

Community Forum

Private Bag 4999
Christchurch 8140

Meeting notes for the meeting of the Community Forum**19 November 2015, 6pm****Level 2, Christchurch RSA, Christchurch**

Present:	Community Forum members: Betty Chapman, Weng Kei Chen, Andre Lovatt, Tom McBrearty, Lesley Murdoch, Faye Parfitt, John Peet, Emma Twaddell, Brian Vieceli, Rachel Vogan, Amanda Williams, Siong Sah (John) Wong, Darren Wright
Apologies:	Community Forum members: Richard Ballantyne, Gill Cox, Martin Evans, Wendy Gilchrist, Ruth Jones, Deborah McCormick, Jocelyn Papprell, Patricia Siataga, Leah Carr, Phil Clearwater, Maria Godinet-Watts, Trevor McIntyre
Chair:	Darren Wright
In Attendance:	Erika Hendy, Manager, Ministerial and Executive Services §9(2)(a), Advisor, Ministerial and Executive Services, CERA

Agenda**Youth Sector Presentation**

Penny Prescott and Tayla Reece – Canterbury Youth Workers Collective

Discussion:

1. Penny Prescott introduced herself and Tayla Reece to the Forum. Both are involved with Canterbury Youth Workers Collective (CYWC), of which Penny is Coordinator. CYWC brings together those who work in the youth sector to work to achieve three common goals:
 - a. Connecting the Youth Work sector
 - b. Raising the standards of Youth Work practice
 - c. Championing positive youth development
2. Penny explained that CYWC helps to connect the Youth Work sector by facilitating regular e-newsletters, organisation visits, and creating resources such as a Youth Services Directory and Youth Networks. To raise the standards of Youth Work practice CYWC seeks to provide training opportunities for Youth Workers, including bicultural training, along with membership of CYWC also. They also use SCOPE, an assessment tool to assess youth services and organisations on how effective they are at working with young people. CYWC encourages and promotes positive youth development by holding positive youth development training opportunities, big events for youth, and by creating projects such as the Strengthening the Youth Sector Project.
3. Penny then detailed the Strengthening the Youth Sector (SYS) project, and explained that it is headed by an Inter-Agency Group which steers the work of the whole project across the 5 work streams:

- a. Youth participation
 - b. Greater Christchurch youth charter
 - c. Youth employment
 - d. Building the capacity of the youth sector
 - e. Youth friendly places and spaces
4. The group has 17 members and includes a number of different agencies such as Ministry of Education, CERA, Ministry of Youth Development, Christchurch District Health Board, Selwyn and Waimakariri Councils and Te Runanga O Ngai Tahu.
 5. To facilitate youth participation and community involvement, Youth Voice Canterbury (YVC) was set up. Youth Voice Canterbury host 'Youth Connect' meetings where members of the Youth Voice Canterbury network from various youth participation groups and youth councils come together to connect, network, take part in workshops, listen to speakers and can have the opportunity to have their say on things in the rebuild. The presenters explained that the main goal of YVC is to better connect and increase reach to more young people so they can share in this information. They noted that this type of collaboration doesn't exist anywhere else in New Zealand, and that CYWC are hoping to eventually introduce it to other areas of the country too.
 6. The Forum asked what effect the earthquakes had had on funding the work CYWC does. The presenters said that in terms of funding, the earthquakes and the location of their work being in Canterbury had improved the level of support that was offered to them by the government. This extra funding allowed them to provide more training and professional supervision for youth leaders, among other things, especially those who are volunteers and may not have received the same training as full time youth workers.
 7. The Forum asked if groups such as SADD and CanTeen were part of their wider collaboration? Penny advised that they are not officially, but CYWC would like to integrate other groups such as these into their work if possible. She noted that CanTeen in particular has very impressive levels of youth engagement and support networks itself.
 8. Penny then spoke about another example of the work that YVC has recently been involved in – the 'Turning The Tables' project. This project focussed on five topics – youth mental health, youth having their say and being listened to by decision makers, the state of greater Christchurch's rebuild, youth friendly places and spaces, and culture and diversity. She described a discussion day which was held as part of this project, which involved the Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Christchurch. This event strengthened CYWC's/YVC's relationship with the Christchurch City Council, and led to representatives of the group being invited to speak at the next Council meeting, which was a great opportunity to push their ideas and initiatives with decision makers.
 9. The Forum asked the presenters why mental health was the number one topic for the project. They explained that young people are very concerned about the stigma surrounding this topic, and would like youth leaders to 'normalise' it by talking about it more. They noted that demand more mental health support services had risen across all sectors in recent years, but particularly the youth demographic. The presenters felt that though it was encouraging that the CERA Youth Wellbeing Survey reported that 80% of young people in greater Christchurch had someone to turn to for support, their immediate response was to be concerned about the fact that 20% do not
 10. The Forum asked about the gender make up of the leaders/ committees of various youth support groups in greater Christchurch. The presenters advised that this varied by group. For example Waimakariri youth group committee is more female, but others such as the

YMCA and Selwyn possibly have more males.

