

13. YOUTH HEALTH SERVICE PROJECT, HORNBY

The Community Development Adviser, Denise Galloway, presented a report in which she sought Board funding for the setting up of a Youth Health Service in Hornby by the Youth Health Trust and the Hornby Care Medical Centre.

Representatives from the Trust and Medical Centre were in attendance, and gave a full and informative presentation to the Board.

In February 2000, as a result of discussions between the Fieldworker in schools and the Hornby Youth Worker, a meeting was held involving some key people working with youth in Hornby, to look at the general health needs of young people. Health was defined holistically and included the mental, emotional, spiritual and physical well being of the young person. There was a general consensus that there was a link between health, education, employment and offending.

As a result of this meeting a survey was sent to 47 youth related services in the Hornby area to ascertain their perception as to whether they considered themselves to be delivering youth friendly services. Youth friendly included; affordability, confidentiality, cultural sensitivity and an overall understanding of the specific needs of youth. Most of the organisations considered that they were youth friendly. Some barriers were identified, however. All the organisations agreed that young people need special services as they are a distinct group with specific needs. Research recently undertaken supports the notion that youth specific services enhance the access and utilisation of primary care and mental health services by young people.

Having consulted with the local youth service providers it was decided by the newly established Working Party, that the youth themselves need to be consulted.

A survey was sent to Hornby High School, Branston Intermediate and Templeton School (Form 1 and 2). The total number of respondents from these schools was 549.

198 Youth Health Centre has been operating since 1995 and is governed by the 198 Youth Health Trust. The purpose of the 198 Youth Health Centre is to enable young people of all ethnic backgrounds to have access to services which promote physical, emotional, mental, spiritual and social health. Since the centre has been running to full capacity the trust has been looking at creative ways of addressing the needs of young people who live in the outer suburbs of Christchurch.

The Youth Health Trust has put forward a proposal, requesting funding to assist in the establishment of a Youth Health Service (similar to 198 Youth Health Centre), in partnership with the Hornby Care Medical Centre, to be located at 58 Carmen Rd. A comprehensive business plan has been developed by Lynda Jeffs (RGON, B.A. M.P.H) of L J Associates, which outlines clearly the services the Youth Health Service would provide, the benefits to the community, the clients, management and governance structure, core values, objectives, marketing plan, reasons as to why this service is required and the initial setting up costs.

The Hornby Care Medical Centre, as part of the partnership arrangement with the Youth Health Trust have offered their established premises and infrastructure. The established capital costs have saved the service an enormous amount of money as the actual cost of setting up a Youth Health Service from scratch is prohibitive.

In July 1998 the Christchurch City Council adopted a Youth Policy which sets out the Council's commitment to young people, their families and communities. One of the four outcomes identified by the policy was that "young people have access to the information and resources required to meet their needs". This included health safety and wellbeing. The Youth Policy was followed by the development of a Youth Strategy (Dec. 1999), authored by Robyn Moore (Youth Advocate) and Mary Richardson (Senior Policy Analyst). The strategy acknowledges that the Council works in partnership with government agencies and non-government agencies and looks forward to continuing to work co-operatively with these agencies. One of the principles noted on page nine of the strategy is that 'services and activities should be affordable, accessible and available for all young people'.

The Sockburn Advocacy team believe that young people in the Hornby area would greatly benefit by having a Youth Health Service that provided youth specific services. The overall aims and objectives of this proposal are in line with the Council's Youth Policy, Youth Strategy, the Riccarton Wigram Board Objectives and Community Plan Matrix.

The Board was supportive of this community initiative, and **resolved** to allocate \$7,800 from its (2001/02) Youth Initiatives Fund towards the initial setting up costs of a Youth Health Service in Hornby.

The grant is conditional upon the trust securing funding for its first twelve months of operation.