4 locations - Mill Park, Thomastown, Lalor and Mernda - within the Municipality.</p> <p><i>Let's Read is an early intervention literacy initiative designed to encourage parents (as they are their child's first educators) to have fun with their children and to help develop a love of books.</i></p> <p>12 agencies involved in roll out of <i>Let's Read</i> initiative.</p> <p>39 staff have completed training.</p> <p>4 training sessions conducted.</p> <p>Resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 216 books have been ordered for children aged 18 months • 318 books for children aged 3½ years • 7 multilingual books for children aged 18 months • 36 books for children aged 3½ years • <i>Let's Read</i> launch scheduled for 24th August

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					Through this initiative agencies have reported increased knowledge of bi-lingual resources available for children.
		<p>To increase families access to a well-coordinated, integrated and effective service system.</p> <p>Increase and strengthen links between schools and the early years sector.</p>	<p>Build local partnerships, strengthen referral pathways (universal / secondary /tertiary) and promote the participation of vulnerable children and families through resourcing local initiatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Families in Partnership (FIP) Project • Thomastown Lalor Early Years Working Group • Laurimar Alliance Steering Group • Early Childhood Development Project (NE) • Whittlesea's Children's Services Network • Bubup Willam Aboriginal Early Years Program • Supported Playgroup Initiative • Schools as Community Hubs Working Group • Whittlesea's Children's Services Network 	<p>Percentage of agencies/schools participating in early years initiatives.</p> <p>Percentage of families reporting satisfaction with service system access.</p> <p>Number of vulnerable families demonstrating increased confidence in engaging.</p>	<p>Continued to promote the participation of vulnerable children and their families through resourcing local initiatives, including:</p> <p>Families in Partnership (FIP) Project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FIP Research Report completed, outlining methodology, results and recommendations. • FIP Practice Manual completed. • Currently establishing Steering Group to progress recommendations of FIP Report and further explore strategies to strengthen service system <p>Early Childhood Development Project:</p> <p>See above for outcomes</p>

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					<p>Supported Playgroups and Parent Groups Initiative (SPPI):</p> <p>8 SPPI groups operated during 2011-2012 representing diversity within the community.</p> <p>Almost 100% of parents participating in SPPI playgroups reported that they benefitted socially and felt supported through participating in the playgroup. Many examples were cited where parents met outside playgroup to socialise.</p>
		To adopt the UNICEF principles and framework for action on Building Child Friendly Cities.	<p>Build Child Friendly City (CFC) guidelines into policy, planning and practice by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Embedding in the WEYP Action Plan and Council's planning frameworks/documents • Participation in the Victorian CFC Network • Facilitating parent participation and representation in the Early Years Partnership <p>Facilitate opportunities for parents and children to express opinions on service planning and delivery in their city</p>	<p>Action plan finalised.</p> <p>Percentage of parents and children engaged in consultation activities.</p> <p>Percentage of families reporting satisfaction with consultation process and participation.</p>	<p>Scoping activities commenced in June 2012.</p> <p>WEYP Facilitator and Project Officer along with representatives of the CoW Early Years Team attended the Child Friendly Cities Conference, gaining skills and knowledge to inform development of Parent Participation strategies.</p> <p>Exploration of potential training opportunities to develop 'Consultation skills' undertaken</p>