

## **WAITAKERE CITY WELLBEING COLLABORATION PROJECT** **(City Development Committee, 8 July 2004)**

### **PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

This report updates the Committee on progress with the Wellbeing Collaboration Project since the last report in October 2003 and includes a preliminary overview of the Waitakere Wellbeing Report 2004 and the upcoming Wellbeing Summit.

### **BACKGROUND**

During 2002 the Wellbeing process evolved into a three-way partnership between the community sector, central government agencies and council. A Collaboration Strategy Group made up of representatives from each sector has led the process since July 2002; an employment sub-committee of this group directs the work of the Project Manager. Council acts as the employing authority for the Project Manager whose salary is resourced from government agencies.

The Wellbeing Summit held in December 2002 involved approximately 170 individuals from 70 organisations. Participants mandated a set of 'Strategic Outcomes', 'Focus Areas' and 'Calls to Action' in a series of workshops. Participants also committed to working in teams under each of the 'Calls to Action' to identify and carry out projects.

During 2003 each of the 'Call to Action' teams met and initiated projects. In mid-2003 the Protecting Our Tamariki project recommended a series of action areas which were subsequently endorsed as a series of projects under Great Start – Te Korowai Manaaki. These were incorporated into the overall Waitakere Wellbeing Collaboration Project.

The project has also progressed work on aligning planning processes among key agencies, identifying joint consultation and research opportunities and developing an online social services database.

City Development Committee resolved on 12 August 2002:

*"That approval be given for Council to assume the role of employing authority for the Collaboration Project Manager Position".*

2537/2002

City Development Committee further resolved on 11 November 2002:

*"That the Council endorses the draft 'Focus Areas' and 'Calls to Action' in principle, subject to further reports as to details of programmes and allocation of funds and resources."*

3242/2002

### **STRATEGIC CONTEXT**

Central to Council's Eco-City vision is the aim of improving the level of wellbeing of residents. Council has taken a facilitative role brokering relationships between service providers and the community and encouraging communities to take greater responsibility for their own health and wellbeing. This role is a key element of Agenda 21 and has been developed through establishing

a range of collaborative partnerships with government agencies and community organisations. The collaborative tradition developed locally has become known as 'The Waitakere Way'.

Council's participation in the Waitakere Wellbeing Collaboration project is embedded in the Long Term Council Community Plan, particularly in the 'Strong Communities' and 'Active Democracy' Platforms. In the 'Strong Communities' Platform Council has committed to a number of actions that will serve to ensure local services meet changing needs and that responses to Wellbeing issues are developed in partnership with the relevant community and central government agency partners.

## ISSUES

### **'CALLS TO ACTION'**

Since the last report the 'Call to Action' teams have continued to meet and progress their individual projects.

In summary 33 projects have been identified. Of these 4 have been completed, 17 are in progress 6 are in development and 6 are on hold. Appendix xxx details the relationship between the Focus Areas, Calls to Action and the projects.

Following is a brief resume of progress on each of the 'Calls to Action'.

#### **'Every New Migrant or Refugee Settles Successfully'**

This 'Call to Action' team adopted the name 'New Out West' (NOW). NOW's first successful project was the establishment of the Waitakere Ethnic Board. The Board and its potential relationship with Council has been the subject of separate dialogue with Council.

The opening of a 'One Stop Settlement Support Service' is pending the receipt of funding from the Community Employment Group for the salary of a coordinator. The Ministry of Social Development through their Work and Income Service have committed to siting a work broker with the project.

The team also brokered funding for migrant road safety and driver licence training from the Land Transport Safety Authority with Council's Road Safety Coordinator, Kitch Cuthbert. The Workers' Educational association (WEA) subsequently contracted to provide this service focussed on training trainers in different migrant communities.

The work of this group has positioned Waitakere to take advantage of recent budget allocations for migrant resource services.

