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Corporate Plan Output: Children's and Youth Advocacy	

The purpose of this report is to inform the Community Services Committee of the circumstances surrounding a declined request for funding from the Youth Discretionary/Community Safety Fund and to ask whether the Committee wishes to reconsider the application.

BACKGROUND

Te Kupenga O Aranui is a partnership between community organisations, families and Aranui High School. In February Te Kupenga O Aranui will launch a comprehensive programme integrating academic, vocational, social and lifeskills education aimed at students who have needs that are not being met through mainstream education. The programme is similar to the very successful Te Kaupapa Whakaora, which operates in Papanui. Please see the supplementary information for:

- more detail about Te Kupenga O Aranui
- letters of support from community organisations, Police and Aranui High School are attached

FUNDING ALREADY SECURED

The project has already received substantial financial support from other sources to cover the salary of a teacher, teacher's aide, accommodation and various other items.

APPLICATION TO THE COUNCIL (ANNUAL BUDGET ROUND)

Te Kupenga O Aranui has applied for Council funding and this will be considered as a "pink page" item for the 2000/01 budget. This funding is for the position of a Youth Worker. Should this application be successful the funding would be available from July 2000.

APPLICATION TO THE COUNCIL (YOUTH DISCRETIONARY FUND)

Te Kupenga O Aranui is keen to have a Youth Worker on board when the programme is launched in February. They applied for \$15,000 discretionary funding to ensure that a Youth Worker could be employed from February until their Council funding became available in July. (Note: This funding has not yet been considered.)

This funding request was declined at staff level because there was no guarantee that the Council would fund the position (from July onward). It seemed presumptive to provide stopgap funding for a project when the main source of funding had yet to be secured, especially when the Council would have to make a decision regarding the merits of this programme during the annual budget round.

THE CURRENT POSITION

Members of the Community Services Committee now have the opportunity to assess the situation and review the decision should they believe this to be appropriate.

Recommendation: That the Community Services Committee reconsider the application for \$15,000 discretionary funding to enable the employment of a Youth Worker from February until July.

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