



KAWERAU DISTRICT COUNCIL

YOUTH STRATEGY

2016 - 2020



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Kawerau District Council Youth Strategic Plan (YSP) intends on addressing the issues identified through significant consultation with young people and stakeholders in youth development from across the district, conducted in 2015.¹

The strategy is Council led, to assist in the development and participation of young people in the district of Kawerau. The intent is to strengthen youth input into local decision-making and to walk alongside young people to support and grow their communities. The strategy is not focusing on specific issues that concern youth but takes more of a holistic approach to supporting the positive development of young people.

WHAT WE HOPE TO ACHIEVE

- Strengthen and enhance the Youth Council whilst developing new opportunities in decision making, in the community.
- Explore new opportunities for providing safe spaces and activities for youth that enhances further training and development of young people and the people supporting them.
- Develop closer connections at an operation level with other agencies and groups to strengthen and encourage collaborative activities.
- Identify opportunities to increase capability of young people and adults that sets a bench mark for positive youth development and good practice.

‘No one is born a good citizen; no nation is born a democracy. Rather, both are processes that continue to evolve over a lifetime. Young people must be included from birth. A society that cuts off from its youth severs its lifeline’.

Kofi Annan; Secretary General of the United Nations 1997-2006

¹ Kawerau Youth Report 2015

WHY ARE WE DOING THIS?

Young people are important to any community, for its ongoing growth and sustainability. Over a third of the population of Kawerau District is made up of children and young people (0-24 years) with half of them being of Maori descent.

Kawerau District Council values the importance of young people and the part they play in healthy and positive communities and understands that young people need to be supported to be the best they can be, providing them with support, guidance and opportunities to grow and thrive, empowering them to be active members in their communities.

It has been proven that when young people feel engaged and are actively participating in community life, this has a positive impact on the wider community.

KAWERAU DISTRICT COUNCIL'S MISSION STATEMENT

The Council has five key elements to its Mission Statement, with two being directly relevant to young people:

1. To represent the interests and aspirations of the Kawerau Community, within and beyond the district.
2. To promote the social, economic, environmental and cultural wellbeing of the Kawerau Community.

This youth strategic plan identifies tangible opportunities and outcomes that are aligned with the mission statement and its principles² with recommendations made, following the consultation during April and May 2015.³

² Kawerau District Council, Long Term Plan 2015-2025 (page 37)

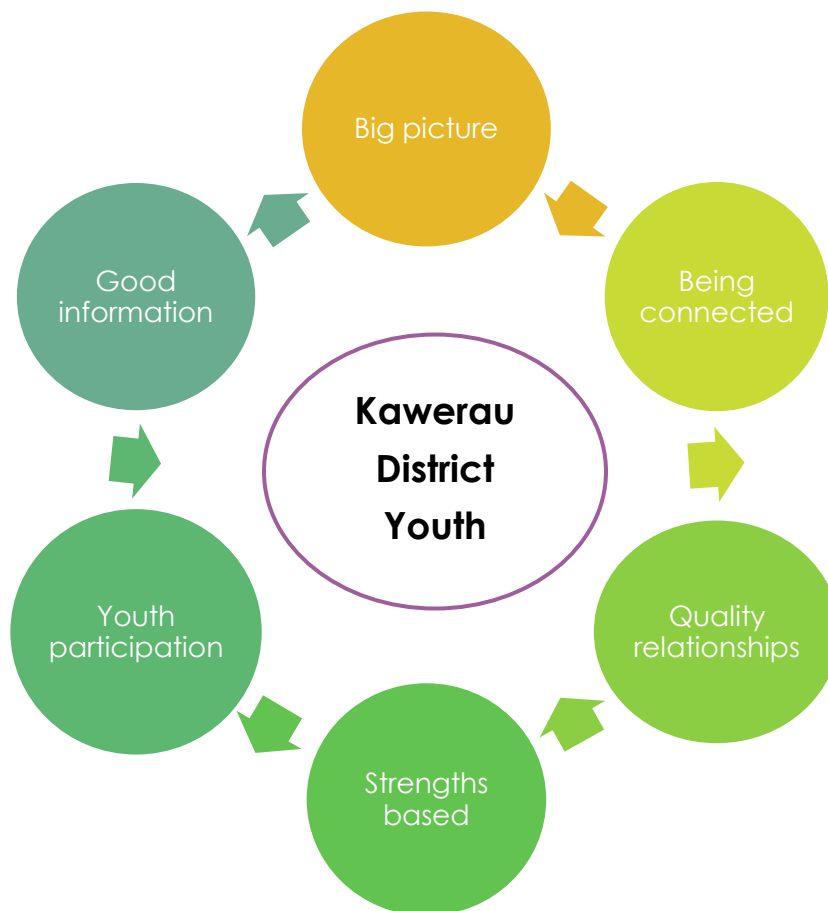
³ Kawerau Youth Report 2015

POLICY GUIDING DOCUMENTS

THE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (YDSA)⁴

Developed in 2002 by the Ministry of Youth Affairs, the YDSA is still a relevant document that sets out how government and people working with young people can promote positive youth development and support young people to be positive members of society; today and tomorrow.

