

Community Wellbeing Research Review: Executive Summary

A Review of Research and Literature Identified by
the Christchurch City Council's Community Support
Unit in support of the Strengthening Communities
Strategy

Christchurch City Council

2008



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The Review undertaken by the Christchurch City Council identifies a number of community well-being issues that are of significance for Christchurch. This does not, however, necessarily mean that Council will be obliged to address any or all of these issues.

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INTRODUCTION

1. This is a summary document of a review undertaken on the behalf of the Christchurch City Council's Community Support Unit "to assist with the identification and sourcing of information resources relevant and appropriate for the community development work undertaken by the Community Support Unit." The review identified key community and social well-being issues from a range of literature sources.
2. The main context of this review is the Council's *Strengthening Communities Strategy*, specifically Goal One, which is to "Understand and document communities' trends, issues and imperatives".
3. In particular, as part of implementing its *Strengthening Communities Strategy*, the Council sought to collate and analyse the current research it holds on community trends and issues, alongside key research published by other agencies, in order to:
 - make this research and its findings more accessible, and better used, both within Council and in the wider community;
 - identify key issues, emerging trends, and gaps in the research; and
4. This report will also contribute to Goal Two of the Strategy, which is to "Promote collaboration among key stakeholders...to identify and address community issues".
5. The review was divided into two distinct parts:
 - Part A. A review of external research from other Government and key stakeholder agencies and NGOs to identify relevant themes and trends that may impact on the Community Support Unit's community development work in the context of the Strengthening Communities Strategy;
 - Part B. An analysis of Council-based or commissioned research currently available from the past fifteen years to identify what knowledge the Council holds and what its knowledge gaps are, and what themes and trends there were in Council's research.
6. Part C of the report then discusses the key themes emerging from both the external research and Council-based or commissioned research. That section also suggests some key priorities for Council.
7. A number of limitations exist in the findings in this report. While these limitations compromise conclusions from the study, the aim of the review was exploratory rather than conclusive. Therefore the findings provide a direction for further examination for working towards Goal Two of the Strengthening Communities Strategy.

LIMITATIONS

8. There are a number of limitations in this review which compromise any conclusions. The findings need to be read with a great deal of caution.
9. The scope of the review for Part A was very wide and was only able to scan the surface of the available literature.
10. The reports provided by the Council covered areas such as incomes and living standards; ageing; disability; families; youth; children; housing; Māori; new migrants and refugees; ethnic diversity; population health; measures of wellbeing and safety, community connectedness, and capacity building.
11. There is the general dearth of externally published literature available which specifically focuses on social wellbeing in Christchurch. But an overabundance of material when one moves beyond the beyond social wellbeing in Christchurch to consider national or international literature.
12. The review therefore attempted to narrow the scope of literature to that which focused on areas of local government influence, particularly the areas identified in the Council's *Strengthening Communities Strategy*. However, even with these limitations the scope of the review was very large.
13. In an attempt to adequately identify trends, issues and imperatives appropriate for the work undertaken by the Council, the report reviewed 250 more reports over and above those initially provided by the Council.
14. The scope of the review of Council research for Part B with over 260 documents, proved challenging when trying to collate the material into specific themes.
15. While these limitations compromise conclusions from the review, its aim was exploratory rather than conclusive. Therefore the findings provide a direction for further examination.

