East Gippsland Early Years Plan
2016-2017

June 2016
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Objective 5.4: to broaden engagement at all levels in planning
Message from Cr. Marianne Pelz, Mayor, East Gippsland Shire Council

The development of the East Gippsland Early Years Plan 2016-2017 has been accomplished through collaboration between Council and a range of agencies actively engaged with the children (ages 0-12 years) of East Gippsland.

The Plan identifies a number of key strategic directions as well as providing a snapshot of the key drivers for change and the key indicators of success in the early years sector.

What we see from the evidence is welcome; both where there has been positive change as well as where there are indications where Council and its partners can increase their efforts.

Such efforts are best done collectively, therefore Council is pursuing a model of collaboration which aims to improve the outcomes for children across the municipality through a common agenda and a single plan developed alongside our sector partners.

Having the opportunity to address some of the key issues facing children today and getting their voices heard is both a privilege and a challenge. We hope that actions developed from the East Gippsland Early Years Plan 2016-2017 and the collaborative work we do with our partners addresses those issues as well as strengthens families and support the ongoing quality of our service sector.

In 1997 Nelson Mandela said that the "character of a society is determined by how it treats its children". By working together, with the needs of our children as a primary focus for our work, we can hopefully feel proud of the efforts our community is making to deliver a safe, exciting and supportive environment for our children.

Cr Marianne Pelz
Mayor
June 2016
Strategic Directions Paper

Introduction

The East Gippsland Early Years Plan 2016-2017 represents the shared vision of a broad range of individuals and organisations that every child in the East Gippsland Shire area has the best possible start in life and is supported to reach their full potential.

Some of the organisations who have contributed to the development of the Plan are:

- East Gippsland Shire Council
- Good Beginnings Program, part of Save the Children Australia
- Uniting Care Gippsland
- The Smith Family
- East Gippsland Primary Care Partnership
- Gippsland Lakes Community Health

The following section outlines the background and approach taken in developing and implementing an Early Years Plan for East Gippsland.

Discussion

Although as individuals and as separate organisations there are significant and ongoing successes in the early years, there are still a number of 'wicked problems' that exist for the children and families of East Gippsland. These problems are, in most cases, extensions of broader social issues and there are often greater or lesser impacts of those issues that are place based i.e. there are differences in the effects between the urban and regional context.

For example, an issue which has been identified in the recent State of East Gippsland's Children and Youth Report (2012) indicates higher than average family violence incidents in East Gippsland (double the State average). The impacts on children who live in such environments can produce significant development delays, which may translate into multiple, lifelong problems.

In order to successfully address issues which are extensive and pervasive we require a collective and collaborative response. The processes of Collective Impact - which provide a structured, collaborative approach that reaches beyond partnership engagement and supports system based solution to issues. This requires actions that deliver across a range of settings and with a range of service providers that contribute towards the mitigation of particular 'wicked problems'.

In order to maintain our focus on achieving the aims identified within the East Gippsland Early Years Plan we must work collectively, share resources and contribute towards a common direction and purpose for our programs and projects.
Context for the East Gippsland Early Years Plan 2016-2017

The East Gippsland Early Years Plan gives all key stakeholders a basis for translating the national and State priorities into meaningful partnerships, practical actions and measurable outcomes that improve the wellbeing of children and families in East Gippsland.

The 'Early Years' usually refers to children aged 0-8 years, however the East Gippsland Early Years Plan is inclusive of children up to and including 12 years. The rationale for this is that planning, funding and delivery of services for children 9-12 years have historically fallen between Early Years Plans and Youth Strategies, which has often created gaps in the planning and delivery of services to address the needs of children in this age group.

In particular, the East Gippsland Early Years Plan facilitates Council and early childhood providers to work in partnership with the community to improve health and wellbeing outcomes for young children by:

- increasing support for young children and their families;
- supporting vulnerable families;
- improving access to services, support and opportunities for participation amongst children, parents and families;
- increasing the responsiveness of services and efficient use of other resources, by increasing service integration and collaboration;
- promoting children as important local citizens;
- maximising resources and undertake long-term planning for children including the development and evaluation of early years services, activities and facilities while enabling Council and other key stakeholders to make more informed and strategic decisions about future needs and priorities.

