

# A sustainable Youth Voice for Franklin

JULY  
2023

AMENDED MARCH 2025

## Acknowledgements

We gratefully acknowledge the mana whenua whose traditional knowledge, history, and connections to the land enrich and guide our communities. We pay our deepest respects to the following mana whenua:

- Ngāti Whātua
- Waiohua-Tāmaki, including Ngāi Tai Ki Tāmaki, Ngāti Tamaoho, Te Ākitai Waiohua, and Ngāti Te Ata Waiohua
- Marutūahu, including Ngāti Paoa, Ngaati Whanaunga, Ngāti Maru, Ngāti Tamaterā, and Te Patukirikiri
- Waikato, including Waikato-Tainui.

Their cultural heritage and values significantly contribute to the essence and vitality of our local board area. We are committed to nurturing a genuine and meaningful partnership with mana whenua, recognising their role as kaitiaki (guardians) of the land and embracing their rights and responsibilities. By upholding the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi and fostering mutual respect, we strive to promote positive and sustainable outcomes for our communities now and for generations to come.

We express our heartfelt appreciation to FYAB and all the rangatahi who participated in the annual plan process and the youth voice design hui for their invaluable contributions to designing a new sustainable approach for youth voice in Franklin. Their active involvement, innovative ideas, and fresh perspectives played a pivotal role in shaping the content and direction of this document. The participation of young people underscores the importance of their views and the need to include them in decision-making processes.

We extend our sincere gratitude and acknowledgment to the supporting organisations who played a crucial role in rangatahi to share their voices: Takutai Trust, Te Ara Rangatahi, Tuwhera Trust, Tu Taki Tu Charitable Trust, Franklin Libraries Child, Youth and Families Team, and Youthtown. Your support has fostered an environment where their ideas and contributions can flourish. We value and recognise the importance of your partnership, which has amplified the voices of our youth and strengthened our shared mission of building a better and more equitable world.

Sarah Finlay-Robinson of InCommon wrote this report with the support, collaboration and advice of Tanya Moredo, Adeliana Chanson, Coral Timmins and Lucy Stallworthy of Auckland Council.

Amendments made in 2025 reference the alignment between the Youth Relevant Design Principles created by Revision with themes from the safe spaces for young people research.

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# PURPOSE

1. To provide advice on the options for a sustainable youth voice in the Franklin Local Board area;
2. To provide information about what are safe spaces for young people;
3. To approve sustainable youth voice model option one and its associated budget.

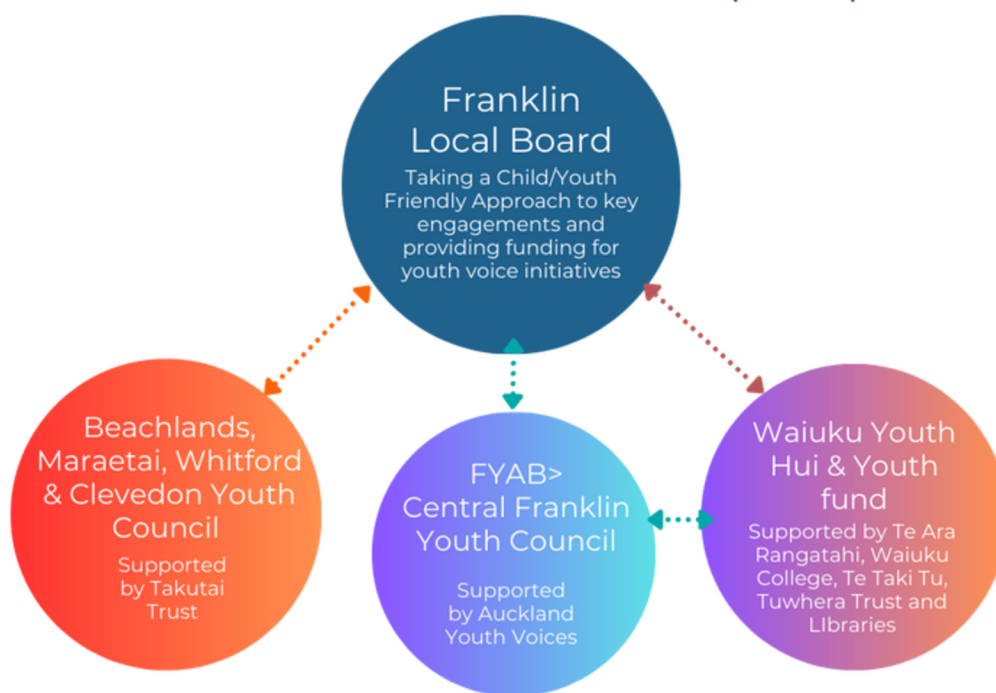
# SUMMARY

This report presents an approach to youth voices that increases youth engagement across Franklin. At the heart of this proposal lies the recognition of the invaluable contributions that young people make to our society. By providing a platform for their voices to be heard, we aspire to cultivate a dynamic and inclusive environment where their ideas, aspirations, and concerns are considered and acted upon. This proposal outlines a comprehensive approach to fostering youth engagement, ensuring that Franklin becomes a place where young people are valued as key stakeholders and catalysts for positive change. Through strategic initiatives and partnerships, we aim to cultivate a culture that honours youth perspectives, facilitates their active involvement in decision-making processes, and paves the way for a more vibrant and equitable future for all. Ten years after the establishment of the Franklin Youth Advisory Board, this report presents an opportunity to harness the immense potential of youth voices to create a stronger, more prosperous community for generations to come.

Approval is sought for the proposed Franklin Youth Voices Approach Option One to commence in 2023/24 year to maintain the momentum of the youth voice groups/approaches established through the design process. Option one includes four initiatives:

- FYAB reorients to be a youth council for Franklin Central, supported by Auckland Youth Voices,
- A youth council for Beachlands, Maraetai, Whitford and Clevedon supported by Takutai Trust;
- A Waiuku youth forum and youth fund for youth-led projects facilitated by the Syndicate of Social Services;
- Actions for a child and youth-friendly Franklin Local Board that makes youth priorities and actions visible

### Franklin Youth Voices Concept Map



# CONTEXT

Over 30% of the population of the Franklin Local Board area are children and young people under the age of 25 years. 45% of Māori are tamariki and taiohi under the age of 25 years. Children and young people will remain about 30% of the population for the next ten years.



**31% of general population**

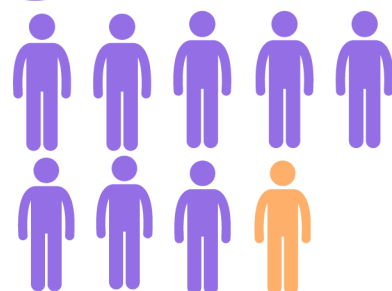


**45% of Maori population**



**29% of general population in 2033**

**9 HIGH SCHOOLS**



There are 42 schools in Franklin. 8\* are for High School aged students in Pukekohe. There is 1 High School in Waiuku. High School students in East Franklin commute to schools outside the area.

**23%**

**OF AUCKLAND'S TOTAL LAND AREA**

The Local Board area covers two coasts, three main townships, regional parks and a large rural area. The Eastern and Western sides are oriented away from each other for transport and services. Young people from Beachlands, Maraetai and Whitford associate more with Botany and Howick than with other parts of Franklin.

## 2 Public Libraries

Waiuku and Pukekohe Libraries offer young adult/teen sections, after school clubs and weekend activities

## 1 Waiuku youth and community space

Hosted by Waiuku Library

## 1 Mobile Library

And community/volunteer libraries only open during school hours

### PLACES YOUTH LOVE AND USE

- Te Puru Domain & Skatepark**
- Beachlands Domain**
- Omana Beach and Regional Park**
- TAMAKAE RESERVE** Takeaways
- Waiuku waterways and walkways**
- BEACHLANDS CHARTERED CLUB**
- The basketball court**
- WAIUKU RUGBY CLUB**
- The Coastal Community Garden**
- Waiuku Town Square**
- CLEVEDON FARMERS MARKET**
- Twilight Market** **CAMP SLADDIN SCHOOL**

\* Pukekohe's 8 schools include: 2 Composite schools (years 0-13), an Alternative School, a Special School, and a new college opening in 2024.

Data and Statistics from Franklin Local Board Plan 2020, Census 2018 and Population Projections - Statistics NZ, MOE Schools Database, and feedback from Young People in the Annual Plan and youth voice consultations

# FRANKLIN'S YOUTH VOICE HISTORY

In December 2011, the Franklin Local Board opted for a Ward/Local Board youth board approach to youth civic engagement. The Franklin Youth Advisory Board (FYAB) began in 2012 and exists to provide feedback to the Franklin Local Board and the regional Youth Advisory Panel. FYAB has been a strong group historically, with representation across the three main townships of the district.

Having one youth voice group to service the whole area is complex due to the geographical size of the Franklin district and the distances young people need to travel to participate. FYAB have had the impossible task of engaging young people across the region in one youth council. It has been time-consuming, expensive and impractical for young people from the easternmost and westernmost parts of the local board area to attend youth board meetings. Some members have been unable to attend face-to-face council meetings due to the distance to travel to a meeting instead of engaging online through video conferencing technology.

