

4. METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY DISCRETIONARY FUND

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| Officer responsible Community Relations Manager | Author Michael McNabb – Metropolitan Funding Adviser, DDI 941-8933 |
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The purpose of this report is to seek the Committee's funding consideration of K2 Trust Christchurch's proposal to establish and run Project K programmes in Christchurch.

The Trust's proposal was first considered at the Community and Leisure Committee's 9 September 2002 meeting and was referred for further information to be received from the secondary school and community based "alternative education" sectors. Specific direction was given by the Committee to make contact with the Chairperson of the Christchurch Secondary Schools Principals Association.

RELEVANT CURRENT POLICY

The proposal meets a number of outcomes and objectives of the Council's Youth and Social Wellbeing policies and the Council's Strategic Objectives relating to community cohesion and wellbeing, economic development, environmental sustainability and cultural diversity.

PROJECT BACKGROUND

The Project K Trust was launched in 1996 by mountaineer Graeme Dingle and provides a 14 month programme that includes a three week wilderness experience, a three week community challenge/community work project and 12 months with a community mentor as a way of building self esteem and teaching life skills such as goal setting and promoting good health and education. The programme targets 13–15 year olds who are at risk of not achieving their potential due to factors such as lack of optimism, missed potential, school suspensions and truancy, low self esteem and lack of balance in life. Project K's founder recognised the wasted potential of youth as a result of social problems they encounter that was being reflected in youth crime, suicide, drug addiction and alcohol abuse, poor health, lack of attainment in education. The Project K Trust licenses local community trusts to operate the Project K programmes in their local regions.

Project K Trust's 2001 annual report shows programmes were run in the Auckland North Shore, South Auckland, Upper Central North Island, Palmerston North, Porirua and Dunedin. Local authority funding support for these programmes range from no financial contribution through to \$20,000 from the Hutt City Council.

The Project K Trust has established the K Foundation as a charitable trust to "raise" monies as an investment source that will eventually release interest earned monies to the local licensees. The Government assisted the launch of the Foundation with a \$2.5 million allocation on the condition that no monies could be released to the Project K programmes until the reserve reaches \$5 million. This target figure is projected to be reached in 2005. During the past five years the Project K Trust has secured (from reading their annual accounts and annual reports) strong corporate sponsorship and contracts from the business sector, charitable trusts/community funding arms of businesses and corporates for its national structure and programme development/management costs. There seems to be a much lower level of funding support from philanthropic trusts and traditional community funding agencies.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Following an August 2001 presentation in Christchurch by Graeme Dingle, a grouping of local people formed keen to see Project K established in Christchurch.

Each 14 month programme provides 15 to 20 youth with a three-week wilderness experience, a three-week community challenge/community work project and 12 months with a one-on-one mentor. The wilderness experience provides life skills training, goal setting and teamwork that aim to create a stronger self-determination and self-belief. The community work stage involves the young people as volunteers on projects such as local parks and walkways and with community groups and sports clubs. The 12-month mentoring programme involves each student being matched with an appropriate community mentor. They meet fortnightly and make contact by telephone at least weekly. The mentors also meet as a group monthly for peer support and to discuss successes and challenges. Project K aims, through the engagement of local communities, to inspire young people to maximise their potential and to positively influence the future of New Zealand socially, culturally and emotionally.

The K2 Trust Christchurch has identified a six-month lead in time/establishment period and is projecting to start their first programme in February/March 2003. This period will include setting up their Christchurch operational office, the employment of a Programme Director, seeking grants and sponsorships, engaging secondary schools, community groups and local people as mentors, programme implementation and operational procedures. This initial cost is estimated at \$79,000. The Trust has estimated that each 14 month Project K programme will cost \$32,500 and are currently planning to run three programmes during 2003.

Pages 4 to 14 of the Trust's funding proposal covering information relating to operational, reasons for establishing the programme, background of trustees, budgets and objectives are attached.

CONSULTATION

Since the Committee's 9 September 2002 meeting, work has been undertaken by the K2 Trust Christchurch and the Council's Metropolitan Funding Adviser in contacting a sample of secondary schools including a questionnaire to teachers who work as a Resource Teacher of Learning and Behaviour (RTLB), the Ministry of Education, the Christchurch Secondary School's Principals Association, youth and community organisations already involved in providing youth and whanau services/programmes with secondary schools, CCC Community Development Advisers and community workers of other local authorities throughout the country.

Extremely positive feedback was received in my communications and meetings with the Principal's Association Chair, Christchurch and National Ministry of Education staff, secondary school teachers, community and social workers with family support and social service agencies and with community workers who are aware of the Project K programmes. Comments included strong support: for developing new learning approaches that encourage the participation of young people to stay in education and learning; the urgent need for ongoing development of such programmes due to the "chaos" and isolation that lives with young people and their families; that through the intervention and influence of such "alternative education" programmes there are long term benefits for the whole community, not just for the participating young person and her/his family/whanau; that the current school/community social service providers are doing an excellent job but there are still "waiting lists" to enter the programmes; Project K is an excellent programme achieving marvellous results; that Project K nationally is working both in areas where there are no such community providers and where they are successfully working collaboratively with other such school/community based programmes; that Project K has forged strong collaborative links between the student and his/her family and whanau, the local community and specific social sector groupings, cultural and ethnic groups, the business and corporate sectors; the significant ongoing support and guidance component of the programme through the presence of the mentors; and the major influence the programme participants are having on their peers because of their "successful" experience with Project K.

