









MVEYP 2016-17 ACTION PLAN PROGRESS REPORT


ABSTRACT

The Moonee Valley Early Years Plan 2016-17 Action Plan Progress Report provides an overview of the achievements for Council, community and partners, advancing outcomes for children and families.

Theme 1: People – Inspire community connection, inclusion, support and participation of all children and families in Moonee Valley				
Strategies	Action Plan July 2016 - June 2017	Action Owner	Progress	Progress on deliverables
Strategic Objective 1: Create opportunities for children to be active citizens and influence how they live				
Key	 On track  Changes in timeline  Progress issue			
1.1.1 Strengthen our profile and understanding of a Child Friendly Moonee Valley to enhance children's participation in civic life.	Promote MVCC as a signatory to the Victorian Charter for Child Friendly Cities (CFC) and through this action plan progress the UN Convention of the Rights of the Child and UNICEF Child Friendly Cities Initiative.	MVCC Family and Children's Services		Council endorsed and became one of 14 Victorian Local Government signatories to the Victorian Child Friendly Cities and Communities Charter (September). The Charter and certificate were distributed to 25 Council early years services comprising over 230 staff and 2,000 children and families, demonstrating Council's commitment to the Charter.
	Coordinate activities during Children's Week 2016 to celebrate children's right to enjoy childhood and raise awareness on Article 17 of the UN Convention of the Rights of the Child 'Children's right to reliable information'.	MVCC Family and Children's Services		Council reached thousands of children across childcare, kindergarten, playgroup, libraries, toy libraries, leisure and community centres, families, parents, grandparents and the broader community. Successful partnerships delivered 27 events: 270 children from nine early years services at the Traffic School; 50 children and families at the Toy library messy play day; 85 participants at the Diwali festival of lights; 18 parents at the 'Raising digital children' presented by author and IT researcher Daniel Donahoo. Over 700 children and families participated in Council's 3 and 4 year old kindergarten programs and over 1,000 children in long day care embraced and celebrated Children's Week by actively engaging children in discussions, experience and activities.




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1.1.2 Value the voice of children and progress principles of best practice when talking with and listening to children.	Develop a Community Engagement Framework to improve effective engagement practices and opportunities for children to influence and inform Councils strategic direction and service delivery.	MVCC Community Planning		The Community Engagement Framework is being finalised to be endorsed by Council in 2017. A resource supporting inclusive engagement practices and encouraging opportunities for children's participation is being progressed and will be in 2018.
	Develop a project proposal for a staff-training module to share skills and knowledge of how to create opportunities for children to be active citizens and be part of decision-making.	MVCC Family and Children's Services		The project will be guided and informed by the Community Engagement Framework to support a coordinated program of community engagement and create opportunities for children to be active citizens.
1.1.3 Create experiences that involve, reflect and respond to children's needs and gives practical effect to their ideas and suggestions.	Design an evaluation framework for MVCC Family and Children's Services to incorporate children's views in planning for their learning and development.	MVCC Family and Children's Services		Evidence of children's agency informed program planning and service delivery. Children in services contributed to development of service philosophies; researched new equipment, compared prices and suitability via catalogues; reflected of the program through individual contributions to discussion at group time; used their own photos and 'what I learnt today' prompts to progress learning and development opportunities.
1.1.4 Understand children's interdependence on the world around them and foster their thinking and emerging independence.	Deliver professional learning for MVCC Family and Children's Services staff to strengthen cohesive and integrated approaches in implementing the Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework (VEYLDF), with a focus on children's learning and development outcomes in relation to identity and connections with community.	MVCC Family and Children's Services		The revised VEYLDF 2016 includes an Ecological Model and recognises children in the context of their family, cultural, community and broader environments. Approximately 150 early childhood staff attended professional learning sessions on the revised VEYLDF in early February 2017. The sessions strengthened staff understanding of new research and practice to guide their everyday work with over 700 children and families.




Strategies	Action Plan July 2016 - June 2017	Action Owner	Progress	Progress on deliverables
Strategic Objective 2: Advocate and provide for services and experiences that nurture and empower children and families				
1.2.1 Strengthen the role of parents as first educators to foster children's growth and development.	<p>Establish a coordinated program that links parents into a range of forums to encourage and develop the value of family wellbeing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Respectful relationships program o Parent talk: speech and development o Health and wellbeing o Literacy development 	<p>Baptcare Family Services</p> <p>cohealth</p> <p>MVCC Family and Children's Services</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Baptcare delivered 'Respectful Relationships' to 310 children at Ascot Vale West Primary School, with counselling, group work and trauma training delivered with staff. o Cohealth physiotherapist attended four sessions at different sites and provided information about women's health and early child development to approximately 120 new parents/families (New Parent Talk series, with Council's Parent Strengthening team). o Cohealth provided two multi-disciplinary drop-in information sessions monthly for parents and families. Creepy Crawlies for children birth-18months at Avondale Heights Library; Walkie Talkies for children 18months-5 years at Rhonda Davis Early Years Centre with Maternal Child Health (MCH) staff and Preschool Field Officer attending. Sessions were very well attended with up to 15 families. o Casual conversation: 'the 6 month talk', continues to be provided by MCH nurses in new parent groups, approximately every seven weeks, when babies reach 6 months of age. o The Royal Children's Hospital Community Paediatric Fellow was based fortnightly at Hopetoun Early Years Centre. This provided families residing in the Wingate and Hopetoun estates with improved access to services including referral for comprehensive health and development review.



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	Continue to seek, promote, encourage, foster and strengthen partnerships that will extend the reach of the library service and provide additional benefits to library users.	MVCC Libraries		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Libraries provided 600 early years and 51 outreach sessions for children birth-4 years with an audience of 20,313 children and 17,444 adults at: Baby Rhyme time (to 18 months), Toddler Time (18 months-3 years), Preschool Storytime (3-5 years) and targeted outreach. Children were introduced to sound, rhythm, movement, language and wide selection of picture books and stories. Parents were encouraged in their role as child's first educator to prepare children for primary school through developing listening, reading and fine motor skills. ○ 960 families registered their child for the '1000 Books Before School' program since launching on 14 November 2016, paving the way for children's success in school. ○ The library subscribed to online resources engaging children's love of learning and improved literacy skills. 'Busythings', a learning resource targeting preschooler creative development, problem-solving, numeracy, communication and literacy. 'Tumblebooks', provided interactive picture books. 'Connect: Early Childhood' provided links to websites to help parents encourage their young children to read, learn, think, play and create.



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1.2.2 Advocate and sustain responsive community and facilitated early years activities and services.	Implement a communications and literacy place-based approach in Flemington targeting children aged 0-5 to boost children's language and skills through play.	co-health/ Jesuit Family Services MVCC Family and Children's Services		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Flemington literacy approach fostering children's language was implemented through the Parent-Child Mother Goose program at Hopetoun Early Years Centre, strengthening relationships between children and parents. Cohealth built on children's language using rhymes, songs and storytelling in the toddler's literacy playgroup at Debney Meadows Primary School. Between five to 15 families with children requiring additional support for speech attended each Wednesday during school term. The Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) Project surveyed hard to reach families and explored culturally responsive playgroup opportunities to support babies, toddlers and young children's learning and development leading to increased participation in kindergarten services for families in Flemington.
	Provide over 2,500 high quality, educational, fun toys and equipment to Moonee Valley families to support children's play based learning.	Moonee Valley Toy Library		There were 7,388 loans of high quality, educational and fun toys and equipment. Provision of additional resources enable access for a greater number of families and children to laugh and learn through play. 1380 members have joined since opening six years ago with an active borrowing membership of 412 families.
	Deliver the second year of the three year 'Transitioning Supported Playgroups' partnership project for newly arrived or isolated families to gain the skills and confidence to transition to a community playgroup.	Playgroup Victoria		The ongoing partnership between Playgroup Victoria, MVCC, Cities of Melton and Wyndham delivered the 'Transitioning Supported Playgroups' project. In Moonee Valley, the Farsi/Dari playgroup broadened its reach to become the 'Welcome playgroup'. Approx. 10 families and 14 children participated during the project. Families were assisted to transition from supported facilitation to a self-managed community playgroup. Playgroup Victoria will provide a detailed evaluation of the project in September 2017, supporting future transitions from facilitated to community playgroups.



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	Explore opportunities to establish community playgroups that respond to 2nd and 3rd time parents and children, including opportunities to transition from playgroup to child care/ kindergarten.	Playgroup Victoria		Playgroup Victoria continued to progress exploring community playgroup options that respond to identified and emerging needs.
	Deliver the 'Begin with Books' program to all children at the four month maternal and child health visit to foster parents understanding of the importance of early years literacy	MVCC Family and Children's Services and MVCC Libraries		1,411 book bags were given to new parents in Moonee Valley by the MCH nurse at the four-month visit to promote and encourage literacy and lifelong learning. Each 'bag' contained a board book and information about libraries. An additional 257 board books were handed out by library staff to new parents at the libraries. The new '1000 Books Before School' program, registered 960 families since November 2016.
1.2.3 Support parents during family transitions and stresses to effectively protect and nurture children.	Provide an early years program for preschool age children and families to participate in a school environment, to smoothly transition into to school.	St Brendan's Primary School		In partnership with Victoria University, St Brendan's Primary School, progressed the early years initiative 'Kinda Kinder' at the school and 15-20 preschool children attended 1 ½ hour weekly sessions. The initiative focused on making a difference for local children and provided educational experiences in the school environment for children to explore and develop skills before entering school. It's ongoing development continues to enrich the program.
	Establish a panel of speakers to inform parents about how to support children to smoothly transition from service to service to promote better outcomes for children and families.	MVCC Family and Children's Services		Options for a parent forum with a panel of speakers is planned for 2017.