FYAB, for a time, has focused on engaging young people and serving the local board area through running events. The local board and FYAB wish to move away from this approach and focus on engaging young people in consultation and decision-making. FYAB canvassed views from 500 young people in Franklin in the recent Annual Plan consultation. They have enjoyed this approach to engaging youth voices and wish to continue engaging young people's views in this way.

Proposed budget cuts to community services, and the Southern and Western Initiatives, would mean the group cannot function as it has been. Budget cuts to youth voice groups will affect group facilitation, pastoral care, additional support and resourcing. Considering proposed changes to community funding under the draft annual plan and the designated budget for FYAB for 2023/24, it is unknown if there will be any additional support for facilitating FYAB from July 2023 onwards. The current Local Board Plan funding for youth voices would not adequately cover the costs for FYAB and the engagement of youth voices in wider Franklin. As such, there is a need to develop a new sustainable approach for youth voice in the Franklin Local Board area that continues to enable young people to provide feedback to the Franklin Local Board and the regional Youth Advisory Panel. It is vital to consider the wider community's resources and networks and new opportunities for youth participation.

# PROCESS

InCommon is an independent organisation with experience in research, evaluation and training with a focus on youth voice and youth development. InCommon was tasked by the Council to research sustainable options for youth voices in Franklin and to work with young people to design options for youth voices in Franklin. In addition, this report also expands on the feedback gained through the annual plan consultation phase on what are youth-friendly spaces.

The initial engagement took place with those groups who have provided a youth voice during the annual plan consultation, including Takutai Trust, the Franklin Youth Advisory Panel and Te Ara Rangatahi.

We then looked at sustainable examples and models of youth voice in Aotearoa and internationally, and; insights from the 2023 Annual Plan consultation to inform the design process. Young people voted on their preference for youth voice approaches in their area.

InCommon held youth and provider workshops in the three main townships to design approaches.

- Workshop with Takutai Trust hosted 13 young people from Beachlands, Maraetai and Whitford aged 13-15 years to design what that youth council might look like, a follow-up meeting to finalise the design of a local youth voice approach.
- Four meetings with FYAB and FYAB members and a stall held at FYAB's Cultural Festival to canvas broader youth feedback
- A community hui with young people from Waiuku College, Tu Whera Trust's youth space, Te Ara Rangatahi, Tu Taki Tu Trust, and Waiuku Libraries, supported with feedback from young people gathered through posters put up in Waiuku Library's teen space and Tu Whera Trust's youth space.

InCommon then clarified the designs with each group through hui and discussion.





# FINDINGS

## YOUTH-FRIENDLY SPACES

Young people had much to say about what makes a space feel safe. Overall young people want more dedicated youth spaces. They wanted these spaces to be fun, positive, inclusive and welcoming, where they could be themselves and meet peers. These spaces need to be whanau friendly, LGBTIQ+ affirming and safe, and where their culture and identity are celebrated, respected and enhanced. Adults in these spaces offer positive support and supervision, and they are kind and friendly, taking a strength-based view of young people and upholding confidentiality. These are engaging and provide safe spaces for young people to socialise. The places needed to uphold basic CPTED principles. Young people want clean places to go that are warm and dry in wet weather, offer summer shade, and clean bathrooms. They want public spaces to be accessible and visible with good lighting and cameras, enabling eyes on the space for them to feel safe. The places should be engaging and comfortable and offer multiple uses of space. Indoor spaces should offer informal furniture such as couches and bean bags.

## PROGRAMMING

Young people are looking for spaces and programmes that offer:

- A place young people can get help
- Good information and support for youth well-being/hauora
- Cultural connection
- Work experience
- Skill development, including financial skills
- Connecting to nature, environment, water protection
- Art and drama
- Youth events
- Sports activities and games
- Wi-Fi
- Quiet study spaces
- Places to hang out with peers

## DESIGNING SAFE SPACES

The following checklist draws on the research themes of the consultation around what makes a space feel safe for young people in Franklin. The themes from the consultation closely align with the Youth Relevant Design Principles (ReVision. N.D.) and we have used the same headings in the following section to demonstrate this alignment. Use the following checklist in planning, evaluating and developing places and programmes to ensure they meet young people's requirements to feel safe. We recommend that local youth voice groups in Franklin and the local board use this as a tool in their decision-making and engagement processes.

# SAFE SPACES!

This checklist helps identify what makes young people feel safe in the Franklin Local Board area. It can be used in design, development and auditing of spaces, facilities and programmes for young people.



## SAFE AND ACCESSIBLE

- Clean and well-lit, graffiti-free public spaces that are visible, yet offer a specific youth space
- A warm and dry space that provides shelter from weather
- Bathrooms
- Protected with cameras
- Drug and alcohol free
- Smoke/vape-free
- Accessible from town centres, for pedestrians or by public transport



## YOUTH FRIENDLY

- Open after school and weekends
- Dedicated youth spaces, especially for those under 18 years
- Whanau friendly and younger/older siblings are welcome
- supervising staff/adults are welcoming and kind



## WELL RESOURCED

- WiFi
- Free access
- Multiple use spaces for both quiet and interactive activities and events



## AFFIRMING IDENTITY AND CULTURE

- Inclusive - a place where young people can be themselves
- Celebrates and upholds culture
- LGBTIQA+ friendly



## ENGAGING AND RELEVANT

- Fun
- Positive and happy
- Comfortable furniture such as couches and bean bags



## POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

- Youth contribute and are involved in design, and programming ideas
- Provides good information on how to access support and help
- Young people's strengths are celebrated, their hauora is strengthened and their mana is enhanced
- Staff are skilled in working with young people

# SUSTAINABLE YOUTH VOICE APPROACHES

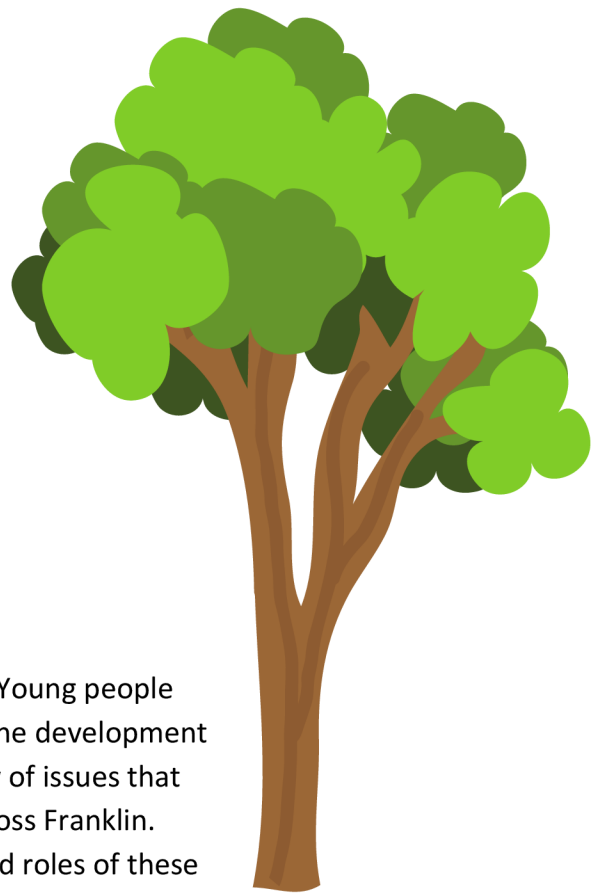
## WHAT MAKES FOR A SUSTAINABLE YOUTH VOICE?

A wealth of literature outlines the characteristics of a quality youth participation experience and guides how to sustain youth participation. The Participatory Tree (Children's Rights Culture Working Group, 2007) talks about the lifelong learning process in which children and young people learn and develop their skills for participation at home and then strengthen and extend these skills through involvement in community initiatives.

The Participatory Tree discusses the environments in which young people explore and develop participation skills and describes the breadth of roles young people play as active participants in their communities (Children's Rights Culture Working Group, 2007):

- Educators
- Community development
- Supporting others
- Defenders of rights
- Defenders of traditional culture
- Local democracy
- Defenders of the environment
- mediators of conflict
- Reporting abuse
- Policy and planning
- Leading their own groups and organisations
- Action for social change
- Media and communications
- Community leaders


It is critical to recognise that youth voice exists in many avenues. Young people possess a myriad of strengths and engage in numerous roles for the development of thriving local communities. It is essential to recognise the array of issues that require our attention to engage the diversity of young people across Franklin. Moreover, acknowledging the diverse strengths, backgrounds, and roles of these young people is crucial to enhancing youth participation and better meeting the needs of our local community. Doing so enables rangatahi to pursue their rightful place and contribute meaningfully to our society - this is what "Whai Wāhitanga" embodies (Finlay-Robinson, Dunlop and Baxter, 2018).



