

**CHRISTCHURCH  
YOUTH ACTION PLAN:  
FOUNDATION  
DOCUMENT**

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# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Thank you to the Canterbury Youth Workers Collective for provided insight, support and expertise that greatly assisted the creation of the document. Thank you to the Christchurch Youth Council and Youth Voice Canterbury for assistance with the initial event, engagement process and for the feedback that greatly improved the shape of the initiative.

Gratitude must also be shown to all of the young people who took the time to share their experiences, insights and ideas during the course of this research.

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# FOREWORD



**HON. LIANNE DALZIEL – MAYOR OF CHRISTCHURCH**

An enormous amount of research has gone into asking how and why young people feel alienated from political participation at all levels of society. The overwhelming response is not that they don't care about the political conversations that are happening, but rather that they don't feel genuinely welcome to engage with the political process – be that central or local government.

The city-wide Christchurch Youth Action Plan initiative was designed to create a meaningful platform for young people to connect with others in their communities, and as a result the Christchurch Youth Action Plan Foundation Document has been created.

Both the process, (which involved a wide range of youth-oriented groups), and the Foundation document itself is a fantastic demonstration of how, if we actually take the time to ask, our young people will engage. We need to be mindful of how important it is to speak with them in a language that doesn't alienate or marginalize their views and concerns. This document tells us they have great ideas.

Issues like transport, the environment, youth representation and a sense of belonging are recognised in the report as important issues facing the city. The Action Plan is designed to empower young people not only to engage, but actually to lead the process of finding local solutions that work for everyone.

This shared learning approach enables everyone to contribute to the development and regeneration of our ever-evolving city, which at its heart must be inclusive as well as dynamic.

While this document goes a long way to welcoming young people to the decision-making table, we need to ensure that this is an ongoing and constructive dialogue. I was surprised to read that the city's Youth Strategy was written in 1998 – nearly 20 years ago. The great thing about an Action Plan is that it can be refreshed yearly through consultation so it is always relevant to young people and the city as a whole.

Congratulations to everyone who contributed. Now let's make it happen.

# FOREWORD



**HON. NIKKI KAYE – MINISTER OF YOUTH AND MINISTER OF EDUCATION**

It's great to see young people and decision makers coming together to implement ideas to create positive change for Christchurch young people.

In my job as Youth Minister, I get to meet amazing young people from all over the country. We have so many talented young people with unlimited passion, intelligence, integrity and inspiration.

I know that young people care very deeply about their world and the future, and the Christchurch Youth Action Plan is about encouraging young people to believe in themselves and their vision for the future, and have a say on matters important to them. It's also about empowering them to create positive changes in their city, communities and whanau, and supporting their ability to achieve their goals.

Documents such as this plan are an important way to help develop tomorrow's leaders, and enable the views of young people to be reflected in policy-making.

Now more than ever, government and community leaders are realising the positive connection between involving youth in community activities and the increase in overall community vitality and engagement. Young people bring new energy and ideas to issues and concerns, often with a unique perspective as to how best to tackle challenges and opportunities.

In my roles as Youth and Education Minister, I highly value the role of the youth voice and am committed to empowering young people to be active citizens. An example of this is the support provided by the Ministry of Youth Development to youth councils. A youth council is a formal group or board of young people that provides representation or a voice for youth in the community. They make decisions and set directions for promoting the social, cultural, environmental and economic wellbeing of the community.

Many thanks to all those who took time to contribute to the Christchurch Youth Action Plan. Your input will help shape the future of young people and the wider community in Christchurch.

I look forward to seeing the final action plan and watching it support real change for young people in Christchurch.

# THE BIG PICTURE

The Christchurch Youth Action Plan Initiative will empower young people to work with decision makers to make positive changes to their lives within themselves, their whānau, community and city.

In November 2016 the process to create a youth action plan started and support was sought from various youth sector groups to lead this process. It quickly became clear the reach of this initiative could be and needed to be broader and take into account the agencies who play a role in, with and around young people's lives. This initiative has allowed young people to openly express their ideas for a better city and quality of life. The intention is to seek, create and support tangible actions from the considerations outlined in the foundation document.

Purpose for the Youth Action Plan Initiative:

- To turn young people's ideas into actions for the city
- To develop a series of considerations that can be undertaken by key stakeholders
- To create an inclusive, vibrant community for young people
- To empower young people to be active citizens

# ABOUT THE DOCUMENT

The foundation document is the start of an ongoing conversation between young people and decision makers. It has been created to provide a foundation for actions to be developed from, as part of a process that promotes co-creation and collaboration. This document expresses the views a range of young people from a diverse background (see engagement process).

It is very important to note that these results do not represent the views of all young people, nor have we sought to homogenise the voices of young people.

Throughout this document we have tried to value the thoughts and opinions of all participants equally and as such, there may be differing opinions and views. For this reason some issues and considerations may conflict with others. In circumstances of conflicting issues, aspirations and considerations the suggestion is to further and specifically investigate and consult the issue with young people.

# HOW TO READ THE DOCUMENT

This document has been created for a range of community members, including young people themselves, and decision makers in our city.

The content in this document has been separated into seven themes. Within each theme, there are multiple sub-themes each of which have number of issues which have been broken down into three categories;

## 1 – ISSUE

An important topic or problem for debate or discussion that has been raised by young people.

## 2 – ASPIRATION

A perspective vision or view of what success could look like.

## 3 – CONSIDERATIONS

Actions young people specifically recommended as solutions for the issues, these should be considered by stakeholders.

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# 1 | TRANSPORT

## 1.1 TRAFFIC AND ROADING

### 1.1.1 ISSUE

The traffic congestion in the central city delays buses to and from the suburbs.

### ASPIRATION

There are options within Christchurch to travel from suburb to suburb directly.

### CONSIDERATION

- Provide buses which go from suburb to suburb without going into the city centre.

### 1.1.2 ISSUE

There are too many car parks within the central city.

### ASPIRATION

Christchurch has a central city where car parks are not required.

### CONSIDERATION

- Provide more parking outside the city centre with public transport or free park and ride shelters

### 1.1.3 ISSUE

There is a lack of parking in Christchurch, and those available are very expensive.

### ASPIRATION

Parking is easily accessible in availability and price.

