

Darebin Early Years Plan

Darebin Early Years Strategy
2011 - 2021



Department of Family and Children
Darebin City Council
PO Box 91
PRESTON VIC 3072

Telephone: 8470 8888
Facsimile: 8470 8877
TTY: 8470 8696

www.darebin.vic.gov.au
mailbox@darebin.vic.gov.au

Darebin Early Years Plan

English

This information is from the Darebin City Council. If you have difficulty understanding the information in English please contact the Council's Multilingual Telephone Line on: 8470 8470, tell us the language you speak to be connected to either a bilingual Council employee or an interpreter. Once connected the content of the letter will be explained to you.

Italian

Queste informazioni vi vengono dal Comune di Darebin. Se avete difficoltà a comprendere le informazioni in Inglese, mettetevi in contatto con la Linea Telefonica Multilingue del Comune al numero 8470 8470, dite quale lingua parlate e sarete messi in comunicazione con un operatore del comune oppure con un interprete. Una volta collegati, vi verrà spiegato il contenuto di questa lettera.

Greek

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Macedonian

Овие информации се од општината Даребин. Ако имате потешкотии да ги разберете информациите на англиски, молиме јавете се на Повеќејазичната телефонска линија на општината (Multilingual Telephone Line) на 8470 8470, кажете ни кој јазик го зборувате, а ние ќе ве поврземе со службеник во општината кој го зборува и вашиот јазик или со преведувач. Кога ќе ве поврземе ќе ви биде објаснета содржината на писмото.

Chinese

這是來自戴瑞濱市政府的消息。如果您對理解這些英文的內容有困難，請撥市政府多元文化電話專線：8470 8470，然後說出您講的語言。我們將為您接通能講兩種語言的工作人員或傳譯員，他們會給您解釋這封信的內容。

Arabic

هذه المعلومات صادرة عن مجلس بلدية داربين. إذا كنت تواجه صعوبة في إستيعاب هذه المعلومات بالإنكليزية، يرجى الإتصال بخط الهاتف المتعدد اللغات التابع للمجلس البلدي على الرقم: 8470 8470 ، وإعلامنا باللغة التي تتحدثها كي نضعك على الإتصال إما بأحد الموظفين بالبلدية الذين يجيدون لغتك أو بمترجم. ومتى تم إيصالك بأحدهما سيتم شرح مضمون هذه الرسالة لك.

Vietnamese

Đây là thông tin của Hội Đồng Thị Xã Darebin. Nếu quý vị không hiểu những thông tin bằng Anh ngữ này, hãy liên lạc với Đường Dây Điện Thoại Đa Ngữ của Hội Đồng ở số 8470 8470 và cho chúng tôi biết ngôn ngữ của quý vị. Chúng tôi sẽ tìm một nhân viên song ngữ của Hội Đồng hoặc một thông ngôn viên. Sau khi gặp các nhân viên này, họ sẽ giải thích nội dung của lá thư cho quý vị hiểu.

Serbian

Ове информације су приложене од стране Општинског уреда – Darebin. Ако имате потешкоћа у разумевању информација на енглеском језику, молимо вас да назовете Вишејезичку телефонску службу Општинског уреда на број телефона 8470 8470, обавестите нас о језику којим говорите да бисте разговарали са билингвалним радником Општинског уреда или са преводиоцем. Када ступите у контакт са једном од ових особа, садржај писма ће вам бити објашњен.

Croatian

Ovo su obavijesti Općine Darebin. Ako ne razumijete obavijesti na engleskom jeziku, nazovite Općinsku višejezičnu telefonsku liniju na broj: 8470 8470, recite nam koji jezik govorite kako bismo vas spojili s općinskim djelatnikom koji govori dva jezika ili s tumačem. Kad se uspostavi veza, sadržaj pisma će vam biti objašnjen.