The 2016-2017 East Gippsland Early Years Plan should be considered in the context of the current political and economic landscape both in Victoria and nationally. Australia is currently experiencing a period of economic retraction which will continue to influence strategic directions of policy development and funding, for the foreseeable future. Young families will be influenced by Australian government policy from the Inquiry into Child Care and Early Childhood Learning 2014 and the National Disability Insurance Scheme will be established in East Gippsland in the next 12 months. How these and other factors translate to a local government response for families is challenging, but the Early Years Plan is aimed to be reflective of and responsive to changing government policy and funding initiatives.

Policy and Research underpinning the Early Years Plan

International and national research shows that a child's early years are critical in shaping their future; and investing resources in the early years pays positive dividends for communities. Investment in children's wellbeing builds the 'human capital' of a strong society.

There is evidence that investing in children in their early years increases their self-confidence, health and educational prospects. What happens in the early years plays a very important role in brain development that affects learning, behavior and physical and mental wellbeing throughout life.

Investing in the Early Years - A National Early Childhood Development Strategy was developed under the auspices of the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) and focuses on all children (aged 0-8 years) having the best start in life.
Seven outcomes are identified where support for children and families is needed to realise the Strategy's vision:

- Children are born and remain healthy;
- Children's environments are nurturing, culturally appropriate and safe;
- Children have the knowledge and skills for life and learning;
- Children benefit from better social inclusion and reduced disadvantage, especially Indigenous children;
- Children are engaged in and benefiting from educational opportunities;
- Families are confident and have the capabilities to support their children's development; and
- Quality early childhood development services that support the workforce participation choices of families.

The Victorian Government's Early Years Strategic Plan 2014-2020 aims to improve outcomes and better support children in the period from pregnancy up to eight years of age. The focus of the Plan is on building sector capacity in areas relation Maternal Child Health Services, early childhood education and early intervention services.

The Early Years Strategic Plan focuses on three key areas:

- Supporting parents and communities to give children a great startby:
  a. Growing parent and community capacity through enhanced local planning and the introduction of a parenting strategy;
  b. Supporting an evidence based framework which eliminates service duplication;
  c. Reviewing and enhancing Maternal and Child Health Services, including the introduction of a breast feeding strategy.
- Early and sustained support for those who need it most by:
  a. Streamlining and strengthening the service system for universal and intervention services;
  b. Focusing on outcomes for Aboriginal children.
- All children benefiting from high quality early learningby:
  a. Exploring best practice in the development of language and literacy;
  b. Supporting collaborative learning approaches between schools, early learning centres, parents and community organisations.

We believe that the collaborative work done over a decade by partner service providers in the East Gippsland Early Years planning group leaves us well placed to engage with the aims of the Victorian Early Years Strategic Plan, and the East Gippsland Shire can continue to play a strong, strategic bridging and linking role between State Government and local providers to support capacity building in the partnership.
Role of the East Gippsland Children’s Wellbeing Collective (EGCWC)

In 2004, East Gippsland early years' service providers and the East Gippsland Shire Council pledged to develop a shared, long-term and strategic approach to their work. Communities for Children (CfC) funding and the Early Years planning process provided the opportunity to build on this pledge. East Gippsland Shire and UnitingCare Gippsland agreed to be part of the development of a coordinated service redevelopment plan. This led to the formation of the East Gippsland Early Years Committee (EGEYC).

The EGEYC identified that sustaining and developing early year's leadership and direction beyond funding cycles was a key challenge. To address this, the EGEYC developed a plan that incorporated annual implementation commitments and was to be reviewed every five years. Using an ecological approach, the plan identified outcome areas for children, families, services and communities.

The highlights of this approach have been:

- Local services using the East Gippsland Early Years Plan 2008-2013 to guide their service planning;
- Improved capacity among local service organisations to undertake outcomes-based planning and evaluation;
- The creation of regional partnerships that use outcomes-based planning and evaluation approaches in their work;
- Local services regularly sharing resources and information;
- Services supporting each other to promote and implement the Plan.

As highlighted above, the East Gippsland Early Years Committee, now redeveloped as the East Gippsland Children's Wellbeing Collective (EGCWC), has been in existence for a number of years and was very active in the period directly following the establishment of the CfC program at Uniting Care Gippsland. Over a decade this program has been developing a strong, nationally aligned, evidence based reporting and evaluation frameworks, partnership development and a number of in house programs; an approach that will fit well with the Victorian Governments aims to build sector capacity.