### CONSIDERATION

- Increase the number of free parking spaces in the city
- Reduce the price of parking
- Use technology to access ride sharing
- Mobility parking needs to be 2.5 meters to allow for modified cars to be used increase the knowledge around mobility parking
- Have student permits for street parking particularly streets with time limits

## 1.2 PUBLIC TRANSPORT

### 1.2.1 ISSUE

There is a lack of reliable public transport in Christchurch.

### ASPIRATION

Christchurch is a city which has multiple reliable ways of getting around and is well connected to Greater Christchurch.

### CONSIDERATION

- Introduce educational videos about using the bus system
- Re-introduce the free shuttle around the central city
- Have more bus routes around the city not just in to the central city
- Introduce light rail from Kaiapoi/Rangiora to Rolleston, via east side/Marshlands area
- Reduce the price of the trams so they are affordable and able to be used as public transport
- Provide funding and support for innovative transport ideas like solar powered trains

### 1.2.2 ISSUE

There are very few public transport options at night and after events.

### ASPIRATION

People are able to use public transport throughout the night.

### CONSIDERATION

- Extend the bus times to run throughout the night
- Provide cheaper taxis or ubers for young people
- Increase transport services for events

### 1.2.3 ISSUE

The price of public transport is too expensive in Christchurch.

### ASPIRATION

Christchurch has affordable public transport options.

### CONSIDERATION

- Pay for distance system introduced
- Students/youth/low income discounts
- Education providers to go into partnerships to make busing free for students
- Reduction in all bus fares
- Provide free shuttle between events and youth spaces
- Promote daily and weekly caps of bus fares through social media and posters
- Free buses for young people

## 1.3 BUSES

### 1.3.1 ISSUE

Busing has a negative stereotype.

### ASPIRATION

People in Christchurch will view busing as a positive experience.

### CONSIDERATION

- Provide more training to bus drivers around customer service, knowledge of the city, disability awareness and how to be youth friendly.
- Monitoring at busy bus stops where there can be safety concerns, either through police or youth workers.
- Provide free Wi-Fi at bus stops and some free and available devices to use the Wi-Fi.

### 1.3.2 ISSUE

Metrocards are not easily accessible and there is a lack of understanding around how they are used.

### ASPIRATION

Everyone in Christchurch is able to easily obtain a MetroCard and understands its uses.

### CONSIDERATION

- More access to MetroCard's by having them available to purchase in various locations.
- Incentivise the use of MetroCard's by having rewards.
- Advertise the benefits of MetroCard's
- Provide more education around trip caps for MetroCard's

### 1.3.3 ISSUE

Bus shelters and bus interchanges need improvements.

### ASPIRATION

Bus shelters and interchanges are safe, attractive and weather resilient.

### CONSIDERATION

- Provide seats and cover to protect people from the weather
- Provide free Wi-Fi in bus interchange
- Offer Wi-Fi at bus stops to check timetables
- Wi-Fi on buses
- Engage young people in designing bus shelters and interchanges
- Provide bins at bus stops to reduce littering
- Fix the timetable panels at bus stops

## 1.4 PERSONAL TRANSPORT

### 1.4.1 ISSUE

Young people in Christchurch struggle to get their drivers licences.

### ASPIRATION

Young people in Christchurch are able to access driving lessons and obtain their drivers licences.

### CONSIDERATION

- Subsidise driving lessons
- Provide more education and communication about what courses and subsidies are already available to young people
- Provide designated practice areas
- Fund organisations to teach safe driving practices

#### 1.4.2 ISSUE

Car ownership is too expensive for young people in Christchurch.

#### ASPIRATION

Owning and using a car is accessible to everyone in Christchurch.

#### CONSIDERATION

- Reduce price of cars and petrol
- Introduce student discounts for petrol
- The price of car insurance for under 25 year olds is lowered

#### 1.4.3 ISSUE

There is not enough support for cycling in Christchurch.

#### ASPIRATION

People in Christchurch will see cycling as safe and viable way to travel.

#### CONSIDERATION

- Increase number of safe bike lanes with adequate lighting
- More segregated cycle lanes and pedestrian/cycle shared paths
- Investigate a barrier between footpaths and cycle ways
- Increase knowledge and availability of being able to store bikes on buses
- Increase funding and support of Spark bikes and other cycling initiatives
- Provide more affordable options for purchasing bikes and cycling equipment

### 1.5 OTHER

#### 1.5.1 ISSUE

Young People are not heard in decision-making regarding transport and the bus interchange.

#### ASPIRATION

Young people can share their thoughts and participate in any decision-making process around transport.

#### CONSIDERATION

- Increase youth involvement in the planning and running of the bus interchange
- Advertise and promote youth groups working on engaging young people in transport decision making opportunities

## 2 | WELLBEING

### 2.1 MENTAL AND PHYSICAL HEALTH

#### 2.1.1 ISSUE

Inadequate access to health services in the city, including mental and physical health services.

#### ASPIRATION

There is a variety of accessible health services in the city, catering to all needs.

#### CONSIDERATION

- Set up and maintain mental health support groups
- Promote the confidential nature of health services
- Materials and resources are placed in locations that are accessible, but also provide privacy
- Join mental health services together to provide a single point of call for faster support and services
- Discounted dental care and services increased to 25 years old
- Creation of Gender Identity Clinics

#### 2.1.2 ISSUE

There are ongoing mental health issues as a result of the earthquakes and stigmas around discussing these issues and accessing services to help.

#### ASPIRATION

A community that can have an open conversation about mental health issues and readily access mental health services.

#### CONSIDERATION

- Publicise the actual statistics around people being affected by mental health issues
- Additional support for suicide protection and prevention
- Provide support and develop connections in the health sector to help address the significant issues impacting youth mental health

#### 2.1.3 ISSUE

The cost of general health care is too expensive.

#### ASPIRATION

A city that has affordable general health care for young people.

#### CONSIDERATION

- Free health care for under 25 year olds
- Additional funding for youth health clinics

### 2.2 SEXUAL HEALTH

#### 2.2.1 ISSUE

There is a lack of access to sexual health facilities for young people (12 – 24).

#### ASPIRATION

A health system that provides ample access and opportunity for young people to get support on matters of sexual health.

