

ANNUAL REPORT

THE WESTERN CAPE
STREET CHILDREN'S
FORUM

APRIL 2021 - MARCH 2022





What is the WCSCF?

A network of organisations working in partnership to create empowered, coordinated, integrated and collaborative sector for vulnerable children and children living, working and begging on the street.

VISION

We have a vision of strong, healthy families where children can reach their full potential, and where no child is living, working or begging on the street.

MISSION

The WCSCF is a network of organisations working in partnership to create a coordinated, integrated and collaborative sector for children living, working or begging on the street and always acting in the best interest of the child (in accordance with the Constitution and Children's Act 38 of 2005).

ETHOS

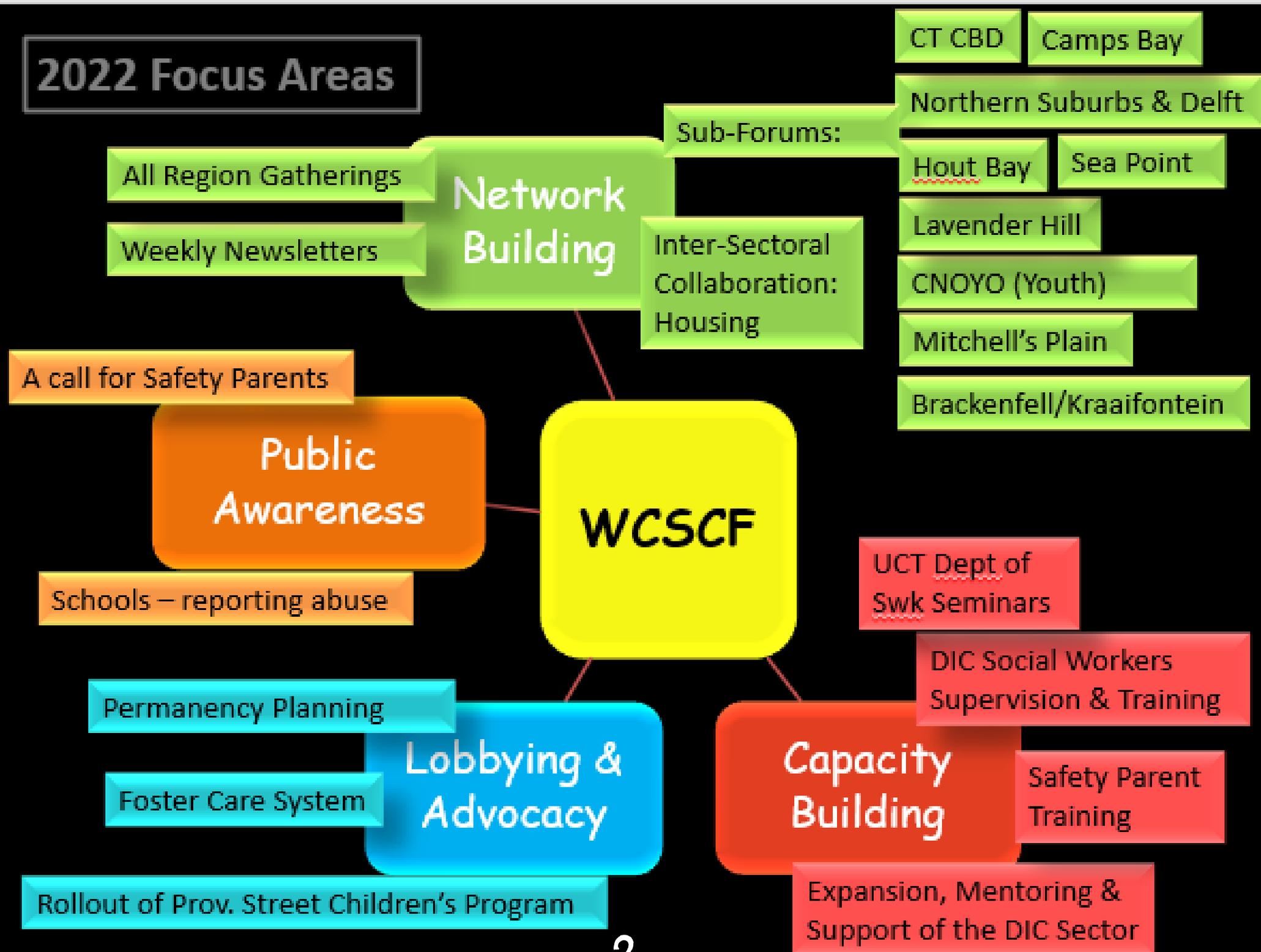
We believe that children belong in families and that no child should be living, working or begging on the street and that everything should be done to prevent this.