PART A METHODOLOGY

16. Part A of the main report summarises a review of research from other Government and key stakeholder agencies and NGOs that may impact on the Community Support Unit's community development work. Although based on a review of key published papers and reports, it is not intended to be a fully comprehensive review of the literature
17. The main context of this review is the Council's *Strengthening Communities Strategy*, specifically Goal One, which is to "Understand and document communities' trends, issues and imperatives".
18. The review also aims to contribute to Goal Two of the Strategy, which is to "Promote collaboration among key stakeholders...to identify and address community issues".
19. The Council's *Strengthening Communities Strategy* has a total of six further goals. These are:
 - Enhance engagement and participation in local decision-making;
 - Help build and sustain a sense of local community;
 - Ensure that communities have access to community facilities that meet their needs;
 - Increase participation in community recreation and sport programmes and events;
 - Enhance the safety of communities and neighbourhoods;
 - Improve basic life skills so that all residents can participate fully in society.
20. The Council's Strategy also identifies six key challenges to building strong communities which were identified in the 2006-16 Long Term Council Community Plan:
 - An ageing population;
 - Increasing cultural and ethnic diversity;
 - Differing levels of disadvantage between population groups;
 - The complexity of factors contributing to social exclusion;
 - The capacity of voluntary and community groups;
 - Decreasing civic engagement.
21. The report has been structured around these goals and challenges.
22. The Council identified reports covering areas such as

Incomes and living standards	Recreation
Ageing	Māori
Disability	Migrant/Refugee/Ethnic
Families	Population health

Youth/Children	Measures of wellbeing
Housing/Homelessness	Safety

23. Approximately 30 pieces of social research were initially identified by Council. These reports covered areas such as:
- | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------|
| Incomes and living standards | Recreation |
| Ageing | Māori |
| Disability | Migrant/Refugee/Ethnic |
| Families | Population health |
| Youth/Children | Measures of wellbeing |
| Housing/Homelessness | Safety |
24. Over 200 pieces of additional literature of government, third sector and academic research that had relevance to the work of the Council's Community Support Unit were included in the review.
25. The following process was used in order to identify the additional reports or research. Literature on social trends/ issues was sourced initially through web searches on key words and phrases. Where literature could not be accessed online, this was primarily sourced through libraries and relevant organisations.
26. To prevent this literature review from becoming unmanageable, four basic criteria were applied to the inclusion or exclusion of texts:
- Materials must be in English;
 - Literature must focus on New Zealand or other English speaking countries, such as Australia, Canada, United States and the United Kingdom;
 - Literature must have been produced in the last 8 years (i.e., the review went back to 2000, although this was open to exceptions in relation to key documents); and
 - Materials must be published or publicly available either online, through accessible libraries, from the originating commissioning or other organisation, or through booksellers.
27. Two key issues should be noted. Firstly the general dearth of published literature available which specifically focuses social wellbeing in Christchurch.¹ Web and library searches revealed early on in the study that there is very little written on this subject. The literature which was available tended to focused on a single agency, activity or service line.
28. The second issue was the overabundance of material when one moves beyond the beyond social wellbeing in Christchurch to consider national or international literature. Web and library searches revealed many thousands of documents on aspects of wellbeing, including academic studies, research reports, service descriptions, programme evaluations, conference proceedings, bulletins, indicators reports and commentaries.

¹ This does not include Council research that has been reviewed separately in Part B of this report.

29. The review therefore attempted to narrow the scope of literature to that which focused on areas of local government influence, particularly the areas identified in the Council's *Strengthening Communities Strategy*. However, even with these limitations the scope of the review was very large.
30. A number of limitations exist in the findings from this report, and the findings need to be read with a great deal of caution. The review still only scanned the surface of the available literature. While these limitations compromise conclusions from the study, the aim of the review was exploratory rather than conclusive.
31. Therefore the initial identifying of key issues and emerging trends provides some direction for further working towards Goal Two of the Strengthening Communities Strategy, i.e. to start identifying potential areas for collaborative work on community issues, as set out in Goal 2 of the Strategy.

