

Officer responsible Community Advocate	Author Bruce Meder, Community Development Adviser
Corporate Plan Output: Community Facilities	

The purpose of this report is to seek support from the Community Board for the establishment of a house to be used for youth activities in Papanui.

The Need

The need for such an establishment has been established from at least three sources.

- A number of organisations have suggested that such an establishment is needed in the area. These organisations include Papanui Baptist Church, Papanui High School, Te Kaupapa Whakaora, Te Hou Ora and Northlands Mall. Members of the Community Board have also recognised such a need.
- The Casebrook/Northcote/Styx Mill/Redwood Community needs analysis (October 1998) identified “a lack of suitable youth facilities” in the area.
- The North/West Youth Summit “made a plea for somewhere to go – be it called a youth centre, café, bar, pool hall, or youth night club where there is music, cheap food and coffee and something to do which does not cost much”.

The Response

The Papanui Baptist Church has been working on the establishment of a Community Facility in the area, which would incorporate the desires of youth. Papanui members of the Community Board have held discussions with the Church relating to this facility. However, this facility is not likely to be completed within the near future.

In the meantime Northlands Mall management have offered the use of a house in Sawyers Arms Road on a temporary basis to enable some youth initiatives to get under way.

The Northern Young Persons Committee (NYPC), which organised the Youth Summit, has responded enthusiastically to this offer. The committee is prepared to manage the running of the house with initial day-to-day operating being in the hands of Te Kaupapa Whakaora and Te Hou Ora.

Christchurch City Council/Board Policies

This initiative is inline with a number of Council and Board policies, including:

- Youth Policy. This policy notes that the Christchurch City Council has roles that include:
 - To resource, provide and support services for young people in partnership with other agencies where appropriate.
 - To be a co-ordinator, with the community, of activities which provide for young people.
- Community Development and Social Well-Being Policy. This initiative helps to meet some of the priorities of this policy, for young people, including:
 - Participation in personal and political decision making.
 - Participation and a sense of belonging in communities.
 - Self-determination and empowerment.

The concept also fits well with the proposal to produce “Strengthening Community Action Plans” as one of the aims of those plans is to “reduce crime and people’s fear of being victims of crime”.

The Concept

The organising group plans to utilise the building initially as a base for organised activities, primarily with youth most at risk. Young people on various schemes will be organised to clean and refurbish the house with the medium and long-term goal being to open the house as a youth house on evenings and weekends.

Partnerships

The proposal is an excellent example of a number of different partners each having a specific role:

- Northlands Mall is providing the house on a significantly reduced rental as well as providing paint and tools for cleaning and refurbishment.
- Te Kaupapa Whakaora and Te Hou Ora are providing day-to-day management.
- Papanui Police Youth Aid Section, Wai-ora Trust, Papanui High School and Papanui Baptist Church are assisting with ongoing management.

- The Shirley/Papanui Community Board is being asked to provide support and funding for the first years' rental.

Recommendation: That the Shirley/Papanui Community Board welcome this initiative and allocate \$5,000 from the 1998/99 Community Services Fund for rental for the youth house for one year.

Chairperson's Recommendation: That the officer's recommendation be adopted and that the Board thank all the parties who have played a significant role in the partnership.