

Youth Action Plan

2016-2019





Horowhenua District Council
Vision Statement

“To make Horowhenua the best rural lifestyle district in New Zealand”

Horowhenua Youth
Vision Statement

“Young people in the Horowhenua district live in a supportive environment which provides opportunities for development and celebrates success.”

What does this mean?

The Horowhenua community will be a place that young people consider as being a good place to grow up.

They will feel that they are given frequent and far reaching opportunity to participate in the future of their community and they will make the most of these opportunities. They will know that their community stands with them and recognises their value and importance, free from prejudice.

Principles

Strategic elements of this action plan are guided by the Youth Development Strategy Aotearoa, launched by the Ministry of Youth Development in 2002.

Local application of these elements is guided by Horowhenua District Council's Community Wellbeing Strategy and Long Term Plan 2015 – 2025, which provides a context for Council's involvement in the wellbeing of young people.

Goals of the Youth Development Strategy Aotearoa

- 1 **Strengths-based Approach**
Ensuring a consistent strengths-based youth development approach
- 2 **Quality Relationships**
Developing skilled people to work with young people
- 3 **Youth Participation**
Creating opportunities for young people to actively participate and engage
- 4 **An Informed Approach**
Building knowledge on youth development through information and research

Goals of the Horowhenua Community Wellbeing Strategy

- 1 **A Proud Community**
Where everyone feels valued and respected
- 2 **A Connected Community**
where everyone can access the facilities, services and activities they need to experience positive wellbeing
- 3 **A Safer Community**
Dedicated to injury prevention and safety promotion
- 4 **A Healthy Community**
Where everyone is ready to learn, with positive values and attitudes

What is in place for people growing up in Horowhenua?

General

- Recreational facilities such as Aquatics centres, parks (such as Donnelly Park and Playford Park)
- Levin Skate Park
- Events Centre and other sporting facilities
- Horowhenua Youth Health Service
- Youth Guarantee programmes
- Teen Parent Unit
- Neighbourhood Policing Team and Blue Light
- Hinemoa House
- Services Academy
- Accessible natural environment (beaches, Trig, reserves, rivers etc)
- Performing Arts events like Project CYN

Youth Voice

Youth Voice is one of the council's biggest direct investments in the youth of Horowhenua. It is useful and important for two primary reasons; development of members, and communication between council and young people.

The professional development of young people is a major goal and benefit of the program. Members gain exposure to situations, people, and opportunities which help them develop and expand upon their own skill set.

On a larger scale, Youth Voice benefits all the youth of the district, as a crucial two-way communication platform with Council, a conduit through which their own views can be expressed and considered. Youth voice also interacts more independently with youth, through hui, events and other projects.

Youth Space

The Contact Youth Space is an all-inclusive versatile space located in the centre of Levin. Buzzing with youthful energy, it operates as both a place of recreation and information as well as a venue for events and activities.

The core purpose of the Contact Youth Space is to provide opportunities, activities and experiences which delight, inspire, and inform young people in a safe, family friendly environment.

A variety of activities are run daily that attract and entertain young people including: Minecraft club, sports and cooking classes, games afternoons, movie nights, workshops as well as larger events such as Youthtek, Horowhenua's Got Talent, Youth Week events, Listen To The Music and a Summer holiday programmes.

A youth radio station 'Fusion FM' and recording studio are supplementary facilities giving youth plenty of activities to get involved in.

With free Wi-Fi, plenty of computers to use and great games like Table Tennis and gaming consoles to use, Te Takere's Youth Space has got it all!

Social Sector Trial

SST is a 'community centred social change' programme focused on improving outcomes for children and young people aged 5 – 18 years. Selected as one of six sites across New Zealand in 2010, the aim of the Levin SST is to deliver and/or inform a whole of community approach to services and activities that will:

1. Reduce Offending
2. Reduce Alcohol and Drug Abuse
3. Reduce Truancy
4. Increase participation in education and training

Life to the Max Horowhenua is the lead provider and takes a prosocial approach to youth development. Horowhenua District Council plays an active role on multiple levels, including the active contribution of Youth Voice to Trial projects.

Trial initiatives have included (not limited to)

- CACTUS (intensive fitness and skills)
- Motivational Text Messaging Service
- Every School Day Counts campaign
- Youth coordinators in colleges
- Support for events & holiday activities
- Alcohol and drug counselling
- Coordination of a Horowhenua Domestic and Family Violence Charter

After six years as a trial model, SSTs are now being phased out through to the end of 2016. Various initiatives and programmes of the Horowhenua Trial will be transitioned by 2017 into locally led arrangements.