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	Provide information to kindergarten families about their child's learning and development. Share this information between early years services and schools to support a smooth transition for children and families into school.	MVCC Family and Children's Services Playgroup Victoria		Approaches used to share information, included: learning tools, learning stories, children's journals, artwork and stories documenting each child's journey. Throughout the year, they were available for families to view and given at the end of the year to share with the school. More formal parent teacher interviews were held throughout the year, as required, particularly terms three and four. Informal daily conversations were held with families to discuss children's individual learning and development needs. Moonee Valley hosted 'Transition: A Positive Start to School Workshop' in May 2017 for 30 professionals, strengthening connections between early childhood services and schools. A focus was encouraging the use of evidence based resources to support work with children and families as they transition into school.
1.2.4 Provide proactive, timely and optimal support for children to meet their development and wellbeing needs	Support enhanced learning and development outcomes for children through improved staff practice aligned with National Quality Standards and Quality Assurance.	MVCC Family and Children's Services		From 36 childcare and kindergartens, 14 Council and 11 non-Council services achieved 'exceeding' rating. Three Council and 10 non-Council services achieved 'meeting' rating for National Quality Standards assessment. Feedback on quality areas included: educators consistently implemented the VEYLDF; curriculum decisions responded to children's individual interests and abilities; improved children's learning and development outcomes. Environments for children were assessed as welcoming, vibrant and flexible learning spaces.
	Progress the ISO Certification Project for Integrated Family Services to provide high quality best practice for vulnerable children and families.	MVCC Family and Children's Services		ISO certification was reaffirmed following the external audit in February 2017. Family Services underwent an internal review and is exploring a responsive, wrap around model considering Government policy 'Roadmap to Reform'.



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	Progress Council's advocacy agenda for children with additional needs.	MVCC Family and Children's Services		Stage two of an outcomes framework progressed a workshop to identify priority areas, with a summary developed to guide directions of the project.
	Incorporate Child Safe Standards into policies and practices to embed an organisational culture of child safety.	MVCC Family and Children's Services		Council responded to its commitment to the safety and protection of children in our community with a review and update to the staff Code of Conduct, development of a Child Safe Standards Policy, Checklist and Guidelines.
Strategic Objective 3: Enrich the health and wellbeing of a safe, friendly and connected community				
1.3.1 Influence perceptions and enhance safety in public areas to positively affect community connections and wellbeing.	Progress City of Moonee Valley's Pan Pacific Safe Communities (PPSC) accreditation, by developing child friendly urban environments that contribute positively to the development of a child's happiness and wellbeing.	MVCC Community Planning		Moonee Valley is one of four Australian representatives on the PPSC Network Board and the only Australian local government (in the past 6 years) to achieve PPSC accreditation. 'Safe Places' was one of four key action areas of the Moonee Valley Community Safety Program 2015-2020. This area supported successful grant applications, upgraded a number of parks and reserves, improved amenity, play and activation. Road safety progress was achieved enhancing safety around schools, shopping centres and age friendly streetscapes for children and families.



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	Develop the Integrated Transport Strategy (ITS) to support initiatives such as walking and other recreation that encourages children and families to exercise outdoors.	MVCC Traffic and Transport		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The new Draft ITS will be progressed following the initial MV2040 consultations. The proposed six themes: Walking, Integrated transport policy, behaviour change and land use planning, Cycling, Public transport, Governance & advocacy and Motorised traffic & car parking, align well with the 'Child Friendly Cities and Communities' principles. ○ The four overarching objectives are to 1) Reduce car dependency, 2) Vision Zero (i.e. reduce road trauma to zero), 3) Make the sustainable choice the easy choice and 4) Create vibrant streets. ○ It is anticipated the objectives and the actions encourage active travel and increase instances of incidental exercise to enhance safety for children and families and strengthen community connections.
	Implement the 'Better Moves Around Schools' (BMAS) program and safe drop off/pick up zones to improve traffic flow and create a safer environment for children.	MVCC Traffic and Transport		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The BMAS was implemented at Ave Maria College, Strathmore North Primary School, Our Lady's of Nativity Catholic Primary School and included: park, walk, active path signage, line-marking, pick up and drop off zones and mini grants. Feedback reported increased driver awareness and best practice at drop off zones and improved child and family safety at schools in peak times of traffic. ○ The MAV identified the BMAS program as an example of best practice in local government. ○ Action A10a in the draft ITS commits Council to 'expanding BMAS, leveraging off best practice travel behaviour change principles to encourage safe, sustainable travel'.






Strategies	Action Plan July 2016 - June 2017	Action Owner	Progress	Progress on deliverables
1.3.2 Encourage initiatives in local business and community activities that promote access to healthy food choices and improve physical lifestyle.	Promote children's healthy eating across early years services with a focus on portion size and healthy weight ranges.	MVCC Family and Children's Services		Initiatives supporting a healthy start in life for children included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Key health promotion messages displayed that spoke about portion size and the 'parents provide, kids decide message' on health promotion boards ○ The Moonee Valley Health tracker project commenced distribution of healthy eating and portion size information across early years services.
	Continue to deliver the My Smart Garden community education workshops to children and families that encourage local and sustainable food production.	MVCC Environment		Workshops delivered to children and families included 'Lizard Lounges' and 'Butterfly Baths', 'Worm farming for kids', Mini forest garden and edible garden working bee. 5 Smart Garden events engaged 220 local residents, including families and children. The Our Schools Environment Network, provided professional development and networking four times during the year, with around 50 teachers attending. The Smarter Buildings program engaged all of the children's centres, highlighting sustainable features such as solar panels, tanks, water savings and shared educational activities to the educators for children's programming.




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	Partner with the Ascot Vale and East Keilor Leisure Centres to offer both structured and casual leisure and learning activities for children and families.	MVCC Leisure Facilities		Partnership with the Leisure Centres encouraged child participation in programs. More than 10,000 children participated in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teen gym: 13-16yo supervised gym Learn to Swim: swimming and water safety program Intensive swim program- during school holidays Vic Swim introduced in January 2016 and hosted again in 2017, funded swim programs in partnership with Aquatic Recreation Victoria during school holidays Aqua play group for 0-6 months
	Encourage and develop children's skills for safe cycling at the Essendon Traffic School.	MVCC Leisure Facilities		There were 182 education sessions delivered (30 children each) with a total of 5,460 children who participated, together with 215 sessions delivered in private hire (30 children each), totaling 6,450 children. Public session attendance on Saturday mornings included 885 children and school holidays 1,014 children. The number of children participating in Traffic School activities and improving their safe cycling skills during the year totaled 13,809.

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1.3.3 Respond to the prevalence of mental health issues and promote positive mental health for children and families.	Implement targeted strategies, including parenting groups and supported playgroups that respond to the emerging needs of children and families.	Cohealth Playgroup Victoria Caroline Chisholm Society Baptcare Family Services		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The new parent group program continued to provide a strong platform for engaging new parents. Families from Wingate and Flemington Housing Estates increased attendance. All of the groups from playgroups confirmed involvement when MCH revisit for the 6 month talks. ○ Debney Meadows Primary School literacy group was well attended and provided learning and literacy skills to families and children in the local area. ○ The Welcome Playgroup (this was the Farsi/Dari Playgroup) completed its third year of the pilot project. While the participant numbers continued to fluctuate, the group continues. Playgroup Victoria evaluated the project, with the report expected October 2017. ○ The new Essendon Early Parenting Hub opened, provided services and responded to the emerging needs of vulnerable families. Caroline Chisholm Society were successfully funded to provide the Children and Mother in Mind family violence demonstration project, in partnership with McAuley Community Services for Women, to provide parenting groups as a key part of the service delivery model. ○ The Kinship Carer's Support Group, co-facilitated by Anglicare, commenced (August) and provided much needed support to 10 kinship carers each month.


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1.3.4 Build on our community's sense of place and belonging, generate neighbourhood activities and encourage local identity and civic pride.	Deliver a Moonee Valley Community Grant recognition and information event that builds capacity and provides networking opportunities for the community organisations supporting children and families.	MVCC Community Planning		The inaugural Moonee Valley Grants Partnership Forum (29 July 2016), attracted over 80 community representatives including organisations supporting children and families. The forum recognised and celebrated achievements in the local community, inspired through case studies and success stories, shared information about the Moonee Valley Grants Program and promoted the value of collaborative partnerships.
	Promote and encourage the participation of children and families in the key events such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ My Smart Garden programs ○ Crown Street Stables activation program. 	MVCC Environment MVCC Community Strengthening		Families participated in: My Smart Garden workshops: Clean Up Australia Day, National Tree day, National Composting Week. The School Environment Network and Smarter Buildings program continued to educate children and families about sustainable approaches to learning and living. In the lead up to and during Reconciliation and NAIDOC Week, Crown Street stables hosted cultural storytelling sessions. 47 children from local child care and kindergarten services enjoyed the wonder and value of Indigenous stories.



