

## **Appendix 3: Recommendations and Membership of the Youth Initiative Advisory Group**

### **Background**

The Youth Centre Advisory Committee is chaired by Tony Kane (Principal, Kapiti College) and attended by the Mayor Jenny Rowan, Councillor Penny Gaylor and youth council members. Other members of the group are; Jeremy Neeve (Youth Quest), Jan Bolwell (Arts and Dance representative), Sharon Gilman (Deputy Principal, Paraparaumu College), Mike Tahere (Police), Lawrence Kirby (Kapiti Impact Trust and Paraparaumu Family Church), Jennie Gutry (communications specialist). The group was charged with setting the scope of the feasibility study, examining issues and making recommendations.

The group was unanimous at the outset that the scope of the feasibility study be extended to examine a wider range of models than that initially proposed by the Youth Council and that the study look at the range of existing youth services in the district.

Over the past year, the Advisory Group has talked with a number of experts, including Youth Workers from Secret Level in Hutt Valley, Zeal in Wellington, and Bishop Justin Duckworth. All those consulted emphasised that the quality of the youth worker(s) employed would be critical to the success of the proposed initiative. The Advisory Committee examined three models in which a youth worker could operate: 1. through existing organisations and activities; 2. through events and activities with or without, a mobile space; 3. within a single physical space including outwards facing activities and events.

### **Recommendations**

The Advisory Group is essentially in agreement with the submission of the Kapiti Coast Youth Council and unanimous in supporting Option 3. We make the following recommendations:

- that youth workers be employed and based in a “youth owned” physical space
- that this space be in a central location, neutral and safe, easily accessed by young people
- that high quality youth workers be employed
- that the youth workers follow good practice Youth Development Models and adhere to the Code of Ethics for Youth Work
- that the Youth Centre is youth-led as far as practicable and that young people are involved in determining the nature of the space
- that the Youth Centre connect to other services in the community and avoid any duplication
- that the Youth Centre be managed independently of Council
- that the Youth Centre be established as soon as practicable

The Advisory Group is strongly of the view that a modest start is important. We recommend leasing of a physical space to minimise risk. This initiative is untested in Kapiti and the Advisory Group feels that it will take a minimum of 3 years to bed in.

We therefore recommend a long-term commitment by Council. Finally, the Advisory Group recommends that consideration be given to management structures for the Youth Centre. It is important that Youth Workers spend time on providing services to youth rather than on maintenance of the space.

The members of the Advisory Group would like to thank the Council for the opportunity to contribute to this exciting project.