

8. FOLLOW UP FROM 'LOOKING AT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN OUR COMMUNITY' COMMITTEE SEMINAR

RR 10871

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Corporate Plan Output: Social Initiatives Funding and Monitoring	

The purpose of this report is to suggest a way of progressing the issues raised at the recent Community Services Committee Seminar on domestic violence.

BACKGROUND

The Community Services Committee recently attended a seminar hosted by the Canterbury Abuse Intervention Project (CAIP) (minutes have been circulated). The purpose of this seminar was to learn about and have the opportunity to discuss domestic violence issues and services in Christchurch (Police violence statistics are attached as Appendix One).

CAIP initiated this meeting so its members could share information and experience with the Committee and so there could be an opportunity to discuss the role of Council in addressing issues surrounding domestic violence.

There was agreement at the seminar that the services involved in CAIP are doing an excellent job of trying to co-ordinate the various responses to domestic violence in Christchurch. Each of the four small discussion groups raised, in some way, the possibility of the Council becoming more involved in addressing the issues raised. There were various suggestions about how to do this. Members of CAIP suggest that the most valuable support for them would be funding to employ a co-ordinator. This person would be dedicated to the co-ordination work of CAIP which is currently unable to be adequately carried out by the service providers which make up its membership (a similar model has been developed by the Canterbury Youth Workers Collective).

DISCUSSION

Council already supports initiatives which directly and indirectly work on issues around domestic violence. However, the service providers in this area have identified that increased co-ordination and raising of the profile of domestic violence are important needs. There has been general discussion around ways of meeting these needs and the possibility of Council assisting with this in some way. Given that the initial aim of the seminar was to share information and raise awareness with Councillors, there has yet to be a detailed proposal to Council about ways it could assist.

- Recommendation:**
1. That staff work with CAIP members to develop a detailed proposal which sets out:
 - the main functions which would be carried out by a co-ordinator
 - proposed structure for employment of the co-ordinator
 - the funding required to support this position.
 2. That this proposal is put forward as a new budget item to be debated by Council as part of the 2000/01 budget round.

Chairman's

Recommendation: That the above recommendation be adopted and that the Council continue to monitor the level of domestic violence in the community and work where possible to eliminate this.