

## 5. METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY DISCRETIONARY FUND

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The purpose of this report is to make recommendations to the Community and Leisure Committee for allocation of grant monies from the 2002/03 Metropolitan Community Discretionary Fund. The Fund currently has \$140,000 available for allocation.

Applications for new community initiatives for Metropolitan Community Discretionary funding support are considered by the Community and Leisure Committee.

### DEAF SOCIETY OF CANTERBURY

The Society seeks for a \$7,500 funding allocation as a contribution towards the establishment and annual operating costs for the Deaf Youth Club.

The application meets the policy principles and strategic roles of the Council's Policy on Equity and Access for People with Disabilities. The project also meets a number of the Council's strategic objectives and a number of priorities and outcomes of various Council policies and strategies including community cohesion and well-being, youth, community and social well-being.

### Background

Three young members of the Society began exploring the possibilities of a specific youth support service during the latter part of 2001 following a number of inquiries from deaf young people and their parents, schools, youth and community groups.

The aim of the Youth Club is to provide deaf young people with opportunities to participate and socialise in events and activities, to feel they are part of the group and to feel they are valued.

### Project Description

The project will provide:

- a weekly youth club
- weekly social and recreational events
- educational and learning sessions
- specific topic meetings with guest speakers
- monthly newsletters
- holiday programmes
- youth leader skills and mentoring with peers

The Youth Club will be promoted through the various communication networks of community and youth services, schools, community group notice boards and newsletters, Canterbury Youth Workers Collective and community based youth workers.

### Conclusions

Currently there are no providers in the Christchurch and Canterbury area that make services or clubs and holiday programmes fully accessible for deaf youth, which severely limits the personal development of such young people.

The Youth Club has the potential of creating new opportunities for deaf youth to participate more fully in the hearing world through the building up of self esteem, the development of leadership skills, participation in team activities and a greater confidence in themselves as independent youth.

The recommended level of funding takes into account that the Society should be allocating some of their reserves to this project and that once the Youth Club is established, the Society will be eligible to apply to other community funders for annual operational costs. The audited accounts as at 31 December 2001 show a loss of \$6,797 on a \$112,519 expenditure with net cash reserves of \$77,000. The Society receives specific project grants from COGS, The Community Trust, Lottery Grants Board and the Ministry of Health/Canterbury District Health Board.

## **K2 TRUST CHRISTCHURCH**

The Trust seeks consideration for a \$60,000 funding allocation as a contribution towards the Christchurch office startup costs and annual project management operating costs of Project K. Such costs are projected at \$79,000. The Trust has provided a comprehensive application package and business plan.

This application meets a number of the Council's strategic objectives and a number of priorities and outcomes of various Council policies and strategies. These include community cohesion and well-being, economic development, environmental sustainability, cultural diversity, youth, community and social well-being.

### **Background**

Project K was launched in 1996 by mountaineer Graeme Dingle as a way of building self esteem and teaching life skills such as goal setting and promoting good health and education. The programme targets 13–15 year olds who are at risk of not achieving their potential due to factors such as lack of optimism, missed potential, school suspensions and truancy, low self esteem and lack of balance in life. Project K's founder recognised the wasted potential of youth as a result of social problems they encounter that was being reflected in youth crime, suicide, drug addiction and alcohol abuse, poor health, lack of attainment in education. The Project K Trust licenses local community trusts to operate the Project K programmes in their local regions.

Following a presentation in Christchurch in August 2001 by Graeme Dingle, a grouping of local people formed who were keen to see Project K established in Christchurch. Project K's 2001 annual report shows programmes were run in the Auckland North Shore, South Auckland, Upper Central North Island, Palmerston North, Porirua and Dunedin.

### **Project Description**

Each programme provides 15 to 20 youth with a three week wilderness experience, a three week community challenge/community work project and 12 months with a one-on-one mentor. The wilderness experience provides life skills training, goal setting and teamwork that aims to create a stronger self determination and self belief. The community work stage involves the young people as volunteers on projects such as local parks and walkways and with community groups and sports clubs. The 12 month mentoring programme involves each student being matched with an appropriate community mentor. They meet fortnightly and make contact by telephone at least weekly. The mentors also meet as a group monthly for peer support and to discuss successes and challenges. Project K aims, through the engagement of local communities, to inspire young people to maximise their potential and to positively influence the future of New Zealand socially, culturally and emotionally.

The K2 Trust Christchurch has identified a six month lead in time/establishment period and is projecting to start their first programme in February/March 2003. This period will include setting up their Christchurch operational office, the employment of a Programme Director, seeking grants and sponsorships, engaging secondary schools, community groups and local people as mentors, programme implementation and operational procedures. This initial cost is estimated at \$79,000. The Trust has estimated that each fourteen month Project K programme will cost \$32,500.

### **Consultations**

Information and comment has been sought from other local authorities where Project K programmes are currently operating and from the Canterbury Youth Workers Collective. The information will be available for the Committee meeting.

### **Conclusion**

Project K has very successfully forged strong programme operational links between the business world, corporate sponsorship, secondary schools, community groups, families and individuals that is creating a wide range of personal development and challenge opportunities for young people.

I have every confidence that the K2 Trust Christchurch will also successfully achieve such outcomes. Trustee skills and experience include people with business and management leadership, service on school board of trustees, outdoor recreation and challenge and ecotourism and recreation management, members of NZ Business for Social Responsibility Conservation Board, Safer Community Co-ordinator, a social worker, marketing, an outdoor education instructor, resource teaching of learning and behaviour, community worker with Maori, and alternative education experience with at-risk youth.

**Staff**

- Recommendation:**
1. That the Community and Leisure Committee approve a grant of \$5,000 for the establishment of the Deaf Youth Club.
  2.
    - (a) That subject to receiving supportive community comment the Community and Leisure Committee approve a grant of \$20,000 to the K2 Trust Christchurch as a contribution to the project management establishment costs of Project K in Christchurch.
    - (b) That the payment of any grant be released on confirmation that the K2 Trust Christchurch has received its Project K licence.

**Chairman's**

**Recommendation:** That the above recommendation be adopted.