



City of Rockingham **Community Plan Strategy**

Strategy for Children and Young
People 2018 - 2023

Alternative Formats

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Community Engagement

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- Roads and Footpaths
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- Sporting Clubs and Facilities
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1. Executive Summary

The best way to support and develop children of all ages and young people is to invest in early intervention. This approach contributes to an outcome of healthy children and young people connecting with their families, peers and community; to learning and to ultimately developing as contributing independent adults.

For the purposes of this strategy children are within the 0 – 11 years age range and young people in the 12 – 25 years age range.

Early intervention emphasises the importance of supporting families to provide non-threatening, stimulating and emotionally supportive environments for their children and young people as they grow and transition through all the life stages to adulthood. This approach emphasises the provision of effective collaborative support services to parents and to children and young people from 0-25 years.

Early intervention is very important as it links essential supports directly to children and young people as soon as problems occur in order to avoid lifelong negative impacts.

With the community aspiring for Rockingham to be a strong community as identified within the Strategic Community Plan 2015 – 2025, there is a need to identify how to build strong children and young people, so that they can in turn contribute to a 'strong community'. A strategy based on an early intervention approach is the most logical way forward to achieve this aspiration.

The City of Rockingham, as a local government authority provides the most significant potential to influence the community to value and support early years and families. Research supported this:

“Longitudinal data from international studies demonstrate that children who are developmentally vulnerable at the start of their schooling are likely to continue a life trajectory of poor life outcomes. Early intervention is the most cost effective and effective way to deal with disadvantage.”¹

Additionally research indicates that an early intervention approach is more likely to build our children and young people for a positive, engaged and healthy future based on:

- raise awareness and education for parents
- develop resilience in children and young people
- connect families and young people to their community and their indoor and outdoor spaces

The strategy consultation reinforces the above actions through outcomes that indicate families are aware that they need to give their children the best start from the early years. As such parents indicated an interest in education and program delivery through workshops that would assist them to raise positive, engaged and healthy children; to ensure the safety of their children and young people.

Feedback identified there are families with children and young people who acknowledge there are issues with mental health, drug and alcohol use and abuse and violence. There is an identified need for services to support these families, but also access to workshops where they can learn to understand the issues and deal with them.

Children, young people and families value our open spaces, sports fields and beaches, but that they would like upgrades with more age appropriate and innovative elements added. They like living in Rockingham, resent the 'bogan' label and would like to contribute to a more accurate reputation for the City.

There are also young people very interested in accessing opportunities to acquire leadership skills, to be consulted about infrastructure aimed at them, to understand and take part in their civic responsibilities.

They have aspirations for tertiary study, with some indicating barriers to that. Young people also need to understand the changing face of work, and how they will need to earn a living in this complex changing world.

Young people also strongly indicate the need for their own space where they won't be moved on.

The development of a dedicated youth space in a central location could address all these opportunities for young people such as life skills, job readiness, business incubators and engagement in the digital world as a way to earn a living. It could also serve as a leadership space and as a connection point for those young people with poor social skills and uncommon interests.

Consideration of desk top research, consultation outcomes and professional opinion has led to the development of four key elements to define the City's strategic approach across the next 5 years:

- Consultation, Engagement, Inclusion and Leadership
- Capacity Building and Resilience
- Infrastructure Development
- Advocacy for City of Rockingham Sector Development

2. Strategic Objective (objective, goal or aspiration).

Vision for the future: Rockingham's children and young people are valued as a resource who can contribute to the growth of an inclusive, participatory, diverse, strong and healthy community.

Mission to attain the vision: Children, families and young people will be provided with opportunities to develop their skills in relation to positive parenting, education, employment, recreation, creativity, healthy lifestyles and relationships and leadership as well as connect to, participate in and contribute to community.

The City's commitment to children and young people is stated in the City's Strategic Community Plan (2015 - 2025):

Aspiration B: A Strong Community

Objective 1: Mobility and Inclusion

Community services, programs and infrastructure that effectively cater for all residents including seniors, youth and vulnerable populations

Objective 2: Services and Facilities

Community facilities and services that accommodate contemporary community expectation and are justified, well used, cost effective and, where appropriate, multi-functional.

Objective 3: Capacity Building and Wellbeing

A healthy community that volunteers, embraces lifelong learning and cultural awareness, and is involved with a diverse range of vibrant and sustainable community, sporting, cultural and artistic organisations and pursuits.

Objective 4: Safety and Support

A community that feels safe and secure in home, work and leisure environments, and has access to a range of effective support services and partnerships when encountering challenging or difficult times.

3. Background

Increasingly the prevalence in academic literature regarding positive outcomes for young people as they grow and develop is on the importance of early intervention.

Early intervention implies that in order to develop a strategy for children and young people that provide them and the wider community with positive outcomes there needs to be a focus on all four commonly identified age related and transition stage streams. These four Priority Age Groups are:

- Early years: from birth to 4 years when most brain development and family attachment occurs transitioning from family immersion through to the beginnings of early education
- Children: from 5 to 11 years when transition occurs from less formal education to the primary school years, the beginning of influences outside of family and the commencement of puberty occurs
- Youth: from 12 to 18 years where the transition from primary school to the demands of high school including life decisions around the future and ever more complex social relationships, as well as significant changes, emotionally and physically occur.
- Young Adult: from 19 to 25 years with the transition from school to further education/training, work, independence, the expanding of social horizons and where major life decisions need to be made.

It is acknowledged that early intervention can assist in avoiding some of the more serious issues that young people can experience. The literature also emphasises the need to recognise and focus on the impact of transition points in the life cycle.

So what is early intervention? It is commonly accepted as taking action as soon as possible to tackle problems for children and families before they become more difficult to reverse. It focuses on early years to adulthood because it is not just about the early years but also about preventing children, adolescents and young adults from developing problems and providing appropriate early support when problems occur.

Early intervention contributes to enabling children to better their social and emotional skills, their communication and ability to manage their own behaviour and mental health. This increases the likelihood of a stronger foundation for learning and engagement with school, easier transitions through the life stages, and better outcomes across their lives.

For parents it's about enhancing their abilities to provide positive and supportive family environments. This enables them to provide their children and young people the best chance of handling their transition points in ways that provide a positive life course. This includes providing a positive anti-natal environment, which can be challenging for very young parents and those from vulnerable groups.

As such it is relevant to acknowledge the importance of the early years and childhood years of life experience and the direct impact this has on young people aged 12 – 25 years. These early stages directly impact how young people make decisions about their lives, their beliefs, their behaviours, their reactions to issues and their futures.

In order to identify a way forward for achieving optimum outcomes for children and young people consideration of current thinking at international, national and state level as well as consultation locally was undertaken.

3.1 International

In 1989 the General Assembly of the United Nations unanimously passed the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)². The aim of the CRC is to build a better world for children. It attempts to define the civil, political, economic, social, health and cultural rights of children, which it defines as any person under the age of 18 years unless the age of majority is attained earlier under national legislation.

It signifies the fact that children, because of their vulnerability, need special care and protection, and it places special emphasis on the primary caring and protective responsibility of the family. It also underlines the need for legal and other protections for the child before and after birth, the importance of respect for the cultural values of the child's community and the vital role of international cooperation in securing children's rights.

The Centre on the Developing Child (CDC), Harvard University³ reflected in a 2016 article regarding how to build more promising futures for children and families, on the impact of early experiences on the rapidly developing brain. It reported on the fundamental thinking *'that informs most current policies and programs focused on children:*

- *early experiences affect lifelong physical and mental health, not just learning*
- *healthy brain development requires protection from excessive stress, not just enrichment in a stimulating environment*
- *achieving breakthrough outcomes for children experiencing significant adversity requires that we support the adults who care for them to transform their lives'*

From this we can understand that children's experiences in the earliest years of their life impact their brain development. Learning, behaviour, health and wellbeing as they grow and develop are all built on that foundation. Harvard University (2016) again reports that these early years of brain development are profoundly influenced by the environment in which a child grows including:

- quality of relationships with parents and caregivers
- exposure to environmental stresses (violence, poverty, maltreatment)

If these are negative, they can disrupt brain development at this vital stage and so impact their lifelong wellbeing and development.

