

Strengthening Families Response:

Strategic Planning Project



February 2017

Scope/ Purpose of project:

In late 2016 the SFR determined to review the progress that had been made since its inception in 2013 and to chart course for the future work of the group. The pre planning for the facilitated session identified that over the 3 ½ years, the group has had multiple objectives, and it is clear that a refinement of some of this work would support:

- the capacity for recognizing achievements and celebrating success
- the SFR be able to clearly articulate its purpose and priorities for the next two years
- provide a platform to support the induction of new members and participants
- provide a platform from which additional focused partnerships(possibly consisting of only some members of the group depending on the identified focus of the work) may evolve
- enable the SFR to have a documented plan which might support identification and allocation of additional resources to support children , youth and families in St Arnaud
- more clearly identify the work of SFR with that of other policy platforms both locally , state wide and nationally

Existing Commitments and Approaches -

<p>Community Agenda via YCAN :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve parent engagement • Address impacts of poverty thru social inclusion strategies • Developing students capacity to aspire 	<p>SFR Objectives :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved service coordination – understood point of entry and improved coordination • Resourcing for smarter responses – protocols for practice across services • Improved literacy – resulting in improved education outcomes • Positive engagement in education • Safe and happy families – empowered individuals
<p>Frameworks to support the work :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Collective Impact - Project Logic - Loddon Children and Youth Area Partnerships Four Pillars of Commitment - Road Map to Reform - The Education State 	

The **potential**, the **POSSIBILITIES** and the **priorities** for consideration (as recorded on the day):

Social	Welfare/ wellbeing	Education and training
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - cohesive community & environment (no segregation) - families are functional - Engagement in community - Children succeed at school life and work - Low level of crime and low levels of accidents - Welcome pack - Hearing the voice of children and young people in the community - Purpose and vision for community change - Student action groups ... direct voice of student to school , LGA , and community (in membership celebration and issues based engagement) - A community safe , welcoming and inclusive for all - Stats from local police - Families with a common core vision plus purpose for their future - parents and children having high aspiration for the future - The joy of family being lived out ... - Community has high expectations for all and is active in achieving this - Community having pride in itself - Inclusive practice across St Arnaud 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - reduce- family violence , crime rate reduction , obesity & smoking - - healthy lifestyles - MCH – ages and stages support - Safe family environment - Safe and happy families - Reduce family violence - Reduce children in out of home care - families are functional - reduced level if Child protection - reduce levels of family violence - positive mental health and low chronic disease and community connected - high physical activity engagement - access to and consumption of nutritious foods - healthy - family violence - parents and children having high aspiration for the future - positive self-talk - all children and families are engaged in universal systems; MCH , kinder and school - All children and families have access to support when needed - Every family to know what services are available - Access to services in St Arnaud or facilitated access to services elsewhere - There are processes in place for at risk families - OoHc supported - Family violence acted upon 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Kinder enrolment / attendance - High participation in schools - Increased university enrolment - High school attendance - Children succeed at school life and work - Gain necessary qualifications to have a pathways to employment - Student action groups ... direct voice of student to school, LGA , and community (in membership celebration and issues based engagement) .. recording student participation – age and gender - Feedback forms at school - parents and children having high aspiration for the future - reduced absenteeism - community engagement in Education - all children and families are engaged in universal systems; MCH , kinder and school... every child attends all available education opportunities - KAS visits- 15 hours of access - Regular school attendance - Absenteeism data

Employment	Diversity/ cultural
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increased employment and apprenticeship outcomes - Children succeed at school life and work 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Aboriginal families supported

Common to all
Children to aspire
Children are safe Safe children
Every family will experience a safe and supported environment
Knowing where to go for services and support – service data and follow up
Happy
Abundance of opportunities – Engagement in Opportunities – number of programs and opportunities available
Mandatory reporting V non mandatory reporting
Privacy clarification and sharing of information
Children and parents strive to achieve the best for their children and themselves
Uptake of available opportunities
Celebration and acknowledgment of individual and collective achievement – good news stories in the public eye
Not having a negative self-fulfilling prophesy
All community members have access to support when they need it – information on how to access services and support.
Ensure access into and through education provision and other universal government services

NB – duplicated responses represent more than one person articulating the same point

The consultation asked participants to discuss and articulate their considerations around the role of the SFR : in particular did the group wish to retain its very *broad* agenda or narrow the focus to one or two specific targeted priorities areas that would enable a more ‘pure’ approach to ‘ Collective Impact “ (CI) rather than the current approach where the *general* principles of CI are used but the SFR group is not focused on a single measurable agreed population or performance outcome .

The Result: Participants felt that a broader *agenda* was more suitable to the depth and breadth of agencies seeking to collaborate and a more refined focus may diminish the breadth of representation and diversity of resources that need to be coordinated to improve the lives of children and young people. It was agreed that smaller targeted partnerships would still be *enabled* and result from the strategic intelligence, relationships and agree actions that will be supported by the SFR.

The Strengthen Families Response will: ***Provide a platform for the work of service coordination and collaborative partnerships that support all children, young people and families in St Arnaud, particularly those who are vulnerable***

The What	The How	The when
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to support schools with the implementation of Continuum of Need (CN) tool • Promoting Safety – preventing and reducing Family Violence • Raising Aspirations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - building community confidence and positive engagement - young people <u>aspire</u> to succeed • Increasing the voice of young people and their families) in the design, development and implementation of our work 	<p>Pull the levers we can influence to achieve improved access and coordinated service delivery supporting young people identified as vulnerable in St Arnaud</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage Catholic Education in the CN • Engage Early years providers in the CN <p>Identify collective actions and measures that will prevent and reduce Family violence and its impact on children and young people</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Act on identified actions <p>Create opportunities for positive engagement within and across the communities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increase positive community and education intersections - Celebrate positive outcomes - Align effort <p>Develop strategies for participation of children and young people including those who are from vulnerable cohorts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lived experiences(their voice) underpins the development and implementation of strategies to improve outcome 	

To communicate and sustain the work of the SFR -

- we will come to a collective agreement on identified action mobilise existing resources
- advocate for local needs and/ or additional resources
- build/ support a backbone to support the work
- celebrate successes and learn from what does not work
- share information about the partnership across your organisation and your networks and with the community
- identify key stakeholders of influence to engage in the work
- identify and promote opportunities for systemic change