

11. YOUTH 4 YOUTH

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The purpose of this report is to seek funds for a venue for youth activities in Shirley. This project meets the objectives of the Council's Youth Policy, Social Well-being Policy and Community Policy. It is also consistent with the Board's commissioned research, which recommended (inter alia) to "set up a dedicated youth activities centre".

BACKGROUND

Board members will recall that a report to the March Board meeting noted that a number of responses to the recommendations in the Shirley research had been initiated. Many of these initiatives have come from within the community itself – a good sign of social well-being.

One encouraging community initiative has been the formation of Youth 4 Youth. The group is comprised of young people aged 10 through to their early 20s and mentored by the mother of four of these young people.

ACHIEVEMENTS

In the few months that this group has been operating they have:

- Established regular weekly basketball and touch games
- Assisted in the removal of graffiti in the area
- Taken the lead in organising, planning and running the McFarlane Park Youth and Family Day in February 2003
- Established excellent relationships with a number of businesses (including Burger King, the kindergarten and the doctor) resulting in a better youth climate in the area
- Contributed towards a lessening of tensions amongst rival youths at Shirley Intermediate
- Set up a kapahaka group

THE FUTURE

The next step for this group is to set up a venue that enables them to consolidate and develop. A dedicated venue would:

- Provide space to practice kapahaka
- Provide computer access
- Enable indoor recreation, eg pool, table tennis, to take place
- Provide a space for future planning and meetings to happen

Other activities and programmes that Youth 4 Youth are planning include:

- Driver licensing
- Mentoring programmes
- Sporting activities with youth groups from other parts of the city
- Holiday programmes

VENUE

A venue has been located which is of a suitable size and location. Costs associated with this venue (until 30 June 2004) are estimated to be:

Rent	9,750
Fit-out	5,000
Total	\$14,750

Youth 4 Youth have managed to obtain a number of items by donation (pool table, couches, crockery) for use in the venue.

FINANCES

The Community Board has already allocated \$5,000 from Project Funds towards this group. This money is to be used for programme costs. Some funding towards the volunteer expenses of running the group would also be worth considering.

Attached are some letters of recommendation and support from individuals and businesses in the area attesting to the beneficial impact of the establishment of Youth 4 Youth.

Staff

Recommendation: That a grant of \$20,000 (\$15,000 towards venue costs and \$5,000 towards volunteer expenses) be allocated to Youth 4 Youth. Funds for this to be re-directed from the \$35,000 set aside for fit-out of the Northern Youth Facility. (Note this would avoid having to roll-over this fund again this financial year.)

Chairperson's

Recommendation: For discussion.