

Families ACT and the Youth Coalition of the ACT Briefing Meeting with Senior Manager, Strategy and Purchasing, OCYFS, CSD

14th December 2011

Background

This is a summary of the briefing meeting of 14 December between the Senior Manager, Strategy and Purchasing, Office of Children, Youth, and Family Support, and the two sector peak bodies, Families ACT, and the Youth Coalition of the ACT. Briefing meetings with the Senior Manager, will continue on a regular basis, with the aim of supporting the change process and clear communication to and from the sector.

Attending: Janelle Wheatley, Emma Robertson, Will Mollison.

Outcome of Best and Final Offer Process

This process has now been finalised and all respondents have been notified. Information advising of the preferred respondents will be included in the Communique to be distributed next week.

Transition Instructions

Transition Instructions Document

Following the outcome of the BAFO process, the Transition Instructions can now be finalised. Information in the Transition Instructions has been arranged both alphabetically and by target client group (young people and family services). The Transition Instructions will be distributed on Friday 16 December 2011.

One page flyer for youth

The one page flyer for youth has been finalised and was circulated to the sector on 14/12/11. Consultation in the development of the flyer occurred with the Directorate's Media and Communications section, participants at the sector planning day on 6/12/11, practice leaders, YCACT and the Social Housing and Homelessness Unit of CSD.

Management of enquiries about the closure of youth drop-in centres

Emma said that one of the questions she was most frequently asked concerned the closure of youth drop-in centres. Although some services, which will not be providing ongoing programs after 1 March 2012, may be seeking alternative sources of funding, Emma stressed the need to be circumspect in discussing the future of the centres pending the results of these funding applications.

Brokerage guidelines

Draft brokerage guidelines were circulated for feedback both at the Planning Day on 6/12/11 and at the Practice Leaders meeting on 8/12/11. Janelle commented that brokerage funding under the CYFS Program is in addition to currently existing arrangements (through other funded programs and Emergency Relief providers) and not meant to duplicate them in any way. Feedback was due on 9/12/11 and only a handful of responses were received. The Directorate will now finalise these guidelines and will distribute them early in the new year.

Impact of transition on other sectors

Will stressed the need to disseminate information about the transition as broadly as possible because of the flow on/ripple effect on other sectors. Emma said she had been asked questions by Carrie Fowlie, from ATODA, about the impact of the transition on Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug services.

Janelle said that the new arrangements were already being promoted within the Directorate (e.g. with Youth Policy, Youth Justice, Turnaround) and that a place had been reserved on the agenda of the February meeting of the Minister's Youth Council to discuss the transition.

Janelle said that OCYFS also had plans to visit all key stakeholders, including the pastoral care teams in schools and that discussion would take place with Education about the best way to reach the relevant peoples. Emma suggested that it might be possible to utilise already scheduled professional development days as an efficient means of disseminating information. This was agreed to.

Disseminating information

OCYFS has been in discussions with the Directorate's Media and Communications section about how to best promote information flow to the public, service providers and other stakeholders about the new Service Framework. The Directorate will be aiming to provide information for agencies to use with their clients while these agencies develop their own information resources. The Directorate will also use their website, Facebook and Twitter.

Addressing gaps in services during implementation of the new service framework

Members of both Families ACT and the Youth Coalition have expressed concerns about gaps in services and their impact on service users during the transition to the new Service Framework. They have also raised questions about what mechanisms will be put in place to address these gaps.

Janelle said that the IECS and network coordinator is will be in a key position to provide information about gaps. It was suggested that this area become a standing agenda item at directors and practice leaders meetings in 2012.

Practice Framework Pilot

Final approval of \$27,000 for training for the pilot of the Practice Framework was provided at the planning day on 6 December. Discussions are continuing with agencies interested in being pilot sites.

Proposed 'Bus Tours' Induction Model

Following on from the Workforce Development and Training Subcommittee meeting the proposal to develop a new system induction tool based on the Youth Coalition's Comorbidity Bus Tours model was discussed. More details will be worked out over the next week, with the Youth Coalition and Families ACT to put a proposal to OCYFS.

It is envisaged that this model could be an effective way to engage stakeholders outside the CYFSP agencies with the new service system, but that initial focus would be on CYFSP staff.

Service Framework Evaluation

The Directorate has endorsed a proposal by the Institute of Child Protection Studies to facilitate the establishment of an evaluation structure for the new Service Framework. The work will involve:

- the provision of basic evaluation training;
- the delivery of a program logic workshop;
- the formation of an evaluation sub-committee; and
- the preparation of terms of reference for the sub-committee.

Further conversations will take place with the Institute regarding the timing for the training to occur, mindful of sector priorities and other essential training associated with the pilot for the Practice Framework.

Directorate Staffing – December & January

Janelle Wheatley will be on leave from 23rd December and 9th January.

Leanne Power will be on leave from during the Christmas shutdown period – 24th December to 3rd January.

Christine Nolan will be on leave in January.

Martin Hehir will be on leave in January – Natalie Howson will be acting in his position.