

## 6. OUT OF SCHOOL CARE AND RECREATION REPORT

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The purpose of this report is to provide information to the Board regarding out of school care in the Hagley Ferrymead area.

Confusion often arises around the names used in the area of out of school care. After school programmes are run after school but are often not associated with the particular school in the area. For example the Bromley Out of School Trust has no connection with the school, the programme runs in the community centre. Some after school programmes use a school facility but have no connection with the school e.g. Sumner Out of School Care Association.

OSP refers to Out of school programmes, this includes after school care and holiday programmes.

ASP refers to after school programmes only and HP to holiday programmes only.

The Christchurch City Council has adopted the following definition of Out of School Programmes:

- Care and recreation programmes which provide regular, reliable local care and leisure activities for children aged between five and fourteen years old.
- After School programmes that operate at least three sessions per week, for two hours or more, and/or
- Holiday programmes that operate at least three days per week for six hours or more per day on a regular basis.

The OSCAR Network is a national network that operates to support people who wish to start an after school programme or who need support with the programme they are already running. They provide advice, information and training but not administration services or funding. They offer 8hrs of service per year per new group setting up. Some after school groups find them beneficial others do not.

The OSCAR Development Christchurch (ODC) is a not for profit group that contracts, mainly to the Christchurch City Council, to provide afterschool and/or holiday programmes. Costs for contracting to ODC are slightly higher than a programme run by a management committee.

The OSCAR Network in Christchurch and the OSCAR Development Christchurch are both run out of the same administrative base at the Community House in Cashel Street. Margreet Stronks handles the management of both organisations

There is one after school programme in this area run by Oscar Development Christchurch (ODC). Linwood Avenue School buildings are used. ODC are also contracted to run the holiday programmes. The advocacy team and the leisure unit have a contract with ODC to provide an after school service and holiday programmes for Linwood.

The following are after school and holiday programmes in the Hagley /Ferrymead area that are known to the Community Development Adviser and the Recreation Adviser.

#### **AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMMES**

The after school groups in the Hagley/Ferrymead wards are

- Bromley Out of School Trust
- Woolston Development Project
- Phillipstown Community Centre
- Richmond Out of School Trust
- Sumner Out of School Care and Recreation.
- Linwood OSCAR

Te Ro-opu Tamahine and Linwood Kidsfun programmes operate after school but only for one day a week.

#### **Bromley Out of school Trust (BOST)**

The programme runs Mon-Thurs 3-5pm for twenty children at a charge of \$1 a session. Discussion has been held around putting up prices but a number of parents said they would be unable to access this service. This project is funded by Hagley Ferrymead Community Board project fund.

The Woolston Development Project has been contracted by the Christchurch City Council to handle all aspects of employment. This means that Woolston Development Project deal with employment of (2) staff, supervision, training and any ongoing staffing issues. This is a very healthy way of assisting the programme to develop and to build networks with other after school programmes for support and assistance.

The treasurer of the management committee of BOST has been given training, which means that the committee are now in a position to start handling resource money for themselves and to start the process of funding to other sources.

The programme is run from the community centre and is not in school grounds. This creates an issue as there is the problem for some working parents of getting the children from the school to the community centre. A short distance to walk but still an issue for children walking across the park area alone.

#### **Woolston Development Project**

Woolston Development Project is a well run and successful programme. (See [attached sheet](#))

#### **Phillipstown Community Centre**

Phillipstown community centre run an after school programme every afternoon for approx 20 –25 children from 3 – 5.30pm. Charges are \$2.50 per day. Their funding is from Lottery Youth and Community Employment Group. They are looking at setting up a morning session in liaison with the school.

The community centre is situated next to the school so access is not an issue. They employ two people and have a volunteer. The community worker and the management committee seek funding and oversee this programme. They have two WINZ eligible clients but are just in the process of gaining approval.

### **Linwood OSCAR**

This is an ODC programme. It has twenty children and 2 to 3 staff. It operates five days a week 3-5.30pm at a charge to the parents of waged \$4.50 per child for 2<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> hours or \$2.00 for the first hour only. Unwaged \$2.00 for the first child, \$3 for two children and \$4 for three or more. The programme is financed by Hagley/Ferrymead Community Board project funding.