When this does occur (OR children do end up on the street), we believe that, although they have specific needs, they are children with the same potential as any other child, they have equal human rights, and they should be cared for and protected by law.

Therefore, we support:

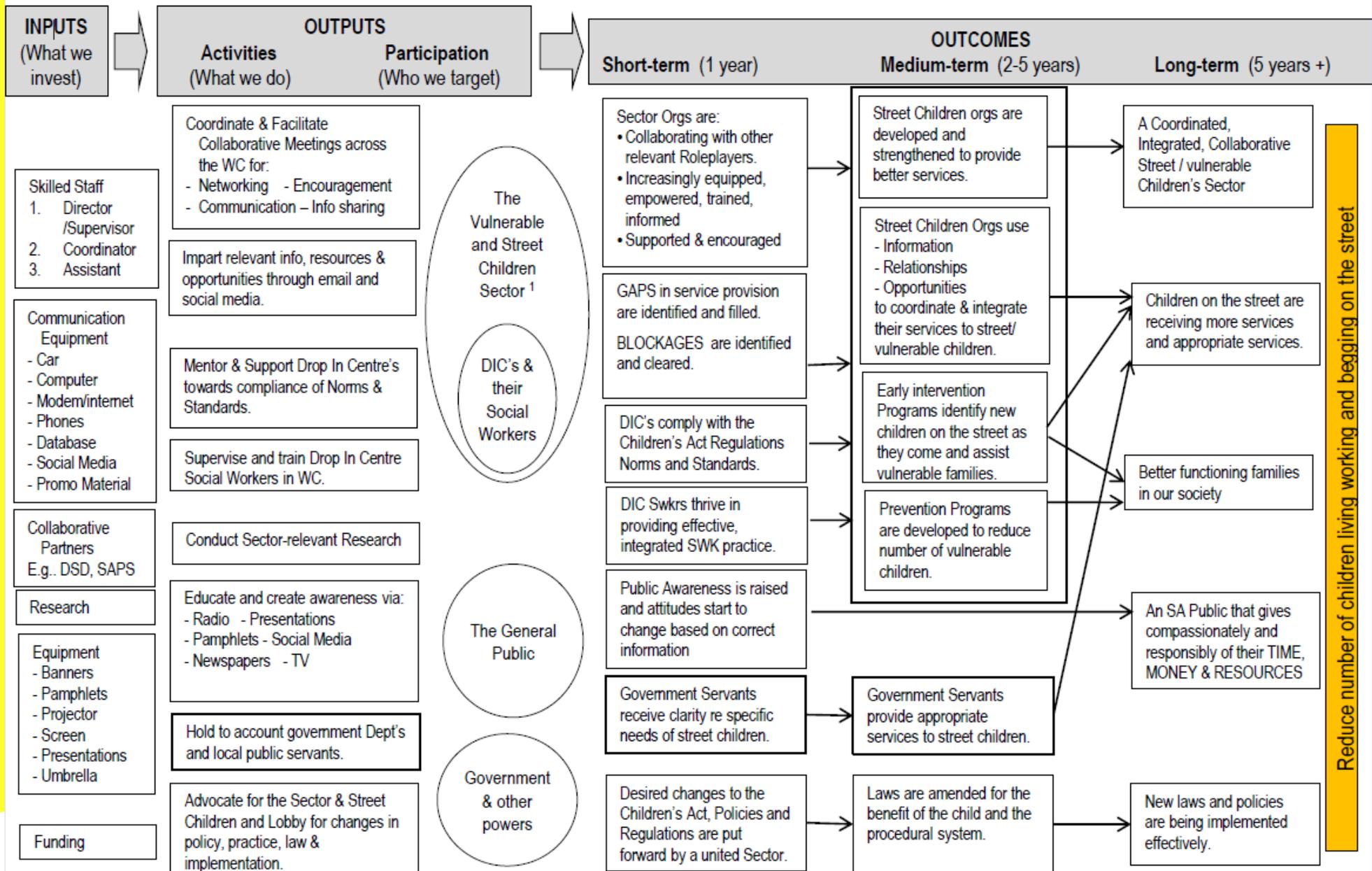
- Strategies that connect with the unique needs and dynamics of every child within an holistic approach,
- Therapeutic interventions to support children to develop an alternative lifestyle off the street, and
- Interventions that ensure their access to care that address their specific needs.

