

15. SHIRLEY AREA YOUTH

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Corporate Plan Output: Community Advocacy	

The purpose of this report is to set-up a structure and process for progressing responses to a perceived community need in the Shirley/Palms area.

BACKGROUND

On 12 April 2000 the Shirley Intermediate School hosted a public meeting of local residents, community and social service agencies and businesses close to the Palms shopping district. The meeting was called to address what was seen as a growing concern about the behaviour of a group of young people at local shopping centres and in local streets. That meeting was attended by approximately 150 people and identified issues such as vandalism, graffiti and bullying.

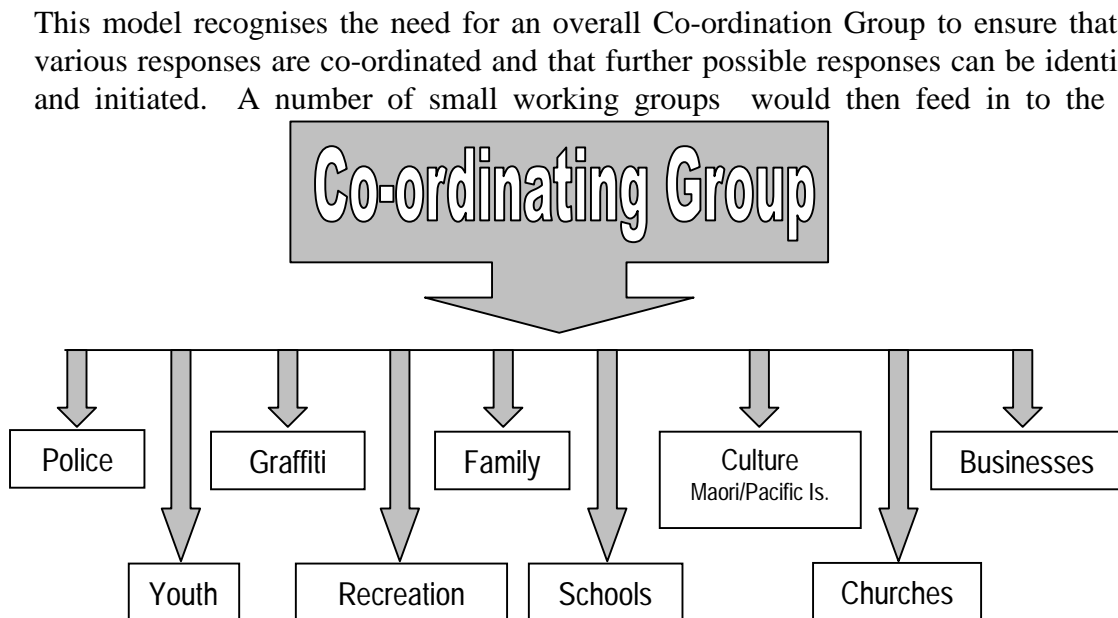
A number of Christchurch City Councillors, Community Board members and Council staff were also in attendance. The Christchurch City Council gave an undertaking that it would respond to this concern.

SUBSEQUENT ACTION

The Community Development Advisers for Shirley/Papanui and Burwood/Pegasus met and decided to initiate a process aimed at involving youth organisations and young people themselves. The first meeting of this group took place on 8 June. It appears that a number of individuals and organisations perceived this meeting to be a follow-up to the 12 April meeting. This was not the intent of the Community Development Advisers. A “youth” oriented response was to be but one of the range of possible responses. Thus, a second meeting was held on 22 June to clarify what was happening and to look at possible future direction and responses.

22 JUNE MEETING

This meeting was attended by a diverse range of people including Board members, staff, police, youth workers, residents and other social service workers. The meeting expressed a strong desire to seek further information and options as a way of identifying creative and positive outcomes for all parties. An explanation of the original intent of the 8 June meeting was outlined and a model for future progress suggested. A diagram of this model is as follows:



ordinating Group. The make-up of the Co-ordination Group was suggested to include:

- Two representatives from each of the Community Boards (Shirley/Papanui and Burwood/Pegasus)
- A staff member from each of the Advocacy Teams.
- A representative from each of: Police, schools and businesses in the area.
- An invitation to the Youth Advocate to be part of this group.

A number of people at the meeting indicated that they would take responsibility for initiating some of the small working groups, these being:

- Schools
- Maori and Pacific Island groups
- Resident groups
- Policing groups
- Youth groups and young people
- Businesses

Some discussion took place as to exactly what the problem was and some of the underlying causes. Debate and research on these matters would appropriately be the domain of the Co-ordinating Group.

- Recommendations:**
1. That the information be received.
 2. That a Co-ordinating Group be established.
 3. That two members of the Community Board be nominated to work on the Co-ordinating Group.
 4. That the Co-ordinating Group draw-up an Action Plan outlining the various responses and that this be reported back to the local community.
 5. That the Co-ordinating Group establish its frame of reference recognising that each small working group will work within its own sphere of expertise.

Chairperson's

- Recommendations:**
1. That the aforementioned recommendations be adopted.
 2. That Glenda Burt and Don Rowlands represent the Board on the Co-ordinating Group.
 3. That the Board representatives co-ordinate a meeting with the Burwood residents' groups on this issue.