

9. CYCLE SAFE

Officer responsible City Streets Manager	Author Lee Kelly Schools Advocate
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The purpose of this report is to provide an update to the City Services Committee on the City Councils Road Safety Education programme, Cycle Safe.

BACKGROUND

The Cycle Strategy for Christchurch City sets a target for cycle competency training. This target is: 'to provide adequate resources so that the proportion of students who have the opportunity to use the Cycle Safe Christchurch programme by Year 7 (F1) is 100% per annum by 2001, up from 26% in 1998'.

The Christchurch City Council initially provided funding for a cycle competency course in the 1996/7 financial year. This budget was used to research and develop a Cycle Safe programme and to appoint a co-ordinator to deliver the programme to schools in the City. The co-ordinators (job sharing 1 full time position) were appointed in 1997 and the 'Cycle Safe' programme was officially launched at the Council on 24 November 1997, with the first visit to schools taking place at the start of the school year in 1998.

Initially the programme was funded for one year, with the possibility of an extension should the programme achieve the outcome expected by the Council, which was to deliver the programme to at least 20 schools in the city during 1998. This was achieved. The Council has provided further financial support for the initiative by continuing funding through 1998/99. This financial year, 1999/2000, has seen a boost to the funding from the initial \$70,000 to \$120,000. This additional funding has meant that a second Cycle Safe team could be established and as of 17 November 1999 four new assistants were appointed to Cycle Safe to form the second team, bringing the total number of staff delivering the programme to nine.

Ministry of Education figures state that there are approximately 2,627 Y6 pupils (10-11 year olds) at Christchurch schools. This is Cycle Safes target group. In 1998, 22 schools and 903 children participated in and benefited from the Council's Cycle Safe programme and in 1999 those figures had risen to 28 schools and 1052 children. The aim for this year, 2000, is to deliver the programme to 2000 children, approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ of all Y6 children.

HOW DOES CYCLE SAFE WORK?

The Council is the major funding provider of the programme although the programme has attracted a small number of other sponsors. This funding, \$120,000 for the 1999/2000 financial year allows the Council to deliver a 'free to school and pupil' road safety programme. It also covers salaries, uniforms and the leasing of two vehicles and purpose built trailers and purchase of various other road safety equipment. Other sponsors are HRC Helmet Research Company, Pennys Sports Cycles, Clarity Press, MagnumMac, NZ Road Safety Trust, Telecom and until recently Caltex. The teams are fully resourced and able to go to a school and deliver an effective and comprehensive road safety programme.

When a school makes an initial enquiry it is sent an information package that outlines what the programme is, how it works and how much time the school will need to commit to the programme. The 'Cycle Safe' programme consists of five modules and requires pupils to be available four consecutive mornings or afternoons to complete them. Teacher and parent help is a necessary part of the programme especially when it comes to module 5, the on-road test. The school, parents/caregivers are required to sign a permission slip before their children are allowed to take part in the programme. The five modules are:

1. Cycle maintenance, clothing and bike check
2. Riding skills
3. Road Rules and simulations
4. Practical Traffic skills
5. Practical Road Test

The Cycle Safe programme continues to achieve the outcomes required of it. The success of the programme is due to the financial support that the Council has committed to it and to the competency and commitment of the co-ordinators and their team. Because of the financial support, the programme can be delivered free, thereby benefiting many schools and their pupils who otherwise would not be able to participate. The programme has established itself within the community as a valuable, effective and sought after road safety programme that is working hard to achieve the target set for it by the Council's Cycle Strategy.

AN INVITATION

The Cycle Safe co-ordinators would like to issue an invitation to all Councillors to view a Cycle Safe training session at Marshland School, 329 Prestons Road during the first term of 2000.

Available dates are:

20 March	9 - 12.30pm	Modules 1 & 2
21 March	9 - 12.30pm	Module 3 – on-road test day
22 March	9 - 12.30pm	Module 3 – on-road test day
23 March	9 - 12.30pm	Module 3 – on-road test day

Although the first formal Cycle Safe school training session took place at St Andrew's College at the start of the 1998 school year, Marshlands School allowed the Council to trial the programme during the last term of 1997

Please find attached the 1999 end of year report from the Cycle Safe co-ordinators, Michele and Terry Gyde.

Recommendation: That information be received.

Chairman's

Recommendation: That interested Committee members decide on one of the suggested dates during March to attend the Cycle Safety training sessions.