Ministry of Education staff also gave highly supportive comment on the way the Christchurch City Council and its staff are leading the dialogue with government agencies such as Education, Child Youth and Family, Justice, Health, Internal Affairs, Labour, Pacific Island, Police and Housing. This dialogue is working towards the collaborative resourcing of community development and social service delivery that have common outcomes across the participating agencies such as "alternative education" programmes and "mainstream" learning and education support.

Alongside this positive feedback however, differing views and comments from the above were received from local youth work agencies, an existing "alternative education" provider and local authority community advisory staff. Such views and comments included: no support at all; has no fit with any Council schemes so direct the Trust to service clubs etc; programmes like this give the perception that "bad" behaviour is being rewarded; a perceived fear/concern that existing programmes may collapse due to lesser community support because of Project K's much higher public profile; there are already a number of similar programmes; what liaison/engagement has the Trust made with the Maori and Pacific peoples communities; how will the programmes engage and develop the cultural aspects of young people and their whanau/communities; the huge pull on community funding monies for "school based/students only" programmes that seem to have little contribution from the participating schools and the Ministry of Education; what process will be used to "invite/identify" the participating schools and young people; seems to be a high operational cost programme; the Trust seems to be a franchised charitable organisation with a very smart marketing profile.

Any further information received since the completion of this report will be tabled at the Committee meeting along with the specific information from those people consulted.

CONCLUSIONS

On balance, in considering the wide range of views and comments received through this consultation on Project K, I have every confidence in recommending Christchurch City Council funding support for this programme. I believe that the programme itself, and through the skills and vision of the Trustees, Project K has the desire and commitment to work collaboratively with existing agencies and community initiatives in the “alternative education” and “mainstream” learning/education support sector that will continue to ensure a wide range of youth and family/support programmes are available to young people, their schools and communities.

Nationally, Project K has very successfully forged strong programme operational links between the business world, corporate sponsorship, secondary schools, community groups, families and individuals that is creating a wide range of personal development and challenge opportunities for young people.

I have every confidence that the K2 Trust Christchurch will also successfully achieve such outcomes. Trustee skills and experience include people with business and management leadership; service on school board of trustees; outdoor recreation and challenge, eco-tourism and recreation project management and development; members of NZ Business for Social Responsibility and Conservation Boards; Safer Community Co-ordinator; a social worker; marketing; an outdoor education instructor; resource teaching of learning and behaviour; community worker with Maori; and alternative education experience with at-risk youth.

NATURAL + PEOPLE + ECONOMIC STEP ASSESSMENT

| # | CONDITION: | Meets condition ✓✓0* | HOW IT HELPS MEET CONDITION: |
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| The Natural Step | | | |
| N1 | Reduce non-renewable resource use | ✓ | Experience and learning on the wilderness and community work sections of the programmes will create many opportunities for young people to discover an awareness and practice of sustainable earth-friendly development and protection of our natural resources. |
| N2 | Eliminate emission of harmful substances | ✓ | (as above) |
| N3 | Protect and restore biodiversity and ecosystems | ✓ | (as above) |
| N4 | People needs met fairly and efficiently | NA | NA - See People Step + Economic Step |
| The People Step | | | |
| P1 | Basic needs met | ✓ | |
| P2 | Full potential developed | ✓ | Will provide a supportive, safe and challenge environment that will encourage the young people to discover more about their talents and skills in learning, leadership, recreation and sport, training and employment, achieving and self-confidence |
| P3 | Social capital enhanced | ✓✓✓✓ | Will provide many opportunities for the young people, their families/whanau and the wider community to be more connected and inclusive of one another. Will build stronger relationships and respect between the schools, community neighbourhood and business sectors. Will provide opportunities for people to contribute to the common good and the wellbeing of other people. Will enable the young people/rangatahi, their families/whanau and the local community to build up local skills so as local communities can become more able to meet their own needs. |
| P4 | Culture and identity protected | ✓ | Programme content of wilderness experience, community work projects and appointment of mentors will fully respect the cultural and ethnic beliefs/aspirations of the young people/rangatahi and families/whanau involved. |
| P5 | Governance and participatory democracy strengthened | ✓ | Will provide local schools and their communities to work with the Trust in developing the programmes around individual and local community needs. |
| The Economic Step | | | |
| E1 | Effective and efficient use of all resources | ✓✓ | Significant level of set-up/establishment costs can be met through some of the overhead costs being met by contributions from the business sector. Significant lower level of programme development costs through the provision of such resources by the national Project K structure. |
| E2 | Job rich local economy | ✓ | Will create local opportunities where work skills can be allocated/shared across the programme |
| E3 | Financial sustainability | ✓✓ | History of national project indicates strong community, business and local authority partnerships in meeting financial costs of the programmes. Project fits a number of Council objectives that should “attract” priority funding from already existing Council resources |

Staff

Recommendation:

1. That a grant of \$25,000 be allocated from the Metropolitan Community Development Discretionary Fund to the K2 Trust Christchurch as a contribution towards the Trust's establishment costs and for the first year running costs of the Project K programmes.
2. Recommend consideration to the Metropolitan Fund Subcommittee that ongoing Project K programme funding support be provided through the Council's Annual Financial Plan and Programmes.

Chairman's

Recommendation:

For discussion.