
Community Wellbeing Committee

OPEN MINUTES

Minutes of a meeting of the Community Wellbeing Committee held in the Council Chambers, Horowhenua District Council, 126-148 Oxford Street, Levin, on Tuesday 14 February 2017 at 1.00 pm.

PRESENT

Chairperson
Members

Cr Jo Mason
Ms Barb Bradnock
Mr Craig Fleury
Sergeant Sam Gilpin
Ms Eve Fone
Mr Allen Little
Ms Tracey Merson
Mrs Jacqui Moynihan
Ms Beth Purcell
Ms Jo Smith
Ms Ella Tavernor
Mrs Margaret Williams
Ms Delphi Winters

IN ATTENDANCE

Mrs Denise Kidd	(Community Services Manager)
Mr Josh Wharton	(Community Development Advisor)
Mr Mike Lepper	(Customer & Regulatory Services Manager)
Mrs Karen Corkill	(Meeting Secretary)

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

His Worship the Mayor, Michael Feyen	(until 1.10 pm)
Mr Dan Geraghty	(Age Concern)
Sergeant Philip Grinstone	(New Zealand Police)
Mr Lew Rohloff	(Horowhenua GreyPower)
Cr Ross Campbell	

1 Apologies

Apologies were recorded for Katie Brosnahan, Tania Harris (with Eve Fone attending in her stead), Bruce McIntyre, Suze Strowger (with Ella Tavernor in attendance), Mike Fletcher, Liam McLeavey, and Di Rump.

NOTED

Ms Rump's apologies for the previous meeting, which had been tendered but not noted, were placed on record.

2 Public Speaking Rights

None requested.

3 Confirmation of Minutes – 15 November 2016

MOVED by Mr Fleury, seconded Mrs Moynihan:

THAT the minutes of the meeting of the Community Wellbeing Committee held on Tuesday, 15 November 2016, be confirmed as a true and correct record.

CARRIED

4 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

5 Announcements

Chairperson's Introduction

Setting the context for the Community Wellbeing Committee (CWC) for the year ahead, Chair Cr Mason introduced herself noting she was a second term District Councillor and she also worked in the Disability Sector. She then invited those around the tables to introduce themselves giving their name, the agency for which they worked and the agency or network that they represented on the CWC.

As requested, those around the table introduced themselves and gave a background to their being a member of the Committee or their reason for being at the table.

Cr Mason thanked everyone for their introductions noting that there were some long term members and some who were new. Cr Mason then gave an overview of the Committee's role, acknowledging the Committee's status and importance in terms of assisting Council set its strategic direction for the wellbeing of its communities. There had been a review of the Committee's mandate, and a name change; there were also some changes in representation with some representatives still to be confirmed. From Council's perspective, she and Cr Judd would be Council's representatives on the Committee.

Cr Mason further commented on the updated Community Wellbeing Strategy and Terms of Reference (copies of which were distributed to Members), giving a background to the changes which had been made to ensure there was a direct link between the various action plans and the related networks (Positive Ageing, Youth, Disability) and the overall strategy and the move of the strategy to a results based accountability framework.

Cr Mason stressed that Members needed to be clear that this was a strategic rather than an operational group. It was not the Committee's role to deliver services and programmes nor to make funding decisions; but to understand what was happening across the district and to encourage shared focus on priority issues/ target populations, as well as ensure coordination

of and access to the various activities, services, programmes. Where appropriate the Committee would advocate with relevant agencies for resourcing (including funding) to address specific needs / issues/ opportunities as well as inform policy development by partner agencies.

When those around the table gave updates from their networks, Cr Mason requested Members to think about the presentations made today and consider from their agency's perspective what were the key issues, the story behind the figures and a brief update on what each agency/network was doing to address family violence and contribute to the prevention of family violence.

