

Collaboration

Update



Issue 1 / 2002

Newsletter of the Wellbeing Collaboration Project

“Big Step Forward” explored

Welcome to the first edition of “Collaboration Update”, the voice of the Wellbeing Collaboration Project. This newsletter aims to collect together highlights of all partners’ work in developing and maintaining the wellbeing collaboration process.

Wellbeing Process

Waitakere City has a proud tradition of networking and collaborative effort among social and community services. Since 1996 a formalised Wellbeing process has been in place involving comprehensive reports & community summits.

These have documented issues and set priorities for change. The most recent document is the Wellbeing Strategy 2000/2001.

Feb 02 Collaboration Forum

The Waitakere Departmental Inter Sector Group and the Waitakere Community Wellbeing Network hosted a major ‘Collaboration Forum’ on 22nd February 2002 attended by seventy-three representatives drawn from central government agencies, council and the community sector.

The key question posed was “What is the next BIG step forward we can take together in Waitakere City?”

Key Actions

The Forum’s outcomes included a number of Key Actions that in total reflected a desire to work in a three-way shared process – central government,

local government and the community sector. The Outcomes were:

- ◆ Define the limits of collaboration
 - ◆ Establish a position to develop and maintain interagency collaboration
 - ◆ Jointly develop the next stage of the Wellbeing process
 - ◆ Develop a Wellbeing Strategy which is simple and easy to promote
- ◆ Planning the Wellbeing Process as a three-way partnership
 - ◆ Developing specific collaborative projects to more effectively meet identified needs
 - ◆ Directing the work of the Collaboration Project Manager
- As an example of an issue the group would seek to address is the number of consultations and planning processes, which often



Discussion at the Collaboration Forum—February 2002

- ◆ Develop linkages with local economic development strategies

Collaboration Strategy Group (July 02 onwards)

On considering the outcomes of the Collaboration Forum the Inter Sector Group and the Wellbeing Network decided to form a Collaboration Strategy Group made up of managers of the core government agencies and representatives from Council and the Wellbeing Network.

This group has now met on 3 occasions. The role of this group is:

overlap, often with inadequate timeframes and approach issues from a narrow base rather than an integrated focus.

Calls to Action (Banner Goals)

Whilst the 2000-01 Wellbeing Strategy had a broad scope and included priority actions across 13 sectors with the final document detailing a large number of tasks, the consequent follow-up action by agencies was inconsistent.

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"Big Step Forward" Explored (From page 1)

As noted above a key action proposed from the Collaboration Forum was to develop a Well-being Strategy that is simple and easy to promote.

Therefore the direction has been to choose a few "Calls to Action" and focus support and resourcing for projects in these areas. A set of criteria for selecting these goals were identified (see box on p. 3).

The sub group currently working on these "calls to action" have identified three initial focus areas for the next three years: the **Great Start** (0 to 8 age group), **Safe Families** and **Life Changes** (Quality Transitions) e.g. school to work, resettlement etc.

Examples of the types of "calls to action" being proposed under these include (see below):

the work that has flowed from the Collaboration Forum. It is intended that a Wellbeing Summit be held on the **morning of 2nd December** to:

- ◆ Update participants on work undertaken since the Collaboration Forum
 - ◆ Present and discuss the draft Banner Goals / Calls to Action.
 - ◆ Clarify action plans and roles
- Invitations and a detailed programme for the Summit will be sent out during November.

Collaboration Project Manager

The Collaboration Strategy Group has established a Collaboration Project Manager position for an initial 12-month period with resourcing from 5 govt. agencies:

coordination of the work of the Collaboration Strategy Group and management of specific projects aimed at improving services through effective collaboration.

A further action endorsed from the Collaboration Forum was 'to improve access to relevant information for all sectors'.

Meet Mark



Mark Allen—Waitakere Wellbeing Collaboration Project Manager

Wellbeing Process: Collaboration



- ◆ 'Every child in Waitakere has access to a quality pre-school education'
- ◆ 'Every student in Waitakere leaves school with an action plan in place'

Approximately six of these will be presented at the Dec. 2002 Wellbeing Summit for development and confirmation.

