

6. NEW DIRECTION (CHRISTCHURCH) CHARITABLE TRUST - SHIRLEY

Officer responsible Community Advocate	Author Barbara Ford, DDI 354-1707
Corporate Plan Output: Discretionary/Project Funding	

The purpose of this report is to provide information on the New Direction Trust and to seek funding to assist the Trust with its projects in the Shirley area.

INTRODUCTION

The Board will recall that representatives from the New Direction Trust, Brian Booth and Stephanie Walker, spoke to the Board's April meeting, about the Trust's purchase of the former St. Aidans church in Emmett Street, and their plans for both the building, and delivering programmes in the Shirley area.

At the Board meeting the Chairperson suggested that the Trust meet with Ingrid Stonhill to discuss where the Community Board could assist the Trust. Accordingly, the Community Advocate and Ingrid met with Brian and Stephanie in July.

The work of the Trust helps to meet the outcomes of the following Council Policies and the Board's Planning Statement:

Social Well-being Policy, in particular "All people, no matter what age, race, gender, social and economic position or abilities, have opportunities to contribute to society and develop their potential";

Community Policy - "Supplement the capabilities and resources of community groups and structures";

Board's Planning Statement - "To foster a strong sense of community."

BACKGROUND

The Mission Statement of the Trust states - "The New Direction Trust provides an intensive family intervention programme for those in need of specific assistance/direction. It offers a holistic approach to all family members in order to effect significant changes in parenting, behaviour and attitudes. All will acquire avocational and vocational skills which will serve to challenge the cycle of disadvantaged."

The Trust has rented shops in Acheson Avenue, one of which is a second hand clothing shop, and the other provides a base for the Trust to deliver family intervention programmes. This part of the Trust's work operates separately from the church's works and activities.

This part of the Trust's work is managed by Stephanie Walker who has many years experience in working within communities as a counsellor, facilitator and advocate for the disadvantaged, particularly families. She was Programme Co-ordinator for the Prime Time programme established in Aranui.

INTERVENTION PROGRAMMES

The programmes being provided in Shirley include working with families to assist in budgeting, self esteem, goal setting, effective parenting, cooking, child development, addiction issues, home and family management and relationship issues. The bulk of the work is done in the homes of the families. This is made possible by a team of committed and qualified volunteers. Modules, when needed are run from 31 Acheson Avenue, the shop rented by the Trust.

The New Direction Trust believes it is able to provide needs as identified by the Shirley Research, particularly in support to single parent families, families coping with unemployment and the difficulties of financial management. The Trust is working alongside other agencies and community organisations also working in the area, and their work is complementary to other groups, without doubling up on other services being provided. Much of Stephanie's work involves working in with government agencies, for example school public health nurses, primary schools, WINZ, CYPFs. While the Trust has only been working a short time in Shirley, it believes it is already having success with clients.

The Trust has established good reporting, recording and administrative management processes including client evaluation, progress and follow-up procedures.

FUNDING

The Trust will be applying to other funding agencies including Community Trust, HFA, and private trusts. Unfortunately they missed the time for this years Community Trust funding, and have not been established long enough to apply at present for HFA funding.

Operation and salary costs for this programme are approximately \$40,000 per annum. Financial statements are available for the Board's information. A copy of the Trust's Client Evaluation report could be available to Board members, however this is not public information.

Any contribution from the Board would be appreciated.

The Board's Strengthening Communities Fund has a balance of \$29,000.

Recommendation: That the Board make a grant of \$5,000 from Strengthening Communities Funds to New Direction Trust towards the project operating in the Shirley area.

Chairperson's Recommendation: That the officer's recommendation be adopted and that the Board endorse any applications for funding from other sources.