#### CONSIDERATION

- Increase the numbers of services available, and promote the existing facilities where sexual health support is available for those over 21
- Additional sex education in schools
- Young people under 16 are able to access sexual health support
- Discounted sexual health services increased up to 25 years old

### 2.3 HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

#### 2.3.1 ISSUE

Lack of transparency and understanding in the community regarding mental health funding.

#### ASPIRATION

Christchurch is a city that has a transparent and positive relationship with mental health funders.

#### CONSIDERATION

- More publicity of the annual plans and offer a summary of spending
- Co-create resources that support young people to understand how and where mental health funding is spent and provide these resources in public spaces and online platforms
- Work with the community in a transparent and engaging way

#### 2.3.2 ISSUE

There is a lack transparent future planning for mental health recovery post emergency.

#### ASPIRATION

A community that has a comprehensive mental health recovery plan following a large scale emergency.

#### CONSIDERATION

- Ensure that there are good protocols and process following an emergency around mental wellbeing
- Create a culture of self-care in the community

#### 2.3.3 ISSUE

The health care system does not support Pacific people well enough.

#### ASPIRATION

The health care system fully supports Pacific peoples.

#### CONSIDERATION

- Pacific people help frameworks to be implemented
- More Pasifika health professionals working in the sector

### 2.4 HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT

#### 2.4.1 ISSUE

The physical condition of houses and the lack of knowledge around tenancy rights are negatively impacting people.

#### ASPIRATION

All houses are at a liveable standard and tenancy support is accessible to all people.

#### CONSIDERATION

- Implement housing 'warrant of fitness' throughout the community
- Provide and promote tenancy rights in a way that caters to all aspects of the community
- Provide youth housing
- Provide half way housing

#### 2.4.2 ISSUE

There is a lack of support for young homeless people, who see prison as option for shelter, food and support.

#### ASPIRATION

All young people who have been to prison have safe housing and access to food and support in the community.

#### CONSIDERATION

- Community housing to go to if you cannot or do not want to go home
- Job support offered as part of reintegration

### 2.5 OTHER

#### 2.5.1 ISSUE

There is limited knowledge of the food that is being consumed.

#### ASPIRATION

A city that understands where food comes from, and what is in it.

#### CONSIDERATION

- Better and more understandable labelling of food



### 2.5.2 ISSUE

There is a huge amount of bullying that occurs in schools.

#### ASPIRATION

A community that supports each other and that steps in when they see bullying occur. A community of upstanders not bystanders.

#### CONSIDERATION

- Additional bullying education in schools that is engaging, relatable and has impact
- More serious consequences for those who bully
- Additional support for those who are victims

### 2.5.3 ISSUE

Cigarettes are too expensive and raising prices leads to theft and criminal convictions.

#### ASPIRATION

Christchurch is a city where young people have alternatives to smoking cigarettes.

#### CONSIDERATION

- Lower the cost of the vapes and smoking alternatives.
- Increase the access to programmes which help people to quit smoking



# 3 | YOUTH FRIENDLY SPACES & PLACES

## 3.1 SPORTS FACILITIES

### 3.1.1 ISSUE

Not all cultural groups are catered for in sporting facilities.

### ASPIRATION

Christchurch is an inclusive community that offers facilities for all cultural groups.

### CONSIDERATION

- Have swimming facilities or times to cater for Muslim women's needs

### 3.1.2 ISSUE

Young people lack opportunity to be active due to a lack in sporting facilities and physical spaces.

### ASPIRATION

Christchurch offers plenty of spaces and facilities that encourage physical activity and are accessible to young people.

### CONSIDERATION

- Improve current skate parks to be weather-resistant
- Create an indoor skate park
- Offer physical activity programmes for young people
- Increase the number of youth-friendly exercise areas
- Create a youth gym
- Offer more sport tournaments for young people
- Encourage more large sporting events to be held in Christchurch
- Prioritise the rebuild of the Christchurch Adventure Park and lower the fee for young people
- Increase availability of sports grounds and courts
- Sports teams that supply equipment and youth sports tournaments which can be joined on the day
- Create an adventure playground aimed at young people rather than children
- Open an athletics stadium

## 3.2 RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

### 3.2.1 ISSUE

There are not enough facilities that are fun and are specifically catering to young people.

### ASPIRATION

There are many spaces and facilities in Christchurch which have been created with young people.

### CONSIDERATION

- Create a version of Margaret Mahy playground for older young people
- Create a maze
- Build another swimming facility like QEII with outdoor swimming and hydroslides
- Improve the state of local bike tracks
- Use empty land and city council public areas to make youth friendly spaces
- Offer play equipment for people with disabilities
- Increase outdoor seating and shade area in existing places
- Create more inner city parks and gardens
- Create a mobile youth space
- Provide safe youth friendly queer spaces e.g. cafes

### 3.2.2 ISSUE

There is a lack of safe spaces for young people, and a lack of knowledge of existing spaces which leads young people to feel like there is no reason to go out.

### ASPIRATION

All young people have safe, friendly and accessible places to go to that cater to a variety of needs.

### CONSIDERATION

- Create a network with current youth space providers who allow young people to use the spaces
- Have specific areas or spaces for young people that are cool and not labelled a 'youth space'
- Have already existing spaces hold specific nights for young people with youth focused events
- Provide a multi-use facility for young people that combines the services they use and need such as libraries, recreation and community centres
- Create an inclusive multilingual space that recognises diversity in Christchurch.
- Provide meeting rooms and other spaces to chill out and have fun
- Create spaces that young people can take ownership of and engage at-risk young people
- Create a cluster of youth friendly cafes and restaurants in the central city
- Offer safe spaces that are centrally located
- Provide youth friendly security
- Increase street lighting
- Improve footpaths
- Provide spaces that are open throughout different times, and open until the last bus of the day

### 3.2.3 ISSUE

Christchurch lacks study spaces, free Wi-Fi and bookable places for young people to do work.

### ASPIRATION

Young people have access to a variety of places to study, that are equipped with the necessary equipment.