2022 Focus Areas



The Theory of Change

GOAL: To coordinate the network of organisations involved with children who live, work and beg on the street in the Western Cape, so that they are well-equipped, collaborate, work in partnership, and integrate their services for the optimal benefit of these children.



NOTES: ¹These are organisations who work in one or several of the following modes of intervention: Crisis, Early Intervention or Prevention

ASSUMPTIONS: You cannot care for a child on the street – get them off asap and leave nothing to encourage their return. Pull them 'home'.

WCSCF Board Members



Wilma Piek
(Voortrekker Road CID)
Chair



Isaac Rambouli
(Agape Mosselbay)
Vice Chair



Herman Smit
(CAP Swellendam)
Treasurer



Theresa Massaglia
Executive Member



Cindee Bruyns
(Lecturer UCT)
Executive Member



Chris De Beyer
Executive Member



Wendy Bosse
(Olympians)
Executive Member



Betty Nieuwoudt
(StellCare)
Executive Member

WCSCF Team



Director: Janice King

A social worker from Cape Town, she specialises in street and vulnerable children, child care and protection, anti-racist and feminist practices, mediation and refugee/asylum seeker rights. She values relationships, collaboration, truth and kindness. She has coordinated the WCSCF since 2013 and still LOVES IT!!



Supervisor: Gaye Moonieya

Newly based in the Western Cape (Knysna), Gaye is looking forward to working with the WCSCF as supervisor. She has background in journalism but went into social work as she wanted to do more than just write about what she saw. She has worked in child protection, run a shelter for street children and managed a designated child protection organisation. She is currently working on her PhD. Gaye believes in the importance, value and purpose of every person.



Assistant Coordinator: Jennifer Claasen

Jennifer has a degree in BA Health Science and Social Services and has done a number of counselling courses at lifeline and skillful hands. She is adept in working with children in the community from the ages of 4-12yrs. She has also done course facilitation and workshops with faith based organisations. Its important for her to deal with the root cause of issues and not only to deal with symptoms. She believes in working holistically and has done a social and community consultant course as well work on interfamily violence.

WCSCF Donors



A HUGE thank you to our Donors, big and small – your support and affirming actions are so very appreciated!

- **The whole Team at the Western Cape Provincial Government, Dept of Social Development, Care and Support for Children and Families**
- **Gunther van Biljon**
- **Grant McFadyen**

Thank you to new Donors who gave to our Mandela Day Campaign – you are great!

