

Officer responsible Director of Policy	Author Julie Macdonald and Margaret Macadam
Corporate Plan Output: Policy Advice	

The purpose of this report is to ask the Council to endorse the draft Older Persons' Policy Action Plan. This Action Plan was initially presented at the early November Community Services Committee meeting, but was referred to John Patterson (Third Age Advocate, Canterbury Development Corporation) for comment. The Action Plan is now being presented again for endorsement with Mr Patterson's comments outlined below. Mr Patterson is in agreement with the recommendations at the end of the report.

BACKGROUND

In 1998 the Council adopted the Older Persons' Policy. Since then staff have gathered information from Council Units about their activities relating to older people and the Community Services Committee has attended a seminar hosted by Age Concern to look at ways to implement the Policy.

DRAFT ACTION PLAN

The draft Action Plan (tabled) draws on the information from Units, the seminar and the consultation when the Policy was developed. For the most part the actions are general activities which will affect all Units. This means that even Units which do not undertake activities which relate specifically to older people will be required to ensure that their activities comply with the Policy and the Action Plan. For example, just as Units are required to consider the impact of new proposals on children, this Action Plan will require the needs and views of older people to also be taken into account in all planning.

THIRD AGE ADVOCATE COMMENT

At the request of the Committee in early November, John Patterson was asked to critique the draft Action Plan prior to it being presented to the Committee for endorsement. Mr Patterson supports the draft Action Plan and makes the following comments:

- *The Third Age Advocate is undertaking a great deal of work on third age issues and is consulting widely with people from different backgrounds and age groups.*
- *Conclusions from work undertaken on third age issues (as described in the Action Plan) will be available to Council within a year and these conclusions should be taken into account in any review of the implementation of the Policy.*

MONITORING THE ACTION PLAN

If the Council adopts the Older Persons' Policy Action Plan then staff will report on its implementation by Units on an annual basis. In the light of Mr Patterson's comments it is suggested that this report includes substantial consideration of the work being undertaken by the Third Age Advocate, as well as progress made by Council Units more generally.

- Recommendation:**
1. That the Older Persons' Policy Action Plan be adopted.
 2. That the City Manager be asked to report annually on the implementation of the Action Plan.
 3. That the annual report be a comprehensive update of the Action Plan in the light of progress to date and the work of the Third Age Advocate.
 4. That the Third Age Advocate be asked to present his planned programme of work on the Third Age at the next Community Services Committee meeting.