# PRINCIPLES FOR A SUSTAINABLE YOUTH VOICE APPROACH

The eight principles for a sustainable youth voice approach are:

- **Inclusive** - An inclusive youth voice approach is critical to the participation of young people from diverse backgrounds, identities, abilities, and cultures. All voices must be heard and respected. Creating a safe and supportive space is paramount, allowing young individuals to participate fully without fear of judgment. Giving special attention to fostering culturally safe environments where all participants feel valued and understood. (Wierenga, 2003, Cahill and Davdand, 2018; InCommon Youth Research Ropu, 2023).
- **Meaningful** – Ensuring opportunities for engagement connect to issues that young people identify. Taking time to hear who young people are and what is important to them (Wierenga, 2003), and defining the scope and purpose of working together (Lifhack, n.d.; Cahill and Davdand, 2018).
- **Voluntary** – Ensure that young people’s participation is voluntary, and they have control and choice over the degree to which they participate (UNCRC 2008; Wierenga, 2003).
- **Support** - A supporting structure for youth participation encompasses resourcing, administration, and adult support, providing the necessary framework for active involvement. It also emphasises pastoral care and safety measures, ensuring the well-being and protection of young participants throughout their engagement journey. (Lundy 2007, Cahill and Davdand 2018; InCommon Youth Research Ropu 2023).
- **Influence and Audience** – Young people’s voices are heard and given weight in decision-making. Young people know the scope to which their voice shapes decisions. Decision-makers ensure a complete feedback loop, transparently communicating how youth voices are integrated into their decisions (UNCRC, Lundy 2007, InCommon Youth Research Ropu, 2023).
- **Adult Partnership** - Inclusive youth engagement involves young people from the outset. Adults collaborate and share power, respecting young people’s autonomy to determine meaningful participation and the direction of their involvement. Equipped with skills in youth participation, adults conscientiously navigate power dynamics and cultural considerations in the engagement setting. (Lundy 2007, Cahill and Davdand 2018; InCommon Youth Research Ropu 2023).
- **Values Young People’s Contributions** - Adults value and respectfully consider the motions or challenges put forth by young people. They are well-informed, open, and skilled at asking pertinent questions (Lundy 2007, InCommon Youth Research Ropu 2023; Wierenga, 2003).

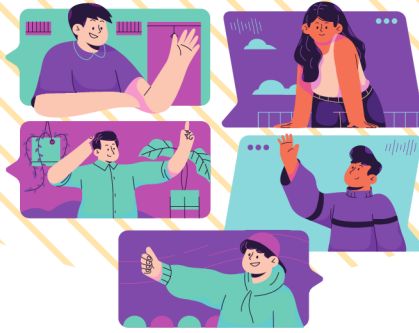
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- **Young people are empowered** - a transformative process encompasses skill development and resourcing, enabling rangatahi to unleash their full potential. Through collaboration they can harness collective strengths, while the reflection helps them continually learn from experiences, adapt, and take action towards achieving their goals (Wierenga, 2003; InCommon Youth Research Ropu 2023).

## COMMON YOUTH VOICE METHODS

In this next section we present youth voice methods used across Aotearoa and internationally to sustain youth voice. These methods cover youth and community-led methods, those that are oriented towards the local government or organisation to provide advice and those that enable active citizenship and direct voice in civic processes. We discuss the advantages and disadvantages of the methods and reference examples. Links to examples can be found in Appendix I.

### Youth and community-led approaches

Youth and community-led approaches to youth voice are initiatives in which the design and delivery of the approach are independent of the local government structure. They may receive funding for youth voice and engagement outcomes; however, how they operate is self-determined by those directly involved. Young people may use community-organising techniques and invite adults to support them and help create access to resources, or they may be a collaborative effort between local service providers and youth organisations working with young people to develop a network or platform for youth engagement and voice. Youth funding pools can encourage self-determining groups of young people to form to act on issues that need attention.



## Youth networks

*Groups of young people from across the community meet to talk about youth issues and present ideas to decision-makers. Youth advocates and allies from within the wider community and social services organisations support the groups of young people to meet.*

Youth networks are a platform for collaboration, coordination, networking, resource sharing, skill development and advocacy. There are examples of networks both in NZ and internationally that support young people to have a voice and contribute to decision-making, local resourcing and policy-making. Networks can organise to enable youth voice around specific campaigns as required on an ad hoc basis, or they can arrange regular opportunities for young people to dialogue. Some examples of a network approach to youth voices are The Eastside Youth Network, The Rural Youth Project, Youth Voice Canterbury, Blakollective, Youth United Voice, Te Ara Whatu, School Strikes 4 Climate, He Tātai Rangahua, and Forest and Bird Youth.

## Advantages

- High levels of cooperation and coordination create a shared vision for young people locally
- Young people engaged in other programming attend because of their connection to programmes and organisations rather than through a formal youth voice approach. Young people feel supported by participating alongside friends, and it may encourage young people who are not often engaged in an ongoing way to participate in civic discussions about issues that need attention.
- Young people have access to pastoral care support through the supporting organisations
- Meetings are facilitated and supported by agencies and have a clear purpose for engaging young people

## Disadvantages

- Requires high levels of cooperation and coordination amongst supporting agencies
- Network support is often unseen and has an additional load on busy agencies. It is critical agencies are recognised and funded for their support.
- Dependent on the skill of agencies to understand the civic issue, provide context and make it understandable for young people
- Dependent on the skill of agencies to facilitate young people to have a voice



## Youth-led groups

*A group of young people talking about and taking action on what matters to local youth. Adults and organisations may support groups to facilitate meetings, administer meetings and finances and access skill development.*

Youth-led groups enable young people to self-organise and advocate on the issues that matter and need attention from a youth perspective. They are often supported by skilled adults or past members acting as tuakana who understand the balance of knowing when help facilitate and when to step back and enable members to direct the group. These groups often form with a small amount of resourcing. They are driven by passionate young people with the skill and capacity to take on the challenge of keeping the momentum going. They sometimes form from a youth council or other youth voice group as members grow in their capacity to be self-organising. More youth voice groups in the local government context are moving this way. Some examples of youth led groups are: TOP Squad, Auckland Youth Voices, the Manurewa Youth Council, Papakura Youth Council, Howick Youth Council, Youth of Orakei, Albert-Eden Youth Board, Puketapapa Youth Foundation, Young Farmers, Shakti Youth Network for Change (SYNC), Christchurch Youth Council (CYC), also known as Runaka Taiohi o Ōtautahi, Rangatahi Voices/Waikato Youth Forum, Do Good, Feel Good.

### Advantages

- By young people for young people
- There is transparency for young people about budgets, management and administration
- Young people invite/ask adults to participate and help them access resources
- Ensures that messaging, recruitment and engagement opportunities are youth-friendly and meaningful
- Easier for a standalone entity to advocate to the Council and ask for transparency and accountability around decision-making

### Disadvantages

- The cost of providing support can be expensive
- Requires a level of saviness amongst young people to maintain group/organisation and understand civic processes
- Can reduce access to resources
- Requires accountability to ensure breadth of engagement is a constant consideration
- Needs to address pastoral care issues that arise for members
- Needs to ensure there is a clear complaints/conflicts policy in place.



## Youth fund

*A youth fund committee of young people make decisions about funding for local youth initiatives. Young people put forward their ideas for local youth initiatives to receive funding.*

There are models of youth voice groups, councils and local/community boards that facilitate a youth fund where individuals or groups of young people can apply to further education or vocational training, personal and leadership development, or run a community service, project or event. The benefit of a youth fund is that it meets the needs and aspirations of young people. It also enables young people to contribute towards their community in a way that engages them through their ideas. Youth funds can contribute to civic participation and youth voice with clear community service and engagement outcomes. While the majority of Local councils, district councils and community/local boards youth funds focus on scholarships for personal, educational and leadership development, there are some excellent examples of those with civic and community outcomes focus. Some examples of Local Boards and district councils offering youth funds that increase youth engagement in civic and community matters are Māngere-Ōtahuhu, the Selwyn District Council's Selwyn Youth Project Fund and Waimakiri District Council's Youth Development Grant.

### Advantages/

- Fund youth development outcomes
- Give young people the ability to access opportunities outside the local board area
- Increase equitable opportunities
- Increase youth engagement in civic and community service opportunities
- Grow civic awareness
- Can have youth voice and engagement outcomes
- Can involve young people in governance and grant-making decisions
- Demonstrates tangibly to young people how invested the local board/council is in young people thriving.

### Disadvantages

- Without being targeted towards civic and youth voice outcomes may result in individuals or groups using the grant as purely as a scholarship fund
- Requires grant administration
- It may be cut under budget constraints without a clear rationale and youth prioritisation in local planning
- It may be used by those savvy in accessing resources and may not meet those with the most need for scholarships without equity measures.



## Advisory Models

A familiar way for local government to hear young people's voices and priorities has been through establishing youth councils and advisory groups or conducting research projects and youth audits. These approaches tend to work well from a local government perspective as they fit within the local government context and processes and enable local government to engage young people around local government agendas. Sometimes groups of young people present proposals and submissions to the local government.



### **Advisory councils/groups/boards and panels**

*A group set up to provide young people's views to the local board, and; to engage young people on local issues that need attention.*

Youth councils and advisory groups are a well known method for local government to hear young people's voices and priorities. Youth councils, youth boards and advisory groups are usually formal groups of young people providing advice to local government. They are often facilitated by council staff or by an external provider. Often youth councils and advisory groups mimic the committees of the local government as in the case for initial design for youth boards in Auckland Council. Other examples are the Whangarei Youth Advisory Group, The Rangatahi Environment Committee of Hawkes Bay Regional Council, Kapiti Coast Youth Council, Waimakiriri Youth Council, and Empower Youth Taranaki.