Spanish

Esta información se la ha remitido el Ayuntamiento de Darebin. Si tiene dificultad en entender la información en inglés, por favor póngase en contacto con la Línea de Información Telefónica Multilingüe del Ayuntamiento, Nº 8470 8470, díganos qué idioma habla usted y le conectaremos con un empleado bilingüe del Ayuntamiento o un intérprete. Una vez conectado, se le explicará el contenido de la carta.



Darebin Early Years Plan

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1. A vision for early years in Darebin

Children are valued citizens, childhood is honoured and partnerships create opportunities for all families.

This vision focuses our attention on our work to ensure **Darebin** is a place that embraces children. Both the natural and built form of the city considers how children use and participate in community activities and spaces. A community where children are **valued citizens** refers to children holding rights, entitlements and responsibilities. Children are seen, heard, belong and are actively engaged in Darebin. In **honouring childhood** we understand the importance of the early years as a time that impacts future outcomes for children, families and communities. The early years are a time for children to be safe and to develop health, learning and strength. Early years **partnerships create opportunities** for the participation of all families. Social inclusion ensures all have opportunities and support to participate in community life and to develop to their potential. We will actively remove barriers to participation for those in our community who face disadvantage.

This vision is supported by the Darebin Early Years Strategy 2011-2021 that incorporates the Darebin Early Years Plan and the Darebin Early Years Infrastructure Plan.

2. Darebin Early Years Plan

The Darebin Early Years Plan is a framework for activities that reflect the priorities and commitments embedded in Council's early years planning. The plan is operational and details the programs for the delivery of the Darebin Early Years Strategy. The plan also incorporates Darebin Best Start within the long term vision of Council's municipal and early years planning. The plan provides three outcomes that are to be achieved, the activities that will enable the outcomes to be achieved and specific tasks attached to these activities.

The Darebin Early Years Plan is a key Council planning document that articulates the strategies and tasks that will enable the "vision for early years in Darebin" to be achieved and improve the outcomes for families and children. The plan will guide the Family and Children Department's ongoing operations and sets out directions for the next 10 years with annual review to maintain relevance in the rapidly changing early years sector.

The Darebin Early Years Plan is Council's Municipal Early Years Plan as required by the State Government.

3. Best Start in Darebin

3.1 Best Start overview

Best Start is a whole of government early years project auspiced by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development. The initiative supports families, caregivers and communities to provide the best possible environment, experiences and care for young children in the important years from pregnancy to school. Darebin is one of 30 Best Start project sites across the state. The Darebin Best Start project commenced in 2006 with a formal partnership agreement signed in March 2007.

Vision Statement: *"Through Darebin Best Start, parents and service providers in the City of Darebin will work together to build stronger, supportive communities. The outcome will be confident, happy and healthy children; self reliant parents and integrated accessible services for families and young children."*

The emphasis of Best Start is on prevention and early intervention. It has a particular focus on ensuring that vulnerable young children and their families who are not currently engaged with universal services, or prematurely disengaged, are able to participate in and benefit from the universal service platform. Improvements in services are expected to result in:

- better access to child and family support, health services and early education;
- an enhanced capacity for and confidence in parenting, as well as enjoyment of family life;
- communities that are more child and family friendly.

To achieve the Darebin Best Start vision and to align the project with all Council municipal early years planning, the Darebin Early Years Reference Group established in 2010 became the strategic arm of the Darebin Best Start partnership. All matters regarding Best Start are discussed in Early Years Reference Group meetings.

The previously stand alone project under the umbrella of the Darebin Early Years Plan ensures a cohesive, integrated approach to the planning and delivery of services especially for vulnerable children within Darebin. Darebin Best Start will focus on service level changes, capacity building and partnerships that improve specific outcomes for families and children.

Best Start indicators are required to be selected on the basis of community need and scope for engaging Best Start partners in delivering project outcomes. The two indicators are:

1. Proportion of children whose parents report high levels of social support

Social support links for parents are essential for developing a sense of social connectedness and overall wellbeing. The demands of child rearing with the support from others can promote community wellbeing, overcome social isolation, increase social connectedness and address social exclusion.

