

**MINUTES OF THE SOCIAL SERVICES MEETING HELD
AT 9.00AM ON 6TH DECEMBER 2006 AT TAKAHANGA
MARA, TAKAHANGA TERRACE, KAIKOURA.**

PRESENT: Councillor M McChesney (Chair), J Bolton-Roche (Te Whare Putea), C Cowan (Te Tai o Marokura), M Kahu (Te Tai o Marokura),

IN ATTENDANCE: L Copping (Executive Officer), M Kennedy (Road Safety Officer), S Frizzell (Disability Sector), K Mackenzie (District Nurse), C Roberts, C Hartley, D Wright (Order of St John), N Doney (Ministry of Social Development), Councillor S Thomas, T McCowan (Women's Refuge), R Te Ua (Family Violence & SEEK Coordinator).

APOLOGIES: Councillor B Woods, Mayor K Heays, M Falloon, L Craig, M Unahi.

1. WELCOME TO COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

Newly appointed Community Development Officer, M Pfeifer, was welcomed to the meeting. M Pfeifer advised she was relatively new to the district and had previously been working as a Work Broker and Case Manager for the Ministry of Social Development.

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Canterbury District Health Board Visit

J Bolton-Roche advised if anyone wished to pass information on to G Bateup and his team she was willing to be a contact person for passing information to them.

3. FAMILY VIOLENCE REPORT

The Family Violence report was presented. R Te Ua advised she had recently attended a conference in Blenheim titled "Strategies in the Prevention of Family Violence" which had been very thought provoking and as a result she was eager to build some strong networks within the community.

Family Variety Show

R Te Ua advised most of the month had been spent organizing a variety show which had been held on 2 December. The Variety Show had been extremely successful and promoted awareness of family violence.

4. COMMUNITY NETWORKERS MINUTES

J Bolton-Roche advised the Community Networkers Meeting of 14 November had been a quick meeting.

SEEK Position

R Te Ua advised she had recently met with G Gatward-Smith of Nelson and provided a report based on data collected to date however she was advised the position required her to work with clients rather than data collecting. R Te Ua advised she would be working closely with schools once the new year started up.

N Doney advised R Te Ua had held an excellent meeting with some of the business people within the community where they had identified the issue of not being able to get staff, coupled with the issue of lack of accommodation available. N Doney advised he had spoken with Housing NZ who had advised they had no statistics to support an accommodation crisis and expressed concern that this indicated people were not approaching Housing Corporation for accommodation.

C Cowen suggested forms be provided to property management companies for filling out by those looking for accommodation within the district.

M Kahu advised she had heard comments that names were being dropped off waiting lists after a period of time.

R Te Ua advised in terms of employment, she was trying to gather information on what the need was, what employers wanted and what sort of courses were wanted for the district, noting businesses were eager to support it.

5. SENIOR NET UPDATE

Councillor McChesney provided an update. She advised Senior Net were struggling to get the numbers to continue, even though the age had been lowered to 50 years of age. If Senior Net folded, its 5 computers would be lost from the district and would be distributed to a Senior Net equivalent within New Zealand. Councillor McChesney advised she had stepped in and offered Senior Net to come under the auspices of the Social Services Committee with Council's Office Manager taking care of financial matters. The next official meeting for Senior Net would be held after the March Social Services meeting and everyone was most welcome to attend. Councillor McChesney advised they were eager to find people with the knowledge to teach computer skills.

6. ROAD SAFETY UPDATE

The Road Safety Officer advised three new billboards had been erected throughout the district with interchangeable skins.

The speed trailer would be deployed around the town over the Christmas period which provided a halo effect in terms of speed.

The Road Safety Officer advised there was now no requirement for over 80's to undertake annual driving tests however if GP's felt the need for an assessment then referrals would be arranged.

Two publications were tabled;

1. Real Kiwi's Driving Guide – What's good about driving in NZ
2. Fire Smart – the homeowners manual

7. MAYOR'S UPDATE

In the Mayor's absence, Councillor McChesney advised Council had recently engaged the services of SGL Funding Group to undertake a funding strategy for the proposed new community facility. Meetings had taken place with various key people from within the district and would continue to be undertaken in order for SGL Group to get a real feel for the make up of Kaikoura as a community.

8. GENERAL BUSINESS

K MacKenzie advised she had recently met with Canterbury District Health Board and provided a report on statistics and patients for whom she cared for and what it would mean to Kaikoura if a new hospital was built. D Wright of St John advised he was scheduled to meet with the Board the following week. The Board had contacted him asking for a list of groups of people to contact as they were currently in the process of gathering figures and statistics on what was needed in the Kaikoura district. M Kahu advised the Board had not been in touch with her. N Doney advised he would ask the Board to contact Te Tai Marokura.

There being no further the meeting closed at 9.46am.