

3. MAYORAL POVERTY TASKFORCE UPDATE

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The purpose of this report is to inform the Committee on the progress of implementing the recommendations of the Mayoral Taskforce on Poverty.

BACKGROUND

The Council established a Taskforce on Poverty in 2000 to identify and advocate for solutions to poverty. Its focus was to find solutions that addressed the causes of poverty, not just its symptoms. The terms of reference included:

- Develop strategies to strengthen responses to poverty in Christchurch.
- Review and make recommendations on the Council's programmes and policies with respect to their impacts on those on low incomes in Christchurch.
- Recommend to the Council, central government and other agencies, action to reduce the level of poverty in the different communities, including policy development and review.
- Build and maintain relationships among key Government and non-Government agencies and organisations with responsibilities for addressing the causes and effects of poverty.
- Develop and report on performance measures of actions taken by the Taskforce.

The Taskforce comprised:

- Paul Dalziel, Economics Department, University of Canterbury
- Sue Bagshaw, 198 Health Centre
- Major Campbell Roberts, Salvation Army
- Mark Solomon, Kaiwhakahaere, Te Runanga o Ngai Tahu

Mayor Garry Moore and Councillor Carole Anderton (Chair, Community Services Committee) also attended Taskforce meetings.

TASKFORCE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Taskforce presented its final report to the Community Services Committee on 10 September 2001. The report included a report on employer demand for Skilled Workers by Dr Paul Dalziel (Senior Lecturer in Economics), Dr Jane Higgins (Lecturer in Sociology) and Michael Drummond (Tutor in Economics)

These reports outlined the activities undertaken by the Taskforce and made recommendations to the Council which the Taskforce believe would help address issues of poverty.

The Community Services Committee agreed to hand the report to the incoming relevant Standing Committee of the new Council to consider how they could action the recommendations.

Recently a number of agencies in Christchurch have contacted the Mayor, Councillors and/or staff requesting an update how the Council intends to progress the recommendations of the Taskforce.

Attached is a brief summary of progress to date on the recommendations.

Staff

Recommendation: That the information be received.

Chairman's

Recommendation: That the information be received and the Committee continue to monitor progress on the implementation of the recommendations.