



SFA Implementation Groups

What is the role of the SFA Implementation Groups?

SFA Implementation Groups drive the implementation of the Child and Family Plan (the Plan) through planned, collaborative, multi-organisational projects. SFA organisations join an Implementation Group because this helps them to achieve their business objectives more effectively than working alone. The projects of the Implementation Groups go beyond standard projects that organisations could carry out as a single organisation.

What types of projects do the Implementation Groups work on?

Projects can work directly with the community, be demonstration projects, focus on professional development, involve strategic whole-of-sector communication planning and implementation or have an advocacy / local governance building agenda. Project development is carried out within meetings and project implementation is then done by members between meetings. Specific examples include:

- *Developing the practice of organisations in the broad SFA network*

Example: The Moving Beyond Vulnerability Group held a workshop for universal services in 2012 to help them *recognise* that a child is vulnerable – this is the first step to children and families receiving SFA aligned service support.

- *Working together on a community initiative targeting a specific objective the Plan*

Example: The Creating a Child Friendly Community Group lead a consultation with children about the Springwood Redevelopment. This initiative implements the Plan's objective about increasing children's participation in public decision-making processes.

- *Developing resources that help the SFA network implement the Plan*

Example: The Neighbourhood Service Network Group created and trialled a two-hour workshop, with presentations, for primary school teacher development days. The workshop aims to increase schools' knowledge and use of SFA early intervention approaches.

What time and energy commitment is involved in being in an Implementation Group?

As well as attending six meetings each year, being part of an Implementation Group involves working together on projects through email, phone or sometimes face-to-face meetings outside formal meeting times. Implementation Group members also need to maintain a link to the SFA Main Group.

How do I join a SFA Implementation Group?

Entry onto Implementation Groups is done initially through interview with the SFA Collaboration Convener. If you are not a manager, this meeting should involve your manager. At this meeting the SFA Collaboration Convener needs to ensure that (i) the core business objectives of your organisation will be met through the Implementation Group (ii)

your manager knows enough about the SFA to correctly position the SFA within your organisation and (iii) you will have the time and delegated authority to be effective within the Implementation Group.

How do Implementation Group members fit into the membership structure of the Stronger Families Alliance?

From July 2013 there are three different types of membership in the Stronger Families Alliance. These are (i) Core members (ii) Partners (iii) Affiliates. Organisations in the Implementation Groups are SFA Core Members. Core Members belong to either the SFA main group, one of the three SFA implementation groups or they are a core member of a School Community Hub steering group. Together SFA Core Members develop a linked up, forward looking and responsive network that amplifies the effectiveness of everyone's work with children, families and community.

How do Implementation Group members contribute to evaluating the SFA?

In 2013-14 each Implementation Groups will complete and update an SFA EAT (Emergent Action Template) Evaluation Form. This details how they will implement the Plan through the initiatives of the Implementation Group. Implementation group members can also submit an SFA EAT Evaluation Form about an initiative they are pursuing independently in their own organisation.

Can I promote the Stronger Families Alliance logo in my organisation?

SFA Core members can choose to use the SFA logo on any of the communication and publicity documents produced by their organization or network.

What happens if I want to be part of the Stronger Families Alliance but can't join an Implementation Group in 2013- 2014?

There are many other ways to stay connected to the Stronger Families Alliance as a Partner or Affiliate. Download *SFA Membership Structure* at www.strongerfamilies.co to find out more.

Your feedback is welcome

We welcome any feedback you can provide about how to make Implementation Groups work best for your organization, program or network. Please call the Stronger Families Alliance Collaboration Convener, Tanya James, (02) 47805542 with your feedback.

Other documents to read:

1. *SFA Membership Structure* at www.strongerfamilies.co
2. *SFA Emergent Action Template (EAT) Evaluation Form* at <http://www.strongerfamilies.co/evaluation-and-improvement.html>