

Central Hawke's Bay District Council – Report

TO: Council
FROM: Chief Executive
DATE: 17 September 2009
FILE REF: COU2-800
SUBJECT: YOUTH IN CENTRAL HAWKE'S BAY – 3 MONTHS ON

1.0 SUMMARY

Council plays a vital role in the Central Hawke's Bay community by overseeing the wellbeing of the district.

The Local Government Act 2002 states that identified community outcomes which focus on social, economic, cultural and environmental wellbeings exist to “promote the better co-ordination and application of community resources” and “inform and guide the setting of priorities in relation to the activities of the local authority and other organisations.”

In the context of youth, Council can be objective and identify needs within those wellbeings, while remaining uninfluenced by outside agendas. For example, Council does not come from a health, education, social service or justice point of view. Council simply looks at the bigger picture.

Council is working with many government agencies and non-government organisations to map services and assess the needs of youth and wider community issues in Central Hawke's Bay. The resulting report will assess the realities of life for our citizens – including over two thousand 12-25 year old youths.

There appear to be gaps in education, health, transition to employment, youth mentoring and support, addressing needs of Rangatahi (Maori youth), and involving youth in decision making.

Youth development is underfunded in Central Hawke's Bay. Council is working with central government agencies to access funding to progress youth development from a strengths based approach (focussing on the positives rather than the negatives).

Council supports the concept of youth development in Central Hawke's Bay as an investment in the future of our district.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

THAT

The report be received.

REASONS

The Objective of the decision will contribute to the following Community Outcomes:

- *A lifetime of good health and wellbeing*
- *Safe and secure communities*
- *A strong, prosperous and thriving economy*
- *Strong regional leadership and a sense of belonging*
- *Supportive caring and inclusive communities*
- *Communities that value and promote their unique culture and heritage*
- *Safe and accessible recreational facilities to enhance health lifestyles by promoting physical exercise.*

3.0 BACKGROUND

There is some debate that Councils should even be assessing or actively advocating about youth issues, but from an holistic community perspective – it is widely accepted that youth of today and tomorrow are directly influenced by their environment and community from birth right through to becoming young adults. Where does the unsupported 13 year old end up who has become alienated from his family and society...?

In Central Hawke's Bay, the majority of our youth are well adjusted, contributing members of society – however, there are some gaps in the delivery of various services.

The Youth Coordinator's position has existed for three months, and in that time some issues which have 'fallen out' of the contact Council is having with youth and the wider community are listed below. The following are only a few of the main issues for youth in Central Hawke's Bay.

HEALTH

- In the context of youth, anecdotally (from Public Health nurses, youth workers, counsellors and midwives, and childcare centres) there are many young mothers (most teenagers) in CHB who do not attend antenatal classes or postnatal parenting classes.
- There is a Youth Advisory Panel at the HB DHB. Council is advocating for CHB representation on the panel.
- Plunket may pick up some teen mothers post-natally, however (anecdotally) 'well-checks' for babies, toddlers, and preschoolers are hit and miss.
- Unlike Hastings and Napier, CHB does not have parenting classes for teens or indeed classes for parents OF teens.
- Unlike Hastings and Napier, CHB does not have general parenting classes for children over 6 months of age. PAFT or 'Parents as First Teachers' was a MSD funded programme which was a well-received developmental programme in CHB – and may have captured some of these teen parents – however PAFT was stopped in CHB in 2005. There has been no parenting class to take its place for four years.
- Contraception for teenagers. Contraception advice is available in Waipawa health centres. Community concern is that this should be available in Waipukurau also.

YOUTH MENTORING & SUPPORT

- Council is working closely with EPIC Ministries which offers young people from 10 years -18 years youth mentoring, holiday programmes, and positive experiences. Many problems stem from family stressors, peer pressure, the recession and family job losses, relationships, drug & alcohol abuse, and many other issues.
- There is a perception that because Epic is 'Christian' based – it is not accessible to all. However, Epic is working on broadening its view to focus on two main streams so all youth may access positive role models and experiences. The two main streams are:
 1. Youth Programmes focussed on Christian values based philosophy
 2. Youth Development programmes focussed on a strengths based approach to developing youth in CHB.
- EPIC has fantastic enthusiasm, however limited capacity. They employ only 1.5 youth workers who deal with College and Primary School students and also work closely with WINZ to help and support youths on the Independent Youth Benefit (IYB) e.g. helping with drivers' licenses, literacy & numeracy, helping transition from school or benefit to employment.
- EPIC supplies CHB's only traditional "youth workers" in CHB. One acts as a Youth Transition Service worker. The youth worker currently has 40+ youth on her client list (a stretched but safe limit) – this youth worker could easily have 80+ youths who all need mentoring and support. The other youth worker works 10 hours.
- This mid-level support area is sorely under-resourced in CHB. Council is working as advocate with the Ministry of Social Development to help develop a full Youth Transition Service for CHB. (Hastings and Napier Youth Transition Service (YTS) is a team fully funded by the MSD and provided by the Taiwhenua O Heretaunga.)
- Council is also working with key stakeholders in CHB and the Ministry of Youth Development to make a major application to the MYD and DIA for a grant for capacity building of youth mentoring and development in CHB.
- There is a real need for Kaupapa Maori based youth / Rangatahi (maori youth) mentoring in CHB. Council is working with Epic, Central Health, Te Puni Kokiri and other stakeholders to target Rangatahi at Primary School and follow up through college onto employment.
- Council will investigate perceptions and realities of the youth gang scene in CHB as part of the Local Services Mapping exercise and needs assessment in 2010.
- The Youth Justice system deals with criminal behaviour of youth. Then youth are treated as adult offenders from the age of 17 years. There is no specific programme designed to address young gangs in Central Hawke's Bay. Youth programmes and Kaupapa Maori based mentoring have been successful in other areas of NZ to help maori youth gang issues – the key is to obviously engage youth when they are 7-13 years – BEFORE they enter into gang culture.
- There are other ethnic gangs which are not being addressed also (apart from a youth justice perspective) eg. white supremacist gang, Pacific Islander gangs.