Wellbeing Summit

There is a need for a wider meeting of interested parties on

- ◆ Community Employment Group
 - ◆ Min. of Social Development
 - ◆ Ministry of Health
 - ◆ Dept. of Child, Youth & Family, and
 - ◆ Housing NZ Corporation
- Council has agreed to act as the employer and provide the office space for this position. Mark Allen (formerly of Waitakere City Leisure Services) started on a full time basis from 21 October 2002.

Among Mark's duties will be

Waitakere Inter-sector Mapping Project

It has been identified that Waitakere City needs a web-based map which is easily accessible and can document in a simple way the organisations/ partnerships/information sources/services that exist in Waitakere City through a common portal.

A working group of representatives from relevant agencies is currently working on the scoping of this project; the group has requested funding for this initial scoping from the Department of Child Youth and Family and the Community Employment Group.

Partners' views on the value of the initiative

A Community Sector view on the Collaboration Process

"The community has always believed strongly in a strategic development model that has grassroots endorsement by community, from the very first stages of any strategy.

"It has become more and more integral in the way in which community organisations function within Waitakere, that there be strong supported collaborative approaches to social issues by all

three sectors. Its benefits are myriad – both in community development and the strengthening of links between the sectors, and the breaking down of the silo approach.

"On the negative side, it is easy for community to be subsumed into the related bureaucracy of local government and government agencies. Often from a community perspective,

our voice is wanted, but only on others terms.

"At times it feels as though we are only seen as part of a requirement, and not an essential component.

"However, it is through the development of collaborative strategies that these things will change

Sally Clarkson
WADCOSS

A Central Government Agency perspective

"The Collaboration Strategy is an excellent opportunity for central government agencies to work more closely with community and Waitakere City Council.

"It makes sense to us to

work together on common achievable goals that will make a real difference for people living in Waitakere City.

"Working out how we do this in practice is complex but worth

the effort -especially the positive relationships that we share with our colleagues in community and local government."

Louise Mason,
Ministry of Social Development

A Councillor's perspective

"Collaboration; so easy to say and so very hard to actually do!

"The Waitakere way has ensured that collaboration has moved from being something that appeared on every wish list and community feedback form as an urgent need, to now (almost) a daily reality. It is not without its challenges and to some extent still very dependent on the

committed people around the table who understand how vital this work is.

"We need to acknowledge that having those key people in the same room developing shared goals and planning how to use shared resources wisely is an amazing progress.

"For Council this work is invaluable as we are charged with

developing the community plans that will chart the future of our City, we know we have the framework in place to take to the wider community for their input knowing that the key funders and service deliverers are an equal part of the process. I believe this is unique to Waitakere."

Penny Hulse
Waitakere City Council

Selection criteria for "calls to action"

- Answers a need or problem that has been identified as a **priority**.
- **Achievable** within 3 years
- Will make a **measurable improvement** to Wellbeing
- Represents a **Call to Action** – will motivate and **strikes a chord** with the community
- Simple and **easily understood** by all parties
- Doesn't reinvent the wheel – focus on areas where there are already current initiatives underway and **added value** can be achieved through collaboration
- **Start simple** so that we can learn and practice collaboration process
- **Multi-agency** involvement – requires collaboration to achieve

Useful Sites!

- ◆ The **Quality of Life Report** based on the 6 largest cities of NZ. Compare them: www.bigcities.govt.nz
- ◆ Waitakere City produced a **State of the City Report** with info on the City from various perspectives including Wellbeing, Heritage and Arts & Culture: www.waitakere.govt.nz/AbtCit/ppl/index.asp
- ◆ For the latest **census information** on Waitakere City, its suburbs, employment, ethnicity, employment & education: www.waitakere.govt.nz/AbtCit/ps/index.asp

Wellbeing Timeline 2002