2. Improved reading, numeracy, literacy

Fostering a learning environment for children within the family and the community, that promotes children's capacity to, and interest in, engaging in the learning process, will in turn, impact on reading, numeracy and literacy levels. This indicator also works well alongside the first chosen indicator in developing parents' capacity for creating and sustaining an effective and engaging learning environment in the home that is both valued and supported

4. Evaluation

Early Years Reference Group meetings provide an ongoing opportunity to monitor the relevance and strategic direction of the Darebin Early Years Plan. This group is facilitated to discuss and respond to emerging issues. In addition, a number of evaluation mechanisms will be employed to maintain the quality of the work achieved locally to improve outcomes for families and children in Darebin. These include:

- Annual reviews of the action plans facilitated through the Darebin Early Years Reference Group.
- Progress of the plan reported to Council within the current Council reporting structure. Annually the plan will be assessed against the two Best Start indicators (KPIs).
 1. Proportion of children whose parents report high levels of social support
 2. Improved reading, numeracy, literacy
- The work of the Darebin Early Years Plan summarized in an achievements report. This will detail the accomplishments of the Family and Children's Department and will be a key accountability document to the community.

5. Darebin Early Years Plan Policy Directions

Vision

How would we like Darebin to be?

Children are valued citizens, childhood is honoured and partnerships create opportunities for all families.

Principles

What values inform our work?

- The 'social determinants of health and wellbeing' will inform strategies, situating children within families and communities. The built, social, economic and natural environments affect health and wellbeing outcomes.
- Darebin's strategies reflect broader federal and state commitments.
- Children are citizens with rights.
- Social inclusion is the right of all families and children to participate in opportunities that enhance their health, learning and development by reducing barriers to participation.
- There is shared responsibility for strong local early years programs and services through planning, community involvement, sustainable resourcing and ongoing review and learning.

Outcomes

What are we going to achieve?

Services and Programs

1. Family and child centred services are delivered that improve outcomes for the whole community.

Context and Influence

2. Darebin is a place where children can reach their potential.

Collaborative Partnerships

3. Our work is collaborative and improves outcomes for families and children.

Activities

How will we achieve our aims?

- 1.1 Council will continue the provision of inclusive and integrated family and children's services.
- 1.2 We will provide services for those with diverse needs and actively remove barriers to access services for those who face the greatest disadvantage.
- 1.3 Council will work to attract a strong local mix of services to meet the needs of all families and children. We will actively work with all providers to enhance the quality of services.
- 1.4 Community based services will be supported by the provision and maintenance of facilities. The Early Years Infrastructure Plan outlines the direction towards early years hubs, multipurpose community facilities and local neighbourhood centres.

- 2.1 We will create opportunities to enhance the wellbeing of families and children through community participation.
- 2.2 Council's planning of the natural and built form of the city will consider how families and children participate in community activity and spaces.
- 2.3 We will work to further understand the diversity of family and children needs and advocate on behalf of our community.
- 2.4 We will increase community understanding of the importance and opportunities of the early years.
- 2.5 Council will work to strengthen the capacity of the early years workforce through the provision of local training opportunities and advocate on behalf of services.

- 3.1 We will engage with families and children who access our services and encourage involvement in Council decision making processes.
- 3.2 Council will continue to provide strong local service leadership through its coordinated family and children services team.
- 3.3 We will build partnerships with government, local agencies, support groups and early years service providers to realise our common commitments to meeting the needs of families and children. Together our advocacy will be strengthened.
- 3.4 We will facilitate local early years networks to enhance service integration and build collective wisdom.

Tasks




Specific actions?







The following Early Years Plan highlights tasks to achieve each objective area.



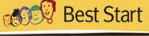
6. Darebin Early Years Plan

Outcome 1: Services and Programs: Child and family centred services are delivered that improve outcomes for the whole community.