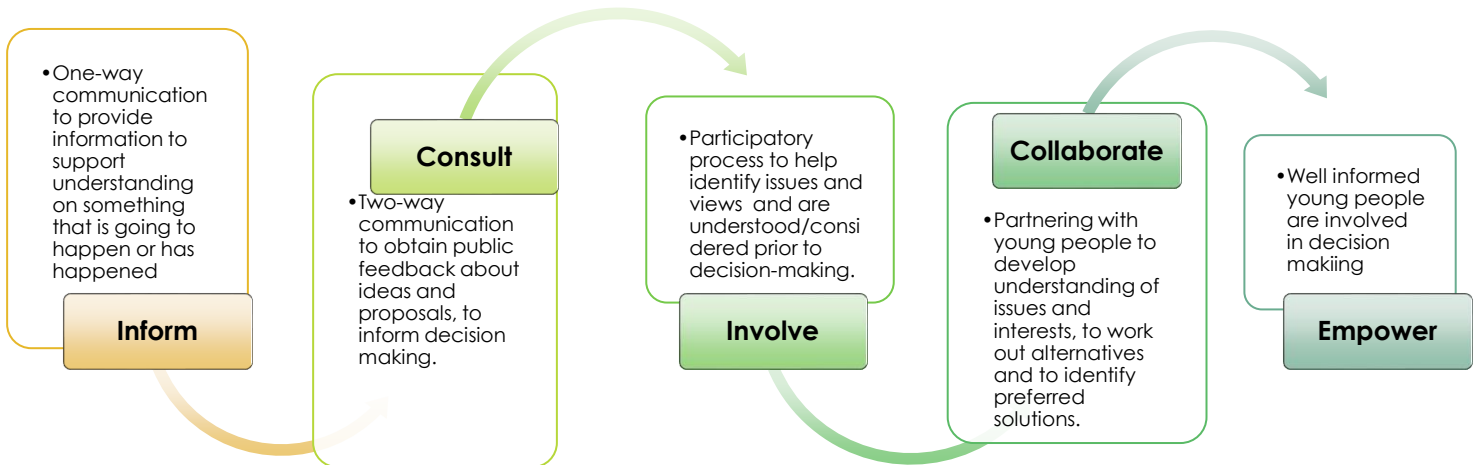
The six principles of the YDSA have influenced the whole process of consultation through to what and how the key objectives will be achieved.



⁴ <http://www.myd.govt.nz/resources-and-reports/publications/youth-development-strategy-aotearoa.html>

SIGNIFICANCE AND ENGAGEMENT POLICY

Amendments to the Local Government Act in 2013 has led to Kawerau District Council adopting a Significance and Engagement Policy in September 2014. This Policy intends to enable Council and its communities to identify the amount of significance attached to particular issues, proposals, decisions, matters, assets and activities and the various elements of communities' involvement.



This model identifies the process used for engagement with the youth Council and the wider youth population of Kawerau.

KAWERAU DISTRICT LONG TERM PLAN (LTP) 2015 -2025

The Community Outcomes featured in the LTP reflect the activities and services that Council delivers to support the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of the Kawerau Community.

VULNERABLE CHILDREN ACT 2014

The Children's Action Plan and the Vulnerable Children Act 2014 rest on the belief that no single agency alone can protect vulnerable children. A number of measures are being introduced. These include standard safety checking for paid staff in the government-funded children's workforce and new requirements for government agencies and their funded providers to have child protection policies.

CURRENT COUNCIL RESOURCES AND ACTIVITIES

Kawerau Youth Council (KYC)

KYC comprises of a group of young people between the ages of 12-24 years who live in the district. They are instrumental in developing and facilitating activities and events for the young people and wider community across Kawerau.

Youth Projects Officer (YPO)

The role of the YPO is to engage and support the Youth Council and the Events team with the various activities and events that are provided. The YPO also works with the wider community, parents, Councillors and other youth providers in the district.

