

4. MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING: MINISTRY OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND CHRISTCHURCH CITY COUNCIL: UPDATE

Officer responsible
Director of Policy

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The purpose of this report is to inform the Committee of progress resulting from the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Christchurch City Council and the Ministry of Social Development with regard to collaborative planning in July 2002.

The aims of this collaborative planning project are:

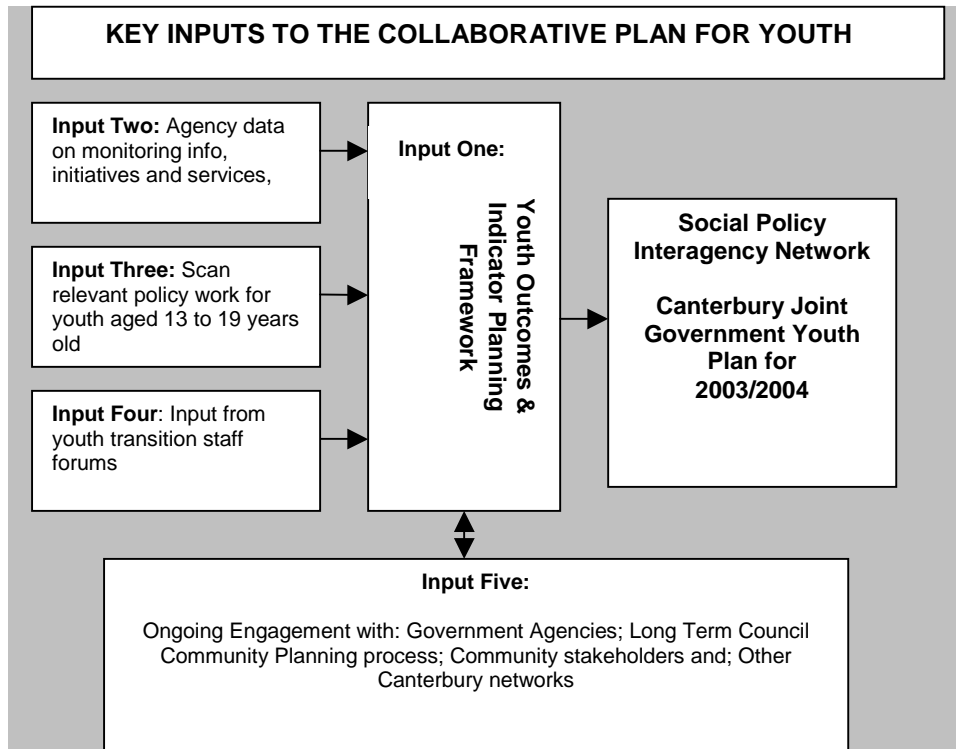
1. To ensure to the greatest extent possible local government and central government agencies adopt an informed and consistent approach to the planning of services in Christchurch and where appropriate share their plans and engage in 'joined up' planning.
2. To ensure that opportunities for co-operation between the Council, central government agencies and non-government organisations are taken up for the benefit of the people of Christchurch.
3. To use this project as a basis for further learning about what works to improve interagency collaboration at the regional level and to develop tools, techniques and processes for collaboration that may be transferable to other areas in New Zealand.

One of the first steps taken in progressing the collaborative planning work envisaged by the Memorandum of Understanding was to approach the Social Policy Interagency Network to see if it was willing to be the steering group for this work. The Social Policy Interagency Network consists of the Regional Managers (or their equivalent) of the major central government agencies, who have the responsibility for social policy delivery in Christchurch together with the nominees of the Chief Executives of the Canterbury District Health Board and the Christchurch City Council. Government agencies on the Social Policy Interagency Network include the Department of Corrections, Child Youth and Family, Department of Work and Income, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs, Te Puni Kokori, Housing New Zealand, and the New Zealand Police Force. The Social Policy Interagency Network agreed to become the steering group for this work and to adopt the collaborative planning project as their major project for the 2002-2003 year.

In the latter part of the 2002 calendar year policy staff from Ministry for Social Development and the Christchurch City Council jointly conducted a series of structured interviews with all Social Policy Interagency Network members. The purposes of the interviews were to establish a joint understanding of the purpose of collaborative planning, and to identify priority issues.

An analysis of the results of those interviews showed two things clearly. Firstly, that trying to prepare a joint plan across all the areas of responsibility of the agencies would be a huge and daunting task. Secondly, that there was a common theme amongst all the agencies in their concern for young people. The Social Policy Interagency Network therefore decided to focus this first collaborative planning project on young people which for the purposes of this project is defined as 13 to 19 year olds (with some fuzzy boundaries).

The model for producing the Canterbury joint government youth plan is set out in the diagram below:



Youth Outcomes and Indicators - Input 1

The Ministry of Social Development has produced a framework for mapping outcomes for young people based on the Social Report 2001 and the Big Cities Outcomes Report domains. These cover outcome areas of: health, knowledge and skills, safety and security, paid work, human rights, culture and identity, economic standard of living, social connectedness and the environment. The Social Policy Interagency Network agreed to use these outcomes as a framework for a template for mapping outcomes from information gathered by government agencies in Christchurch. The purpose of this is to provide some indication of how the actions of government agencies impact upon outcomes for young people.

Mapping Services: Programmes and Initiatives: Input 2

The member agencies have supplied information about the monitoring information they collect on young people and about the programmes and initiatives they have for young people. This has been mapped onto the outcome framework to give an overview of existing activities involving young people across the social sector.

Scanning Youth Policy Work: Input 3

Child Youth and Family and the Christchurch City Council are jointly engaged in the Christchurch Community Mapping Project. Part of this is a scan of current social service provision to the community and the collaborative planning exercise will draw on this work for identifying services provided to young people.

Input From Other Levels of Agency Managers and Frontline Staff: Input 4

Agency managers and planners met on 17 March to look at joint performance. They identified a number of issues and gaps in services and service co-ordination for young people. They also highlighted a range of potential synergies which could provide the basis for joint activity to be developed in the collaborative plan.

An Interagency forum was held in Christchurch on 31 March involving up to 50 frontline staff and managers from within agencies to work through opportunities and issues for greater collaboration. The results of this work are expected to be available in mid April.

PRODUCTION OF THE COLLABORATIVE PLAN

As a result of the planning meeting on 17 March the Social Policy Interagency Network members are currently engaged in discussions around the development of a framework to guide priority setting and decision making to underpin the collaborative planning process. Social Policy Interagency Network members have agreed to meet in May 2003 to review the inputs required to complete the joint youth plan. At its meeting on 28 April the SPIN group agreed an outline for the plan. A small writing group has been established (on behalf of the wider SPIN membership) to further the development of the plan and SPIN members have agreed to hold a special planning meeting late May 2003 to review this work and agree on key aspects of the plan (including initial priorities). The collaborative plan is expected to be completed by July 2003. It is likely that the plan will provide for some collaborative initiatives that can be taken within existing budgets in the 2003-2004 financial year. It will also look to changes that agencies will only be able to action in the following year following budgetary considerations.

The Ministry of Social Development and Christchurch City Council will also produce a paper on the lessons learned drawing on the experience of preparing this first collaborative plan. The intention is that the paper will be made available to both central government agencies and local government.

Staff

Recommendation: That the information be received.

Chairperson's

Recommendation: That the Council continue to monitor the development of collaborative planning to ensure successful outcomes for Christchurch.