Horowhenua/Otaki Childrens Team

The Vulnerable Children Act 2014 made changes to how we protect vulnerable children. The Children's Action Plan maps out how government is working to improve results for these children and their families.

In 2014 Horowhenua/Otaki was selected as one of four Childrens Team sites across New Zealand. The model was subsequently introduced to six further locations in 2015 and 2016.

Children's teams use existing resources to deliver a more coordinated and targeted provision of services for 0-17 year olds (40% of which are under 5).

The Horowhenua/Otaki Childrens Team supports young people locally who are vulnerable to maltreatment or at risk of harm that do not require statutory intervention from Child Youth and Family, but need multi-agency support.

What are the key objectives that need to be achieved, and how will Council support them?

Aim 1 Young people in Horowhenua will be involved and given the opportunity to participate in decisions that affect them and the wider community

- A** Youth Voice Horowhenua will take a lead role in being an effective, representative communication platform between young people and Council as a fit-for-purpose consulting group that submits to Council policy, planning, speaks at meetings, contributes to strategy and assists with projects from other agencies seeking consultation
- B** Youth hui are held annually coordinated by Youth Voice and regional youth summits are coordinated or supported as opportunities arise
- C** A Youth Voice led public place-making activity is undertaken each year

Aim 3 Young people in Horowhenua have support systems and networks around them to lead a healthy and vibrant lifestyle.

- A** Local committees and governing boards are encouraged to have youth representation to promote the integration of family, school and youth services
- B** Local youth health services and providers are promoted and supported by Youth Voice
- C** A Youth Health and Wellbeing Expo is held at least every two years
- D** Appropriate recreation, cultural and community events are supported, including White Ribbon Day and Childrens Day
- E** Te Takere and other district community hubs provide programmes, resources and environments that appeal to a diverse range of young people including the ongoing provision of a dedicated Youth Space at Te Takere.
- F** Aquatics centres across the district provide a range of activities events and opportunities targeting youth.

Aim 5 Those that work with young people within Horowhenua collaborate and communicate, forming a sense of unity working to achieve the same goals for the same purpose.

- A** The Horowhenua Youth Network is supported to strengthen relationships, practice and process within the wider youth sector
- B** Grants and funding schemes promote collaboration between agencies working with families and young people
- C** Collaborative spin off projects and events are supported by way of participation of Council in the Levin Social Sector Trial, Strengthening Families Network and Horowhenua/Otaki Childrens Team
- D** The Horowhenua Community Wellbeing Executive structure allows for meaningful engagement, consultation and input from the youth sector and young people themselves

Aim 2 Young people in Horowhenua are given opportunities in which their achievements and successes can be celebrated and nurtured

- A** 12 or more Youth Excellence Scholarships are awarded annually at the Civic Honours event
- B** Tertiary scholarships will continue to be offered to meet the needs of the Horowhenua District Council and to support pathways for youth employment in local government
- C** Council media platforms celebrate and share youth achievements
- D** Social and Cultural events that celebrate and encourage talented and aspiring young people will be supported, such as the 'Horowhenua's Got Talent' event
- E** Horowhenua District Council sponsors an annual Senior Arts Prize for each of the local colleges
- F** The Horowhenua International Representation Grant continues to support the development of budding sportspeople to help them compete at the highest level
- G** Youth Week is celebrated each year with local events organised by young people

Aim 4 Young people are exposed to positive youth development experiences, and are given opportunities to prepare for their future.

- A** Youth Voice Horowhenua continues as an avenue for professional, political and diplomatic development of young people in Horowhenua
- B** Volunteering opportunities for young people are publicised and supported
- C** Young Leaders Day is held at least every two years
- D** A Horowhenua Careers Expo is held at least every two years
- E** The Pathways Horowhenua initiative (or similar) is supported to support meaningful connections between businesses and young people
- F** Annual youth development projects are delivered in partnership with government and non government agencies as opportunities arise

For further information visit
www.horowhenua.govt.nz or
write to

Community Development
Horowhenua District Council
Private Bag 4002
Levin, 5540



-  06 366 0999
-  Private Bag 4002, Levin 5540
-  126 Oxford St, Levin 5510
-  www.horowhenua.govt.nz
-  enquiries@horowhenua.govt.nz