

## 17. YOUTH 4 YOUTH – YOUTH DEVELOPMENT CO-ORDINATOR

**Officer responsible**  
Community Advocate

**Author**  
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The purpose of this report is to seek funding assistance from the Community Board towards the salary of a Youth Development Co-ordinator in the Shirley area.

### POLICIES AND OBJECTIVES

This project meets the following policies and objectives of the Council and Community Board:

- Youth Policy - in this case specifically taking the role of “resourc(ing), provid(ing) and support(ing) services for young people in partnership with other agencies where appropriate”.
- Council's strategic objective of honouring the Treaty of Waitangi. This organisation, although not excluding other cultures or ethnicities, attempts to foster a sense of cultural identity and awareness in the, largely Maori, youth that it works with.
- The Community Board's objective of “engag(ing) in effective consultation processes within Shirley/Papanui”. Specifically, this objective is met through the output of “develop(ing) links with youth organisations, groups and informal groups”.
- The Community Board's objective of “promot(ing) a safe, healthy community”, especially with respect to the output of “encourag(ing) community pride in the Board's area”.
- The Community Board's objective that “the Treaty of Waitangi is honoured”. One output of this objective is to “establish relationships through appropriate channels with Maori in Shirley/Papanui”. Whilst this organisation is not specifically Maori, many of the youth involved are Maori and are keen to learn more of their Maori heritage.

### BACKGROUND RESEARCH

Board members will recall the research presented to the Board in January 2001 (“It's a lot of Little Things Happening that will make the Difference”). The Executive Summary of that research report noted that “the major finding from this research was the need for support for low income families in their parenting and supervising their children. Two approaches to this support were identified: formal and informal programmes for parents, and quality social and recreational programmes for children and youth”. Furthermore, the researchers noted that “programmes should also drawn upon and recognise the interests and skill of the people living in the research area”.

This project relates to the second of the approaches mentioned above. The project also draws (almost entirely) upon the interests and skills of people living in the research area.

The recommendations of this research that have direct relevance to this project include the following:

- Support a youth worker to organise sporting, music and dance activities.
- Set up a dedicated youth activities centre.
- Support holiday programmes that are well supervised and with clear quality control and accountability.
- Initiate supervised recreation.

Board members will also recall that in late 2001 a highly successful Shirley Youth Day was held in conjunction with Shirley Rugby League Club, the Shirley Community Trust and Nga Maata Waka. Some 70 young people from the Shirley area attended this event and provided the organisers with an enormous range of activities, events, programmes and facilities required in the area. Many of the requests, especially those of a programme nature, necessitated the oversight of a dedicated youth worker.

## RESPONSES TO NEED

Prior to and since this research a number of responses to youth needs in the area have been made. Many of these have been unable to fully utilise the skills and creative abilities of the young people themselves and hence have not been sustainable. The Council has also attempted to provide activities and programmes in the area. Although moderately successful these have also fallen short due to the Council being an "outside provider".

## COMMUNITY ISSUES

Issues associated with, or perceived to be associated with, youth have long been of concern in the Shirley community. Many Board members will recall a series of public meetings initiated by Shirley Intermediate School called to address issues of vandalism, graffiti, verbal and physical abuse attributed to youth in the area. Management at The Palms Shopping Complex have also complained about anti-social youth activities.

Anti-social activities of young people were also mentioned in the Shirley research, often by young people themselves, some of whom felt unsafe at times.

## YOUTH 4 YOUTH

Since mid-2002 a new organisation, Youth 4 Youth, has become increasingly active in the Shirley area. This organisation is stimulated and facilitated by Gwyneth Beard (Piwi), who is a graduate of the University of Canterbury's Social Work course, a local resident and a mother. Youth 4 Youth has established itself as a highly effective, proactive and focussed youth organisation. The Mission Statement of Youth 4 Youth (as written by the young people themselves) is:

*To bring about wellbeing for youth within our community  
To develop positive change for youth in the Shirley area  
To create leadership, partnership, ownership and pride in our community for youth.*

Youth 4 Youth works in such a way as to stimulate local youth leadership, creating positive role models within its leadership. The youth leaders have created and adhere to a Code of Conduct which incorporates:

- The Mission Statement
- Expectations of supervisors by Youth 4 Youth
- Supervisor expectations of Youth 4 Youth
- Breach of Conduct
- Codes of Behaviour
- Performance of Duties
- Respect for Rights of Others
- Conflicts of Interest and Integrity
- Personal Behaviour
- Disciplinary Action/Procedure

Youth 4 Youth has initiated a number of activities and programmes including:

- Kapa Haka - the group have performed on a few occasions locally
- Girls Talk - a programme designed for young women to learn new skills and to share information and knowledge
- Touch and Basketball competitions

Youth 4 Youth was also instrumental in designing, promoting and MC-ing the Shirley Youth and Family Day in February this year.

Other activities that the group are involved in include:

- Monitoring of Burger King on weekdays between 2.45 pm – 4.15 pm
- Graffiti cleanup when required
- Attendance at local network meetings
- Liaison with other community agencies and businesses, eg Shirley Playcentre, Shirley Mall
- Conflict resolution with young gangs at Shirley Intermediate School

## MANAGEMENT

After a search to find an organisation that would act as an umbrella for Youth 4 Youth, the Shirley Community Trust agreed to act in this capacity. A contract has been drawn up between the Trust and Piwi and funding has been applied for on behalf of Youth 4 Youth. Recently a Job Description has been compiled for Piwi's work.

## SUSTAINABILITY

Although Youth 4 Youth has achieved remarkable success in its short life, it has not been without cost. The work has been totally voluntary with a small amount of funding having been obtained for events and programmes. The voluntary co-ordination, management and facilitation may be sustainable in the short-term, but in the medium and long term this is not possible.

## SALARY FUNDING

Approaches to other funders for grants to cover salary costs of a Shirley Youth Development Co-ordinator have been unsuccessful. Many funders, eg Lottery, prefer to fund projects that have been operating for some time or that already have backing from another source.

The total cost of employment is \$40,000 per annum, made up of \$33,000 salary and \$7,000 for administration purposes.

The Community Recreation Adviser notes that the Leisure Unit may be able to contribute up to \$5,000 towards salary costs because some of the annual work load will be organising and running holiday programmes in the area.

A contribution of \$10,000 from the Community Board would then enable Shirley Community Trust (as the umbrella organisation) to approach funders such as Lottery, Community Trust, COGS and Pub Charities to top up the remaining \$18,000 of salary and \$7,000 of administration.

## DISCUSSION

Youth 4 Youth works in a way that is consistent with the Government's Youth Strategy and have been identified by the Canterbury Youth Workers Collective Co-ordinator as a good model for youth development in the city. Board members have also had the opportunity to meet with the group at the recent Deputations Meeting.

### Staff

**Recommendation:** That a total grant of \$10,000 be allocated to the Youth 4 Youth group (via the Shirley Community Trust) from the Board's Discretionary and SCAP Funds; \$4,000 from the 2002/03 Discretionary Funds and the balance of \$6,000 from the 2003/04 SCAP Funds.

### Chairperson's

**Recommendations:**

1. That the staff recommendation be adopted.
2. That the Board supports Youth 4 Youth in any applications to other agencies for funds, especially funds for salary.