

Updated implementation Guidelines

Organisational-level elements

Implementing and embedding family- and whānau-focused practices that identify and address the needs of children of parents with mental health and/or addiction issues will require actions at an organisational level in mental health and addiction services. These organisational-level elements are outlined below.

Phase I: Essential elements

Implementation plans for family- and whānau-focused practice are in place

All mental health and addiction services, including adult services, have written plans outlining actions required to implement family- and whānau-focused practice. Those plans specifically refer to implementation of policies and practices aimed at identifying and addressing the needs of children.

Data is routinely collected, recorded, and reported

Adult mental health and addiction services have systems in place to ensure that data on the number, date of birth and gender of dependent children of service users is routinely collected and recorded. This data is collected and collated in such a way that summary-level reports can be used for internal planning purposes and for external stakeholders as required. Any other additional data collection complies with the nationally agreed requirements for data collection.

The leadership team includes an identified COPMIA leader/champion

The mental health and addiction services leadership team includes one or more identified people who have responsibility for leading and championing initiatives to embed family- and whānau-focused practices across the mental health and addiction services.

Documented care and protection policies are relevant to all mental health and addiction services

Care and protection policies are documented and are relevant to and widely available within all mental health and addiction services, including adult services. These policies comply with expectations laid out under the Vulnerable Children Act 2014 and contain provisions on identifying and reporting child abuse and neglect. Staff are provided with training and support that highlight the importance of these policies and offer guidance on how to apply them.

Phase II: Best practice elements

Key performance indicators for family- and whānau-focused practice are used to measure performance

At organisational and national levels, key performance indicators for family- and whānau-focused practice/COPMIA are agreed, and data relating to these is routinely recorded, analysed, and reviewed.

Overarching organisational documents refer to family- and whānau-focused practice

All overarching organisational documents – such as annual plans and strategic plans, vision statements, service frameworks, workforce competencies, and policy and procedure manuals – specifically refer to family- and whānau-focused practice and ensuring that the rights and needs of children are a core focus of service delivery.

Organisational approach is taken to enable and support integrated service delivery

The organisation has in place, policies, and mechanisms to enable and support:

- Integrated service delivery across local health services, including between primary and secondary services
- Coordination and collaboration across health and social services, including close links with programme for vulnerable children such as the Gateway Assessment Programme Children's Teams and Family Start.

These policies and mechanisms specifically refer to service delivery for vulnerable children and their family and whānau.



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