### Advantages/

- Increase youth engagement in civic and community service opportunities
- Young people increase their civic awareness and understanding of the council system by being a part of it
- Can involve young people in governance decisions and local decision-making
- They are a visible reminder of the importance of youth participation in democracy

## Disadvantages

- This model can require a lot of support from council staff
- Sometimes the advocacy or strength of youth voices is lost in the democratic process due to internal politics that impact the team supporting the youth council
- The budget for the youth council and the support required is not always clear and transparent
- Sometimes the methods for broader engagement used by these groups are seen as fun activities and events rather than having an engagement outcome
- Can be seen as being for young people inclined towards politics
- Without a requirement to give children and young people's proposals weight, these proposals and voices are seen as submissions within a wider submission process.



## **Audit teams/Youth Researchers**

*A group of young people trained to engage young people on issues and planning; and to check plans and spaces to ensure they are youth friendly. Provide advice to local boards, businesses and community organisations*

Groups of youth researchers or youth auditors can provide in-depth information from youth engagement and research on issues, policies and capital projects. These groups require young people to be trained as researchers and auditors using specific tools and participatory action research approaches to gain youth insights to inform decision-making. The insights, recommendations and actions that result from this in-depth research and auditing approaches create child and youth-led solutions which ensure child and youth needs are considered in planning. These approaches rely on good youth-adult partnerships with adults skilled in youth participation and research. Some examples of these are Revision managed by Youth Voice Canterbury and Rerenga Awa, InCommon Youth Researcher Rōpū, Young Consultants of Santa Martha, MENA Youth Participatory Action Researchers, Shenzhen Big Dreamers, Right to Know - Bosnia and Herzegovina.



### **Advantages**

- Audits can create an opportunity for funding if the team charges for the audits they conduct
- It gives young people work experience
- Can provide some employment for young people – young people are often paid for their time
- Acknowledges young people's contributions
- Recognises the expertise of young people
- Provides a deeper degree of insight and analysis in decision-making

### **Disadvantages**

- Challenges of securing resources for long-term child participation
- Mechanisms, the need to ensure diversity and inclusion of all children
- The importance of establishing a transparent feedback mechanism
- A more expensive form of participation because of the intensity of the engagement and the time and skill needed from adults to support the audit/research
- It is often limited to time-bound projects rather than an ongoing forum for participation due to funding.

## **Active citizenship and direct voice in civic processes**

It is essential to consider how local government can create opportunities and openings in which youth voices are heard, made visible and given weight in decision-making. Local government can undertake actions to become more child-friendly in engagement and decision-making. Engagement opportunities can invite children and young people to learn more about civic processes. These child-friendly approaches also enable local governments to track their progress against the priorities for action children and young people express through engagement processes.



## **Child and youth budgeting**

*Children and young people vote on the budget for children and youth initiatives.*

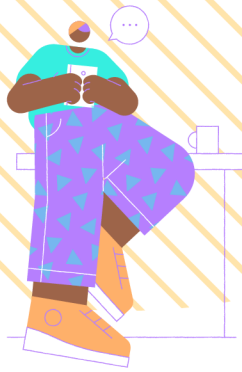
Child and youth budgets promote civic education and engagement and provide a practical way to involve children and young people in decision-making in a child-friendly way. Additionally, creating a child and youth budget allows schools to participate and involve their students as part of the curriculum, giving students a practical project to apply their civic learning. Critical to the success of the children and youth budgets is the engagement with children and young people about the priorities for the district, especially for young people. Child and youth budget programmes allocate funding based on the highest number of votes by children and young people. A child and youth budget may cover all preferences described by children and young people, or may act as a youth fund for youth-led initiatives. UNICEF's Child Friendly Cities work provides examples of child and youth budgets such as Cascais, Portugal's Youth Participatory Budget, Hämeenlinna, Finland's child and youth budget and action plan.

### **Advantages**

- Increased civic participation of children and young people
- Increased understanding of civic processes and terminology by young people
- Engaging young people in budget processes in a youth-friendly way
- Broader engagement of young people beyond a group of representatives
- Makes funding of child and youth priorities in planning visible

### **Disadvantages**

- Needs good planning to reach a wide audience of children and young people
- Active engagement with young people (youth councils and advisory groups) is necessary to communicate the children's budget in child and youth-friendly language.
- Additional work to replicate a child-friendly version of an annual budget



## **Youth hearings/forums**

*Youth present their voices to the local board in a youth hearing/forum facilitated by a skilled youth-friendly facilitator.*

Youth hearings and forums are events tailored to children and young people for local government to hear directly about specific topics or at certain points in the democratic process. Groups of young people can present proposals to the local government for approval in these forums. In some instances, groups put forward motions to local government for endorsement. The local government has criteria that outline the timeframes for implementing endorsed motions. Having direct involvement in the democratic process through specialist hearings and forums makes child and youth participation visible and makes the democratic process transparent and accountable. This direct involvement ensure young people can see the impact of their voice in decision-making in a timely way. If the timeframe is beyond a year, many young people are unlikely to see the effect of their voice. Examples are the Inaugural Auckland Plan Child and Youth Hearing, in which children as young as 11 and 13 spoke to Councillors about putting children and young people first for the next 30 years of the Auckland Plan. International examples include: It's your turn - Seiersberg-Pirka, Austria; Talking Children's Day - Arlesheim in Switzerland; YouPDI - Regensburg, Germany's Youth Participation in the District (YouPDI), and; KiPa In Bern, Switzerland, the Children's Parliament (KiPa).

### **Advantages**

- Increases the visibility and impact of children and young people in the democratic process
- Ensures the voices of children and young people are recorded in decision-making through minutes and motions in the democratic process.
- Can create opportunities to specifically includes groups of migrants and children with disabilities
- It can enable children to present issues that are specific to their neighbourhoods
- Helping children and young people to dialogue with the local government can facilitate transformational change as members hear directly from young people about how decision-making affects their lives.

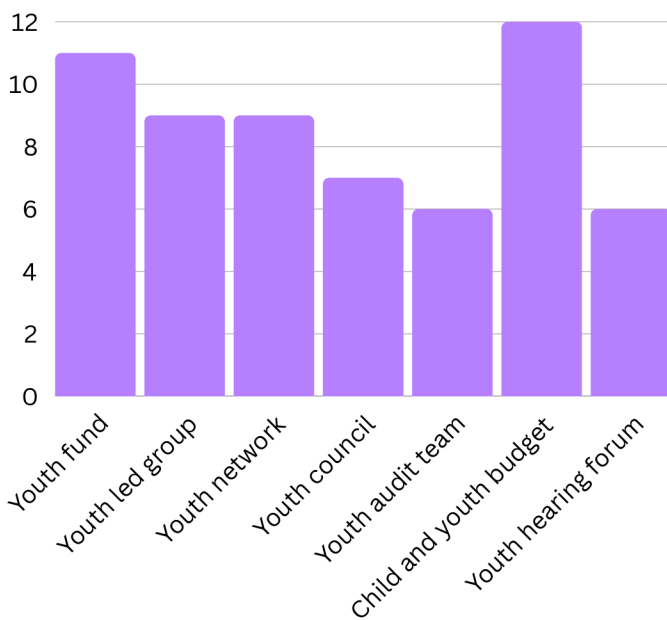
### **Disadvantages**

- Needs to include youth in the planning process to ensure events are child and youth friendly
- It needs to be simple to avoid confusing young people about the processes involved
- Needs budget allocation for child and youth proposals/priorities
- Can create disappointment and disillusionment in civic processes if the local government does not endorse proposals and motions. Being clear about the scope for recommendations will help guide young people in making recommendations.

# FEEDBACK ON YOUTH VOICE APPROACHES

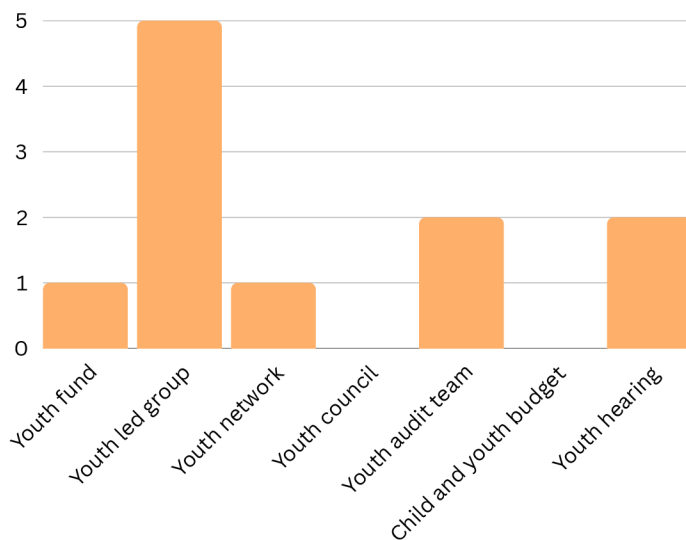
Using the sustainable youth voice approaches research we asked young people at the Pukekohe Cultural Festival, Waiuku Library and Waiuku community space to vote for their preferred approach.

Waiuku No. of Votes on Youth Voice Approaches



It is clear from the number of young people's votes in Waiuku that there is a preference by young people to see the Local Board investing into Child and Youth Priorities for action. This preference was followed by a youth-led group or network supported by allies and advocates in the community.

