

6. BELFAST COMMUNITY NETWORK YOUTH WORKER

General Manager responsible:	General Manager Stephen McArthur
Officer responsible:	Lesley Symington, Unit Manager
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PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to seek the Board's approval to a request for funding of \$5,000 from the Belfast Community Network for wages relating to the employment of a Youth Worker.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. Belfast Community Network has been operating as an incorporated society since 2001, and is currently involved in the following activities in the Belfast community: Friday night youth café, youth holiday programmes.
 - OSCAR (after-school and holiday programmes)
 - elderly shopping service
 - craft group
 - community newsletter
 - numerous community events (Xmas Caper, Waitangi Day, Belfast Pool events).
3. The Network provides term reports on the youth holiday programmes and also annual reports on the youth café to the Community Recreation Advisor – both projects are running well.
4. Belfast Community Network has previously employed a Youth Worker for 20 hours per week, from March to November 2004, at which point in time the incumbent Youth Worker resigned. Over the last 12 months the Network has reassessed its role in meeting youth needs in Belfast, and has continued to run the Friday night youth café and youth holiday programmes. This has given the Network the opportunity to train one of their own volunteers (Kiri Stevens) in the role of Youth Worker. Kiri has now completed her Youth Worker training at CPIT, and the Network has taken the opportunity to employ Kiri for 15 hours per week as the Belfast Community Network Youth Worker (see attached Youth Worker job description).
5. A number of additional projects and tasks will be able to be undertaken in Belfast with the reinstatement of a Belfast Youth Worker, including the following:
 - (i) Advocacy and support for young people and their whanau.
 - (ii) Planning and implementation of youth events in the Belfast community.
6. In addition to these two areas of work, there have been a number of small but significant steps taken recently by Belfast Community Network staff to encourage a sense of community ownership and pride amongst local young people. Examples of this include a clean up of the Belfast pool, and assistance with the running of the Belfast Xmas Caper event. This initiative will be further strengthened by the work of the Belfast Youth Worker.

FINANCIAL AND LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

7. Belfast Community Network currently has funds on hand of \$4,200 for this project (see attached budget). This funding was originally allocated by the Board to Belfast Community Network for the employment of a Youth Worker as part of 2003/2004 Project Fund allocations. The Network has requested a further \$5,000 from the Board towards this project, which would equate to 3–4 months wages.
8. The recommendation of this report is that the Board allocate \$5,000 towards this project from its 2005/2006 Discretionary Fund. The current balance of Board's Discretionary Fund is approximately \$45,000.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board allocate \$5,000 from its 2005/2006 Discretionary Fund to Belfast Community Network for Youth Worker wages.

CHAIRPERSON'S RECOMMENDATION

For discussion.