For the Early Years Plan to be a viable document, capable of instigating practice improvement and setting direction for systems change and improved community outcomes, the EYCWC needs to be a vibrant and forward thinking group, representative, not only as a voice for service providers but also the provision of strong collaborative support for the outcomes of the Early Years Plan. To this end the EYCWC members have recently met to reinvigorate the partnership and develop the Early Years Plan for 2016-2017, which reflects provider perspectives and the strategic overview of the East Gippsland Shire Council.

The framework for action the Early Years providers have settled on to address the major issues identified in the Early Years Plan is the 'Collective Impact Model'. The model (see below) will be trialled over the first twelve months of the Plan to establish the procedural mechanisms that will support the Early Years Plan and reinforce its stewardship by the East Gippsland Children's Wellbeing Collective. The major organisations in the Collective have agreed to collaborate on the achievement of the actions and pending further discussion and evaluation, the EG Shire is potentially capable of providing the backbone function identified in the model.
Evaluation Processes for the East Gippsland Early Years Plan

There are two levels of evaluation which will provide focus for monitoring the progress of the Early Years Plan.

System Evaluation

Understanding the systemic changes that occur over time will be the subject of this high level evaluation. Changes in macro level municipal indicators of wellbeing will be examined in the context of State and national data and an attempt will be made to establish the causal effect of the observed change, within this municipal context. Although there are a range of change influences on the indicators we currently monitor we may be able to establish the efficacy of some program types that are specific to our municipality. Establishing the more frequently used concepts of scale and reach within the evaluation will align the Early Years Plan with current State government emphasis on collaborative effort for systems change.

Program Evaluation

An outcomes based evaluation methodology has been used for projects and programs which have been supported through the Communities for Children project. Documenting the outcomes of these projects and programs, on a case by case basis, will allow the EYCWC to examine the efficacy of particular interventions and document their contribution towards the main outcomes of the Early Years Plan. It will also provide information on best practice approaches and the strengths and challenges of placed based delivery.
East Gippsland Early Years Community Profile

This section highlights the demographics and key indicators for child wellbeing that gives a picture of how children are going in East Gippsland. It provides a benchmark, so that collective efforts can be evaluated as to their effectiveness as outlined in the previous section.

In 2012, there were 43,154 people residing in East Gippsland, with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people making up 3.2% of the population.

### Population by Age group - 2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age group</th>
<th>Males</th>
<th>Females</th>
<th>Aboriginal &amp; Torres Strait Islander</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0-4</td>
<td>1216</td>
<td>1158</td>
<td>188</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-9</td>
<td>1290</td>
<td>1206</td>
<td>161</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10-14</td>
<td>1341</td>
<td>1217</td>
<td>163</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Source ABS: East Gippsland (S) Regional Data Summary)

### Early Years Indicators

The East Gippsland fertility rate is higher than the Victorian average. Of the resultant births, East Gippsland ranks 3rd in Victoria for low birth weight babies.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Low birth weight babies</th>
<th>9.1%</th>
<th>Rank 3 in Victoria</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>% of children aged 24-27 months fully immunised</td>
<td>98.1%</td>
<td>Highest % in Gippsland and higher than Victoria (95.3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fertility Rates (children born per woman)</td>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>Victoria 1.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Source DEECD State of Victoria's Children Report 2012)

### Children's Development

The early years from 0-6 are critical in a child's development. Starting out in a healthy, safe and loving environment increases a child's chances of success throughout their life.

The Australian Early Development Index (AEDI) is a population measure undertaken in children's first year at school. The AEDI measures children's development across five key areas, or domains.

- Physical health and wellbeing
- Social competence
- Emotional maturity
- Language and cognitive skills
- Communication and general knowledge
While there has been an improvement in the proportion of children identified as developmentally vulnerable across East Gippsland, the rates of vulnerability are still higher than the State average across all domains.

