

5. METHODIST MISSION – WISE UP PROGRAMME – APPLICATION FOR FUNDING

General Manager responsible:	General Manager Community Services, DDI: 941-8534
Officer responsible:	Community Support Manager
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PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to present to the Strengthening Communities Action Plan (SCAP) Committee a request from Child Wise (Methodist Mission) for funding assistance towards running their Wise Up programme at West Spreydon School for \$3,200. There is currently \$23,900 remaining in the 2006/07 SCAP Fund.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. Child Wise is a branch of the Methodist Mission, and has been operating since 2000. This programme is the Methodist Mission's social work service aimed at strengthening and enhancing the wellbeing of children, families and the community. Child Wise offers a wide range of integrated family services with children from 0-13 years. These services include:
 - Home link (home-based social service programme).
 - Child Counselling (individual counselling for children aged 3-13 years).
 - Parent works (home based programme for parents whose children are in statutory care).
 - Parent wise (8 week parenting programme).
 - Aratupa the Child wise pre-school and nursery for children aged 0-6 years.
 - Wise Up - an 8 week course for children aged 5-12 years.
3. This is the second application from Child Wise of the Christchurch Methodist Mission to the SCAP Committee for assistance. Funding of \$3,200 was allocated in 2005 to run four term programmes at West Spreydon School which had an attendance of a total of sixty children. They intend to offer the same programme in 2007. Wise Up caters for a wide range of children who have varying needs, particularly children who are considered "at risk". Families are charged a fee of \$5 per session although Child Wise would like to offer this programme, free of charge to all the families that attend the West Spreydon programme in 2007. Over the programme's six year period Wise Up has proven to be extremely effective at West Spreydon School and in other areas which have high areas of social disadvantage.

FINANCIAL AND LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

4. There are no legal issues to be considered. The total cost of running the four programmes is \$8,552 which equates to \$2,138 per programme. The funding requested is \$3,200 and the purpose of the funding is to reduce the attendance cost. No other funding sources are being sought for this programme at West Spreydon School.
5. The Annual Report for 2005/06 has been provided. This also includes the Audit Report. The Methodist Mission is considered a Metropolitan Organisation as it provides services across the city. The Christchurch City Council has provided the following major grants towards general operating costs as identified in the table below.

Year	Amount	Purpose
2006	\$25,000	Major grant towards operating costs (metro funding).
2005	\$20,000	Major grant towards operating costs (metro funding).
2004	\$20,000	Major grants towards operating costs (metro funding).
2005	\$ 3,200	Wise Up running costs at West Spreydon School (Spreydon/ Heathcote SCAP Committee).

BACKGROUND ON FUNDING APPLICATION FROM CHRISTCHURCH METHODIST MISSION TO RUN WISE-UP PROGRAMME AT WEST SPREYDON SCHOOL

6. The Methodist Mission has been operating since 1974. Child Wise, the community social work services arm, has been operating since 2000. The aim of Child Wise is to strengthen and enhance the well-being of children, families and communities. They offer a range of integrated services as above, for families with children aged from 0-13 years. The Wise Up programme has also been operating since 2000.
7. Wise Up is an 8 week course for children aged 5-12 years, teaching skills for every day life. The programme aims to teach children to maintain self care, self confidence, self respect and self control. Wise Up targets children who are considered 'at risk' and often there will be several 'at risk' children in a group. Reasons for attending could include suspension/exclusions from schools or centres, recent Police involvement, CYF's notifications and issues surrounding foster care. The many issues that target 'at risk' children are dealt with through teaching the main themes or content in Wise Up. This involves identifying emotions/feelings that the children experience, identifying what feelings and emotions are connected to certain behaviours and finally discussing and implementing healthy ways of dealing with these feelings when they emerge. Outcomes for the 'at risk' children vary from child to child, however, children learn ways of dealing with difficult emotions and the issues around these emotions.
8. The Wise Up programme also has a mentoring component; children showing leadership skills within the programme are trained and developed as young leaders and can become mentors on the programmes. A Wise Up programme was successfully run at West Spreydon School over the last term of 2005 and three terms in 2006. A total of 60 children attended. The programmes achieved very positive outcomes and staff also received good feedback. Feedback/comments from parents is being forwarded and this will be available for the committee at the 19th March meeting. Child Wise would like to offer the same programme for four terms in 2007, with approximately 14 children attending each term programme.
9. This application links with the following LTCCP outcomes:
 - (a) **A safe city-** the Wise Up programme covers safety such as (basic self defence, safety plans), as well as what to do when someone you know is in trouble/danger. There is also a lot of discussion around who are the safe people to talk to outside the home/school environment, as well as identifying safe places outside these environments.
 - (b) **Inclusive communities-** Wise-Up promotes acceptance and inclusion in a group setting which is a model for healthy communities. The programme promotes communication skills that can be applied in a community setting.
 - (c) **Healthy and active people** – there are many activities in the programme. This involves team building games, participating in the many activities and self defence.

Many of the strategies they teach the children about dealing with emotions involve a physical component, and promote the effectiveness of physical activity as a healthy way of dealing with emotions/feelings.
10. West Spreydon School has a roll of 164. Other agencies and organisations that provide some assistance to the school are Cross Over Trust and SHARP.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the SCAP committee agree to allocate \$3,200 from the 2006/07 financial year to Child Wise of the Methodist Mission to run four Wise Up programmes at West Spreydon School in 2007.