Auckland Council Structure

This is a quick explanation of the Auckland Council structure and contains information that may assist you when you are thinking about the Council’s role in Family and Sexual Violence Prevention.

You may wish to consider at which level i.e. regional, local, the involvement should be. For example regional focused involvement, local focused involvement or a combination of both, and to what level.

The Political Structure

Auckland Council has two complementary and non-hierarchical decision-making parts - the governing body (which consists of a Mayor elected by all Aucklanders and 20 Councillors) and 21 local boards. What this means is that they each have equal importance and decision making ability, if with a different focus.

The Governing Body

The Governing Body focuses on big picture, region-wide strategic decisions and is made up of the Mayor and the 20 Councillors elected in their ward areas.

The Governing Body meets as a whole and also in a number of Committees. The most significant committee for this work is the Regional Development and Operations Committee which is chaired by Councillor Anne Hartley; all Councillors sit on this committee.

Also there are a number of Forums. These are smaller groups of the Councillors and they are the space for the community to have a voice to the Governing Body. The two most significant forums in relation to family and sexual violence are the Social and Community Development
Forum, chaired by Councillor Cathy Casey, and the Community Safety Forum, chaired by Councillor George Wood.

The Mayor
The Mayor is responsible for setting and promoting a vision for Auckland, leading Auckland to reach its full potential, and engaging Aucklanders of all ages, backgrounds and communities with Auckland Council. Under the new legislation the Mayor has significant ability to undertake this role.

Local Boards
Local boards are a key part of Auckland's governance, enabling local representation and decision making on behalf of local communities. There are 21 local boards throughout the Auckland region from Rodney to Franklin.

They should not be compared to the Community Boards that some legacy Council's had in the past.

Local boards have a significant and wide-ranging role that spans most local government services and activities. Local boards make decisions on local matters, provide local leadership and support strong local communities. Local boards provide important local input into region-wide strategies and plans including those of the Council Controlled Organisations (CCOs).

Local boards are responsible for:

- Making decisions about non-regulatory local matters, including negotiating the standards of services delivered locally
- Identifying and communicating the views of local people on regional strategies, policies, plans and bylaws to the governing body
• Developing local board plans every three years and negotiating local board agreements with the governing body

• Providing local leadership and developing relationships with the governing body, the community, community organisations and special interest groups in the local area

• Providing input to CCO plans and initiatives

• Identifying and developing bylaws for the local board area and proposing them to the governing body

• Monitoring and reporting on the implementation of local board agreements

• Any additional responsibilities delegated by the governing body, such as decisions within regional bylaws.

**Independent Māori Statutory Board**

The Independent Māori Statutory Board (IMSB) aims to ensure that the Council takes the views of Māori into account when making decisions, and the IMSB helps the Council to do this by:

• Putting forward the cultural, economic, environmental, and social issues that are significant for Mana Whenua groups and Mātāwaka in Ōtāhuhu

• Making sure that the Council complies with statutory provisions that refer to the Treaty of Waitangi

• Working with the Council to create suitable documents and processes to help the Council meet its statutory obligations to Māori in Auckland.

**Advisory panels**

The role of advisory panels is to identify and communicate to the Council the interests and preferences of the community of Auckland relating to the specific portfolio of the panel (youth, ethnic, pacific, etc). There are
currently six advisory panels (the Heritage Advisory Panel is currently being formed):

- Business Advisory Panel
- Disability Strategic Advisory Group (DSAG)
- Ethnic Peoples Advisory Panel (EPAP)
- Foundation Youth Advisory Panel
- Heritage Advisory Panel
- Pacific Peoples Advisory Panel (PPAP)
- Rural Advisory Panel

Advisory panels meet on a monthly basis. Membership is made up of subject matter experts from the community. Advisory panels can make recommendations to Council, committees etc but do not have any decision-making power.

The Organisational Structure


The team that undertakes any operational aspects in relation to the work in family and sexual violence prevention is the Community Development and Partnerships unit (managed by Kevin Marriott), which sits in Community Development Arts and Culture department of the Auckland Council (managed by Louise Mason).

Policy and strategy in relation to family and sexual violence sit in different departments of the Council.

The Community Development and Partnership unit’s structure is currently as follows:
Auckland is divided into four areas, North, West, Central and South. Managers and Council officers sit in the four areas with responsibility for the work within these areas.

Each of the areas have a Team Leader of Community Safety. These Team Leaders have currently different resourcing, including staff with different focuses as they were transferred over from the legacy Councils. The only area to currently have a fully family violence focused staff member is West (being Kelly Maung).