Theme 2: Places – Stimulate design in child and family friendly spaces for learning, play, leisure, celebration and getting about in Moonee Valley				
Strategies	Action Plan July 2016 - June 2017	Action Owner	Progress	Progress on deliverables
Strategic Objective 1: Celebrate and enhance the green, clean and beautiful features of Moonee Valley				
2.1.1 Apply urban ecology principles to public spaces that promote adventurous spaces and sensory experiences for children.	Consult on and finalise the master plan for the Moonee Ponds Creek linear park that considers Water Sensitive Urban Design, active transport and path connections for all users, including children and families.	MVCC Urban Design and Open Space		The Master plan gathered ideas and views from the community at the Moonee Valley Festival and continues to be developed based on feedback received from the community, key stakeholders and in line with the MV2040 consultations. The draft will be presented for further consideration and consultation with the community.
	Implement the Greening program, consider children's connection to the natural environment and increase natural play opportunities for children in Council's neighbourhood and local parks.	MVCC Operations MVCC Urban Design and Open Space		Six playgrounds were identified for upgrades during the year to improve the safety and amenity for children and families. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Muriel Street Playground Niddrie o Clarinda Park Essendon o KT Smith Reserve Strathmore o Cliff Allison Reserve Essendon o Weather station Reserve Airport West o HW Cousins Reserve Ascot Vale o Albert Wallis Reserve Ascot Vale o Hanson Etzel Reserve Airport West




Strategies	Action Plan July 2016 - June 2017	Action Owner	Progress	Progress on deliverables
2.1.2 Promote understanding and prioritise sustainable features across early years services, programs and public areas.	Finalise construction of the Airport West Green Spine (harvest and reuse water for community initiatives such as orchards and gardens) to strengthen children's understanding of the natural environment.	MVCC Urban Design and Open Space		Construction is currently underway and expected to be completed in early 2018.
	Prioritise sustainable features in the remodelled Avondale Heights Community Precinct.	MVCC Urban Design and Open Space MVCC Environment	 	The planning for the Avondale Heights precinct is being determined in line with the development of Council's Community Facility Asset Management Planning framework. The 'Smarter Buildings project' was implemented across all early learning centres to increase staff, child and family awareness of building sustainability features. Staff and children will be engaged to maximise the environmental benefits of those features - through conscious behaviour.
2.1.3 Strengthen children's ambassadorship in local parks, playgrounds, reserves and waterways.	Progress the Queens Park Rain Garden playground upgrade to provide a broader play environment for children.	MVCC Urban Design and Open Space		The Queens Park Rain Garden and associated children's playspace concept will be further developed in 2017/18 and consulted on with the community.
	Promote the Junior Rangers program and benefits of children's active care of and involvement with the natural environment.	MVCC Libraries		Children and families benefited from the Junior Rangers program, increasing their understanding and knowledge of the local environment. There were a total of 231 kit loans throughout the year: 41 individual loans and 195 school group loans. Promotion of the program continued through Valley View, Environment Newsletter and the Schools Environment Network.



Strategies	Action Plan July 2016 - June 2017	Action Owner	Progress	Progress on deliverables
Strategic Objective 2: Generate child-friendly neighbourhoods and public spaces that encourage active and independent children				
2.2.1 Advocate and generate a child friendly and intergenerational response to urban design and the natural and built environment.	Deliver new and upgraded sports facilities to the community that cater for and encourage participation of all ages, including children and families.	MVCC Sport and Recreation		<p>Council endorsed the revised Pavilion Redevelopment Plan.</p> <p>Pavilion progressed included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Aberfeldie Park Pavilion – handover complete ○ Lebanon Pavilion – construction complete ○ Fairbairn Park Pavilion - turning of sod ○ Minor internal upgrade at Debneys Pavilion - complete ○ Boeing baseball, Ormond Pavilions – applications with Statutory Planning ○ Boeing Community and Aberfeldie Community Club – in design phase ○ Cross Keys Pavilion – architectural contract awarded.
	Undertake application for Age Friendly City Accreditation, incorporating relevant community/child friendly principles that support issues of access and social inclusion, to align with the launch of the new Healthy Ageing Strategy.	MVCC Community Strengthening		<p>Council received funding from the Municipal Association of Victoria in 2016 to deliver a streetscape tool kit. The tool kit incorporates the World Health Organisation (WHO) principle that if design features are age friendly, they are also child friendly. Council is currently completing mapping and service reviews and implementation of the National Aged Reforms and NDIS (inclusive of children with a disability who have a permanent lifelong disability) which will take precedence over the active application for Aged Friendly City Accreditation (refer to 17/18, 3.2.1).</p>
2.2.2 Progress the Complete Street principles to rethink, re-prioritise and reorder streets to encourage public transport, safe walking and cycling.	Implement key projects to enhance the safety of all road users, including children and families in the municipality.	MVCC Traffic and Transport		<p>The Transport Safety Strategy, (adopted 2016), embedded the 'Vision Zero' approach that aimed to reduce to zero the amount of road trauma on the road and transport networks.</p>



Strategies	Action Plan July 2016 - June 2017	Action Owner	Progress	Progress on deliverables
	Ensure the Essendon Junction and Airport West Structure Plans utilise Complete Streets Principles as well as promote more active use of public space for children and families.	MVCC Strategic Planning		The Airport West Structure Plan is currently under review and the Essendon Junction Structure Plan adopted by Council. Both plans seek to improve and expand open space within the centres as well as improve the public realm, including streets for people.
2.2.3 Identify opportunities to activate public space that supports children's creativity, independence and the freedom to safely explore.	Implement: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 'My Smart Garden' program community education workshops to encourage children's involvement and understanding of local and sustainable food production. 'Better Moves Around Schools' program to improve traffic, safety and parking management and encourage walking, cycling and the use of public transport when children and families are travelling to and from school. 	<div>MVCC Environment</div> <div>MVCC Traffic and Transport</div>	 	<p>My Smart Garden newsletters contained a range of educational information for children and families which included: tree planting, tips, seasonal cooking, competition, sending food waste to earth trial and celebrating achievements.</p> <p>Action A10a in the draft ITS commits Council to 'expanding BMAS, leveraging off best practice travel behaviour change principles to encourage safe, sustainable travel'.</p>
Strategic Objective 3: promote and create access and opportunity for all, to foster a vibrant and diverse community				
2.3.1 Learn about, represent, promote and celebrate the diversity of our community to support access and equity through urban design.	Complete park master plans that reflect the needs of local residents and users, including children and families for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AJ Davis Reserve Woodlands Park 	MVCC Urban Design and Open Space		Master plan consultations for AJ Davis Reserve, Woodlands Park and Salmon Reserve, Buckley Park, Overland Reserve and Clifton Park incorporated a broad range of views from the community with Council endorsement expected in 2017.




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2.3.2 Recognise the changing growth and development of children; and design outdoor play spaces that inspires and values access for all.	<p>Upgrade play opportunities for children of all ages and abilities at the following parks and reserves in line with the Playspace Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Muriel Street Playground ○ Clarinda Park ○ Debneys Park West ○ KT Smith Reserve ○ Cliff Allison Reserve ○ Weather Station Reserve ○ HW Cousins Reserve ○ Albert Wallis Reserve ○ Hansen Etzel Reserve (north) ○ Construct regional playspace: Riverside Park upgrade as part of the Maribymong River Master Plan. 	<p>MVCC Urban Design and Open Space</p> <p>MVCC Operations</p>		<p>Designs were progressed or completed and incorporate access for all abilities to facilitate accessible play opportunities for children and upgrade works are in progress to provide places and spaces for children of all abilities to learn and develop.</p>




Strategies	Action Plan July 2016 - June 2017	Action Owner	Progress	Progress on deliverables
2.3.3 Understand the emerging changes of how we live, challenge assumptions and encourage inclusive and multiple use of places and spaces.	Plan for and incorporate child friendly and intergenerational features, inclusive and multiple uses of places in the Avondale Heights Community Precinct.	MVCC Cultural Development		The planning for the Avondale Heights precinct is being determined in line with Council's Community Facility Asset Management Planning.
	Display the Rainbow Families posters and promote Rainbow families resources at Council's Family and Children's facilities including Maternal and Child Health Centres, kindergarten and long day care, libraries and appropriate aged and disability managed venues.	MVCC Community Planning		Additional Rainbow Families posters, developed in 2016 displaying the Moonee Valley logo, were distributed to a range of facilities, including libraries and early years services and during events such as the Moonee Valley Festival and the North West Melbourne Inclusion Expo held at Windy Hill Social Club in May 2017, attended by a broad range of local early years services.




