

4. OUT OF SCHOOL PROGRAMME DRAFT STRATEGY AND AREA IMPLEMENTATION PLANS

The Board was in receipt of an extensive report on the Out of School Programme Strategy and also information on the local Area Implementation Plans which identify the priority needs for after school and holiday programmes in the area

The Strategy and Area Implementation Plans are intended to cover a three year period from 2002 to 2005. The final Strategy will be presented to the Board in March 2002 after appropriate consultation with key stake holders has been undertaken.

An Out of School Policy was adopted by the Christchurch City Council in 1999 with a recommendation that strategic plans for its implementation be developed for each Community Board area. As part of the policy consultation process some Community Boards also requested clearer funding criteria specifying what and how Boards should provide, both with regard to funding Council provision and to meeting requests from community groups.

The adopted Council definition of an Out of School Programme is:

Care and recreation programmes which provide regular reliable, local care and leisure activities for children aged between 5-14 years, either

- After school programmes that operate at least three sessions per week, for two hours or more; and/or
- Holiday programmes that operate at least three days per week for six hours or more per day on a regular basis.

Quality Out of School Programmes meet social, recreational and developmental needs of children.

They provide positive professional supervised care for working parents which is in increasing demand. They also provide community support for parents enabling them "time out", greater flexibility for employment, education and training. They provide single parents with appropriate support especially when family networks aren't available or present.

Children are a priority target group for the Council. The Council currently has policies which articulate the Council's commitment to improving the quality of life for children and their families.

These policies include: Social Wellbeing and Community Policy, Children's Policy, Recreation and Sport Policy, and the Out of School Programme Policy.

In contrast to the early childhood education sector and formal compulsory education, central government's current role in Out of School Programmes remains limited.

There is no guaranteed government funding for this sector although the government introduced the Out of School Programme Fee Subsidy for low income parents.

The Board, in receiving the report, **agreed:**

1. To consider area implementation recommendations when allocating and prioritising project funds (2002/05) for local Out of School Programmes (after school and holiday).
2. To consider a three year funding commitment when allocating project funds for Out of School Programmes.
3. To write to all local Members of Parliament asking that the correct funding for these programmes should be provided by central government.