The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)⁴ has a number of focuses one of which is:

“Ensure that people of all ages can develop the skills to work productively and satisfyingly in the jobs of tomorrow.”

As such one of the areas on which they report regularly is education through the Education Indicators in Focus. In 2016 this report stated:

“evidence shows that early childhood education leads to the development of cognitive, social and emotional skills at a young age as well as to better school performance later on. It also creates conditions for lifelong learning and better future professional achievement.”

Thus children’s experience of early years and childhood education during this vulnerable period of brain development is important to their lifelong immersion in education and the outcomes they achieve as young adults.

Successful negotiation of the early years then depends on enabling parents to establish healthy, encouraging and stimulating environments that will optimise brain development and contribute to children transitioning positively into their childhood and adolescence and the school years.

Adolescence, usually defined as 10 -19 years, the stage between childhood and adulthood, is second only to the early years in the rate and amount of developmental change. Significant physical, psychological, emotional and social changes occur as they question identity, values, interests, relationships and their way forward through life. It is also the second significant transition point period for young people, when positive family and community influences can have considerable influence on future development and outcomes.

It is a time when they transition from being protected from community expectations and judgements to young adulthood with all the requirements regarding independent decision making and responsibility for self that the stage entails.

The United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF)⁵ identified in the State of the World’s Children 2011 report;

“Adolescence is an age of opportunity for children, and a pivotal time for us to build on their development in the first decade of life, to help them navigate risks and potential vulnerabilities, and to set them on the path to fulfilling their potential”

So internationally there is significant recognition of the need for early intervention and prevention approaches to supporting the health and wellbeing, resilience and strength of young people. There is also recognition of the vulnerability during the early brain development period as well as the significance of the rapidity of the changes they experience at transition periods. Those changes encompass among others their bodies, hormones, increasing peer pressures and the expectations of the wider community as their level of independence and thus visibility increases.

Ensuring that families and professionals understand this and the implications for how their children and young people are supported through these times is imperative. Thus a strategic focus on skills development and awareness raising for both parents and the transitioning child or young person is an important element in terms of positive outcomes for young people.

3.2 National

Nationally there is continuing emphasis on strengthening early intervention as a way to support children and young people for positive outcomes. Discussion centering on early intervention from early years on through to young adulthood is supported by the following national strategic documents.

The 'Healthy, Safe and Thriving: National Strategic Framework for Child and Youth Health'⁶ released in August 2015 by the Council of Australian Governments while primarily focused on health issues, underpins this understanding of the importance of early intervention in supporting positive outcomes for young Australians.

The framework with its national vision as; *'children and young people are healthy, safe and thriving'*, recognises that research over the past 20 years has clarified the connections between physical health, social and emotional wellbeing, environment and experience with all contributing to strength, resilience and optimal outcomes.

The guiding principles of the framework focus on prevention and early intervention, the need for children and young people to grow up in healthy and safe environments and equity of access.

The National Strategy for Young Australians⁷ sets a vision for young Australians (12 to 25 years of age) that translate into the following eight priorities for supporting young people to succeed and build lives of their choosing:

- Improving the health and wellbeing of all young people.
- Equipping young Australians to shape their own futures through education.
- Supporting young Australians within their families.
- Empowering young Australians to take part and be active in their communities.
- Equipping young Australians with the skills and personal networks they need to gain and be successful in employment.
- Enabling young Australians to participate confidently and safely online.
- Strengthening early intervention with young Australians to help prevent any problems getting worse and to help young people get their lives back on track.
- Establishing clear-cut legal consequences for behaviours that endanger the safety of others.

The focus here again is on early intervention, skills development and support for families.

The Australia Youth Foundation's Renewing Australia's Promise Report Card 2016⁸ summarises and underlines national research outcomes. It recognises that children (birth to 11 years of age) and young people (12 to 25 years of age) are growing up in an environment of rising debt, soaring house prices and the struggle to find secure, full-time employment.

"For many a real possibility exists that their generation will be the first to be worse off than their parents".

Added to this perspective is a backdrop of climate change, terrorism, globalisation and the continuing refugee crisis. Furthermore, as the population of Australia ages, young people will play a significant role in facing new challenges in health, aged care, post-retirement income support and social security.

Importantly we also need to understand how young people view themselves, their issues and their opportunities at the national level. Mission Australia's Youth Survey⁹ is a highly regarded report which provides a unique view of the lives of young Australians (15-19 years). Now in its 14th year it is the biggest survey of its type in Australia, and reports the outcomes both nationally and on a state by state basis.

The report's recommendations at the national level include:

- *'Young people are connected with the necessary information, guidance and additional support services to facilitate their transition from school to further education and employment.'*
- *'Young people are informed about issues related to alcohol and drugs and are able to access appropriate support services if personal substance use issues arise.'*
- *'Young people are exposed to both national and local campaigns and programs which promote equality and empower them to prevent and respond effectively to discriminatory acts when they occur.'*
- *'Young people feel safe in their communities and are able to participate in available opportunities.'*
- *'The mental health and wellbeing of young people is addressed as a priority including through school-based programs and access to appropriate services.'*

These recommendations provide pointers for the types of programs and advocacy initiatives the City needs to undertake to support its children and young people.

Of great importance to the ongoing healthy development of young people is the state of their mental health. The Australian government report *The Mental Health of Children and Adolescents*¹⁰ is based on the outcomes of the second Australian and Adolescent Survey of Mental health and Wellbeing. The survey was conducted in 2014 in the homes of over 6,300 families with children and/or adolescents aged 4-17 years.

The report emphasises the need to focus on developing systems that both prevent mental health problems and also respond early to problems when they emerge. It identifies quite clearly that children as young as four require assistance and that their parents are actively seeking this assistance.

"A continued focus on suicide prevention and early intervention must be central platforms of the service systems that we build in the health, education and welfare sectors."

Another area of concern across Australia is that of youth homelessness. A number of universities in partnership with Mission Australia, Anglicare and The Salvation Army developed a research brief in 2016 titled *'The Cost of Youth Homelessness in Australia'*¹¹.

“The experience of homelessness is fraught with insecurity, a lack of safety, exposure to drugs and alcohol, more health and medical issues and the likelihood of greater contact with the criminal justice system.”

The critical outcome in terms of Policy for the report is that early intervention again is the most positive and effective way forward for supporting young people to avoid homelessness, and to assist them to exit homelessness as soon as possible if they are already homeless.

3.3 State

The Youth Affairs Council of Western Australia (YACWA) is the peak non-government body representing young people and the youth sector in Western Australia. YACWA acts as an advocate for young people particularly in relation to policy. In its pre-budget submission for 2017-18 entitled ‘Forging a fair path forward’¹², YACWA makes a strong case that in these times of financial uncertainty and an increasingly fragile Western Australian economy, early intervention strategies are the best way forward.

Their submission identified the main issues impacting young people based on their consultation with 431 young Western Australians as:

Table 1: Issues Identified through YACWA Consultation

ISSUE	RESPONSES (%)
Mental health	72
Housing/homelessness	68
Youth engagement	54
Employment	52
Child protection	46
Aboriginal affairs	40
Alcohol and other drugs	35
Education	35
Youth Justice	34
Sexual and Reproductive Health	27
Training	25
Migrant and Refugee Affairs	23

The submission also identified five priority areas for action:

- Preventing recurrent disadvantage
- Providing urgently needed services
- Supporting early intervention
- Valuing young people’s experience
- Creating a strong youth sector

These priority areas significantly impact all young people, thus informing the role of an LGA as an advocate for these approaches to be adopted and funded.

While these documents attempt to address all children and young people in the state, both ATSI and CaLD children and young people are often more vulnerable, and more susceptible to challenging difficulties. The Western Australian Commissioner for Children and Young People¹³ provides the outcomes from consultations with these groups regularly.