Theme 3: Partnerships – Motivate innovation in how people and agencies work together to create a child friendly Moonee Valley				
Strategies	Action Plan July 2016 - June 2017	Action Owner	Progress	Progress on deliverables
Strategic Objective 1: Pursue excellence in governance to plan and advocate for and with children and families				
3.1.1 Create opportunities to encourage children and families deeper civic involvement to instill a high level of community respect and confidence.	Implement Council's primary school governance program for children to learn more about their rights, government protection and generate a greater understanding of the role and function of Local Government.	MVCC Councillor Support		Programs were delivered to primary school children by the Mayor, encouraging children's understanding of Local Government and the value of civic engagement of all ages. The Mayor, Cr. Andrea attended and presented at St Vincent's Catholic Primary School (70 students), Council Chambers. Resurrection House (29 students).
3.1.2 Promote and progress an advocacy agenda that aligns the Federal and State Government agenda for the benefit of our local community.	Implement the Early Intervention and Prevention Partnership Group (EIPPG) action plan to improve partnerships and responses that support vulnerable children and families.	MVCC Family and Children's Services		Council's early years staff have been engaged and information gathered about the role of staff identifying and working with vulnerable children. An evaluation framework has been developed and baseline data has informed an implementation Action Plan focused on supporting earlier identification and improved education, health and wellbeing outcomes for all children.
	Support community participation and action to prevent violence against women and children including: program and service delivery and development of a cross Council governance structure to guide a coordinated approach.			Includes: program and service delivery and development of a cross Council governance structure to guide a coordinated approach. Education, research and policy is increasing understanding and commitment to prevent violence against women/families. More structured approaches have been implemented in relevant services (eg MCH, Family Services) to support earlier identification of potential concerns and introduce preventative/early intervention strategies.

Strategies	Action Plan July 2016 - June 2017	Action Owner	Progress	Progress on deliverables
	Implement advocacy activities through the Metropolitan Transport Forum (MTF) and Western Transport Forum (WTF) to support safe and active travel of children and families.	MVCC Traffic and Transport		Through attending MTF and WTA meetings, Council has benefited from the sharing of information regarding key strategic transport projects including the level crossing removal program, the Melbourne Metro Rail project, the Western Distributor project, bus route reviews and the Hoddle Street Upgrade project.
3.1.3 Coordinate and facilitate support for services and the community to navigate government policies and frameworks.	<p>Review existing operations and implement changes to support continuous improvement in service delivery for children and families including the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ VEYLDF ○ Central Registration System <p>Regional School Improvement Plan – Priority 1 – aiding school readiness</p>	<p>MVCC Family and Children's Services</p> <p>Department of Education and Training</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 'Reflective Learning Circles', a professional learning program (over six sessions) focused on the VEYLDF implemented in the first semester 2017 for educational leaders and kindergarten teachers. Each session explored a contemporary early childhood education concept, engaged participants in reading, discussion and reflection on practice to develop and improve children's educational outcomes. ○ Full implementation of the online parent portal to streamline and improve access to kindergarten commenced for 2018 registrations. Each year around 1250 families register for kindergarten services.



Strategies	Action Plan July 2016 - June 2017	Action Owner	Progress	Progress on deliverables
3.1.4 Facilitate and/or participate in key strategic partnerships to build relationships and progress a coordinated approach to what we do.	Facilitate key networks/ programs that support a coordinated response for children and families including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Early Years Reference Group (EYRG) Council's Protecting Vulnerable Children's Network Western Melbourne Child and Family Services Alliance (WMC&FS) Exec Group (Child First) 	MVCC Family and Children's Services Early Years Reference Group (EYRG) Anglicare		Key priorities for the early years sector, presented to and discussed with the EYRG included the National Disability Insurance Scheme, Roadmap to Reform and Child Safe Standards. Moonee Valley is a key player on all levels of the Western Melbourne Child and Family Services Alliance (Child First) Alliance and participated in regular meetings and responded to all requests to improve outcomes for vulnerable children and families.
	Support lifelong learning for children and families through community governance structures including the Principal's Breakfast (with Primary and Secondary School representation) and Neighbourhood and Community Centre Coordination.	MVCC Family and Children's Services		The Principal's Breakfast continued to provide an important networking opportunity for primary and secondary school principals and Council. A transport panel of three speakers delivered presentations and held discussions with principals and Councillors at the Principal's Breakfast in November.


Strategies	Action Plan July 2016 - June 2017	Action Owner	Progress	Progress on deliverables
	Implement cross-promotional activities between Council's services to deliver workshops to groups, clubs and organisations on relevant social issues affecting children and families.	MVCC Sport and Recreation		Active8 took place in 2016 with over 2,500 people signing up to make healthier lifestyle choices. Three Club Development workshops were delivered, including two handling session (in partnership with Public Health) and one Incorporated body information session (in partnership with Economic Development). The Little Kids Big Day Out (a children's focused event) and Valley Vibes (a music event aimed at all ages) both took place in parks in Moonee Valley. The Active Utility attended a variety of programs providing free sporting activities for the community. The Girls AFL 9's pre-season challenge also took place in March 2017.
Strategic Objective 2: Coordinate and align services and facilities that encourage an integrated and responsive approach				
3.2.1 Strengthen service connections, interdepartmental planning and local actions that streamline and enhance participation in quality services.	Review and update service plans that align with the MVEYP 2014-22 and actions: honour children, empower families, foster social connection and promote strong partnerships in Moonee Valley.	MVCC Family and Children's Services		Training (in December) and service planning tools, progressed knowledge and use of data to inform Family and Children's Services Service Infrastructure Planning. The MVCC Family and Children's Services Infrastructure Profile was finalised to identify longer term requirements for Council facilities to accommodate early years services.
	Implement the Multicultural Action Plan to support active participation of children and families in the local community.	MVCC Community Planning		Three community engagement events were delivered during Cultural Diversity Week. These included the Mediterranean Fiesta, Harmony Day Morning Tea and the Outdoor Cinema. Specific activities were held for children and families. The Diversity, Access and Equity Policy continues to be implemented, with the Multicultural Action Plan to be integrated into the MV2040 Plan and engagement activities (which will include children and families) will be planned throughout 2017.


Strategies	Action Plan July 2016 - June 2017	Action Owner	Progress	Progress on deliverables
	Implement the Reconciliation Policy and Action Plan 2016-18. Continue to respect, recognise and build relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families.	MVCC Community Planning		<p>The annual NAIDOC Week Flag Raising Ceremony held in July was attended by approximately 200 people, including children from MILD and Flemington Street Children's Centre.</p> <p>Children's activities took place around Reconciliation and NAIDOC Week including children's storytelling at Crown Street Stables, Wurundjeri story time at Avondale Heights Library and family craft activities at the Incinerator Gallery.</p> <p>Training was provided for early years staff in Aboriginal Cultural Appreciation through Girraway Ganyi Consulting. Additional training sessions are being planned for all MVCC, including new early years staff.</p>
	Deliver the North and West Metropolitan Koolin Balit Project, focusing on improving access to health services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families.	Inner North West Primary Care Partnership MVCC Community Planning		<p>Koolin Balit Partnership meetings were held throughout 2016/2017 and resources, activities and events were promoted resulting in increased knowledge and broader participation.</p>
	Implement actions within the Disability Action Plan (DAP) – Year 3 and Healthy Ageing Strategy – Year 5 that focus on children and families.	MVCC Community Strengthening		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Key actions implemented included: Taking a leadership role in demonstrating inclusion at Festivals event and activities; finalising the Inclusive Practice Guide - 'Include Everyone' to support and inform practice; and developing a training plan for the roll out of the guide. ○ 4 editions of the Disability Services Newsletter were published during the year, which provided families information about services and programs and included 'Concession corner'. ○ Approximately 30 carers of children with a disability (autism) were offered a school holiday respite program called Adventures Are Us.



Strategies	Action Plan July 2016 - June 2017	Action Owner	Progress	Progress on deliverables
	Develop and implement the Community Safety Action Plan 2016/17 with input from the Community Safety Stakeholder Group, the Early Years Reference Group.	MVCC Community Planning		The Moonee Valley Community Safety Program 2015-2020 worked co-operatively across key areas of Council and shared priorities. Quarterly meetings were attended well with community representatives and key health and safety stakeholders in attendance. The Community Safety Action Plan is progressing. Following review of community safety networks, the Community Safety Stakeholder Group continues with broad and strong participation and a new local Family Violence Network has commenced.
	Implement the Moonee Valley Arts and Culture Plan 2014 - 2018 and actions that progress the participation of children and families.	MVCC Cultural Development		See 3.2.3 and 3.3.4
3.2.2 Integrate learning experiences across the early years sector and support parents and children as they transition to new services.	Strengthen pedagogical practice, including the implementation of the Abecedarian Approach Australia (3a) across different early years settings to enhance children's learning, intentional teaching and partnerships with families.	MVCC Family and Children's Services		Educators at Flemington Street Children's Centre were trained as 3a practitioners to support sustained implementation. Broader implementation of the 3a Practice Program commenced in early 2017 and uses a neighbourhood based multidisciplinary practitioner approach. Preliminary results show a positive shift in educator practice where interactions with children are intentional and educational specifically supporting children's language development.