PART B METHODOLOGY

32. Part B of the report provides a thematic summary of the analysis of Council-based or commissioned research from the past fifteen years.
33. Over 260 documents were included in the review of Council research documents, and are noted in the Reference List. They consisted of research, evaluation, technical reports, needs analyses, forum summaries and strategies or policies. Although not all of them are of a high research standard (and to be fair not all of them aspired to do so), they contain information that could prove useful for future research topics.
34. Common themes which were often a particular focus the research reports included Children, Youth, Recreation, and Facilities. Some of these have been concentrated on at particular time periods, e.g. research on children in the late 1990s and on people from refugee and migrant backgrounds in recent years.
35. Other themes which have been picked up in Council research include Poverty, Housing, Capacity Building, Older Adults, Asian Peoples, Gender, Refugee and Migrants, Tourism and Employment, and Transport and Safety.
36. However, there are some areas where there is a noticeable lack of information, for instance, on the Maori or Pacific Island communities, People with Disabilities, or Women's issues.
37. Part B needs to be read in conjunction with Part A, given that Council's research has never really been intended to be a complete picture of community issues by itself.

KEY FINDINGS

38. This section discusses the key themes emerging from both the external literature review and Council-based or commissioned research. The section also suggests some key priorities for Council.

Ageing Population

39. Population ageing has the potential to become the single biggest economic and policy issue of the next fifty years.
40. The external literature identified that population ageing will impact on the growth and productivity of the economy stemming from changing patterns of saving and investment, capital flows and changes in the labour market. It will also impact on income, consumption and saving of individuals over their lifecycle in the face of reduced fertility and greater longevity
41. Changes to the age structure of the population affect both the overall supply of and demand for services and infrastructure.
42. There is and will increasingly continue to be diversity in the older population. There are variations in health status, independence and activity levels of older people and there is growing ethnic diversity.
43. Older people are increasingly likely to have specific social and cultural needs, such as access to peer groups or religious facilities that are not currently catered for among elderly care services. Identifying, defining and planning for culturally appropriate services for older people are important considerations for Council.
44. Some reports suggested a minority (around 5 percent) of older people have quite marked material hardship and a further 5–10 percent have some restrictions and hardship.
45. The proportion reporting some accommodation problem has increased since 2000. A requirement for the ongoing development of supported housing models. There will be an increasing need for a variety of supported housing arrangements ranging from intensive residential care to less intensively monitored independent living arrangements. Maintaining a pool of suitably designed affordable public-rental housing is likely to be essential.
46. Trends suggest that females could be more likely to be partnered at increasingly older ages in future, because of the narrowing gap between female and male life expectancy. This trend may have implications for the provision of Council's social housing. For example, Council may need to increase its stock of larger housing units to cater for older couples.
47. The literature provided examples of service provision in social housing complexes, including injury prevention programmes, physical activity

programmes, and primary health services. The Community Support Unit may wish to consider home based services in its social housing facilities.

48. The literature identified that participating in their community is important to older people, and a large proportion feel a sense of community in their local neighbourhood. Although a large number of older people are participating in their communities, around a sixth report feeling lonely. The Community Support Unit may wish to consider focusing some of its community development activities on older people.
49. Models and strategies are available overseas and in New Zealand which promote age friendly cities.
50. Council research identified that key issues for older people are transport accessibility and safety, social isolation, access and awareness of community activities, affordable housing, access to shops and services, and health and safety issues.
51. The Council research indicates the most vulnerable older adults are those who have experienced some level of difficulty throughout their lives; for example, those with health issues or who have experienced poverty and hardship in their earlier years are more likely to do so later. These vulnerable groups of older adults are more likely to be located in areas of high deprivation, such as Inner City East, Sydenham or Bromley, experience social isolation, poor health and social housing tenants.
52. The research indicates the recreation needs of older adults vary, but the overall conclusion is the Council provides a good level of service to address those needs. However, some areas for improvement include addressing the walkways from Linwood to the Estuary and in the Riccarton/Wigram ward to ensure good walking access for older people, and to address the barriers to participating in existing programmes or activities by vulnerable older people.
53. Future investigations to be considered for older people include addressing the barriers to access for services, optimising the recreational opportunities and facilities to ensure the services offered are able to keep up with the increasing demand, investigating the transport issues relating to safety, and providing a supportive infrastructure for pedestrians.

