

24. YOUTH ASSISTANCE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMME

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INTRODUCTION

The Fendalton/Waimairi Community Board has previously offered to provide some support for youth in their area who have been identified as "at risk". The Board has also been concerned about young people prematurely exiting the education system.

Funding was allocated some years ago for the use of youth, aged 17½ years, who might benefit from Limited Services Volunteer Courses at Burnham and this funding has been carried forward to the 2000/01 financial year. While this concept had high merit, the identification of suitable youth for this programme has been problematic. Even when youth fitting the criteria may be found, they often have not been acceptable to the Army because of health or drug and alcohol issues.

At the 3 April Board meeting the Board requested that consideration be given to the review of the present age qualification for entry to the LSV scheme with a view to covering some of the younger school leavers who were still unemployed. The matter was also raised at the latest meeting of the Council's Strategy and Resources Committee.

This issue was also seen in the context of the current Canterbury Youth Strategy and the mission of the Mayors Taskforce for Jobs to have every young person under 20 involved in some form of education, training and employment by the end of 2002.

A meeting was recently held between Tony Gemmill and Stephen Phillips (CCC, Community Relations), Brigid Ryan (CDC, Employment Services Manager) and Tala Kele, Youthworks staff for CDC. General discussion concluded that the funding allocated for LSV could be more effective in assisting a mechanism for identifying "at risk" youth while they are still in the school system. The option of a programme similar to the Schools Employment Programme was discussed and it was felt that this model could be adapted to meet the needs of students at a school within the Fendalton/Waimairi community.

PROPOSAL

The programme could be implemented on a pilot basis at Burnside High School to work with any students who indicate they wish to leave school. This would include those who get an exemption to leave school before the legal age of 16 years. The Principal of Burnside High School, Graham Stoop, has responded positively to an initial discussion about this possibility.

The process followed would be similar to the Schools Employment Programme which was initially funded through the Social Initiatives Fund and has now received ongoing funding from Council for the programme to operate in five local low decile schools. Because of the ethnic demographics of these schools, there has been a focus on Maori and Pacific Island students. However, the programme could be easily adapted to meet more general needs and/or include some targeted assistance for immigrant groups, for example, Asian students.

Schools Employment Programme is currently under evaluation but initial findings are that having it in a school can significantly reduce truancy and retain students within the school system for a longer time. The Student Placement Officer is free to form networks with support agencies in the community and with organisations such as Actionworks which specialise in the area of education, training and employment advice for young people.

The proposal would involve the appointment of a part time Student Placement Officer who would provide support through the Schools Employment Programme's training and reporting systems. This is jointly managed by Graeme Plummer and Claire Phillips at CDC. They are able to support this initiative with assistance with recruitment, training, implementing monitoring systems, and general networking opportunities.

COSTINGS

Salary	\$15,000
Overheads	<u>\$5,000</u>
Total	\$20,000

It is proposed that the pilot operate for two years so the total cost would be **\$40,000**

FUNDING SOURCES FOR 2 YEAR PERIOD

Fendalton/Waimairi Community Board SCAP Funding	\$20,000	(\$10,000 each year ex 2000/01 fund, & 2001/02 fund)
Community Board/Advocacy Team	\$5,000	(\$2,700 ex LSV, \$2,300 ex Community Development)
Contribution from School	\$7,500	(To be confirmed)
CDC contribution	<u>\$7,500</u>	
Total	\$40,000	

SUMMARY

Following difficulties apparent in trying to modify the Government's LSV scheme, as far as age qualification is concerned, it is now believed that support provided through the education system is likely to better identify "at risk" youth at an early stage. The opportunity to initiate a two year pilot scheme at one of the country's largest secondary schools, and the school's support for the initiative, provides the chance for a useful school/Council partnership to be undertaken.

The opportunity to utilise some of the Board's SCAP funding seems entirely appropriate to the programme.

Subject to the Board's adoption of the proposal it would appear relevant that appropriate performance indicators/objectives be developed for later evaluation of the success of the programme. Officers from the Council, and CDC, and the School should be tasked with developing these "measures" for reporting back to the Board.

Brigid Ryan (CDC) will be available at the 5 June meeting to assist the Board's consideration of the proposal.

- Recommendations:**
1. That the proposal of initiating a programme similar to the Schools Employment Programme, at Burnside High School, be adopted.
 2. That the programme run as a two year "pilot" and be subject to evaluation near to the end of the two year term.
 3. That the following Council funding be allocated toward the programme:-
 - \$10,000 ex 2000/01 SCAP fund
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 - \$2,700 ex carried forward LSV fund
 - \$2,300 ex Advocacy Team 2000/01 community development fund.
 4. That the School Principal be thanked for the school's support of the pilot programme.
 5. That the Canterbury Development Corporation staff be thanked for their initiative and contribution to the programme.
 6. That staff of the Council (including CDC) and the School further discuss the development of clear objectives/performance indicators to apply to the programme.

7. That a first report be provided near to the end of this year on progress with the programme.

**Chairman's
Recommendation:**

That the foregoing recommendations be adopted.