In 2014 the Commissioner consulted with 1,217 Aboriginal children and young people from across the state about the most important issues in their lives. The key themes identified as essential to their health and wellbeing included:

- Strength and connectedness of families and communities in which they lived
- Connection to culture
- Successful participation in education
- Participation in events including sport, creative arts, social events, leisure pursuits
- Adverse effects of racism and discrimination

The identification of these key themes led to the development of eight strategies which focus on culturally appropriate services, mentoring re parenting and access to culture

In 2016 the Commissioner consulted with 296 children from a CaLD background¹⁴ through an online survey designed by a group of young people from a CaLD background aged 18-25 years. The following themes and results were identified:

- The children valued families, friends, sport, freedom from fear, opportunities and access to food, housing and health care as what they liked about Australia.
- Settling in was easy for over half of the children with 10% finding the process difficult. Challenges included language, missing family, cultural expectation of parents, racism and bullying.

The consultation clearly indicated that it is really important to build the capacity of CaLD families to support their children. It should include providing access to:

- culturally appropriate parenting programs and support services
- English classes for adults
- Health care
- Stable housing

These needs along with those of children and young people from an ATSI background have many synergies with the outcomes from the rest of the research at international, national and state level.

When considering the type of world in which young people now live, learn and recreate, we cannot ignore the impact of social media on wellbeing. In 2015 the Commissioner for Children and Young People commissioned a review of literature¹⁵ published since 2010 on young people's use of social media and effects on wellbeing. Social media with its mix of applications is giving rise to rapid change in the way of communicating, searching, and accessing entertainment and forming and maintaining relationships.

While it is common for reporting regarding young people and social media to emphasise the negative, this review identified both positive and negative impacts. It identifies social media as supplying opportunities for positive engagement with young people. It also indicates that most research on this topic has not included children under 12 and suggests caution in extrapolating outcomes from the older demographic of young people to this age group.

3.4 City of Rockingham - Demographics

Profile ID based on Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) census data from 2011 indicates that in each of the identified 4 age groups that comprise young people, the percentage of the population is higher in Rockingham than for the Greater Perth Metropolitan Area.

The statistics indicate there are very similar numbers of young people in the Early Years and Children's age groups combined as in the Youth and Young Adult age groups combined. This would suggest that consideration of all four groups within a strategy would be an equitable approach.

That the total of just over 37% of the population falls within these age groups illustrates that children and young people comprise a significant part of the Rockingham population, and indicates they should be considered priority age groups.

Given that current available data is from 2011, consideration of the demographic changes in age groupings within the City across the next ten years is even more important when considering the need for a strategy for these age groups. Forecast ID identifies that from 2016 to 2026, the 10 to 14 years, 5 to 9 years and 0 to 4 years age categories will produce the first, second and fourth highest increases in persons across all age categories within the City.

Demographically young people across the City have a number of challenges, two of the more significant being unemployment and low educational attainment.

The Department of Employment reports the following youth unemployment figures for 2016:

- Kwinana 12%
- Rockingham 8.0%
- East Fremantle 2.9%
- Cockburn 5.9%
- Melville 3.1%
- Western Australia 6.6%

Rockingham also has lower numbers of people attending tertiary education when compared with Greater Metropolitan Perth. . According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) 2016 census data Rockingham has only about 8.8% of the population attending a tertiary institution compared with the greater Perth area of 16.5% and the whole of Western Australian figure of 13.9%.

It is important to note that these figures are in relation to the whole of the Rockingham population, not just young people. They do however provide an overall impression of tertiary aspirations across the City.

3.5 Current Situation

3.5.1 City Provision: Early Years and Children

Currently the City provides infrastructure, services and support to the four age groups; early years, children, young people and young adults.

Table 2 illustrates City provision and outcomes to Early Years and Children

Table 2: City Provision/Outcomes Early Years and Children

Department	Item	Outcome
Parks Services	Parks, playgrounds, skate parks, sporting grounds and clubs	Social connections, physical wellbeing
Libraries	Story Time and Rhyme Time style activities/ Better Beginnings/Holiday activities	Literacy, reading habits, speech development Health and wellbeing
Community Capacity Building (CCB)	Promote and Support results Australian Early Development Index (AEDC)	Developmental Health and Wellbeing
CCB	Support Rockingham Early Years Group (REYG) network	Better service provision outcomes/skills workshops
CCB	Kidsport	Access to sport for children from resource poor families
CCB	Grants program	Service provision
CCB	Travel Smart to School/Walk Safe to School Day	Physical health
CCB	Photovoice	Mental health
CCB	Early Intervention Workshops	Parenting skills improvement
Community Support and Safety Services (CS&SS)	Constable Care partnership	Community and personal safety skills
CS&SS	Safety month workshops	Community and personal safety skills
CS&SS/CCB	Skills Workshops	Parenting/Safety
CIP	Development Outdoor Youth Recreation Spaces	Connections, Physical Activity

3.5.2 City Provision: Young People

Provision of resources in both officer time and funds to youth and young adults is the focus of the Youth Services and Youth Development teams, with some provision from Libraries, Sport and Recreation, Health and Wellbeing, Human Resources, Waste Services, Parks and Gardens and Community Infrastructure Planning (CIP).

3.5.3 Community Support and Safety Services (Youth Services)

The Youth Services team is committed to assisting and supporting the social, emotional, psychological and physical development of young people by providing a professional and accessible youth-friendly service addressing the needs of young people.

Youth Workers offer generic support, advocacy, referral, information and case management as well as groups and programs regarding issues including but not limited to:

- Complex multi-factorial issues
- Mental health
- Financial issues
- Physical Health
- Sexual health
- Legal issues
- Accommodation and homelessness
- Substance and alcohol issues
- Employment and training
- Education
- Recreation
- Social Isolation

Youth Work practice typically involves Outreach locations because that is where young people are. These locations include:

- educational settings (schools, particularly high schools, alternate pathway providers)
- other service agencies (headspace, YMCA)
- community spaces (libraries, community centres with youth spaces)

The Youth Services Community Development Officer (Young People) provides young people and their families with early intervention and prevention workshops, information and skills development sessions and forums and community events. These are presented in local community and education settings regarding a variety of contemporary issues including but not limited to:

- Mental health
- Suicide prevention
- Resilience
- Sexual health
- Bullying
- Respectful relationships
- Finances
- Legal issues
- Drug and alcohol use/misuse
- Safe partying
- Cyber safety
- Homelessness
- Body Image
- Social Isolation

This role is fundamentally different from that of Youth Workers. Youth Workers provide one-on-one support to young people at risk. The CDO (Young People) works at the broader community level empowering the provision of a range of groups, workshops, forums and educative campaigns to young people of all ages and their families. These early intervention style campaigns focus on issues that can make all young people vulnerable.

City Youth Workers are required to report statistically on a monthly basis. In 2016 the two most common age groups seeking assistance from the Youth Services team were young people aged 12-14 years, followed by those aged 15 – 17 years. In terms of early intervention these statistics are important as they indicate the service offered a high level of support to young people just beginning the important transition from childhood to young adulthood.

The most common forms of service provision in descending order were support, informal counselling, information, advocacy and referral.

The most common primary presenting issues in descending order were school attendance, behaviour, mental health, social isolation, peer conflict, education and training and accommodation.

Of the young people provided with assistance 93% were ranked as being at risk or extreme risk.

The three youth workers provided 4119 occasions of service for individual assistance. This does not include the less formal but still supportive interactions, that occur when youth workers are at events such as the Beach Party or when undertaking more informal outreach to places such as the beach during school holiday periods.

The City's Youth Service's team is the only generic Youth Service offering a holistic approach to addressing young people's needs within the City. All other Youth focused services are specialised such as those focusing on mental health, general or issue specific counselling or employment and training, all with quite rigid referral requirements.

Currently the City is a Preferred Provider under the Department for Child Protection and Family Services (DCPFS) funding for 'Services for Young People at Risk'. The funding supports two Youth Worker positions and some activities funds. The City funds the rest of the service including one Youth Worker the Youth Development Officer, Coordinator, administrative support and project funds.

The current contract ceases in June 2018. DCPFS has recently completed a review resulting in the development of the Earlier Intervention and Family Support Strategy. The aim of the new funding model is for youth services to realign to provide a case management focus on young people most at risk of entering out of home care or the youth justice system. This new model will require services to have 50% of the clients with whom they engage be from an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) background.

With the advent of this approach the current preferred provider approach will cease with a more open tendering process implemented. The City would apply for ongoing funding if eligible.

