

YOUTH ACTION PLAN 2020-2021

The Action Plan outlines the joint commitments the Council and the Youth Council make to young people in the District aged 12 – 24 years of age. The Action Plan seeks to improve the quality of life for young people living in the District. It also seeks benefits for the District through increased youth participation in decision-making in core Council business.

The goals for 2016 – 2019 are:

GOAL 1: Communities which are safe for and supportive of our diverse youth communities

GOAL 2: A Council which values and listens to its young people

GOAL 3: A District which has youth friendly spaces and places

GOAL 4: A District where there is lots for young people to do

GOAL 5: A District which supports strong positive youth development

The Youth Council manages the content, advancement and structure of the Action Plan in partnership with the Council. Each year the Youth Council direct their programme of work to progress towards the overall outcomes and goals of the Action Plan.

The Kāpiti Coast Youth Survey 2015/16 and other information sourced by the Youth Council informs the goals and aims of the Action Plan. The Youth Survey captured the views of over 15% of our youth population. A majority of survey respondents were secondary school aged and additional information was sourced from young people aged 19 – 24 through other research projects and focus groups.

The key findings of the Kāpiti Coast Youth Survey 2015/16

- **young people feel connected to whanau, family and their community**
- **those in secondary school feel engaged and successful at school**
- **young people feel happy at home and positive about their future.**
- **young people are working or want to work**
- **young people's financial support defines what opportunities they can access**
- **some young people are unsupported, face many barriers and are unsure about their future.**
- **young people continue to struggle with transport options.**

GOAL 1: Communities which are safe for and supportive of our diverse youth communities

Young people want safe and healthy communities which respect and include young people. Communities where adults and young people respect each other, where cultural diversity is celebrated.

The Youth Council aims to:

- Encourage initiatives that provide opportunities for young people to volunteer
- Support community initiatives which strengthen young people's cultural identities
- Increase options for young people to access safe lifestyles
- Increase young people's feeling of safety in the District

Council aims are to:

- Make sure the spaces, places and routes young people use are safe and accessible
- Advocate for good and safe public transport which meets the needs of young people
- Encourage organisations working with young people to work together
- Promote positive youth development stories in the District

GOAL 2: A Council which values and listens to its young people

Local government decisions have a significant impact on young people and their lives and young people want to contribute to decision-making. Good youth participation in Council decision-making processes can improve the quality of services received by young people now and in the future.

The Youth Council aims to:

- Keep young people informed about our work through a range of methods
- Ensure consultation is inclusive of the wide diversity of young people in the District
- Connect with community organisations and schools to stay in touch with young people's needs and interests
- Advocate for young people's needs through formal and informal Council processes

Council aims to:

- Ensure good communication is maintained between the youth council and Council
- Continue to resource and support the Youth Council to ensure its sustainability and effectiveness
- Provide opportunities for young people to have their say on key council projects and decision-making which affects young people's lives

GOAL 3: A District which has youth friendly spaces and places

Community places and spaces such parks, pools and beaches are important for young people. The development of the youth centre and its mobile services will provide youth development opportunities for young people across the District. The youth centre will provide a second 'home' for young people and activities held in community places will strengthen young people's connection to them.

The Youth Council aims to:

- Continue to actively prioritise the establishment of the Youth Development and mobile services
- Ensure young people are able to have a say on changes to community spaces
- Identify places where young people are seen as an issue and develop projects to build community

Council aims to:

- Support mobile activities of the Youth Development Centre delivered in our parks and open spaces
- Improve the accessibility of public spaces to young people
- Strengthen young people's interest in our indoor and outdoor community spaces

GOAL 4: A District where there is lots for young people to do

Young people want meaningful activities to engage in. They want paid employment and need help to find work at times. They want to get creative and try new things. Cost is a barrier for many young people and low cost and free opportunities are needed.

The Youth Council aims to:

- Support community activities for young people which are free and accessible to all young people
- Facilitate activities to celebrate National Youth Week on an annual basis
- Provide and support community projects which engage young people in learning and expressing themselves through creative means

Council aims to:

- Support Youth Council initiatives which showcase young people's skills and talents
- Ensure young people are involved in consultation on recreational, art and cultural facilities in the District
- Increase the number of free and low cost activities for young people to do in Council places and spaces

GOAL 5: A District which supports strong positive youth development

Young people need lots of help as they face the issues, challenges and opportunities of growing up. Positive youth development is a process which we can contribute to, helping young people reach their full potential.

The Youth Council aims to:

- Support the youth development activities delivered through the Youth Development Centre
- Advocate for the Council to contribute more to young people's employment journey
- Partner with other youth organisations to pursue youth development goals for young people

Council aims to:

- Advocate to central government for appropriate resourcing for youth needs in the District
- Work with government and non-government organisations to ensure good provision of services for young people across the district
- Support the development of skilled people to work with young people