



MINUTES

EARLY YEARS PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE

25 June 2014 at 9.45am in Community Hall meeting room 1

Present: Jodie Knox, Chairperson – General Manager, Quality Research and Service Improvement (ECMS)
 Cr Sophie Ramsey, Councillor (MCC)
 Julie Barber, Manager, North West & Grampians Specialist Services (Scope)
 Vicky Matthews, Manager, Children's Services (MCC)
 Sarah O'Kelly, Kindergarten Partnerships and Advisory Officer (BPA)
 Julie Gruis, (Community representative)
 Fiona Norman, Performance and Planning Advisor - Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD)
 Gabriella Hendricks, Manager Pregnancy and Family Support Service (Caroline Chisholm)
 Michael Scholtes, Manager, Learning Communities (MCC)
 Natalie Bakai, Principal (Kororoit Creek Primary School)
 Sharon Allison, Centre Director (Goodstart)
 Carly Middleton, Operations Manager (TRY)
 Jan Webb Road safety active transport officer (MCC)
 Mia Pendleberry Road safety active transport project officer (MCC)
 Bernadette Maney Early Years Advisor (ECMS)
 Leigh Cruickshank, Coordinator, Early Years Partnerships (MCC)

Chairperson: Jodie Knox, General Manager Quality Research and Service Improvement (ECMS)

1. Welcome

Introductions were made and participants welcomed to the meeting.

2. Apologies

Cr Lara Carli, Councillor (MCC)
 Val Turner, Activities Organiser (Bunnings Melton)
 Lili-ann Kriegler, Coordinator, Early Years Services (Independent Schools Victoria)
 Shane Evans, Koorie Education Coordinator (DEECD)
 Leigh McCallum (ECMS)

3. Declaration of interests and/or conflict of interests

Nil

4. Confirmation of minutes of previous meeting

Moved by Fiona Norman / Seconded by Sharon Allison.
 The minutes of the 1 May 2014 meeting were accepted.

5. Business Arising

Fiona Norman DEECD representative provided links to the department documents and these were distributed to the group.

6. General Business**6.1 Best Start Working Group reports**

Leigh Cruickshank provided an update of the actions of the Maternal and Child Health(MCH) and Kindergarten working groups.

The MCH working group has purchased magnets for the MCH centres which are used to assist in keeping families engaged with the service. The MCH service survey will collect data on the effectiveness of the magnets however anecdotal feedback has been positive to date. Culturally and Linguistically Diverse and Indigenous resources have been purchased for the MCH centres to provide a more inclusive environment. A design brief has been prepared for the development of MCH service promotional materials that are inclusive of all families that use the service.

The Kindergarten working group has considered the outcomes of the Kindergarten Readiness Month which took place in March prior to Council's Kindergarten central enrolments opening. A project brief has been drafted for the Central Enrolment project to look at a fair and equitable system of enrolment that ensures the children who will benefit most from Kindergarten have the best chance of accessing a place. The State Government has announced funding for central enrolment programs for MCH and Kindergarten, so the Kindergarten working group is awaiting more details about the funding and how it may impact on the proposed project

6.2 Healthy Children Growing Together project

Council has been successful in obtaining funding for a Healthy Children Growing Together project which will aim to improve the physical health of children aged between 0-8 years. The Early Years Partnership Committee Executive was contacted in June to consider a request to act as an advisory committee for this project. The Early Years Partnership executive approved this request noting that the project is very compatible with the aims of the Committee and the Municipal Early Years Plan 2014-2017. The committee at the meeting supported the Executive's decision. At this stage, the reporting to the committee may involve a project officer attending the meetings to seek advice and support for the projects outcomes. Further details will be provided as available.

7. Other Business

Cr Ramsey reported that Councilors have been advocating for the continuation of Universal Access funding for 15 hours of Kindergarten with relevant MPs. A recent discussion at the Community Learning Board has focused on the importance of the Early Years and Early Childhood Intervention and this will be reinforced in the new Community Learning Plan.

8. Next Meeting

The next meeting is to be held on 21 August 2014 commencing at 10am in Melton Community Hall, Meeting Room 4, 232 High St, Melton.

9. Close of Business

The meeting closed at 10.15am.