It must be acknowledged however that with the City's comparatively low rates of Aboriginal young people, it may be difficult to meet the identified target. According to Profile id based on Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) data from 2011, in the City of Rockingham 3.1% of young people aged 12 – 17 years are from an ATSI background compared with 5.1% in neighbouring City of Kwinana.

If the City is unsuccessful and no agency is funded for provision of a generalist youth service to 'at risk' young people in Rockingham, a review of the options for the City will need to be undertaken. These options are addressed in the Way Forward.

3.5.4 Community Capacity Building (Youth Development)

The two Community Development Officers (Youth) within Community Capacity Building (CCB) focus on leadership, civic responsibility, work/life skills development and building connections, resilience and aspiration among young people. Current overarching initiatives include but are not limited to:

- Leadership programs (Junior Council, RYAC, GRIP)
- Place Activation Programs (Skate/BMX/Scooter clinics and comps, events)
- Art and Recreation programs (Upcycle, Schools take pArt)
- Subsidised skill development opportunities (Job Seeker Boot Camp, Life skills)
- Events (Youth Beach party)

In 2016 the Youth Development and Youth Services teams combined to provide the inaugural Youth Beach Party. 1000 young people attended the event at Rockingham Beach and Churchill Park where they engaged in a positive and enthusiastic manner with each other and the organised activities. This event raised the profile of local young people as a diverse group with a healthy interest in, and connection to their local community. There is great interest from local young people in further events of this nature.

Sport and Recreation support the myriad of sporting clubs that provide sporting opportunities to local young people and funding to those whose families could not resource their membership through the Kidsport funding. Health and Wellbeing provide informal physical activity through events such as Bike week, and creative opportunities through programs such as Photovoice.

Cultural Development and the Arts provide arts based school holiday programs at the Rockingham Arts Centre, and opportunities for young people to take part at cultural events such as Castaways.

3.5.5 Libraries, Waste Services, HR, Community and Leisure Facilities (CALF) Asset Services, Parks and Gardens

Table 3: City Provision/Outcomes Youth

Team	Item	Outcomes
Libraries	Recreation and Skills development workshops	Connections/Literacy/Life Skills
Waste Services	Workshops/Tour	Environmental awareness
Human Resources	Business Trainees	Work/Job ready skills
Asset Services/CALF	Indoor Spaces	Healthy lifestyles
Parks Services	Outdoor Spaces	Healthy lifestyles

3.5.6 Infrastructure Development

The Community Infrastructure Development (CIP) team provide the lead in consulting with community and developing the concept plans for a myriad of the City's infrastructure for children, families and young people. Much of this work particularly the outdoor spaces has been guided by the City's Youth Outdoor Recreation Space Strategy which was approved in April 2012. The strategy was developed to address a number of key issues including the need to:

- plan and develop outdoor activity spaces that went beyond the traditional skate park approach
- be more inclusive especially in relation to engaging girls and young women
- manage community concerns regarding placement of such spaces
- develop some consistency in relation to location, type, design and level.

It was based on a recognition that the trend for such spaces both nationally and internationally had moved towards:

“the provision of holistic youth outdoor recreation spaces which can provide a multitude of opportunities and challenges for a wider demographic”.

The strategy defined a youth outdoor recreation space as:

“an outdoor activity space which has been designed specifically for young people aged between 12 -24 years and encourages informal physical activity and social opportunities”

The main focus within the strategy was on developing a facility hierarchy combined with a matrix to determine the level of service provision at each facility type, as well as site selection considerations to ensure a consistent and standardised approach.

The Youth Outdoor Recreation Space Strategy is now in need of review. Consideration and discussion regarding the possibility of incorporating it into this strategy was undertaken. While it is essential that outdoor spaces for children and young people are addressed within this strategy, it is clear that the level of technical detail required in the Youth Outdoor Recreation Space Strategy is not compatible with the content and requirements of the Strategy for Children and Young People. Therefore the Youth Outdoor Recreation Space Strategy will require a separate review.

3.5.7 Not for Profit /Government Sector Provision: Early Years, Children and Young People

Mapping of Early Years' service provision in 2014 identified 24 playgroups, 1 toy library, 23 child care centres, a number of child health clinics, 2 family centres and one parent and child centre.

Kwinana Early Years Services (KEYS) South Coastal Women's Health (significantly its Aboriginal health service, Babbinga Mia), Clan WA and Ngala operate a variety of early years and young families support programs, including school readiness. However a number of these programs have recently been de-funded, or the funding base has significantly changed. Additionally Anglicare provides a variety of children's counselling.

The only early years school holiday programs were those supplied by the City's libraries.

The gaps identified through the mapping included:

- Lack of sustainability within REYG
- Mental health support for 0-8 years demographic
- Programs and support services for Fathers, including single Fathers
- Holistic support programs for families
- Affordable and accessible day care and respite for children with a disability
- Lack of accessible services for ATSI and CaLD children.
- Lack of services for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex (GLBTI) young people

Reported issues included an increase in the number of diagnosed children on significant medication in the early years of school and an increase in the number of children in the care of DCPFS with the associated issues of foster caring.

In December 2015, the City engaged SDF Global to undertake a Youth Strategy Mapping exercise to map current services and programs available within the City and also identify any gaps or overlap in service delivery.

The mapping identified large numbers of formal sporting opportunities for young people. Additionally there are significant numbers of open air spaces that provide opportunity for passive recreation and socialising.

Local churches provide a variety of faith based youth groups, leadership opportunities and camp style activities.

There are three well-known and highly respected mental health services for 12 – 25 year olds including headspace Rockingham, Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAHMS) and Youth Focus. All have waiting lists, as does the main drugs and alcohol counselling service, Palmerston.

There are a small number of issue specific counselling services, many focusing on conflict and suicide prevention and postvention. Additionally SCALES provides a free legal advice service. PCYC focuses on recreation and support for the wider

population as well as some issue specific programs for young people disengaging from school.

Headspace Rockingham has led the formation of a community response group of mental health services from across the region that have developed a working party aimed at ensuring adequate delivery of suicide prevention and postvention services.

The City has a large number of both private and government primary and high schools, including alternative approaches to education and education support schools. It also has SMYL Care school specialising in re-engagement in school for those with whom schools have found it difficult to engage. Many of the schools provide some chaplaincy and school psychologist support.

DCPFS provides services to children and families experiencing Family and Domestic Violence (FDV) locally.

Anglicare provides YSHAC, three month crisis accommodation for young people 15-25 years and also 12 month transitional accommodation for those 16-25 years.

In summary the report identified that most of the services were issue specific with none offering a generic service such as the City's Youth Services team, or a capacity building approach such as the Youth Development team.

The availability of services/programs across the City demonstrated under provision of services in priority areas such as mental health, accommodation and FDV. Additional pressure will be placed on these existing services over the next 10 years by the projected increase in the number of children (5-14 years) in the City.

The mapping identified no overlaps in service provision as services are all experiencing high demand, with many having to manage wait lists. However several gaps were identified through the key stakeholder interview process. In particular, the report noted the following gaps:

- Additional free mental health services for youth
- Youth workers available outside of general business hours, particularly Thursday evenings and weekends.
- Youth homelessness and FDV, a growing concern that requires strategic and coordinated action, due the impact of the increasing rates of FDV incidents and the increased level of violence within the incidents
- Free or affordable activities for youth on weekends and during school holidays
- More assistance for school leavers transitioning into work or other ventures

Consultation with the City's Aboriginal Advisory Group (AAG) identified their concern for young Aboriginal people who were street present in the evenings and on weekends. Resultant aimless behaviour has led to drug use, violence and a lack of respect. They reported a lack of connection to culture was one of the main reasons for these issues. Access to a culturally appropriate setting to connect to, and learn from elders is seen as an opportunity to deal with these issues. The group indicated these issues are not restricted to Aboriginal young people, but is common across many groups of young people in the City.

3.5.8 Consultation

In 2016, Jane Forward Consulting (JFC) was engaged to provide consultation services for the development of the Strategy for Children and Young People.

In order to gain a wide range of stakeholder perspectives a mix of interviews, focus groups and surveys were used, with a total of 521 individuals engaging in the consultation process.

The outcomes from the consultation are described below as opportunities, challenges, and identified learning requirements in relation to the three sets of stakeholders:

- Early Years Providers
- Parents of children aged 0 – 10 years
- Young people aged 11 – 25 years.