Cultural and Ethnic Diversity

54. Christchurch City and New Zealand is becoming more ethnically diverse. Non European ethnic groups tend to have a greater proportion of people under 25 years of age, and a younger overall population compared with 'New Zealand European'. The number of people with multiple ethnic identities is increasing
55. Many minority population groups face poorer quality of life outcomes than the majority European population.
56. The Māori population is projected to grow at a faster rate than the total population, and the Māori share of the New Zealand population will increase. The Māori population is much younger than the total population although Māori population overall will become older.

57. There has been significant progress in terms of outcomes for Maori, for example
- Overall, the quality of life indicators show improvements in Māori health, income, work and involvement in community institutions.
 - Māori cultural renaissance, involving revitalisation of the Māori language, strengthening of traditional Iwi institutions, growth of Māori immersion education, health and other service providers, investments in Māori culture, and development of Māori broadcasting in television and radio.
 - Māori contribution to the economy has steadily increased over the past two decades.
58. The major issues facing refugees and new migrant communities centre around effective participation in society at all levels and fair and equal access to services to which they are entitled. Refugee communities also face issues associated with their previous trauma and poverty.
59. There are also issues associated with communities understanding of the benefits of ethnic diversity and/or being responsive to differing needs. Many groups face discrimination and barriers to employment and services.
60. There was a noticeable lack of focus on Maori in the Council metro research, and a very random focus within the three wards that commissioned any research on issues to do with Maori. The only metro data available is a demographic profile based on the 2001 Census; it offers little in the way of analysis or presenting the Maori perspective of the issues. For future investigation, it is suggested there is more engagement with local Maori to help identify the specific issues in their area communities, to effectively manage the expectations of how the Council can assist when consulting on possible solutions, and to test the demands for services to ensure they are addressing a true need.
61. Pacific peoples have not been the specific focus of any Council research; although the Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs did conduct a consultation with members of the Pasifika community on identifying their own unique set of community outcomes.
62. Council research on Asian communities is somewhat sparse, with a few ward level pieces identifying specific issues around recreation needs and the experience of social isolation and boredom for many Asian youth.
63. Refugees and new migrants issues has been well covered in Council research at the metro level. People from migrant backgrounds are a distinctly separate group from refugees, but are often combined in the research literature. The research indicates many refugees in Christchurch suffer from poverty and hardship, high unemployment, health issues and social isolation.

Differing Levels of Disadvantage between Population Groups

64. There are significant inequalities between different population groups in New Zealand.
65. Inequalities of outcomes for those in lower socio economic groups are clear and with few exceptions, the financially worst-off experience
 - highest rates of illness and premature death
 - poorer education achievement
 - higher levels of crime and victimisation from crime
66. For some, it may mean going without the essentials, such as sufficient food, adequate housing, heating and enough clothing.
67. While socio-economic determinants are key drivers determining most quality of life outcomes, Māori and Pacific peoples have worse outcomes than non-Māori even when deprivation is taken into account.
68. The literature notes that the most effective means to reduce disparities include:
 - intersectoral approaches;
 - use of prevention strategies, with a population focus;
 - environmental measures;
 - building on existing initiatives;
 - modifying behaviour and lifestyle risk factors through appropriately tailored policies and programmes;
 - improved delivery of treatment services through mainstream enhancement and provider development;
 - community development and intersectoral initiatives
69. Local government has always had a role to play. A primary purpose of local government is to promote wellbeing. Promoting wellbeing implies improving:
 - the overall or aggregate level of well-being; and
 - the distribution of well-being.
70. Distributional principles involve ensuring:
 - that all individuals enjoy some basic minimum level of well-being;
 - there is opportunity so that all have a fair chance to achieve their potential;
 - that the well-being of future generations is protected.
71. Literature suggested there was a need to balance both targeted and universal approaches to the planning, funding and delivery of all services.
72. The major piece of Council research in this area was the research on poverty and hardship conducted in 1996 – 1997; since then, the Mayor established a Taskforce on Poverty which produced a report in 2005 to advise specific courses of action to address the issues.

