

4. CHRISTCHURCH PUBLIC HEALTH STRATEGY

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The purpose of this report is to provide the Committee with an update on the Healthy Christchurch initiative.

UPDATE ON HEALTHY CHRISTCHURCH

There are now 186 signatories to the final version of the Charter. These include government agencies, businesses, voluntary sector groups and networks. The specialist focus of the signatories ranges from children's welfare to sport, from the arts to literacy. As such, Healthy Christchurch is now a significant vehicle for practical collaboration, networking and policy making.

In August, two workshops were held for signatory groups to identify the practical projects through which they wished to collaborate. Over 120 people attended these meetings and the range of suggested projects was impressive, reflecting the wide range of skills and knowledge represented among signatory groups. Projects include:

Healthy Workplaces – a pilot programme for addressing workplace health issues, including stress, nutrition, relationships and employment law.

Healthy Homes – a programme to raise awareness about creating healthier and more energy efficient homes.

Oral Health Project – a pilot to address oral health problems in children by providing fluoridated milk or water through kindergartens and primary schools.

Living Wage/Future of Work – projects using Healthy Christchurch's links between tertiary institutions and community groups to set up research to identify what constitutes a 'living wage' locally and how employment trends will affect life in the city.

Protocols for Groups working in schools – practical guidance to ensure schools access the best available information and resources.

Each of these projects involves a range of agencies that have signed the Charter, working together to develop, find funding for and deliver a project. Each project will be evaluated with support from the Christchurch School of Medicine.

A number of existing collaborative projects have chosen to come under the Healthy Christchurch umbrella. These include the Healthy Sports Club Scheme and a group working to set up a unit for teenage parents.

Healthy Christchurch is also developing as an important resource for consultation and policy development. For example, the Canterbury District Health Board is organising an important meeting on cardio-vascular disease – the Heart of the City Hui - using Healthy Christchurch signatory groups as a vehicle for spreading awareness that cardio-vascular disease is a concern for everyone and will only be addressed effectively when all kinds of agencies and individuals are involved in implementing social change.

The August workshops identified networking, information sharing and co-ordination between agencies as crucial to Healthy Christchurch. In response over 50 groups attended a meeting in October to learn more about the CINCH database, LocalEye and the Community Mapping Project. The meeting affirmed that CINCH should be supported as a major information resource for agencies.

While the initiative continues to be housed at the Council the Council financial contribution remains relatively small. Other agencies continue to fund the infrastructure and projects are funded by those agencies involved.

Chairperson's

Recommendation: That the information be received.