

# Matamata-Piako Youth Action Plan

## Vision

A district that supports positive youth development for all young people

## Values

- Value and listen to young people
- Encourage active family involvement

## Goals

- A district that has youth friendly spaces with things to do for young people
- A district where people can easily access information
- A district that encourages young people into education, training and employment

# A district that has youth friendly spaces with things to do for young people

## What young people said

- 42% said there is “nothing to do”
- 43% felt their community “It’s OK”, followed by “It’s good” (28%)
- The three most desired activities young people wanted were: sport (55%), music/performing arts (37%) and community events/fairs (36%)
- If young people were Mayor they would “improve or create youth facilities and events” (35%), “improve parks, sports grounds and playgrounds” (25%)
- The top four barriers to participation were: “i’m not interested” (31%), “it costs too much” (27%), “I have other responsibilities” (22%), “I would feel shy, nervous or embarrassed” (20%)

## What the community said

- Run community events
- Promote existing spaces and activities
- Teen cafe

## What the community said

- Future Te Aroha run after school classes in drama, dance and music. Holidays programmes in art, drama, music technology, stage lighting & sound, pre and post production and five musical theatre productions per year
- ONE8T Youth (part of Morrinsville Baptist Church) ran weekly on a Friday (during the school term) from 7pm til 9:30pm youth activities
- Domain Day - not specifically for youth but a family event
- Arbour Day - in conjunction with the schools
- Council hosts pool parties throughout the year
- Free internet at the libraries
- Matamata Bible Church delivers a range of weekly youth group meeting/activities
- Matamata Youth United organise monthly youth events

## What we will do

- Deliver 3 new intercommunity events
- Matamata-Piako District Council to explore youth friendly spaces in the District
- Approach Piako Post to have a youth page. This will be used to promote what’s happening across the district by promotong youth events and services
- Explore establishing a youth forum
- Establish a pilot position to support youth activities in the district
- Establish a newt for people doing stuff with young people

# A district where young people can easily access information

## What young people said

- School is the best place to hear about information
- Only 41% of young people knew of an organisation or person they could contact for help with their issues and concerns. Only 34% of young people identified one or more contacts they could go to for help
- The four most commonly mentioned issues were: drugs (54%), nothing to do (42%), alcohol (37%), bullying/peer pressure (27%)
- 42% felt they had “most of the info” available for making education and learning decision. For work and employment, 37% felt they had “most of the info”. For health services, 35% felt they had either “some of the info” or “most of the info”. For activities and things to do 30% felt they had “some of the info”

## What the community said

- Promotes services that are available
- Homework club with internet and workstations
- Promotion through school newsletters and a youth column in local newspapers
- Utilising online communication methods

## What the community said

- Mental health support, mentoring, advocacy, self esteem programmes, youth transition support delivered by Youth Empowerment Service
- Barnados Counsellor at office Tuesday and Thursday. Social work support available in Matamata by appointment
- Matamata Bible Church have a counselling service

## What we will do

- Promoting activities currently available - event to do this?
- MatamataPiako District Council to explore with their Communications team possible ways of communicating with young people
- List of key people in secondary schools in contact when wanting to promote information in schools

# A district that encourages young people into education, training and employment

## What young people said

- The main sources of worry were getting good grades or passing exams (45%)
- Lack of money and difficulties finding work were an issue

## What the community said

- Collaboration between employers, school/training institutes and youth services
- More training courses needed

## What the community said

- Youth Transition Service delivered by Youth Empowerment Service
- Engineering 4 Youth - 44 week youth guarantee course for 16-17 year olds. Learn mechanical engineering and gain NZQA and NCEA unit standards up to Level 2 delivered by Salvation Army Plus
- Careers and Computing - 26 week course for Work and Income clients where you can gain up to Level 2 NZQA units in computing delivered by Salvation Army Plus
- Matamata College offers a number of programmes these include Brotherhood, Year 10 girl group, Year 13 Challenge, Students for Students and Mentor Me. They are currently working with schools to develop a Cyber Bullying Action Plan

## What we will do

- Meet with the provider who has the Youth Service contract to discuss how they will work in our district (Starfish)
- Set up a group to work with employers. This group will include Work and Income, Careers NZ and Youth Empowerment Services
- Develop a strategic plan to address youth employment