


## **2. ZEBEDEES CHARITABLE TRUST ALCOHOL FREE ENTERTAINMENT VENUE AND TRAINING PROGRAMME**



The Board was in receipt of a report by the Community Development Adviser, which sought the underwriting of a rental shortfall (in the sum of \$12,150) in order that the Zebedees Charitable Trust could run a youth training and entertainment programme at a warehouse in Blenheim Road. This would be subject to a progress report on the project to be presented to the Community Services Committee in April 2004.

Zebedees Trust has been seeking a suitable venue to base its alcohol free entertainment and pre-polytechnic training programmes for the last three years. They have found a venue at 479 Blenheim Road. However the funds they have on hand do not cover the rental. The Trust cannot guarantee that the revenue will cover the shortfall, as previous experience has indicated that it takes time before young people become aware of the venue and use it to its full capacity. The success of the previous project does, however, indicate that there is a need for a venue such as this for young people. The Trust is not prepared to sign a rental agreement without appropriate and secure funding commitments.

The Sockburn Advocacy Team supports the concept of an alcohol free entertainment centre, as well as the pre-polytechnic training programmes.

The needs of youth have been a high priority for the Riccarton/Wigram Community Board which has, over the last three years, established a Youth Initiatives Fund allocated from Project Funds.

Zebedees Trust's project meets the objectives of the Council Youth Policy and Community Board objectives. An appropriate venue has been located in the Riccarton/Wigram ward as this will make it easier for young people to access.

The Board is supportive of the application and its decision is recorded under clause 11 of this report.