



childaware

Developing a Child Aware Local Plan

Child Aware Local Initiative is a capacity-building initiative which supports communities to undertake early intervention and prevention activities that contribute to keeping children safe and well.

Child Aware Local Initiative is a central priority under the *National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2009-2020* and the Second Action Plan 2012-15. Endorsed by the Council of Australian Governments, the National Framework represents an unprecedented level of collaboration between Australian, State and Territory governments and non-government organisations to protect children. The Child Aware Local Initiative is implemented through partnerships between the community sector, Commonwealth, State and Territory governments.

The six supporting outcomes of the National Framework are key drivers to the initiative:

1. Children live in safe and supportive families and communities
2. Children and families access adequate support to promote safety and intervene early
3. Risk factors for child abuse and neglect are addressed
4. Children who have been abused or neglected receive the support and care they need for their safety and well being
5. Indigenous children are supported and safe in their families and communities
6. Child sexual abuse and exploitation is prevented and survivors receive adequate support

Key messages of the Child Aware Local Initiative:

- ▶ Protecting children is everyone's business.
- ▶ Children have a right to be safe, valued and cared for.
- ▶ The best way to protect children is to prevent abuse and neglect from happening in the first place.
- ▶ Children and families should have a 'voice' in decisions affecting their lives.
- ▶ Governments, communities, organisations and individuals can work together to improve outcomes for vulnerable children and families.
- ▶ Children are usually best supported within their families.
- ▶ A 'one size fits all' approach does not work across Australia's diverse communities.
- ▶ Local solutions are required for local problems.
- ▶ Culturally diverse groups need culturally sensitive responses.

Developing a Child Aware Local Plan

What are our community's gaps/needs?

- Communities for Children (C4C) has recently completed a community consultation within the Seaford district in readiness for the development of our Community Strategic Plan 2015- 2019. Having conversation about issues and gaps within communities is part of the everyday work that C4C Onkaparinga team members do. It is part of our committee, community and network meeting agendas.
- It was recognised that whilst we had consultation notes from conversations with adults, children's voices from Seaford about what was important to them and the things they would like the Child Aware local Initiative to work on was not as strong. The working group felt very strongly that the children's voices should be our focus.
- We know that the Seaford community is an area of huge growth and is made up of a number of little communities that are spread out with no real centre as a community meeting place.
- It is a diverse community, it is near the beach has a number of schools and kindergartens, recently the rail line was extended into this community.
- Family experiences within this community are diverse, some parents are part of the fly in and out workforce, unemployment, supported housing, isolated families, transport issues, many families are from the UK who have no family support, an older community of Seaford sits alongside the new communities of Seaford.
- Many families have large mortgages, service delivery is limited and often located elsewhere and goes into the Seaford community to deliver a service.
- Multiple issues are impacting children such as Domestic Violence, Mental Health issues, AOD issues, poverty, conflictual parental relationships and separation, child protection issues, bkie representation.

Who are the stakeholders we will draw together to build a Child Aware community?

- Children participating in local groups
- Children within the community
- OSHC groups
- Seaford Network
- City of Onkaparinga CDW
- Seaford Ecumenical Mission
- Schools and kindergartens
- Seaford Library

- Junction Australia
- AnglicareSA
- Communities for Children
- Uniting Communities
- Seaford Community Centre

Who would we like to encourage to join us?

- DECD – Heather Morony is an apology but the only local school representative.
- Children
- Young People
- Health

Once this plan is formatted with the small working group, it will be sent out to the larger group who attended the first meeting and the Seaford Network to seek their input and feedback.

What is our vision for a Child Aware community?

All children in Seaford are connected and heard from to inform, create and develop an inspiring Seaford community.

Our starting point is engaging children to tell us about the community of Seaford, and what they require to reach their potential.

Resources	What do we need?	Who will provide/source resources?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We agreed that we would meet early in the new year 2016 to develop a plan to gather children's views about Seaford 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • C4C • Outside School Hours Care (OSHC) • School classes • City of Onkaparinga

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For us to genuinely listen to children and ensure that we are working together with the children to achieve our goals it was recognised that it would be useful to have training in engaging children and listening to their voices and ensuring that our engagement is genuine and that we are clear about the things that we are looking for. 	<p>C4C will take the lead as a number of our Community Partners (such as Carclew Inc. and Asperlutely Autsome) initiate children's voices projects to design and have children lead activities within the community.</p> <p>C4C have worked closely over a number of years with the Child Friendly SA team within the Department of Education and Child Development as well as Professor Harris from the University of South Australia, as part of their Child Friendly SA. Throughout this time we have participated in the development and use of the Principled Framework for children and young people as valued citizens and learners, hearing Children's voices that was developed as part of this project.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A plan for how to engage with children including what they need to know about the purpose of the activity 	<p>The working group will meet in the new year (2016) to develop a plan to engage children. This could be through music, art, poetry dance theatre. The information gained will be shared with the Seaford Network and will inform the solutions and initiatives now and into the future. Advocacy for the children and capacity building will be an important role of the working group. Opportunities for local leadership for children to find local solutions.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is envisaged that a group of children will be supported to look at, and creatively design, a tool to find out from the children in Seaford what is working well and what they would like to see changed. 	<p>The working group will meet in the New Year (2016) to explore with children an activity that will engage other children to ensure that all activities are informed by children and young people themselves.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocacy/using areas of influence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to children - Gatekeepers to get involved 	<p>The Department of Education and Child Development is an important agency to get on board not just from local schools and kindergartens but representatives from the local District office.</p> <p>The engagement of the local Department of Education and Child Development District office will be part of the plan that is being developed early in 2016.</p>
<p>How do we get there? What are we doing to realise our vision?</p> <p>Once we have developed an approach to hear from children in Seaford this will be supported by working to engage children in their communities to talk to them. It is envisaged that children will be asked to respond in creative ways and be prepared to share their thoughts with other children and adults within the community. When children's views have been collected a report will be prepared that will be circulated so that their views can be considered by decision-makers.</p>		
<p>What organisations/agencies/businesses are supporting this initiative?</p>	<p>What are their roles/ commitments?</p>	
<p>AnglicareSA Communities for Children Uniting Communities Safe House Local primary School Junction Australia City of Onkaparinga Local library</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commitment to monthly meetings • Provide spaces to meet • Resources such as time, art resources and staff to talk to children and support them to inform the initiative 	

How are we collecting our story/learning?

This will be decided early in 2016, however, we have discussed using the arts as a medium for collecting the story and learnings from the children.

We currently have a children's calendar that is produced each year which asks children what is important to them. A number of tools will be used to gather the story as it will be up to the local community and children involved.

How are we sharing the learnings?

The learnings will be shared with local networks, City of Onkaparinga, agencies such as Junction Australia, AnglicareSA, local schools and kindergartens, local sport and recreation centres and through the CfC newsletter. It is also planned that the art work, music, poetry will be displayed within Seaford and that some children will be given an opportunity to present the information gathered.

How will we sustain momentum into the future?

Ensuring that children's voices are heard and acted on, will keep those involved motivated to continue, and the children will increase their confidence and trust in the process.