

Gathering Taiohi Voices 2026

What young people aged 12–24 told us about life in Kāpiti

Who we heard from

1,000+
taiohi
voices

13%
of local
taiohi
participated

Strong representation



MĀORI

25%



LGBTQIA+

14%

TAIOHI FEEL CONNECTED

79% feel supported by whānau

79% have good friendships

54% highlight strong community relationships

44% describe their community as diverse and inclusive

TAIOHI FEEL UNHEARD

48% have not made their voice heard

20% believe youth voices are listened to



SERVICES AND SPACES ARE HARD TO NAVIGATE

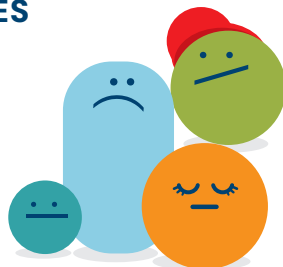
54% can access the services they need



Spaces and activities are often disconnected and hard to find

NOT ALL EXPERIENCES ARE EQUAL

Many taiohi in our district face discrimination and exclusion



ACCESS TO OPPORTUNITIES DEPENDS ON MONEY AND MOBILITY

35% say cost is not a problem

28% say there are enough low-cost activities

42% experience transport barriers

SAFETY DROPS SHARPLY AT NIGHT

71% feel safe during the day

35% feel safe at night

BARRIERS FOR 18–24 YEAR OLDS

Housing affordability

Cost of living

Limited work opportunities

Harder to build an independent future in Kāpiti

What taiohi want to help them thrive in Kāpiti

- ✓ Safe and accessible spaces to go
- ✓ More places to connect, create, and belong
- ✓ Spaces designed for young people not just general use
- ✓ Stronger wellbeing support
- ✓ More reliable, flexible, and affordable transport
- ✓ Fewer cost barriers to participation in community life
- ✓ More entry-level jobs and internships
- ✓ Clearer pathways into jobs, careers and the future
- ✓ Flexible pathways to learn and grow
- ✓ A genuine voice in decision-making
- ✓ Real voice in shaping services and spaces
- ✓ Spaces that reflect identity and culture
- ✓ Inclusive and culturally safe environments
- ✓ Māori-led approaches and stronger connection to te ao Māori

The opportunity

Improve access and affordability

Create safe, youth-friendly spaces

Support pathways into work

Build trust by listening and acting

GOAL:

Taiohi feel safe, connected, heard, and able to thrive in Kāpiti