

Working together to achieve whānau wellbeing in Waitemātā

Presenters: Charlotte Moore, Waves Trust and Natia Tucker, Auckland Council.

The Waitemātā project explored how to increase community-led primary prevention of family and sexual violence. It was a unique collaboration in which family violence network coordinators in Waitākere, North Shore and Rodney worked alongside Auckland Council and Ministry of Social Development over a six month period in 2016.

The project used a co-design approach that involved community members, members of the family and sexual violence sector and people from the community sector, local council and central government. Bringing together local, regional and national perspectives was instrumental in the success of this project and in developing our understanding of the potential roles we can all play in primary prevention of family and sexual violence.

We took a strengths-based approach and specifically focused on the factors that protect against violence. Through a series of interviews with active community members we found that primary prevention is already happening within our communities. However, these efforts can be strengthened and extended once people understand the contribution they are making to creating connected and safe communities. Community ownership and leadership are essential for successful prevention initiatives as community-led efforts ensure strategies are tailored to local needs and strengths.

This interactive workshop will give participants an overview of the findings from the project as well as a practical introduction to some of the tools that were developed as part of this collaborative process. Participants will have the opportunity to see how primary prevention approaches can be integrated into the work that they are already doing within their professional roles and in their roles as members of our communities.

Charlotte Moore is a research analyst at WAVES Trust, a family violence network organisation based in Waitakere. Her main areas of work involve activating primary prevention approaches to family and sexual violence in Waitakere and convening the Waitakere Children's Action Network (WeCAN). She is completing a doctorate at the University of Auckland, examining the way in which social services are delivered in New Zealand.

Natia Tucker is adviser at the Community Empowerment Unit, Auckland Council.