#### **'Every Child Has Access to a Quality Preschool Education'**

Following the success of the Early Childhood Forum "E Tipu E Rea" last year the 'Call to Action' team has focussed on two areas - the employment of a part-time coordinator to expand the networking of the sector in Waitakere and the co-organisation with Council of the Toddlers Day Out in May 2003.

Successful Early Childhood Education cluster meetings have been held in 4 areas. Newsletters are also being circulated with a view to developing a better informed and integrated network of Early Childhood Education providers.

The Toddlers Day Out event was primarily about fun for toddlers and their parents but also had the underlying goals of informing and promoting early childhood education and children's health.

Council provided baseline funding of \$5,000 and Public Affairs staff assisted in the event management. The Call to Action group, in particular the Coordinator, put considerable effort into the organisation of the event. A critical factor in ensuring the event's success was securing a contribution of \$15,000 from the Ministry Of Education. Since the event further meetings to increase engagement with the Ministry of Education have been organised.

The Call To Action Team is now focussed on building on the networking initiative and developing projects such as a "What is ECE?" pamphlet incorporating a guide to ECE providers in Waitakere. They will also be available to assist Council to develop its own early childhood education strategy in the 04/05 financial year.

The work of this Call to Action Group has also assisted Waitakere to be well positioned to take advantage of central government budget allocations in the early childhood area.

### **'Great Start – Te Korowai Manaaki'**

Of the eight initiatives identified through the Safe Waitakere research, five are in action or development.

The Interim Strategy/steering group has been progressing the preferred governance model with significant discussion around the development of a māori - pākehā partnership model.

A significant step forward has been the success of a collaborative funding application to Child, Youth and Family for the amount of \$130,000 towards coordination and projects for WAVES, the Violence Reduction call to action and Great Start - Te Korowai Manaaki.

The first project to have been launched was under the "Promotion of the First 5 Years" banner and comprised a billboard and newspaper campaign aimed at highlighting the importance of the first five years of a child's life. The campaign was funded through support from Safe Waitakere and the Licensing Trusts. This promotion coincided with the first 'Toddlers Day Out' and included a seminar at the event.

Another project in action is the Health Sector Training in Family Violence prevention for Home Visitors and staff of other child- focussed agencies. This initiative has secured funding support from Public Health.

The Alternatives to Physical Violence is preparing an application for funding from a government fund.

Other areas still developing are the Mental Well-being of Parents, Ataata o le Taeaao (Pacific Island) and Hono I tē Ora (Māori).

### **'Reduction of Violence to Women and Children'**

The team have identified three projects and are currently finalising their scope and securing final mandates. They are linked to Great Start – Te Korowai Manaaki and are Collaborative Case Management Meetings, the Training of Home Visitors and a Safe Families Multi-Agency Project.

### **'Culture of Inclusion in Waitakere'**

Having produced and distributed widely a checklist for inclusive meeting and event practices the group have now moved on to developing a potential charter of inclusion for the City.

### **‘Every Student Leaves School with a Plan – Waitakere Employment and Skills Project.’**

Waitakere has been unique in its taking a skills demand approach based on regular business research by Massey University. The project has 12 areas for action and a major recent success has been the production and distribution of 6000 DVDs to all senior students in Waitakere City profiling 9 industries where there is an identified skills demand and industry training opportunities. The project has also progressed the production of a website to support the DVD information, the compiling of a directory of ESOL provision in Waitakere, student workplace placement through the Gateway programme and the organisation of a Jobs Fair.

This initiative has been the subject of separate reports to Council.

Two Calls to Action have not progressed. The **“Parents give their Children a Great Start”** Call to Action team identified a parent resources project but were under-resourced to progress it. The ‘Great Start’ initiative has since started and the project has been identified to be progressed under a different banner. The **“Schools and Community Working Together”** Call to Action team were working closely with the Waitakere Education Sector Trust (WEST) on the identification of best practice examples of school-community relationships and the promotion of achievement in Waitakere schools. WEST has recently refocused its effort to establish a ‘One Stop Learning Shop’ and other projects. The Call to Action team is now considering their future direction.

