

DOCUMENTS-BASED NATIONAL STRENGTHENING FAMILIES LOGIC MODEL¹

OVERALL ASSUMPTIONS

- Right people collaboratively engage in right way, at right intensity, for right' time, & complete process
- Early intervention initiative
- Sufficient no. of 'target group'² meet referral criteria³ & referred at right time
- 'Actively' involves 11 govt. agencies & 100s of community-based services⁴
- Effective with all families/whānau in target group including Māori
- Contributes to needs-based local solutions & service development

OVERALL INPUTS

- 7 Strengthening Families principles
- Structured, client-led case conference co-ordination process⁵
- 32 Local Governance Groups LMGs⁶
- 44 Coordinators,⁴ & their managers
- Case "lead [agency] or link person"⁷
- Independent facilitators (optional)
- \$3.5m annually from govt. agencies⁸
- Administration & discretionary funds
- *SF Reporter*/website/forms/handbook
- 1 Partnering for Outcomes national snr. advisor, and regional advisors

OVERALL DELIVERY

- Referral by govt. or community agency (or self) to local Coordinator
- Preparation (on accepted referrals)
- 1st meeting - ideally facilitator-led
- Action plan - develop & implement
- Regular reviews with family/whānau
- Cases closed - actions completed
- *SF Reporter* reports uploaded
- LMG review aggregated *SF Reporter* and other information, and where necessary make local service changes or refer issues elsewhere

IMMEDIATE OUTCOMES

- Progress on issues identified & worked on across domains of: Education & skills, Health; Employment; Economic situation/housing; Social connectedness; and Safety/justice
- Families/whānau report feeling stronger, more connected to, & able to access & engage with services in their community

INTERMEDIATE OUTCOMES⁹

- Multiple/complex needs of vulnerable children, young people & their families/whānau are better met, supported or managed
- Positive changes to environmental factors that influence child vulnerability & the extent to which their needs are met at home or in the wider community
- Significant risks of harm to the well-being of vulnerable children now or into the future, are mitigated/avoided

LONGER TERM OUTCOMES

"The health and safety, education and social outcomes of vulnerable children, young people and their families/whānau are improved" (Oranga Tamariki, n.d.)¹⁰.

"Children, young people and families/whānau...reach their full potential and participate positively in society" (MSD, 2010, p. 1-3)

1. It is generally assumed that the information in more recent documents is more up-to-date than that in older documents, although not all documentation necessarily has a clear date attached and some material may have been written with different purposes in mind.
2. The target group are “vulnerable children or young people and their family/whānau who have multiple and complex needs and require a coordinated intervention from more than one agency. Vulnerable children [and young people aged 0-17 years] are children who are at significant risk of harm to their wellbeing now and into the future, as a consequence of the environment in which they are raised, and in some cases, due to their own complex needs. Environmental factors that influence child vulnerability include not having their basic emotional, physical, social, developmental and/or cultural needs met at home or in the wider community” (Oranga Tamariki, n.d., p. 9).
3. Strengthening Families (SF) is not to be used for cases requiring a statutory response or intensive cases i.e. “The SF process is appropriate if: [1] a SF approach will provide added value to family’s desired outcomes, and is in the best interests of the child, young person or family/whānau [2] the child, young person or family/whānau has multiple needs that would benefit from coordinated multi agency support, but do not require a statutory response or intensive intervention [3] more than one agency is required (or should be involved) with the child, or young person and their family/whānau (Oranga Tamariki, n.d., para 3).
4. As well as coordinating the Strengthening Families process, the Coordinator role also includes “the promotion of the merits of working in an integrated way and the development of interagency relationships and oversight of the quality of facilitation offered to Family/whanau (Oranga Tamariki, n.d. p. 9).
5. “The following core principles underpin SF practice: [1] reliance on active participation and direction from families/whānau [2] focus on family/whānau strengths, issues, priorities and desired outcomes [3] improved engagement with and access to services for families/whānau [4] cross agency support demonstrated by contributions both monetary and in kind) from a range of government and non-government agencies [5] commitment to a co-ordinated, trans-disciplinary interagency approach to get the best outcomes for the child/young person [6] respect for the capacity of communities to offer children, young people and their families an integrated and effective service, plus the commitment to support that through promotion of strong relationships and robust processes adapted to suit those communities” (Oranga Tamariki, n.d., p. 11).
6. These are usually referred to as Local Management Groups (LMGs), although alternative local inter-sectorial government arrangements may be in place.
7. ‘Lead or link person’ is the term used on the Strengthening Families website (Oranga Tamariki, n.d.), although in ‘Strengthening Families Guidelines F18’ (Oranga Tamariki, n.d.), the term used is “lead agency support service”.
8. Oranga Tamariki. (2018). *Evidence review Strengthening Families briefing paper 11 October 2018* [Unpublished document]. Wellington, New Zealand: Author.
9. While drawn from the examined documentation, all three identified intermediate outcomes here are more implicit than explicit.
10. Here these outcomes are titled as “Outcomes/results we expect to achieve”; they appear to be an adaptation of an earlier outcomes statement that read “The health, education and social outcomes for children, young people and their families/whanau are improved through SF (Family and Community Services, 2010, p.1-3). Note Oranga Tamariki’s inclusion of the words “safety”, and “vulnerable”; they are also no longer referred to as “Long-term outcomes” (Family and Community Services, 2010, p. 1-3).