

18. SUMNER OUT OF SCHOOL PROGRAMME WORKING PARTY

Officer responsible Community Advocate	Author John Shanks, Board Secretary
Corporate Plan Output: Board Discretionary Fund	

The purpose of this report is to report back to the Board on the deliberations of a Working Party appointed to consider the funding needs of the Sumner Out of School Programme.

Board members will recall that Ms Maree Agnew addressed the Board at its 2 February 2000 meeting seeking funding for the Out of School Programme operating from the Sumner School and outlined the estimated budget for this programme for the year ended 31 March 2000. This estimated budget showed a shortfall of \$4,373.00.

The Board appointed a Working Party with power to act to consider allocating the sum of \$5,000 from its discretionary fund as a grant to the Sumner Out of School Programme to meet any current financial shortfall and to determine any conditions relating to this grant.

The Working Party met on Wednesday 16 February 2000. Linda Rutland, Charles Manning, Derek McCullough and Erin Baker were present and were assisted in their deliberations by Louise Birkett, the Council's Out of School Programme researcher. John Freeman was out of town and unable to be present at this meeting.

DISCUSSION

The Working Party considered the request made to the Board for funding very carefully and in doing so was mindful of a number of relevant issues, which included the following:

1. A rental is payable to the school for the use of the school hall for this programme. There is no other suitable venue available at the present time.
2. This programme is the only Out of School Programme available at the present time in the Sumner area. Should this programme be discontinued, it appears that there would be no alternative available in Sumner.
3. The Working Party was of the view that this programme should continue.
4. The distance of Sumner from the City places a cost penalty on this Out of School Programme in that an early start is needed so that parents can drop off children and still be at work in the city on time. It was suggested in discussion that the clients of this programme appeared to be lower-income parents.
5. The Working Party believed that there was a need for the Community Board to sit down with the programme administrator, Maree Agnew, to talk through where the programme goes from here.
6. There remains an element of uncertainty over the long-term availability of space at the Sumner School to accommodate this programme.

7. It would be appropriate for the new Community Advocate and the Working Party to meet with the Sumner Out of School Programme to go through their budget with them and to assess their income, outgoings and needs over the coming 12 month period with a view to assessing how to keep this programme going, in the light of funding constraints and possible changes of staff and venue, in the event that the school hall is no longer available for use.

CONCLUSIONS

The Working Party decided:

1. To offer to underwrite funding of up to \$2,500 to support the Sumner Out of School Programme up to 31 March 2000.
2. To reconvene this Working Party towards the end of March 2000 to consider the issues of on-going funding, location and future viability and that this coming meeting of the Working Party be held on site in the Sumner School hall.

Chairman's

Recommendation: That the decisions of the Working Party, as outlined above, be confirmed by the Board.