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MEDIA RELEASE

LYTTELTON PORT OF CHRISTCHURCH SPONSORS CANTERBURY YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME VEHICLE

LPC is sponsoring a car for the Canterbury Youth Development Programme (CYDP) coordinators who make home visits to disadvantaged youth and their families, and provide transport for the youngsters to work and educational opportunities.

The CYDP teaches youths and their families how to lead positive and constructive lives within the community, away from drugs, violence and crime. The effectiveness of the programme has been analysed by independent researchers, financial auditors, Police, Child Youth and Family Services and the courts, who have all found it to be one of New Zealand's most successful programme in reducing or stopping recidivist criminal activity.

"Unfortunately a lot of bright young people get dragged into shoplifting, burglaries and aggressive behavior because of the environment they're in. It is often brought on by family violence, substance abuse and poor education – made only worse by troubled mates and doubtful role models. Often these youths want a life free of crime. They don't want to be ruled by alcohol and drugs and want the skills to get and maintain a job," said Bevan Seal, CEO and Co-Founder of CYDP.

"We work to keep kids in education and to keep their home environments a safe and secure place. We assist parents in improving their own life skills and giving up drugs. We are stopping the intergenerational cycle of crime and abuse."

The CYDP is funded by a Government grant, charitable trusts and private sponsors.

"We're delighted to support the CYDP's work. It teaches life skills such as turning up to work on time and how to hold down a job. Thanks to the work of the CYDP many youths now have the opportunity to get into the workforce and get their lives back on track," said Peter Davie LPC Chief Executive.

"We hope our contribution supports safer and more secure homes for Canterbury's youth and the flow on effects can benefit the region that we live and work in."

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LPC Chief Executive Peter Davie with CYDP CEO Bevan Seal beside the vehicle LPC funded.