### CONSIDERATION

- Provide free Wi-Fi city wide and in government buildings
- Offer rooms which are free to book for meetings
- Create study spaces that include computers and free Wi-Fi across Christchurch
- Offer more venues at a low cost for young people
- Create a central point for communication and booking venues
- Offer tutors in different subjects in study spots

### 3.2.4 ISSUE

There are limited or unsuitable green spaces throughout communities.

### ASPIRATION

Every community has access to a variety of green spaces for people to enjoy, relax and take part in activities.

### CONSIDERATION

- Begin work on the Bexley/Avon forest park
- Create more and improve places and walks with native trees and fauna
- Make the central city more green
- Increase community input into creating green spaces
- Ensure green spaces have natural and peaceful seating areas and adequate lighting
- Green spaces should be youth friendly
- Create community gardens and orchards
- Have a variety of green spaces for people to chill out
- Use red zone to create youth spaces

## 3.3 BATHROOM FACILITIES

### 3.3.1 ISSUE

There are a lack of public toilets throughout the central city.

### ASPIRATION

Christchurch has adequate public toilets.

### CONSIDERATION

- Place more safe public toilets in the central city

### 3.3.2 ISSUE

There are a lack of gender-neutral bathroom facilities.

#### ASPIRATION

Christchurch has accessible gender-neutral bathroom facilities.

#### CONSIDERATION

- Provide more gender-neutral bathroom facilities

## 3.4 COMMUNITY

### 3.4.1 ISSUE

Young people have a variety of ideas of what would make Christchurch a fun place, but have no way to share them.

#### ASPIRATION

Young people are empowered to share ideas, partner with organisations to deliver projects.

#### CONSIDERATION

- Link with organisations such as Gap Filler to undertake projects
- Undertake projects for creative spaces such as light up dance spaces, arts and fashion workshops, interactive music space, glitter pits and catwalks.
- Increase the number of buildings with interactive games i.e. Vodafone building
- Offer mentors for young people seeking to undertake projects
- Offer more opportunities and space for young people to develop ideas and be part of the outcome

### 3.4.2 ISSUE

Young people feel excluded from the central city and that they do not belong there.

#### ASPIRATION

Christchurch central city is a vibrant place that attracts young people and makes them feel that they belong.

#### CONSIDERATION

- Encourage designs that are youth friendly, embrace diversity and have cultural links

### 3.4.3 ISSUE

There is no sense of community in areas young people live.

#### ASPIRATION

Communities within Christchurch are strong and thriving, with the ability to hold events and festivals.

#### CONSIDERATION

- Place the promotion and organisation of community events in the hands of the community
- Provide funding to establish groups to unite the community and hold events

### 3.4.4 ISSUE

There are a lack of trans/ gender diverse friendly spaces in Christchurch.

#### ASPIRATION

Christchurch offers spaces for people of all genders and makes all people feel safe.

#### CONSIDERATION

- Create more safe spaces for trans/ gender diverse young people
- Increase awareness, particularly in schools, around creating trans/ gender diverse friendly spaces

## 3.5 OTHER

### 3.5.1 ISSUE

There are a lack of events and cheap attractions for young people in Christchurch.

#### ASPIRATION

Young people can take part and lead a variety of events in Christchurch, and can access local facilities and attractions at low or no cost.

## CONSIDERATION

- Offer more activities and events in local parks
- Hold winter events similar to the summer series to improve morale during winter
- Provide events for young people that are cheap or free
- Build outdoor and indoor theatres for young people to use
- Increase advertising of youth-focused events
- Offer cheaper rates at attractions e.g. Adventure Park, Earthquake Museum and the Tram
- Have cheap and free food options
- Operate cafes with cheap and easy food options that offer courses for young people
- Increase the number of clean BBQs for free use
- Offer more youth friendly queer events e.g. movies and dance parties

### 3.5.2 ISSUE

The red zone is not being utilised.

#### ASPIRATION

Christchurch red zone is a hub for young people and is a fun place to hang out.

#### CONSIDERATION

- Offer a skid pad where young people can play with cars safely without risking the public
- Turn grass areas into rugby fields, camping areas, and off road tracks
- Create edible forests, orchards and community gardens

# 4 | ENVIRONMENT

## 4.1 WASTE AND RECYCLING

### 4.1.1 ISSUE

Rubbish and recycling throughout Christchurch could be done more effectively.

### ASPIRATION

The community has widespread awareness of recycling options and significant availability of waste disposal facilities.

### CONSIDERATION

- Provide more rubbish bins throughout the city
- Offer more bin options and recycling facilities in public places including all bus stops and empty them regularly
- Pay people to collect litter and clean the streets
- Increase penalties for littering
- Provide more education about what can be recycled and how
- Further implementation of eco-crockery and containers at public events

### 4.1.2 ISSUE

There is unnecessary food waste, particularly in hospitality.

### ASPIRATION

There is little food waste, both commercially and residentially.

### CONSIDERATION

- Promote culture of donating food to charity or shelters
- Discount prices at the end of the day

### 4.1.3 ISSUE

Single use plastic bags are wasteful and used too often in Christchurch.

### ASPIRATION

Plastic bags are no longer available in Christchurch.

### CONSIDERATION

- Ban plastic bags in stores
- Phase out plastic bag use in Christchurch
- Introduce soft plastic recycling bins
- Introduce biodegradable bags

## 4.2 URBAN ENVIRONMENT

### 4.2.1 ISSUE

There are negative stereotypes around graffiti, when many young people consider it as a form of street art.

### ASPIRATION

A community which understands and value all forms of street art.

### CONSIDERATION

- Create safe spaces for graffiti such as blank walls within the central city and throughout Christchurch
- Have opportunities for young people to be involved in the creation of legal street art

### 4.2.2 ISSUE

The city is not being developed with an environmentally friendly approach.

### ASPIRATION

Christchurch is a champion for the environment and considers it in all decision-making.

### CONSIDERATION

- Place emphasis on free shuttles, cycle ways and walking paths in central city plans
- Look to use innovative and quality building materials that are more sustainable
- Decrease car parking

## 4.3 CLIMATE CHANGE

### 4.3.1 ISSUE

Deforestation is not sustainable.

### ASPIRATION

Christchurch has limited deforestation and when it occurs, efforts are made to minimise the environmental impacts.

