

6. CANTERBURY YOUTH STRATEGY - ACTIONWORKS YOUTH EMPLOYMENT SERVICE

Officer responsible CEO, Canterbury Development Corporation	Author Lynley Preston, Manager Actionworks, Youth Employment Service, DDI 353-6886
Corporate Plan Output: Economic and Employment Advice/Workforce Preparation and Renewal	

The purpose of this report is to respond to a request from the Annual Plan Working Party for an update on the Actionworks Initiative to be submitted to the Strategy and Resources Committee.

Actionworks has expanded its holistic specialised case management service for all 18 and 19 year olds in Christchurch receiving the community wage. The Department of Work and Income (DWI) has nominated Youth Specialists in nine of the 12 DWI sites, some sites having up to five Youth Specialists. Including Actionworks staff there are 30 Youth Specialists.

In the near future it is hoped that refocusing and increased resourcing will reduce case load numbers to a manageable size (125 instead of 280 average). Increasing the intensive case management of 18 and 19 year olds should reduce the number of youth transferring into the 20–24 year old bracket requiring benefit and other assistance in the future.

- The Mayor's Taskforce for Jobs has positively affected how local and central government work together. Actionworks aims to have all 18 and 19 year olds on Community Wage participating in activities by the end of 2002. They will form the core group of clients on Youth specialist caseloads in DWI sites. Youth specialist caseloads may also include clients who receive the IYB and other priority or disadvantaged groups in the 16-24 age range such as Maori, Pacific Island, court-involved, graduates, etc.
- Actionworks is responsible for ensuring all youth specialists in Canterbury are adequately trained and continually upskilled.
- The CDC education strategy will encourage ways for all people to have access to life-long education opportunities. Research and action must be taken now to look at training and jobs for the future way of working. Youth referred from Christchurch high schools access Actionworks services at present and the education strategy aims to increase awareness of assistance.
- Another part of the education strategy is to make sure that schools make their students aware of local labour market knowledge and jobs available to them when they leave school. CDC will offer increased levels of specialised services and interventions for youth, and also facilitate more productive linkages and relationships with the education, business and community sectors, displayed at the Career Expo. Parents of 18 and 19 year olds in Christchurch would be aware of the services that exist to support their child make the transition from school or between jobs.
- Actionworks continues to progress the involvement of the private sector and involve them in Target 2001, CDC's local initiative. The Council and the business services of CDC have a huge network of businesses that are a potential employment source for young job seekers. These networks are a key resource in promoting growth in apprenticeships and other areas of skill shortage.
- Actionworks also has a Youth collaborative networks advisory group which meets monthly to support this community vision and collaborative commitment to Canterbury youth. An Inter-agency advisory steering group of representatives including government, community, youth peers and other interested parties has been set up to provide guidance on the future development of employment services to facilitate closer liaisons between social services, health, and employment.
- Service to Maori youth has been enhanced as the youth specialists have greater awareness of Maori youth programmes through our collective networking throughout the region. Co-ordination of strategies such as a development of a Taiaha course for Canterbury youth.
- At Actionworks Youth can access the Youth Employment Resource Centre information and resources to meet their needs in all aspects of employment including health, safety and well-being, education and training.

- Need Desire Achieve Canterbury Youth Employment Forum 24 and 25 May 2001 - The two day forum aims to bring together young people and people who work with youth in the community, to network, share and discuss youth training and employment. Consulting with youth in a forum, to enable youth to have their say on employment barriers, issues and possible development of ideas around employment.

Chairman's

Recommendation: That the information be received.