

Rotorua District Council Youth Action Plan 2010-2011

Vision Statement

Rotorua – A great place to be young, where young people are vibrant and optimistic through being supported and encouraged to take up challenges.

Rotaz.co.nz



Happenings

Young people need safe and healthy activities, events and places to go in both their own communities and the central business district that promote being active and positively engaged.

Goal

To maximise opportunities for young people through facilitation and provision of a range of safe and healthy activities, events and venues that welcome diversity.

Action Plan

Action # 1

Youth projects

(E.g. events, activities, sports, youth groups, arts and culture)

- Continue support youth initiatives in urban and rural areas
- Continual evaluation of the success of events through participant evaluation
- Youth involvement in RDC sponsored events e.g. Santa Parade, Mardi Gras etc
- Active involvement in planning youth activities and events
- Assistance with sourcing funding for groups wanting to provide activities for young people.
- Advocating for the involvement of young people in running events and events for young people
- Youth involvement in recreation and sport

Action # 2

Community Assistance – Young People

- Supporting youth focussed community organisations to provide things to do and places to go for young people through the RDC community assistance policies and grants process.

Action # 3

Spaces and Places

- Ongoing support of the Rotorua Community Youth Centre.
- Ongoing Project Management of Youth Spaces Project. Support the development of parks and reserve planning for/with young people.
- Advocating for public space utilisation
- Supporting local communities development and improvement of relevant youth spaces and places

Action # 4

Community Safety

Issues that affect young people will be addressed by:

- Working in collaboration with community groups, government agencies and colleagues on projects aimed at increasing community safety with a particular youth focus.
- Supporting these groups to apply for grants through the community safety fund.
- Facilitating an RDYC rep on the community safety fund committee.

Connections

Young people who have positive connections where they live, learn and work, contribute to a healthy community. Quality relationships, a sense of belonging, holistic wellbeing and a respect for others and the environment are important for positive connection.

Goal

To protect and foster youth development through advocating for healthy connections in many social environments.

Action # 1

Youth Development

- Opportunities will be created and ongoing support provided, for the development of young peoples participation and involvement in all areas of community life e.g. volunteers in event planning and running, positive youth groups
- Support for groups that focus on strengths based approaches for young people e.g. mentoring, skills groups, education initiatives
- Provide a youth card (11-18 years of age) with relevant information for young people by March 2011

Action # 2

Cultural Well-being

(Definition - Ministry for Culture and Heritage)

The vitality that communities and individuals enjoy through participation in recreation, creative, and cultural activities and the freedom to retain, interpret and express their arts, history, heritage and traditions

- Groups offering positive connection through various expressions will be supported and encouraged e.g. Marae / Iwi based, ethnic youth councils, performing groups

Action # 3

E Oho

Oversee the E Oho project and accountability with Ministry of Youth Development; in both phases 1, 2 and 3 of the Project.

Participation

Young people need to be given opportunities to have greater influence over what happens to them, through seeking their advice, participation and engagement in community, civic, social and environmental matters.

Goal

To create and advocate for opportunities where young people can influence, inform, shape, design and actively contribute to ideas and activities.

Action # 1

Youth Council 2010/2011

- Encourage young people to join the youth council. Provide a balance of practical experience and youth development coupled with education about Local Government roles, community involvement & civic responsibility. Provide Youth Council with appropriate youth development training
- Co-ordinate and support the RDC Youth Council. Include them in Council activities, decision making processes, training opportunities, RDC Youth Projects and community discussions where relevant

Action # 2

Consultation

- Young People are actively consulted in decision-making process that affect them e.g. public space planning, youth policy reviews.

Action # 3

Involvement

- Support and advocate for young people to get involved in the community
- Support community groups to establish ways of better involving young people and 'best practices' when working with young people
- Advocate for young people by encouraging the staff of RDC and other organisations to take into account the views of young people when working on projects
- Subsidise and support young people to attend conferences where relevant

Action # 4

Celebration

- Raise awareness and celebrate the wonderful contributions young people make to the community through the RDC Community and Youth Awards.
- Include 2 young people in the Awards Review Panel.
- Maintain and support the Mayoral Community Awards - Youth Section

Transitions

Young people who move successfully through their transitions will become constructive, autonomous individuals with a high level of wellbeing and will contribute positively to our prosperous community.

Goal

To support and advocate for national and local initiatives that increase and sustain positive engagement for young people in education, training, employment or other productive activities.

Action # 1

Youth Transitions

- Active support in planning, support and collaboration with the youth sector involved in the delivery of the Rotorua Working4Young People Round Table – including coordination of Roundtable action plan and oversight of contract with MSD.
- Support the continual evaluation, research and application of best practices that involve the transition of young people eg legislation, policy development
- Maintain information sharing opportunities through the www.working4youth.co.nz website

Action # 2

Promotion

- Support Career Month / Week in May 2010 and relevant career expos

Partnership

Young people's wellbeing is strengthened when there is a credible, strong and well informed youth sector, that provides high quality services and advice and where effective research, evaluation and information sharing is occurring.

Goal

To promote and collaborate with national and local networks that provide information, support and services to young people, their families, whanau and people working with young people

Action # 1

Networking

- The relationships between council and service providers are enhanced and support is given to ensure the delivery of events and services for young people
- Continued liaison with agencies and service providers to identify the ongoing and current needs of young people
- Continue to support the networking, training and development of Rotorua youth sector to ensure quality services for young people in the District
- Work with non for profit sector and central government including the Department of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Youth Development, Ministry of Social Development, SPARC to develop partnerships, youth focused projects and advocate for young people
- To increase the awareness within the youth sector of funding and resources available
- Have active ongoing involvement with the New Zealand Association for Adolescent Health and Development Organisation
- Continued presence on the Te Maioha o Parekarangi Youth Justice Residence Community Liaison Group

Action # 2

Information

- Support RDC's Community Policy Analyst to provide the community with up to date information regarding local young people
 - Attend conferences, seminars etc to make sure RDC is up to play about issues affecting young people in the community as well as share information from Rotorua
 - Provision of a Youth Services Directory for the District through an electronic copy
 - Promote and raise awareness of RDC's Youth Policy to the community and young people
 - Share various information through websites
 - Support the maintenance and utilisation of www.rotaz.co.nz
- Support the maintenance and utilisation of www.working4youth.co.nz