Strategies	Action Plan July 2016 - June 2017	Action Owner	Progress	Progress on deliverables
3.2.3 Build partnerships and generate opportunities with the community and local business to implement family friendly initiatives.	Strengthen the capacity of local community organisations supporting children and families to contribute to their wellbeing through provision of the Moonee Valley Grants Program.	MVCC Community Planning		Round 1 of the 2016/17 Moonee Valley Biannual Grants program opened for applications on 12 July and closed on 16 August. Round 2 opened 7 February – 14 March 2017. A range of projects were supported that actively engaged and supported children and families: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Flemington Childcare Co-operative - creation of a native garden o Life Saving Victoria - aquatic education to primary children o Ascot Vale PS - accessible sensory garden o Ascot Vale West PS - multicultural summer night festival o St John Ambulance - first aid in schools program o GRACE: West Melbourne Families Against Domestic Violence Inc. - support for women and children affected by domestic violence.
	Deliver education programs for children and families at the Incinerator Gallery including 'Arty Tales', school programs and arts history.	MVCC Cultural Development		'Arty Tales' introduced 3-5 year olds to the world of the art gallery through story and artistic play and ran bi-monthly in 2016, increasing to monthly sessions in 2017. School Holiday programs offered to children 4-12 years included: 'Trash Puppets', Face Painting by Children and The Art of Play-Sculpture, designed specifically for early learners. Several Council kindergartens participated in the education program, visited the gallery for a tour and art making workshop. An outreach art making activity occurred at Coronation Kindergarten followed by an exhibition of the children's work at the Incinerator Gallery.
	Implement diverse experiences, incursions and excursions within kindergarten and long day care programs to foster children's understanding and connection with their local community.	MVCC Family and Children's Services		Children from a range of early years services broadened their experiences with excursions to: the Incinerator Gallery, National Gallery of Victoria, local parks and shops. Incursions included: drama performances, music and movement classes conducted by local artists. Kindergarten staff worked with schools to provide transitions programs to assist kindergarten children moving to primary school. Staff also worked with secondary schools and provided students with the opportunity to spend time volunteering in kindergartens.

Strategies	Action Plan July 2016 - June 2017	Action Owner	Progress	Progress on deliverables
3.2.4 Progress integrated facility and community precinct planning that supports innovative design for lifelong learning, health and wellbeing.	<p>Develop and implement integrated models of service delivery and facility planning for children and families including the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Western Metropolitan Community Service Hub Concept design and integrated governance model for next stage of Avondale Heights Community Precinct Council's long term facility, asset management and precinct planning 	<p>Caroline Chisholm Society</p> <p>MVCC Infrastructure</p> <p>MVCC Community Planning</p>	<p></p> <p></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The construction of the new Essendon Early Parenting Hub was completed, with the official opening taking place 4 March 2017. The facility comprises multi-functional spaces: 6-9 counselling rooms, specialist homelessness program, playgroups, psychological, legal and financial support. With MV2040, there has been a shift from precinct planning to neighbourhoods to improve resident access to local activity, services, retail and parks. Council's long term Community Facility Asset Management Planning will incorporate this new focus and relevant plans, such as the Avondale Heights precinct timelines adjusted. Current planning for Niddrie Library focusses on demand, opportunities for co-location, new service delivery models and future planning.

Strategies	Action Plan July 2016 - June 2017	Action Owner	Progress	Progress on deliverables
Strategic Objective 3: Foster robust partnerships to share information, knowledge, data, resources and celebrate achievement				
3.3.1 Establish information, provide advice and/or referral so that families understand and can access the right services at the right time.	<p>Review and update information available for families and establish new ways of promoting relevant services for children including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review and align Council's Early Years Guide and website with the MVEYP's broadened scope of pregnancy to 12 years. Social media including the Maternal and Child Health Facebook: increase parent knowledge and enhance outcomes for children. Integrated Family Services intake, assessment and referral service to ensure support vulnerable/at risk families. Western Metropolitan Child and Family Services Alliance Allocations Group (Child First) to ensure priority of access to vulnerable/at risk families. 	<p>MVCC Family and Children's Services</p> <p>Anglicare</p>	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The early years guide was completed with a broadened scope from pregnancy – 12 years and distributed to a range of early years services and organisations. The MCH Facebook page continued to grow in reach and participation, with the greatest response received for current newsworthy items. Family Services actively participated in the Child FIRST Alliance, accepted and progressed all referrals for Moonee Valley families. Family Services received additional State Government funding to provide family violence support to families and a temporary part time worker commenced in this role, January. Family Services reviewed case-load allocations that promoted a more responsive approach and resulted in more families accessing support. Key health promotion messages were shared to increase community awareness of issues included: obesity, healthy weight range and nutrition and safety campaigns 'Do not leave children in cars' and 'It's not okay to shake babies'. 	

Strategies	Action Plan July 2016 - June 2017	Action Owner	Progress	Progress on deliverables
3.3.2 Improve our knowledge and understanding to enable evidence-based practice that supports the best start in life for children.	<p>Implement relevant research and development opportunities for staff to improve learning outcomes for children and families including the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Melbourne University Master of Teaching student placement program in local kindergartens and long day care services to progress knowledge in contemporary theory, practice and pedagogy. ○ Victorian Advancing Early Learning Study to enhance educator knowledge and skills in every day practice, relationships with children, families and other educators. ○ Council's training matrix pilot for kindergarten staff to maximise learning opportunities for the benefit of children and families. 	<p>MVCC Family and Children's Services</p> <p>University of Melbourne</p> <p>Department of Education of Training</p> <p>MVCC Family and Children's Services</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Research and practice in Council and community education and care services was supported through Master of Teaching student placements. The program provided placements to 22 Year 1 and 2 pre-service students in contemporary theory, practice, pedagogy and have been supported in mentoring. ○ Implementation of the VAEL study (Abecedarian Approach Australia-3a) in partnership with the University of Melbourne at Flemington Street Children's Centre concluded in December 2016. A final VAEL Study Report is due in 2017. ○ Three council staff reached 3a affiliate trainer status in September and have trained 27 3a practitioners. The pedagogical practice focusses on conversational reading and learning games to improve children's language in vocabulary and concept development. ○ The training matrix for kindergarten staff to maximise learning opportunities for children is under development with an early draft document completed.

Strategies	Action Plan July 2016 - June 2017	Action Owner	Progress	Progress on deliverables
3.3.3 Encourage a coordinated approach to training and skills development that enables continuous improvement of quality early years services.	Identify and implement professional development opportunities for family and children's services staff to strengthen shared learning on the Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework and increase knowledge of best practice to achieve positive outcomes for children and families.	MVCC Family and Children's Services		<p>Shared learning on the updated VEYLDF progressed during the regular quarterly training with approximately 70 educators and further training with MCH nurses, which enhanced knowledge of the framework and best practice for children and families.</p> <p>36 Council staff, including 23 early child educators, attended a day workshop on Children's Rights; 36 staff attended supporting children's self-regulation; 25 staff attended digital technology for assessment; 64 staff attended building children's sense of identity and a 2 hour Technology workshop was presented.</p>
3.3.4 Facilitate and/or participate in activities and events that promote and celebrate the achievements of our community.	Finalise and implement activities including the Inclusive Practice Guide to improve community access, including children and families to Council events and programs.	<p>MVCC Community Strengthening</p> <p>MVCC Family and Children's Services</p>		<p>The Inclusive Practice Guide has been completed and distributed broadly and informs how access to events and programs can be improved for children, families and the community.</p> <p>The Moonee Valley Quilt Project has been completed using artwork of 183 children from the 2016 Moonee Valley Festival. Eleven colourful quilts will showcase children's achievements and the cross-generational collaborative work of the Essendon Quilters and Aberfeldie Men's Shed.</p>

Strategies	Action Plan July 2016 - June 2017	Action Owner	Progress	Progress on deliverables
3.3.4 Facilitate and/or participate in activities and events that promote and celebrate the achievements of our community.	<p>Incorporate activities that foster children's active participation in the community in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moonee Valley Festival (Feb) Diversity week (Mar) Reconciliation Week (May/June) Families Week (May) Senior's/Children's Week (Sept/Oct) International day for people with a disability (Nov) Carols by Candlelight (Dec) 	<p>MVCC Cultural Development</p> <p>MVCC Community Planning</p> <p>MVCC Family and Children's Services</p> <p>MVCC Community Strengthening</p> <p>MVCC Cultural Development</p>		<p>A range of events and activities focused on and celebrated children's participation in community life:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The MV Festival attracted approximately 25,000, incorporated diverse activities and programs for children and included: a dedicated 'Kids Stage' and 'Kids Kingdom' area. Consultation with children and families was featured by 'Chatterbox' to inform the development of MV2040 Reconciliation Week - Promoted National Reconciliation and included storytelling, art/craft and music for children and the community. The annual MV Seniors Festival & Children's Week (October 2016) partnered to celebrate all things RETRO. Older adults and young children enjoyed and shared games and crafts from the past: hopscotch, dominoes, pick up sticks, twister, ten pin bowling, and hooky were just some of the fun games on offer. Together with the face painting, Animals of OZ exhibition & healthy afternoon tea created a fantastic, fun and free day out in Flemington. Carols in Queens Park, being a family focused event, included many initiatives that engaged children in our community. An invitation to perform on stage was sent to primary and secondary schools across MV and three school choirs were selected to perform. Children were welcome to join in the Community Choir, which is formed each year for the event. On the evening, roving performers and marquee with children's activities and craft were available free of charge.

