

6. SERVICE AGENCY PILOT – 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 request funding support from the Spreydon/Heathcote Strengthening Communities Action Plan (SCAP) Committee, for the establishment of a service agency desk pilot partnership, to be based out of the South Library, Beckenham.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. This is a new initiative and there has been no funding previously allocated from the Community Board towards this project.
3. This pilot is one of the outcomes from research conducted in 2004, addressing Older Persons issues in the South West Christchurch. The establishment of the Older Person' Directory last year and the development of this service agency desk proposal are a culmination of discussions from the local Older Persons Network which has specifically been addressing issues of social isolation.
4. The proposed service desk "*Info Tap South*", is a collaborative effort with external agencies, members from the older adults core group, and across Council Units. This project is being facilitated by the community development team at a local level. The external agencies involved in this pilot service are Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB), Age Concern and Community Law.
5. The proposed service plans to meet the need for advocacy, information and services to be readily available in our community. While the service need for personal contact at a local level with agencies was identified by older persons, it is recognised that this pilot programme has much wider community benefits.
6. The pilot's proposed commencement date is May 2007, with session times 10.00am – 1pm every Thursday. Each agency would be rostered on a different week eg first week of the month CAB, second week Age Concern etc.

FINANCIAL AND LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

7. There are no legal considerations.
8. The costs associated with establishing this service are primarily around promotion, including opening day and miscellaneous set-up expenses. The financial recommendations align within existing Community Board Discretionary Fund allocations for 2006/07.

BACKGROUND ON THE PROPOSED PILOT SERVICE

9. Research undertaken in 2004 on Older People in South West Christchurch by St Nicholas Church, was sponsored by the SCAP Committee. Outcomes of this research found many older people had concerns, needs and interests that were not being met. Recommendations following this research looked at specific areas such as social isolation, transport, safety, health and housing.
10. Subsequent meetings established an Older Adults Network, and a small committee facilitated by the Christchurch City Council. This network has been meeting regularly to address some of these issues. One of the committee groups looked at ways in which relevant information could be distributed into the community for older persons. The Older Adults Directory as a culmination of these discussions was printed in 2006. The "Info Tap South" initiative follows further network discussions, where the three service agencies were identified (Citizens Advice, Age Concern and Community Law) as priority for a pilot service. These agencies have agreed to form the key agencies to provide a pilot service, based out of a community facility, the South Library.
11. The pilot service addresses the aim of SCAP which is 'to improve people's sense of belonging to, and being part of the community by facilitating the building of social capital', with the priorities of social isolation, social well-being and participation as a local community initiative.
12. The pilot service aligns with Council Policies and Community Board objectives and contributes to Community Outcomes: A City of Inclusive and Diverse Communities, A City of Lifelong Learning and A City for Recreation, Fun and Creativity.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Spreydon/Heathcote Strengthening Communities Action Plan (SCAP) Committee allocate \$1,500 from its 2006/07 fund, towards the costs of establishing a pilot service agency desk, based out of South Library.