

A working party of the Bankstown Children's Services Forum

**Bankstown Child
Protection Interest
Group (BCPIG)**

**Level 2
23 Marion St
BANKSTOWN NSW 2200**

Facilitator: Maria

Note taker: Natasha / Maria

Minutes -19/4/2010

Introductions

Attendance sheet circulated.

Apologies

Apologies Val, Iman.

Data Base Update

Data form circulated-details accepted or amended.

Acceptance of Previous Minutes **1/6/09** Accepted No amendments

BCPIG Terms Of Reference 2010

Maria summarized current TOR. An annual review is scheduled for 1st meeting each year. Amendments that need to be made this year include that BCPIG now have 2 meetings instead of three per year, reason being that there are many projects happening in between meetings which include members at a very active level. The BCPIG meetings remain a place to revisit and regroup the projects and allow members an opportunity to plan further, develop partnerships and be updated on issues around child protection.

Other amendments raised by the group included possible changes to name "Child Protection" this follows the KTS changes which use terms like "child wellbeing". Group discussed but decided to defer any change for this year agreeing to discuss again at the July meeting for TOR review 2011.

➤ ***Maria to add to next agenda***

Guest Speaker/ Discussions

KEEP THEM SAFE:

A shared approach to child wellbeing and how we all work together

Maria welcomed Angela & Libby from Community Services and thanked them for joining in today's local discussions around KTS. Discussions began

with members indicating their updates have come through either TAFE training or via KTS website. More training sessions coming up – particularly for child care centres – 3 hour update sessions. Information on sessions available on KTS website.

A number of services have had to report already using ROSH – “Risk of significant harm” as the new threshold,

Chris (housing) completed the online tool and then reported to CS. Once report was made and sent to helpline it was sent onto the wellbeing unit (CWU) and then sent back again to the helpline. Workers agreed they are unsure how the system will work once they have reported and the time delay issues.

Housing crisis is already an increasing issue that is causing additional problems.

Child Protection counselling service (health) found it time consuming, couldn't give all the information through the existing tool and eventually was told to go to wellbeing unit (CWU) who then agreed to forward to helpline. Concerns that the MR tool doesn't allow for multiple risks to be added. Workers felt uneasy about how the information was recorded especially as they had no follow up after the report was made. Concerns that the information given alone fell below the threshold for CS intervention.

Mary's place & Jannawi raised concerns around what constituted significant risk as often they as professionals would see reportable issues but these were not considered reportable by the online tool. They also found the answers given over the KTS hotline inconsistent depending on different people on at any time.

Jannawi is getting a lot more referrals from police.

KTS Hotline & CWU keep records of ROSH reports for cumulative risk of harm.

Libby mentioned that the KTS support line is getting 9-16 calls per day. She recommends using KTS hotline and to give feedback to the government about any problems workers may be experiencing with the new system as it is still being tweaked.

In summary what was raised included: 1) CWU – back and forth reporting
2) MR tool – issues with multiple risks reporting 3) NGO online reporting –not
ROSH responses

Definite culture change in industry – regardless of type of service need to
support families falling below ROSH – everyone's responsibility.

What can be done for known families who fall below significant risk
threshold? Question raised by Libby. Wafa suggested referring to brighter
futures. Brighter future will now be 50% community referrals. Still in
negotiation phase.

Case management. Sharing information.

Need to try to find other services who may have worked with the family.
New legislation makes it simple to talk to one another if to safe guard the
wellbeing of children. Also an opportunity to collect information for
cumulative argument which can make a case reportable.

Libby said that many services are already involved in case managing such
families and for others this may be an additional service now required of
them.

Family Referral Service (FRS) (new name for Regional Intake and Referral
Services) represent a strong partnership with the NGO sector to get less
urgent cases referred to community based services that can provide
support. Health is the lead agency to implement Family Referral Service
with services being run by NGOs/Local Government

- A staged implementation & trial in underway in 3 locations / 12
MONTHS (Dubbo, Newcastle, Mount Druitt)

Family case manager pilot scheme is also being trialled a recommendation
from the Wood Inquiry that recommended *human services and justice
agencies) should identify their high-end users ...*

- Rolled out 3 regions NSW, 12-18 months, run in eight sites in three
regions: South West Sydney, South East NSW and Western NSW.
- South West Sydney includes Fairfield, Greenacre & Green Valley/ Miller
- Regional Coordinators support the regional implementation of FCM,
Coordinator for SWS in place - Sunita Kotnala.

Community services advised to keep an eye on website as information is
constantly updated.

Maria made reference to the KTS Newsletter which services can subscribe

to receive updates. BCPIG members have been emailed the link already. Maria also made reference to numerous supports available on the KTS website including e learning presentations, she used these resources to present her organisation updates on the reform. Maria will email BCPIG members her PowerPoint.

The HSNET (Human Services Network) is available to identify services that are in the local area that may assist families. Basically a shared website of services. Wellbeing centres are using this for referrals so good idea for all services to make sure they are updated. Can be good service search as long as information is up to date.

Dept Human Services & Dept of Premier & Cabinet have contracted KPMG to consult with NGOs and create long term plans to develop the child & family workforce, and build the capacity of NGO sector to deliver KTS. Plans in place expected mid 2010

On a final note Libby asked services to report their experiences especially if they identify a glitch in the system. Libby is happy to pass on any issues identified or let website know. Want to know if your service is seeing spikes in demand, unusual higher referrals and where these referrals are coming, experiences with helpline or KTS support hotline.