3.5.9 Early Years Providers Interview Responses

Interviews with four (4) local Early Years Providers identified a key strength as the existence of REYG providing the opportunity to get to know each other and to undertake programs together. Respondents also believed the region has a number of NFP's who provide quality early years services.

Opportunities for development included:

- leadership and coordination
- joined up approach/ new partnerships
- more services and programs/ investment in prevention
- partner with community/ connected and safe communities

Local providers indicated the main challenge as a lack of adequate resources for new suburbs with a desire for the City to provide 'buildings' from which they could operate.

3.5.10 Parents and Young People Responses

While consultation outcomes from both parents of 0 -11 year olds and young people aged 12 – 25 years were at times quite different there were significant similarities in terms of identified challenges and opportunities.

In all, 217 parents completed an anonymous online questionnaire prepared by the City, 14% of whom were male, 2% identified as Aboriginal and 3% identified as having a disability.

The key strength identified was that respondents overwhelmingly enjoy living in Rockingham because of the beaches, lifestyle and pace of life;

'feels like country, not as busy as the CBD, less traffic'.

Families reported that Rockingham's affordability makes it very attractive and there are many parks and amenities which are close to schools and family.

In terms of the consultation with young people, four (4) youth focus groups were held, involving Junior Council and members of Rockingham and Warnbro High Schools. Participant's ages ranged from 11 to 17 years of age.

School-based participants were unanimous in expressing that the many facets of outdoors living in Rockingham are its key strength. They value:

- the range of quality beaches
- opportunities to participate in formal and informal sports in outdoor spaces,
- parks and wildlife (greenery) which they identify as plentiful and accessible.
- the community aspect of Rockingham (ease in getting around/family/friends)

Additionally the on-line and hard copy survey attracted 212 responses from the same age demographic. It must be noted that responses from the 18 – 25 years age group were almost non-existent. The City historically has not meaningfully engaged with this group.

When asked to consider the issues or challenges the following were identified.

Table 4: Challenges

PARENTS	YOUNG PEOPLE
Community safety and crime	A lack of personal safety from an unknown danger. Younger participants concerned about stranger danger, abduction, terrorism Litter and graffiti
Mental health and wellbeing (stress, sadness, loneliness)	Mental health –a high level of comprehension of issues of physical and mental wellbeing (or illness), and the need to preserve wellbeing. Concern regarding friends and suicide School stress – pressure to do well and get good grades. Social stress – the need to fit in and be with friends (peer pressure) was further compounded by the media and a desire to look like celebrities. (body image)
Drug misuse	drugs and alcohol are too readily available
Social media	how to use safely and pressure to keep up with the 'Joneses' online and in-person bullying
Lack of employment and income	Getting a job, including locating casual work Concern for family and financial issues
Homelessness /Anti-social behaviour	FDV, poverty and homelessness

It is interesting to note that the above issues are consistent with areas of concerns identified in the 2016 Mission Australia Youth Survey.

Parents reported that when dealing with these challenges, 60% have sought support to deal with personal and child issues, most commonly from family and friends and their doctor, and identify costs as the biggest barrier to accessing support.

Young people reported when dealing with challenges they sort support from

- Parents - family
- Friends
- Professional services including school

Young people identified the following barriers to accessing support:

- Embarrassment, fear and concern re judgements from others, pride and uncertainty as to whether over-reacting (Feeling the problem not big enough)
- Same peers network
- Not enough agencies providing mental health assistance, suicide prevention, bullying support
- Affordability
- Access to phone/internet
- Outside of hours
- Parents have own problems

When asked to consider opportunities for development, the following were identified by both groups

Table 5: Opportunities for Development

PARENTS	YOUNG PEOPLE
Provision of more and improved outdoor spaces enabling safe intergenerational play More exercise equipment in parks, close to fenced in areas for little children More nature play areas for all age groups More scrub tracks and bike riding paths. More dog-friendly areas.	Improve quality of outdoor infrastructure (seating, shade, bins, water fountains, trees, courts, nets, nature play areas, exercise equipment) More nature play areas, community kitchen farms and gardens More natural shade and climbing spots
Water type parks and wet play areas at the beach (fountains/beach pool) cleaner dog beaches	Upgrade beaches (shade, water fountains, hire shops, snorkels, boats), bins, cafes, cleaner toilets and paths, platoons, sea/beach pools, safe snorkelling areas)
Intergenerational spaces such as skate park (eg Fremantle)	Multi-use skate parks and sports areas (more basketball courts and a gridiron field)
free community events (markets, park runs, outdoor cinemas)	More events, festivals and carnivals, (family friendly, youth specific)
Baldivis sports centre to be big enough to host national and international competitions.	An amphitheatre, art gallery (youth specific) and outdoor stages
Improve safety (pedestrianise foreshore roads, more CCTV and Police)	Improve select road intersections as they were felt to be unsafe
	Improved relationships between schools and greater community cohesion
	Promote the City positively (Bogan image no longer accurate)
	A central job advertising board for local opportunities

Other opportunities identified by both groups were in the realm of private enterprise such as commercial ventures including but not limited to Adventure World, Bounce (trampolining), as well as child-friendly cafés, restaurants and food outlets with kids' play areas, a local performing arts centre and theatre and improved public transport system.

Table 6: Identified Learning Requirements

PARENTS	YOUNG PEOPLE
Positive Parenting	Entertainment: age-specific and family events (outdoor movies, music festivals, silent discos)
Bringing up Boys	Special interest groups (Harry Potter, miniatures, gaming, slam poetry, bands)
Stress/Anxiety Management	Skills Workshops (cooking, photography, arts, web design, stress management, self-care and self-help)
Behaviour Management	Life skills
Goal Setting	Goal Setting
Mental Health	Work seeking/Business Development
Self Confidence	Self Confidence/Relationships
Volunteering	Mental Health/Suicide Prevention
Cyber Safety	Careers expo
Protective Behaviours	

Young people were asked to identify their preferred channels of communication with social media and a central notice board identified.

Young people were asked to identify what and where hanging out looked like. It included activity, socialising, relaxing and feeling safe. Being at home or being with friends as the places to “relax and chill”. The beach and parks were identified as good prospective hang out places if there were more active opportunities.

The school-based focus groups were asked to identify what would prevent them as individuals from reaching their educational/employment goals.

They almost exclusively professed a desire to go on to future study after completing high school; identifying a clear link between educational achievement and financial gain. Many young people faced barriers to attendance and were doubtful about the availability of work locally. Barriers included transport, accommodation and fees. Some identified family barriers including opposition to their aspirations or where they were required to provide significant support to a member with disability.

Others identified frustrations with lack of support and opportunities at school, and identified the need for good accessible career guidance such as attendance at a carers expo.

The literature clearly spells out a future in which Australians need to be highly skilled and educated but one in which most employment will look different to today. These changed forms will require a generation who holds high enterprise skills, strong interpersonal skills, and is digitally and financially literate.

Consultation with local government High School Principals regarding the reasons for disengagement from school identified different layers within schools in terms of disengagement and aspirations:

- Those who had aspiration for engaging in education and tertiary education and the ability and family support to achieve those
- Those who were aspirational but disadvantaged, lacking the means to achieve their aspirations.
- Those who were disengaged from school, often from disadvantaged and/or chaotic backgrounds

The Principals indicated that disengagement for the last group occurred very early in their lives, either in the first few years of primary school or even before that and that early intervention and support to those families was essential to achieve re-engagement.

They also indicated a tertiary scholarship scheme would engage the first two layers, but not the last layer.

In summary the outcomes from consultation indicate Rockingham's families and young people highly value local beaches and open green spaces and the laid back lifestyle. Opportunities include upgrading of parks to broaden their appeal across the demographics, more green spaces such as community gardens, water play opportunities, low cost community events and a focus on developing 'things for young people to do'. They passionately want to alter the 'bogan' reputation as they do not believe it is accurate or warranted.

Young people are aspirational, despite limited resources, want to undertake tertiary education and get work. They really want more youth specific spaces where they won't be 'moved on'.

These outcomes from the local community consultation are consistent with those reported at international, national and state level.

