

13. BRYNDWR YOUTH EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING PROGRAMME 'STEPPING OUT' - UPDATE

RR 10733

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Corporate Plan Output: Community Development	

The purpose of this report is to update members on the outcomes achieved from the programme to date and to advise of the changes in Government funding criteria for such programmes.

BACKGROUND

The Board may recall this initiative was a development from "The Bryndwr Consultation" (March 1998). The report identified 'at risk' unemployed Bryndwr Youth as a priority. It was also noted that many 'at risk' young people had difficulty accessing large centralised youth training programmes elsewhere in Christchurch. The Board allocated \$5,000 from its 1997/98 discretionary funds for the programme initiative.

The project is a local response, building on local resources to meet an identified need. It involves a unique three-way partnership drawing joint co-operation from five local churches under the umbrella of the Combined Bryndwr Community Support Trust, Family and Community (a social service agency) and the City Council.

FORMAT

The Youth Employment and Training project targets 'at risk' youth in the Bryndwr area (aged 16-19 years). A 26 week upskilling/employment training project was developed.

The course was designed as an intensive focused programme aimed at getting participants into further training and/or permanent employment.

The programme runs from 8.00 am to 4.00 pm, Mondays – Wednesdays and focuses on literary and numeracy skills, self esteem, confidence building, computer skills, vocation direction, general education catch-up, community work and work experience with local businesses. Two programmes were planned to run in the course of this year. The first six month programme started in February 1999 and finished in July 1999. The programme is located at St Aidan's, Bryndwr, which has facilities ideal for the running of the programme including the active support from St Aidan's Church.

Kelley Galvin was employed as a Youth Training Co-ordinator (35 hours per week) to run the programme with support from appropriately skilled volunteers.

A Management Committee was established to monitor and oversee the programme, with administrative support from staff at Family and Community and the Fendalton Service Centre.

FUNDING

The cost of running two 6 month programmes is **\$53,000** which includes salary, volunteer expenses, resources, administration, rental and transport.

Funding sources for the programme include the following:

- Fendalton/Waimairi Community Board
- Safer Community Council
- NZ Employment Services (WINZ – through a contract)
- Community Trust
- Canterbury Development Corporation
- Tindall Foundation

COURSE ASSESSMENT – FEBRUARY – JULY 1999

On the first 26 week course there were 16 participants, **five** of whom have moved into paid employment, **four** others who have gone into other specific training courses.

The majority of young participants are between the ages of 16-18 years and not in receipt of any benefit.

Evaluations and feedback have also been gained from participants who indicate the need for a developmental six month course to build self esteem and confidence.

SUMMARY

A feature of the course offered has been the combination of community work, work experience and job search skills and the general upskilling of young people, focusing on their confidence, self esteem and ability to communicate and relate effectively.

The outcome of achieving placements for over half the participants on the course is outstanding given the backgrounds of the young people who are very disadvantaged in the labour market.

Another feature of this programme is that it has been developed in partnership. That the project has attracted funding from various funders emphasises the partnership nature.

Another feature of the programme has been the Management Committee and the representation which has met weekly to monitor the programme.

CURRENT ISSUE – WINZ CONTRACTING CRITERIA CHANGES

Recently there has been a change in funding for training and employment programmes. The criteria and guidelines identify funding for these types of programmes will be for programmes that run for a 6 week duration only. This is a Government directive.

Given the experience of running the first 6 month programme and that the second is underway with a waiting list of young people, the co-ordinator and Management Committee believe it is unrealistic to run a 6 week course and achieve employment outcomes.

The 'at risk' young people we work with are very disadvantaged in the labour market. Our experience has shown quite conclusively that they need much longer than six weeks to develop their self esteem and confidence, the interviewing skills, the preparation of CVs to be anywhere near ready to approach the job market with any degree of maturity and stability.

WHERE TO FROM HERE?

There was a meeting on Wednesday 22 September at the Canterbury Development Corporation with WINZ and other programme providers. The Management Committee are keen to explore with WINZ other ways of being able to continue to fund our current project which has had the support from WINZ from the beginning (January 1999).

Depending on the outcome of the above meeting, a meeting with local MP Gerry Brownlee and WINZ, may be planned in the near future.

- Recommendations:**
1. That the information be received.
 2. That the Board support the proposed meeting with Gerry Brownlee and WINZ and identify representatives from the Board to attend.

Chairman's

Recommendation: That the foregoing recommendations be adopted.