Better support for vulnerable children and their families

Providing improved services to members of the community most in need was the subject of an inaugural Sydney Local Health District forum at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital today.

The Vulnerable Children and Families Planning Forum attracted more than 35 staff from key agencies which work closely with Sydney Local Health District such as Inner West Sydney Medicare Local and the Department of Family and Community Services.

The Chief Executive of Sydney Local Health District, Dr Teresa Anderson, said collaboration was vital in providing support and delivering better outcomes for vulnerable children and their families.

“Families and children with multiple and complex needs, or a lack of resources, often fall through the gaps in the service sector,” Dr Anderson said.

“The planning forum addressed this gap and looked at how we can can better support vulnerable families and create positive outcomes for young children.”

The District is also piloting a health pathways program developed in New Zealand and designed to enhance continuity of care, communication, appropriate referral, information and access.

“The health pathways program provides information on how to refer clients to local services in a timely manner which will improve access to a range of health and human services for vulnerable families in the District,” Dr Anderson said.

Sydney Local Health District covers Marrickville, Canterbury, Ashfield, Strathfield, Burwood, Leichhardt, City of Sydney (part), and Canada Bay-Drummoyne local government areas.

For more information on the forum please contact Caline Haddad from Sydney Local Health District on (02) 9515 9606 or caline.haddad@sswahs.nsw.gov.au