Age Concern

Age Concern's Elder Abuse and Neglect Prevention Coordinator, Dan Geraghty, addressed the meeting giving the definition of 'elder abuse', (which was quite wide) as "an intentional act, or failure to act, occurring within a relationship where there is an expectation of trust, which causes harm or distress to an older person". Types of abuse could include psychological, financial, physical, sexual, institutional, and self-neglect. One of his reasons for taking up the role two years ago had been to raise the profile of Age Concern and to raise awareness of elder abuse. In some respects, his role was similar to that of HALT.

Mr Geraghty gave some information on elder abuse statistics and how these were interpreted as well as some trends currently being seen.

In saying that one of Age Concern's aims was to make Horowhenua an attractive **safe** place for older people, a recent trend of concern in Levin was people befriending and taking advantage, particularly financial, of older people. Age Concern did have an older persons' visiting service with volunteers being police vetted and trained. More volunteers for this service would be most welcome.

Mr Geraghty highlighted that increasing number of notifications of elder abuse cases was positive in terms of increasing public awareness/interest. Mr Geraghty suggested that substantiated elder abuse cases was the statistic to focus on.

Horowhenua 2016 – 84 cases closed (58% substantiated; 41% not substantiated)
= 49 substantiated
Horowhenua 2015 – 70 cases closed (70% substantiated; 30% not substantiated)
= 49 substantiated
Horowhenua 2014 – 45 cases closed (93% substantiated; 7% not substantiated)
= 42 substantiated
Horowhenua 2013 – 48 cases closed (85% substantiated; 15% not substantiated)
= 41 substantiated

Mr Geraghty recorded Age Concern's endorsement of Margaret Williams as a member for the Community Wellbeing Committee.

New Zealand Police

Commencing with saying he had been born and bred in Levin, Sergeant Phillip Grinstone, Horowhenua Family Violence Coordinator for the NZ Police, introduced himself. Speaking of the incidence of family violence in the Horowhenua he gave a background to the current statistics and current trends with regard to family violence. He noted that there were complex social issues behind family violence, which was the by-product not the cause. For family violence to be dealt successfully, those social issues need to be addressed and that was not something the Police, CYFS, Corrections, could achieve; it was something that needed to be dealt with collectively by the community.

In terms of volume, Sgt Grinstone said there were about 110,000 incidents of family violence a year; one every 4½ minutes. Locally there were about 15,000 incidents per year with Horowhenua having the second highest rate of family violence in New Zealand behind the East Coast. On top of that New Zealand had the highest intimate partner violence in the developed world. Of the 15,000 incidents; 800 incidents involved children. Of the 800 children; 330 children will have been witness to repeat incidents resulting in Police visits.

Key Contributing Factors from a Police perspective:

- 1) Repeat incidents are most likely to involve poorer families (ie unemployment or low income) , less well educated (failure to achieve NCEA Level 2 or higher) and a significant proportion are Maori / Pacific;
- 2) Alcohol and drugs (with an increasing presence of methamphetamine);
- 3) Gambling / poor budgeting skills; chaotic lifestyles make it difficult to manage money;
- 4) Compromised housing (unsatisfactory/overcrowded). Sgt Grinstone spoke about how families are moving further North (up the highway) as rental prices increase.

In providing an overview of programmes that Police consider are successful / necessary , Sgt Grinstone commented about support /programmes for parents as they separate (citing that 50% of intimate partner violence homicides happen around time of separation). Sgt Grinstone spoke about how family violence services were working well together regarding referrals, training and meeting targets. Sgt Grinstone spoke about improving systems for reporting and working closer with Corrections regarding high risk offenders . Sgt Grinstone spoke about a successful “Delivering the Love Programme” over a weekend as well as the value of alcohol, drugs and gambling prevention programmes.

Sgt Grinstone spoke about programme/service gaps from a Police perspective:

- 1) no Safe Houses in Horowhenua (noting this was particularly an issue when children were involved)),
- 2) no Police Safety Order House (a place where commonly men can go when they have to exit the family home for 5 days and where they can get counselling
- 3) no local Men’s Mentoring Group for men who have decided to make changes
- 4) no Pacifica NGO to make referrals to, which was an issue with the growing population
- 5) significant barriers to accessing both alcohol and drug programmes and family violence programmes (citing one programme price of \$1,500 or \$375.00 via referral from W&I.
- 6) no one-stop-shop for social services working with the most vulnerable of clients so they could be dealt with in one environment/setting rather than people being referred to a number of different agencies.

