

## External Review of the Specialist Service Standards Final Report for Wellington Early Intervention Trust 10 – 12<sup>th</sup> July 2013

### 4.0 Findings

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#### 4.1 Strengths identified during the review:

4.1.1 The service coordinator of WEIT is very well organised, competent, and provides strong leadership and professional support to the specialists. Specialists and management work closely together through all steps of the pathway and have high expectations about the quality of their professional practice. The coordinator and specialists are assisted by an extremely able office administrator.

4.1.2 Strong and positive relationships are built with parents. The coordinator and specialists are family focused and value and respect parent input into the children's programmes.

*One mother said... "our family priorities are always first and foremost in my child's programmes"*

*Another said .... "they respect us, we are treated as intelligent people that are here to learn, and we work as a team".*

4.1.3 Specialist's professional practice is of a very high standard. Specialists described and showed examples in the children's files of ecological and strength based work across all steps of the service pathway. The specialists at WEIT are reflective practitioners and creative in the way they develop programmes and identify and problem solve barriers to service provision. Their careful assessments lead to functional goals and achievement for the children.

4.1.4 WEIT staff provides strong support for the implementation of the children's programmes in the early childhood centres. The ESWs are well inducted and supported, with regular visits from the EITs and ongoing professional development. The early childhood teachers are

supported to be an integral part of the team for the child which enables the child to be totally integrated into the centres.

One head teacher said ...*"they work alongside us, and adapt the goals so they can be part of our kindergarten"*.

Another teacher said...*the EIT and ESW do a fantastic job, they are very skilled, open and friendly, which makes it easy to work with them"*.

- 4.1.5 The coordinator and specialists described their carefully planned transition processes for the children to the early childhood centres and to schools. This has been the focus of WEITs self review and reflective processes over the last eighteen months.

Transitions are planned well in advance and are collaborative, involving all the members of the child's team. Teachers are invited to observe the child during the WEIT session and each specialist completes a discharge summary when the child transitions. Frequently communication passports and useful strategies such as visual aids are developed for new settings. Planning is sensitive to any stress on the child and their family.

#### **4.2 Meeting the Service Expectation for each step of the Service Pathway**

- 4.2.1 On the Self Review Questionnaire WEIT recorded that they met the Service Expectations for all the steps of the Service Pathway.
- 4.2.2 The reviewers agreed that WEIT meets the Service Expectations for all the steps of the Service Pathway.

#### **4.3 Quality of WEIT's Self-Review Process**

- 4.3.1 Management and specialists noted that they build trusting, respectful and supportive relationships with families which are due to the weekly contact and the face to face engagement.
- 4.3.2 Management and specialists identified positive and collaborative working relationship with a large number of early childhood centres and schools across the region.
- 4.3.3 Another area of strength identified by WEIT is the team of skilled specialists who are committed to their professional development and self review.
- 4.3.4 Based on information from the interviews with specialists, management, parents and teachers, the reviewers agree with WEITs identified areas of strength. There is evidence throughout the service provision of high quality specialist services.
- 4.3.5 WEIT also provided details of plans:

- to ensure all specialists access regular and ongoing professional development, by making regular applications for grants to support this
- to meet and have direct contact with local Maori groups in the Wairarapa district and Porirua City to ensure Maori have access to WEIT services and that the services are culturally appropriate. WEIT also plans to extend this process to include Pacific Island groups in the Hutt valley and Porirua City.

WEIT continues to carry out structured, well planned and reflective self reviews which are ongoing. Parents and teachers are asked to give feedback on the quality of the services.

The coordinator and specialists are reflective practitioners who identify and find solutions to barriers to service provision and there is a strong focus on outcomes for children.

All children and their families can be confident that WEIT regularly evaluates their services to inform future practice.

## **5.0 Requirements**

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- 5.1 There are no requirements as a result of the review.

## **6.0 Confirmation of Reports and Action Plan**

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- 6.1 The next external review of the extent to which WEIT is meeting the Specialist Service Standards will be scheduled as part of the regular three-yearly review cycle.

Thank you for the efficiency of your response to the review.



Ian Cocks

Manager Assurance and Eligibility

Date: 05.08.13