4. The Way Forward

The City's decision to replace the completed Youth Strategy with a Strategy for Children and Young People is in line with industry trends as presented in the literature review and endorsed by interviewed stakeholders. Stakeholders echoed the reviewed literature regarding the need for early intervention approaches, parental skill development and the need for 'joined up' services as a better utilisation of stretched resources.

Additionally, stakeholders identified the need for a more cohesive and coordinated approach to service delivery, both within their existing sectors and across the wider support network to provide better outcomes for all age groups. One stakeholder commented on the need for *"joining up of early years, children and youth services in order to support the transition from one developmental age cohort to the other."*

As such the City will need to focus on building cohesion, mutual support and collaboration within the support sector as well as taking a role as advocate in regards to attracting more services for early years, children and families to Rockingham.

The literature review indicates that child development can be hampered by the child residing in a stressful environment. Survey responses suggest that there exists a level of home and community stress in Rockingham. Research demonstrates that increased parenting skills, and early childhood education and support can have a profound positive impact on the long-term development of a child. The responses from both service providers and the parents of children age 0-11 years echo this.

There was recognition from parents involved in the consultation that attendance at parental skills building workshops and awareness-raising sessions regarding the complex issues impacting children and young people will positively impact their children.

In response to this the City will develop a program of parental skills workshops in partnership with other agencies for delivery to parents of early years and children. Topics would include but not be limited to positive parenting, bringing up boys, stress/anxiety management, behaviour management, protective behaviours, mental health, cyber safety, volunteering, self-confidence, building resilience and goal setting.

This will complement and widen the current program of workshops regarding the major issues facing young people including cyber bullying, stress/anxiety management, life skills, goal setting, work seeking, self-confidence, mental health, suicide prevention, arts, business development, and healthy relationships. There was strong recognition from young people consulted that attendance at such workshops was valuable.

As reported in the Mission Australia Youth Survey, mental health and future sustainability are central concerns of today's young people. As such providing opportunities for young people to connect to their community in a variety of ways and to engage in leadership activities and volunteering will provide a way to grow civic responsibility and civic pride.

Rockingham's young people do aspire to further education but identified barriers in resourcing such an aspiration. In recognition of this issue for young people the City has previously implemented a Learning City Strategy which has now been completed. A review of the outcomes identified that although the City had achieved most of the actions, Rockingham is not resourced to be a 'Learning City'. It is rather a learning community with the following definition accepted by the City's Rockingham Education and Training Advisory Committee (RETAC):

'Rockingham as a Learning Community is one where all residents can create, participate in and support opportunities to acquire knowledge and skills through study, experience, or instruction, resulting in the enhanced potential of individuals creating a more vibrant community.'

'The City will support the concept of a Learning Community through partnerships, building community capacity, respecting diversity, and creating opportunities for professional and personal development.'

The development of a tertiary scholarship scheme for those aged 18-40 years would address the types of barriers identified within the consultation outcomes, and support the learning community approach.

Young people and families identified a great appreciation of Rockingham's natural setting, its water, parks and green spaces. They indicated an interest in being able to contribute to what those spaces looked like and offered in respect to passive recreation opportunities. Building the opportunity for these groups to be consulted regarding new spaces and upgrades to older spaces will build a more connected, cohesive, active and healthy community.

Additionally young people want youth spaces where they can hang out, from where they will not be moved on, where they can recreate and learn in ways they enjoy. Provision of a youth space at a central Rockingham location would enable engagement with young people in their own space..

Innovative programming at such a facility could provide opportunities for young people to understand the changing face of work. A business incubator approach focusing on identifying possible skills on which to base a small business, making money from digital technology and creative industries would enable young people to learn to engage in work in new and different ways. Promotion of Social Enterprise models would also contribute to this outcome as would provision of job ready and skill building programs.

Delivery of workshops, leadership opportunities and provision of small pop-up events aimed at engaging positively with young people to grow resilience would also be possible. It would also provide a great setting for social connector groups based on specific interests for those young people struggling with social interaction and feeling estranged from their community.

Additionally it would increase the ability of the City to engage with, and partner with both service delivery and capacity building organisations.

With future funding of the City's Youth Services team unclear, considerations of how Youth Services may look if the City is unable to retain DCPFS funding is essential.

Currently DCPFS funds two of the City's three Youth Worker positions. A generic Youth Service requires at least three youth workers to be accessible and effective in outreach locations. There are a number of options the City could fund within the Youth Services area that would provide positive outcomes for the resilience of local young people. Irrelevant of who and how, provision of a generic youth service is essential to the health and wellbeing of young people within the City. It may be that this type of service could be provided by a local Not for Profit or government agency such as headspace or Anglicare.

Options if DCPFS funding to the City ceases include:

Option 1: In recognition that there are many young people across the City in need of support, the City extends its funding of the service to include the two DCPFS funded positions. In this way the City retains the current service as a three Youth Worker generalist outreach Youth Service. This would ensure the delivery of a generalist youth service within the City, similar to that provided currently and enable retention of the consortium partnership with headspace.

Option 2: The City extends its funding to include the two DCPFS funded positions with a change of role to CDO (Young People) similar to the current role within the service. This role is dedicated to awareness raising and skills development in relation to issues to which all young people are vulnerable at times making them 'at risk'. Undertake the same approach with the City funded Youth Worker position. This option would require another service to pick up delivery of a generic youth service, which remains essential to the health and well-being of all young people locally deemed 'at risk'. Additionally the ongoing partnership with headspace would need to be re-negotiated in relation to how the current obligation could be provided.

Both these options have positive outcomes for local young people. Of upmost importance from an early intervention perspective is the availability of generic youth workers locally.

If the City did not attract the DCPFS funding but another provider did, then the opportunity to fund further CDOs to undertake awareness raising and education would need to be strongly considered. This would aid the preventative education approach required to reduce the instance of children and young people requiring support services.

If the City did attract the DCPFS funding under the new guidelines then Option 3 would need to be considered.

Option 3: The new model developed by DCPFS as part of its Earlier Intervention and Family Support Strategy, aims at provision of a case management focus on young people most at risk of entering Out of Home Care or the Youth Justice System. If the City was successful the Service would need to:

- Prioritise services for Aboriginal families (50% of clients to be Aboriginal)
- Target the most vulnerable families at risk of their children going into the care of DCPFS
- Provide the service in partnership with Aboriginal people and/or organisations
- Meet strict administrative requirements regarding outcomes, data linkage, information sharing and collaborative service design.

- Provide services in line with a \$300,000 contract

Challenges for the service would include engaging local Aboriginal families, forming a closer relationship with DCPFS, forging new relationships with local providers of Aboriginal support services and developing new administrative procedures. Considering the low numbers of Aboriginal people within the City both in numbers and comparatively, a partnership approach would be necessary. According to the City's Profile id, Rockingham had 300 ATSI young people aged 12 – 17 years or 3.1% of all young people. The City of Kwinana in comparison has 5.1% of its population of young people identified as ATSI.

Once the funding situation is clear, a formal review of the service will need to be undertaken.

The SDF Global mapping identified 5 gaps, of which some are within the province of an LGA to impact significantly and some can only be impacted from within an advocacy role.

For instance provision of additional mental health services is very much the province of state and federal government. Encouraging the City's children and youth leadership groups, Junior Council and Rockingham Youth Advisory Council (RYAC) to speak for them as an advocate to federal and state funding bodies in relation to this issue is an innovative way of undertaking advocacy.

In terms of the identified gap of Youth Worker availability on evenings and weekends, best practice dictates that this only can be considered with the following conditions in place. Busy and high impact 'generic at risk' services such as the Northbridge Outreach Service demonstrates that Youth Workers hanging out in Shopping Centres and on the streets on evenings and weekends are not effective without significant other supports in place. These include Police, Safe Way Home funding, safe respite and crisis accommodation settings.

The availability of youth workers/youth development officers on evenings and weekends to provide specific resources/events/programmes can only be resourced with more service delivery agencies located within the City to enable collaboration and more funding. This will require appropriate and well informed advocacy.

Comparison of the desktop research and consultation outcomes has identified priorities including; recognise the need to focus on health and wellbeing, educational opportunity, early intervention with children and young people and their families, employment, safe participation within the online community, and civic responsibility.