In finishing his presentation Sgt Grinstone discussed how 61% of local Police resources were channelled in to dealing with family violence.

From a health perspective, Ms Bradnock observed that where children were involved there was knowledge of what affect family violence had on children’s lives. She queried if there was the opportunity for a local initiative to try and reduce the effect on children as this was an issue that was not going to go away. To be discussed further in relevant forums.

Ms Merson, from HALT, commented that there was a lot of research now on family violence. Family violence was unfortunately well established and in Levin it was intergenerational and not one solution would fit all. Monitoring on how effective measures were was a big part but it had not been done well to date.

Horowhenua District Council – Draft Local Alcohol Policy

Mr Lepper, Council's Customer & Regulatory Services Manager, advised that Council was consulting on a draft Local Alcohol Policy with all Councils in New Zealand having the opportunity to institute such a policy along similar lines as the policies Council had for Psychoactive Substances and Gambling. Council had purposely held off trying to introduce a policy since 2013 as a number of other Councils had had challenges through the Courts when trying to adopt LAPS. The draft LAP had been presented to and adopted by Council on 1 February 2017 to go out for public consultation.

The purpose of proposing the draft LAP was to provide guidance to the District Licensing Committee and it gave the community the opportunity to set some guidelines for alcohol sale and supply within the district. Submissions would close on 17 March 2017.

Because of her role on the Hearings Committee, which would hear the submissions to the LAP, Cr Mason declared an interest and would not take part in any discussion on the proposed LAP.

Mr Fleury, as a Member of the District Licensing Committee, also declared an interest. However he did think this group should be making a submission.

Mr Rohloff said it was something that Horowhenua GreyPower did need to look at.

Mrs Kidd said she would take direction from the Committee as to whether or not there was general support for a submission and what that could include. That was aside from any submissions from individuals around the table and/or their organisations.

Cr Mason agreed that Mrs Kidd should get feedback via email as there were some around the table who were interested in submitting.

9 Reports

9.1 Community Services Report to 14 February 2017

Purpose

To present to the Community Wellbeing Committee the Community Services Report to 14 February 2016.

MOVED by Mrs Williams, seconded Mr Little:

THAT Report 17/2 Community Services Report to 14 February 2017 be received.

THAT this matter or decision be recognised as not significant in terms of s76 of the Local Government Act 2002.

CARRIED

Mrs Kidd spoke to this report and to the Community Wellbeing Strategy and Terms of Reference that had been provided. Invitations had been extended and discussions had commenced with the different agencies in terms of confirming Committee membership.

With the Committee's endorsement sought for the Sun-Smart Policy, Mr Wharton spoke to this item saying this was a continuation of the work done by Mrs Pollock following the 2015 Long Term Plan in which it was identified that the policy instituted in 2001 needed revisiting in terms of relevance, impact and financial implications. There had been some changes made to address areas that were not applicable. The policy was not enforceable and non-punitive. It would be reviewed in three years' time.

As a member of the Albinism Trust, Mr Little endorsed the updated policy saying it was long overdue and would set a benchmark for other organisations in the community.

Ms Smith did caution balance with regard to the policy as issues such as vitamin D deficiency could become an issue when things were carried too far.

General feedback on Policy was positive and Committee endorsed the revised Sun-Smart Policy, with feedback on the Policy to be provided to Mr Wharton by next Friday.

7. Agency Round Table

Going around the table, Members gave an update from their organisation's perspective:

Jacqui Moynihan, Children's Team – supported a child-centric approach. Do it together and keep the children's voice alive. It was about connections between organisation and connections between people.

Ella Tavernor, Ministry of Education – in the Strategy Terms of Reference she understood the Early Childhood / School sectors would be included around the table. Mrs Kidd said there was a conversation happening about including those sectors via Education Horowhenua.