Maria thanked everyone for their input into today's discussions. She suggested that future agendas of BCPIG include a section that allows services an opportunity to explore issues that families which are falling below ROSH are facing and ways that we as a local area can better co-ordinate our services to respond to them. Agreed. Maria will add to agenda.

Reports / Research / Resources Training

DOCS RESEARCH / UPDATES

Nothing tabled

Updates / Discussions -Special Commission of Inquiry into Child Protection Services in NSW (James Wood)

Keep them Safe newsletter tabled.

Action Plan

*** Staying Safe – Anti Bullying Project / Message Cards**

Maria provided an update on the project:- Psychlinx is contracted to roll

out the workshops and to distribute the message cards to children in selected schools in Bankstown. The data collected will be used to produce a strategy driven resource for parents, teachers and other professionals. The project funded to BCRG by Bankstown Council is driven by a reference committee from BCPIG. Workshops for teachers and parents will be organised to distribute the new resource and will then be placed on the BCRG website for anyone to access.

*** Celebrating our Children – Parent Tool Kit**

The project is funded to BCRG by Bankstown Council and has been developed the celebrating your child – workers resource into a Parent resource. Will be distributed through PPP workshops being run through BCRG and through Child Protection Week & Children's Week events. Currently being printed and will be tabled at the next BCPIG meeting.

*** Managing Children's Challenging Behaviour (African, Vietnamese, Arabic)**

Workshops being planned for parents to be delivered to CALD communities. Still in progress.

*** Bankstown CHILD PROTECTION WEEK**

Community Stall

Media article from 09 event tabled. Last year we included the promotion of NAPCAN's national survey around child protection in the community. Before our next stall is held it would be interesting to know the issues communities raised.

- *Maria will access information around survey results and bring to next meeting.*

2010 will continue with same venue at Bankstown Centro. Confirmed date as Tuesday 7th September. Not sure if same Kindy farm to be used again as they were late 2 years running and centre management had specified a quicker set up was needed.

- *Maria will investigate options.*

Brave hearts is an organisation dedicated to the issue of child sexual assault; they offer workshops to children and the community and have visual resources around protecting children from sexual assault.

- *Maria will investigate further and see if we can include in some level during CP week.*

New Resources

Child protection week is also funded to BCRG by Bankstown Council and

this year includes a very heavy component in resource development. Funds will be used to develop large quantities of wristbands to distribute in local schools, and printed canvas bags to be distributed at the Bankstown Child Protection Week stall. The wristbands are printed with "Bankstown Child protection Week". The slogan to be used on the canvas bags to be discussed at the next meeting.

- *Maria will add to agenda.*
- *Maria will do audit on balloons left and arrange printing for new ones.*
- *All members to start collecting material they would like to distribute at the stall, any give ways (always a hit!).*

DV Interagency update

Natasha gave update.

- Different structure being implemented to encourage more government involvement.
- It's Time To Talk – DV training being offered
- Involved in Families Week.

Reports from our other linked networks

BCSF (General)

Bankstown Children's Week

The Bankstown Children's Week Dance Party is now in its 7th year. In 2009 for the first time ever it included 2 sessions a morning Parent & Kids EXPO focuses on the early years along with the afternoon Dance Party for all age children. It was found that the morning session was very successful in engaging with families around community supports and parent concerns. This group seemed more interested and would most likely benefit from the early intervention available. Children's Week in Bankstown is made very interactive for stall holders and is focused on building relationships between agencies and with our community. Partnerships with Bankstown TAFE are developing. In 2010 there will only be 1 session offered that being the Morning Parent & Kids EXPO. Contact Maria for more details 9796 1561.

BECIC (Early Intervention)

Transition to school for children with additional needs & who's going to help

my child in big school currently being organised.

Early Intervention Week planned for August.

Please contact Kathy 9796 1561 for further details.

ASLU (Child Care)

Child Care workers find themselves talking to parents on sensitive issues. They have indicated a need for further training on counselling, DV and sexual assault issues.

In response, Maria, Sarina (Families NSW) and Themis (BWHS) will meet to plan a cross regional training (Child Sexual Assault practise forum - Bankstown / Fairfield) to support child & family services on how to respond to sexual assault issues.

DV training will be addressed through it's Time To Talk, Natasha will confirm if possible to be delivered September.

Regarding the accidental counsellor session Maria will be approaching BCPIG members to present. Please contact Maria if you can contribute to this session, probably to be run in July.

Other Business

- BCRG running new playgroup "Play, Nurture & Grow" to support families who are affected by drug and alcohol. An initiative of CDAT (Community Drug Action Team) & funded through Bankstown Council & SWAHS. Health is directly involved. Held Fridays during school term. Flyer tabled. Contact Anna 97962931 or Kathy 9796 1561 for more info.
- Chris highlighted housing application changes. Reduced pages.
- Natasha tabled pregnancy babies & children Expo tickets.
- Wafa tabled united Muslim Women Association activities term 2.
- Wafa tabled invite to Islamic awareness day.

Next Meeting: 19th July 2010 – BCRG 12.15- 2.15