

ECE Waitakere Network Meeting minutes – Oct

Date: Thurs 06 October 2011 **Time:** 9.30am **Venue:** The Learning Network, Henderson
Present: Jill Burgess[NZCA], Tania Christie [YMCA], Kim Conway [Auck Council], Julie Dent [Core Educ], Elaine Dyer [Violence Free Waitakere], Julia Moore [minutes], Roseanne Webb [MOE Spec Ed].

Apologies: : Erin Burr [Avondale Community Preschool], Angela Bush [Grange ELC], Chris Diprose [HeadStart ChildCare Centre], Erin France [Kidicorp], Gaylene King Turner [HIPPY], Yvette Guttenbeil-Po'uhila [MOE], Mary Nichloas [Projects Manager, Lifewise Family Services]

Inwards and outwards correspondence:

- **Workshop on the Green Paper on Vulnerable Children** - invitation to attend a workshop with John Hancock from the Office of the Children's Commissioner to discuss the implications of the Green Paper on Vulnerable Children for the Family Violence Sector. Use this opportunity to inform your own submissions to Government on the paper, or bring your agency's perspectives to inform an FV network submission that will be produced on your behalf by WAVES Trust. WAVES are asking for contributions to this process even if you can't come to the workshop. **Date:** Wednesday, 12 October, 10am – 12.30pm. **Venue:** Laidlaw College, 80 Central Park Dr, Henderson. **RSVP** to Ann Ross <ann@waves.org.nz> at WAVES Trust by 4pm Friday 7 October (for catering purposes). Hosted by WAVES Trust, Lifewise, Auckland Council, and Community Waitakere.
- **Toddler Day Out community input** – 12:30-2:30pm all invited. **Date:** Wed Oct 19th. 12:30–2:30pm **Venue:** Violence Free Waitakere office, building behind WAVES, 7 Henderson Valley Rd, Henderson
- **Learning Better together** IEAG, in partnership with IHC, is running a seminar on inclusive practice in education. **Date:** Thurs 27 October 12-4pm 9.30am-3.30pm. **Venue:** Butterfly Creek **Info:** danette.wilson@ihc.org.nz
- **“It takes a village to raise a child”- a community hub approach.** Effective strategies to increase ECE participation in your community **Date:** Tuesday 8 November 12-4pm . **Venue:** Leataat O Tupulaga O Le Pasefika, 91-93 Moire Road, West Harbour **Cost:** \$75, lunch provided limited places. **Info:**
- **Raising Children DVD** The DVD costs \$25 plus P&P, cheaper if you bulk buy. See www.raisingchildren.org.nz and click on Buy the DVD. All the stories can be viewed for free too on the website. 3.5 hours long, up to date, very real families & celebs featured too. **Info:** www.raisingchildren.org.nz
- **Free Kuranga magazine available to ECE Waitakere network:** Roxanne de Bruyn RdeBruyn@cognition.co.nz will send copies of Cognition's magazine “Kuranga” to ECE Waitakere network members if required, contact her via email.

Matters arising from correspondence: None

Amendment to previous minutes: Adding in TDO report: “MOE altered priorities, and ultimately Violence Free Waitakere is now carrying the whole responsibility for organising and raising funding for the event”

General business

1. **OMEP** Julie Dent to talk about OMEP international non-gov operation with head office in Sweden, but locally are part of Asia/Pacific area. Actioning for Child, youth & human rights group. Work with Early childhood council. Advocating on behalf of children, esp, NZ ratified UN's rights of children, submissions on taskforce & to government philosophy on social justice. Run various workshops : e.g. carpentry with Adam Buckingham, Digital story-telling, bicultural etc Workshops offer practical & theoretical knowledge. OMEP meet on first Monday of month at Unitec in Mt Albert. Forest Kindergartens in Scandanavia have spoken at past events. Nola Harvey presented her thesis. Supporting ChCh esp teachers, as funding finishes soon. Charlotte Robertson. Often seen their display of toys at various functions. Membership \$45 per year, will be starting from 2012 & all workshops free. Next

meeting : 7 November 5.00pm, at UNITEC gate 3, Building 47, Ventura block Air training core

