

COMMUNIQUE

Regional Child and Family Committee

South East Region

RCFC Meeting 24 August 2016



Thanks Mark McConnell, Department of Housing and Public Works, for his assistance in providing temporary supported accommodation to a young man, 15 year old who was facing considerable challenges associated with homelessness

Local Level Alliances

Coordinators presented on the work being undertaken by their LLAs:

- Prue Bowerman, Act for Kids – Gold Cost LLA
- Nadine Lepre, The Benevolent Society – Logan Child and Family Chapter (also as Elizabeth Power was an apology on Bayside LLA)
- Louisa Whettam, Mercy Community Services – Browns Plains LLA and Beaudesert LLA



Discussion also took place about how we can strengthen the relationship between the LLAs and the RCFC. Written updates will be provided regularly.

This is now a standing agenda item for RCFC

Domestic and Family Violence Integrated Response

The Queensland government has a strong commitment to and a vision for a Queensland free from domestic and family violence. Agencies, individuals and community members in Logan/Beenleigh are committed to making this important initiative successful and considerable time, energy and resources have been invested into supporting this work.

Stakeholder communication has occurred for the purpose of co-designing the integrated response model and identifying key elements. Specific co-design activities have been held to include the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and the Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Perspectives.

This is now a standing agenda item for RCFC



High Risk Children and Young People



- In 2015 the South East Region Child and Family Committee developed a Youth Strategy to guide service delivery improvements for young people with complex needs.
- As part of this strategy, a High Risk Children and Young People Working Party was created, bringing together representatives from Health, Education, Child Safety, Life Without Barriers, YFS, Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Police and Youth Justice.
- The working group identified that a small percentage of young people with complex needs require a large percentage of many participant agencies' resources and that despite a large investment of resources often there were poor outcomes for these young people.
- The working party propose establishing a care team staffed by professionals from multiple agencies. The team would develop and work from a single case plan, providing intensive and coordinated support to meet the complex needs of high risk clients who have already come to the attention of several services.
- Watch this space for more information about this exciting piece of work.



Regional changes to DCCSDS

- Significant changes have been announced to the structure of the department in South East and North Coast regions.
- Given the changing profile of need and growing demand for family support and child safety services, the continuing rollout of significant reform and investment, and the development of place-initiatives, there will be two new Regional Directors, Child and Family Services, one in SE region covering Logan-Redlands, and one for Moreton Bay. The existing RD Child and Family role in South East region will focus on Gold Coast/Beaudesert plus Adoptions; and the existing RD Child and Family role in North Coast region will focus on the Sunshine Coast. Two new RDs will be recruited to cover the remaining parts of the regions.
- The Placement Services Unit, the Regional Intake Service and the Community Services teams in South East will not be split.
- We do not yet have any more detail than this but will share details with members as they come to hand.

RCFC Members updates

Housing and Homelessness Services

Department of Housing and Public Works (DHPW)

The government announced its **decision to not proceed with the Logan Renewal Initiative** as it does not support the large scale transfer of social housing management or assets.

Key **stakeholders have been advised** of this government decision.

The Logan community will **continue to receive frontline housing services** directly from Woodridge Housing Service Centre.

DHPW will quickly develop a **new Logan renewal strategy** in consultation with Logan City Council and key industry, sector and community stakeholders.

While the broader strategy is being developed, DHPW will prioritise construction of **70 social housing dwellings in Logan over the next three years**, and will finalise the master plan for renewal of Mayes Avenue Kingston to improve liveability and amenity.

Youth Justice

Department of Justice and Attorney-General

- **Renegotiating Angry and Guilty Emotions (RAGE)**: RAGE is commencing on 23 August 2016 for a female only group. A subsequent group will be held in September 2016 for boys.
- On 01 July 2016 legislative changes occurred **reintroducing court order conferences** for young people who have broken the law. This means that the referral sources again includes Police and the court. Referral numbers are consistent.
- Logan Youth Justice are undertaking a landscape analysis of education and training options with the view of re-branding some activities with **"Transition 2 Success"**. This program has been successful in Western district in young people achieving certifications and enhancing their education options. The plan is to link with an RTO to deliver on certificates. This means continuing a conversation with education regarding what is known about employment opportunities.
- We have also linked with the Brisbane Education and Training Centre with regards to **young people who have experienced custody in 2016 being able to continue their education** with youth justice support.

Queensland Corrective Services (Probation and Parole)

Department of Justice and Attorney-General

- Queensland Corrective Services (QCS) continues to **contribute to the development of the Logan/Beenleigh integrated response** to Domestic and Family Violence (DFV).
- QCS is in the process of **establishing a position to be dedicated to supporting the implementation of the Logan/Beenleigh integrated response** and related activities.
- QCS remains actively involved in the **specialist DFV court at Southport** and the triage process through the Queensland Police Service DFV Taskforce.

