



Information Sheet

Working alongside Local Government

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Local Government is the closest level of government to the community and is therefore well placed to work with service providers in identifying local issues. By working collaboratively with service providers and other levels of government, Local Government can advocate for their region and work towards improving outcomes for children and families at a local level.

While the nature of service delivery among Local Governments varies, they play an essential role in providing local services to the community, including:

- the provision of public spaces
- development and maintenance of parks and playgrounds
- provision of public libraries and recreation facilities
- delivering services to residents.

By working effectively and collaboratively with Early Years Networks (Networks), Local Governments can:

- obtain information and feedback from key stakeholders working directly with their community
- identify important local issues
- enrich a better understanding of their community
- makes more informed decisions
- improve advocacy for their local community.

This collaborative approach leads to improved outcomes for children and families.

Many Early Years Networks across the State are chaired by officers from their Local Government Area (LGA), usually from a community services division. This arrangement provides strong administration for Networks, with LGAs committing time and resources to this vital collaborative approach in identifying and addressing local community needs.

For Networks that are not coordinated by their Local Government, it is valuable to build a partnership with the LGA to communicate and work towards common ambitions.

To establish a positive working relationship with your Local Government, you can:

1. Identify the key contact person is in your LGA for early years projects, community services, or community development.

2. Send a personal invite to this key contact person to join your Network. If this is not an option, reach out to the CEO, Mayor, or your local Councillor.
3. Add your LGA to your mailing list and invite them to meetings. Ask them to be a guest speaker at a meeting to talk about what the LGA's early years programs or priorities.
4. Become familiar with your LGA's Strategic Community Plan.
5. Communicate how joining your Network can benefit the LGA in meeting common targets, improving outcomes for children and families, and addressing key performance indicators in their community plans.

A collaborative approach to Early Years Networks can ensure all parties are equally contributing and benefiting from the information and resources shared and the knowledge gained.

More information

To find out more about Early Years Networks, please visit our website or contact:

- **Web:** www.communities.wa.gov.au
- **Email:** EY@communities.wa.gov.au