Take the Lead Project/Facilitator

A leadership programme that inspires and develops young women aged between the ages of 13-19 years, allowing them to participate in a range of activities and opportunities supported by a part time facilitator.

Mayor's Taskforce for Jobs

Mayor Malcolm Campbell chairs the Mayor's Taskforce for Jobs initiative that is all about getting young people under the age of 25 into work.

Events and Community Activity Team

A Full time Team leader supported by KYC, YPO and the Take the Lead group, organising a wide range of innovative and engaging activities that are run throughout the year. Volunteers and young people have an opportunity to be involved in providing events that are appealing to the community and visitors from out of town whilst growing their own skills in project and event work.

Recreation facilities

The Recreation Centre, Skate Park, BMX track, Library and Pools are all popular places that young people of Kawerau regularly utilise, whilst also enjoying the more local natural spaces such as the river and open areas.

WORKING WITH OTHERS

As the territorial local authority, Kawerau District Council is well positioned to support youth development for its young people. Council's various roles can influence situations, policy development and funding opportunities, that will enable positive change for the youth of the district;

- Service provider – providing quality facilities; Swimming Pools, recreation Centre, Skate/BMX Park and Woodfest, Christmas in the Park and Youth events to name just a few.
- Advocacy – speaking up and working in partnership with others; Mayors Taskforce for Jobs, Social Sector Trial, PRYDE etc.
- Facilitator – working towards a shared vision and bringing people together with the Youth Council, Take the Lead etc.
- Monitor – assess service provision, track progress and identify new challenges.
- Promoter – as the best Council in the country with a genuine intention to provide great opportunities for their young people and showcase the 'good stuff'.
- Information Broker – Gather and use information to inform decision making and identifying new opportunities for youth development.



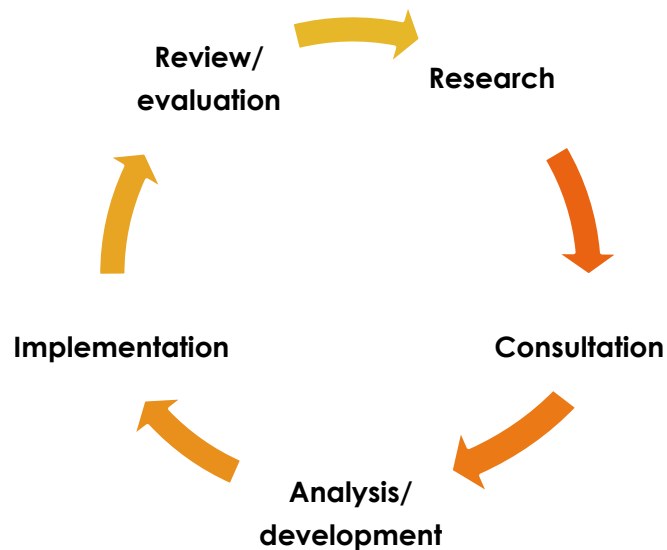
PRIORITIES FROM THE CONSULTATION PERIOD

Over the course of six weeks, three key pieces of work were carried out by Infinite ConnectionNZ to support a consultation process leading to the development of the Youth Strategic Plan.

The Kawerau Youth Council (KYC) noho and consultation - Intended outcomes to: build on their knowledge of local government, skill development to support the Bubble Blast event, active involvement in the strategy development and future consultations.

The Bubble blast consultation event – An opportunity for young people from across the district to participate in some sporting activities and a consultation process facilitated by the Youth Council.

Adult/youth stakeholder consultation – A range of stakeholders from the community who are involved in supporting/working with young people, participated in identifying and exploring opportunities for ongoing positive youth development.



During the consultation period, some of the key issues raised were:

- Wanting more events and activities for youth to be involved in.
- Sharing information on what is going on across the district, using a variety of media.
- Limited opportunity for skill development locally, with many youth leaving the area.

Following the process above, this document now leads into the implementation phase and exploring the key objectives of the YSP.



KYC members meeting during the Consultation

KEY OBJECTIVES

Strengthen and enhance the Youth Council whilst developing new opportunities in decision making, in the community.

- Develop a new approach to engaging young people to be Youth Council members, whilst having a more diverse membership that captures the 12-24 years age range.
- Provide opportunities for KYC to build positive relationships with Councillors and staff in an informal environment, which will enhance the common roles each have in community engagement.
- Expand the opportunities for young people to learn and engage in Council and wider community decision making, potentially leading to young people having a greater sense of ownership and value in their community.
- Provide relevant and accredited training for KYC in activities that they are involved in – many young people do amazing work in their spare time, but gain little acknowledgment of this, that could influence their future career paths.
- Youth Council members are provided opportunities to engage and promote the work they do, by connecting with other agencies and organisations, with regular input into Tarawera High School.