**Proportion of children 'developmentally vulnerable'**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Domain</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>Vic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Physical health &amp; wellbeing</td>
<td>12.9%</td>
<td>12.1%</td>
<td>7.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social competence</td>
<td>14.4%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>8.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emotional maturity</td>
<td>15.5%</td>
<td>9.1%</td>
<td>7.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Language &amp; Cognitive skills</td>
<td>10.2%</td>
<td>7.4%</td>
<td>6.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communication skills &amp;</td>
<td>12.3%</td>
<td>10.2%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Knowledge</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


**Kindergarten Participation rates for East Gippsland**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>Vic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>94.5%</td>
<td>95%</td>
<td>103.2%</td>
<td>94.5%</td>
<td>92.8%</td>
<td>98.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Source: DEECD Annual Confirmed Data Collection)

**Children achieving at school**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>EG</th>
<th>ATSI</th>
<th>Vic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>16.7%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>20.1%</td>
<td>23.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>18.9%</td>
<td>22.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Source: DEECD VCAMS indicator data spreadsheets 8.1 -SEHQ)

**Children starting school with emotional or behavioural difficulties**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>EG</th>
<th>ATSI</th>
<th>Vic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>4.3%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>5.2%</td>
<td>10.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>5.9%</td>
<td>12.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Source: DEECD VCAMS indicator data spreadsheets 10.1 - SEHQ)

The National Assessment Program- Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) is an annual assessment for students in years 3, 5, 7, and 9. NAPLAN measures literacy and numeracy skills. NAPLAN data provides benchmarking measures to assess how children are developing over time.
**Students meeting national minimum standards in Reading**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>East Gippsland</th>
<th>ATSI</th>
<th>Vic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year 3</td>
<td>91%</td>
<td>84%</td>
<td>95%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 5</td>
<td>91%</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>94%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 7</td>
<td>96%</td>
<td>86%</td>
<td>96%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 9</td>
<td>91%</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>93%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Source DEECD, NAPLAN data 2012)

**Students meeting national minimum standards in Numeracy**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>East Gippsland</th>
<th>ATSI</th>
<th>Vic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year 3</td>
<td>96%</td>
<td>77%</td>
<td>96%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 5</td>
<td>95%</td>
<td>83%</td>
<td>95%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 7</td>
<td>96%</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>95%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 9</td>
<td>97%</td>
<td>93%</td>
<td>95%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Source DEECD, NAPLAN data 2012)

**Students feel connected to school**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year level</th>
<th>5-6</th>
<th>7-9</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EG</td>
<td>ATSI</td>
<td>Vic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>83.4%</td>
<td>79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>80.5%</td>
<td>78.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>79.9%</td>
<td>79.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Source: DEECD VCAMS indicator data spread sheet 10.6)

**Children's Safety**

The Report of the Protecting Victoria's Vulnerable Children Inquiry 2012 identified that the rate of reports in a single year across Victoria is just over 30 per 1,000 Victorian children across all ages, in the Gippsland region, this rate is more than doubled at 66 per 1,000. The significant over-representation of Aboriginal children and young people in Victoria's system for protecting children was identified as being of great concern. While Aboriginal children and young people make up 1.2 per cent of the Victorian population, they constitute around 16 per cent of children and young people on care and protection orders and are nine times more likely to be in State care than others in the general population.

**Number of Child Protection Report Substantiations**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>East Gippsland</th>
<th>ATSI</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2008-09</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012-13</td>
<td>158</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Child protection re reports

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>East Gippsland</th>
<th>ATSI</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2010-11</td>
<td>72%</td>
<td>79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011-12</td>
<td>76%</td>
<td>87%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Source: The Shire of East Gippsland Aboriginal Community, Early Childhood Community Profile 2009)

Children with high levels of family stress

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>No reporting stress/total</th>
<th>EG</th>
<th>ATSI</th>
<th>Vic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>43/443</td>
<td>9.7%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>10.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>73/477</td>
<td>15.3%</td>
<td>16.3%</td>
<td>10.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>78/505</td>
<td>15.4%</td>
<td>17.1%</td>
<td>11.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Source: DEECD VCAMS indicator data spreadsheets 24.2)

Housing Is Stable and Secure

Housing security is important for children's sense of safety and security. Transience and homelessness are significant risk factors for children and contribute to parental stress.

