

## 6. BELFAST YOUTH CO-ORDINATOR

<b>Officer responsible</b> Community Advocate	<b>Author</b> Bruce Meder, DDI 941-5408
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The purpose of this report is to inform the Board of the impending employment of a Youth Co-ordinator in Belfast, plus seek funds to assist in the administration of this position.

### POLICIES INVOLVED AND RESEARCH

This position helps to meet the following policies:

- Social Wellbeing Policy, specifically with regard to the following outcomes:
  - "People participate in community life and have a sense of belonging and identity."
  - "All people, no matter age, race, gender, social and economic position or abilities, have opportunities to contribute to society and develop their potential."
- Youth Policy which states that "The Christchurch City Council is committed to developing, supporting and promoting initiatives which positively contribute to the safety and wellbeing of young people, their families and communities."
- Community Policy which states that "The Christchurch City Council will support communities to plan, organise and carry out initiatives that reflect their needs and aspirations."

The 1996 Community Board commissioned needs analysis for Belfast ('A Community in Transition', Phibbs and Kelly) noted "the lack of facilities and programmes for youth in Belfast".

### PAST RESPONSES AND INITIATIVES

Various activities, programmes and events have attempted to cater to youth needs in Belfast since the 1996 research was conducted. Many of the churches have had mixed success in this area. As a result of the rather hit and miss, ad hoc approaches to youth initiatives in the area a youth network was established in 1997, involving churches, the school and one of the medical centres. This network eventually became the Belfast Community Network, incorporating wider social/community issues within Belfast.

### RECENT YOUTH INITIATIVES

The Belfast Community Network established the position of Belfast Community Co-ordinator in early 2002. Although youth activities and programmes have been a part of the role of this position, youth has not been a priority. Some highlights of this position in terms of youth provision have been:

- Five successful youth holiday programmes.
- An outdoor education week for youth at risk in Taupo run in partnership with the Salvation Army.

### A YOUTH CO-ORDINATOR

The Belfast Community Network has recognised the need for a dedicated, trained Youth Co-ordinator to adequately respond to youth needs in the area. The Network has recently been successful in obtaining funding for a salary in order to be able to employ a part-time Youth Co-ordinator for six months. They also have funding (via the Christchurch City Council Leisure Unit) for a Friday night café project and (yet to be confirmed) funding for a computer for this position.

The goals of the Belfast Youth Co-ordinator are:

- To establish a network of youth in Belfast
- Youth projects established as indicated by the young people.
- A happy and safe environment for youth in Belfast.
- A place where youth can gather.

The Belfast Community Network is committed to further fundraising to ensure the continuance of this position beyond the initial six month period.

## FUNDING NEED

This position requires some funding for administration purposes to enable it to be as effective as possible. A budget for this purpose is as follows:

Supervision (one session per month at \$80.00 per session)	480.00
Training	300.00
Mileage (1,500 kms at \$0.62 per km)	930.00
Projects	1,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,710.00</b>

## DISCUSSION

Youth needs in Belfast are well known, both from research and experience. The Belfast Community Network has shown itself to be a competent employer and has the commitment towards fundraising for this position.

### Staff

**Recommendation:** That the Belfast Community Network be allocated \$2,710.00 from SCAP funds for administration costs of employing a Youth Co-ordinator for six months.

### Chairperson's

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