### **Richmond Out of School Trust - ROOST**

This programme operates out of the Richmond School. There is a maximum of 30 children attending with the roll usually between 24 – 28. There are 3 – 4 staff who are managing the programme on a daily basis. The management committee is made up of parents in the area. Most children attend the programme from Monday through to Friday, catering mainly for the needs of the working parent.

The programme charge is \$5.00 a day or \$9.00 for more than one child from a family. It operates from 3 – 5.30pm, five days a week. Afternoon tea is provided.

The after school programme has to pay rental to the school, at a cost of \$1900 a year. The after school programme is financially supported by the Lotteries for wages, Community Trust and a small contribution from the Hillary Commission and the Community Development Fund (\$1700).

### **Sumner Out of School Care and Recreation - SOSCAR**

This operates out of the Sumner School Hall. It is open from 7.30 am –9am at a charge of \$3.50 and from 3-6pm at \$3.50 per hour, 10% discount for more than 2 children of the same family. Eight to ten families qualify for WINZ subsidy. They have approx. 36 children per day with a staff of two and a half.

Funding from Lottery, Community Trust and Christchurch City Council.

The big issue for this group is to find new premises. The school has expressed the need for the use of the currently used building. The Hagley/Ferrymead Community Board has set aside \$10,000 to assist with this move. At the moment this group is very dependent on the input of one person, the supervisor.

### **Te Ro-opu Tamahine Programmes**

There are separate programmes for girls and boys operated by a branch of the Girl Guide Association. The programme operates from Linwood Avenue School, Linwood North School, Phillipstown and Bamford. The programme is free and runs for one day a week. The programme is currently for girls only. There is a boys' programme starting up at Linwood North during the third term. Twenty children attend the programme with four staff supervising. It is an educational, recreational and life skills programme. The school is involved in selecting the children who would best benefit from the programme.

## **Linwood Kidsfun**

This programme operates every Tuesday during the school term. It is based at the Linwood North School on Woodham Rd. It is a recreation-based programme and is free to children from 5 – 12 years. There is a maximum of 40 children attend this programme. The hours of operation are 3 – 4.30pm. The Hagley/Ferrymead Community Board funds the programme.

## **HOLIDAY PROGRAMMES**

The holiday programmes in the Hagley/Ferrymead wards are :-

- Linwood Movers
- Richmond Holiday programme
- Woolston Development Project
- Bromley Holiday programme
- Woolston Community Centre
- Youth Programme
- Sumner Holiday Programme
- Phillipstown Holiday Programme

## **Linwood Movers**

This programme operates from the Linwood Avenue School, for one week during the April, July and October holidays. They have a maximum of 20 children on the programme. The programme is always full. Half the positions are allocated to children who are on the Linwood after school programme, with the rest open to children at the Linwood Avenue School. Age ranges from 5 – 10 years. The programme charge is \$5.00 a day for Community cardholders or \$10.00 for others. This programme runs from 9am – 3pm daily. A further charge for 3pm – 5.30pm childcare is available. The programme is funded for the next year by the Hagley/Ferrymead Community Board project funds.

## **Richmond Holiday Programme**

This programme operates from the Richmond School for 2 weeks during the term holidays and one week at Christmas. The programme has a maximum of 20 children attending at a fee of \$10.00 a day (a subsidy is available on request). The programme has 2 staff members and a volunteer who attend the programme on a daily basis. . The programme is funded for the next year by the Hagley/Ferrymead Community Board project Funds.

## **Woolston Development Project**

The programme operates from the Woolston Development building in Ferry Rd. The holiday programme is activity based with 3 camps a year and daily activities. Charges vary from \$5 - \$7 depending on the activity chosen. The programme caters for 30 – 45 children and is managed by 4 staff plus one volunteer. It is financed through various funding sources.

## **Bromley Holiday Programme**

The programme is based at the Bromley Community Centre and operates for one week during the April, July, October holidays. The programme takes a maximum of 40 children and is run from 9 – 3pm on a daily basis. The fee is \$5.00 a day for Community cardholders or \$10.00 for others. Age ranges from 5 – 10 years. The staff ratio is 1:10 children for activities at the Centre and 1:8 for trips away. The Leisure Unit of the Christchurch City Council funds the programme.

