

# Moving toward young people thriving in Te Hiku

This is a summary of a youth and youth worker led social innovation process that aimed to come up with concepts that encourage positive behaviour, and reduce bullying in Te Hiku.

This process has been supported and informed by many individuals and organisations. Ngā mihi nui ki a koutou katoa.

Prepared by innovate change on behalf of the Kaitiāia community and the Make it Happen Te Hiku Taskforce.

innovate change is a social innovation agency that facilitates creative and participatory processes to improve health and social outcomes.

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## What did we do?

Brainstorm lots of ideas with **young people** and **youth workers**

Chose three ideas most likely to encourage positive behaviour with **young people** and **youth workers**

Free Wi-Fi

1.

A youth space run by youth

2.

Youth-led initiatives

3.

Experimented with the three ideas in a pop-up youth space with **young people**

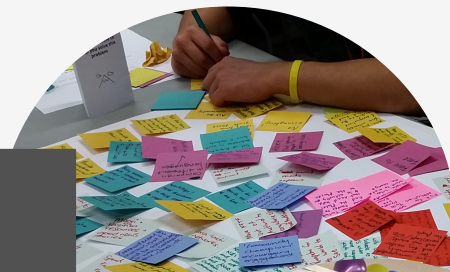
Decided on several activities to make happen with **young people**

Run a social challenge to support youth-led initiatives

1.

Develop youth leaders through a six month youth space pilot

2.



*We took a participatory approach to working with young people. This is about capturing different perspectives, ideas, experiences and working together towards better solutions using creative techniques. We focus on doing things with young people, not to, or for, them.*

# What did we learn overall?

*Many young people are passionate and motivated to make a positive change in their community.*

*Young people who aren't involved in sport or faith-based groups have very few things to do or places to go.*

*Young people feel unwelcome in some businesses and community facilities - such as Te Ahu on Sundays.*

*For some young people, home isn't a safe, warm or comfortable place to be.*

*Young people don't feel valued or celebrated by adults – they feel judged.*

*Many young people lack awareness of the range of activities and services available to them.*

*A number of 12-13 year olds hang around town after school and in the evening because no one is at home.*

*Young people don't want youth workers, health or social services in their youth space.*

*Young people don't always feel safe in Te Hiku.*

*Some young people have internalised and act out American 'gangster' culture.*

# About each idea?\*

## Free Wi-Fi

1.

- As essential as oxygen to a young person
- Used to socialise, study, play, communicate, learn and explore
- Allows young people to connect with the wider world
- Seen as necessary for any youth space (with safety measures in place)

## A youth space run by youth

2.

- Provided a safe, 'second home' for many young people
- Young people assumed having a youth space would keep young people out of trouble
- Young people felt comfortable and valued in the space
- Some young people felt intimidated by the young people outside the space and therefore didn't use it
- Adults walking in off the street made young people uncomfortable

## Youth-led initiatives

3.

- Exciting for young people as they thought they'd provide something to do (beyond just 'hanging out' in a youth space)
- Most popular were; music programme and community art initiatives and small enterprise/business initiatives
- Young people felt money was the most important resource to be able to start and sustain their initiative

*\* For the full project report contact Aya Morris (Far North Safer Community Council) 021 746 759, cdskta@fnsc.co.nz or April Hetaraka (Far North REAP) 408 1380, aprilh@farnorthreap.org.nz*

# Where to now?\*

## Activity 1: Run a social challenge to support youth-led initiatives

1.

Young people submit their ideas for a youth-led initiative within one or more of the areas they were most excited about.

A small number of winners would be selected to receive grants of approx. \$2,000. This would go toward establishing and running their initiative.

Principles for success:

- Young people are involved in the design, decision making and delivery of the social challenge
- Provide opportunities to those who aren't already in leadership roles
- Gives young people a number of ways to find out about the challenge, reaching young people who live rurally or infrequently access the internet
- Provides clear messaging around what the challenge is and hopes to achieve for young people
- Messaging and communication is clear, concise and written in plain-English

1. *Secure funding*
2. *Find an organisation(s) to support this mahi*
3. *Set up the challenge fund and have young people apply*

ACTIONS

## Activity 2: Develop youth leaders and through a six month youth space pilot

2.

Using an existing safe space, hire several young people and adult support to run a youth space for 6 months. The way the space looks, feels and operates should build on what we've learnt so far. The pilot would determine what does and doesn't work in a youth space.

A pilot is important as it's dangerous to invest heavily in a permanent space without understanding the challenges that may threaten the success or ability of a youth space to remain open in Kaitia.

Principles for success:

- Continues to be led by young people and supported by youth-focussed adults
- Keeps the learning of what does and doesn't work in the community
- Being aware and connected to leaders in the New Zealand youth centre space i.e. ZEAL
- Young people (with the support of adults) evaluate the success of the youth space on an on-going basis
- Starts small and remains open and able to adapt to the changing culture and needs of young people
- Continues to take an experimental mindset, avoiding:
  - The creation of a new building
  - Investment in a costly fit-out or significant construction

1. *Secure funding*
2. *Confirm young people and adults to staff the space*
3. *Secure an existing space to use at a low cost*

ACTIONS

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