

# Community of Learning | Kāhui Ako Stewardship Group



This document is offered as a guide to support Communities of Learning | Kāhui Ako in establishing their Stewardship Group. It is neither prescriptive nor definitive and Communities of Learning | Kāhui Ako should be mindful of changes in legislation, guidelines and Ministry of Education advice.

## Purpose of the Stewardship Group

Stewardship Groups are the kaitiaki/guardians of the Community of Learning | Kāhui Ako. They have oversight of the vision, progress against the achievement challenges and the growth and development of the Kāhui Ako, on behalf of the Kāhui Ako and its wider community.

The Stewardship Group helps to build and foster collaboration beyond the individual members of the Community of Learning reaching further into the local, regional and possibly global community to support achieving the vision.

Their focus should remain at a high level and not become caught up in detail and day to day operation of the members.

### Potential roles of the Stewardship Group

#### Oversight of the vision:

As the guardian/ kaitiaki of the vision for the Kāhui Ako, the Stewardship Group should ensure that the direction of the Kāhui Ako stays true to the vision. Reporting to the Stewardship Group should include high level information about the general progress that the Kāhui Ako is making.

#### Oversight of the achievement challenges:

The Stewardship Group should ensure that the achievement challenges are aligned to the vision and that the Kāhui Ako members are making progress towards achieving the goals that have been set.

This will involve receiving robust, well-analysed data and professional judgement of progress towards- their goals and providing feedback as part of an evaluation and review process.

#### Oversight of growth and development:

The Stewardship Group focuses on ensuring the Kāhui Ako is growing and developing as a community and that it is collaborating to provide a seamless pathway, ensuring that all students achieve their highest possible educational potential.

#### On behalf of the whole community:

The Stewardship Group fosters an inclusive environment that is able to reflect the key voices from the Kāhui Ako and the wider community. The Stewardship Group provides a forum, on behalf of the Kāhui Ako, acts as a possible enabler, facilitator or negotiator for opportunities and/or issues that cannot be realised/resolved at a leadership level.

It should be noted that the role of employer is not held by the stewardship group. Employment responsibilities and functions for the Kāhui Ako lead, teachers across schools and teachers within schools remain with their employing boards of trustees.

#### As a group you should consider:

- Are we all aware of, and support the vision of our Kāhui Ako?
- Are we all aware of, and support the achievement challenges of our Kāhui Ako and how we are going to tackle them?
- Are the achievement challenges clearly aligned with the vision?
- Is there a commitment to continuous improvement and development?

## Membership of the Stewardship Group

The Stewardship Group is an oversight group helping to steer the course of the Kāhui Ako and keeping its members true to the vision. It is not a governance or management group, and nor is it a legal entity; those decisions continue to be made by the respective boards of trustees\_ (schools), licence holders (early learning services), or other governing bodies of the members in the Kāhui Ako .

The Stewardship Group is an inclusive environment where all parties involved in and with the Kāhui Ako can be represented including early childhood education, tertiary, key employers, iwi and the wider community.

While Stewardship Groups will vary in both their constituency and their size it is recommended that they consist of a group of between seven and 12 members. This then presents the challenge of who should be represented on the Stewardship Group, and how that will be decided by the members of the Kāhui Ako. The Kāhui Ako lead should be a part of, and also report to, the Stewardship Group.

### Examples of Membership:

1. A mixture of trustees or principals from each school plus; early learning services, iwi, tertiary education providers, local employers, and local community representatives;
2. No trustees or principals, just early learning services, iwi, tertiary, local employers, and local community representatives;
3. A non-board representative from each school (e.g. staff, parents) plus early learning services, iwi, tertiary.

## Meetings and reporting

One meeting per school term, preferably near the end of each term to best capture progress being made is recommended.

In addition, it is recommended that the Stewardship Group hosts a hui of all Kāhui Ako members where the Kāhui Ako Leader can present an update report against the Kāhui Ako vision and achievement challenges. Following these meetings members could consider their own organisation's contribution and progression whilst the Stewardship Group evaluates and reviews the overall progress and direction of the Kāhui Ako with the Community of Learning Lead.

The Stewardship Group should be asking 'does the reporting align with our vision?' and 'are we on track to meet the targets in our achievement challenges?' 'what needs to happen now?' 'what strategies are in place to keep us on track?' 'what can we do to support our Kāhui Ako members?'

## Protocols

Other matters such as a code of behaviour, conflicts of interest, confidentiality/privacy, complaints handling, and data sharing also need to be considered.

In order to keep the Stewardship Group focused on the vision and ongoing growth and development of the Kāhui Ako, these matters should be discussed, agreed and included in the Memorandum of Agreement signed by all members.



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