

MANUKAU REDUCING FAMILY VIOLENCE ACTION PLAN

Vision – “Reducing Family Violence in Manukau”

DEFINITION OF FAMILY VIOLENCE

TE RITO– New Zealand Family Violence Prevention Strategy 2002 identifies family violence as a broad range of controlling behaviours. Commonly, it’s of a physical, sexual and/or psychological nature and typically involves fear, intimidation and emotional deprivation. It can occur in a variety of close interpersonal relationships, such as between partners, parents and children, siblings, and in other relationships where significant others are not part of the physical household but are part of the family and/or are fulfilling the function of family.¹ Common forms of violence in families/Whanau include:

- Spouse/partner abuse (violence among adult partners)
- Child abuse/neglect (abuse/neglect of children by an adult)
- Elder abuse/neglect (abuse/neglect of older people aged approximately 65 years and over, by a person with whom they have a relationship of trust)
- Parental abuse (violence perpetrated by a child against their parent)
- Sibling abuse (violence amongst siblings)

¹ This definition is consistent with the Government Statement of Policy on Family Violence 1996 and the definition of “violence” in the Domestic Violence Act 1995.

The Reducing Family Violence Implementation Group has chosen to align to the definition of family violence within the Domestic Violence Act 1995, which includes;

Physical violence, sexual abuse, psychological abuse including intimidation, harassment, damage to property, and threats of physical, sexual or psychological abuse. Psychological abuse of children includes: causing or allowing a child to witness physical, sexual or psychological abuse of a person the child has a relationship with.

IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK

In regard to the implementation of the action plan the following **Te Rito** principles will be taken into account when working in a collaborative way;

Principle One:

All people have the right to be safe and to live free from violence.

Principle Two:

The unique customary and contemporary structures and practices of Whanau, Hapu and Iwi must be recognised, provided for and fully engaged.

Principle Three:

Family violence prevention is to be viewed and approached in a broad and holistic manner.

Principle Four:

Perpetrators of violence in families/Whanau must be held accountable for their violent behaviour.

Principle Five:

There must be an emphasis on prevention and early intervention with a specific focus on the needs of children and young people.

Principle Six:

Approaches to family violence prevention must be integrated, co-ordinated and collaborative.

Principle Seven:

The community has a right and responsibility to be involved in preventing violence in Families/Whanau.

Principle Eight:

The diverse needs of specific populations must be recognised and provided for when developing and implementing family violence initiatives.

Principle Nine:

Family violence prevention initiatives should be continually enhanced as information and better ways of working are identified.

APPROACH

Family Violence initiatives facilitated in conjunction to this action plan should be undertaken in a collaborative and multi faceted approach (prevention, early intervention and intervention).

BACKGROUND

During the Community Outcomes consultation for Tomorrow's Manukau *Manukau Āpōpō*, community safety was identified as a priority for the Manukau community. The Safer Communities Outcome Group was established to work collaboratively on improving safety for families and communities in the Manukau area. The Safer Communities Outcome Group identified Family Violence as a strategic priority.

In 2007 a review of the Tomorrow's Manukau Community Outcomes implementation structure resulted in the disestablishment of the Outcome Groups and the initiation of projects sponsored by the Tomorrow's Manukau Strategic Steering Group (SSG). The purpose of the SSG is to provide strategic collaborative leadership in regard to specific issues in Manukau.

The SSG requested business cases from stakeholders in regard to projects that were high priority for Manukau, and which required a collaborative approach.

Family Violence was identified as a social priority (as identified by community consultation) in the 2008 Local Services Mapping Community Report for Manukau (Family and Community Services – Ministry of Social Development).

The Chair of the Safer Communities Outcome Group – Robyn Rusher (Family and Community Services) sponsored a business case to the SSG to tackle the issue of Family Violence in Manukau as a collaborative priority.

REDUCING FAMILY VIOLENCE IMPLEMENTATION GROUP

The business case presented to the SSG on behalf of the Safer Communities Outcome Group recommended a collaborative multi-agency response to reducing Family Violence in Manukau. A Project Execution Plan (PEP) was completed and a multi-agency project group - the Reducing Family Violence Implementation Team (RFVIT) - was formed. The purpose of this group was to reduce family violence in Manukau through improved collaboration. .

In August 2008 the RFVIT participated in a planning day to identify opportunities for better collaboration in regard to addressing family violence and to identify strategic outcomes and priorities.

Outcomes and priorities identified were;

- Collaborative Strategic Planning
- Gaps Analysis
- Fragile Families (top users of services)
- Finalise Interagency Critical Pathways
- Men's Programmes

- Mentoring and Intervention
- Guidelines for NGOs providing Domestic Violence Programmes

Following identification, the RFVIT agreed it would be pertinent to encapsulate these and the subsequent actions into one document, which lead to the development of this action plan.