Darebin City Council is committed to the provision of family and child centred services for our community. We understand that opportunities for children early in life have long told benefits for the entire community. Families are best placed to make choices. It is Council's responsibility to encourage a range of service choices that are locally available. Council works to balance services for all children as well as extending services that are focused on meeting the diverse needs in our community. The benefits of integrated and inclusive services are well documented. Council will strengthen service integration for Darebin families.

Vision How would we like Darebin to be?	Children are valued citizens, childhood is honoured and partnerships create opportunities for all families.		
Outcome What are we going to achieve?	1. Services and Programs: Family and child centred services are delivered that improve outcomes for the whole community.		
Activity How will we achieve our aims?	1.1 Council will continue the provision of inclusive and integrated family and children's services.		
Tasks What we will do?	Task	Measure	Best Start
1.1.1	Council will continue to provide the Maternal and Child Service for all children from birth to school age focusing on promotion of health and development, prevention, early detection and intervention for physical, emotional and social factors affecting young children.	Participation at key age and stage visits.	
1.1.2	Immunisation services will implement public health policies and programs and provide immunisation services to children in Darebin.	Immunisation rates according to the National Vaccine Schedule.	
1.1.3	Council will provide centralised waiting list for kindergarten and childcare services to promote equity of access.	Community based centres participation in centralised waiting list programs.	
1.1.4	Council will provide Toy Library services to promote access to play based learning opportunities for families.	The Toy Library service records access by a diverse range of families.	
1.1.5	Council will support our community to establish and maintain playgroups.	Playgroup participation.	
1.1.6	Council will plan, resource and deliver services that provide recreation based care opportunities during school holiday periods.	Review of services clarifies direction for programs reaching those prioritised by government policy.	

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Outcome What are we going to achieve?	1. Services and Programs: Child and family centred services are delivered that improve outcomes for the whole community.		
Activity How will we achieve our aims?	1.2 We will extend services to families with diverse needs and actively remove barriers to access for those who face disadvantage.		
Tasks Specific actions?	Task	Measure	Best Start
1.2.1	Family Services will provide counselling, groupwork, information, referral and support for families.	Provision of counselling, groupwork, information, referral and support to families.	 Best Start
1.2.2	Council will continue to be a partner in the North East Metro Child and Family Services (ChildFIRST) Alliance.	Council participates in Child FIRST, an integrated intake and referral service diverting families from Child Protection to Family Support.	 Best Start
1.2.3	The Department of Family and Children services will develop a coordinated approach to the prevention of family violence and supporting families that experience family violence. The Department of Family and Children will collaborate with the Darebin Domestic Violence Network.	Family violence prevention and service model that includes MCH screening, early intervention and family counselling and support.	 Best Start
1.2.4	Council will partner with local agencies to ensure early childhood intervention services are accessible for families and children.	Collaboration with partners to promote accessible services. Early Years Resource and Support team provide information for services and families.	 Best Start
1.2.5	Council will work to remove barriers to participation in all early years services. Council will reduce fees for those with low incomes, prioritise vulnerable families, minimise administrative hurdles and promote culturally sensitive settings.	Diversity in participation in early years services.	 Best Start
1.2.6	Enhanced Maternal and Child Health Services will assertively engage families and children at risk of poor outcomes, particularly when there are multiple risk factors.	Enhanced Maternal and Child Health services are extended to families at risk of diverse outcomes.	
1.2.7	Council will lead initiatives that improve access and participation in care and early learning opportunities for families and children.	Early Home Learning Project. Supported Parent and Playgroup Initiative.	 Best Start

