

7. UPDATE ON CURRENT SITUATION OF OUT OF SCHOOL PROGRAMMES IN CHRISTCHURCH

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Officer responsible Leisure & Community Services Unit Manager	Author Louise Birkett
Corporate Plan Output: Council and Community Board	

The purpose of this report is to inform Community Board Members as to the current issues and developments regarding Out of School Programmes in Christchurch, with reference to local ward areas.

Background

In 1996, a report commissioned by Christchurch City Council to investigate the current use of and future need for Out of School Programmes in Christchurch was carried out by the Health Research Services. On completion of this report, a series of recommendations was made, both to Community Boards and to Christchurch City Council. As it was considered important that individual Boards were able to have input into the development of Out of School Programme (OSP) services in their areas, a Community Board representative from each Board was invited to join in OSP Interagency Advisory Group. This Group has the purpose of co-ordinating, networking and providing strategies for Out of School Programme development and delivery. An out of school programme researcher has been employed to assist the Interagency Group with its tasks.

Definition

For the purpose of this report, Out of School Programmes are defined as After School and Holiday Programmes that provide care and recreation for children during school holidays and after school hours and operate at least **three sessions per week, for more than two hours**. This does **not** include programmes that are offered for purely recreational purposes such as basketball workshops, or Kidsfun after school programmes, although these do have a very important role to play.

Many out of school programmes assist parents who are working, so that their children are not unattended at home, and at the same time provide care, and leisure and recreation activities for children.

Update

Since the Health Research Service report was completed, there is still a clear need for more quality out of school care services. This is supported by other indicators such as:

- the report by Kath Jamieson, Poverty and Hardship in Christchurch
- meetings with Principals' clusters
- enquiries by parents regarding availability of OSP's in their areas.

These recommendations and indicators could be used as the springboard to further developing and promoting Out of School services at a local level in each Community Board area.

Database and Map

In order to identify more clearly areas where there are gaps in the provision of Out of School care services:

- A **current database** of details of existing programmes has been compiled.
- This information has been **mapped** to provide a visual representation of Out of School Programme distribution over the Christchurch area. (Available to Community Board). This is to be regularly updated.
- A supplementary map containing demographic details related to the distribution of primary school aged children in each Ward area is currently being developed.

Submission to Central Government

Advocating for improved recognition of the importance of Out of School care is a central role of the OSP Interagency Group. A submission identifying the need for

- a stable funding base
- standard practice regulations
- raising the profile of out of school care above that of "just babysitting"

was presented and endorsed to the Community Services Committee, and is currently before Council for full Council endorsement. The submission will then be forwarded to key national and local Members of Parliament, including the Prime Minister and the Treasurer.

Funding

Lack of reliable funding has been identified as a major barrier to Out of School care operation and provision. The process of making applications for funding is very piece-meal, and an enormous amount of time is spent by out of school programmes making applications to Trusts and organisations to tack together small amounts of money. Alternative funding opportunities are currently being explored with assistance from the Council Funding Office, including

- Possible sponsorship of OSP's by local business.
- Assisting OSP management committees to put together promotional portfolios to present to businesses.
- Co-ordination of seminars providing information on approaching businesses for sponsorship.

OSCAR Network

The OSCAR Network continues to assist its members with professional support and advice, as well as providing valuable resources such as the OSCAR Network Playlibrary, and co-ordinating ongoing workshops and training seminars.

Local Update

The Community Board representative Anne Carroll will provide an update on OSP activity in the local area.

Recommendation: That the information be received.

Chairperson's

- Recommendation:**
1. That the information be received and that the topic be on placed the agenda for the next Board meeting with local Members of Parliament.
 2. That this Board initiate a metropolitan meeting to express concern at the lack of funding for pre-school equipment.