### CONSIDERATION

- Plant more trees to offset deforestation

### 4.3.2 ISSUE

Pollution in Christchurch is a concern, in regards to climate change.

### ASPIRATION

Christchurch is a green city with low levels of pollution.

### CONSIDERATION

- Investigate green alternatives to fuel
- Encourage public transport and use of electric cars
- Provide more education about how to live a green lifestyle

### 4.3.3 ISSUE

Carbon emission from heavy car use is a problem in Christchurch.

### ASPIRATION

Christchurch has a carbon neutral approach to transport.

### CONSIDERATION

- Promote and incentivise car sharing systems
- Invest in energy creating roads e.g. friction or solar energy
- Electric vehicles use should be incentivised and charging stations should be more available

## 4.4 OTHER

### 4.4.1 ISSUE

Canterbury rivers and waterways are not protected from littering and pollution.

### ASPIRATION

Rivers and waterways in Canterbury are clean.

### CONSIDERATION

- Provide more bins available around rivers and freedom camping areas
- Improve education of water quality in urban areas
- Clean out the rivers and protect them
- Introduce riparian planting
- Increase fencing at dairy farms

# 5 | EMPLOYMENT

## 5.1 FINANCIAL

### 5.1.1 ISSUE

There are age and gender inequalities in pay.

#### ASPIRATION

Christchurch is a place where people of all genders and ages are paid the same wage for the same work.

#### CONSIDERATION

- Ensure staff in the same or similar roles are paid the same wage
- Increase the starting out wage
- Provide support and education about employment law
- Make employment legislation clear for everyone by using simple language

### 5.1.2 ISSUE

The current wages are too low for everyone.

#### ASPIRATION

Wages are raised to a level that is fair and can support individuals and families.

#### CONSIDERATION

- Increase the minimum wage
- Implement the living wage
- Take in economic values when pricing the living wage

### 5.1.3 ISSUE

Tax rates for summer work and other short-term work is too high.

#### ASPIRATION

A tax system that is responsive to the duration of work contracts.

#### CONSIDERATION

- Introduce tax exemptions for holiday work
- Calculate tax differently for short term work

## 5.2 CAREER PATHWAYS AND OPPORTUNITIES

### 5.2.1 ISSUE

Starting a new business is expensive and difficult for young people.

#### ASPIRATION

Young people are able to access seed funding and start up support when starting a new business.

#### CONSIDERATION

- Introduce subsidies for start-up companies
- Investigate local councils or businesses investing in start-ups, with the condition that they employ locally

### 5.2.2 ISSUE

Young people with disabilities struggle to gain employment and are unaware of employment rights.

#### ASPIRATION

All young people with disabilities are able to gain meaningful employment and have knowledge of employee rights.

#### CONSIDERATION

- Provide more life skills training regarding employment, such as understanding of job processes, and what resources are available online through organisations like Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment
- Create better connections with disability employment services
- Encourage decision-makers to employ people with disabilities

### 5.2.3 ISSUE

Lack of courses and further study provided outside of universities.

#### ASPIRATION

All young people are able to gain new skills and qualifications through a variety of forums and providers.

#### CONSIDERATION

- Increase support for alternative education providers
- Offer more courses in the community, outside of education institutes

### 5.2.4 ISSUE

A variety of stories about careers and pathways are not shared with young people enough.

#### ASPIRATION

Young people are exposed to a wide variety of different career paths.

#### CONSIDERATION

- Break down barriers at schools to gaining access to information
- Use available community resources to hear from individuals regarding careers

### 5.2.5 ISSUE

There has become a need for more qualifications for jobs which previously did not require formal qualification.

#### ASPIRATION

Christchurch is a city where skills and experience are valued as well as qualifications.

#### CONSIDERATION

- Offer more career-related training
- Place less emphasis on needing undergraduate and postgraduate degrees and more emphasis on skills and experience

### 5.2.6 ISSUE

Young people struggle to find a job, as they do not have the necessary skills and experience for a chosen field.

#### ASPIRATION

Young people are equipped with development opportunities and work experience to become active members of the workforce.

#### CONSIDERATION

- Increase accessibility to seasonal jobs such as fruit picking
- Introduce programmes for young people to gain work experience, internships and mentoring
- Hire young people as paid interns
- Encourage apprenticeships
- Assist young people in writing curriculum vitae that are targeted towards their chosen field
- Increase access to careers counselling
- Encourage employers to lower expectation that work experience is a necessity
- Place more emphasis on development of young people within employment
- Incentivise employers to hire more young people
- Assist young people with disabilities in finding jobs
- Make job searching websites accessible to all young people e.g. Student Job Search

### 5.2.7 ISSUE

Not enough young people are able to gain work experience at an early age.

#### ASPIRATION

Work experience is readily offered to those aged 15 and up, and equips young people with skills for their careers.

#### CONSIDERATION

- Provide young people aged 15 and 16 opportunities to gain work experience
- Encourage employers to offer more work experience to young people

### 5.2.8 ISSUE

Young people do not know about job opportunities available to them.

#### ASPIRATION

Young people know where to go to find out about employment opportunities and have support in gaining employment.

#### CONSIDERATION

- Increase availability of entry-level jobs and courses, where basic qualifications and skills can be gained
- Provide a public space for young people to find out about employment opportunities
- Provide more online support in job searching
- Promote alternative career paths through exposure to different fields
- Provide more information about careers and less generalisation of application processes through community workshops
- Raise awareness about the workforce and the various opportunities on offer
- Encourage young people to aim as high as possible when it comes to their careers
- Offer more specific job opportunities to match young people's skills

#### 5.2.9 ISSUE

There are a lack of flexible working opportunities for students.

#### ASPIRATION

Employers understand the busy schedules of employees, especially young people, and offer flexible working arrangements.

#### CONSIDERATION

- Employers offer flexible working arrangements for young people, such as offering extra hours for holidays
- Offer more working holiday opportunities
- Offer fruit picking opportunities

#### 5.2.10 ISSUE

Young people are not given adequate careers advice or given enough responsibilities and experiences to up-skill.

#### ASPIRATION

Young people are given advice on a variety of career paths, and provided with opportunities to gain experience and responsibilities in related fields.