### **COLLABORATION STRATEGY GROUP**

The membership of the Collaboration Strategy Group has recently been effected by transfer of key central government personnel and illness of some the community network representatives. There is a need for a re-mandating of representatives from each sector. In addition WADCOSS has been undertaking a review of the Community Wellbeing Network and assessing how it might be more effective in representing a community sector voice.

### **COLLABORATIVE PLANNING**

The project has attempted to both formally and informally identify and link collaborative planning opportunities. Communication of opportunities and liaison with potential initiatives has been a challenging area and is projected to be an increasingly critical area for attention particularly due to the increasing awareness and expectations of the new Local Government legislation and the LTTCP.

Discussions are continuing with Waitemata District Health Board senior staff to align their strategic planning process with our next LTCCP timeline. The Regional Manager of Housing New Zealand Corporation has also indicated an interest in working together with Council on aligning planning processes.

Two key areas of work have been the collaborative production of the 2004 Wellbeing Report and the upcoming Wellbeing Summit over two Friday mornings in July and August.

### **WAITAKERE WELLBEING REPORT 2004**

This year’s document has been produced under the collaborative project with an editorial group with representatives of the three sectors, community, government and Council; this has enabled a broader development of strategic capacity. Council has funded the production of the report and council staff have made a substantial contribution of their time.

The document has referenced previous report's measures to enable some comparison and has attempted to seamlessly link to the national Ministry of Social Development's Social Report and the metropolitan Eight Cities Report. Two new chapters have been added, Māori and Economic Wellbeing. The Health chapter has been split into Health and Lifestyles.

The report has attempted to balance the need for recognition of progress and the need to identify areas needing attention. The report is on track to be distributed on 9 July.

### **WELLBEING SUMMIT**

The Summit is being organised on a collaborative basis and is planned over two half days on 16 July and 20 August. The first event will focus on the content in the Wellbeing Report and the current situation and the second will look to the future. Invitations have been sent out and a broader range of participants is expected in comparison to previous summits.

It is anticipated that following the first event participants will be able to reflect on the issues discussed within their group or agency and return to the second event with a mandated position to advance in the discussions. The expected outcomes are that participants mandate an ongoing collaborative focus and recommend key areas for attention by participant groups.

Following the first event a further report will be prepared for the August meeting of the City Development Committee to clarify or mandate Council's position on issues raised at the July Summit.

The launch of the new city web portal, *Waitakereonline*, and the New Settlers Guide are also planned to occur at the July Summit.

### **WELLBEING BUS TOUR**

An upcoming event is the Wellbeing Bus Tour for wellbeing collaborative partners, particularly the Community Wellbeing Network and Government Intersector Group members. With a significant proportion of the membership of these groups changing this is seen as an important induction process; it will also enable key Council staff to meet and communicate Council's vision with partner organisations.

### **RESOURCES**

In terms of the financial year 2004/2005 commitments can be met within the allocations contained in the Annual Plan; \$5,000 is committed to supporting the processes associated with the Wellbeing Collaboration Project.

The cluster of government agencies have committed ongoing salary funding for financial year 2004/2005 for the Collaboration Project Manager position: the amount committed means it may be feasible to employ a second person on a part-time short term basis to be based at the Waitakere Community Resource Centre. There will be no cost to Council associated with any extra position.

**CONCLUSION**

There has been continuing progress in all aspects of the Wellbeing Collaboration Project since the last report. Most 'Call to Action' teams have developed and managed projects to address their specific priority areas.

The Wellbeing Report will provide a basis for discussion at the Wellbeing Summit highlighting key achievements and issues requiring further attention. The Summit itself is planned as a major review of our current situation and a mandating process for future directions.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

1. That the information be received.

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