Explore new opportunities for providing safe spaces and activities for youth that enhances further training and development of young people and the people supporting them.

- Carry out a feasibility study into the possibility of having a youth/training café within Kawerau CBD, to; provide a safe space for young people to meet and a place where youth can gain hospitality and business skills whilst providing a service to the wider community.

Develop closer connections at an operational level with others/groups to strengthen and encourage collaborative activities.

- Utilise the various networks and communication channels, to improve awareness and interest in the variety of activities provided across the district.

- Encourage and model inclusive planning and facilitation processes to build capacity through the different organisations supporting/working in partnership with young people – developing positive relationships.
- Identify regular local community events that bring organisations/agencies to work together, to enhance and celebrate collective input.

Identify opportunities to increase capability of young people and adults that sets a bench mark for positive youth development and good practice.

- Facilitate accredited training in Youth Development for all those working with young people in Kawerau. This will enhance the great work done with youth, give people a sense of value and investment in their own professional development. This would provide a base line of competency for the provision of youth work in Kawerau.
- Develop opportunities for young people to gain credits/developmental opportunities across the district that feature in a calendar of events for youth that meets their needs.
- Arrange training for Councillors and staff to participate in an introduction to youth development; that enhances their understanding and commitment to the strategy and making Kawerau more youth friendly.



APPENDIX: YOUTH ACTION

Objective	Action	Measure	Resources	Time frame
<i>Strengthen and enhance Kawerau Youth Council whilst developing new opportunities in decision making, in the community.</i>	Develop a new model for engagement and recruitment for KYC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • # of KYC members (minimum 12). • KYC membership represents 12-19 years age range in & out of school; members living in the district. • 20-24 year olds are provided with an alternative way to engage with Council. • Members develop a terms of reference to membership & manage this in partnership with the YPO. 	YPO & funding (\$)	Oct 2016 – ongoing
	Regular activities that connect Councillors and Staff with KYC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 informal activities per year for KYC and Council members to meet 	YPO & funding (\$)	Oct 2016 – ongoing
	KYC members represented on community funding panels and consulted on in regards to Council decisions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunity for each KYC member to be included in decision making. 	Funding (\$)	February 2017 – ongoing
	Calendar of relevant and accredited training for KYC members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calendar for the year of Youth Council and community activities. • Accessible to the wider community. 	Funding YPO Printing/IT support	March 2017 – ongoing
	Connecting and promoting KYC	KYC members taking on specific role of advocacy & promotion in varying organisations/groups i.e. Tarawera High School.	Funding	Oct 2016 – ongoing

Objective	Action	Measure	Resources	Time frame
Increase capability of youth stakeholders	Facilitate accredited training in Youth Development for all those working with young people in Kawerau	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organisations/agencies require contractual obligation for staff to complete/be qualified as a youth worker #. Staff will undergo training through NZQA Youth Development Training. Minimum of 2 staff complete NZQA youth development training. 	Can be cost neutral – funding External provider/agency	Oct 2016 – ongoing
	Develop a calendar of training opportunities for YP and adults to participate in, district wide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A yearly published calendar covering a range of training opportunities i.e. Civil Defence, First Aid, event Management etc. 	Funding YPO	Oct 2016 – ongoing
	Facilitate training for Councillors and staff to participate in an introduction to youth development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One off introductory training for Council members & staff. Induction to Council will feature the basics of youth development. 	External provider/agency Induction training developed	Feb 2017
Explore new opportunities for providing safe spaces and training/activities for youth	Conduct a feasibility study into having a Youth/training Café	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feasibility report completed and presented to Council. 	funding	Feb 2017 – Jun 2017

Objective	Action	Measure	Resources	Time frame
	Identify a model that is relevant to Kawerau and that is sustainable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of a model with an advisory group/trust overseeing this. 	Advisory group consisting of YP	Feb 2017
Develop closer connections at an operation level with other agencies and groups to strengthen and encourage	Improve awareness, interest and collaboration by strengthening communication channels/media	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> # of other agencies involved in events/activities. Feedback from agencies & participants on involvement/activities. 	YPO IT – Survey monkey	Oct 2016 - ongoing
	Develop and promote a regular calendar of events that bring organisations/agencies to work together; enhancing and celebrating collective input	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Calendar of events; online, hard copy & newspaper. MOU between agencies/Council. Mayoral lunch once a year to celebrate and acknowledge achievements through the district. 	YPO Funding Policy support	Jan 2017 – ongoing