

#### 4. YOUTH IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT CONFERENCE

<b>Officer responsible</b> Community and Recreation Manager	<b>Author</b> Robyn Moore, Children's and Youth Advocate, DDI 941 6406
--	---

The purpose of this report is to provide the Board with background information about an upcoming conference concerning young people and give the Board an opportunity to consider sponsoring attendance at this conference.

##### **YOUTH IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT: DUNEDIN 4 – 7 JULY 2004**

This biennial event provides an opportunity for Councillors, Council staff, community organisations, researchers, policy makers and young people from throughout New Zealand to meet together to discuss issues related to involving young people in their local communities.

The 2004 conference themes are "Participation – Youth in the City" (which will examine young people's participation in community and civic affairs), "Sustainable Futures" (which will explore young people's participation in addressing environmental and social issues), and "Youth Employment" (which will investigate issues concerning youth employment).

**The Community Advocate comments:** Calls from volunteers working with Council teams have been received enquiring about attendance at the conference. It has been suggested that two youth representatives be sent from the Hagley/Ferrymead Community Board area, with one registration funded by the Children's and Youth Advocacy Office. The Board may wish to consider allocating discretionary funding to enable a second youth representing Hagley/Ferrymead to attend the conference. Staff envisage full youth participation in the selection process for representation and attendance, ensuring a complete youth process.

The estimated attendance costs are:

Airfares:	\$200
Registration:	\$100
Accommodation:	\$200
Incidentals	\$50
<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>\$650</b>

Conference costs are yet to be confirmed and could be less than those estimated above. Fundraising is being undertaken in Dunedin to support reduced registration for young people.

Abstracts have been sent to the conference organisers suggesting two community youth projects (LYFE and Diverse Café) for workshop presentations. Both of these projects have been supported by Board funding. The conference agenda has yet to be confirmed, however both abstracts have received favourable response.

It is envisaged that the two Hagley/Ferrymead youth attending would participate fully in workshop presentations.

##### **Staff**

**Recommendation:** That the Board consider the information, and decide whether or not to sponsor youth attendance at this conference.

##### **Chairperson's**

**Recommendation:** That the Board support sponsoring a youth to attend the conference.