- **Mr De Kock, David B Miller, Alex Bellingan, Niall Bruyns, Lucy and Daniel Cunnama, Megan Bruyns, Stephen Serafin, Peter Bruyns, Cherise Vermeulen, Dave Bennie, Leon Williams, Lisa and Nic Gertze, Dion Forster, Warren Hewitt, Derek Bock, Susan Farrell, Mary-Lynn Mac Donald, Bradley Bergh, David Hunter, Phillip Worsley, Grant McFadyen, Jodine Bosse, Reze Botha, Erica Siebert, Reuddi Gautschi, Abigail Sparg; and all those who remained Anonymous.**
- **The Centre for Early Childhood Development – Book: Madiba: Our Children’s Champion**
- **And to Faan Bredenkamp, Christopher DeBeyer, Wendy Bosse, Wilma Piek and Cindee Bryuns, who stood up as Fundraisers in this Campaign!**

With special mention to Roleplayers for allowing us to hold meetings at your venue:

- **The CCID (Central City Improvement District)**
- **The VRCID (Voortrekker Road Corridor Improvement District)**
- **Bellville Public Library**
- **Various NGO Roleplayers, DCPOs and DSD local offices**

and Thank you to Abi Sparg for designing our 2022 Annual Report for us!

Chairperson's Report



I think we are all in the same boat when I say that it is astonishing that the last year has passed with a blink of an eye. After the Covid Lockdown period, it seems as if everybody needed to make-up for whatever it was they missed out on for the past two years. We are still reaping the proverbial “good, the bad and the ugly” post Covid.

The ‘good’ for the WCSCF would be that we have been able to extend our footprint, accessibility and attendance of the Sub-Forums and All Regions forum by using the online platforms, because we were forced to do so during lockdown. Although we do realise that face-to-face meetings will always be first prize, the social media platforms have benefitted us a great deal.

The ‘bad’ is that we do at times experience the loss of quality relationships and that some things are just better said, resolved and advocated for when we can see each other face-to-face. We hope that going forward there will be more meaningful face-to-face engagements, especially with the Department of Social Development and other important Roleplayers with whom we must partner, provide real time data of the street children situation, share best practice models, sometimes respectfully differ in opinion and hold accountable for the services promised and offered to our very vulnerable children.

The ‘ugly’ that we have experienced is the increase of poverty, our children struggling more and more to be just ‘children’ and their needs being met as children according to their basic human rights (food, clothes, water, a safe place to stay and education, to name but a few). May we never lose sight of our mandate and our cause!

Back to the ‘good’... I would like to thank Janice King for running our organisation smoothly, always stepping in where she needs to and always doing the right and ethical thing. We had to say goodbye to Rushni Collins due to ill health and we want to thank her for always giving her best, despite very challenging circumstances. We are so thankful that we could obtain the services of Gaye Moonieya, a very experienced Social Worker with a passion to teach and supervise the young (and more experienced) social workers at the Drop-in Centres. And finally, without the admin-support and diligence of Jenny, we would have really struggled - thank you for your initiative and consistency with all your tasks as Assistant-Coordinator.

My term as chairperson for the WCSCF has come to an end and I would like to thank my fellow Board Members for all their time and input to ensure that we do what is right for the most precious in our communities. It was indeed an honour to be part of this excellent team and this excellent cause!

Treasurer's Report



As with many NGOs and other business finances, the WCSCF were under pressure because of the effects of the Covid pandemic. Uncertainty about what will happen and how it will play out on the playing fields made it a challenging year.

However, at this stage, we can say that despite the difficult times with conservative spending and good financial management, the Forum is currently in good financial standing with a more minor loss than the previous financial year. Fundraising was tricky because of the economic situation in the country, with everybody being much more conservative in their spending.

I want to thank Janice and her team for the hard work and how they managed to keep expenses in check and look after the well-being of the Forum.

The WCSCF plays a vital role in protecting our children, and I want to encourage current members to go out there and get other organisations in the same sector to join us and help strengthen the Forum. The more members we have, the stronger we become.

Herman Smit

Director's Report



Do we not live in strange times... The world seems to have sped up and slowed down all at the same time. We seem to have both moved 'backwards' (more poverty, unemployment, struggle, GBV, less freedom, less connection) and moved 'forwards' (improved technological connections, improved intersectoral collaboration, coming out of Covid-life...phew!). A lot has been accomplished this year, but then...there is so much more I wanted to get done.

