

6. FENDALTON LEISURE CLUB – UPDATE REPORT

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The purpose of this report is to update the Committee on the Fendalton Leisure Club after one year of operation.

BACKGROUND

Leisure Clubs are social and recreational programmes for older adults and have been operating in various community centres across the city for the last five years. The Recreation, Arts and Sports team currently delivers five leisure clubs which target older adults over 70-75, who are less active and unlikely to attend activity based programmes designed for younger, fitter older people.

Research carried out in July 2000, (Recreation & Arts Involvement of Older Adults in Christchurch: A Needs Analysis) highlighted the aging population trend and the increasing demand for recreation and social opportunities for older adults. This research also highlighted the fact that a significant number of older adults experience loneliness and isolation from their local communities.

Leisure Clubs target house bound older adults who have limited opportunities to interact and socialise within their local community. Programme content includes games, crafts, mystery tours and guest speakers. One of the key objectives of the clubs is to provide a place where older adults can socialise and for many this is one of the few times during the week they leave their homes.

PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

Leisure Clubs operate during the school term and meet weekly for two hours of activity and socialising. Each club has a paid co-ordinator who is responsible for planning the programme, collecting revenue and liaising with the Community Recreation Advisor. Programme participants pay \$3 per session which includes activities and afternoon tea. An additional charge can apply for outings.

All Leisure Club co-ordinators meet once a term with the Community Recreation Advisers to discuss any common issues and share ideas and contacts for programme content.

ATTENDANCES

The programme recorded a total 425 attendances for the year with an average attendance of 15 per session.

FUNDING

Leisure Clubs operate on an annual budget of \$4000. Committee members will recall that \$4000 has been allocated to fund this programme for the current financial year.

CONCLUSION

The establishment of a Leisure Club at the Fendalton Community Centre is a positive step in addressing the increasing demand for activities for older adults in this community.

Staff

Recommendation: That the report be received.