#### CONSIDERATION

- More work experience opportunities are available
- Introduce public careers advisors that are open to young people who are not at school and provide support
- Provide more opportunities for young people to gain responsibilities in their chosen fields

### 5.3 EMPLOYMENT SUPPORT

#### 5.3.1 ISSUE

Criminal records prevent some young people from gaining employment.

#### ASPIRATION

Young people with criminal records are not discriminated against by employers and are an active part of the workforce.

#### CONSIDERATION

- Encourage a broader range of employers to hire young people with criminal records
- Develop a recruitment agency that places young people with criminal records into meaningful work

#### 5.3.2 ISSUE

There is not enough knowledge about workers' rights and where to go for help.

#### ASPIRATION

All workers are confident of their rights and have knowledge of where to go for support.

#### CONSIDERATION

- Legislation should use simple, direct language and be easy to read
- Increase education of contract law
- Increase education around different wages
- Increase education of unions
- Utilise school environments to educate on employment rights and raise awareness of unions

#### 5.3.3 ISSUE

Employment pressures negatively affect the wellbeing of young people.

#### ASPIRATION

Young people are well prepared and supported to enter the workforce.

#### CONSIDERATION

- Offer more work experience and internships
- Offer mentoring for those seeking to enter the workforce
- Provide support for improving curriculum vitae skills

#### 5.3.4 ISSUE

There is insufficient support provided for working parents.

#### ASPIRATION

All employees are able to fulfill their obligations to both work and family, and have a good work-life balance.

#### CONSIDERATION

- Increase paid parental leave
- Increase support for working parents
- Offer more child care options
- End stigma of fathers not taking parental leave

### 5.4 EMPLOYMENT RELATIONSHIP

#### 5.4.1 ISSUE

Some employers are not youth friendly and safe for young people.

#### ASPIRATION

Employers in Christchurch are certified as youth friendly and are committed to employing young people.

#### CONSIDERATION

- Create a youth employment pledge for businesses to join
- Certify businesses as youth-friendly and safe
- Increase education about what a good employer is through online portals
- Encourage employers to stick to set days for payment, to increase consistency and ease confusion

#### 5.4.2 ISSUE

Once employed, there is not enough training given by employers.

#### ASPIRATION

Young people feel supported in their workplace and able to fulfil their role through sufficient training.

#### CONSIDERATION

- Provide more training within the workplace and give more responsibilities
- Increase training for interns

#### 5.4.3 ISSUE

Discrimination in the hiring process is a serious concern.

#### ASPIRATION

All employers adopt hiring practices that are free of discrimination and unconscious bias.

#### CONSIDERATION

- Improve education on discrimination in hiring, particularly regarding gender, sexuality, disabilities and race
- Encourage blind CV reading

#### 5.4.4 ISSUE

Young people's volunteer experience is not viewed as being work experience.

#### ASPIRATION

Young people are able to gain meaningful employment after volunteering.

#### CONSIDERATION

- Increase development opportunities on offer in volunteer roles
- Employers value skills and experience gained by volunteering, equal to the work experience

### 5.5 OTHER

#### 5.5.1 ISSUE

There is a lack of support/incentive for corporations to do business in New Zealand.

#### ASPIRATION

Companies view New Zealand as a great place to do business, and create more jobs in the local market.

#### CONSIDERATION

- Offer ideal conditions or more incentives for large companies to operate in New Zealand
- Encourage large companies to keep their factories and significant numbers of jobs in New Zealand



# 6 | REPRESENTATION AND BELONGING

## 6.1 POLITICAL AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

### 6.1.1 ISSUE

Young people are not involved and do not feel comfortable in the democratic practices of the community, city and nation.

### ASPIRATION

Christchurch engages young people in all democratic processes, and co-creates plans and action with young people. Decision-making bodies are welcoming and have offices that are inviting.

### CONSIDERATION

- Create youth community boards across all wards
- Encourage cooperation between youth community boards, youth councils/ participation groups and formal councils.
- Consider providing young people more voting rights and establish education for young people on the importance of voting through places like schools
- Offer more informal settings for meeting with decision makers such as Youth Hot Desks created for decision makers to improve consultation on projects
- Have young people engage with other young people to ensure a feeling of belonging in the community and representation of ideas around every decision making table
- Create a clear entry point for young people looking to work with decision-making bodies or to find out information about each agency or body
- Increase civic education for young people
- Run projects to improve young peoples' awareness of decision making bodies such as making the buildings they work out of less intimidating for young people to enter by providing tours to explain the organisation, the building and how they work.
- Re-word documents that are relevant to young people from 'council' language to more youth friendly wording
- Decision makers should make an effort to be seen at youth events and visiting areas young people frequent to ensure a two way system of communication
- More encouragement of young people by creating discussion at events that is directly related to them such as the debate on lowering the voting age to 16
- Submission process needs to be altered to be youth friendly and then feedback given on how information was used in a timely manner

### 6.1.2 ISSUE

The access to funding that provides opportunities for young people to develop ideas, run events or groups that connect communities is limited and the time lining of funding can limit the access young people have to develop their ideas or keep existing groups running.

### ASPIRATION

Christchurch young people have access to sustainable funding that can be accessed at all times and can run projects or events.

### CONSIDERATION

- City council staff, councillors and community board members should be required to connect with existing youth organisations and work hard to strengthen relationships.
- Funding should be available to current youth organisations or participation groups on a more regular basis, not just project funding but day to day running funding
- Fund current and future youth groups to meet with their communities and develop awareness of youth rights
- Funding should be provided to these groups to support their work and their reach to young people such as visiting school, workplaces and institutions.

### 6.1.3 ISSUE

The lack of short or long term scholarships, funding, internships is preventing young people and decision makers to make connections and develop support in the community.

### ASPIRATION

Christchurch young people have access to a variety of opportunities to build connections between communities and decision-makers, and increase engagement in local decision-making.

### CONSIDERATION

- Offering short or long term funding for groups to run initiatives locally
- Provide scholarships, interning opportunities and other funding to help young people fulfill ideas and undertake projects

### 6.1.4 ISSUE

Young people in Christchurch do not engage with those who represent them as they do not know who they are and ways that they can be contacted.

### ASPIRATION

Christchurch takes a more in-depth approach to engagement, including civics education, public education on democracy and further open engagement in the community.