In the Child Care and Protection sector, we are still seeing those amazing 'Angels' and 'Heros'!! Community Members putting themselves out there to try their best to catch those in need. But, they are all a lot more tired, a lot poorer and a lot less resourced, but in some way more connected and confident in themselves after what they have achieved and accomplished in this difficult time of global, local and family struggle. It is clear, that we need each other more than ever before. And we need each other if we are to do things better, if we are going to reach and help the children who need us.

Some gains: this second year of partnership with local Education District Offices has seen community-based Drop In Centre Teams take a huge step forward with accessing educational and scholastic assessments for children experiencing barriers to learning in their education path. School placements for many more children than before have been successfully achieved.

In our work supervising Drop In Centres, after 3 years, we have a clearer picture of what is wrong and what is right. This will hopefully help all of us to make the prevention and early intervention work better on all fronts, towards greater effectiveness. I warmly and confidently welcome Gaye as she comes on board to bring her experience, wisdom and heartfelt passion for children into this arena. Rushni, it was painful to say goodbye to you. See you along the way! Jenny, your calm, steadfast presence is a total blessing – know that!

We do not find ourselves in a good place in the WC Child Care and Protection sector. Some severe, ongoing challenges plague us: (i) An almost complete standstill in the availability of Facility placement options – children's home are FULL, with a LONG waiting list. This means a child identified as 'in need of care and protection' is in most cases left in their dangerous, abusive or neglected family circumstances, sometimes for up to 2 YEARS. Not acceptable. (ii) The caseloads of Designated Social Workers remain impossibly high, rendering their work virtually impossible, effective service delivery low and staff turnover high. Not in the best interests of children and families. (iii) the Foster care and Safety Parent system is flawed, in that its implementation falls squarely on the already-overloaded shoulders of the Designated Social Workers in (ii) above. Facilities have their own Directorate – Foster care is a neglected shambles, going nowhere good. Why?

Change needs to happen, as we are not protecting and caring sufficiently well for our children. And unless we make a big change, they will be dead, raped or tomorrow's gangsters. As individual Social Service Practitioners, we can often only count 'the one or two' we managed to assist. But as a country and as a sector, I believe we need to aim higher. From my experience, the only way we can do this, is TOGETHER. So let's keep going, with hope and action, together.

Janice King



WCSCF Members

Adonis Musati Project
Advance Edukos
Agape Child Welfare
CAP Swellendam
CCID
CID Claremont
Community Cookup
Connect Network
CT Multi Service Centre
Elkana
El Theos
Hands and Feet
Happiness Haven
Hope Options
ignisive
KBSJ SRA
Kids Rise Above Circumstances
Lions Club Hout Bay
Living Hope
Masithembele DIC

Masizame Child Development
Muizenberg Improvement District (MID)
Olympians Social Development
Quality Life Montessori (QLM)
SaferkidsZA
SA-Yes
Sinethemba DIC
Stand
St Annes Home
StellCare
StreetSmart
The Homestead Projects for Street Children
ThinkTwice
TLC Tableview
UCT Dept of Social Development
Valleys & Mountains
Village Care Centre
VRCID
YFC Kidstop
Youth Outreach

Participating Organisations



ACVV Brightlights
Adonis Musati Project
Advance Edukos Foundation
Agape DIC, Child Welfare
Badisa Elsie's River
Badisa Trio (Bellville)
Badisa Trio (Kraaifontein)
Badisa Trio (Scottsdale)
Badisa Tygerberg
Baitul Ansaar
Baphumelele Foundation
Beautiful Gate
CAP
Cape Central Improvement District (CCID)
Change Makers
Childline Western Cape
Child Welfare SA Kraaifontein
Cloetseville Primary, Stellenbosch
CoCT Social Development
Community Cook Up
Community Who Cares
Connect Network
CPF Camps Bay-Clifton
CPF Kensington
CT Multi Service Centre
Dignity Campaign
DSD Kraaifontein Office