## **Woolston Community Centre**

The programme operates from the Woolston School Hall. There is a reciprocal arrangement between the school and the Community Centre with regard to use. There is a maximum of 40 children who attend the programme, which is run entirely by adult volunteers. The minimum staff to children ratio is 1:10 for activities in the hall and 1:5 for trips away. The programme runs during both weeks of the school term holidays at a charge of \$23 a week, there are also daily rates. Age ranges from 5 – 10 years. The holiday programme is funded entirely by the fees. Costs are low due to venue costs being minimal; all staff are volunteers, and few outings.

## **Youth Programme**

This programme operates from the Bromley Community Centre. It is an adventure-based programme for Youth in the Linwood and Bromley area. There is a maximum of 18 youth attending the programme with a 1 staff to 8 children. The programme runs for one week for each of the term school holidays. The charge is \$5.00 a day and runs from 9am – 3pm. Ages range from 11 – 15 years. The Hagley/Ferryhead Community Board funds this programme.

## **Sumner Holiday Programme**

This programme operates from the Sumner School. It is for 18-20 children at a charge of \$20 from 8-3 per day and \$3.50 from 3-6pm.

## **Phillipstown/Linwood Arts Centre Holiday Programme**

This programme operates from the Phillipstown Community Centre and the Linwood Arts Centre. The programme runs for one week of the school term holidays. There are between 25 – 30 children who can enrol. The ages range from 5 – 12 years. Three or four staff look after the programme. The Hagley/Ferryhead Community Board funds this programme.

## **FURTHER INFORMATION**

### **Running Costs**

The cost of running an after school programme is approx. \$30,000- \$40,000 per annum. The cost of running a holiday programme is approx \$920- \$4500 weekly. Number of weeks per programme is listed under programme details.

The cost of running the programmes varies due to the following reasons.

- differing venue costs
- volunteer effort
- number of children attending
- number of paid staff
- socio-economic area
- whether the programme is contracted or has a management committee

Often what is not taken into account in costing out of school programmes are the unwritten costs. For example the Phillipstown Community Centre programmes appear to cost the Christchurch City Council nothing because they are externally funded.

In fact the community worker who does the funding and oversees the staff etc. is funded by the Christchurch City Council as a full time worker.

On the other hand the benefits to the community as a whole are not taken into account when looking at the seemingly high costs of some individual programmes.

### **Policy Review and Strategy Formulation**

The Christchurch City Council has a written document called Out of School Programme Policy and Report. It states in this report that it will be reviewed after one year. The policy should be reviewed in the light of the need expressed by council officers and Board members for more strategic information. In the interests of equity and to assist good funding decision making there needs to be a clearer metropolitan strategy and a clearer understanding of what the Christchurch City Council is prepared to provide. This may provide the Community Board with some means to set priorities in its out of school funding.

### **WINZ**

As reported recently by the Leisure Unit there is a great deal of difficulty surrounding access to the WINZ childcare subsidy. The WINZ strategy to move low-income parents into paid work created a demand for out of school care that has now been picked up by all parents. It has also become more than a thing to assist working parents. Many stressed parents use it as a means to assist them in their role of being good parents as it provides a social and recreational focus for their children. So out of school care has become a social tool to assist all children to access a safe environment and encourage good socialised behaviour. It should not be assumed that all low-income families are eligible for the WINZ subsidy. Many do not qualify and are unable to pay even low charges for the service.

This means that there is a need for some strong discussion between WINZ and the Christchurch City Council regarding the amount of money that both parties are prepared, or not prepared, to put into out of school care and the method of distribution. This discussion needs to be followed by some action. Because of the lack of any government co-ordination on out of school programmes at a national level lobbying will need to be widespread. A number of agencies will need to be involved for example Department of Social Welfare, Ministry of Womens Affairs, Social Policy Agency, Child, Youth and Family Services etc.

## **Education Sector**

It also appears that the Ministry of Education and individual schools need to be encouraged to take a more active role in supporting and assisting out of school programmes. Issues of children being dropped off very early in the morning at school are school and community issues and a combined approach is necessary. (Such as the one at Phillipstown Community Centre.)

## **Safety**

There is no clear legislation around the regulations for out of school care. This can lead to ad hoc arrangements that may not always be safe. There is a need to start thinking about what would be appropriate legislation. With the numbers of children involved informal arrangements are no longer always a safe option.

**Recommendation:** That the information be received.

**Chairman's  
Recommendation:** For discussion.