

10. AVONHEAD COMMUNITY TRUST – CHILD AND FAMILY WORKER

General Manager responsible:	Community Support Unit General Manager, DDI 941-8879
Officer responsible:	Ian Burn Community Development Advisor
Author:	Ian Burn Community Development Advisor

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to seek approval from the Riccarton/Wigram Community Board for \$5,500 for the part of the wage of a Child and Family Worker based in Avonhead, predominantly around Avonhead Primary School. This report was deferred from the Board's 11 September 2007 meeting with a request for further information.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. The Avonhead Community Trust is seeking funds for 0.25 of a Full Time Equivalent wage for a Child and Family worker based in Avonhead. This worker currently works with 200 people in this area, predominantly children through her contact with Avonhead Primary School, but also some family groups. This year programmes she has organised have involved her working with 30 eight year olds, 50 five to twelve year olds (33% of whom are Asian), 30 eleven to thirteen year olds, 80 children of all ages (25% of whom are Asian) and 10 parents. This worker has been in place since 20 January 2007. Please see the attached letter from Avonhead Community Trust (**Attachment 1**) for more information concerning this. Also attached for background information is a letter of support from the Deputy Principal of Avonhead School (**Attachment 2**) and a copy of the summary of the Education Review Office report on Avonhead School (**Attachment 3**).
3. The Child and Family Worker is intending to work in the following areas in the 2008 calendar year:
 - (i) Directly with children and families in need of support.
 - (ii) In running Parenting with Confidence courses for interested parents.
 - (iii) In running a programme to work with children with self-esteem, anger or grief issues.
 - (iv) In running holiday programmes. Support is being requested for this part of the work while the group is seeking Child Youth and Family approval which will allow them to access funding from the Ministry of Social Development. Funding is only being requested for the administrative component of the work.
 - (v) In running one-off events for children and parents around Easter, an alternative to Halloween etc.

Please see the attached letter from Avonhead Community Trust for more details concerning this.

4. While Avonhead is a relatively affluent area overall, it includes 177 families on less than \$30,000 per annum income. In addition 30.2% of the population was born overseas and 23.7% of the population is Asian. In both instances this is approximately 6% higher than the Christchurch average. Avonhead Primary School has children from 37 different ethnic groups on its books. Staff would ask board members to consider the additional difficulties facing low income and non-European families, and their potential additional needs for support when considering this application.
5. Within Avonhead there are 600 families, made up of 1,644 people. These comprise 2.7% of the population of the Riccarton/Wigram ward. The \$5,500 requested is 1.6% of the \$349,482 spent in the Riccarton/Wigram ward on social services (consisting of \$137,482 from the Board and \$212,000 from the Social Initiatives Fund and other internal budgets). While \$1,300 has been allocated to this Trust from the Council's Recreation operational budget in the 2007/08 year, this was for a holiday programme which will have finished before the period for which this funding is being requested. No part of the remainder of the funding on social services has currently been allocated to this part of the ward. Staff would therefore contend that this is a reasonable allocation of funds to this area.

6. The period for which funding is requested is 1 August to 31 August 2008. While both Avonhead Community Trust, and Avonhead Primary are within the Riccarton/Wigram ward these are both close to the boundary with the Fendalton/Waimairi ward. This position was funded to a similar level in 2007 by the Fendalton/Waimairi Community Board, in recognition of the work that was being undertaken with residents in their community. (Please see the attached letter from the Chairperson of the Fendalton/Waimairi Community Board – **Attachment 4.**) Staff are recommending that since the Fendalton/Waimairi Board funded this service which benefited residents of both communities last year, that there would be some equity, if the Riccarton/Wigram Board considers this an acceptable project, that they fund this project this year. It is proposed that in the future, starting with the year for which funding will be available from 1 September 2008 that this organisation apply to both Boards for this funding and that if this application is successful that funds be allocated from the Boards in relation to the proportion of the people supported by this service in each ward.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

7. The following outlines budgetary requirements for 2007:

Item	Cost	Amount Requested
Family and Child worker wages 0.25 FTE	5,500	5,500
Family and Child worker wages 0.25 FTE	5,500	
Total Cost	\$11,000	\$5,500

The other costs of this project will be met by Avonhead Community Trust.

Do the Recommendations of this Report Align with 2006-16 LTCCP budgets?

8. Yes see page 172, regarding the Discretionary Fund.

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

9. There are no legal issues to be considered.

Have you considered the legal implications of the issue under consideration?

10. Yes.

ALIGNMENT WITH LTCCP AND ACTIVITY MANAGEMENT PLANS

11. Yes.

Do the recommendations of this report support a level of service or project in the 2006-16 LTCCP?

12. Yes see page 172, regarding the Discretionary Fund.

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIES

13. Yes in alignment with the Community Wellbeing Strategy.

Do the recommendations align with the Council's strategies?

14. Yes.

CONSULTATION FULFILMENT

15. All appropriate consultation has been undertaken.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board approve \$5,500 in support of this application from the Board's 2007/08 Discretionary Fund.