

4. COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARDS

The Board was in receipt of a report from Janice Huddy (Assistant Community Adviser) on the acceptance of a revised community service award scheme over the six Community Boards.

At the time of amalgamation individual Community Board Community Service Award Schemes based on a Riccarton Borough Council scheme were set up. Over the years the eligibility criteria has been altered by some Boards. At present the following three different criteria are applied:

1. One Board presented awards in recognition of significant voluntary service by **residents living in the Board area**.
2. Two others presented awards in recognition of voluntary service **benefiting residents or organisations in the Board area**.
3. Three others presented awards in recognition of service of a voluntary nature given by a resident or group **based in the Board area performing a service within the community**, or by a person or group **not a resident in the Board area performing a service within that community**, or by a person or group **resident in the community who or which performs a service outside the Board area**.

The problems associated with having a variety of eligibility criteria across the City are that some people could miss out altogether as criteria are inconsistent and exclusive. With criteria 3 above, people could qualify in more than one Board area.

Community Advocacy Teams were asked to consider adopting a generic criteria to be used City wide. Criteria 2 above – *“That Community Service Awards be given in recognition of voluntary service benefiting residents or organisations in the Board area”* was the agreed option. This criteria enables recipients of awards to be acknowledged by the community in the area where the voluntary service has been carried out and relationships built and established with that community.

Several Boards also run Youth Community Service Award Schemes and to retain consistency with Community Service Awards, eligibility criteria for these should be the same as that for Community Service Awards.

The Board **agreed** that the eligibility criteria for Community Service Awards and Youth Awards be *“that Community Service/Youth awards be given in recognition of voluntary service benefiting residents or organisations in the Board area”*.