These ideas as well as research and emerging trends and analysis of the current situation in the City, have contributed to a set of key elements that work for the four priority age groups with identified actions for each of the priority groups described within each Key Element.

4.1 Key Elements

4.1.1 Consultation, Engagement, Inclusion and Leadership

Increasing resilience and aspiration amongst young people, and building the community's capacity to respect, inspire and engage its young people is important to ensuring young people feel included, valued and connected to their community.

Enabling their inclusion in planning for indoor and outdoor spaces, consultation regarding strategic development and engagement and participation in civic action needs to be formalized.

Development of an Executive Youth Engagement Policy would demonstrate to young people and the broader community the City's determination to give them a voice. This would encourage further engagement of young people in consultation and interest in civic responsibility.

Engagement of young people requires provision of opportunities such as forums to investigate and discuss their world; to debate issues, describe solutions, investigate ways to operationalise solutions and how to fund their endeavours.

Provision of these types of events and forums, will contribute to breaking down the City's 'bogan' image, which was identified as a major issue for local children and young people and their families. Involving young people in the planning and implementation of such forums also promotes their engagement and inclusion within the community, as well as ensuring events remain relevant and youth appropriate.

Growing the City's leadership groups; Junior Council and RYAC sends positive messages to children and young people that their contributions to community matter, and that they can be leaders within their own demographic. Integrating some of the other leadership groups within the City at leadership events and forums will grow a core group of young leaders. Ensuring that all these groups are exposed to and educated in local decision making and civic processes also further engages them in community.

Children and families with children in the early years demographic will also feel engaged and included by provision of the same types of opportunities as those planned for young people.

Recognising the specific needs of the traditionally difficult to engage demographic of young adults aged 18-24 years is important in enabling them to connect positively to their community. Promoting the benefits of age appropriate and innovative volunteering opportunities, will increase their connection to community

For young people to feel included and engage positively with community, it is also very important for the wider community to understand how to engage with young people, to make them feel valued and welcome. Delivery of awareness raising sessions and opportunities for positive inter-generational exchange will assist with this outcome.

4.1.2 Capacity Building and Resilience

Capacity Building

Building the capacity and resilience of children and young people relies on provision of a variety of age appropriate opportunities. For the early years group it is enabling parents to access the types of workshops and events that lead to the development of safe and secure parenting skills. These workshops will provide an understanding of what their young child needs for positive brain development, development of social skills and ability to learn and connect. It is vitally important that parents are educated to understand the signs of early disengagement from learning and school, and how and where to seek support immediately. This can contribute to a possible lessening of the numbers of families seeking support for this challenge in regard to their teenagers.

Provision of parenting workshops dealing with issues including positive parenting, and developing literacy in children as well as access to opportunities to connect with other children and families in stimulating play spaces such as nature play parks and playgroups will ensure good outcomes at this early stage of life.

For some children and young people their social skills and ability to engage with peers can be limited by interests different from the current trends, a lack of self-confidence, living with a disability or having a different cultural identity. Provision of spaces where interest specific groups can be developed will strengthen their social skills, connections and cultural identity. It will also provide impetus to the development of children able to handle the transition to formal schooling with confidence in their own identity.

Provision of recreational activities and assistance for school leavers transitioning into post-secondary education/training and/or employment should be built into the key actions of the Strategy as this need has been reinforced by the consultation outcomes.

Provision of workshops and forums to upskill young people in successful job seeking is also a way forward for the City to build capacity of young people. Additionally preparing young people, particularly young adults for the changing face of what the workforce will look like in the face of globalization, technological advances and resourcing challenges is important. The establishment of business incubators and social enterprise approaches will also build their capacity to live healthy, connected and fulfilling lives.

For the 18 – 25 years demographic assistance to access appropriate training and employment is paramount. Provision of age appropriate jobs expos and job readiness programs are essential for their successful engagement in working life.

Additionally enabling young adults to successfully access tertiary learning opportunities is another way that the City can contribute to raising aspiration and growing the capacity of local young people. Provision of a tertiary scholarship scheme that enables young people to overcome some of the barriers blocking entry will enable young people to aspire to post-secondary education.

Resilience (Service Delivery)

Continuing to provide, attract and support service delivery that is specific to the identified needs of early years, children, young people, young adults and families deemed 'at risk' within the City is important. Such support can contribute to the resilience of individual families, their children and young people as well as to the overall community of families and young people.

As such continued provision of a generic youth service in the City is paramount. Consequently a review of Youth Services as outlined in the way forward is essential once the DCPFS funding review is complete.

Building a collaborative approach to addressing the issue of the afterhours gap in Youth support is important. Collaborative provision of Nightfields or Night Fields would be a positive way forward for local young people, particularly those who are street present. Nightfields is based on the premise that sport can be used to connect with disengaged and at risk young people. It traditionally provides the opportunity to participate in modified AFL matches, skills tests and challenges, but has expanded to include netball and other ball based games. Snacks and drinks are provided as well as the opportunity to connect with mentors regarding sport and life skills.

It is essential to ensure that such programs are inclusive of all cultures and all abilities.

Investigating ways to support the more vulnerable families and their children would include dissemination of appropriate information such as that produced through the Telethon Kids Institute. Playgroups are one way that such families can get support with positive parenting.

A partnership with Playgroup WA to enable the delivery of a best practice guide for local communities would enable the provision of culturally and all abilities inclusive Playgroups across the community.

Considering the concern in regard to alcohol and drugs use and misuse, enabling the growth of the Local Drug and Alcohol group would provide the opportunity for increased community and parental awareness of the issues and present information on handling these issues at home.

4.1.3 Infrastructure Development

Developing effective and innovative ways to engage with young people when developing outdoor areas could lead to more innovative and interesting spaces contributing to community connection and intergenerational awareness and acceptance.

Additionally there is the need to review the Youth Outdoor Recreation Space Strategy in order to understand how outdoor spaces for children and young people should be maintained and new spaces developed.

Young people also identified the need for hang out spaces that were indoors. The development of an interim youth space would contribute to opportunities for young people in a variety of ways. It would enable:

- leadership opportunities and the growth of small pop up events,
- the establishment of interest specific groups for young people who can be left out due to unusual interests, and those with limited social connections
- provision of job ready and life skills workshops and forums
- business incubator spaces for young people to learn how to run their own business
- business incubator spaces for young people to learn how to make a living in the social media/technology space
- provision of social enterprise opportunities
- access to visiting specialist support services in a youth friendly space
- provision of workshops regarding issues that make all young people vulnerable
- alternate outreach location for brief contacts for Youth workers
-

4.1.3 Advocacy for City of Rockingham Sector Development

Service Providers, parents and young people involved in the consultation identified gaps and the need for more provision of services particularly to families with very young children and those up to the age of 11 years. These gaps will underpin and assist to determine the direction of advocacy to be undertaken by the City.

The availability of accessible, meaningful and safe support services is essential for vulnerable children and young people. It enables them to access the assistance they need in order to be able to connect with family, school, community and work. Advocacy at all levels of government and within the Not for profit sector needs to be undertaken, not just to have more services located to Rockingham, but to encourage joined up services thus increasing capacity for service delivery.

Advocating with the larger Not for Profits to locate or satellite services within the City while necessary, depends on the availability of affordable and accessible accommodation locally. Thus identifying such spaces and making them known to the NFP sector is essential.

Advocacy at the state and federal government level for consideration of directing funds and resources to Rockingham for provision of services for vulnerable families and young people is essential. Advocacy in regards to making funding sustainable is also important in attracting and retaining the sorts of support organisations the City requires.

In particular the City will need to advocate with the state government and DCPFS to ensure funds are directed to Rockingham for a generic youth service to work with 'at risk' young people. There needs to be understanding at government level that whether the funds are directed towards the City, or, another youth service provider continuation of this type of service is essential to the health and wellbeing of our most vulnerable young people and their families.