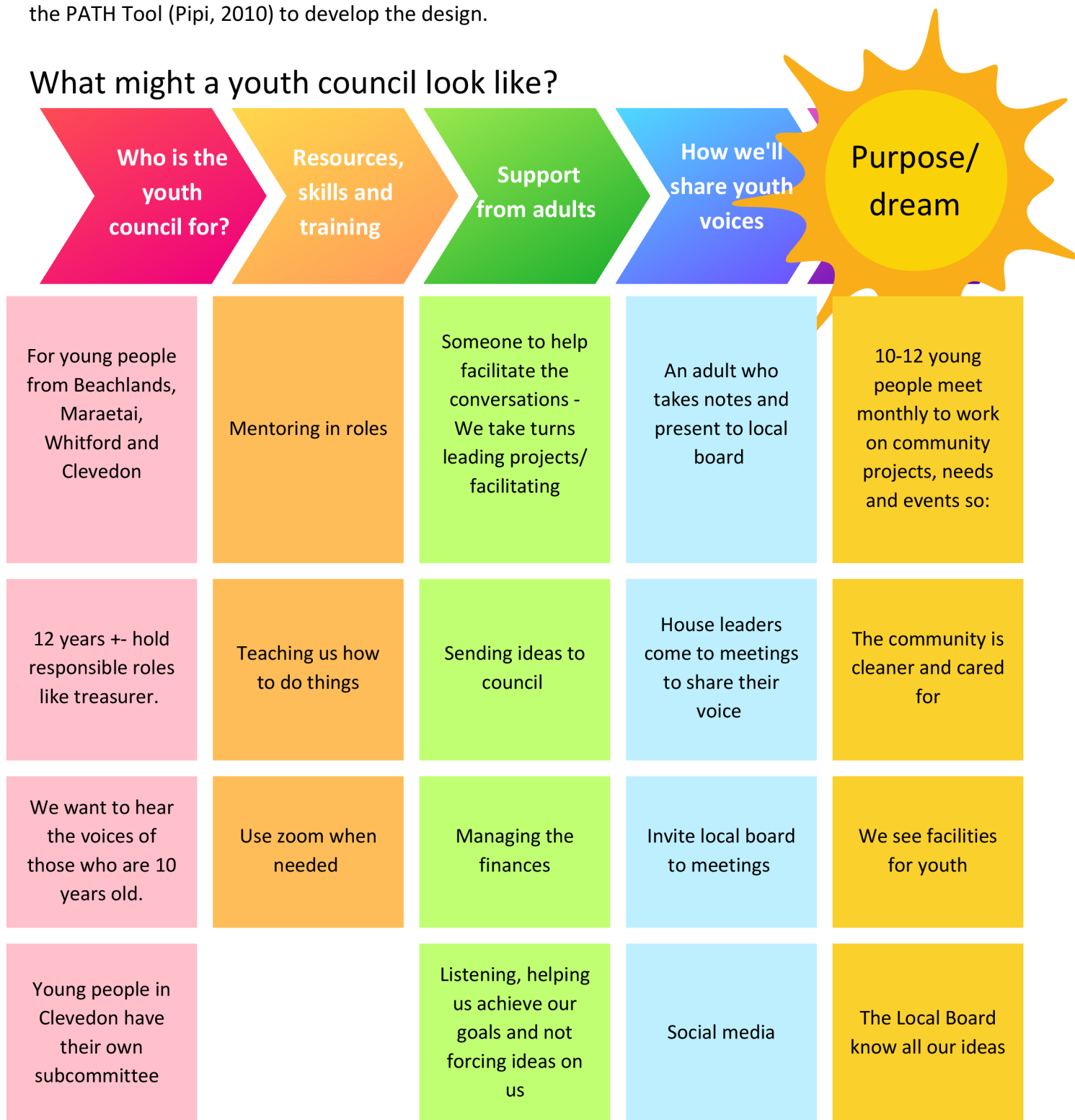
Pukekohe No. of Votes on Youth Voice Approaches



While smaller numbers of young people voted at FYAB's youth week cultural festival there is a clear preference that echoes FYAB's own preference for a youth led group.

Young People in Beachlands, Maraetai, Clevedon and Whitford had been having a discussion for some time about forming a youth council. Takutai Trust hosted a group of 13 young people aged 13-15 years who had been involved or interested in discussions about a youth council to design the concept. We used the PATH Tool (Pipi, 2010) to develop the design.

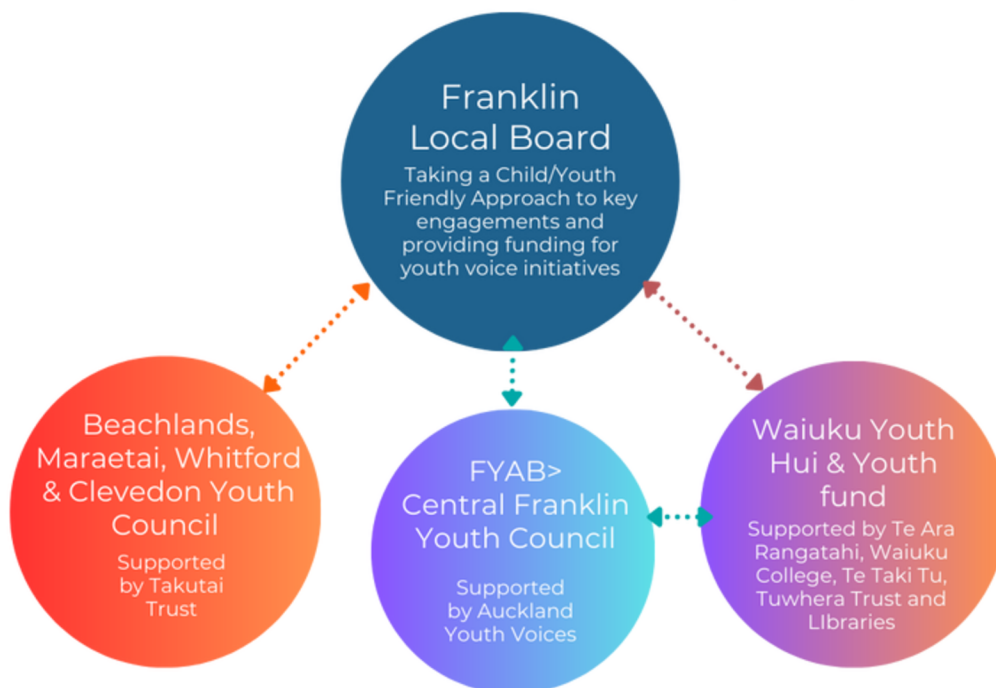
## What might a youth council look like?



# YOUTH VOICE DESIGNS FOR FRANKLIN

This youth voice design comprises four components for a dynamic and inclusive approach that prioritises the active involvement of young people in decision-making processes, policy-making, and community initiatives. By recognising the unique perspectives and diverse experiences of youth across Franklin, this design enables them to articulate their needs, aspirations, and concerns. Creating spaces for authentic dialogue and engagement fosters a sense of ownership and accountability among rangatahi. The design seeks to amplify the voices of the youth, ensuring their ideas and opinions are given due consideration in shaping a more inclusive and equitable society while emphasising collaboration and partnerships with key stakeholders. Through this innovative approach, young people become drivers of positive change, contributing to sustainable solutions and policies that directly impact their lives and the well-being of their communities.

## Franklin Youth Voices Concept Map







# **BEACHLANDS, MARAETAI, WHITFORD & CLEVEDON YOUTH COUNCIL**

## **Youth voice approach**

For young people aged 10/12 years-24 years living in Beachlands, Maraetai, Whitford and Clevedon. Given the distance, those from Clevedon would have a subcommittee. The group would comprise 10-12 young people who meet monthly at the Log Cabin/or a potential youth space. The purpose of the group would be to work on community projects, needs and events to:

- ensure the community is cleaner and cared for,
- advocate for facilities for youth
- communicate young people's ideas, experiences and perspectives to the local board.

## **Support and coordination**

Takutai Trust would help to facilitate the group and provide:

- The support and supervision of supportive adults who help to ensure the care of those involved and the smooth facilitation of meetings
- Coaching and mentoring about the roles and responsibilities of a youth council, such as facilitating meetings, setting goals, writing minutes, presenting ideas to the Local Board, writing surveys, preparing submissions and presentations, and event and project management.
- Management of the budget and finances
- Brokering the relationship with the local board to ensure young people's ideas are heard and considered in decision-making, including presenting to the Local Board when appropriate.

The youth council would maintain a social media profile and engage with young people by encouraging connections with local and nearby schools.

Takutai Trust have advised that this would cost them \$10,000 to facilitate this youth council which includes the cost of coordinators, the running of meetings, and training and developing the skills of youth council members.



# FYAB REFOCUS ON PUKEKOHE CENTRAL

## Youth voice approach

FYAB remain committed to ensuring young people in Franklin have a voice. They have enjoyed and successfully engaged 500 unique youth voices in the Annual Pan consultation in 2023. They wish to continue to develop their skills, networks and collaboration within Franklin to develop this approach further. After reflecting on the design concepts and feedback from the Pohutukawa Coast/Takutai Trust group and young people in Waiuku, FYAB is revising their scope to fit within the new parameters of these groups to engage youth voices in Franklin. FYAB sees that they can offer support to awhi these other groups as they establish, and; the revised scope means that they can deepen their level of engagement in the growing central Franklin area.

The revised approach for FYAB will be a youth council for young people who live, work, transit through and play in Franklin Central, focusing on engaging youth voices. The group will support West Franklin/Waiuku in their community forum/youth fund approach. FYAB will revise their name and terms of reference to fit the new scope.

