

5. SOCIAL INITIATIVES FUND

Officers responsible Team Leader Community Services Team Community and Recreation Manager	Author Michael McNabb – Community Funding Adviser, DDI 941-8933
--	---

The purpose of this report is to update the Community and Leisure Committee on the community development work and social services being delivered by community organisations that receive Christchurch City Council community funding through the Social Initiatives Fund.

CURRENT FUNDING AGREEMENT SITUATION

There are currently 33 funding agreements (community projects) with 31 organisations. One agreement is a joint Christchurch City Council with the community and public health sector, one is jointly administered by the community based out of school programme sector with the Christchurch City Council's Community and Recreation Department and the remaining 31 agreements are with community organisations. The agreements total \$1,059,000 with all agreements running through to 30 June 2005.

All community projects have signed off funding agreements with their respective trust boards/management committees. Each agreement includes the project's annual income and operating expenditure budget; project and organisation's development background history and future directions; organisation's management and project's operational structures; project's priorities and objectives; and accounting, monitoring and evaluation requirements that will enable the project to be assessed against the priorities and criteria of the Social Initiatives Fund. The accounting, monitoring and evaluation requirements include:

- Annual report on the development, progress and achievements on the project funded by social initiatives as per the agreement
- Organisation's annual audited accounts, annual operating budgets, annual reports and AGM minutes
- The Community Funding Adviser's attendance/participation at each organisation's annual meeting along with attending/participating at appropriate "operational" meetings of the organisation and/or project. Such "operational" meeting attendance has included staff peer supervision meetings, community "reporting back/identifying needs" forums, project planning and evaluation meetings, community days and network forums, community and social sector forums, a monthly meeting of the project's trust board/management committee, community and public meetings being hosted/co-ordinated by the organisation/project, "client/member" feedback/dialogue with service provider meetings, joint "report back" meetings to community funders.

Projects are in the community development, mental health, refugee and migrant, youth, family social services and parenting support, people with disabilities, alcohol and drug use prevention, after school programme, primary and secondary school aged children/young people's development, older persons, whanau and iwi development and multi-cultural development sectors.

Reports on each of the individual projects are attached to this report. Each project agreement's file contains organisation annual reports, programme and service evaluations and reports that identifies specific information about each project including operational budgets, programme contents, people statistics, examples of influences and achievements, other agencies the project may be working with. These files will be available at the meeting.

2003-YEAR FINDINGS

Through attendance and participation at the various accountability, monitoring and evaluation engagements as reported above, this has given me a privileged insight into the inspirational work and commitment of the "client/member", the organisation's people and the wider community. Such storytelling and life situation sharing opportunities gives a much clearer picture of the positive influences such programmes, projects and services are having on all those engaged (not just the "client") than an annual report or AGM minute or annual audited accounts could possibly record. An overall observation and finding is that no matter what the community project or programme is, the overwhelming realisation I have learnt from these Social Initiatives Fund engagements is that these projects are providing opportunities for people to meet and share their stories and hopes.

Such opportunities are breaking down years of people's experience of social exclusion and, through the community organisation's invitation to join a group or programme or service, offers the individual openings into a fuller participation in the life of their local neighbourhood, the wider community and across the city. Within the infrastructure of the organisation itself there are many opportunities for the enhancing of social well-being. These include local residents having an avenue through which they can offer "something" back to their local community, from being a "client" of a service to becoming a group or service leader, being able to participate in new learning/skill development training, forming new groupings of people from within the organisation etc. Through these positive experiences the spiritual, emotional, social and economic benefits for both the individual and community are profound.

A number of the organisations have indicated that they would like to present to the Council/Community and Leisure Committee, some aspects of their work that show the significant development in community and social wellbeing currently being achieved by the community through Council funding support such as the Social Initiatives Fund.

In the 1998/99 year the Alcohol and Drug Association established a Parent Drug Education Programme through a \$58,000 per year Social Initiatives Fund agreement. Due to a number of factors ADA has not been able to deliver the required number of programmes as per their agreement and has advised that they will now not proceed with this programme and Social Initiatives Fund agreement. Community and Recreation Department staff will report to the Committee with options on the allocation of the now available \$58,000 per year for the 2003/04 and 2004/05 years.

In August 2003 the Step Ahead Trust, due to its Trust Board implementing a change in its strategic development, decided not to proceed with its Supported Employment Programme. The Programme was receiving a \$18,800 per year grant through the Social initiatives Fund. With support from the Canterbury Development Corporation, the programme has been re-established (with a transfer of clients and continued employment of staff) as Catapult Employment Services within the operational arm of The Green Effects Trust. The remaining two years of the initial Step Ahead Trust Social Initiatives Fund agreement has been transferred to The Green Effects Trust.

In February 2004 the Hoon Hay Youth Centre, due to a number operational and management issues, has called a special meeting to consider winding up its operation and go into liquidation.

A report will be prepared for the March meeting with recommendations for the allocation of these monies.

FUTURE CONSIDERATIONS

As previously mentioned all Social Initiatives Fund Agreements will expire at 30 June 2005. At its 11 December 2003 meeting the Council adopted a recommendation to combine the Metropolitan Community Discretionary Fund, Metropolitan SCAP, Social Initiatives Fund and the Metropolitan and City Wide Funded Projects into a Social Initiatives and Development Fund. Community and Recreation Department staff are presently developing appropriate funding criteria and allocation processes for each of the funding streams that makeup this new fund within the agreed community outcomes and priorities of the Council's LTCCP. It is envisaged that this work will be completed by 30 June 2004 for the Committee's discussion and ratification. Such criteria and priorities will then provide the framework for the Committee's decision making on future Social Initiatives Fund allocations.

It is important to note that the total amount of funds available through the Social Initiatives Fund has remained the same since the fund was established during 1996/97. Recommendations of the Council's 2003 Community Funding Review highlight the significant role multi-year funding plays in the ongoing financial viability of an organisations and its longer term planning and development of its programmes and services. The Council at present is a leader in this form of funding with Christchurch community development and social service providers. The Council's Christchurch Community Outcomes document identifies nine community outcomes that will play a major influence in the way the Council supports and allocates its resources to services and programmes that are working towards these community outcomes. It is reasonable to acknowledge that the Council will be called upon to have a greater level of multi-year funding available to support and develop community projects based around these community outcomes.

Staff

- Recommendation:**
1. That the information in this report and attachment be received.
 2. That Community and Recreation staff identify appropriate criteria and priorities for the new Social Initiatives and Development Fund for the Committee's allocation of community funding year beginning 1 July 2004.

Chairman's

Recommendation: That the above recommendation be adopted.