CURRENT SITUATION - MANUKAU

Total Family Violence events recorded by Counties Manukau Police

| Year | 2005/06 | 2006/07 | 2007/08 |
|--------|---------|---------|---------|
| Number | 10785 | 11229 | 13051 |

Unfortunately the Counties Manukau Police District does not correspond directly to the Manukau City Council boundaries with Papakura and Franklin District included in what is the Counties Manukau South Policing area and Otahuhu from the Auckland City Council district included in the Counties Manukau West Policing Area. Following is a breakdown of the 2007/08 Counties Manukau Policing Areas

- 3,785 occurred in Counties Manukau West
- 3,114 occurred in Counties Manukau East
- 3,623 occurred in Counties Manukau Central
- 2,889 occurred in Counties Manukau South

Therefore the main areas of concern would be with the Counties Manukau West/East and Central areas. In recent years, Counties-Manukau has always had the highest number of recorded Family Violence events when compared with other Police Districts. In 2007/08, Counties-Manukau had 67.4% more recorded Family Violence events than any other District with a rate of 91 Family Violence events per 10,000 people.

Local trends

- There is increased reporting of Family Violence to Police. This could also indicate that Family Violence is becoming less accepted with increased awareness within the community.
- There is a serious trend of families affected by Family Violence not seeking help until problems are severe.
- There is a large increase in the numbers of non-mandated clients wanting to attend stopping violence programmes since the establishment of the Family Violence Court in Manukau.
- Some families are self-referring to community providers rather than taking out protection orders and being funded by MOJ. It can be hard to find lawyers who will do protection orders, and cost and effectiveness are other considerations. There is, therefore, a lower number of women and children in Manukau City attending free support programmes offered by MOJ. These programmes have an educational focus, with counselling available through the Family Court.

Main gaps as identified in the Local Services Mapping Manukau City Community Report 2007;

- Insufficient resourcing, for example to meet the needs of non-mandated clients in Manukau.
- Lack of formal monitoring and evaluation of family violence related initiatives/programmes to determine their effectiveness in reducing Family Violence.
- Need for increased service provision within Manukau City, including services for young men who are both the perpetrators and victims of violence, anger management courses for women, and refuge/transition accommodation related services.
- Need for more culturally appropriate specialist services for Maori and Pacific peoples.
- Need for more research, including supporting statistics, to inform service development.
- Workforce development issues, for example cultural awareness training for providers².

² Manukau City Community Report 2007

PURPOSE OF THE ACTION PLAN

The purpose of the Manukau Reducing Family Violence Action Plan is to build on the work of the RFVIT, and to reduce family violence in Manukau through collaboration. After considering local statistics, and scoping local initiatives and programmes, the RFVIT has identified the following outcomes and actions as collaborative opportunities.

OUTCOMES AND ACTIONS

| Outcome | Outputs | Actions | Lead Agencies | Timeframes |
|---|---|--|---|-----------------|
| Align Family Violence planning processes within Manukau | Collaborative Planning – Manukau Reducing Family Violence Action Plan | Develop action plan that includes outcomes as identified by RFVIT. | Family and Community Services and Manukau City Council | 3 Months |
| Identify programmes that are currently being provided within the Manukau area | Gaps Analysis | Identify programmes currently funded within Manukau. | Child Youth and Family, Family and Community Services and Ministry of Justice | 12 Months |
| Formulate a set of guidelines that will inform best practise for FV service provision in Manukau | Guidelines | Formulate guidelines that promote good practise in regard family violence service provision. | Counties Manukau District Health Board and Manukau City Council | 12 Months |
| Identify individual agency response protocol and processes to identify barriers and opportunities for a | Critical pathways | Develop critical pathways document which identifies organisational family violence referral processes, and | Family Safety Team and Manukau City Council | Ongoing process |

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|--|--|--|--------|------------------------------|
| collaborative approach to supporting families | | barriers to accessing services. | | |
| Identify ways to support high risk families in a sustainable, strengths based way | Develop a long term mentoring programme for families at risk. Extension of “cool schools” to more schools within the Manukau area. | Resourcing of mentoring programme for families at risk. | | Dependent on resourcing |
| Provide support for men in Manukau to address Family Violence issues | Men’s programmes | | | Finalising approach 6 Months |
| Support an interagency response that will provide effective intervention for those families identified as at high risk in regard to Family Violence. Support the development of a Multi Agency Centre in Manukau. | Support the provision of additional resources for administrative and social service connectedness in regard to the FVIARS model. | Development and resourcing of a position that provides administrative support and enhances social service connectedness in regard to FVIARS model. | Police | Dependent on resourcing |