

13. PROJECT PROPOSAL FOR SAFER CHRISTCHURCH BANKS PENINSULA FUNDING

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PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to provide information to the Akaroa/Wairewa Community Board regarding a proposal for funding from the Safer Christchurch Banks Peninsula budget, and to seek the Board's support for the proposal.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. In 2011/12, Safer Christchurch has \$15,400 available for the Banks Peninsula Ward to implement crime prevention and injury prevention projects. This is an annual allocation to be spent within the 1 July - 30 June financial period.
3. The purpose of the fund is for the Akaroa/Wairewa and Lyttelton/Mt. Herbert Community Boards to identify community issues, concerns, or projects with a crime prevention or injury prevention focus which meet both the criteria and outcomes of the Safer Christchurch framework and Safer Christchurch Strategy.
4. The combined Lyttelton/Mt. Herbert and Akaroa/Wairewa Community Boards' seminar last year decided to concentrate on projects which would provide positive programmes addressing issues affecting children signalling that there would be better traction with a Ward wide project rather than disparate programmes for each Board. The two Strengthening Communities Advisers were asked to approach the local schools for their "wish lists".
5. Schools were contacted at the beginning of the fourth term and given until mid November to identify issues or programmes they would like addressed, following discussion with staff and Boards of Trustees. Apart from an informal discussion with the Deputy Principal of Akaroa Area School, who expressed that there was a need to address the alcohol and drug problems of local parents, Little River was the only school in the Akaroa/Wairewa Board area which came back with issues and concerns.
6. The school, along with health professionals, have identified problems with children post earthquakes. In both Birdlings Flat and Little River there has been a breakdown in families coping, which is being reflected in children's behavioural problems. These are potentially more the parents' difficulties than the children's who are, in turn, manifesting parents' responses.
7. Little River and Birdlings Flat may not have suffered severe physical damage, but emotionally more people in these communities are finding coping difficult and as the aftershocks continue research indicates that coping difficulties can escalate into family violence. Living in scattered communities up several valleys is also contributing to family isolation. Primary school children have been noted to be attending parties with older siblings, or peers, resulting in them being introduced to alcohol at social events. There is no public transport available and no social or intervention services provided locally.
8. Little River School also identified a need for parenting programmes aimed at the stages of transition towards school and also transition towards secondary school. Requests for programmes to school staff are usually when parents identify a need, and more often than not reflect a result of something happening within their lives. It is difficult and/or impractical for people to attend courses in Christchurch.
9. Birdlings Flat is a decile 10 community on the New Zealand Social Deprivation Index, Little River is decile 4. There are 84 children attending the Little River Primary School, a decile 4 school, and 81 under fives living in the wider district. Thirty six children under 15 years of age live in Birdlings Flat and 192 live in Little River - a significant proportion of the community.
10. Concerns which related to speed/traffic/highway issues have been forwarded on to Mark Millar, the Council's Senior Traffic Engineer.

11. Akaroa has known alcohol and drug issues within some families and also the wider community. Providing positive role models, peer support and where appropriate intervention programmes for children can help develop mechanisms for them to make healthy choices.
12. It is well recognised that there are benefits in setting in place some interventions before family violence escalates and/or family breakdowns occur. Any programmes need to be co-ordinated from within the community. Many appropriate programmes and services, because of the earthquakes, are currently free via Christchurch. To initiate programmes there needs to be a local person employed one day per week over the next four to six months to drive it.
13. Staff sought advice from the Safer Christchurch team which indicated that as the earthquakes have severely affected the region and although the proposal is a one off move away from the true fit with the Safer Christchurch Strategy, staff thought it could work if a project is based on the linking of the work to reducing family stressors and therefore reducing the chance of family violence.
14. The Community Board is required to adopt a proposal and endorse the funding from the Safer Christchurch budget to implement the project. The Board discussed a project proposal at a workshop held following the 15 February 2012 Board meeting. The proposed project is **attached** to this report.
15. The Lyttelton/Mt.Herbert Community Board are seeking further community input, particularly from schools, before identifying a specific project to implement in their area.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

16. There is currently \$15,400 available in the Safer Christchurch budget for crime prevention and injury prevention projects undertaken in the Banks Peninsula Ward for the 2011/12 year.

Do the Recommendations of this Report Align with 2009-19 LTCCP budgets?

17. Yes, see page 184 of the LTCCP

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

18. There are no legal considerations.

ALIGNMENT WITH LTCCP AND ACTIVITY MANAGEMENT PLANS

19. Aligns with LTCCP and Activity Management Plans, page 173 and 174

Do the recommendations of this report support a level of service or project in the 2009-19 LTCCP?

20. Yes, see LTCCP pages 173 and 174 regarding Strengthening Communities and Safer Christchurch.

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIES

21. This application aligns with the Strengthening Communities Strategy, 2007; the Safer Christchurch Strategy, 2008; and the following Akaroa/Wairewa Community Board objective:

- Recognising the need to retain and enhance core community services to Banks Peninsula communities.

CONSULTATION FULFILMENT

22. Not applicable.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Akaroa/Wairewa Community Board endorses a proposal to allocate \$7,700 of the Safer Christchurch Banks Peninsula crime prevention and injury prevention budget, to implement a project, putting in place support systems to reduce the risk of an escalation in family violence following the effects of the 2010/11 earthquakes and continuing aftershocks.