Residents in Public Housing for more than 12 months

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>East Gippsland</th>
<th>Vic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Families with children under 8</td>
<td>82%</td>
<td>87%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Families with adolescents</td>
<td>81%</td>
<td>88%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Source: DEECD, Adolescent Community Profile, East Gippsland, 2010)

Key Outcomes, Strategies and Success Measures

Outcome Area 1: Our Children Are Healthy, Developing Well, Safe and Secure

Objective 1.1: To Increase the Number of Children Who Are Developing Well

Strategies

1. Facilitate relationships and provide experiences for children that allow them to meet their developmental and wellbeing needs
2. Increase the range of inclusive community activities that offer all children age-appropriate social, physical and learning opportunities
3. Facilitate shared health promotion strategies on activity/ nutrition/ dental
Success measures
- Increased numbers of children attending dental health checks.
- Decrease in child accidents and hospitalization.
- Increase in breastfeeding rates
- Immunisation rates increase
- Australian Early Development Index data shows decrease in areas of vulnerability
- Greater provision of child friendly, age appropriate community activities

Objective 1.2: To Increase School Readiness and Learning Outcomes for All Children

Strategies
1. Facilitate training for providers to increase knowledge and expertise, and maximise opportunities which optimise the development of all children
2. Promote school involvement in school readiness activities and school transition programs
3. Facilitate discussions between early years providers and the primary school sector

Success measures
- Kindergarten participation rates remain at current or increase
- Australian Early Development Index data shows decrease in areas of vulnerability
- NAPLAN results show improvement in literacy and numeracy
- School attendance rates improve
- Children arriving at school are better prepared to undertake learning and social development
- Increase in number of parents reading to children

Objective 1.3: To Increase Support for Vulnerable Children and Children With Additional Needs

Strategies
1. Increase participation and collaboration between all stakeholders to facilitate and support children with additional needs; (child protection; childfirst)
2. Develop partnerships with children, families, communities and service providers for the planning and delivery of evidenced-based services

Success measures
- Increase in kindergarten participation rates for vulnerable children
- Decrease in repeated reports to child protection
- Decrease in waiting lists for special needs/support service
- Increase level of adoption of service standards that support vulnerable families and their children
Objective 1.4: To Increase Engagement of the Aboriginal Community and Services

Strategies
1. Increase participation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children into all early years' services and schools

Success measures
- Increase in completed Maternal and Child Health ages and stages checks for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children
- Increased participation rates at kindergarten for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children
- Increased school attendance rates for all - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children

Outcome Area 2: Our Families are Able to Meet the Needs and Promote the Development of Their Children

Objective 2.1: To Increase the Capacity of Families to Meet Their Children's Basic Needs

Strategies
1. Advocate that families have access to; security of housing, healthy and nutritious food, physical activity and safe environments
2. Families have access to a range of services that assist in the development and maintenance of their children's basic needs

Success measures
- Improved AEDI reports on lowered percentages of developmentally vulnerable children
- Increased family participation in family support services

Objective 2.2: To Increase the Capacity Of Families To Support Their Children’s Social, Cognitive, Physical And Emotional Development

Strategies
1. Build the capacity of families and the connectivity between families, children's services and communities to meet the developmental and wellbeing needs of children
2. To increase the capacity/opportunity of parents to manage their children's developmental processes across all AEDI domains

Success measures
- Australian Early Development Index data shows decrease in areas of vulnerability
- Increase in kindergarten participation rates
- Increase in percentage children arriving at school prepared for social and learning development
Objective 2.3: To Reduce the Number Of Families In Which Abuse Or Neglect Takes Place

Strategies
1. Advocate for increased resources for innovation in intervention programs
2. Advocate for increased community awareness of the developmental outcomes for children affected by family violence

Success measures
• Decrease in reports to child protection
• Increase in resource allocation for program delivery and support

Objective 2.4: To Reduce the Incidence Of Family Violence

Strategies
1. Increase collaborative work with family violence programs

Success measures
• Reduced incidence of family violence
• Increase in community engagement in family violence mitigation programs

Outcome Area 3: Our Communities are Accepting and Supportive of All Families

Objective 3.1: To Increase the Capacity of Communities to Identify, Understand and Respond to the Diverse Needs of Families

Strategies
1. Build the capacity and resilience of communities to be inclusive and respond to all children and families
2. Provide increased opportunities for new and diverse families to connect with local communities and services

Success measures
• Increased community acceptance of families from diverse cultural/social background