Moonee Valley Early Years Plan: 2017-2018 Action Plan

The Moonee Valley Early Years Plan (MVEYP) 2014-22 integrates the broader policy and planning context from early childhood through adolescence to adulthood, to set a strategic direction that responds to local family needs from pregnancy to children 12 years of age. The Plan also profiles the valuable contributions of government and community partners and translates partner strengths and contributions into this Action Plan. This is the next year of an eight-year action plan that will evolve over time and explores opportunities to progress the aspirations of our children, families and the early years sector across Moonee Valley.

The MVEYP has a strong alignment with key plans and strategies across all levels of government. The 'Big 3' strategic plans for Local Government, legislated by the State Government are the:

- City of Moonee Valley Council Plan, now integrated with the
- Public Health and Wellbeing Plan; and the
- Municipal Strategic Statement

The 'Big 3' guide the development of policies and plans that articulate in greater detail what we will and are doing for the benefit of children and families. This year, Council's service and facility planning frameworks provide an opportunity to strengthen the connections between these documents and the MVEYP. The following Council plans and strategies are aligned with and inform the MVEYP Action Plan:

- Diversity, Access and Equity Policy
- Disability Action Plan
- Reconciliation Plan
- Community Safety Program
- LGBTIQ Action Plan
- Open Space Strategy
- Play Space Plan
- Integrated Transport Plan/Strategy
- Transport Safety Strategy
- City Sustainability Policy
- Walking and Cycling Strategy
- Urban Ecology Strategy
- Arts and Culture Plan
- Leisure Strategy

Action Plan partner agencies include:

- Early Years Reference Group Members: parent representatives, primary school representative (St Brendan's PS), Caroline Chisholm Society, Baptcare Family Services, KU Children's Services, cohealth, Playgroup Victoria, Department of Education and Training (State Government), community and community based kindergarten provider (BPA Children's Services -Brimbank Preschool Association)
- Ascot Vale and East Keilor Leisure Centres, and Windy Hill Sports and Fitness Centres
- Child Friendly Cities and Communities Network (Victorian Chapter)
- Mackillop Family Services
- Anglicare
- Jesuit Family Services
- University of Melbourne
- Victoria University
- State Library of Victoria
- Moonee Valley Business
- Moonee Valley State, Catholic and Independent Primary and Specialist Schools
- Moonee Valley Secondary Schools
- Moonee Valley Toy Library
- Out of School Hours Care Services
- Royal Children's Hospital - Uncle Bob's
- Victoria Police
- Victorian Local Government Association
- Municipal Association of Victoria
- Western Melbourne Child and Youth Area Partnerships
- Western Melbourne Child and Family Services Alliance Executive Group.

Theme 1: People – Inspire community connection, inclusion, support and participation of all children and families in Moonee Valley			
Strategies	Action Year 2017-18	Action Leader	Partners
Strategic Objective 1: Create opportunities for children to be active citizens and influence how they live			
1.1.1 Strengthen our profile and understanding of a Child Friendly Moonee Valley to enhance children's participation in civic life.	Promote MVCC as a signatory to the Victorian Charter for Child Friendly Cities and Communities (CFCC), and through this action plan progress the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) CFCC initiative.	Moonee Valley City Council (MVCC) Family and Children's Services	Victorian Local Government Association (VLGA) CFCC Network
	Coordinate activities during Children's Week 2017 to celebrate children's rights, talents and citizenship, and raise awareness on the UNCRC Article 29: 'Education should develop each child's personality and talents to the full. It should encourage children to respect their parents, their cultures and other cultures'.	MVCC Family and Children's Services	Partner agencies
1.1.2 Value the voice of children and progress principles of best practice when talking with and listening to children.	Council to endorse the new Community Engagement Framework to improve effective engagement practices and opportunities for children to influence and inform Councils strategic direction and service delivery.	MVCC Community Planning	MVCC Family & Children's Services
	Develop a resource to support the endorsed Community Engagement Framework, identifying inclusive engagement practices and encouraging opportunities for children's participation.	MVCC Community Planning	MVCC Family and Children's Services

Strategies	Action Year 2017-18	Action Leader	Partners
1.1.3 Create experiences that involve, reflect and respond to children's needs and gives practical effect to their ideas and suggestions.	Progress the evaluation framework for MVCC Family and Children's Services to evidence children's agency in the development of program planning and/or service delivery.	MVCC Family and Children's Services	MVCC Community Planning
1.1.4 Understand children's interdependence on the world around them and foster their thinking and emerging independence.	Deliver professional learning for MVCC Family and Children's Services staff to strengthen cohesive and integrated approaches in implementing the Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework (VEYLDF), with a focus on children's learning and development outcomes in relation to identity and connections with community.	MVCC Family and Children's Services	Partner agencies
Strategic Objective 2: Advocate and provide for services and experiences that nurture and empower children and families			
1.2.1 Strengthen the role of parents as first educators to foster children's growth and development.	Deliver universal maternal and child health and family services, including targeted support for vulnerable children and families.	MVCC Family and Children's Services	Partner agencies
	Progress a coordinated program that links parents into a range of forums. Provide information and prevention strategies to encourage and develop the value of family wellbeing. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Health and wellbeing ○ Literacy development ○ Service/program transitions ○ Respectful relationships 	MVCC Family and Children's Services cohealth Bapcare Family Services	Early Years Reference Group Partner agencies

Strategies	Action Year 2017-18	Action Leader	Partners
	Continue to seek, promote, encourage, foster and strengthen partnerships that will extend the reach of the library service and provide additional benefits to children and family library users.	MVCC Libraries	MVCC Family & Children's Services Early Years Reference Group
1.2.2 Advocate and sustain responsive community and facilitated early years activities and services.	Implement a communications and literacy place-based approach in Flemington targeting children aged 0-5 to boost children's language and skills through play.	cohealth/Jesuit Family Services MVCC Family and Children's Services: Hopetoun and Flemington Street Centres	Debney Meadows PS Flemington Community Centre
	Provide over 2,500 high quality, educational, fun toys and equipment to Moonee Valley families to support children's play based learning.	MV Toy Library	MVCC Family & Children's Services
	Finalise the report on the 'Transitioning Supported Playgroups' partnership project, focussed on newly arrived or isolated families to gain the skills and confidence to transition to a community playgroup.	Playgroup Victoria	MVCC Family & Children's Services
	Progress opportunities to establish playgroups that respond to identified and emerging needs, such as 2 nd and 3 rd time parents and transitions from playgroup to child care/ kindergarten.	MVCC Family and Children's Services	Early Years Reference Group

Strategies	Action Year 2017-18	Action Leader	Partners
	Deliver the 'Begin with Books' program to all children at the four month maternal and child health visit to foster parents understanding of the importance of early years literacy.	MVCC Family and Children's Services	MVCC Libraries
	Implement the '1000 Books Before School' program to encourage parents to read together with their children to create a love of books.	MVCC Libraries	State Library of Victoria MVCC Family and Children's Services
1.2.3 Support parents during family transitions and stresses to effectively protect and nurture children.	Continue to implement the 'Kinda Kinder' program, a play based learning program for preschool age children and their families. It provides educational experiences in the school environment for children to explore and develop skills before entering school.	St Brendan's Primary School	Early Years Reference Group Victoria University
	Establish a panel of speakers to inform parents about how to support children to smoothly transition from service to service to promote better outcomes for children and families.	MVCC Family & Children's Services	Early Years Reference Group
	Provide information to kindergarten families about their child's learning and development. Share this information between early years services and schools to support a smooth transition for children and families into school.	MVCC Family & Children's Services	Kindergartens/ Primary Schools Department Education & Training (DET)

Strategies	Action Year 2017-18	Action Leader	Partners
1.2.4 Provide proactive, timely and optimal support for children to meet their development and wellbeing needs.	Support quality early learning programs and services to enhance childhood learning and education outcomes, with a focus on National Quality Standards.	MVCC Family & Children's Services	Children's Services
	Maintain ISO Certification for Integrated Family services to provide high quality best practice for vulnerable children and families.	MVCC Family & Children's Services	MVCC Community Strengthening
	Progress Council's advocacy agenda for children and families experiencing vulnerability, including children with additional needs.	MVCC Family & Children's Services	MVCC Governance
	Implement MVCC Child Safe Standards policies and practices to embed an organisational culture of child safety.	MVCC Governance MVCC Family & Children's Services	MVCC Governance
Strategic Objective 3: Enrich the health and wellbeing of a safe, friendly and connected community			
1.3.1 Influence perceptions and enhance safety in public areas to positively affect community connections and wellbeing.	Progress City of Moonee Valley's Pacific Australian Safe Communities Accreditation by developing child friendly urban environments that contribute positively to the development of a child's happiness and wellbeing.	MVCC Community Planning	MVCC Family & Children's Services
	Develop the Integrated Transport Strategy to support initiatives that make all journeys in and around Moonee Valley easier and safer, for children, families and the broader community.	MVCC Traffic and Transport	MVCC Family and Children's Services