73. Council research identified that those most likely to be disadvantaged fall into ten main categories that include women, single parents, families with children, refugees, Maori and Pacific Islanders, mental health patients and people on limited incomes. There are certain areas of the city that reportedly have a higher number of people experiencing poverty and hardship, which correlates to the deprivation index and Census data. However, given the major study is over ten years old, there is a need for an updated review to check if this correlation is still as strong and to investigate the current issues.
74. The key elements identified in 1997 that contribute to increased hardship include accommodation costs, food costs, social isolation and social exclusion. With the increasing cost of living and the Council's rent increases for social housing, it is probable these elements are exacerbating the situation for the vulnerable groups identified in 1997. An evaluation of the current issues would be a very useful document for further investigation.
75. For the most part, research conducted by Community Boards linked to this topic tends to focus more on issues to do with community connectedness and facility provisions. There are ward studies which target some of the neighbourhood areas identified as being high on the deprivation index and where a higher percentage of people experiencing hardship live. These studies focus on factors such as service provisions like recreation opportunities or community houses to address the demands of the high-needs communities, but not on how to address the issues around reducing poverty or mitigating the effects of hardship.

Capacity of Community and Voluntary Sector

76. The community and voluntary sector provides an array of services and activities that are vital to social, economic, environmental and cultural wellbeing.
77. The diverse range of organisations and the communities they serve means there are many different perspectives and issues within the sector. Ninety percent of non-profit institutions did not employ paid staff. The other ten percent of non-profit institutions employed 105,340 paid staff
78. Community and voluntary sector organisations provide benefits in two respects:
 - Firstly, they provide support, services and developmental opportunities to community members.
 - Secondly, participation by people in community activities builds social capital which is essential for social cohesion, population health, economic growth and successful democracy.
79. A number of reports have highlighted the need to invest in the ongoing development of the community and voluntary sector.
80. The community and voluntary sector depend on funding from local and central government as well as philanthropic trusts. Funding agencies can help sustain sector organisations by improving their own practices.

81. There is a significant body of literature on good funding practice. This was not included in this review.

Engagement and Participation

82. Councils make local decisions regarding their communities' needs and priorities. Their responsibilities involve both leading and representing their communities. This means consulting with communities and encouraging their participation in decision-making.
83. There is a considerable body of knowledge and experience on good consultation processes in the local government sector. Not only are local authorities using traditional methods, such as public meetings and consultation documents, to engage with the public, but many are increasingly using "consumerist" approaches such as service satisfaction surveys, and complaints or suggestions schemes. More recently local authorities in New Zealand have developed new ways of consulting with traditionally hard-to-reach groups, such as young people, Māori, minority ethnic groups, and those with disabilities.
84. The literature suggests that the Council should consider:
- initiatives to improve the public's understanding of local government and their capacity to participate effectively;
 - better communication with the public, and more transparent local government processes and ways of working, to improve public perceptions of, and trust in, local authorities;
 - well managed and marketed involvement and participation initiatives to ensure they present as little a burden as possible, whilst providing clear outcomes and benefits for individuals and the community. This would include making best use of social networks and associations;
 - tailoring engagement to meet the specific needs of different groups in society, particularly those from minority and under-represented groups;
 - a range of techniques used to engage citizens and communities in decision making and service delivery. Because participation initiatives can reinforce existing patterns of social exclusion and disadvantage, different participation methods are necessary to reach different citizen groups.
85. Council reports in this area again largely included guidelines, policy reviews and funding information documents; some of which provided some information as a baseline for research, but are not research reports themselves