## Support and coordination

FYAB are proposing that Auckland Youth Voices (AYV) facilitate FYAB. The organisation focuses on lowering the cost of facilitation and increasing the transparency of finances for youth councils. AYV would offer bespoke facilitation support for FYAB from two youth voice experienced young leaders. AYV would hold all of FYAB's budget and help them manage their finances through Xero to increase the transparency FYAB has of their budget. The facilitation is bespoke and takes an empowerment approach, ensuring that as the youth council grows in their capacity, they take more control over its facilitation. The level of support is dependent on the level of support needed. AYV focus on doing themselves out of the facilitation job. The average cost for 4 hours of facilitation per week is \$4000 annually, and an administration fee of 1k covers Xero costs and administrative time. AYV will hold the total amount granted to FYAB.



# WAIUKU YOUTH HUI & YOUTH FUND

Young people in Waiuku have a lot to say about what they would like to see changed, improved or created to make Waiuku a better place for young people. This design has two key components to enable young people to identify, discuss and develop proposals on local issues that need attention.

## Youth voice approach

### Youth Hui

Young people in Waiuku want to talk about how they want to make Waiuku a better place through face-to-face hui. The best way to connect with all young people in Waiuku is at Waiuku College during school hours because students are busy after school. Local board members could present to school assemblies and come to hui held in school to hear directly from rangatahi. In addition, social media, such as a Waiuku Youth Facebook page, would help young people know when there are opportunities to have a voice and what the issues are and provide an online space to chat about their ideas.

Posters about the issues posted around the college, the community space, and the library would support youth face-to-face hui. There could also be a 'tag wall' on which young people write their ideas. The purpose of the hui would be for young people to have fun while participating and to make Waiuku better for young people, including:

- Youth only spaces
- Better facilities and resources (sports centres, change name of Whiteside pools, transport, basketball court, exercise playground, flying fox, free Wi-Fi)
- More things to do (events, activities and entertainment places) night markets, public rugby games, internet cafe)
- Improvements (shop down Hull road, fix roads, scooters, charging points in town)
- more job opportunities nearby
- Free and accessible (low-cost) internet connections



### **Waiuku/Franklin West Youth fund**

A fund to provide small grants to support young people as groups or individuals looking to run initiatives that benefit young people and their connection with the community. Young people apply to the fund directly. Examples of the range of initiatives covered by the fund are:

- Opportunities for young people to connect positively with their community in meaningful, practical ways
- Opportunities to help and benefit others
- Youth-led events and activities
- Initiatives to support rangatahi hauora (my well-being helps me be the best I can be)
- Experiences and exposure that enhance young people's skills and strengths, such as decision-making, good relationships, resilience, and financial skills.
- positive mental health, life skills and leadership
- Initiatives to increase cultural connection, identity and belonging
- Youth-led social enterprise ideas

### **Support and coordination**

Social services and Libraries are working together with young people in Waiuku. There is an opportunity to create a youth voice approach supported by the syndicate of social services. The social services syndicate and young people need time to develop a youth voice approach that engages young people in a way that helps them understand local government processes and active citizenship. The Syndicate of Social Services would need to be funded and appropriately resourced with clear outcomes described by the local board.

# A CHILD AND YOUTH FRIENDLY LOCAL BOARD

Adopting a child-friendly approach to critical local board decision-making rounds, such as the annual plan and the three-year local board plan, would enable young people to see their direct participation in democracy and ensure that the Local Board are meeting the needs in their planning of the large population of children and young people living in Franklin. There are four actions the Franklin Local Board can take to become more child and youth friendly:



## Liaison Board Members assigned

At the beginning of each term the Local Board assigns Liaison Board Members for the local youth voice groups



## 3 year Local Board Plan - Child & Youth Synthesis Action Plan

A synthesis report is created from priorities children & youth identify in the Local Board 3-year Planning phase



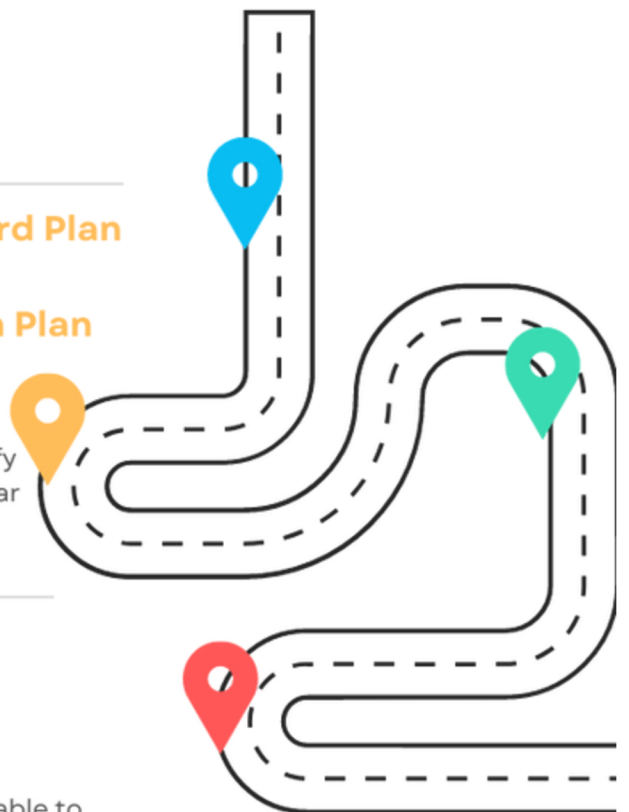
## Annual Budget - Child & Youth Budget

A child & youth budget is created from the Child & Youth Synthesis Action Plan enabling children & youth to vote for this year's priorities



## Motions forwarded to Local Board

Youth voice groups are able to forward motions directly to the Local Board meetings for their consideration and endorsement.





1. Use the priorities and feedback from young people in the three-year local board planning process to create a Synthesis Child and Youth Action Plan that supplements the three-year local board plan. The action plan acts as a baseline for the Local Board to measure progress against achieving the priorities of children and young people.
2. Create a Child and Youth Budget as part of the Annual Plan budget based on the priorities in the synthesis child and youth action plan and any proposals the Local Board has received from young people and endorsed. Then provide opportunities for children and young people to vote for their priorities that year. The voting results would help the local board determine what initiatives are critical to children and young people at the time and what priorities to invest in later in the planning cycle.
3. Enable the three youth voice groups in Franklin to forward motions to the Local Board directly for their consideration. Creating a democratic process here cuts down on the need for staff to advocate for what children and young people are saying. It creates transparency in how the local board considers children's and young people's voices in decision-making. Set a precise year timeframe to enact all endorsed motions to enable young people to see their advice considered in decision-making.
4. Ensure a dedicated local board member is assigned to each youth voice group to ensure good communication between the Local Board and youth voice groups and to provide insights and even coaching around the local board context.

# DISCUSSION

In the Discussion section, we analyse the research findings per our objectives. We explore implications, limitations, unexpected results, and connections to existing literature. Furthermore, we will address any limits or constraints, acknowledging their potential impact on establishing youth voice groups in Franklin. Ultimately, the discussion aims to provide a well-rounded perspective on the implications of our research, paving the way for the potential application of our findings for a sustainable youth voice. We hope this section will serve as a valuable resource for the Franklin Local Board, Auckland Council and Youth Voice groups to establish a new sustainable youth voice approach for the Franklin area.

## BUDGET OPTIONS

The first budget option we present is the “optimal” approach. This strategy represents the most favourable and effective allocation of resources aimed at maximising outcomes while minimising costs. The optimal budget prioritises essential projects and initiatives that align closely with the Franklin Local Board’s goals and mission to increase youth engagement and establish three youth influencer groups. By allocating funds strategically and efficiently, this option aims to achieve the highest possible impact and deliver the best possible results. Careful consideration of long-term benefits and sustainable growth is a hallmark of the optimal budget, making it prudent for the Franklin Local Board to optimise their resources and enhance overall youth engagement.

### **Option 1-Optimal Youth Voice Budget \$30000 (recommended)**

The optimal budget enables all three youth voice approaches to take place according to the designs co-created with rangatahi and supporting organisations. The designs ensure good support from skilled organisations to ensure meetings are well facilitated, pastoral care needs are met, and young people received mentoring and coaching as required. It makes the most of local connections in each township and surrounding area to strengthen the influence and inclusiveness of the youth voice approaches. This gives the Franklin Local Board the highest youth engagement outcomes, encourages civic participation through establishing and creating robust youth voice approaches tailored to local rangatahi and their communities. The Local Board could enhance this budget further in the future by creating an additional budget for funding youth proposals that are presented to them from the youth councils and Waiuku Youth Hui.



Youth Voice Design	Description	Cost
A Beachlands, Maraetai, Whitford and Clevedon youth council	Support costs \$5000 Youth council costs \$5000	\$10000
FYAB refocused on central Franklin	Support costs \$5000 Youth council costs \$5000	\$10000
Waiuku youth hui and fund	Youth hui costs \$2500 Youth fund costs \$75000 (Costs include facilitation by Waiuku Syndicate of Social Services)	\$10000
A child and youth-friendly Local Board	Synthesis Child and Youth Action Plan and; an annual Child and Youth Budget. It fits within the current Franklin Local Board engagement and services budget	0
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$30000</b>

\*This budget recognises that there is likely to be an additional budget offered around key Local Board engagement campaigns from the local board engagement budget.