11. The presenters then told the Forum about CYWC'S work to create a youth charter for organisations to work or seek to work with young people. They explained that a youth charter would provide standards or principles that these organisations would be encouraged to adhere to ensure their work with youth is done well. They would also be able to monitor how well they are meeting these standards in an on going fashion.
12. Penny and Tayla then detailed the initiatives currently underway in the youth employment area. Further to the charter, CYWC hopes to develop more specific youth employment standards. One 'pop up project' related to this involved CYWC engaging an intern from the University of Canterbury to do a literature review focussed on developing standards for the youth charter and also for youth employment. The employment standards will hopefully be used by employers who employ a large number of young people to ensure they are treated well, and to help employers learn how to best engage and effectively work with young people.
13. The Forum asked the presenters if they are involved in CERA's Recovery Lessons and Legacy project? Penny advised that they are not. She noted that they were involved with CERA on a general basis for the first two years of their work, but this has been progressively withdrawn as time has passed. However, engagement with CERA for individual projects had been very good, e.g. work with Don Miskell, and also with Rob Kerr and his Avon River team.
14. Next, the presenters explained what has been achieved so far in regards to the youth friendly places and spaces topic. They said that young people in surveys such as CERA's Youth Wellbeing Survey had reported that they had lost many of the youth orientated places they used to spend time as a result of the earthquakes.
15. The Forum asked the presenters to please explain what 'youth friendly' means in regards to places and spaces. Penny and Tayla explained that it means to put yourself in a young person's shoes and think about what they would need for their lives and how they operate e.g. safety concerns, accessibility, areas sets up for youth participation.
16. The presenters gave the example of the 'Neat Places' maps. A youth specific version of these maps was created with funding from CERA and Neat Places itself. This involved youth designers from high schools who worked with Neat Places to create this.
17. The Forum was interested in the funding of such projects, and asked Penny and Tayla about the process for this. They wanted to know what comes first – the funding or the project? Is it a case of 'money trying to find a home'? The presenters replied that sometimes this is the case, if there is funding to be allocated e.g. the Canterbury Earthquake Appeal Trust funding, but our main project started in 2012 before the funding was given to us. Penny advised that most of their projects, however, are not funded at all.
18. The Forum asked the presenters if they had any plans in regards to succession – what would the future look like for their projects? Penny and Tayla noted that the on going life of these post-earthquake collaborations is being questioned. It was previously thought they would just carry on until they were not needed anymore, but there is no way of knowing when that would be.
19. Some members of the Forum were personally very interested in the funding of CYWC and its projects. They asked the presenters what amount of money would make a significant difference to their work? Penny and Tayla were unsure about figures, but suggested that it would help if they had paid people to run projects like youth places and spaces. The Forum

suggested seeking the support of corporates such as 2degrees or Spark, as they are interested in innovation

20. The presenters then suggested that other work streams could be created, as things such as the Youth Work Hui in September showed that this could definitely be useful for youth in Christchurch. The Forum suggested that funding of such a work stream could come from places such as the Ministry of Health and CDHB, noting that CERA's housing work stream had transferred to these. The Forum advised that now would be a good time to take action on plans to engage with these bodies.
21. The Forum was interested to learn more about youth places and spaces in a commercial context – how much of this information had been sold to developers? The presenters advised that they have developed a good relationship with the CPTED audit team, but the tools they have developed relating to youth need further promotion in this area. The Forum is concerned that developers aren't seeing the importance of the youth sector, and need to be shown they should design and build for the future rather than the present. The Forum would like to see this work promoted more to developers, and the presenters noted that it was well received when it was first promoted.
22. The Forum asked the presenters if their work involved any connection with Sport Canterbury. They noted that it was concerning to see youth lost from sport as this is an important community, particularly as they get older. Penny and Tayla said that CYWC is keen to open doors to working with other community groups such as this, but nothing has been decided as of yet.
23. The Forum asked Penny and Tayla if they could provide them with a summary of their top issues or concerns to do with youth in greater Christchurch. The presenters suggested that without a doubt, the issue that they are most concerned about is the lack of involvement of youth with the earthquake rebuild. They said their organisation has been trying for three years to get youth more involved, but are still struggling to actually get this involvement happening in decent ways. They are concerned that people may think young people will have ideas and requests that are 'too crazy', but from their experience young people's ideas in this area are very practical and realistic, and very future focussed. The presenters think young people are such an important voice, but they don't seem to have many avenues to facilitate their participation in the rebuild.
24. The Forum asked the presenters if they could explain further why youth need to be involved in the rebuild, what exactly can they bring to the table? They suggested that this message is what needs to be 'sold' to people to open doors for participation. It may also be helpful to 'speak the language' of older people who could facilitate participation, even if this seems wrong, as older people find it hard to speak the language of youth so this may have to be done in order to get them to listen. Penny and Tayla noted that one big barrier to being involved in decision making processes is accessibility for young people. Many of the meetings that facilitate this are held at times that young people are at school or study, for example.
25. The Forum concluded the discussion by advising the presenters to not be too disheartened by the lack of engage offered over the last five years by authorities. New agencies will soon be growing in Christchurch and this will provide them with fresh opportunities for involvement if they pitch their message right.

Decisions taken:	
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| 1. The Forum would like to provide advice to the Minister in regards to this presentation and |
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discussion, particularly to facilitate the involvement of people like Penny and Tayla in legacy work. The Forum feels that their work and experiences needs to be recorded in the CERA Recovery Lessons and Legacy project, and that this should be arranged as soon as possible.

2. Members of the Forum would like to engage with CYWC to explore the idea of older people providing mentoring to youth workers and young people, and to facilitate their involvement in more areas by acting as 'door openers' for them to the right places and people. The Chairperson will send Penny and Tayla's contact details to all members, so those who would like to engage with them can do so.
3. The Forum think that the new Psychosocial Committee should include youth involvement, and that this message should be passed on to them.
4. The Forum would also like to see youth leaders involved in housing decision making, and would like this message to be passed on to the agencies who are inheriting this work from CERA.

Meeting closed:

8pm

Next meeting:

3 December 2015

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