

An introduction to *Our Place.*

an initiative of the Colman Foundation.



Our Place?

A place-based initiative of the Colman Foundation, working in partnership with the Department of Education and Training in 10 school sites across Victoria.

VISION

*Children and their families succeed in
life*

Our Place communities feature partnerships between the local school, local government, an early learning service provider and the wider community.

The aim is to enable schools to have the skills, resources and partnerships they need to make a real difference in the lives of children and their families.

The Central Carlton Site – 150 Palmerston

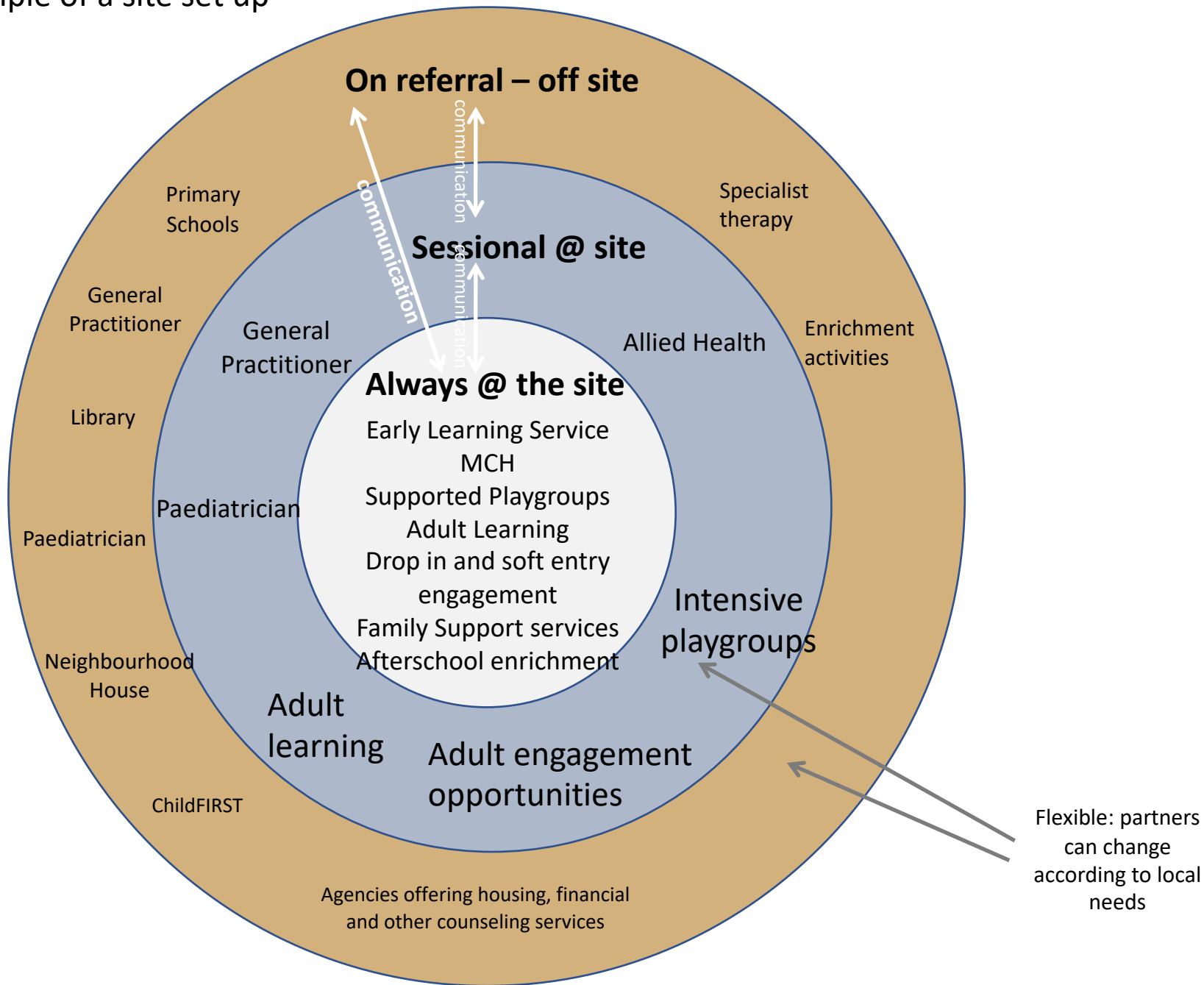
- Carlton Primary School
 - City of Melbourne Family Services, Playgroups
 - Maternal Child Health Service
 - Gowrie Victoria Early Learning Centre
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- \$14.9m building project
 - Whole site operational since 7 Jan 2020
 - Working towards an integrated hub for families

The Our Place Approach

- Single, Shared entry to all services
- Welcoming and friendly space
- How can I help you
- Warm referral to other services
- No wrong door
- Telling your story once
- Continuum of relationship with family
- Working with community not doing to community
- Where people can feel they belong



Example of a site set up



How can we support the health, development and learning for all children?

- Invest in creating high quality environments for all children
 - At home
 - In early childhood settings
 - In schools
- Focus on prevention and early intervention
- Obtain better outcomes from existing service system

Carlton Rotary Early Literacy Project

- Books for children 0-4
- targeting families with the greatest literacy needs
- providing books that are newly purchased from \$5000 raised by Carlton Rotarians
- including parent engagement in the process
- distributed through partnership with MCH and playgroups run onsite by City of Melbourne, and Carlton Primary School, Gowrie ELC and Our Place

Distribution Method 1 – Little Library

- Extend ‘Little Library’ project into supported playgroups on Our Place site
- The supported playgroups already target vulnerable families and Our Place facilitators can refer new families across to the playgroups
- The books will rotate through homes so that families have access to 20 books
- City of Melbourne staff are facilitating the program, talking to families, modelling reading and getting feedback about home reading



Supporting the Little Library

Additional distribution methods

- Maternal and Child Health nurses currently do home visits to vulnerable families. If they had a pile of age-appropriate books, they could ensure Carlton families receive them while providing a message about how reading supports baby's brain development and attachment.
- Baby story club for school families could be developed onsite (perhaps in collaboration with Kathleen Syme librarians or a school staff member). Alternatively, this could be an annual book week celebration for children 0-3 and their parents with a story time and a book gifted for home.
- Books in the foyer of the ground floor could be available for families who are waiting or visiting the centre

Next steps

- Purchase of books from Let's Read booklists
- April timeline for books distribution
- Develop links with Readings Foundation and Kathleen Syme librarians to strengthen project into the future
- Keep Carlton Rotary informed of outcomes

What else is happening at Carlton site?

- Consulted with 90 community members and 18 local agencies to inform planning
- Secured 2 years Federal funding for after-school programming
- Connecting families to services onsite and nearby
- Developing a site plan with partners to deliver across all five Our Place elements
- Connecting with community agencies and residents who want to be involved

Thank you

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