

## 22. BISHOPDALE SCHOOL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

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Corporate Plan Output: Fendalton/Waimairi Community Board, Vol 1, page 3.2 text 4	

The purpose of this report is to provide a half yearly update of the Bishopdale Out of School Care programme.

Board members will recall that the out of school care programme was revised some 12 months ago when ODC's contract was terminated. Management was then passed to Bishopdale Primary who established a partnership with the Christchurch YMCA with further input from Fendalton's Advocacy Team and the Community Recreation Adviser. A number of initiatives that occur at Bishopdale Primary are now managed under the Bishopdale Community Development Project.

In addition to the out of school care programme, there is the SPARKS (parent/pupils recreation) and Bishopdale Community Trusts parents support group. (This group welcomes parents to the school in the hall, at 2.00pm prior to the end of the school day. It has had the benefit of creating network opportunities for parents and school staff). WINZ currently have a member of their staff at pre-determined times to assist with benefit requirement and information.

The after school programme averages 14 per day and offers a range of constructive and educational activities. Parents who were previously reluctant to be involved in school matters are now starting to participate and contribute. Two volunteers one a grandparent now help with story telling and Maori crafts. A number of other volunteers assist the two paid staff in attendance at each session.

Numbers during the winter tend to drop off because of sickness and winter conditions. During the forthcoming term the base number of 20 enrolments will be increased. It is necessary to maintain a 1:4 ratio.

The schools Principal reports that the school community is affected by poverty issues such as inadequate housing, health issues, inadequate nutrition, parent literacy concerns, parenting skills and lack of positive role models in a number of families. Mrs Herbert is clear that the out of school care programme and the other initiatives are providing positive community/school integration providing both parents and children life skills education and strengthening the linkage in the community. She also states that the out of school care programme is providing a huge uprising in the level of self care and self confidence of those boys and girls who attend. The programme provides a vital plug.

Within the current Fendalton/Waimairi 2001/2002 budget \$16,000 is available to continue support for initiatives (\$12,000 ex Community Initiatives, and \$4,000 ex SCAP).

**Recommendation:** That the information be received.

### **Chairman's**

**Recommendation:** That the above recommendation be adopted.