

WELLBEING SUMMIT

WORKSHOP GROUPS - NOTES

Workshop 3 : All Young People/Rangatahi in Waitakere are able to Make Positive Life Choices

(Potential Focus Areas: Early Childhood, Parenting, Education, Transitions, Mentoring, Puawaitanga o te hunga Taiohi)

Summary

What would success look like?

- Happy, safe (drug free) environment where rangatahi are respected and valued, engaged in education (that equips young people with skills and resources, supported in transition from early childhood education through to tertiary).
- A one stop shop provided to access all services (wrap around) for health wellbeing
- A proactive positive youth culture (network support) with self-esteem and parenting programmes empowered competent confident parents – a village consciousness around child-rearing sharing wisdom and experience

How are we doing (Indicators)

- Inadequate co-ordinated services, early intervention
- Not enough manpower – people to work with young people so service people get burnt out and knowledge not passed on to next generation
- Too many silos – information gets lost between agencies including govt agencies
- Not enough information getting out to young people about services available
- Not enough youth participation in decision making
- Low school attendance rates

What other information do we need?

- More info on what an effective parenting model is
- What are the barriers to having more people on the ground
- Clarify definitions around youth

Stories/Underlying Causes

- Mental health issues
- New immigrants – lack support from families and overlooked by community
- Marketing mentality
- Negative media
- Access to role models
- Domestic violence
- Poverty
- Society emphasises rights over responsibility

Transitioning

Difficulty in transitioning from one school to another - - no prior knowledge, judgemental, country-city differences

Early Childhood Education

Family breakdown → poverty, cultural dislocation, childcare industry can be false or artificial

Education

One size fits all, one 'world view', more practical (trades etc), education not valued or encouraged

Parenting

Adultising children, lack of community, time famine, disempowerment of intuitive parenting, complexities of everyday family lives, balancing priorities, single parenthood

What would it take to make a difference – what works?

- Evaluating existing parenting education and activities, providing resources, making better use of existing resources and information available
- Overall plan so everyone knows how their bit fits in – a community map where funders and doers connect on an ongoing basis
- Better collaboration processes – co-ordinating actions – energy/leadership/time/use of strengths
- Youth development co-ordinator - Include youth in the wellbeing Calls to Action
- Increase youth participation in decision making (empower a group of youth leaders)
- Knowledge garden – online
- Multi-agency youth network – forum to look at where to drive next
- Circle of rights and obligations – consider role models/family backgrounds/discipline

Low cost/no cost idea

- Individual commitment and participation/use of networks
- New parents connect to an experienced parent as family mentor

Off the wall ideas

- Pause as a community. Take time out (eg a week) to reflect on what we are doing/can do. Get shops to close for a day so families can spend time together. Shopping free/TV free days
- Homes for Peace