### Risks and constraints

- Young people would contribute to local board decision-making within their understanding of the issues and their capacity.
- The limit to endorsing motions from youth depends on the budget allocation available and how these youth priorities fit within the Local Board Plan. Creating a Synthesis Child and Youth Action Plan and; an annual Child and Youth Budget within the current resourcing would make this more transparent.



## Option 2 – Previous Youth Voice Budget \$22500

Next, we present the second option for investing in youth voices in Franklin within current budget limitations. This approach focuses on carefully managing and allocating resources to stay within the existing financial constraints. While it does cover the three distinct areas of Franklin to engage youth voices, it does not allow for in-depth engagement and may risk some momentum and sustainability of groups with less regular meetings, and less support. This budget option emphasises fiscal responsibility while enabling youth engagement to continue. It will require some trade-offs and prioritisation of projects from the Local Board.

Youth Voice Design	Description	Cost
A Beachlands, Maraetai, Whitford and Clevedon youth council	Support costs \$4000 Youth council costs \$3500	\$7500
FYAB refocused on central Franklin	Support costs \$4000 Youth council costs \$3500	\$7500
Waiuku youth hui and fund	Youth hui costs \$2450 Youth fund costs \$4550 (Costs include facilitation by Waiuku Syndicate of Social Services)	\$7500
A child and youth-friendly Local Board	Synthesis Child and Youth Action Plan and; an annual Child and Youth Budget. It fits within the current Franklin Local Board engagement and services budget	\$0
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$22500</b>

\*This budget recognises that there is likely to be an additional budget offered around key Local Board engagement campaigns from the local board engagement budget.



### Risks and constraints

- It would take longer for groups to establish and there will be less momentum as all groups would have fewer meetings each year.
- There would be less engagement, planning time and action from all youth voice groups.
- There would be less support available for the youth voice approaches which would have implications for the pastoral care of participants, and especially for those who are younger.
- The risk of having less regular youth meetings is the potential decline in group cohesion and a weakened sense of purpose among the members. This may result in more turnover or less participants.
- Waiuku would have a reduced youth fund which would mean fewer youth initiatives supported, and; young people see less action on their priorities as a result
- The limit to endorsing motions from youth voice is dependent on the budget allocation available and how these youth priorities fit within the overall Local Board Plan

### **Option 3 – Current Youth Voice Groups Budget \$1500**


Finally, we present the current budget option. This option involves operating within the current financial resources allocated for youth engagement. This approach presents some significant challenges for Council staff and the Local Board. It will require some problem-solving to achieve objectives through alternative means. This option requires careful evaluation and realignment of priorities, focusing using Council staff to achieve desired outcomes. This moves away from a community-led approach. Within these limitations, the approach requires that the Franklin Local Board adopts a child and youth-friendly approach in all their engagements to invite children and young people to engage with them directly.



Youth Voice Design	Description	Cost
A child and youth-friendly Local Board	A Synthesis Child and Youth Action Plan and an annual Child and Youth Budget. It fits within the current Franklin Local Board engagement and services work	\$0
Beachlands, Maraetai Youth Council	A youth council facilitated by Council staff	\$5000
FYAB	A youth council facilitated by Council staff	\$5000
Waiuku youth fund and hui	Youth Hui \$1000 Youth fund \$4000 facilitated by Council staff	\$5000
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$15000</b>

### Risks and constraints

- Youth voice groups would need to be facilitated by Council staff as community organisations and youth-led groups could not sustain support without funding.
- Council staff capacity to support youth voice groups will likely be reduced in 2023/2024. And there is a risk that there may be little youth voice and youth development capability amongst Council staff to support this work well.
- Reduced Council staff capacity and capability may impact the degree and quality of pastoral care offered to young people participating in youth voice approaches. This is an area of significant concern as the Waiuku and Franklin East youth voice approaches will need more support as they establish. In addition for Franklin East the rangatahi involved in the group are younger high school students and will need more mentoring and pastoral care support after school and in the evenings.
- This work will likely demand 10-12 hours a week from Council staff, with workflow peaking around youth hui and funding rounds.
- There will be increased travel costs from Council staff travelling to facilitate youth voice groups.
- Supporting council staff may not have the deep local connections some supporting organisations have with schools and their local community. This could impact the breadth of youth voice groups engagement with their wider youth communities.

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- The limit to endorsing proposals from groups of young people depends on the budget available and how these youth priorities fit within the overall Local Board Plan.
  - Ultimately there is a risk that this budget option is not sustainable due to staffing capacity and capability.
  - There would be decreased collaboration with iwi social services and kaupapa Māori organisations in the delivery of youth voice groups
  - The Local Board would be opting for an option that is not youth and community-led in the design of the support function. The responsibility for engaging with young people would sit with Local Board members and Council staff.
  - Option 3 does not adequately address all 9 requirements of Article 12 of the UNCRC.

## RANGATAHI MĀORI IMPACT

The local community holds strong connections to the local iwi (tribes) and marae (communal meeting grounds), and also has a significant population of rangatahi Māori (Māori youth). Therefore, it is crucial to include the voices of rangatahi Māori in shaping the future. Additionally, it is important for non-Māori to be aware of the area's history and the need to work proactively in a treaty partnership. This is an ongoing priority with the high population of Rangatahi Māori under the age of 25 now and the predicted population growth for Franklin.

One of the main priorities is to increase the involvement of rangatahi Māori by collaborating with iwi social services and kaupapa Māori organisations. This includes providing opportunities and exposure for rangatahi Māori to be connected to their place, culture, and identity. Urunga is a traditional Māori approach that provides opportunities for rangatahi to learn through exposure as they take up leadership or make decisions (Finlay-Robinson, Dunlop and Baxter, 2018; Caddie, 2011). Whai Wāhitanga (Finlay-Robinson, Dunlop and Baxter, 2018) recognises that youth participation and engagement is about enabling young people to find their place. For rangatahi Māori can take different forms, such as community service. Establishing a Waiuku youth fund and youth hui is critical to enable rangatahi to gain experiences and exposure to civic decision-making through community service. Direct action is also seen as an essential tool for engagement, as it allows the investment to be seen directly.

The organisations involved in the Waiuku Syndicate of Social Services use kaupapa Māori approaches in their mahi with rangatahi. Te Ara Rangatahi has a particular focus on connecting rangatahi with their culture, genealogy, and identity. There are plans to increase engagement with rangatahi Māori in east and central Franklin. Takutai Trust plans to connect the youth council with local iwi and Marae as part of the youth council's development. FYAB intend to build on existing connections, and efforts are being made to strengthen relationships with iwi through kaupapa Māori organizations serving rangatahi.



## ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

Involving young people in decision-making processes will raise their consciousness about environmental issues, instilling a heightened sense of responsibility towards the planet. Design option one has the potential to engage young people in positive environmental projects on issues that they determine need attention. The two youth councils, and a Waiuku youth hui and youth fund and have the potential to engage more young people in local environmental restoration projects. All three designs have the potential for young people to highlight more local environmental concerns to the Local Board. Moreover, their participation will infuse fresh perspectives and innovative ideas to tackle environmental challenges, leading to the development of more creative and effective solutions. This engagement will also contribute to fostering a culture of sustainable development, ensuring that future generations are actively invested in preserving the environment.

## CHILD RIGHTS IMPACT

Over 30% of the population of Franklin are Children and young people. To ensure that the local board is factoring children and young people into their decision-making to ensure that Franklin is an excellent place for children and young people to grow, develop and find their place. To stay and work or choose to return to raise their own families.

The Franklin Local Board needs to hear the voices of children and young people, give them an audience and give their views weight in making local board decisions. To do this well and ensure that Franklin is child and youth-friendly, the Local Board must uphold children's rights and ensure opportunities for participation are in children's best interests. Option 1 enables supporting organisations to enact the nine requirements of Article 12 of the UNCRC. It also allows the Local Board to write the nine requirements into contracts with supporting organisations. Option 2 would also meet the nine requirements of Article 12 of the UNCRC to a lesser degree. Less funding would diminish aspects such as training, being safe and sensitive to the risks, being inclusive, and support from adults. A reduced frequency of meetings would affect the degree to which agendas are self-determined by rangatahi and, therefore, the relevance and meaningfulness of items on the agenda, especially where the Local Board has critical agenda items they seek youth input on.

Option 3 would only meet some aspects of Article 12 – it would enable the Local Board to be transparent and accountable for their investment and support of youth priorities. And young people's participation would be entirely voluntary and respected as such. However, a Council supported youth voice approach may limit the inclusiveness of engagement activities for young people. It would miss critical aspects of ensuring engagement was safe and sensitive to the risks for young people and that young people and

adults were skilled in engaging them. Therefore option 1 presents the best approach for the local board to be the most child and youth friendly in its process and meet all requirements of Article 12 of the UNCRC (2009).

