



Synchronised Winning – building the links between health and education

Polly Price

Health Promotion Service

Phyllis Moran

Sydney Children's Hospital

South Eastern Sydney and Illawarra Area Health Service

Health • Promotion • Service

SOUTH EASTERN SYDNEY AND ILLAWARRA AREA HEALTH SERVICE





Overview

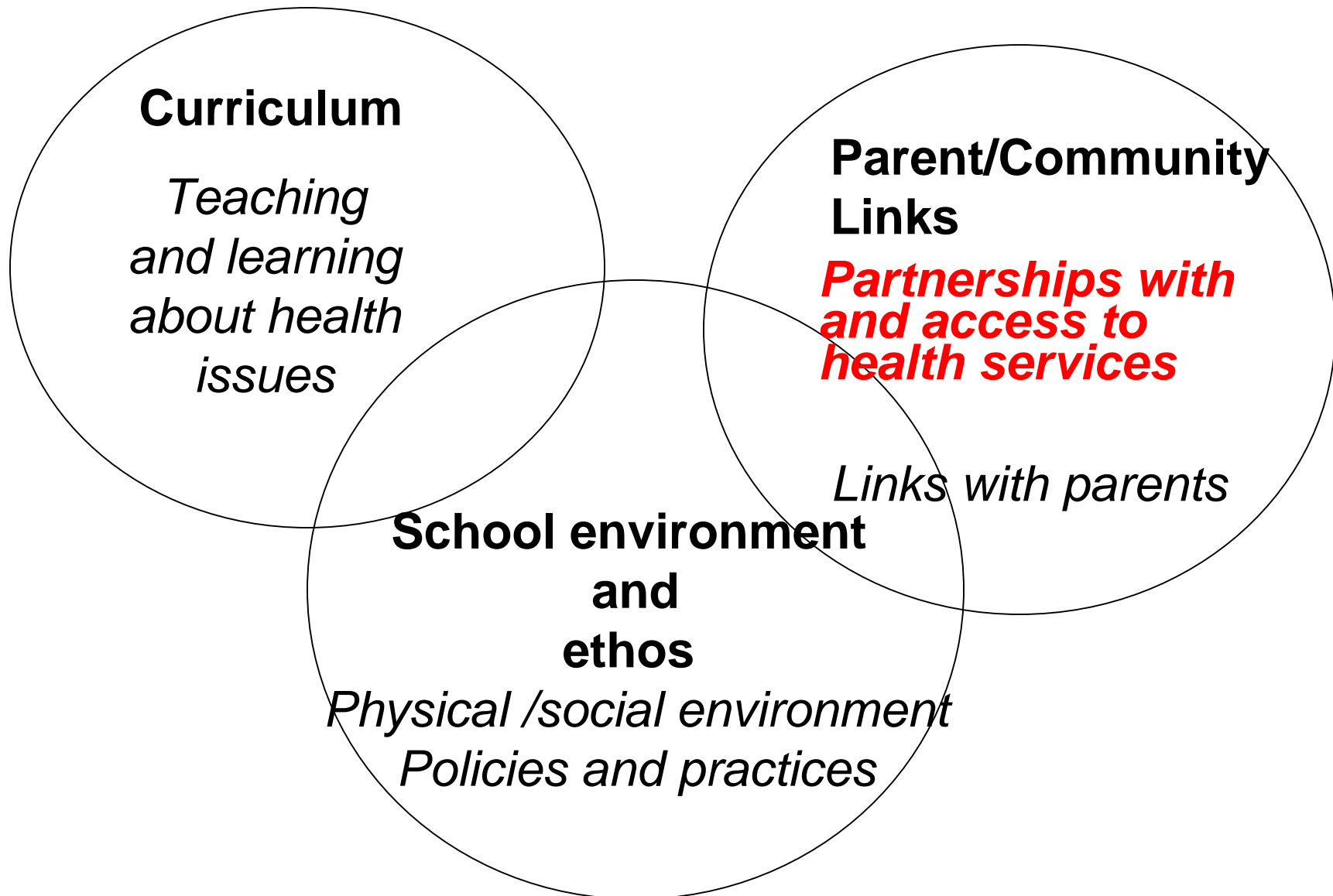
- Why should health and education work together?
- How can we work together?
- What can we achieve?



Why work together?

- Common health and education agenda
- Share resources and avoid duplication
- Take a coordinated approach
- Work in partnership
- Use evidence of best practice

The Health Promoting School





Background

- Leadership from Area DON
- Health Promotion with Schools – a policy for the health system
- Young People's Health – our future
- Healthy People 2005
- SESAHS New Directions in EBS health services for young people 2000
- SESAHS Child and Youth Health Strategy
- Pastoral Care and Welfare policies




How did we work together?

- Audit of health service activity with schools



Audit results (n=72)

- Professional development with staff (67%)
 - Info/education for parents/carers (57%)
 - Resource provision /development (51%)
 - Health education with students (47%)
 - Early intervention and clinical services (38%)
 - Screening and referral (28%)
 - Total of 42 Committees
- 



How did we work together?

- Audit of health activity with schools
- Consultation with health services, DET, CEO, AIS and NGOs
- Models from other areas



Role of Area School Health Committee

- Facilitate partnerships
- Provide a mechanism for communication and collaboration between partners
- Promote sustainable health promoting initiatives



Membership

- Clinical and non clinical health staff
- DET (Area Student Welfare Consultants)
- CEO (Deputy Principal)
- AIS (PDHPE Consultant)
- NGOs

What have we achieved?

Formal outcomes

- Joint health and education protocols
- OHS guidelines for health staff
- Directory of health services
- Intranet database of school health projects
- Joint projects
- Needs assessment



What have we achieved?

Informal outcomes

- Facilitated communication & information sharing
- Developed relationships
- Assisted with problem solving
- Facilitated access



Barriers

- Health & education do not share common borders
- Regular reorganisations of health and education
- Disparity of services and work they undertake – aligning agendas



Lessons learned

- Even large bureaucracies can work together toward common goals
- It takes time and perseverance
- Find a champion



Conclusion

“For me, the value of this Committee has been that it’s an excellent way of letting each side understand how the other side works – the pressures, the expectations, what we can do, what we can’t.

And that understanding, in itself, is a great outcome”.

Education sector member of Area School Health Committee

