

Young Peoples Policy 2003

Philosophy and Values

Kapiti Coast District Council values the young people of the Kapiti Coast District and is committed to providing opportunities and facilities for their positive development.

Kapiti Coast District Council acknowledges that the young people are an integral part of the community and recognize the importance of their belonging to and their contribution to the community.

Kapiti Coast District Council aims to encourage young people to be involved in the affairs of the community and recognises the importance of including them in the decision making processes.

Mission Statement

- For the Kapiti Coast to be a great place for young people to live.
- A place where Young People can be free to express themselves.
- A place with ample opportunity to work, learn, play, achieve, have fun or just hang out.

Policy

This policy will work towards the achievement of Council's Strategic Plans by:

- providing a friendly, safe, inviting and inclusive place to live for all people in the community
- encouraging community involvement through the development of strategic partnerships
- encouraging an active community to enhance the health, enjoyment and quality of life of young people

The Young Peoples Policy forms an integral part of the Social Policy Framework and the principles established apply equally to the Young People's Policy.

These are:

1. Responding to the needs of our communities
2. Creating consultative opportunities
3. Honouring our obligation under the Treaty of Waitangi
4. Achieving equity in all our actions
5. Striving to ensure environmentally sustainable outcomes in all areas of operation

The New Zealand Disability Strategy

The New Zealand Disability Strategy (April 2001) presents a long-term plan for changing New Zealand from a disabling to an inclusive society. It was developed in consultation with disabled people and the wider disability sector.

Underpinning the Strategy is a vision of a fully inclusive society. It provides a framework, including fifteen objectives, to ensure that disabled people are considered before making decisions.

The Kapiti Coast District Council acknowledges New Zealand Disability Strategy and the following statement from the Strategy: “A society that highly values the lives and continually enhances our full participation” (April 2001) presents

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Scope

All people aged 12 - 25 years

Aims

- To encourage and motivate young people to participate and succeed in the Kapiti Coast Community
- To create opportunities for young people to have access to and input into the decision making processes
- To support community based initiatives focused on the positive development of young people
- To work in a cooperative and collaborative way with other agencies to provide programmes that benefit young people

- To make sure that young people have easy access to the information and resources required to meet their needs in the areas of:
 - health, safety and wellbeing
 - sport and recreation
 - entertainment
 - education and training
 - employment
 - family

Goals

- To support and initiate programmes which address issues affecting young people, especially those in the 12-16 age group
- To make sure that services needed by young people are available and easily accessed on the Kapiti Coast
- To make sure that there is an adequate transport system to support the activities of young people
- To create opportunities for young people to be heard and taken seriously

Application

Underpinning this policy is the recognition that Council can only fulfill its goals by cooperating, consulting and coordinating with residents, commercial and voluntary sectors and central government.

Implementation of Youth Policy

An annual Strategy for the Implementation of the Young Peoples Policy will be developed and reviewed annually and considered for inclusion in the Annual Plan.

Accountability

Council will make an annual report available to the community on what it has done with regard to this Policy.