- 1 Transparent & Informative
- 2 Voluntary
- 3 Respectful
- 4 Relevant
- 5 Child-friendly
- 6 Inclusive
- 7 Supported by training
- 8 Safe & Sensitive to Risk
- 9 Accountable



## ENGAGEMENT AND DEMOCRACY IMPACT

Investing in youth voices holds a profound democratic value that transcends current generations and lays the groundwork for a vibrant and inclusive society. By enabling young people to participate in decision-making processes actively, we nurture lifelong active citizens who are deeply engaged and committed to shaping their communities. When youth voices are heard and respected, it fosters a sense of ownership and responsibility, instilling democratic values that will endure across their lifetimes. Additionally, prioritising localised decisions that are meaningful, relevant, and tailored to local young people ensures that policies and initiatives directly address the unique challenges and opportunities different communities face. By involving youth in these decisions, we pave the way for more inclusive and representative governance, where young citizens' diverse needs and perspectives are considered and valued. Such investments not only strengthen democracy at its core but also build a more cohesive and resilient society driven by its youth's collective aspirations and contributions.

In conclusion, this report has shed light on sustainable approaches for youth participation in decision-making processes. The insights gathered from engaging with young people across Franklin have driven new approaches to increase youth participation. The findings highlight the urgent need to increase investment in youth voice approaches, enabling them to flourish and make a lasting impact. Doing so demonstrates a commitment to fostering an inclusive and equitable society. By embracing the power of youth voices and listening to their perspectives and proposals, we take a significant step towards building a stronger, more resilient community where young people thrive. Through these strategic investments, we forge a path towards a more prosperous and promising tomorrow, where the collective efforts of young people propel us towards a brighter horizon for all.

# NEXT STEPS

1. Contract Takutai Trust \$10,000 from July to implement the Beachlands. Maraetai, Whitford and Clevedon youth council. It is critical to start this grant as soon as possible to keep up the momentum begun by young people.
2. Contract Te Ara Rangatahi \$10,000 from August to implement a Waiuku youth forum and youth fund supported by the social services syndicate.
3. Contract AYV \$10,000 to facilitate and administrate FYAB and support their redesign to focus on central Franklin.
4. Include a synthesis report of child and youth actions and priorities from the local board plan (based on the feedback collected from children and young people) as a supplementary report for every local board plan. Use this as a baseline to document the progress of actions undertaken to make Franklin a child and youth-friendly local board area based on the feedback received from children and young people in the local board planning process.
5. Create a child and youth budget for 2023/24 and annually based on the priorities of children and young people discussed in the local board planning process for the annual budgeting consultation. Open this up to young people voting for the proportion of funding allocated to their priority projects/items.
6. Consider creating a child and youth-led projects fund in which children and young people submit a pitch for funding for a child and youth-led project that meets the priorities identified by young people in the plan – such as environmental, youth voice, community connection, culture etc. Groups of children and young people can then submit their ideas for funding.

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# APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Sustainable Youth Voice Examples

Appendix 2 – Waiuku Youth Forum presentation

# APPENDIX 1

## EXAMPLES OF YOUTH VOICE APPROACHES

### Youth Networks

- The Eastside Youth Network In, The Eastside Youth Network History retrieved from: <https://tautokorakau.files.wordpress.com/2005/01/eastside-youth-network-history.pdf>
- The Rural Youth Project <https://www.ruralityouthproject.com/about>
- Youth Voice Canterbury <http://www.youthvoicecanterbury.org.nz/>
- Blakollectiv <https://www.fya.org.au/program/blakollective/>
- Youth United Voice <https://arcc.org.nz/index.php/cause/youth-united-voice/>
- Te Ara Whatu <https://tearawhatu.org/who-are-we>
- School Strikes 4 Climate <https://www.schoolstrike4climate.nz/newabout/>
- He Tātai Rangahua <https://www.youngfarmers.co.nz/news/shaping-the-future-of-our-food-and-fibre-sector-establishment-of-the-food-and-fibre-youth-network-he-t%C4%81tai-rangahua-announced>
- Forest and Bird Youth <https://www.forestandbird.org.nz/our-community/forest-bird-youth>.

### Youth and Community-Led Groups

- TOP Squad  
[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfsilFgBTmFIBXrnExs3fdr7O93jPrCWHzFuAMSLGGA\\_sxgEw/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfsilFgBTmFIBXrnExs3fdr7O93jPrCWHzFuAMSLGGA_sxgEw/viewform) <https://www.facebook.com/topsquad2k17>
- Youth for climate justice <https://www.ndi.org/our-stories/youth-nicaragua-turn-organizing-skills-improvements-their-communities>
- Auckland Youth Voices <https://www.ayv.org.nz/>
- Manurewa Youth Council <https://www.cab.org.nz/community-directory/KB00034639>  
<https://www.facebook.com/rewayouthcouncil>  
[https://d1fdloi71mui9q.cloudfront.net/YwuCe6e6SZ6YKbPFMBj1\\_2023%20Newsletter%20\(Presentation%20\(169\)\).pdf](https://d1fdloi71mui9q.cloudfront.net/YwuCe6e6SZ6YKbPFMBj1_2023%20Newsletter%20(Presentation%20(169)).pdf)
- Papakura Youth Council <https://www.facebook.com/PapakuraYouthCouncil>
- Howick Youth Council <https://www.howickyouthcouncil.org.nz/>
- Youth of Orakei, (<https://www.instagram.com/p/CizTADvhbQS/?igshid=MzRIODBiNWFIZA==>)
- Albert-Eden Youth Board <https://www.albertedenyouth.org.nz/about-us>
- Puketapapa Youth Foundation <https://www.pyf.org.nz/>
- Young Farmers <https://www.youngfarmers.co.nz/>
- Shakti Youth Network for Change (SYNC) <http://shaktiyouth.weebly.com/about.html>
- Christchurch Youth Council (CYC), also known as Runaka Taiohi o Ōtautahi  
<http://www.chchyouthcouncil.org.nz/how-we-work.html>
- Rangatahi Voices/Waikato Youth Forum <https://www.waikatoregion.govt.nz/community/whats-happening/rangatahi-voices/>
- Do Good, Feel Good <https://thecausecollective.org.nz/our-initiatives/do-good-feel-good/>



## Youth Funds

- Māngere-Ōtahuhu Youth Grants <https://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/plans-projects-policies-reports-by-laws/our-policies/docs/local-board-community-grants/mangere-otahuhu-youth-grant-programme.pdf>
- Selwyn District Council's Selwyn Youth Project Fund <https://www.selwyn.govt.nz/community/youth-council/youth-project-fund-policy>
- Waimakariri District Council's Youth Development Grant <https://www.waimakariri.govt.nz/community/funding-and-grants/youth-development-grant>

## Youth Councils and Advisory Groups

- Whangarei Youth Advisory Group <https://www.wdc.govt.nz/Community/Community-services/Youth>
- The Rangatahi Environment Committee of Hawkes Bay Regional Council, (<https://www.hbrc.govt.nz/services/education/secondary-schools/rangatahi-environment-committee/>)
- Kapiti Coast Youth Council, <https://www.kapiticoast.govt.nz/your-council/partners/youth-council/>
- Waimakariri Youth Council, <https://www.waimakariri.govt.nz/community/working-with-the-community/youth-development/youth-council>
- Empower Youth Taranaki. <https://www.nzherald.co.nz/whanganui-chronicle/news/new-youth-committee-enables-rangatahi-voices-and-empowerment-within-south-taranaki-communities/PFDOVMCX7VAJPLAORCEACD3YCI/>

## Youth Research and Audit Teams

- Revision managed by Youth Voice Canterbury and Rerenga Awa <http://www.youthvoicecanterbury.org.nz/revision.html>
- Young Consultants of Santa Martha <http://www.routledge.com/books/details/9780415468527/> [https://www.harryshier.net/documentos/CESESMA-Young\\_Constantants\\_of\\_Santa\\_Martha.pdf](https://www.harryshier.net/documentos/CESESMA-Young_Constantants_of_Santa_Martha.pdf)
- MENA Youth Participatory Action Researchers <https://www.unicef.org/mena/media/4951/file/MENA-PAR-ADAP-April2019.pdf.pdf> <https://www.unicef.org/evaluation/media/1471/file/Examples%20in%20Programme%20Monitoring.pdf>



## Child and Youth Budgets

- Shenzhen Big Dreamers <https://www.unicef.org/childfriendlycities/documents/cfci-inspire-awards-booklet-2019>
- Right to Know - Bosnia and Herzegovina.  
[https://journals.lww.com/jphmp/fulltext/2006/11001/engaging\\_youth\\_in\\_participatory\\_research\\_and.15.aspx](https://journals.lww.com/jphmp/fulltext/2006/11001/engaging_youth_in_participatory_research_and.15.aspx)
- Cascais, Portugal's Youth Participatory Budget, <https://www.childfriendlycities.org/child-participation-local-planning-and-budgeting>
- Hämeenlinna, Finland's child and youth budget and action plan.  
<https://www.unicef.org/childfriendlycities/documents/cfci-inspire-awards-booklet-2019>

## Youth Hearings

- It's your turn - Seiersberg-Pirka, Austria <https://www.unicef.org/childfriendlycities/documents/cfci-inspire-awards-booklet-2019>
- Talking Children's Day - Arlesheim in Switzerland;  
<https://www.unicef.org/childfriendlycities/documents/cfci-inspire-awards-booklet-2019>
- YouPDI - Regensburg, Germany's Youth Participation in the District (YouPDI).  
<https://www.unicef.org/childfriendlycities/documents/cfci-inspire-awards-booklet-2019>
- KiPa In Bern, Switzerland, the Children's Parliament (KiPa).  
<https://www.unicef.org/childfriendlycities/documents/cfci-inspire-awards-booklet-2019>

