

Appendix 1: Executive Summary from the Youth Initiative Feasibility Study Report

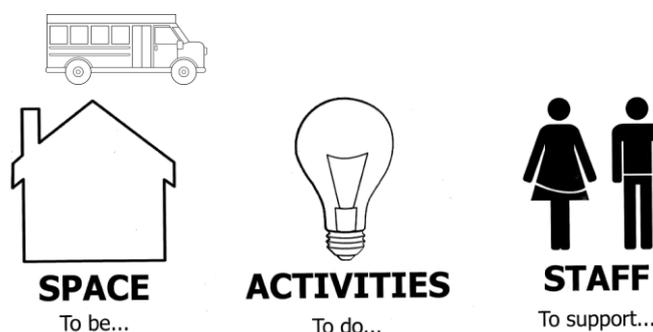
The Kāpiti Coast District Council, in partnership with the Kāpiti Coast Youth Council, identified the need for a youth centre in the south of District (from Waikanae to Paekākāriki). In the 2012 Long Term Plan, the Council resolved to bring forward the development of youth centre from 2022/23 to 2014/15 (year 3).

An advisory group was established by the Council to investigate the feasibility of the initiative. This group recommended the scope of the study be broadened to allow exploration of a wider range of models, including a youth centre, which could meet the purpose of the initiative. The feasibility study examines a range of options including a youth centre option that meet the purpose of the initiative.

The purpose of the initiative is to provide open access space/s where young people have the opportunity to:

- gather and be themselves in place/s which they feel ownership over;
- participate in unstructured and structured social, recreation and educational activities which contribute to their development; and
- access the support of youth workers in their lives.

These three elements are reflected visually in the document as:



The youth initiative is underpinned with a youth development approach to be delivered by youth workers. This helps to transform a social and recreational opportunity into something which better supports young people's social and personal development.

The key components of the feasibility study are:

- a profile of young people in the designated area¹;
- a profile of current provision of social and recreational services for young people developed through surveys, interviews and focus groups with clubs, groups and individuals including young people;
- analysis of gaps, barriers and opportunities in relation to social and recreational opportunities;

¹ The designated area are those communities in the south of the District; from Paekākāriki to Waikanae.

- an examination of models of good practice in youth work, youth development and youth centres including an international/national literature review;
- community and youth consultation on activities, ideas and options through surveys, interviews and focus groups with organisations and individuals including young people; and
- findings, considerations and recommendations.

For communities south of the District, about 14% of all residents are young people aged 12 to 24 years. The largest proportion of young people in the south of the District are aged 12 to 17 years (62%). 18% of young people in the Kāpiti District reside in Paraparaumu central. The percentage of young people living in the District in the future is forecast to be of a similar proportion.

Around 150 social and recreation organisations service the south of the District, including clubs and faith-based groups. One hundred and twenty eight of these organisations participated in a survey for this study. Approximately 40% of these have programmes which include membership of young people between the ages of 13 to 21. Sports are the main activity available and engaged in by young people. The study suggests young people would be involved in more activities if their wider interests were catered to, and if free and low cost activities were available. The study determined that a youth initiative would not duplicate any existing services or organisations. Instead it could draw on existing resources and knowledge.

The study identified young people's need for a space or spaces they can 'call their own', where they do not need to spend money and they can 'do their own thing'. While many young people are involved in organised and structured activities (around one third of young people surveyed), they also indicated they need places to be where they can initiate and lead their own activities, as well as 'just hang'. International research has identified spaces where young people can 'hang out', socialise and feel a sense of belonging to as being critical to youth development.

The youth initiative is underpinned with a youth development approach delivered by youth workers. This helps to transform a social and recreational opportunity into something which better supports young people's social and personal development. In particular, the voluntary engagement of young people has a major influence on the way youth work is carried out for any chosen option. The study provides a set of recommendations for effective youth work within a youth development approach including: involving young people as co-creators, not as service receivers and employing qualified youth workers.

Drawing on existing international and national models as well as local consultation, three options were developed and assessed:

- **Option 1 – Clubs-based** would provide programming through existing organisations. No youth worker is assigned, instead youth work training would be provided. A coordination role would be required. Funding would be directed to supporting existing organisations and their engagement with young people. This option was developed as a result of interest from some stakeholders for a model which provided better access for young people into existing club activities with support.
- **Option 2 - Mobile service** is the provision of a mobile service which could have a physically mobile space attached (i.e. bus). It involves 'detached' youth workers engaging with young people through activities and events in

the community. It would draw on existing organisations and their spaces (as in Option 1) and activities would also take place in public spaces.

- **Option 3 - Outward focused centre** is based on a modified youth centre model. Youth workers would provide programming in a central youth space and other community spaces. There is opportunity for events and activities to be held beyond the physical space in partnership with existing organisations as well as inviting the community 'inwards' to provide services to young people in the central space.

The options were assessed against a range of criteria including:

- a) potential for youth ownership; space/s where young people can gather and be themselves where they feel a sense of ownership;
- b) ability to provide unstructured and structured activities which contribute to young people's development;
- c) ability to provide good youth worker support under a youth development approach;
- d) ability to be community connected;
- e) being open to all young people aged 13 – 21 from Paekākāriki to Waikanae;
- f) being easily accessible in terms of physical accessibility, affordability and youth friendly for a diverse range of youth cultures;
- g) being cost effective and sustainable;
- h) being culturally inclusive and reflect the Council's Treaty of Waitangi obligations; and
- i) not duplicating existing services for young people.

As a result of this assessment, Option 3 best meets the youth initiative criteria. It does not replicate existing activities or services in the community, but draws on involving community groups and organisations within a central facility and through taking activities and events out into the community. This option best provides youth workers and young people with the opportunity to develop relationships with each other and the wider community. It also provides a central safe location where young people can access resources and youth workers on a regular basis. Option 3 was also the model most preferred by young people in focus groups.

On comparison of strengths, limitations, meeting the youth initiative criteria, youth development findings and young people's views of the three options, it is recommended the Council establishes a single physical space, stand-alone centre and engages with young people in the development of this space. Crucial to its success is that the model is outward focused, engaging with existing groups and the wider community.