

16. PARKLANDS KIDSFUN PROGRAMME

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Corporate Plan Output: Recreation Programmes and Promotion	

The purpose of this report is to inform the Board of the withdrawal of the Kidsfun children's after school programme from Parklands Community Centre at the end of Term 4, 1999. This programme has been funded by the Burwood/Pegasus Community Board.

BACKGROUND

The need for an after school programme at Parklands Community Centre was highlighted in 1997, both from the local school and the local community. As a result, Parklands Kidsfun was established at Parklands Community Centre in Term 1 of 1998, one afternoon per week on Thursday afternoons.

This initial programme was run as a 'pilot' for one term, with the programme being evaluated at the conclusion of this period. It was resolved to continue with the Kidsfun programme after this evaluation.

WHAT IS KIDSFUN?

Kidsfun is a Christchurch City Council Leisure programme that provides a safe, fun, free recreation programme at selected venues, one afternoon per week, during the school term for children 5-12 years of age.

The programme was set up around the City at a time when there was demand for more after school activities for children but there were few after school programmes in existence to cater for this need. Budget restrictions meant that Kidsfun programmes could only run one afternoon per week, which did little to meet the needs of working parents.

A team of staff was specifically trained in leadership, first aid, working with children and cultural awareness to deliver the Kidsfun programme in nine different venues throughout the city.

FUNDING

The Parklands Kidsfun pilot programme was funded by the (then) Leisure and Community Services Unit.

The Burwood /Pegasus Community Board has been supportive in providing ongoing funding for this programme, with \$13,000 provided this current financial year.

PROGRESS REPORT

Parklands Kidsfun has enjoyed good support from the school and local community over the last 18 months and has met a need in the community over this time. As with Kidsfun citywide, the presence of Kidsfun in this community has highlighted the need to establish a more comprehensive out of school programme (more than one afternoon per week).

As a result of this need, the Advocacy Team has worked on establishing an after school programme for five days per week at Parkview Primary School. (Note that the after school programme area is the responsibility of the Community Relations Unit, while Christchurch City Council Leisure manages holiday and general children's recreation programme delivery).

With the development of an after school programme, now running since April 1999 at the school, the time is right to withdraw Kidsfun from Parklands community Centre.

PROCESS FOR WITHDRAWING KIDSFUN

It is important that when the Kidsfun programme was withdrawn there was appropriate notice given to parents and children and other alternatives to offer them for after school care and recreation. Contact was made with the school principals in the area and the following communication undertaken:

- Letter to parents/caregivers of children registered as attending the Kidsfun programme
- Notice in school newsletter
- Flier handed to children
- Information pack supplied to children in the last week. This included information on recreation opportunities available in the local community e.g. sports clubs, activity groups, art/craft classes running. Information was also provided to parents/caregivers on the new after school programme.

CONCLUSION

Kidsfun has served an important role in the Parklands community. With the recent development of an after school programme, the time is right for the Recreation and Arts Team to withdraw Kidsfun, and to channel its resources and energies into other areas of need, particularly the provision of holiday programmes and recreation activities for the 10-14 year age group.

Chairperson's

Recommendation: That the information be received.