WAVSS Logan and WAVSS Across The Redlands

Closer case consultation with WAVSS Child Counselling team providing an immediate referral pathway and cushion of support with **integrated response for young people** currently connected with Youth Justice and Victims Assist.

Extended case collaboration with Bravehearts to deliver **shared client responses** for children and families with current and presenting matters of childhood sexual abuse.

WAVSS Logan's new Safety Upgrades program which commenced on 1 April 2016, and has been well utilised in its first quarter providing safer and more secure responses for more than **ten families (women and children) in Logan/Beenleigh who can now remain in their homes** due to these extra supports.

We have new responses in Redlands Courts working in partnership with DVConnect **training male Court Assistants to work closely with Respondents at Court**, and to provide stronger referral pathways after Court into the WAVSS/YFS Responsible Men Perpetrator Intervention Program in the Redlands.

Project continuing: WAVSS new project funded by the Department of Education and Training, Children and Family Programs (Early Childhood and Community Engagement) continues this month - working in partnership with Logan Together and **participating local refuges to share immediate crisis and counselling responses** for children and their mothers while in refuge, and as a conduit out of refuge should they choose to resettle into the local region.

Update Domestic Violence Prevention Centre

Gold Coast and Beenleigh and North Gold Coast



- As from July Amy-Compton Keen is no longer working for DVPC. **Rosemary O'Malley has been appointed to the Director's role until January 2017** but will be on Long Service Leave from 31 August to 31 October 2016. Joan Salizzo will be acting in the Director's role during September and October 2016.
- In June 2016 Women's Legal Aid Specialist DV Unit commenced operating from the same building as DVPC. They will be offering **legal support to women experiencing DV from CALD backgrounds or who are challenged by a disability**.
- Collaboration in the past few months has included:
 - In July and August two '**Person Using Violence**' workshops were delivered to Kalwun colleagues.
 - In July and August DVPC presented at workshops facilitated by Dr Kathleen Baird delivered to staff at the Gold Coast University Hospital on how to **Recognise/Respond/Refer in relation to patients experiencing domestic violence**.
- DVPC has been invited to collaborate in a differential response initiative with Child Safety by providing a DV Specialist to co-locate two days per week in a **hub at the new Nerang Investigation/Assessment Unit** with colleagues from CPIU, and possibly education and health.
- Southport Court DV Register Staff are currently being trained in providing women applying for a DVO through the registry with a new **Self-Referral and Assessment** form which will be collected and followed-up by the DVPC Court Risk Assessment Worker. It is hoped this will capture more women who do not currently access the Support Room at the DV Specialist Court and offer them support through this alternative pathway.

Department of Education and Training

- **Reports by DET to Child safety are increasing despite reforms;** 277 reports were made in the first half of 2014, and 804 were made in the first half of 2016. New mandatory reporting obligations could account for this. Additionally, professional development over the last 18 months may have increased staff focus on reporting. To address this issue, the region's Principal Advisor – Student Protection (PA-SP) has been running professional development sessions across the region focussing on reporting obligations and secondary services. 130 administration staff across the region have attended. We are starting to see improvements in reporting and schools are starting to refer more to FaCC and more likely IFS services.
- DET South East Regional office is currently working on **building relationships between Child Safety and schools** by sharing language between the two systems and ensuring comprehensive provision of child safety information to principals so schools can make informed decisions.
- DET South East Regional office are currently working with Child Safety on a local response to ensure accurate records reflecting the number of children in Out Of Home Care (OOHC) in the region. Currently only 837 OOHC children are recorded, however we know that the region has closer to 1900 OOHC children in total. This work will continue and will **ensure that schools can fulfil their obligations for same day absence notifications for students** as per the recommendations handed down in the recent Tiahleigh Palmer report.

Mercy Community Services

Family and Child Connect
Browns Plains/Beaudesert



- The service celebrated its one year anniversary since opening on 27 July 2016.
- South East RIS cleared a backlog of referrals this month which saw referrals for active engagement double across the month.
- Both LLAs in the area are moving forward well and positive feedback is being received by attendees. The meetings are well attended by the required stakeholders.
- FaCC was represented with a stall at Beaudesert NAIDOC celebrations in partnership with Mununjali. FaCC also attended a local NAIDOC event held at the Department of Human Services and another event in the Woodridge area.
- FaCC contributed to the review and redevelopment of the Logan Services Directory.
- An information session was held with Able Care Australia and Education Qld.
- The PCPP in conjunction with Education Qld represented the service at an information session with Boronia Heights State School. An additional presentation and PD was held with various principals across the Scenic Rim area; due to the team being at Cherbourg, a fellow PCPP represented the service on our behalf.
- Regular attendance at the Police and Indigenous Liaison Meeting.

The next meeting of the SE RCFC is at **10am, 5 October 2016**

The **remaining** meeting for the year is:

- 1pm – 4pm 16 November 2016 (please note the change in commencement time)

The venue for these meetings is **Level 1 SER Regional Conference Room, 100 George St, Beenleigh**

