



Strengthening Families and RTLBS

September 2009

What is Strengthening Families

An early intervention process that helps families/whānau achieve better social outcomes

Coordinates support for families/whānau with multiple needs

Helps agencies work together to improve outcomes for families/whānau

VIS ION

Vision: families and whānau have the opportunity to reach their full potential and participate positively in society

Goal: improved health, education and social outcomes for families and whānau, who feel supported by and strongly connected to their communities as a result

Client Group

The client group for Strengthening Families is children, young people and families/ whānau who have multiple needs and whom will benefit from a coordinated approach

Strengthening Families is

- Voluntary
- for early intervention
- strengths-focused
- respectful of tikanga Māori and cultural diversity
- based in communities
- collaborative

How does it work?

The process begins with a referral to the local Strengthening Families coordinator. This may come from Schools, Community organizations, Government department or Professional body with which a family is already involved

Kaupapa or “True North”

Family must *consent* to the Strengthening Families process and to the sharing of their information

A consent form must be signed by the family/
whānau *before* the first meeting

Coordinator Tasks

Coordinators have overall responsibility for Strengthening Families in their Territorial Authority

Assess referral

Arrange initial meeting date, venue and time

Send out invitations to all parties

Appoint a best match facilitator

Independent Facilitator

Strengthening Families facilitators are workers from various sectors who are independent of the case and act as “process guides” for the meeting. They take cultural requirements fully into consideration

Aim at the end of the meeting

- agreement on priorities and actions required
- an action plan that matches resources to identified needs
- a lead agency to coordinate and monitor the plan's implementation
- clear roles and responsibilities for participating agencies
- A timeframe for tasks to be completed
- a date, time and location for a review meeting

Lead Agent Tasks (1)

Monitor and coordinate inter agency case management plan

Ensure family get the appropriate interventions as identified in the case plan

Liaise regularly with family, agencies, practitioners to ensure ongoing engagement in the case plan and process

Lead Agent Tasks (2)

Arrange the Strengthening Families review meeting

Complete discretionary fund applications as per the plan (if required)

Complete outcomes evaluation forms and send to the Coordinator

A picture of a strengthened family

Has more control over their lives

Is resilient

Has gained skills and knowledge

Has more choices

Has less trauma and stress

Has improved connectivity

Has access to more resources

Oversight & Flow

Local Management Groups -local managers who oversee the Strengthening Families initiative in their area to support and improve local services to vulnerable families through collaboration and service development

Regional Governance Groups – regional managers of key government agencies, local authorities, community organisations and iwi. Determine what services are being delivered/funded, how resources are being used and how regional/local gaps in community services can be filled

Looking to the future

A greater emphasis on measuring outcomes for families

Extending the reach of Strengthening Families e.g. working more closely with health and education sectors

Your questions