### CONSIDERATION

- Co-create with the public simplified and summarised documents explaining decision making processes and how people are represented
- All elected representatives engage with young people
- Provide alternative ways to make a submission e.g. not written or via video
- Further civics education around submissions
- Ensure minority groups are effectively represented in Parliament

### 6.1.5 ISSUE

Young people find it difficult to engage with decision makers. The current communication process between decision makers and the public is heavily based around written word and physical printed documents, which is not the most appropriate medium for young people.

### ASPIRATION

Christchurch has an open process of contributing to decision-making with a variety of options to engage that suit the needs of different communities.

### CONSIDERATION

- Online voting
- Have online submissions using social media e.g. Facebook emoticons used to respond to questions
- Visual mediums should be utilised more by decision makers e.g. videos, diagrams, picture
- Empower young people and decision makers to engage genuine communication
- Update the public through online mediums and social media
- Have young people co-create initiatives aimed at young people

### 6.1.6 ISSUE

Connections between decision makers and young people are very limited by the nature of formal meetings.

### ASPIRATION

Christchurch decision-makers have an informal and open engagement approach, with an emphasis on young people and other communities being engaged and valued in all aspects of democracy.

### CONSIDERATION

- Elected officials and staff members could mentor young people who have a particular interest in their role or need general mentoring
- More networking events for young people and elected officials and key decision-makers to learn from one another and ideas can be pitched
- Have elected officials and decision-makers visible at events and out in the community as they are currently seen as not approachable

## 6.2 DIVERSITY

### 6.2.1 ISSUE

Young people feel that when they are being engaged and their voices considered, stereotyping and tokenism is prevalent. LGBTQI+ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex +).

### ASPIRATION

Christchurch leads the way in promoting youth inclusion and addressing harmful stereotypes within society and the media.

### CONSIDERATION

- Pro-youth campaigns/festivals of youth inclusion, modelled on other similar things like migrant events, LGBTQI+ campaigns.
- Greater celebration of young people in Christchurch in already existing areas and publications as well as promoting the emergence of local, youth-centric media
- Increase diversity amongst characters on television
- In media stop using stereotypes when including an LGBTQI+ person for example LGBTQI+ persons tend to die in shows

### 6.2.2 ISSUE

Young people feel that Christchurch lacks a sense of community and there is a lack of knowledge around how to embrace every culture.

#### ASPIRATION

Christchurch is a cultural hub that unites and celebrates people from different backgrounds and communities.

#### CONSIDERATION

- A New Zealand introduction program to help with social expectations and general cultural education is available to new migrants
- More opportunity for cultures to express themselves through cultural events e.g. Chinese lantern festival
- More events for cultural and youth participation
- Spread awareness and support of underrepresented communities and different ethnic groups in Christchurch
- Avoid tokenism by having genuine representation of diverse opinions
- All engagement with young people must be genuine
- An effort must be made to engage all communities and have advisors for specific communities who can advocate, support and represent .
- Increase knowledge of diversity through cultural hubs
- Provide funding for community groups and festivals e.g. Polyfest and the Lantern Festival
- Provide interpreters and sign language support for events

### 6.2.3 ISSUE

Lack of understanding of LGBTQI+ and support for young people to be who they are.

#### ASPIRATION

New Zealand is an inclusive society that promotes understanding and engagement with the LGBTQI+ community and actively seeks to make their lives better .

#### CONSIDERATION

- LGBTQI+ training for staff in key decision-making bodies
- Introduce unisex bathrooms in all public spaces
- Give LGBTQI+ young people the opportunity to lead a community event or education

### 6.2.4 ISSUE

There is a lack of support for non-English speakers to develop their understanding and ability to speak English and there is a lack of access to information in native languages.

#### ASPIRATION

Christchurch embraces non English speakers and provides ample opportunity and support to learn English, as well as provide access to information in native languages.

#### CONSIDERATION

- Provide more translators
- Provide more English language teachers for refugees and migrants
- More official documents provided in different languages so all people can understand where to get help
- All relevant staff employed by decision-making bodies are trained to help communities where there is less prevalence of native English

### 6.2.5 ISSUE

New refugees and refugee background young people and families are not being settled in Christchurch.

#### ASPIRATION

People with refugee background are settled, supported and celebrated in Christchurch.

#### CONSIDERATION

- Provide support in the region for new refugees and those with refugee backgrounds so Christchurch can be considered as location for placement

### 6.2.6 ISSUE

There is a lack of diverse role models for young people who recognise and understand a variety of achievements made by young people.

#### ASPIRATION

Young people have role models in all walks of life, that promote opportunities and highlight the different paths to success and celebrate achievements made by young people.

#### CONSIDERATION

- Increase the academic representation for Pacific Island communities
- Currently sports recognition is higher than academic there needs to be further work to find a balance of achievement recognition
- Education providers do not always recognise and understand cultural aspects of young people's lives
- Increase the publication of positive stories of young people in the media
- Organisations should promote what young people have achieved e.g. Future youth awards, scholarships



# 7 | EDUCATION

## 7.1 LIFE SKILLS

### 7.1.1 ISSUE

Young people are not equipped with the skills to handle the responsibilities in life and transition from childhood to adulthood.

### ASPIRATION

Young people of all ages are provided with life skills training in a range of areas and are empowered to take charge of their futures.

### CONSIDERATION

- Provide life skills training in schools and in the community around financial matters, employment, housing, legal rights and other related areas
- Educate the community about institutes such as Inland Revenue and Immigration New Zealand
- Empower young people to know their rights throughout different aspects of their life
- Provide information on life skills around communities through posters

### 7.1.2 ISSUE

There is a lack of civics education in New Zealand.

### ASPIRATION

All young people are aware of how the government and institutes function, and are engaged and voting.

### CONSIDERATION

- Add civics education to life skills trainings
- Offer real-life voting activities to demonstrate how it works
- Provide more information on the New Zealand voting system in schools and the wider community

### 7.1.3 ISSUE

Young people are not given adequate careers advice or given enough responsibilities and experiences to up-skill.

### ASPIRATION

Young people are given advice on a variety of career paths, and provided with opportunities to gain experience and responsibilities in related fields.