Strategies	Action Year 2017-18	Action Leader	Partners
	Implement the Better Moves Around Schools program and safe drop off/pick up zones to improve traffic flow and create a safer environment for children.	MVCC Traffic and Transport	Primary Schools
	Implement the Walking and Cycling Strategy 2012-22 to increase the number of safe cycling and walking journeys for children, families and people of all ages.	MVCC Traffic and Transport	MVCC City Services
1.3.2 Encourage initiatives in local business and community activities that promote access to healthy food choices and improve physical lifestyle.	Progress the MVCC Health Tracker team activities to promote children's healthy eating across early years services and influence healthy and nutritious food habits for children and families.	MVCC Family & Children's Services	MVCC Sport & Recreation
	Continue to deliver the My Smart Garden community education workshops to children and families that encourage local and sustainable food production.	MVCC Environment	MVCC Family and Children's Services
	Partner with the Ascot Vale and East Keilor Leisure Centres to offer both structured and casual leisure and learning activities for children and families.	MVCC Leisure Facilities	MVCC Family and Children's Services
	Encourage and develop children's skills for safe cycling at the Essendon Traffic School.	MVCC Leisure Facilities	MVCC Family and Children's Services

Strategies	Action Year 2017-18	Action Leader	Partners
1.3.3 Respond to the prevalence of mental health issues and promote positive mental health for children and families.	Implement targeted strategies, including parenting groups and supported playgroups that respond to the emerging needs of children and families.	Baptcare Family Services Caroline Chisholm Society (CCS) Playgroup Victoria	MVCC Family and Children's Services Partner agencies
1.3.4 Build on our community's sense of place and belonging, generate neighbourhood activities and encourage local identity and civic pride.	Deliver the Moonee Valley Community Grant recognition and information event that builds capacity and provides networking opportunities for the community organisations supporting children and families.	MVCC Community Planning	Partner agencies
	Promote and encourage the participation of children and families in key events and programs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Crown Street Stables ○ Flemington Community Centre ○ My Smart Garden programs 	MVCC Community Strengthening MVCC Community Planning MVCC Environment	MVCC Family and Children's Services MVCC Economic Development Partner agencies

Theme 2: Places – Stimulate design in child and family friendly spaces for learning, play, leisure, celebration and getting about in Moonee Valley

Strategies	Action Year 2017-18	Action Leader	Partners
Strategic Objective 1: Celebrate and enhance the green, clean and beautiful features of Moonee Valley			
2.1.1 Apply urban ecology principles to public spaces that promote adventurous spaces and sensory experiences for children.	Finalise the master plan for the Moonee Ponds Creek linear park that considers water sensitive urban design, active transport and path connections for all users, including children and families.	MVCC Urban Design and Open Space	MVCC Traffic and Transport Local residents
	Implement the Greening program, consider children's connection to the natural environment and increase natural play opportunities for children in Council's neighbourhood and local parks.	MVCC Operations	MVCC Urban Design and Open Space MVCC Environment
2.1.2 Promote understanding and prioritise sustainable features across early years services, programs and public areas.	Finalise construction of the Airport West Green Spine (harvest and reuse water for community initiatives such as orchards and gardens) to strengthen children's understanding of the natural environment.	MVCC Urban Design and Open Space	MVCC City Services
	Progress the design of sustainable features in facilities such as the Avondale Heights precinct, in line with the development of Council's Community Facility Asset Management Planning.	MVCC Urban Design and Open Space	MVCC Environment
	Deliver sustainability programs and support local businesses, schools and the early learning sector.	MVCC Environment	MVCC Family and Children's Services

Strategies	Action Year 2017-18	Action Leader	Partners
	Progress the Queens Park Rain Garden playground and associated children's play space concept in consultation with the community.	MVCC Urban Design and Open Space	MVCC Family and Children's Services
2.1.3 Strengthen children's ambassadorship in local parks, playgrounds, reserves and waterways	Promote the Junior Rangers program and benefits of children's active care of and involvement with the natural environment.	MVCC Environment	MVCC Libraries
Strategic Objective 2: Generate child – friendly neighbourhoods and public spaces that encourage active and independent children			
2.2.1 Advocate and generate a child friendly and intergenerational response to urban design and the natural and built environment.	<p>Prioritise new sports pavilions and facilities in poor condition and improve accessibility to cater for and encourage participation of all ages including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Fairbairn Park Pavilion ○ Maribyrnong Park Pavilion ○ Cross Keys Reserve ○ Overland Reserve Pavilion ○ Boeing Reserve Pavilion ○ Ormond Pavilion, and ○ Overland Reserve Pavilion 	MVCC Sport & Recreation	MVCC City Services

Strategies	Action Year 2017-18	Action Leader	Partners
	Council is currently completing mapping and service reviews and implementation of the National Aged Reforms and NDIS (inclusive of children with a disability who have a permanent lifelong disability) which will take precedence over the active application for Aged Friendly City Accreditation (see 3.2.1).	MVCC Community Strengthening	MVCC Family and Children's Services
2.2.2 Progress the Complete Street principles to rethink, reprioritise and reorder streets to encourage public transport, safe walking and cycling.	Implement the Transport Safety Strategy 2016-26, aligned with the Walking and Cycling Strategy 2012-22 and Sustainability Policy 2013, to deliver key projects that support safe walking, cycling, public transport and driving for families and children now and into the future.	MVCC Traffic and Transport	MVCC Community Planning
	Progress the review of the Airport West Structure Plans, utilising Complete Streets Principles, as well as promote more active use of public space for children and families	MVCC Strategic Planning	MVCC Family and Children's Services

Strategies	Action Year 2017-18	Action Leader	Partners
2.2.3 Identify opportunities to activate public space that supports children's creativity, independence and the freedom to safely explore.	Review the Open Space Strategy and include opportunities to incorporate and activate spaces for children and families.	MVCC Urban Design and Open Space	MVCC Family and Children's Services
	Implement the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 'My Smart Garden' program community education workshops to encourage children's involvement and understanding of local and sustainable food production. ○ 'Better Moves Around Schools' program to improve traffic, safety and parking management and encourage walking, cycling and the use of public transport when children and families are travelling to and from school. 	MVCC Environment MVCC Traffic and Transport	MVCC Family and Children's Services
Strategic Objective 3: Promote and create access and opportunity for all, to foster a vibrant and diverse community			
2.3.1 Learn about, represent, promote and celebrate the diversity of our community to support access and equity through urban design.	Progress park master plans that reflect the needs of local residents and users, including children and families for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ AJ Davis Reserve ○ Clifton Park ○ Overland Reserve ○ Woodlands Park and Salmon Reserve Continue the implementation of the master plan for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Queens Park (including Rain Garden), and ○ Rosehill Park 	MVCC Urban Design and Open Space	MVCC Family and Children's Services

Strategies	Action Year 2017-18	Action Leader	Partners
2.3.2 Recognise the changing growth and development of children and design outdoor play spaces that inspires and values access for all.	Continue to provide diverse outdoor play opportunities for children and families by implementing the Playspace Plan 2013-23.	MVCC Urban Design and Open Space	MVCC Operations
2.3.3 Understand the emerging changes of how we live, challenge assumptions and encourage inclusive and multiple use of places and spaces.	Plan for and incorporate child friendly and intergenerational features in facilities such as the Avondale Heights precinct, in line with the development of Council's Community Facility Asset Management Planning.	MVCC Planning and Development	MVCC City Services
	Continue to promote family diversity, cultural understanding and tolerance with children participating in key events such as NAIDOC week and through resources such as the Rainbow Families posters.	MVCC Family & Children's Services	MVCC Community Planning

Theme 3: Partnerships – Motivate innovation in how people and agencies work together to create a child friendly Moonee Valley			
Strategies	Action Year 2017-18	Action Leader	Partners
Strategic Objective 1: Pursue excellence in governance to plan and advocate for and with children and families			
3.1.1 Create opportunities to encourage children and families deeper civic involvement to instil a high level of community respect and confidence.	Continue to engage with children in the development of MV2040 and ensure the long term plan reflects, responds and gives practical effect to children's views about their future in Moonee Valley.	MVCC Corporate Planning	MVCC Family and Children's Services MVCC Community Planning
	Implement Council's primary school Governance and Citizenship program for children to learn more about their rights, government protection and generate a greater understanding of the role and function of Local Government.	MVCC Councillor Support	MVCC Family & Children's Services MVCC Governance Primary Schools
3.1.2 Promote and progress an advocacy agenda that aligns the Federal and State Government agenda for the benefit of our local community.	Continue to implement actions in support of international research that confirms investing in children as a priority population and quality early childhood development delivers long-term social and economic benefits to children, families and communities.	MVCC Corporate Planning	MVCC Family and Children's Services
	Implement the Early Intervention and Prevention Partnership Group action plan to improve partnerships and responses that support vulnerable children and families.	MVCC Family & Children's Services	MVCC Business Improvement
	Support community participation and action to prevent violence against women and children including: program and service delivery and development of a cross Council governance structure to guide a coordinated approach.	MVCC Community Planning	MVCC Family and Children's Services