Vision How would we like Darebin to be?	Children are valued citizens, childhood is honoured and partnerships create opportunities for all families.		
Outcome What are we going to achieve?	1. Services and Programs: Child and family centred services are delivered that improve outcomes for the whole community.		
Activity How will we achieve our aims?	1.3 Council will work to attract a strong local mix of services to meet the needs of all children and families. We will actively work with all providers to enhance the quality of services.		
Tasks Specific actions?	Task	Measure	Best Start
1.3.1	Council will encourage services (community and commercial) to be involved in networks and training.	High level of service engagement.	 Best Start
1.3.2	Council will provide a Children's Service Resource service that builds the capacity of community managed services. The service provides advice, program models, supports staff and lends resources.	Children's Services Resource Service engagement with community managed services.	 Best Start
1.3.3	We will share our data and planning information to build the capacity within our local area to provide diverse services.	Early Years Forums.	 Best Start
1.3.4	The centralised waiting list programs will explore opportunities to include commercial providers to promote access to early years services.	Model developed and pilot evaluated.	
1.3.5	Council will plan and advocate for family choice in early years services for Darebin families that will meet the needs of our diverse community.	Diversity of local early years services	


Vision How would we like Darebin to be?	Children are valued citizens, childhood is honoured and partnerships create opportunities for all families.		
Outcome What are we going to achieve?	1. Services and Programs: Child and family centred services are delivered that improve outcomes for the whole community.		
Activity How will we achieve our aims?	1.4 Community based services will be supported by the provision and maintenance of facilities. The Early Years Infrastructure Plan outlines the direction towards early years hubs, multipurpose community facilities and local neighbourhood centres.		
Tasks Specific actions?	Task	Measure	Best Start
1.4.1	Early Years Infrastructure Plan will provide an analysis of our population projections and applies social formulas to estimate facilities required for the coming 10 years.	Early Years Infrastructure Plan endorsed by Council.	
1.4.2	Council will continue to provide and maintain early years facilities that provide a high quality environment for early learning experiences.	Council's early years facilities exceed children services regulations, providing stimulating early learning environments.	
1.4.3	Council will seek additional capital resources to develop early years hubs, multipurpose community facilities and local neighbourhood centres to meet the increasing child population in Darebin.	Early Years Infrastructure Plan endorsed by Council.	

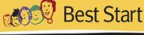
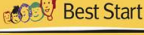

Outcome 2: Social Environment: Darebin will be a place where children can reach their potential.


Children grow in places that influence their outcomes. Whilst there is much outside of our control, Council has a role in influencing the social and environmental dimensions of the community. Council can design the built and natural environment with children and families in mind. Council does influence the social inclusion and diversity of its community.

Vision How would we like Darebin to be?	Children are valued citizens, childhood is honoured and partnerships create opportunities for all families.		
Outcome What are we going to achieve?	2. Context and Influence: Darebin is a place where children can reach their potential.		
Activity How will we achieve our aims?	2.1 We will create opportunities to enhance the wellbeing of families and children through community participation.		
Tasks What we will do?	Task	Measure	Best Start
2.1.1	Council will host community events focussed on children and families and encourage participation by our diverse community.	Children's Expo. Darebin Festival. Children's Week activities.	
2.1.2	Darebin libraries will provide engaging Children's Storytime sessions at all libraries.	Children's Storytime sessions at all libraries.	
2.1.3	We encourage opportunities for services to use our community spaces. The use of parks, arts and cultural events and community facilities will be facilitated by the Department of Family and Children.	Increased accessibility to community spaces and participation in community events.	

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Outcome What are we going to achieve?	2. Context and Influence: Darebin is a place where children can reach their potential.		
Activity How will we achieve our aims?	2.2 Council's planning of the natural and built form of the city will consider how families and children participate in community activity and spaces.		
Tasks What we will do?	Task	Measure	Best Start
2.2.1	The Darebin Playspace Strategy will guide the provision of engaging open play spaces for children.	Implementation of the Darebin Playspace Strategy.	
2.2.2	Darebin's urban design will guide the Child Friendly Cities approach.	Application of the principles of Child Friendly Cities.	
2.2.3	Our local parks will offer a diversity of experience for children and families.	Diverse parks.	
2.2.4	Travel safety and independent travel will be promoted in Darebin.	Implementation of the Safe Travel Strategy.	
2.2.5	The redevelopment of Council facilities will 'build in' child appropriate design and function as guided by children's services regulations.	Council facilities are designed to provide safe places for children and families to gather.	