Barb Bradnock, MidCentral District Health – the District Health Board was looking to work with communities on Locality Plans. That would be coming to a town near you in the near future.

Jo Smith, MidCentral District Health – following on from Sgt Grinstone's presentation and linking that to Locality Planning, the health of older people, children, mental health and drug and alcohol issues, with that to be completed by July, it would be timely to think about engagement and what that would look like specifically for the Horowhenua.

Craig Fleury, Horowhenua Health Centre – also following on from Sgt Grinstone's presentation, the whole idea of providing services in the Horowhenua rather than those being provided elsewhere. The DHB's Strategic Plan included providing services closer to home. These were the type of issues that need to be raised.

Jo Smith responded that the CEs were going to meet and reflect back today's discussion in terms of common issues. Mrs Kidd said she would be happy to provide information to Council CE

Delphi Winters, Supergrans Lifeskills Provider – as from the end of June they were not being funded and had been asked to transition clients to another provider. Supergrans did want to continue so they would be looking for other sources of funding. Their role was relevant and their loss would create a gap in this community with their client group being at the lower end in terms of experience and income.

Const Beth Purcell as Chair of the Local Management Group (Children and Families) – said it was very positive to be at the table.

Sgt Sam Gilpin, New Zealand Police – their main issue was the family violence scene; trying to combat that.

Eve Fone, Child, Youth & Family – that agency would cease to exist on 31 March to become the Ministry for Vulnerable Children, Oranga Tamariki. The biggest underlying issue for that organisation was the impact of family violence on children. Resources were scarce and were very expensive. As a collective voice, the one thing that was needed was more accessible and affordable family violence services.

Tracey Merson, HALT – she was at the table as a representative of HALT but was also a member of Local Management Group. A discussion would be undertaken as to who would

attend the CWC regularly from Local Management Group. It had been good to have today's presentations which put family violence on the table.

Margaret Williams, Older Persons Network (interim) Representative – spoke about having been personally affected by the presentation on family violence and she queried why family violence was worse in the Horowhenua than in most other places.

With her GreyPower hat on, there had been a very interesting meeting on 6 February seeking information from members and visitors about ongoing continuing improvements for older people's health in this area

Lew Rohloff – spoke about the transport initiative now in place with a bus connecting with the train in Waikanae.

Allen Little – thanked Sgt Grinstone for his presentation. It was a challenge to everyone to go back into their local neighbourhoods and ensure that family violence was wiped out.

In conclusion and thanking everyone for their contribution, Cr Mason commented on the proposed meeting schedule for the balance of the year, noting:

- 11 April - MidCentral DHB had agreed to provide a further presentation on 'ambulatory sensitive hospital admissions (ASH); possibly hearing from the Children's Team as well as the ex-Strengthening Families Network about the issues and trends affecting the children and families they were working with and the results they were seeking from the work/intervention; also getting an update from the new Ministry for Vulnerable Children, Oranga Tamariki to be explored;
- 13 June – Youth focus for this meeting, with MoE having agreed to provide a presentation focussing on NCEA achievement levels for young people. Agencies could be prepared to discuss what they considered to be the issues facing young people and what their individual organisation or network was doing in that regard and what results they were seeing; Youth Voice and Education Horowhenua to be invited to present on the progress of their respective Action Plans;
- 8 August – Focus on older people with MidCentral to provide a further ASH presentation; the Older Persons' Network to be invited to present and share the work being done as part of the Positive Ageing Action Plan;
- 10 October – information on unemployment trends across the district; perhaps a presentation on the Disability Action Plan.
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Mrs Kidd would confirm final meeting schedule and arrange contributions from the different member agencies and networks, with a view to all contributing and different meetings to share a theme where practical.

3.20 pm

There being no further business, the Chairperson declared the meeting closed.

CONFIRMED AS A TRUE AND CORRECT RECORD
AT A MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY WELLBEING
COMMITTEE HELD ON

DATE:.....

CHAIRPERSON:.....