

Older Persons Advisory Group - Work Programme (January 2026 – December 2027)

This work programme outlines the key priorities for the Older Persons Advisory Group (OPAG) over the next two years. This reflects the OPAG's commitment to supporting older people to feel connected, valued, and able to participate fully in life on the Kāpiti Coast. Anchored in the Age Friendly Approach, the programme guides how the OPAG will work with Council and our community partners to improve outcomes for older people across the district. The OPAG will provide a minimum of one update (verbal) per year to Council summarising their current focus and ongoing progress within the Work Programme.

What are Work Programme Priorities?

A work programme priority is a key area of focus where the OPAG will direct its attention, expertise, and influence, over the next two years. Each priority identifies an issue that has significant impact on the wellbeing and participation of older people and, highlights where OPAG can make a meaningful contribution.

Priorities help guide how OPAG will work with Council and community partners. They show where the OPAG will focus its advice and advocacy, where it expects to collaborate with Council staff, and where it will monitor progress or identify opportunities for improvement. They also help structure OPAG's agenda by signalling which topics the group will regularly return to, seek updates on, and support through recommendations.

Priorities provide clarity to the wider community and stakeholders by showing where collective effort will support progress toward Age Friendly outcomes. The outcomes of the Age Friendly Approach are:

- Older people feel connected and valued as an integral part of our district.
- Older people can get around and have access to what they need.
- Older people participate in their communities in ways that work for them.

Work Programme Priorities for 2026 – 2027

Over the next two years, the Older Persons Advisory Group has four priorities:

- Priority One: Progressing the Age Friendly Approach
- Priority Two: Growing digital inclusion and accessible information
- Priority Three: Addressing social isolation
- Priority Four: Older persons housing

Priority One: Progressing the Age Friendly Approach

Why this is a priority for the Older Persons Advisory Group

Council's Age Friendly Approach is the foundation that supports all other identified priorities.

Outcome we are seeking

Older people and stakeholders understand the Age Friendly Approach, can see progress, and experience improved Age Friendly practices across Council's work.

Actions we will take

- We will use practical tools to understand how we are doing as an Age friendly District.
- We will build relationships with key groups contributing to an Age Friendly Kāpiti.
- We will advocate to Council for appropriate resourcing to meet the Age Friendly Approach.
- We will help educate the community on what Age Friendly is.

Priority Two: Growing digital inclusion and accessible information

Why this is a priority for the Older Persons Advisory Group

Digital exclusion has detrimental impacts on older people's wellbeing, safety, and access to information. Improved accessible information that meets older people's communication needs is required to ensure participation and connection in our community.

Outcomes we are seeking

Older people can access information easily and participate fully because digital and communication barriers are reduced.

Actions we will take

- We will understand and advocate for community activities which strengthen digital inclusion across Kāpiti.
- We will understand and advocate for improved options to access information, including locations where information is available.
- We will provide advice to Council projects/engagement to highlight opportunities for informational inclusion and digital support.

Priority Three: Addressing Social Isolation

Why this is a priority for the Older Persons Advisory Group

Living in a friendly, secure neighbourhood reduces the risk of social isolation in older age, a range of Council actions can help our older people feel connected with others in their immediate neighbourhoods, improve emotional wellbeing for older people and maintain connection with their community.

Outcome we are seeking

Older people experience more opportunities for connection, reduced isolation, and improved access to local places, activities, and support.

Actions we will take

- We will work with our communities to understand what is needed and provide advice to Council to highlight and enhance services, spaces and activities which support social connection.
- We will build relationships with organisations which understand social isolation in Kāpiti.
- We will prioritise advice to Council projects which support social connection and remove transport barriers.
- We will support and participate in International Day of Older Persons activities.

Priority Four: Older Person Housing

Why this is a priority for the Older Persons Advisory Group

There is increasing pressure on affordable and appropriate housing for older people living in the Kāpiti Coast District. The OPAG acknowledges the lack of suitable options.

Outcome we are seeking

Older people can age in place safely and affordably, with access to housing that meets their needs.

Actions we will take

- Understand what Council is doing around housing options for older people and advocate where needed.
- Develop relationships with groups who work in the older persons housing space.