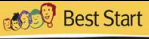
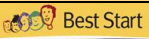
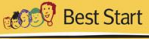
Vision How would we like Darebin to be?	Children are valued citizens, childhood is honoured and partnerships create opportunities for all families.		
Outcome What are we going to achieve?	2. Context and Influence: Darebin is a place where children can reach their potential.		
Activity How will we achieve our aims?	2.3 We will work to further understand the diversity of family and children needs and advocate on behalf of our community.		
Tasks What we will do?	Task	Measure	Best Start
2.3.1	We will work to understand family preferences of early years services. Council will be flexible to respond to family need. We will actively engage in opportunities to undertake new initiatives to build our service knowledge.	Quantitative and qualitative research informs service planning.	
2.3.2	We will use our service data to highlight emerging issues and community needs and sharing this information with our partners.	Utilisation of data to inform service planning.	
2.3.3	The Department of Family and Children will review services to ensure we meet the diverse needs of families.	Review of family and children's services.	
2.3.4	Council will actively seek to understand the needs of diverse family needs. Family diversity includes gender and sexuality, cultural and language, health and socioeconomic dynamics.	Research projects identify diverse family needs.	
2.3.5	Council will resource and participate in the Early Years Indigenous Reference Group.	Darebin Early Years Indigenous Reference Group.	



Vision How would we like Darebin to be?	Children are valued citizens, childhood is honoured and partnerships create opportunities for all families.		
Outcome What are we going to achieve?	2. Context and Influence: Darebin is a place where children can reach their potential.		
Activity How will we achieve our aims?	2.4 We will increase community understanding of the opportunities of the early years.		
Tasks What we will do?	Task	Measure	Best Start
2.4.1	Council will host local early years forums.	Annual Early Years and Children's Services Conference. Forums for service practitioners, and for families.	 Best Start
2.4.2	Council will coordinate the Parent Voice newsletter developed by parents, for parents.	4 Parent Voice editions per year.	 Best Start
2.4.3	Council will host community events and deliver information through a range of mediums to increase the understanding of the importance of the early years.	Family Fun Days. Children's Expo.	 Best Start

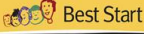
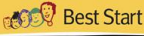
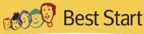

Vision How would we like Darebin to be?	Children are valued citizens, childhood is honoured and partnerships create opportunities for all families.		
Outcome What are we going to achieve?	2. Context and Influence: Darebin is a place where children can reach their potential.		
Activity How will we achieve our aims?	2.5 Council will work to strengthen the capacity of the early years workforce through the provision of local training opportunities and advocacy on behalf of services.		
Tasks What we will do?	Task	Measure	Best Start
2.5.1	Council will acknowledge the work of volunteers that support early years services. Parents who collaborate forming community based committees of management will be resourced to continue their valued role.	Formal acknowledgement of volunteers in the early years sector. Training for committees of management.	
2.5.2	Council will support early years professionals with training and advice.	Early Years and Children's Services Conference and a range of training programs. Advisory role across all services.	
2.5.3	Council will link with peak bodies and support action to improve early years workforce development.	Advocacy and support to collective actions.	
2.5.4	Council will work to continue to be a workplace where early years professionals want to work.	Workforce stability.	

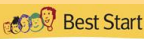
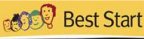
Outcome 3: Collaborative Partnerships: Our work is collaborative and improves outcomes for families and children.

Local government is well placed to facilitate partnerships that bring agencies, community groups and government together. There are significant resources held within local government that inform us about our community needs and the many diverse groups within our community. Local government holds an important role to consult, plan and attract resources to ensure that there are local services available for residents.

