

3. YOUTH AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT (YCD) - FUNDING SUPPORT

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The purpose of this report is to recommend to the Annual Plan Subcommittee of the need for ongoing Christchurch City Council funding support for the Youth and Cultural Development Society (YCD).

The Council currently allocates a \$50,000 annual grant towards the rental costs (\$35,000) and building operational and overhead costs (up to \$15,000) for the Society's Lichfield Street Youth Centre facility. The grant allocation is administered by the Community Relations Unit as one of its Metropolitan Community Funding operational line entry budgets (from a 1996 Council community group funding decision) and the lease agreement is administered by the Property Unit.

BACKGROUND

YCD grew out of a meeting called by community and youth workers in 1992 concerned about the rise in crime and violent offences by predominantly young offenders in the inner city. The media was highlighting a growing racial tension amongst Pacific Peoples and Pakeha youth (the homies and the skinheads). Street patrol work was initiated and from these early engagements with the young people, community groups, social service agencies and government agencies the concept of a youth centre was developed. In May 1994 the YCD Youth Centre at 273 Manchester Street opened.

Since 1997 the Youth Centre has been located at 92 Lichfield Street in an old inner city warehouse. The Council entered a three-year Dead of Lease agreement with the owners of the building and allocated an annual grant of \$50,000 as a contribution towards the annual rental costs and operating expenses. In 2000 this lease agreement was renewed for a further three-year period with a final expiry date of 19 June 2003. In November 2002 notification was given that the building had been sold and that there would be no extensions to the current lease.

YCD was incorporated in 1993 and its objects/whaingā include:

- develop and maintain a safe, neutral environment whereby talents, skills and aspirations can be realised
- provide an integrated range of needs based services for youth
- develop awareness of indigenous spirituality and broaden awareness of life options
- formulate creative strategies for the prevention, intervention and management of youth offending.

CURRENT STATUS AND SERVICES

Since receiving the sale of the building news in October the Society has been actively seeking an alternative site to continue the work of YCD and its Youth Centre. An "ideal" building has been located in Lichfield Street opposite the Bus Exchange. YCD is currently exploring accommodation conditions and leasing/rental terms with the building's owners. The property has a current annual lease/rent cost of \$60,000. The Council's Property Unit is working with both the current youth centre site's building owners and the proposed new site owners regarding release from the current lease agreement, inspection of the new site, accommodation requirements and lease/rental conditions and terms.

YCD services include Monday to Friday drop-in hours at the Youth Centre with supervised activities; 20 week life skills course; 20 week specialist course for youth offenders; Youth Court directed supervision with activity programme; Community Service supervision hours; mentor service with Pacific Peoples youth; specific case management youth clients. The Youth Centre is also used by other youth and community agencies including B Pacific, Pacific Underground, Actionworks, Te Whānau Puawai Ora and visiting theatre and dance groups. Services of the Youth Centre are also accessed by/referred to/networked by the community and youth work agency members of the Canterbury Youth Workers Collective. During the past two years YCD has received funding support from, and youth work contracts with, the Canterbury Development Corporation, Community Employment Group, Child Youth and Family, Skill New Zealand, Crown Public Health, COGS, Lottery Grants Board, The Community Trust, Work and Income, the Council, Creative Communities, Ministry of Youth Affairs and community and whānau gifts and donations.

January to November 2002 Youth Centre statistics show 7,700 males and 3,685 females accessed the services of the Society and the Youth Centre. Thirty-one per cent were Pacific Peoples, 48% Maori and 19% Pakeha. Copies of the Centre's statistics, programme outline of a 20-week life skills course and an outline of the various services and programmes are on file.

June 2002 audited accounts show a \$1,110 deficit on an operating expenditure of \$268,890 with net cash reserves of \$73,572. Expenditure and receipts do not include rental costs or CCC grant as the lease agreement is between the CCC and the property owner with the rental costs being paid directly to the property's owners from the grant allocation.

EVALUATIONS/REVIEWS

During 2002 YCD and the work of the Youth Centre were evaluated and reviewed by Child Youth and Family, the Ministry of Youth Affairs and the Council. The evaluations/reviews identified the significant, valuable and critical role YCD plays in working with young people and their whanau; the strong influence the Youth Centre and its people/mentors are having with young people to bring about changed behaviours and awareness of improved life options; its excellent co-working relationships with government agencies and other community and youth service agencies; the very successful ways YCD manages and administers its services and programmes for "challenging" youth on such limited funding. The reports highlight a high level of satisfaction with the quality and achievement of service delivery outcomes. YCD is encouraged by the reports to continue developing appropriate service delivery and management practice systems and to continue developing new services and programmes that will meet/address the evolving needs of young people. Copies of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Child Youth and Family evaluation summaries are on file along with a full copy of the Council's evaluation. Following on from these evaluations both Ministry of Youth Affairs and Child Youth and Family have confirmed their new year funding and contract agreements with YCD along with both agencies offering two new (extra) contracts.

