



**STRENGTHENING FAMILIES
WAITAKERE CITY EFFECTIVE PRACTICE
Whakapiripiri Nga Whanau**

March 2004 News Sheet

Effective Practice Service Expands

The Effective Practice service now has two co-ordinators each working on Effective Practice business twenty hours a week. Joe Waru has joined the service. You can now refer cases through either Ray Clarke or Joe Waru. Please use the hard copy referral sheet available on request and fax or post it to Ray or Joe. An internet version in WORD is also available. To get caseworkers to a meeting you need to allow approximately three weeks from referral acceptance till the meeting date.

Introducing Joe Waru

Joe has worked across the wider Auckland region in many networks. He brings to the Effective Practice service extensive experience in youth work. Joe recently worked in Child Youth and Family. He is sitting member of both the Waipareira Trust and the Board of the Hoani Waititi Kura. He is bilingual and will bring a strong tikanga approach into meetings with families who are Maori. Joe is married with four children.

Re introducing Ray Clarke

Ray has worked as Effective Practice Co-ordinator the Waitakere / Helensville area for the past six years. He brought to Effective Practice thirty years experience in the education sector – twenty three at Waitakere College. He maintains his links with education as secretary of the Waitakere Area Principals' Association. Ray is married with three adult children.

What do we do at an Effective Practice meeting?

We discuss what needs to happen to help a family and agencies support a young person - issues, service provision, priorities, time frameworks and resourcing. The focus is where to from here?

We invite the caseworker from each agency:
To share the issues they are addressing.
To share the aim of their intervention plan.
To share any concerns and suggestions.

We invite the family:
To share their vision of what needs to happen.
To share their feelings about their support hopes.

We work together – family and caseworkers:
To co-ordinate undertakings, address gaps and overlaps and end up with a co-ordinated plan.

We believe there are better outcomes for a child / young person and their family when we all work together on implementing a single strength based support plan that is understood and agreed to by all involved. A parent or a caseworker can do their job with greater confidence knowing what other people are doing and how their work fits it to the whole support picture.

**Joe Waru
Effective Practice Co-ordinator
Te Whanau o Waipareira**

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**The service Ray and Joe can
provide for you when you make a
referral agreed to by a family**

We will help set up a meeting of caseworkers from all the agencies working with a family. The family will need to consent to the meeting. They will be included as equal participants.

We will provide an independent facilitator for the interagency meeting. The meeting will be run according to well established and safe protocols. The experience needs to be positive for the family.

We will help write up the co-ordinated plan – by listing undertakings from the meeting. The plan will be distributed to family and caseworkers. The plan will include a lead / link person appointed by participants. This person will be contacted if anyone cannot complete an undertaking or if issues change.

We will set up a review meeting at a time agreed to by the initial meeting. Review meetings are a form of accountability and can be a celebration of progress. The need for repeated reviews can indicate there are still underlying problems.

Our Name – Effective Practice or Strengthening Families

What is the difference between the service provided by Strengthening Families and Effective Practice?

There is no difference!!

In 1997 Waitakere was the first area in the country to pilot Effective Practice as a way of working. It was decided to call the service Effective Practice. When a decision was made in 1998 to extend the service nationally the name Strengthening Families was chosen. The Waitakere Management Group has opted to keep the name Effective Practice. The Effective Practice name seems to better reflect the focus of the service.

The aim is to provide a better service to families by co-ordinating cross sector work. If service provision is improved the expectation is the family will be strengthened.

At a sector level agencies are encouraged to “network” - talk to one another about their work and ensure their services work together in harmony.

At a family level Effective Practice meetings are held. The outcome is a single co-ordinated care plan addressing the issues the family face.