Vision How would we like Darebin to be?	Children are valued citizens, childhood is honoured and partnerships create opportunities for all families.		
Outcome What are we going to achieve?	3. Collaborative Partnerships: Our work is collaborative and improves outcomes for families and children.		
Activity How will we achieve our aims?	3.1 We will engage with families and children who access our services and encourage involvement in Council decision making processes.		
Tasks What we will do?	Task	Measure	Best Start
3.1.1	All Council early years services will involve families in consultations informing service reviews and seek ongoing feedback on service delivery.	Consultation with the community during service reviews. Service feedback processes encouraged.	
3.1.2	Council will continue to engage families in the preparation and publishing of a quarterly Parent Voice newsletter for families.	4 Parent Voice editions published each year.	
3.1.3	Darebin's Department of Family and Children will deliver services that are family and child focussed. Service developments will focus on how services deliver information to and seek feedback from families and children.	Family and child focused service guidelines are developed which feature the voice of children.	
3.1.4	Council will continue to support community managed children's services that are governed by families. Council resources community committees of management with advice training and information sharing.	Supported community committees of management providing effective governance.	

Vision How would we like Darebin to be?	Children are valued citizens, childhood is honoured and partnerships create opportunities for all families.		
Outcome What are we going to achieve?	3. Collaborative Partnerships: Our work is collaborative and improves outcomes for families and children.		
Activity How will we achieve our aims?	3.2 Council will continue to provide strong local service leadership through its coordinated family and children services team.		
Tasks What we will do?	Task	Measure	Best Start
3.2.1	Darebin's Department of Family and Children will increase services integration. We will work to understand the information collected by our services to plan and review responsive service provision.	Integration of service provision during service review process. Cross referral of children and families. Simplification of service entry points.	 Best Start
3.2.2	Information regarding Family and Children's services will be delivered across all services with consistent messages, providing appropriate referral knowledge, in a way which is accessible for all in our community.	Consistent service information messages delivered at key times.	 Best Start

Vision How would we like Darebin to be?	Children are valued citizens, childhood is honoured and partnerships create opportunities for all families.		
Outcome What are we going to achieve?	3. Collaborative Partnerships: Our work is collaborative and improves outcomes for families and children.		
Activity How will we achieve our aims?	3.3 We will build partnerships with government, local agencies, support groups and early years service providers to realise our common commitments to meeting the needs of families and children. Together our advocacy will be strengthened.		
Tasks What we will do?	Task	Measure	Best Start
3.3.1	Darebin will facilitate partnerships to improve outcomes for families and children.	Collaborative planning with local agencies and services.	 Best Start
3.3.2	Darebin's Department of Family and Children will engage with our neighbouring Councils to plan for early years services for those living on the borders of our municipality.	Collaborative planning with neighbouring Councils.	 Best Start
3.3.3	The Department of Family and Children will participate in regional management structures and initiatives to improve outcomes for children and families.	Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (North Metropolitan Region). Municipal Association of Victoria. North East Metro Child and Family Services Alliance.	 Best Start
3.3.4	Darebin's Department of Family and Children will engage with relevant early years organisations and advocate for the improvement of outcomes for children and families.	Participation in early years peak bodies initiatives.	 Best Start

Vision How would we like Darebin to be?	Children are valued citizens, childhood is honoured and partnerships create opportunities for all families.		
Outcome What are we going to achieve?	3. Collaborative Partnerships: Our work is collaborative and improves outcomes for families and children.		
Activity How will we achieve our aims?	3.4 We will facilitate local early years networks to enhance service integration and build collective wisdom.		
Tasks What we will do?	Task	Measure	Best Start
3.4.1	Council will facilitate a network for community committees of management to share information and collaborate in initiatives to improve outcomes for care and early learning opportunities for children.	Network meetings based on a range of topics.	
3.4.2	Council will facilitate opportunities for early years professionals to share information and collaborate to improve outcomes for families and children.	Network meetings based on a range of topics. Reflective Practice group meetings.	
3.4.3	The Darebin Early Years Reference Group will advise Council's early year planning and strategic directions. The Department of Family and Children, Darebin City Council will resources this Council advisory group.	6 meetings per year based on a range of topics.	