

#### 4. CHRISTCHURCH CITY COUNCIL OLDER PERSONS' POLICY ACTION PLAN

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Corporate Plan Output: Policy Advice to Council	

The purpose of this report is to report on the Council's progress in implementing the Older Persons' Policy Action Plan, and to recommend a future strategy for monitoring and implementing this Action Plan.

##### INTRODUCTION

The Christchurch City Council adopted the Older Persons' Policy Action Plan in February 1999. This Action Plan was developed in consultation with Council Units, and outlines the activities they will undertake to further the implementation of the Older Persons' Policy. (Further copies of the Action Plan are available from Julie Macdonald).

In accordance with the Council resolution of 25 November 1999, staff have undertaken a 12-month review of the implementation of the Action Plan by Council Units. This review raised issues about the effectiveness of the implementation of the Action Plan.

##### FEEDBACK ON IMPLEMENTATION

The review identified that some Council Units have undertaken significant activity in accordance with the outcomes of the Older Persons' Policy. Examples of activities undertaken in the past year include the following:

- (i) Many older people participated in the free education programmes run by the Art Gallery.
- (ii) City Streets held focus groups for older people about issues for pedestrians.
- (iii) The Canterbury Development Corporation developed a large Third Age network and held a forum to develop a Third Age Strategy for Canterbury. This initiative also had significant contribution from the Community Relations and Leisure Units.
- (iv) The Leisure Unit provided a large number of facility-based programmes specifically for older people.
- (v) The Libraries ran programmes in conjunction with SeniorNet to celebrate the International Year of Older Persons'.
- (vi) Social and recreational opportunities were provided for Council housing tenants.

However, some of the actions specified in the Action Plan have received less attention from Council Units. Some Council Units appear to have little awareness of the content of the Action Plan or of their potential role in implementing it. Some of the difficulties associated with the implementation of the Older Persons' Action Plan may be due to the lack of dedicated resources allocated to implementing the Older Persons' Policy and Action Plan. The Children's and Youth Policies have full-time advocacy staff, and yet their advocates acknowledge that, despite significant positive change in many areas, the level of implementation of these policies across Units still varies.

##### FUTURE DIRECTION

The review of the implementation of the Older Persons' Action Plan identified broader issues associated with the implementation and review of policies and strategies that are meant to be Council-wide (rather than implemented within one Unit only). These issues will be addressed by the newly formed Social Well-being Pathway Team. This team will be considering the Council's processes for developing social policy and ensuring that their implementation is supported and monitored.

For this reason, the future implementation and monitoring of the Older Persons' Policy Action Plan is most appropriately placed with the new Social Well-being Pathway Team.

##### Chairman's

**Recommendation:** That the City Manager be asked to report annually on the implementation by units of the Council's social policies.