

15. SOCIAL INITIATIVES FUND

Officer responsible David Coom, Team Leader Community Services Team, Community Relations Unit	Author Michael McNabb – Community Funding Adviser, DDI 941-8933
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The purpose of this report is to update the Community and Leisure Committee on the community development work and social services being delivered by community organisations that are receiving Christchurch City Council community funding through the Social Initiatives Fund.

BACKGROUND

In November 2000 the Council's (former) Community Services Committee set, within the overall outcomes and priorities of the Social Wellbeing Policy and the goals and principles of the Community Policy, priorities and criteria for the next three year cycle (ending 30 June 2004) of the Social Initiatives Fund. These are listed in Appendix One (attached).

CURRENT FUNDING AGREEMENT SITUATION

There are currently 27 funding agreements (community projects). Twenty-three of the agreements are with community based organisations (two organisations have two agreements/projects), one agreement is a joint health sector project with the Christchurch City Council and one is jointly administered by the out of school programme sector with the Christchurch City Council. Currently totalling \$901,300 per year, 25 of the agreements expire on 30 June 2004 and the remaining two on 30 June 2005.

All community projects have signed off funding agreements with their respective trust boards/management committees. Each agreement includes the project's annual income and operating expenditure budget, project and organisation's development background history and future directions, organisation's management and project's operational structures, project's priorities and objectives, accounting, monitoring and evaluation requirements that will enable the project to be assessed against the priorities and criteria of the Social Initiatives Fund. The accounting, monitoring and evaluation requirements include:

- Annual report on the development, progress and achievements on the project funded by Social Initiatives as per the agreement.
- The organisation's annual audited accounts, annual operating budgets, annual reports and AGM minutes.
- The Social Initiatives Fund's Community Funding Adviser's attendance/participation at each organisation's annual meeting along with attending/participating at appropriate "operational" meetings of the organisation and/or project. Such "operational" meeting attendance has included staff peer supervision meetings, community "reporting back/identifying needs" forums, project planning and evaluation meetings, community days and network forums, community and social sector forums, a monthly meeting of the trust board/management committee, community and public meetings being hosted/co-ordinated by the organisation/project, "client/member" feedback/dialogue with service provider meetings, joint "report back" meetings to community funders.

Projects are in the community development, mental health, refugee and migrant, youth, family social services and parenting support, people with disabilities, alcohol and drug use prevention, after school programme, primary and secondary school aged children/young people's development, older persons, whanau and iwi development and multi-cultural development sectors.

Reports on each of the individual projects are included in the appendix to this report.

2002/03 FINDINGS

Through attendance and participation, as one of the Council's Community Advisers, at the various accountability, monitoring and evaluation engagements as reported above, this has given me an insight into the organisation's people and the wider community. The story-telling and life situation sharing opportunities that arise at these discussions gives a much clearer picture of the positive influences such programmes, projects and services are having on all those engaged (not just the "client") than an annual report or AGM minute or annual audited accounts could possibly record. An overall observation and finding is that no matter what the community project or programme is, they are providing opportunities for people to meet and share their stories and hopes. Such opportunities are breaking down years of people's experience of social exclusion and, through the community organisation's invitation to join a group or programme or service, offers the individual openings into a fuller participation in the life of their local neighbourhood, the wider community and across the city. Through these positive experiences the spiritual, emotional, social and economic benefits for community (and the individual) are profound.

A number of the organisations have suggested that they would like to present to the Council/Community and Leisure Committee, some aspects of their work that show the significant development in community and social wellbeing currently being achieved by the community through Christchurch City Council funding support such as the Social Initiatives Fund.

The Social Initiatives Fund, in the 2003/04-year, will receive its final \$125,000 allocation of additional monies. Community Advisers and Community Development Advisers have been invited to forward "indications of interest" for new Social Initiatives project funding. These "indication of interest" projects will be reported to the Community and Leisure Committee's 9 June meeting for decision on which projects would be prioritised/selected for funding consideration. Fuller community reports on those priority selected projects would then be provided at the Committee's 11 August 2003 meeting for funding allocation.

Allocations under the Social Initiatives Fund are currently made within the priorities and criteria set by the Community Services Committee in November 2000 for a three-year period ending 30 June 2004. Due to the recommendations of the soon to be released Christchurch City Council Community Funding Review are yet to be agreed/confirmed and that the Council's Long-term Council Community Plan will have implications for the prioritising of Council community funding support, it is recommended that consideration be given to extending these current priorities and criteria one further year to 30 June 2005.

Because of the abovementioned possible implications on Social Initiatives funding from the findings of the Community Funding Review and the proposed community mapping workshops for the LTCCP, it is also supported that consideration be given to requiring that any new funding agreements under the 2003/04-year allocation be for no more than two years, ending 30 June 2005.

Staff

- Recommendation:**
1. That the information in this report and attached appendix be received.
 2. That the suggested time frame and hearing process of 9 June and 11 August 2003 be approved for new 2003/04 Social Initiatives Fund applications.
 3. That the current priorities and criteria of the Social Initiatives Fund be extended one further year to 30 June 2005.
 4. That the current Social Initiatives Fund agreements, subject to satisfactory annual reports, be extended one further year so that all agreements expire at 30 June 2005.
 5. That the new 2003/04 Social Initiatives Fund agreements have a two-year term through to 30 June 2005.
 6. That staff be requested to arrange, at least two, Community and Leisure Committee seminars per year with the community organisations currently receiving Social Initiatives funding.

7. That the Committee give due consideration to the future options for the funding of new requests from the Social Initiatives Fund as there is currently no Council resolution beyond the 2003/04 year for new monies being allocated to the Social Initiatives Fund.

Chairman's

Recommendation:

That recommendations 1-6 above be adopted and recommendation 7 be considered as part of the funding review.