2. **TDO Sausage sizzle** for fan zone at Trusts Stadium to help make up shortfall created by MOE withdrawal of funds has been organised by Violence Free Waitakere. Doodle doc roster online 5pm to 11pm- <http://www.doodle.com/bakfky7sttep2qe5> ... or leave a message with VFW at 8374849. all welcome to come and help, even just for a couple of hours. Committed to going ahead in same venue - Trust Stadium, but exploring ways of cutting costs. Could it go into events at Council as Regionwide event? Concern re potential loss of community base, but this may be one solution to keep the event happening. Alongside the parenting services, health and injury prevention, TDO's value is generally portraying the importance of Early Childhood Education, not just at existing centres, but being exposed to to informal learning & resources for parents as well.
3. **Homeplay** Kim Conway gave an update for Caty Fergusson, Homeplay co-ordinator. Homeplay project set up as high priority for children in low socio economic area not attending any ECE. West Harbour had been identified by MOE as having lower rates of children accessing ECE. It was noted that many ECE centres in the area are not affordable, as they charge much more on top of 20 free hours. Council is funding Homeplay and initially was intended to assist families to set up playgroups in people's homes, However following feedback it was suggested that a better approach is to set up a Play Day & then start regular playgroups from there in a neutral place like a school or playcentre. The Playday Advisory group and local services/groups in the community involved with families are very supportive. First Playday will be at West Harbour school 1 November and involve interaction with parents/caregivers and their children. Suggested that incentives such as grocery voucher draws makes a real difference to engage families Will also provide simple activity sheets for parents to take home to help them with learning activities with their children. May change name of project to "Playday" to reflect change in approach.
4. **Review of Child poverty evening** - some key points from presentation by professor Micheal O'Brien, Chairperson of Child Poverty Action Group (CPAG): Children are further left behind. Such as 20% living below poverty line with longterm consequences Creates issues such as low decile schools unable to afford school trips, poor housing and subsequent health conditions. Solutions suggested were:
 - reducing reliance on private sector
 - responsibility for informal ways of education
 - local solutions such as Pacifika hubs
 - neighbourhood by neighbourhood assessments.

A summary of key points from the presentation is available on the ECE website (see link) and workshop notes are attached.
5. **Multi-Ethnic centre** at Whanganui – Jill spoke about this excellent model Functioning since 2004 in Whanganui, it has an ethnic environment of 3 rooms, with a Fiji room, Cook island room and Maori room with culturally focused perspectives. Children choose where they want to go, for their learning, helps them belong. There is a similar centre in Porirua. Such big cultural areas in Sth Auckland that can sustain their own centre, but in West Auckland many ethnic communities though different e.g. Tuvalu are not big enough. West is demographically different to other areas. Similar concept with development of Plunket's Pacific Pearls playgroup who meet at Kelson, could be enlarged to include others. Need to support so that it is inclusive of all ethnic groups, listen to everyone & accept different ways & cultural values
6. **Discussion on different figures of ECE participation rates** in the west being bandied about 86-91 % reported as overall but some ethnic groups and neighbourhoods have much lower participation rates. Localised responses needed for certain areas, especially for transient populations. There is also the issue of 'quality ECE education'.
7. **People's forum** Urging ECE Waitakere network to join 'Peoples forum' to give feedback to council through regular questionnaires.

8. **Submission** Agreed to putting in a submission from ECE Waitakere network on Auckland Plan. Building relationships with local boards as they are the advocates. Local boards are open to you turning up and presenting at their open forum part of their meetings. Changing language from 'cost' to 'investment' in early education, investing in social capital. People want free healthcare & education and will pay taxes for that.

9. **ECE network monthly meeting** changed to Wednesday for next month.

Next ECE network meeting: Wednesday 9th November, 9.30am, venue:, Te Tari Puna Ora o Aotearoa/NZ Childcare Association [NZCA], 8 Montel Avenue

Henderson, Waitakere

enquiries@ece-express.co.nz