Children and Young People and Families

86. The number of key themes emerged from the scan of the literature on child-friendly communities and other research on child well-being and local government. These included the importance of:
- Creating and extending community linkages and partnerships;
 - Catering for diversity - the needs, abilities and interests of children and young people vary widely with age, gender, culture and life opportunity. The developmental stages that children and young people go through have different, and sometimes conflicting, implications for what constitutes a stimulating and safe built and social environment. There are also significant gender differences in the use of space;
 - Improving information and data to better inform policy makers and the public, including child-generated indicators;
 - Ensuring essential services and facilities are available and accessible, including schools, child care, health services, and recreational facilities;
 - Investing in early childhood education (and ensuring it is accessible to children from low income households);
 - Providing child and family-friendly facilities and services;
 - Partnerships with key groups, including government agencies, local councils, developers, families, planners and children and young people.
87. They also highlight that children who are raised in poorer socio-economic circumstances face a greater struggle to secure outcomes comparable with those achieved by the population as a whole. Māori and Pacific children also have a higher likelihood of poor outcomes, particularly when they also have low standards of living.
88. Evidence suggests that poor outcomes while young affect outcomes later in life. The cumulative impact of low incomes during childhood can be linked to poorer outcomes as an adult.
89. An extensive body of research evidence indicates that family functioning and circumstances have a significant impact on the well-being of family members, and on the successful functioning of society and the economy.
90. The Families Commission has recently commissioned a literature review on family-centred communities for local government. This report suggests that the Council refers to that report for further information on local government's role and approach to enhancing family well-being.
91. Council research on children has been covered in more depth at the metro level than at the ward level. The ward studies indicate a need for early learning and childcare centres in specific areas such as Bromley, Aranui and Sumner. The metro research on youth covers a broad spectrum, but generally lacks a great deal of depth into the true issues. The topics covered include looking at recreation needs (where facilities such as indoor pools, skate parks and basketball courts feature regularly), the needs of Asian students (no distinctions

have been made on the different groups that make up 'Asians'), employment issues, health issues such as teen pregnancy and finally, graffiti and crime.

92. The review of Council literature suggested that future areas for investigation on issues with children include:
 - Needs of Maori children;
 - OSCAR Network integration and operations;
 - Parenting and lifeskills education for areas of high deprivation with young families and high numbers of Maori and Pacific Islanders;
93. Future areas for youth issues include:
 - Employment and equity issues concerning wages/conditions;
 - Needs of various Asian youth groups;
 - Viability of youth workers in areas such as Linwood, Aranui, New Brighton, Lyttelton and Rowley.

People with Disabilities

94. Older people are substantially more likely than younger people to experience disability. Loss of mobility and agility are the most common impairments
95. Many disabled people experience a cycle of deprivation. Disabled people are over-represented in lower-paid occupations, and are likely to have fewer financial and family resources than the general population. This economic disadvantage is compounded by the financial cost of disability. As a group, disabled people generally have poorer general health status, and poor access to support services and other arrangements that might allow them to move from a marginalised position in society.
96. Many disabled people are unable to reach their potential or participate fully in the community because of the barriers they face in doing things that most New Zealanders take for granted. The barriers range from the purely physical, to the attitudinal.
97. The consultation undertaken to develop the New Zealand Disability Strategy identified 'attitudes' as the major barrier to the full participation of disabled people in all parts of daily life.
98. There is very little specific research covering people with disabilities within Council literature that expresses the current status or concerns of the disabled community in Christchurch.
99. It is suggested future research includes how best to consult with members of the community with disabilities to ensure their needs are met when planning new developments or programmes. This is essential for the planning of buildings, activity programmes and transport options to enable the access people with disabilities require.

Facilities

100. This project did not review any national or non-Council based literature related to this goal.
101. The review of Council research suggested that areas for study include:
 - Catering for the interests of targeted groups such as older adults, older children, Maori and people with disabilities;
 - Addressing the recreation needs for the Eastern suburbs until the 2017 aquatic indoor facility is built;
 - Assessing the existing skate park and BMX cycling facilities for catering to all abilities, not just those with advanced skills;
 - Assessing all recreation facilities for compliance with CPTED principles;
 - Reviewing sports clubs and field services for the city.
102. Facilities in specific areas of the city that have been identified as in need of further investigation include:
 - Acheson Avenue facility in Shirley;
 - Edgware community centre feasibility;
 - Linwood youth-focused facility;
 - Collingwood House in New Brighton;
 - Heathcote community centre;
 - Richmond community centre;
 - Bromley community centre feasibility;
103. Governance and management of community centres, and the feasibility of multi-agency tenancies in them, is also recommended for future investigation.