CT Multi Service Centre
Dignity Campaign
DSD Kraaifontein Office
DSD CT Local Office
DSD Hout Bay Office
DSD Mitchell's Plain Local Office
DSD North Regional Office
DSD Wynberg Regional Office
Elonwabeni Child & Family Centre
Elroi Rescue Mission
Elswood Primary, Leonsdale
El Theos DIC
Fisantekraal Development
Give a Child a Family
Golden Anchor Solid Rock Foundation
HandandFeet
Handevet – Taking Hands
Home From Home Cluster
Hope Options Calitzdorp
Hope to the Hopeless
ignisive
James House
Jelly Beanz
Kalk Bay St James Special Rated Area (KBSTRA)
Kids Rise Against Circumstances (KRAC)
KinCulture

Participating Organisations cont.



Launchpad CYCC
Lawrence House
Learn to Live School of Skills
Lerato's Hope
Living Hope
Life Changers DIC
Lions Club Hout Bay
Mamelani
Masithembele Enrichment Centre
Masizame Child Development DIC
Matla a bana
Mitchell's Plain Network Against Abuse
Muizenberg Improvement District (MID)
Mustadafin Foundation
Naomi's Joy
Nehemiah Call Initiative
Olympians Social Development DIC
Percy Bartley House
Project Playground
Protective Behaviours Southern Africa
Quality Life Montessori
SA Kinderhuis
SaferkidzSA
SAPS Brackenfel
SAPS Camps Bay
SAPS WC FCS Unit

SAPS Lentegeur
SAPS Muizenberg
SAPS Sea Point
SA Yes
Sea Point CID
Shawco
Sinethemba
Smart Kingdom Kids Academy
St Anne's Home
StellCare
The Alcardo Andrews
The Homestead Projects for Street Children
The Justice Desk
ThinkTwice
Ukondla DIC
Valley Development Projects
VCO Happiness Haven
Village Action Network
Village Care Centre DIC
Voortrekker Road Corridor Improvement District (VRCDI)
WC Commissioner for Children
WCED South District
We Can Change Our World
YFC Kidstop DIC
Youth Outreach DIC