### CONSIDERATION

- More work experience opportunities are available
- Introduce public careers advisors that are open to young people who are not at school and provide support
- Provide more opportunities for young people to gain responsibilities in their chosen fields

## 7.2 EDUCATION SYSTEM

### 7.2.1 ISSUE

Education is not LGBTQI+ friendly.

### ASPIRATION

All young people feel safe and included in the education community.

### CONSIDERATION

- Improve LGBTQI+ equality in co-ed and single sex schools to improve their wellbeing and chances for a better education.
- Improving safety of transgender students in single sex schools
- Help and educate school communities to be more inclusive and run events e.g. Pride Week
- More uniform choices especially for same sex schools
- Increase numbers of gender neutral bathroom facilities

### 7.2.2 ISSUE

Te Reo Māori isn't offered everywhere.

### ASPIRATION

All young people can learn Te Reo Māori at any educational institute.

### CONSIDERATION

- Place a significant emphasis on Te Reo Māori in high schools
- Continue offering Te Reo Māori in primary schools

### 7.2.3 ISSUE

Financial barriers hinder access to education.

### ASPIRATION

Education can be accessed by all regardless of income.

### CONSIDERATION

- Offer more hardship scholarships
- Increase advertising of scholarships and funding

## 7.3 OTHER

### 7.3.1 ISSUE

There is significant pressure in schools to do well.

### ASPIRATION

Schools are a safe place for young people that focus on their wellbeing.

### CONSIDERATION

- Educate young people on self-care
- Increase awareness of mental illness
- Plan assessments better to avoid unnecessary stress and pressure
- Co-create academic calendars with students

# ENGAGEMENT PROCESS

New Zealand has ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCROC)<sup>[1]</sup>. A guiding principle of UNCROC is participation, as children and youth have a right to have their say in decisions that affect them and have their opinions taken into account. Local Government Act 2002<sup>[2]</sup> also highlights principles of consultation, as there is a need for communities to be consulted on issues that affect them or they have an interest in. Young people are a particularly vulnerable part of the community, especially due to being unable to vote and have a say in elections for those under 18. This makes consultation more important to ensure young people are heard. The two main models of youth participation are important to this project.

Hart's Ladder<sup>[3]</sup> evaluates youth participation in a project, whilst Shier's Pathways to Participation<sup>[4]</sup> promote youth participation as a process. For the Christchurch Youth Action Plan Initiative, both models are relevant to our work and best practice will be followed. Shier's Pathways highlights how this project aims to take youth from level three, of their views being taken into account and is the minimum requirement of UNCROC, to higher levels with more responsibility and involvement.

[1] United Nation Convention on the Rights of the Child

[2] Local Government Act 2002 – Section 82

[3] Harts Ladder of Participation

[4] Shier's Pathway to Participation

## NOVEMBER 2016

Christchurch City Council sought support and guidance from the Canterbury Youth Workers Collective to engage with young people. This engagement process prioritised the initiative being youth-led, focusing on tangible actions and ensuring that a diverse range of young peoples' voices were heard.

## JANUARY – FEBRUARY 2017

A team of young people compiled the information collected at the hui and developed a draft youth action plan document. Seven key themes were identified with various issues and solutions for each.

## DECEMBER 2016

A hui was held, inviting various groups of young people to attend, over 50 young people attended from all areas in Christchurch. This was an opportunity for young people to identify what they liked about Christchurch and what improvements could be made to make Christchurch a better city to live in.

Christchurch city councillors, community board members and the Mayor attended and listened to the young peoples' ideas. Ideas and actions were recorded from this event.

## MARCH 2017

The Draft Youth Action Plan was published online and distributed via email throughout the youth sector for comment and feedback.

It was determined that the Youth Action Plan Initiative would need further consultation from a greater number of young people. Two young people from the initial drafting team were employed by the Canterbury Youth Workers Collective to carry out further consultation.

## MARCH – MAY 2017

With the help from experienced professionals from the youth sector, key groups from the community were highlighted as important to consult with, as well as ensuring there would be multiple occasions for any young person to be consulted with.

Consultation team leaders contacted various youth participation groups, community groups, and schools inviting groups to participate in shaping the final document.

Various options of consultation provided for each of the groups to allow the best fit for that group, workshops could be varied depending on how much time the groups had and how many participants. All groups were also offered to be sent resources to facilitate their own workshop if they felt this was more suitable.

## MAY – JUNE 2017

Many of the priorities young people highlighted throughout the consultation did not sit solely under the Christchurch City Council's jurisdiction and therefore the consultation team started to reach out to other key stakeholders such as Environment Canterbury and The Canterbury District Health Board.

The purpose behind this was to start making relationships and inviting these groups to be involved with the Youth Action Plan Initiative.

Christchurch Youth Council was approached to become guardians of the Christchurch Youth Action Plan. The executive committee for the Christchurch Youth Council voted for taking over guardianship.

## JULY 2017

The Christchurch Youth Council is deciding what the next steps will look like for them and working through a process of determining what this might look like.

On 20 July 2017 the Christchurch Youth Action Plan: Foundation Document will be launched.

## MARCH – MAY 2017

From this initial invitation, 14 groups agreed to participate in consultation; The Cube, Hagley High School, Ara, Te Ora Hou, Pacific Youth Parliament, YMCA, Christchurch Girls High School, The Sustainable Transport Youth Reference Group, Catholic Cathedral College, The Spreydon- Cashmere Youth Community Board, Q-Topia, Cashmere High School, Christchurch Youth Council and the Youth Unit at Christchurch Mens Prison.

There were also three open workshops provided to any young person interested and were held at libraries throughout Christchurch. These were advertised on various social media pages.

## JUNE 2017

Throughout the consultation period data was collected in raw form, a team worked to track and code this data, and then group the data into themes and sub-themes. This method will allow young people in the future to track the points they raised and ensure that they ended up in the final document.

The draft of the foundation document was sent back to the young people involved for suggestions, feedback and to check that their voices had been captured correctly. Work was also done with stakeholders to ensure that the foundation document would be easy to follow and useful for all stakeholders, both the young people and decision makers alike.



**CHRISTCHURCH YOUTH ACTION PLAN INITIATIVE 2017**