Strategies	Action Year 2017-18	Action Leader	Partners
	Implement advocacy activities through the Metropolitan Transport Forum and Western Transport Forum to support safe and active travel of children and families.	MVCC Traffic and Transport	MVCC Family and Children's Services
3.1.3 Coordinate and facilitate support for services and the community to navigate government policies and frameworks	Review existing operations and implement changes to support continuous improvement in planning and service delivery for children and families including the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ VEYLDF ○ Central Registration System ○ Early Years Management Framework ○ Regional School Improvement Plan – Priority 1 – aiding school readiness ○ Implement the Marrung Aboriginal Educational Plan 2016-2026 	MVCC Family & Children's Services Department of Education and Training	Partner agencies
	Review services in line with competitive neutrality principles, starting with child care services.	MVCC Family and Children's Services	MVCC Financial Services
	Progress the Victorian Early Childhood Reform Plan to support children in kindergarten, transitions to the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), staff to deliver quality services, strengthen MCH and parents confidence through playgroups.	MVCC Family and Children's Services	Department of Education and Training

Strategies	Action Year 2017-18	Action Leader	Partners
3.1.4 Facilitate and/or participate in key strategic partnerships to build relationships and progress a coordinated approach to what we do.	Facilitate, participate and/or work with key networks/ programs that support and progress a coordinated response for children and families including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Early Years Reference Group (EYRG) ○ Portfolio Advisory Committees (PAC's) ○ MVCC Early Intervention, Prevention and Partnership Group (EIPPG) ○ Western Melbourne Child and Family Services Alliance (WMC&FS) Exec Group (Child First) ○ Child Friendly Cities and Communities 	MVCC Family & Children's Services MVCC Corporate Services Anglicare	Partner agencies MVCC Family and Children's Services
	Support lifelong learning for children and families through community governance structures including the Principal's Breakfast (with Primary and Secondary School representation) and Neighbourhood and Community Centre Coordination.	MVCC Community Planning	MVCC Family and Children's Services
	Implement cross-promotional activities between Council's services to deliver workshops to groups, clubs and organisations on relevant social issues affecting children and families.	MVCC Sport and Recreation	MVCC Family and Children's Services

Strategies	Action Year 2017-18	Action Leader	Partners
Strategic Objective 2: Co-ordinate and align services and facilities that encourage an integrated and responsive approach			
3.2.1 Strengthen service connections, interdepartmental planning and local actions that streamline and enhance participation in quality services.	Implement the Family and Children's Services Plan – Bubup and identified strategic projects, with a focus on continuous improvement.	MVCC Family and Children's Services	Cross Council departments
	Review and update service plans that align with the MVEYP 2014-22 and actions: honour children, empower families, foster social connection and promote strong partnerships in Moonee Valley.	MVCC Family and Children's Services	Cross Council departments Partner agencies
	Implement the Diversity, Access and Equity Policy to support active participation of children and families in the local community.	MVCC Community Planning	MVCC Family and Children's Services
	Implement the Reconciliation Policy and Action Plan 2016-18. Continue to respect, recognise and build relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families.	MVCC Community Planning	MVCC Family and Children's Services
	Deliver the North and West Metropolitan Koolin Balit Project, focusing on improving access to health services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families.	Inner North West Primary Care Partnership	MVCC Community Planning
	Implement the Disability Action Plan 2014-23 actions that focus on a more inclusive community for children and families.	MVCC Community Strengthening	MVCC Family and Children's Services

Strategies	Action Year 2017-18	Action Leader	Partners
	Support the transition for families and children with a disability to the NDIS, including the implementation of information sessions and carer advocacy/support training.	MVCC Community Strengthening	MVCC Family and Children's Services
	Develop and implement the Community Safety Action Plan with input from the Community Safety Stakeholder Group and the Early Years Reference Group.	MVCC Community Planning	Early Years Reference Group
	Implement the Arts and Culture Plan 2014 -2018 and actions that progress the participation of children and families.	MVCC Cultural Development	MVCC Family and Children's Services
	Implement the Leisure Strategy 2013-23 with a focus on access to a range of opportunities for children and families to play, have fun, compete, learn, discover, exercise or just 'be'.	MVCC Leisure Services	MVCC Family and Children's Services

Strategies	Action Year 2017-18	Action Leader	Partners
3.2.2 Integrate learning experiences across the early years sector and support parents and children as they transition to new services.	Strengthen pedagogical practice, including the implementation of the Abecedarian Approach Australia (3a) across different early years settings to enhance children's learning, intentional teaching and partnerships with families.	MVCC Family and Children's Services	University of Melbourne Primary Schools
	Implement the Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) Participation Project and support more accessible and inclusive services.	MVCC Family and Children's Services	Department of Education and Training
3.2.3 Build partnerships and generate opportunities with the community and local business to implement family friendly initiatives.	Strengthen the capacity of local community organisations supporting children and families to contribute to their wellbeing through provision of the Moonee Valley Grants Program.	MVCC Community Planning	Early Years Reference Group
	Deliver education programs for children and families at the Incinerator Gallery including 'Arty Tales' and school programs.	MVCC Cultural Development	MVCC Family and Children's Services
	Implement diverse experiences, incursions and excursions within kindergarten and long day care programs to foster children's understanding and connection with their local community.	MVCC Family and Children's Services	MVCC Economic Development MVCC Environment

Strategies	Action Year 2017-18	Action Leader	Partners
3.2.4 Progress integrated facility and community precinct planning that supports innovative design for lifelong learning, health and wellbeing.	Develop and implement integrated models of quality services and facilities for children and families including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Essendon Early Parenting Hub ○ Council's Community Facility Asset Management Planning, with a current focus on Niddrie Library and adjusted timelines for Avondale Heights precinct. 	Caroline Chisholm Society MVCC Community Planning	MVCC Family and Children's Services
	Progress Council's Community Facility Asset Management Review to support fair, transparent and appropriate management of and access to the diverse range of community facilities owned by council for children and families.	MVCC Community Planning	MVCC Family and Children's Services

Strategies	Action Year 2017-18	Action Leader	Partners
Strategic Objective 3: Foster robust partnerships to share information, knowledge, data, resources and celebrate achievement			
3.3.1 Establish information, provide advice and/or referral so that families understand and can access the right services at the right time.	<p>Review and update information available for families and establish new ways of promoting relevant services for children including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Finalise the review and alignment of MVCC family and children's services website with the MVEYP's broadened scope of pregnancy to 12 years. ○ Social media including the Maternal and Child Health Facebook: increase parent knowledge and enhance outcomes for children. ○ Integrated Family Services intake, assessment and referral service to ensure support vulnerable/at risk families. ○ Western Metropolitan Child and Family Services Alliance Allocations Group (Child First) to ensure priority of access to vulnerable/at risk families. 	<p>MVCC Family and Children's Services</p> <p>Anglicare</p>	<p>MVCC Communications</p> <p>Early Years Reference Group</p> <p>Partner agencies</p>

Strategies	Action Year 2017-18	Action Leader	Partners
3.3.2 Improve our knowledge and understanding to enable evidence-based practice that supports the best start in life for children.	<p>Implement relevant research and development opportunities for staff to improve learning outcomes for children and families including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Melbourne University Master of Teaching student placement program in local kindergartens and long day care services to progress knowledge in contemporary theory, practice and pedagogy. ○ Key findings from the Final Report of the Victorian Advancing Early Learning Study to enhance educator knowledge and skills in every day practice, relationships with children, families and other educators. ○ Council's training matrix pilot for kindergarten staff to maximize learning opportunities for the benefit of children and families. 	<p>University of Melbourne</p> <p>Department of Education and Training</p> <p>MVCC Family and Children's Services</p>	MVCC Family & Children's Services
3.3.3 Encourage a coordinated approach to training and skills development that enables continuous improvement of quality early years services.	Identify and implement professional development opportunities for family and children's services staff to strengthen shared learning on the Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework and increase knowledge of best practice to achieve positive outcomes for children and families.	MVCC Family and Children's Services	<p>Early Years Reference Group</p> <p>Primary Schools</p> <p>Partner agencies</p>
3.3.4 Facilitate and/or participate in activities and events that promote and celebrate the achievements of our community.	Implement the Inclusive Practice Guide to improve community access, including children and families to Council events and programs.	MVCC Community Strengthening	MVCC Family and Children's Services

Strategies	Action Year 2017-18	Action Leader	Partners
	<p>Incorporate activities that foster children's active participation in the community in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Moonee Valley Festival (Feb) ○ Diversity week (Mar) ○ Reconciliation Week (May/June) ○ Families Week (May) ○ Education Week (May) ○ Senior's/Children's Week (Sept/Oct) ○ International day for people with a disability (Dec) ○ Carols in Queens Park (Dec) 	<p>MVCC Cultural Development</p> <p>MVCC Community Planning</p> <p>MVCC Family and Children's Services</p> <p>MVCC Community Strengthening</p>	<p>Early Years Reference Group</p> <p>Partner agencies</p>