



CITY OF CAPE TOWN
ISIXEKO SASEKAPA
STAD KAAPSTAD

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT DIRECTORATE PROGRAMMES

Making progress possible. Together.

The Social Development and Early Childhood Development Directorate plays an important role in providing social services for those who need it most.

Our core programmes are designed to identify and take care of the most vulnerable in our community and turn households into functional families.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Substance abuse is a priority area given the high incidence of drug and alcohol abuse in Cape Town. The City of Cape Town collaborates at local and provincial level to offer initiatives that promote awareness and provide support.

We offer assistance, promote awareness of the dangers of substance abuse, especially to pregnant mothers, and provide support to substance abuse programmes. Initiatives include establishing and supporting community-based local drug action committees, preventative interventions and outreach to affected communities. The number of City-run outpatient rehabilitation facilities, or Matrix clinics, will continue to increase across the city.

Key projects in the substance abuse programme:

Strengthening families programme

The programme helps parents raise responsible adults. Launched in Lavender Hill and Bonteheuwel in May 2013, the eight-week programme focuses on children aged between 10 and 13, as well as their parents.

It focuses on helping parents ensure that children feel loved, while also helping parents implement limits and consequences. It also teaches parents to understand the positive effects of boundaries by discussing topics including love and limits, implementing house rules and encouraging good behaviour and consequences.

Using practical and interactive methods, children are encouraged to have goals and dreams, taught to appreciate their parents, deal with stress, resist peer pressure and associate themselves with good friends.

The family sessions teach both child and parent to appreciate family members, understand family values, build family communication and implement family meetings. These elements contribute to building a strong, unified family that is able to deal with conflict and differences in a healthy, productive manner. It also assists in raising strong, independent and responsible adults.

Substance Abuse Campaign

Keeping children off the streets, and occupied, is one way of ensuring they do not fall prey to gangsterism and drugs, and through the Substance Abuse Campaign, they do this with dance, singing and drama.

Assistance

The City offers assistance to users and those affected by drugs and alcohol abuse. Contact our drug and alcohol 24/7 helpline on 0800 435 748.

EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

The Early Childhood Development (ECD) programme helps take care of the wellness, nutrition and educational needs of young children at risk of not developing to their full potential.

The programme ensures that:

- Early childhood development centres are registered with the City of Cape Town and complies with regulations and by-laws.
- Assistance is also offered to non-complying ECD centres in collaboration with relevant City departments and Western Cape Government, to ensure they are compliant and meet the minimum norms and standards.
- The needs of children with disabilities, foetal alcohol syndrome and HIV/Aids are met.
- ECD practitioners and caregivers are trained to fulfil the developmental needs of the child.
- Construction of early childhood development facilities will serve as multipurpose centres of excellence and have a broader community use, such as training and resource centres for crèches.

VULNERABLE GROUPS

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STREET PEOPLE

The Street People Programme assists people who live on the streets to return to their homes, using a holistic reintegration programme. It also offers accommodation and employment opportunities. The goal is to get as many people as possible off the streets by dealing with the core issue of what led to them to living, sleeping and surviving on the streets.

The programme offers:

- Winter readiness programme activities and life skills training programmes.
- Provision of services at Assessment Centres.
- Detoxification and rehabilitation programmes at the City's Matrix Clinics in Delft, Khayelitsha, Milnerton, Tableview and Tafelsig.
- Focused, proactive activities aimed at those at risk of turning to the streets
- Rehabilitation and community reintegration of people living, sleeping and surviving on the streets.
- Access to social workers and local networks of care, as part of the reintegration process into communities of origin.
- Access to other developmental programmes, such as the city's Expanded Public Works programme so that they can earn a living and regain their dignity.
- Physical and mental health examination and where possible, on returning home, as well as aptitude tests to determine suitable skills training. In addition, the Give Responsibly Campaign encourages people to support the homeless by giving resources to the City's programme and partner organisations, instead of giving homeless people money.

Call our toll free number 0800 872 201 for any matter concerning street people, or to find out how you can become part of the Give Responsibly Campaign.

YOUTH PROGRAMMES

The City of Cape Town recognises that the youth face a number of challenges. Many young people feel marginalised and victimised, while others are unemployed. These factors can often lead to younger people taking part in social ills, such as drug and alcohol abuse, gangsterism, prostitution, drug trafficking and other criminal activities.

Our youth development programmes aim to build future, responsible leaders who will make meaningful contributions to society. The implementation of multi-faceted youth development interventions are important to address the challenges faced by youth.

They aim to:

- Reduce youth unemployment by providing work and employment skills, support and training using the Expanded Public Works Programme and provide support to youth-owned businesses.
- Offer support by working with departments in the City, the Western Cape Government's department of Social Development and a range of civil society organisations.
- Build the capacity of youth organisations and encourage active citizenship, so that young people can develop themselves and bring change to their communities.
- Improve the employability of young people by offering career planning and referrals for further training within the City, and other institutions offering further training.
- Identify youth for leadership developmental programmes.
- Collaborate with Western Cape Government's Department of Social Development to offer support to youth at risk.

POVERTY ALLEVIATION AND REDUCTION

Cape Town faces high rates of poverty and inequality. Poverty manifests in many ways, and one of the key ways is a lack of access to basic services, such as food, water, electricity and sanitation.

Being a caring City requires a targeted effort to care for the marginalised and vulnerable in Cape Town.

Many vulnerable groups, including women, children, the elderly and those with disabilities, are overrepresented among the poor and they face a range of complex social, economic, cultural and physical barriers in escaping poverty.

We are committed to addressing poverty and improving the quality of life of all who live in the city, particularly those who are poor, vulnerable or marginalised, through programmes and projects.

Our poverty alleviation programmes encourage active participation by the corporate social investment sector. They encompass establishing sustainable community food gardens and food gardens at Early Childhood Development Centres, which is hoped will help to address food insecurity in low income areas.

EPWP

The Expanded Public Works Programme is one of many programmes offered by Government to alleviate poverty and provide income relief through short-term to medium-term work opportunities for the poor and unemployed.

The Social Development and Early Childhood Development Directorate provides work in the social sector to unemployed and unskilled people through the delivery of social development services via the following programmes:

- Street people
- Substance abuse
- Early childhood development
- Vulnerable groups
- Youth development
- Poverty alleviation and reduction

All participants on the EPWP projects receive training on how to do the required job. This ranges from on the job-training and formal, accredited skills programmes and learnerships.

Workers who are selected through a recruitment process for training have to make themselves available to attend the training, and receive full payment at the daily wage for time spent on training.

For more information on the Expanded Public Works Programme and getting involved, contact your local subcouncil office.