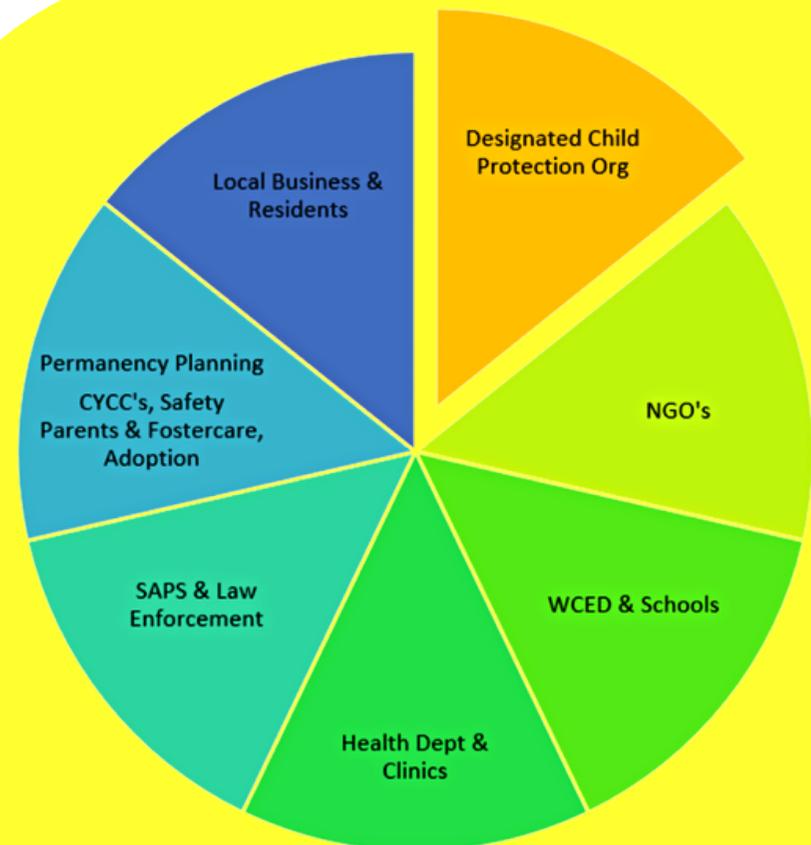
WCSCF Sub-forums

No 'ONE' organisation can solve or address the challenges related to the protection and care of children that we see currently in our country and province. It truly takes careful collaboration between government departments, NGO's and civil society. The WCSCF runs a number of Sub-Forums aimed at facilitating inter-sectorial partnerships amongst Roleplayers in local communities. Gaining clarity on THE ROLE of each Roleplayer, all holding each other ACCOUNTABLE for their area of RESPONSIBILITY and WORKING TOGETHER on the issues, allows for good relationships to be formed so that the COORDINATION and INTEGRATION OF SERVICES in the child care and protection sector can be improved.

Sub Forums:

- WCSCF All Regions Forum (Quarterly)
- Cape Town (CBD, Camps Bay, Sea Point) Street Children's Forum
- Northern Suburbs Street Children's Forum
- Hout Bay Child Protection Forum
- Mitchell's Plain Child Protection Forum
- Brackenfell / Kraaifontein Child Protection Forum
- Lavender Hill & Vrygrond Child Protection Forum
- CNOYO: Collaborative Network of Youth Organisations

*N.B. If you would like us to start a Forum in your area, please let us know.



Supervision and Mentoring of Drop in Centres



With just six weeks under my belt as Supervisor I have visited all but one of the DIC's affiliated to the WCSCF and look forward to visiting the last one in the next few days. Moving from the Eastern Cape, starting a new job and living out of a suitcase for almost a month has been challenging to say the least but despite that, I am excited to see how I can make a contribution to the great work being done and to add value to the services being provided by the WCSCF.

I am encouraged to see the genuine love and care that the DICs display towards the children who attend, to witness the grass roots responses to the needs in the communities especially in view of the many challenges of Covid and the abnormal conditions and trauma we found ourselves experiencing.

Post Covid is a time to reflect and look forward and see how do we build on what has been lost and gained. And very importantly, how do we work together to achieve the goals we all share: to serve the hurting children who attend the DICs.

I firmly believe that unless the Lord builds the house, the labourers build in vain so what are the values we need to all embrace? Unfortunately, we all know stories of corruption finding its way into the NGO sector. We all need to stand firmly against that and to ensure we don't fall victim. So let's be transparent, operate from a foundation of excellence and integrity. Let's do the right thing and leave the consequences to God (He sees the heart and He will bless our faith).

It is a very South African approach to "maak 'n plan" but unless we get the basics right, organisations will continue to struggle. The WCSCF is a community resource and co labourer and we share the goals of all the DICs – to serve vulnerable children and the communities they come from.

Let's do this together.

Gaye Moonieya
Supervisor

WCSCF Advocacy 2021/22



16th March 2021 – CoCT Seaboard Roleplayers Forum: Presentation on Children living working and begging on the street in the Cape Metro

March 2021 – Advocacy, connection and concerns aided between Drop In Centre Social Workers and DSD DCPO's, WCED District Sles (Learner Support) Units, DHA, SASSA.

March & June & August 2021 – Advocacy continues with DSD on behalf of 11 unregistered Drop In Centres in WC, specifically Life Changers, Wimbledon. Even if they are not funded, the Children's Act requires all those providing Drop In Centre services to children to be registered as Drop In Centres. The M&E required in this process would guard against any harm that could come to children, and also make it more possible for organisations doing good Child Protection to be more viable for other funding opportunities. These unregistered organisations account for well over 1100 children in the WC. To date, there has yet to be movement on this matter.

July 2021 – enquiry into the status of the DSD Street Children's Programme rollout to other local offices in Western Cape.



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