EDUCATION

Alternative Education

The first issue identified for CHB by the wider community is funding for Alternative Education. Alt-Ed is for 13-15 year olds who have been alienated from mainstream education. It is not an alternative TO education – the students are still taught the school curriculum.

There are issues with alt-ed students becoming truant and not being monitored in the community. This can then lead to trouble in the community.

Council has acted as advocate by approaching Alt-Ed contract holder, Principal Richard Schumacher, to write a report about Alt-Ed in CHB – this report was then sent to the MTFJ and they included it in a submission to Prime Minister John Key. The results of the submission process will be available in October.

Stood down

Alt-Ed perceptions sometimes get mixed up with “netted” students – i.e. students who have been stood down from school but are still in the system. These students are NOT classed as alternative education students. They need to be gainfully occupied and integrated into the community and not become alienated and a nuisance.

Council will be advocating with schools and agencies to keep these ‘netted’ kids engaged in society. There is no current programme that effectively deals with these ‘netted’ youth.

Social Workers in Schools

Council is working with the Principal’s Association to lobby government for a Social Worker in Schools.

The ‘SWIS’ service is well-known around NZ, but unfortunately (even though the need has been proven in the past) CHB has never been successful in its bid to have a full-time social worker working directly out of schools.

Kids out of school

There has been an 11 year old in Waipukurau out of school for almost one year because of behavioural problems. Another student at Wakarara cannot get to school because the bus will not pick her up. The Ministry of Education is tasked with making sure all children should be in schools. Unfortunately, some children miss out.

EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING

- Over 100 unemployed in CHB are youth under 25 years. There are over 200 unemployed people in CHB.
- New government schemes like Job Ops, Youth Guarantee, Community Max, and Limited Service Volunteer at Burnham have been introduced. These schemes are available to subsidise employers who employ young people. These schemes are available only until the end of 2010 and may have limited use in CHB. Job Ops has been well-received by the CHB Business community however there have been no expressions of interest from the CHB community to the MSD about Community Max.
- A scheme being seriously looked at by Council is an industry partnership with contractors to employ youth on new works such as roading contracts. Talks have already been held with WINZ Employer Services, OPUS, and Roothing Manager.

- Two main CHB Private Tertiary Education providers or PTEs have had their funding cut by government. This is a major concern as it is one less programme for our unemployed youth.

Bay Agriculture and Land-based Training have been taking on youth for their farming courses and having real success – but it is a concern that the Tertiary Education Commission has cut funding at such a critical time.

COUNCIL LED INITIATIVES

- The first CHB Youth Council has been appointed. There were 25 applications. The wider group of young people elected their own executive.

There are 15 in the Youth Council: 2 non-students and 13 students. The swearing in ceremony will be held in early October. They are a very enthusiastic group of students with bright ideas for the CHB community.

The CHB Youth Council will be asked to have major input into a Central Hawke's Bay Youth Strategy.

- Local Services Mapping is a service offered by the Ministry of Social Development to help communities identify needs and improve services. CHB has never had a full Local Services Mapping process or full needs assessment. Recently, Council approached the MSD however were told the LSM process cannot come to CHB for another two calendar years (2011). Council is working with the Dept of Internal Affairs, Anglican Care and Central Health to apply for a Community Internship Programme grant to hire a researcher to map the youth and community services in CHB. This will then lead onto more coordination between the social services – and a better idea of the true wellbeing of our citizens.
- Council is now part of the Wellington Regional Youth Worker's Trust (WRYWT). This Trust is funded by the Department of Internal Affairs.
- CHB is now represented on the Hawke's Bay Regional Youth Worker's Trust. This group is a sub-group of the WRYWT and provides funding and support for people who work with youth in Hawke's Bay.
- Council hosted the first CHB Youth Network meeting in July 2009. The WRYWT sponsored this inaugural meeting. It was well-attended with over 40 government and non-government agencies (see appendix 1).
- The next meeting for the CHB Youth Network will be a forum in October hosted by the Mayoral Taskforce for Jobs (MTFJ) with guest speakers Celia Lashlie, Marcus Akuhata-Brown, and Mayor of Otorohanga, Dale Williams. This will be a full day of workshops with forums for young people to give their views, as well as Council and agencies to identify concerns.
- Council is developing a Youth Directory in conjunction with the HBRYWT with all service providers in CHB. This will be a great resource for Council as well as the wider CHB community.
- There is no existing budget for Youth Development in the Long Term Council Community Plan 2009 – 2019. A proposal for resourcing Youth Development will be brought to Council for inclusion in the Annual Plan 2010-2011.

