

# South East Area Advisory Group

22 July 2011

## Comments

Since we last met in late February there have been significant developments that are continuing to influence the state, our sector, our services and our clients. A key development has been the delivery of the State Budget in June which clearly signalled the difficult economic period Tasmania is experiencing. For the members of the South East Area Advisory Group this clearly poses challenges for all services, government and non-government.

In a time of limited resources the work of the SE AAG is more relevant than ever as it offers us a unique opportunity to continue our work together to achieve outcomes that alone would be impossible. We encourage you to come along and contribute to the discussion regarding the Operational Plan 2011-12. There are actions listed in the plan that, if achieved, will go a long way to improve our work and the lives of clients we work with.

Another significant recent development has been the devolution of Disability Child Youth & Family Services to Disability & Community Services and Children & Youth Services. To better understand this change and other current developments we are pleased to have Mercia Bresnehan, Executive Director of Disability, Housing and Community Services and Mark Byrne, Chief Executive Officer of Children and Youth Services joining us on 27 July. Mercia and Mark will talk about some of the changes their areas of responsibility have experienced in the past few months and outline their roles.

We look forward to seeing you on 27 July and furthering our discussions regarding how we can achieve our vision of responsible, flexible and adaptable services. In the interim, please do not hesitate to contact the Community Partnership Team South East if you require any further information or assistance.

Donna Evans  
Co-chair  
Good Beginnings

Andrea Sturges  
Area Director, Children & Youth Services South

Annie Curtis  
Manager, Disability & Community Services

## Actions from the AAG

At the 25 February meeting the South East Area Advisory Group Strategic Plan 2011-14 was officially presented. All members were given the opportunity to provide feedback and we discussed the development of the Operational Plan.

We are still interested in feedback regarding the South East Area Advisory Group and you can still complete the survey at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/SouthEastAAG> We would value your comments and encourage you to participate.

## Practitioner Networks

### Family Support

#### Practitioner Network

The FSPN met on 20 July at the Gateway Offices. 19 people attended and 6 IFSS services were represented - a great attendance.

The group heard speakers from Colony 47's COSS and Anglicare's ACCESS program. Both are accommodation programs that are regularly used by IFSS

workers.

The Child Protection South East Intake team also attended and, amongst other things, outlined the need for evidence based notifications. It was a very useful discussion. The next meeting will be held 21 September, 10am at the Uniting Care office in Bellerive. RSVP Sharon on 62307689 OR [sharon.stewart@dhhs.tas.gov.au](mailto:sharon.stewart@dhhs.tas.gov.au)

### The Disability Services Practitioner Network

working group met after the meeting in February. A small group of services have volunteered to get this network established and it is included in the Operational Plan.

If you would like to be involved please contact the Community Partnership Team.

## Quick Wins

Our regular Quick Wins session is about:

- Getting to know each other
- An opportunity to get a 'quick win'
- Sharing our progress

As we continue to work on actions outlined in our Operational Plan, our focus next meeting will be on the relationship between our previous quick wins and Priority Areas in our Strategic Plan.

## Next Meetings

Friday 30 September  
10am - 12pm  
Brighton Civic Centre

Friday 2 December  
10am - 12pm  
Brighton Civic Centre

Our meetings will focus on our Operational Plan and the actions being undertaken to achieve our shared vision. Working groups will present updates as applicable.

We will continue our Learning & Development activities and hope to have some joint speakers/forums with the South West AAG.

For further information or to RSVP to a meeting please contact the Community Partnership Team at [partnershipsse@dhhs.tas.gov.au](mailto:partnershipsse@dhhs.tas.gov.au)