

CIVIC CRECHE INQUIRY

Counselling Support Co-ordinator's Report

This report is based on work undertaken by Gen CROSSEN from 25 May 1992 to 19 June 1992 covering the first month employment period.

Client Group:

The children and families who presented to the Police Child Abuse Unit or the Christchurch City Council for follow up as a consequence of the inquiry into allegation of sexual abuse by a staff member at the Civic Creche.

Number of Clients:

On record to date 25 May 1992 at the Child Abuse Unit to be followed up = 61 children. The children recently interviewed or yet to be interviewed = 30.

Family Situation:

These children live in a variety of family situations including two parent families, who live together, one parent families and families where the parents are separated but both parents have contact with the children.

Family Follow Up Required:

All known parents (both Mothers and Fathers) are contacted.

Personal visits are made to both parents if invited, to ensure:

- a) Parents and children receive appropriate counselling if requested.
- b) Families are given support advice and information.
- c) Families needs are identified and they are given advice on available resources and assistance by the Social Worker as required.

Number of Clients Contacted = 27

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Key Client Issues:

1. Families are isolated.
2. Lack of information.
3. Unresolved anger against Police, Christchurch City Council and Creche Staff.
4. Stress and void caused by lack of follow-up after initial concerns became public.
5. Mishandling of the events by the Press.
6. The enormous impact of the children and their families.
7. The pain, anger, stress and grief for these families.
8. Ongoing long term consequences.

Recommendations:

1. Ongoing Social Work contact be maintained.
2. Support Groups for Families be established.
 - a) Mothers only group (Day and Evening sessions).
 - b) Couples Group for both partners (whether living together or not). (Evening group).
 - c) Men's Group (Evening).
3. Mobile library to be established.
4. Meeting to be held for parents with representatives of the Christchurch City Council to give parents the opportunity to be heard and have their questions answered.
5. Meeting to be held for parents with the Police Child Abuse Unit to give parents the opportunity to be heard and have their questions answered.

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Liaison Meetings:

1. Liaison meetings have been held with John GRAY, Manager of Christchurch City Council, Alister GRAHAM and Martin MACQUIRE Christchurch City Council.
2. Colin EADE, Police Child Abuse Unit.
3. Gaye DAVIDSON, Supervisor Civic Creche.
4. Parents Management Committee, Civic Creche.
5. Don MORETON and Vicki SMITH, Child and Family Guidance.
6. Sue DICK, Child Abuse Project, Canterbury Area Health Board.
7. Mark VIVIAN, Anglican Social Services.
8. Contact has been made with key child counsellors/therapist. Meeting is planned for 3 July 1992 at 1pm.

Recommendation

1. That Liaison meetings are held on a regular basis.
Liaison meeting Child Abuse - once a week, Friday 1pm.
Christchurch City Council - once a fortnight as arranged.
Parents/Management Committee, Creche Counsellors as required.

These meetings are to:

- a) Share information (while protecting client confidentiality).
- b) Offer support.
- c) Identify issues, concerns, needs.
- d) Plan action.

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2. Offer advice, share information and offer resources to staff at the Civic Creche.
 - Review of Civic Creche to be completed.
 - Assist in providing supervised training of staff about child abuse.
 - Change Creche environment as soon as possible.
 - Provide resources and information about child abuse.
 - Support staff in attending counselling as required.
 - Spiritual Cleansing of the Creche by Reverend Maurice GRAY

Supervision:

Professional supervision is attended once a fortnight.

Resources:

A parents information kit has been compiled. This contains a variety of useful material including keeping yourself safe material, general outline of sexual abuse, list of behavioural indicators, book list, councillors etc.

Gen Crossen
CRECHE INVESTIGATION

Copies to:

John Ell
John Watson
Colin Eade
Martin McQuire