Recreation

104. This project did not review any national or non-Council based literature related to this goal. However, this topic is covered very well in Council metro and ward research. The city-wide research has a different focus in that it looked at the intra- and inter-personal barriers to active participation in recreation and physical activity, whereas the ward level research often narrowed in on the links between recreation and specific target groups such as youth.
105. There is a bias towards needs analyses or consumer profiles rather than looking at the strengths of the facilities and services already in existence. However, there are examples of research that looks at both the supply and demand side of recreation, such as the Global Leisure Group's studies on leisure, parks and waterways, attempting to present a more balanced view. Some of the common areas these studies identified were the lack of facilities in suburban areas that catered specifically for interest groups such as older people, older children, people with disabilities and Maori people.

106. Most of the research on recreation pre-dates the Aquatic Facilities Plan, hence refurbishments to Jellie Park and the development of the Graham Condon Leisure Centre in Papanui would most likely address the identified issues in the North West areas of the city.
107. However, East Christchurch suburbs, which often have the higher deprivation areas, more Maori and Pacific Islanders and more youth, have a noticeable gap in recreation facilities (but still have a high number of greenspace areas). In particular, the following areas have been identified in the research as having concerns about the recreational opportunities or facilities available to the identified groups:
- Aranui – youth, older children, Maori and Pacific Islanders
 - Bromley – children, families with young children, older people
 - Inner City East – older people, beneficiaries
 - Phillipstown & Linwood – youth
108. For the most part, the issue with recreation does not seem to be due to a lack of facilities in most areas (although as noted above, there are specific areas in the eastern suburbs of the city that this is not the case), but more for the lack of participation by inactive people. As stated, the metro study on the barriers to active participation clearly identifies the issue as getting the inactive people to participate in the facilities and programmes that already exist by focusing on the intra- and inter-personal barriers, rather than focusing on the infrastructure and building new facilities.
109. The main areas that need to be investigated further are reviewing the arts and recreational services for older people, Maori, and people with disabilities; exploring the gaps in high deprivation areas in the Eastern suburbs; and to assess the safety guidelines for parks according to CPTED principles. Additionally, reviewing the sports clubs and field services around Christchurch has been identified as a possible research topic for consideration.

CONCLUSIONS

110. The review confirms the challenges identified in the Council's Strategy
- An ageing population;
 - Increasing cultural and ethnic diversity;
 - Differing levels of disadvantage between population groups;
 - The complexity of factors contributing to social exclusion;
 - The capacity of voluntary and community groups;
 - Decreasing civic engagement.
111. It confirms Councils ongoing support and resourcing of
- Early childhood education
 - Affordable social housing
 - Community development activities
 - Voluntary and community capacity building
112. It validates current initiatives aimed at improving the public's understanding of local government and their capacity to participate effectively, including tailoring engagement processes to meet the specific needs of minority and under-represented groups
113. It confirms the need for inter-sector collaboration, including local and central government collaboration.
114. It suggests that greater priority could be given to
- Greater planning and catering for the ageing population, including planning for changing culture makeup of older people population
 - Reorienting funding and services to have a greater emphasis on reducing inequalities
 - Ensuring greater Maori participation at all levels of planning and delivery of services, including governance, staff, and community providers (particularly focusing on increasing Maori in the area of community development). This is because addressing socio-economic issues alone will not address the gap for Maori.
 - Supporting services focusing on early intervention.
 - Targeting more wrap-around services to social housing complexes, including injury prevention programmes, physical activity programmes, and primary health services
 - Family-centred approach (as initiated by Families Commission)