

<b>Officer responsible</b> Community Advocate	<b>Author</b> Bruce Meder, Community Development Adviser
Corporate Plan Output: Advocacy	

The purpose of this report is to introduce the Strengthening Community Action Plan (SCAP).

Board members will recall that SCAP was an initiative derived from discussions between senior Police and Christchurch City Council staff. The concept was to involve community boards, advocacy teams and community representatives in formulating a plan to help strengthen communities and increase people's sense of safety.

A Core Group comprising the advocacy team, two community board representatives and two community representatives decided on a course of action which would employ a person for four months to analyse existing research, hold public forums and compile this information in such a way as to meet the objectives of the Plan.

Sue Cobb was employed for this purpose and her report has been circulated separately to Board members. Part of the executive summary of this report follows:

*"Identification of the needs of the communities in the two wards is ongoing and the Police and Community Board have put in place services and initiatives, which enhance the sense of belonging to a safe and caring community.*

*Of value is the variety of initiatives identified by this project for which innovative solutions could be found, or proper resourcing could help to expand. A willingness to operate outside of the usual channels will be needed to address issues such as:*

- *Resolving traffic flow and parking problems outside schools.*
- *Assessing viability of homework centres for school children.*
- *Providing safe cycle routes especially Main North Road, Styx Mill Bridge, and between primary and intermediate schools.*
- *Establishing the need/reason for graffiti and tagging, and identifying more socially acceptable alternatives.*
- *Assisting in the revival of troubled parts of Shirley.*
- *Lighting footpaths, rather than carriageways.*
- *Strengthening and supporting Neighbourhood Support Groups."*

The major and heartening conclusion that can be drawn from this report is that initiatives, responses and programmes presently being undertaken or supported by the Board and the Advocacy Team are meeting identified needs within the Shirley/Papanui communities.

## **NEXT STEPS**

Sue Cobb is presently interviewing a selective list of key organisations in the two Wards with a view to “mapping” current social initiatives and programmes that help to strengthen our communities. Once this is complete it is envisaged that the draft plan will be presented to a public forum to which those who have already participated, and others, will be invited. The purpose of this is so as to ensure that the plan accurately records the issues raised in the initial forums.

The Core Group will then have the task of prioritising initiatives, programmes and responses, which will then be presented to the Board at its November meeting.

- Recommendation:**
1. That the information be received.
  2. That the planned timetable presented in this report be agreed to.

**Chairperson’s Recommendation:** That the officer’s recommendation be adopted.