

4. YOUTH AND CHILD MORTALITY REVIEW

Officer responsible Children's Advocate	Author Lyn Campbell, DDI 941-8890
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The purpose of this report is to inform Councillors on the progress of the Youth and Child Mortality Review.

Under the provisions of the Public Health and Disability Act 2001, a national Youth and Child Mortality Review Committee has been appointed. The Committee will provide information and advice on child and youth mortality by reviewing deaths of people aged between four weeks and 24 years of age.

The opportunity exists through a Christchurch forum to bring together interested parties so that a commitment can be made and a Steering Committee set up to establish the Youth and Child Mortality Review process in Canterbury. The forum will be held on Thursday 14 November from 1pm to 4pm in the Council Chamber. Currently there is no system in place for gathering and reviewing information on all child and youth deaths.

All have a part to play in the health and wellbeing of youth and children living in Canterbury. Responsibility lies not solely, with central or local government, or the District Health Board, but with the whole community. It is logical that expertise should be pooled to learn from the deaths of youth and children in our region.

The formation of a Youth and Child Mortality Review Committee in Canterbury would provide a database that provides quality information and indicates underlying factors surrounding these deaths. What we learn through this type of review would enable us to implement change and improve services to families, youth and children that will in turn help protect against avoidable deaths in Canterbury.

Staff

Recommendation: That the information be received.

Chairman's

Recommendation: That the Chairperson and one other Committee member attend the forum.