

Wellington City Council

City Communities Youth Services Framework

Adopted March 2007

This Framework for City Communities Youth Services provides the principles and objectives, and key result areas with desired outcomes, for City Communities youth services and work with youth communities.

The framework was developed in early 2007 following an operational review of youth services. The framework supports the implementation of Wellington City Council's Social and Recreation Strategy, providing guidance to the Youth Team's activities and underpinning City Communities' business plan.

1. KEY GUIDING DOCUMENTS

This framework is based on three guiding documents or plans: the Youth Development Strategy Aotearoa (Ministry of Youth Affairs, 2002); the Wellington City Council Long Term Council Community Plan 20006/07 – 2015/16 (incorporating the Social and Recreation Strategy); and City Communities Strategic Business Plan 2006/09.

2. PRINCIPLES

City Communities Youth Services are

- For all youth (12-24 years old) – but one size doesn't fit all
- Shaped by the 'big picture'
- About young people being connected
- Based on a consistent strengths-based approach
- Underpinned by quality relationships
- Most successful when young people fully participate
- Based on good information
- Solution-based.

3. OBJECTIVES

- To strengthen the capacity of the youth development resource in Wellington through partnership, collaboration, support and advocacy for local youth organisations and others that are working to make the city an attractive place for young people to live and work
- To diversify the ways in which young people are engaged with the Council
- To ensure active and transparent mainstreaming of youth issues throughout the Wellington City Council's planning and service delivery
- To ensure that there are projects/events which promote Wellington as the innovation capital for youth.

The main focus of the Wellington City Council's Youth Team is coordination and support.

4. KEY RESULT AREAS FOR YOUTH SERVICES

There are six key results areas. They are:

- Building and maintaining relationships
- Information and advocacy
- Capacity building
- Facilitating youth input into Council decision-making
- Youth projects
- Funding.

5. DESIRED OUTCOMES

These represent the aspirations of the City Communities Youth Team.

5.1 Building and maintaining relationships

Internal

- There is effective communication within the City Communities team which ensures the opportunities to add value to each others work is realised, e.g. via sharing contacts/networks and collaborating on projects
- All Business Units are aware of the City Communities Framework for Youth Services, and the Youth Team has active relationships with key staff that are able to mainstream youth issues.
- All Business Units (all of the Council) are assisted by the Youth Team to access youth views when needed.
- There is effective communication between the Youth Council and other key advisory councils/groups.

External

- Those working with young people in Wellington are familiar with the City Communities Framework for Youth Services, and know who to contact in Council for advice, support and collaborative approaches/partnerships
- The Youth Team has active relationships with external organisations representing specific groups of young people, e.g. Maori, Pacific, migrant and refugee, lesbian and gay, disability.
- Government agencies have an active relationship with the Youth Team, and the Youth Team are aware of government funding opportunities for youth initiatives
- The Council has strategic partnerships with key stakeholders, including central government, in the pursuit of improved outcomes for young Wellington people
- The Youth Team is highly visible in the Wellington youth organisation community (including central government's regional offices).

5.2 Information and advocacy

Information in

- The Youth Team has information about gaps in youth services or stress points for sub groups ('an ear to the ground').
- Information about youth needs comes from a range of sources.
- There is local research providing information/evidence to inform youth initiatives/projects.

Information out

- Youth have information about the Council's full range of services e.g. Library initiatives, business training opportunities
- Youth organisations/ youth workers have information about Youth Team initiatives/projects
- There is effective communication and coordination between organisations working with young people
- Young people have information about services, opportunities, events, support services
- Youth organisations in Wellington have information and support to access central government funding.

Advocacy

Internal

- City Communities has information on emerging youth needs (for all sectors of the youth population across age, gender, ethnicity, location, educational qualification) and where appropriate takes a lead in finding solutions and/or coordinating a response from the Council and community.

External

- Where a response from the Council is inappropriate, City Communities takes the lead and facilitates a coordinated community response, and if necessary advocates with government agencies for youth services.

5.3 Capacity building

Internal

- Council's planning and services are responsive to youth needs
- All City Communities staff actively contribute to Youth Services planning and review
- Youth Team staff have skills in effective capacity building

External

- Community-based youth workers are supported to be effective youth development workers in their communities
- Youth organisations are provided with advice and support which improves the capacity of their organisation
- Processes are supported which facilitate the development of emerging youth leaders

5.4 Facilitating youth input into Council decision-making

- There are effective channels/mechanisms within Wellington City Council to ensure that the views of youth are heard
- There are multiple ways that youth can influence decision-making.

5.5 Youth projects

- Youth projects/events contribute to the objectives of the City Communities Youth Development Framework
- Wellingtonians have a positive view of young people and work together to make the city a place where young people have opportunities to participate in city life
- Youth projects support the creation of a vibrant and dynamic city life that actively engages young people of all ages, and encourages them to live in/return to the city
- Projects include initiatives that respond to a particular need, including learning opportunities, skill development, work opportunities, social life, health, transport, justice/law, safety, recreation and sport
- All projects are planned within the City Communities Framework for Youth Services and are outcomes focussed
- There is an effective accountability process for all project-related assets
- Projects actively target different youth age groups.

5.6 Funding

- Youth Funding is informed by the objectives of the City Communities Framework for Youth Services and is equitable.