4.0 OPTIONS

That the report be received.

5.0 STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

Local Government Act 2002

6.0 CONSULTATION

6.1 External

Stakeholders – see Appendix 1.

6.2 Internal

Chief Executive
Mayor
Staff.

7.0 STRATEGIC LINKS

- Community Plan
- Annual Plan

Shelley Burne-Field
Communications / Youth Coordinator

APPENDIX ONE:

Over the past three months, as Youth Coordinator I have met with the following government and non-government agencies to discuss Youth and Community issues:

- **Ministry of Social Development** – Social Services – Jo Lawrence, Jane Hopkinson, Annie Aranui (Regional Commissioner)
- **Ministry of Education** – Soe Schofield, Gerry Everett
- **Department of Internal Affairs** – Community Development, Funding – Peter Martin, Sandy Keen
- **Ministry of Youth Development** – Heidi Mills
- **CHB Health Centre** – Jeanette Kenderdine, Public Health – Karyn Parsons, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services – Penny Smith
- **Family and Community Services** – Strengthening Families – Jeannette MacKenzie
- **Central Hawke's Bay College** – Mainstream Education, Alternative Education – Principal Richard Schumacher, Dave Russell, Garth Sherwood, Rosie Carpenter, Sandra Foster, Mike Ataera, Kim Walker
- **Child Youth and Family Services** – Care and Protection – Joan Rundle, Kath Kuru, Gale Neho
- **Central Health – Te Whatuiapiti Trust** – Community Services, Counselling – Brenda White, Sue Kupa, Gen Tua, Liah Kipa
- **Te Waireka** – Drug and Alcohol counselling and residential care – Pam Kupa
- **EPIC Ministries** – Youth Mentor and Support Services – Tama Bucknell, Kelly Annand, Vikki Graham
- **CHB Budget Advice** – Budget and life-skills advice – Carmel Thompson
- **Heartlands** – Community Support Services – Carol Osborne, Wendy Weir
- **CHB Support and Counselling** – Counselling and Social Work
- **CHB Police** – Youth Aide Officer and Community Policing
- **Anglican Care Waiapu** – Whanau Resource Centre – Breakfast Club and Community Support
- **Work and Income NZ (WINZ)** – Independent Youth Benefit – Hana Cotter, Mary Collins, Louise Howe
- **Te Puni Kokiri – Ministry of Maori Affairs** – Iwi / Hapu support – Roger Aranui
- **Business CHB** – Job opportunities in CHB for youth – Colleen Carrick
- **Salvation Army** – Employment Plus – Chris Bishop
- **EIT** – tertiary education for over 17 years – Clair Hague, Sandra Fleming
- **Land Based Training** – agricultural courses – Dave Severinsen
- **Bay Agricultural Training** – agricultural courses – John Bird
- **WINZ** – Employment Services – Kylee Holgate
- **Pleroma Counselling Services** – Shirley Duthie, Donna Pirini
- **Tough Love** – Elaine Booker
- **CHB District Truancy Service** – Gloria Hunter
- **Career Services Rapuara** – Charelle Pere
- **Wellington Regional Youth Workers Trust** – Marama Kani (funded by DIA – of which CHB is now a member)
- **CHB Victim Support** – Julie Irvine
- **Porangahau Youth Workers** – Kim Steffert
- **Te Taiwhenua O Tamatea** – Marge Hape
- **Te Taiwhenua O Heretaunga** – Paris Greening
- **Hastings District Council** – Rachelle Beale – Community Development Advisor
- **Napier City Council** – Rebecca Bezzant – Youth Coordinator

- **Sport Hawke's Bay – CHB Patrice Webb**
- **Te Aute College – Piripi Blake, Wiki Osborne**
- **Ruahine Cadets – Ray Chapman**
- **Tararua District Council – Troy Gerbich – Community Development Manager**
- **CHB Promotions – Trudy Kirk**
- **Learning Innovations – Win Needham – Literacy and Numeracy**
- **Primary School Principal's Association**
- **Te Kura Kaupapa Maori O Takapau**
- **Bright Futures – Early Childhood inhome care**
- **Scallywaygs – Early Childhood inhome Centre and Inhome Care**
- **YMCA – Greg Bellett**
- **Waipukurau Indoor Pool & Gym – Michele Hayes**
- **CHB Playcentre**
- **CHB Parents Centre Inc**
- **Plunket**
- **Choices**
- **Kindergartens, Kohanga Reo's.**