Objective 3.2: To Increase the Capacity Of Children To Be Active Citizens

Strategies
1. Increase events and awards which recognise child friendly neighbourhoods and communities
2. Provide a range of activities and events that demonstrate the active citizenry of children
3. Identify networks of organisations which provide increased engagement with children across East Gippsland
Success measures

- Increased policy developments which direct the use child friendly lens in event and award planning
- Increased recognition of the role of children in citizenry activities
- Improved understanding of the role and responsibilities of networks of child support agencies

Objective 3.3: To Increase the Capacity for Child Friendly Communities

Strategies

1. Promote safe and interactive built environments that provide stimulating experiences for children and families
2. Implement a child friendly lens and consultation into governance services and council planning
3. Provide opportunities for discussion between system leaders and community services and children on a range of issues which shape the future of East Gippsland

Success measures

- Increased participation of children in open space planning and consultation
- Increased focus on development projects which affect children, their wellbeing and learning development

Objective 3.4: To Increase Acknowledgement of the Rights of the Child

Strategies

1. Promote partnerships with local business, government agencies and communities which identify support for meaningful acknowledgment of children's rights
2. Integrate the planning implications of the 'rights of a child' and the East Gippsland children's charter

Success measures

- Participate in national/international "rights of the child" activities
- Audit strategic planning development for acknowledgment of the practical measures that support the rights of the child

Outcome Area 4: Our Services are Cooperative, Integrated, Inclusive and Deliver High Quality

Objective 4.1: To Build an Integrated and Responsive Service System of Child and Family Services

Strategies

1. To increase the integration of services and encourage the use of common referral pathways and assessment tools
2. To increase the participation of services in planning strategies which better service children and families
Success measures
• Increase in cross agency referral reporting
• Increase awareness of agency capacity and inter agency referral protocols between organisations and their workers

Objective 4.2: To Increase Service Access for Children And Families

Strategies
1. Provide a range of inclusive, accessible and culturally appropriate services, activities and programs, which are responsive to the needs of all children and families

Success measures
• Increased use of service access guidelines
• Increase in the use of services by children and families of diverse social and cultural backgrounds

Objective 4.3: To Increase Commitment to Principles of Evidence Based Best Practice in Service Provision

Strategies
1. Identify, promote and utilize evidence based approaches in service provision
2. Facilitate provision of training opportunities to support evidence based practice and its balance with innovation and initiative

Success measures
• Increased understanding of evidence based practice and its uses

Outcome Area 5: Our System Leaders Provide Advocacy, Governance and Support

Objective 5.1: To Increase Advocacy at Local, State and Federal Level for Rural and Regional Issues

Strategies
1. Advocate at local, State and federal level for the long term provision of high quality early years programs in the region, including a strategy to advocate for rural and regional factors, issues and solutions
2. Advocate for policy alignment across levels of government and service provision

Success measures
• Increased awareness of government to issues of rurality in the early years sector
• Number of representations on strategies and government policy that promote issues of rural and regional context in the early years sector

Objective 5.2: To Increase Collaboration Between Early Years Providers on Policy Development and Implementation
Strategies
1. Develop and implement an integrated East Gippsland Early Years Plan based on collective impact modelling
2. Develop and refresh cross-sectoral service mapping to demonstrate service collaboration and system engagement

Success measures
- Increased collaboration and engagement in collective impact model for development of the East Gippsland Early Years Plan
- Increased membership of and commitment to the East Gippsland Children’s Wellbeing Collective

Objective 5.3: To Promote Governance and Implementation of East Gippsland’s Early Years Plan

Strategies
1. Facilitate a mechanism to support governance structure of East Gippsland Children’s Wellbeing Collective plan implementation, evaluation and reporting
2. Develop effective partnerships for governance, support and engagement

Success measures
- Improved governance structures in place for the East Gippsland Children’s Wellbeing Collective
- Satisfactory completion and analysis of partnership evaluation tool for the East Gippsland Children’s Wellbeing Collective

Objective 5.4: To Broaden Engagement at All Levels in Planning

Strategies
1. Ensure engagement mechanisms link across Early Years planning bodies, services, families and children
2. Facilitate a collective approach to the development of practice standards and evidence based practice

Success measures
- Implementation of service practice and access studies across early years services
- Adopt ongoing commitment to collective impact modelling across the early years sector
Contact us

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