

13. CHRISTCHURCH PUBLIC HEALTH STRATEGY

Officer responsible Mary Richardson	Author Healthy Christchurch Project Team, DDI 371-1882
Corporate Plan Outputs: Policy Advice	

PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT

The purpose of this report is to advise the Community Board of the development process for the Public Health Charter and Strategy for Christchurch. A draft Charter is attached to the report and we seek comment on this from the Board.

PROPOSAL

Healthy Christchurch is an intersectoral initiative sponsored by the Canterbury District Health Board, Christchurch City Council, Te Runanga O Ngai Tahu, Crown Public Health, He Oranga Pounamu, Pegasus Health, Christchurch School of Medicine and the Ministry of Health. Its aims are:

- To forge a common vision for a healthy city.
- To foster healthy relationships between diverse agencies and sectors in Christchurch, from 'grassroots' groups to government agencies.
- To enable flexible, collaborative and prompt responses to emergent health issues.
- To promote collaboration and interagency strategic planning between the Council, government agencies, health and other social sector agencies, tertiary institutions, voluntary organisations and community groups, industry and the media in Christchurch.

The initiative recognises that all sectors and groups have a role to play in creating a healthy city, whether their specific focus is recreation, employment, youth, transport or any other aspect of city life. It's about building alliances between all sorts of agencies who may not generally be seen as health agencies.

The result of last year's engagement phase were highly encouraging, with over 180 groups and agencies expressing interest in working together to improve health in our city. The engagement phase identified that groups and agencies wanted a Charter for Christchurch as a basis for future collaboration. Groups identified that protocols for working together were an important first step for ongoing collaboration and joint planning. This Charter has been developed through a series of charter workshops and hui.

The Charter is a simple document, encapsulating the shared vision for a healthy city, identifying shared principles and outlining protocols for working together. Signing the Charter will indicate a commitment to working together.

We are currently consulting with agencies and groups regarding the Charter so we can incorporate further suggestions in the final draft. Once the changes have been made, a final copy of the Charter will be distributed so that agencies can decide whether they want to sign and become full members of Healthy Christchurch.

The agencies who sign will then write the first Action Plan, outlining the priorities and practical projects which Healthy Christchurch will work on for the lifespan of the first Charter.

Healthy Christchurch has the capacity to become a major vehicle for enabling cooperation between agencies to improve outcomes across population groups. Already Healthy Christchurch has facilitated greater cooperation between agencies and enabled a number of partnership projects between sponsoring agencies.

ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

Healthy Christchurch Steering Group is seeking feedback on the Charter, for example:

1. Do you support the opening statement? How would you change it?
2. Has the draft identified the right PRINCIPLES? How would you change them?
3. Has the draft identified the right PROTOCOLS? How would you change them?
4. Is the BACKGROUND INFORMATION useful? How would you change it?
5. Would you like to comment on anything else related to the DRAFT CHARTER?
6. What would you like to see included in the ACTION PLAN?

Recommendation: That the Board consider providing feedback to the Healthy Christchurch Steering Group regarding the initiative and health priorities.

Chairperson's Recommendation: That this be discussed at the next Seminar meeting.