

11. “LETS GO” – PROGRESS REPORT

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| Officer responsible Leisure Manager | Author Community Recreation Adviser, DDI 372 2729 |
| Corporate Plan Output: Recreation Promotion and Programmes | |

The purpose of this report is to advise the Board on ‘Let’s Go’ – a “tweenager” (10-13 year old) programme funded by the Fendalton/Waimairi Community Board.

Background

‘Let’s Go’ was established in May 2000 as a result of a gap in provision identified in **‘The Bishopdale Consultation’ (1998)**. ‘Let’s Go’ is a term time programme targeting 10 – 13 year olds living in the Bishopdale, Bryndwr and Aorangi communities.

Benefits – Pay Now or Pay More Later!

Recreation reduces health care, social service and police/justice costs. There are numerous well-documented benefits gained from providing suitable recreation programmes for young people in lower socio-economic communities. Some of these include:

- Quality, well structured recreation experiences for young people.
- Recreation programmes for young people impart lifelong leisure habits and help them to learn about the activities and groups operating in their local communities.
- Builds self-esteem and positive self-image.
- Reduces crime and social dysfunction (thus reducing the costs of social service intervention)

Planning

‘Let’s Go’ is contracted to the YMCA and operates from the YMCA Bryndwr facility. The contract in place covers all aspects of planning including programme content, brochure production, promotion, staffing and health & safety. The contract is managed by the Recreation and Arts Team.

Event Programme

‘Let’s Go’ takes the form of a series of activities scattered over the course of a school term. The activities are either on a Friday night or Saturday/Sunday. The philosophy of the programme is two-fold. Firstly to provide well supervised structured activities in the local community. These activities have a leisure education focus. The second prong of the programme is to provide local young people with opportunities that may not usually have e.g. attend a Canterbury Rams basketball game. Often these two focuses are combined into one activity such as having a basketball skills session before busing to a basketball game.

Funding

The cost of staging ‘Let’s Go’ is \$2,000 per term. The Fendalton/Waimairi Community Board allocated \$8,000 from 2000/01 Project Funding for the staging of this programme.

For this programme to be successful it needs to be affordable. For this reason the fee to each session is by gold coin donation.

Feedback

The YMCA carry out evaluations at the conclusion of each term programme. The results of these are reported back to the Recreation and Arts Team. Feedback to date has generally been very positive. The content of the programme needs to be closely monitored to ensure that it is in tune with the target audience of 10 – 13 year olds. Often evaluations give a good indication of what the content of the next term’s programme should be.

Summary

A further \$8,000 has been allocated from the Fendalton/Waimairi Community Board Project Funding for the 2001/02 financial year. The 'Let's Go' programme will need to be closely monitored. At the conclusion of the 2001/02 financial year the programme will have been running for over two years. At this point an evaluation of the programme and local needs will be carried out to ascertain if 'Let's Go' is still the most appropriate way of meeting the leisure needs of local young people in Bishopdale, Bryndwr and Aorangi.

Recommendation: That the information be received.

Chairman's

Recommendation: That the foregoing recommendation be adopted.