Child Youth and Family's March 2002 evaluation of YCD's Community Work/Community Service project showed that 93 young people were referred to the Service of which 79 successfully completed their community service hours. Subsequently YCD placed 23 of them with suitable education providers (after having being out of the education system for up to 18 months), 4 into employment, 6 into a YCD 20 week life skills course and 12 referred for guidance/treatment with alcohol and drug and mental health services.

In the Council evaluation of YCD undertaken by Creative Consultancy Network, it is identified that the main user group of YCD is a distinctive subset of young people characterised by a predominance of male, Maori and Pacific Island youth aged between 14 and 25 years, with low participation in the education and welfare sectors, high participation in the justice system and vulnerable to risk.

In its evaluation of YCD, Creative Consultancy Network interviewed/consulted with 28 people. These included Christchurch City Councillors, government agencies (Internal Affairs, Child Youth and Family, NZ Army, NZ Police), social service and community agencies (He Waka Tapu, 4YP, Hoon Hay Youth Centre, Project Pegasus, Aranui Community Renewal, Canterbury Youth Workers Collective, 198 Youth Health Centre, Just Us Youth, Te Ora Hou, Methodist Mission, Youthworks, Pacific Underground) and Christchurch City Council staff (CCC/Police Youth Worker, Youth Advocate, Legal Arts Programme).

The Council's Youth Advocate is currently preparing a staff report on the findings and recommendations of the evaluation and other youth initiatives that will be presented at the Community and Leisure Committee's March meeting. Her recommendations will include ongoing annual funding support by the Council for the work of YCD. This report relates to item 2 of clause 9 of this meeting's agenda, ie outcomes identified.

SUMMARY

The Youth and Cultural Development Society has played a major role in providing an inner city based youth centre and youth intervention/development programmes for over 10 years. Members and associates of the Society have been at the leading edge of youth and community work in this city for over 20 years. The Society and the work of the Youth Centre have strong recognition and co-working relationships and funding support from a wide range of community organisations and government agencies. The three independent reviews/evaluations carried out during 2002 on the work of the Society gives clear indications of the ongoing need for the continued presence of YCD in Christchurch and recognises the significant achievements being made through such an inner city facility.

NATURAL + PEOPLE + ECONOMIC STEP ASSESSMENT

#	CONDITION:	Meets condition ✓/0*	HOW IT HELPS MEET CONDITION:
The Natural Step			
N1	Reduce non-renewable resource use	✓	Community work projects undertaken by the Youth Centre provides young people with education about and practical experience in environmental issues.
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	✓	Drop In hours provide a safe environment for the development of friendships, peer support, awareness of rights and responsibilities, opportunities for skill development, learning and recreation.
P2	Full potential developed	✓	Supervised hours, structured programmes, mentoring and peer support and case management are creating opportunities where current attitudes and behaviours can be addressed. This is resulting in much wider and positive life options being explored by the young people and their whanau.
P3	Social capital enhanced	✓	Youth Centre hours and services and the Society's relationships with community agencies are providing numerous opportunities for young people, their family and whanau and the wider community to meet and engage that develops a sense of community participation and belonging.
P4	Culture and identity protected	✓	All youth encounters, programmes and services are strongly based in and reflect the cultural identity and background of the young people involved. This is ensuring a full development of the young person's mental, spiritual and physical wellbeing.
P5	Governance and participatory democracy strengthened	✓	Strong attendance at the Society's AGM ensures a wide range of young people, community organisations and government agencies participating in the direction of the Society and its evolving programmes and services.
The Economic Step			
E1	Effective and efficient use of all resources	✓	2002-year evaluations/reviews (3) highlight the effective way the Society delivers its programmes and services with a particular sector group that "attracts" limited funding.
E2	Job rich local economy	✓	Programmes and services are providing new employment and training opportunities for young people as Youth Centre staff. The young people on the programmes are being exposed to employment opportunities through community project work and work skills development.
E3	Financial sustainability	✓	Due to the type of social and youth work this project is involved in, YCD will always require community-funding support from organisations such as the Christchurch City Council.

Staff

- Recommendation:**
1. That the Annual Plan Subcommittee be requested to consider the continued inclusion of funding support for the Youth and Cultural Development Society at \$50,000 per year beginning 1 July 2003 for the next three years subject to:
 - (a) Confirmation from the Council's Property Unit that a satisfactory building inspection report has been completed and a satisfactory lease agreement has been drawn up.
 - (b) Any underspending of the Council's current grant allocation (estimated at up to \$15,000) be made available to the Society to meet relocation and refurbishment costs.

2. That the new lease agreement be between the Youth and Cultural Development Society and the property owners.
3. That the annual grant be paid directly to the Youth and Cultural Development Society.

Chairman's

Recommendation:

That the above recommendation be adopted.