5. Measuring Success

All projects will be evaluated against the objectives identified in Project Plans and signed off by Managers. Evaluation outcomes from projects will be reported in the monthly Bulletin to Council

ABS statistics from 2020 census in comparison to 2011 and 2016 regarding aspirations (tertiary qualifications) will provide measurement of outcomes regarding scholarships

Establishment of Youth Space and activation data regarding access by young people, types of programs and reported successes

Numbers of children and young people engaged in City consultations and total number of consultations in which they are engaged

Leadership groups' numbers continue to grow and leadership groups' led projects numbers continue to grow

Youth services' engagement statistics do not decline

Increase in numbers of parents and young people attending awareness raising and educative sessions

Significant outcomes from attitudinal and behavioural change surveys completed by parents, children and young people attending awareness raising and educative sessions

Employment figures for local young people aged 18 – 25 improve

Rockport Happiness Index

6. Risk Management

A review of possible strategic and operational risks was undertaken with the following Strategic risks identified:

Cessation of DCPFS funding to City of Rockingham for Youth Services results in loss of support services for young people deemed at risk within the community. As such it is a high level strategic risk and will be registered within the Strategic Risks Register.

7. Actions

7.1 New Actions

Key Element 1: Consultation, Engagement, Inclusion and Leadership

<i>Task</i>	<i>Cost</i>	<i>Team</i>	<i>Commence</i>	<i>Complete</i>
Develop a relationship with the 'Parenting Centre of Excellence'	<i>Officer Time</i>	<i>CCB</i>	<i>2018</i>	<i>2023</i>
Initiate leadership conferences for children, young people and young adults across leadership groups in Rockingham to meet together to discuss key issues for young people and opportunities for advocacy.	<i>5,000</i>	<i>CCB/CS&SS</i>	<i>2018</i>	<i>2023</i>
Develop increased opportunities for young people to volunteer in their community	<i>Officer Time</i>	<i>CCB/CS&SS</i>	<i>2018</i>	<i>2023</i>
Support and grow the sustainability of the Rockingham Early Years Group through provision of leadership modelling	<i>Officer Time</i>	<i>CCB</i>	<i>2018</i>	<i>2023</i>
Ensure the involvement of young people in age appropriate emerging issues forums and provide updates to the sector re availability of funding to meet outcomes of the emerging issues forums.	<i>Officer Time</i>	<i>CS&SS/CCB</i>	<i>2018</i>	<i>2023</i>
Develop an Executive Youth Engagement Policy that outlines the City's commitment to consult with young people (across all age groups) to ensure their stakeholder status and involvement in the City's decision making in relation to processes and infrastructure development that impact on young people.	<i>2,000</i>	<i>CCB/CS&SS/ S&CC</i>	<i>2018</i>	<i>2023</i>
Implement annual conference for young people to learn about and collaborate on social innovation and change initiatives, community action and advocacy	<i>5,000</i>	<i>CCB</i>	<i>2018</i>	<i>2023</i>
Develop a suite of resources to educate and encourage young people to participate in local decision making	<i>5,000</i>	<i>CCB</i>	<i>2018</i>	<i>2023</i>
Implement professional development opportunities for leaders of groups and organisations working with young people	<i>5,000</i>	<i>CCB</i>	<i>2018</i>	<i>2023</i>
Facilitate children/youth action groups in response to contemporary emerging issues	<i>5,000</i>	<i>CCB/CS&SS</i>	<i>2018</i>	<i>2023</i>

Key Element 2: Capacity Building and Resilience

<i>Task</i>	<i>Cost</i>	<i>Team</i>	<i>Commence</i>	<i>Complete</i>
Support families and community to deliver quality activities and programs targeting 0-11 year olds	<i>Officer Time</i>	<i>CCB/CS&SS</i>	<i>2018</i>	<i>2023</i>
Deliver calendar of parenting workshops that supports families to confidently and positively parent their children	<i>15,000</i>	<i>CCB/CS&SS</i>	<i>2018</i>	<i>2023</i>
Support community groups to develop holiday activities suitable for 5-11 year olds, and develop an annual calendar	<i>4,000</i>	<i>CCB</i>	<i>2018</i>	<i>2023</i>
Support for Aboriginal children to learn and practice their culture and for communities to celebrate culture	<i>4,000</i>	<i>CCB</i>	<i>2017</i>	<i>2023</i>
Develop a relationship/partnership with Co-Lab – Telethon Kids Institute (TKI) and support the dissemination of Telethon Kids Institute (TKI) research	<i>Officer Time</i>	<i>CCB</i>	<i>2017</i>	<i>2023</i>
Facilitate collaboration between primary schools, high schools, playgroups and childcare centres to develop effective transition to school programs	<i>Officer Time</i>	<i>CCB/CS&SS</i>	<i>2018</i>	<i>2023</i>
Develop a partnership with Playgroup WA to develop a 'best practice guide' to setting up and running a playgroup	<i>Officer Time</i>	<i>CCB</i>	<i>2019</i>	<i>2023</i>
Identify opportunities to support the establishment of playgroups that target vulnerable families	<i>Officer Time</i>	<i>CCB/CS&SS</i>	<i>2019</i>	<i>2023</i>
Develop a collaborative approach that can deliver a multipurpose Youth Space supporting specific interest groups, pop up events, innovation and entrepreneurship programs, workshops, meetings, co-working opportunities and individual youth services support	<i>10,000</i>	<i>CCB/CS&SS</i>	<i>2017</i>	<i>2023</i>
Bring together local education and employment service providers to identify gaps in the service provision of supporting young people into education, training and work	<i>Officer Time</i>	<i>CCB/CS&SS</i>	<i>2018</i>	<i>2023</i>
Identify/apply for funding that addresses the need for youth specific innovation and entrepreneurship programs	<i>Officer Time</i>	<i>CCB</i>	<i>2018</i>	<i>2023</i>
Provide dedicated co-working time to encourage young people and the local youth sector to collaborate on projects, share information and network	<i>Officer Time</i>	<i>CCB</i>	<i>2018</i>	<i>2023</i>
Encourage the development of a collaborative approach to addressing the after-hours gap.	<i>Officer Time</i>	<i>Managers CCB/CS&SS</i>	<i>2018</i>	<i>2023</i>
Deliver Workshops regarding issues impacting children/families/youth	<i>19,500</i>	<i>CS&SS/CCB</i>	<i>2018</i>	<i>2023</i>

<i>Task</i>	<i>Cost</i>	<i>Team</i>	<i>Commence</i>	<i>Complete</i>
Develop, promote, implement, and evaluate a tertiary scholarship scheme	95,000	CCB	2018	2023
Investigate delivery of the Nightfields program in Rockingham	Officer Time	CCB	2018	2023
Support and grow the sustainability of the Local Drug Action Group	Officer Time	CS&SS	2018	2023

Key Element 3: Infrastructure Development

<i>Task</i>	<i>Cost</i>	<i>Team</i>	<i>Commence</i>	<i>Complete</i>
Review the Youth Outdoor Recreation Space Strategy	Officer Time	CIP/CCB/Parks	2018	2023
Engage/involve community in design/redesign of innovative and age appropriate recreation and play spaces and reserves	Officer Time	CIP/Parks and Gardens/CCB/Asset Services	2017	2022
Develop a Youth Space within a broader City mainstream facility, that could include Library, Community spaces, Youth spaces and Not for Profit spaces	Officer Time	CIP/CCB/CS&SS	2022	2022
Develop an interim Youth space at a central Rockingham location to be identified	500,000	CCB/CS&SS/Asset Services	2017	2022
Ensure inclusion of facility provision of young women	Officer Time	CIP/CCB/CS&SS	2017	2022
Ensure Outdoor Youth Recreation spaces include broader contemporary activation opportunities such as parkour, not just skate/BMX/scooter opportunities	Officer Time	CIP	2018	2022
Ensure the inclusion of the RFAN in the Foreshore redevelopment and the involvement of children, families and young people in its design.	2,000	CIP/CCB	2017	2022
Advocate with Developers and Parks to include innovative elements in parks and outdoor spaces	Officer Time	CCB	2017	2022
Ensure inclusion of families, children and young people in consultation during development of indoor and outdoor spaces	Officer Time	CIP/CCB	2017	2022

Key Element 4: Advocacy for City of Rockingham Sector Development

<i>Task</i>	<i>Cost</i>	<i>Team</i>	<i>Commence</i>	<i>Complete</i>
Advocate for funding for additional Child and Parent Centres in Baldivis and Port Kennedy	<i>Officer time</i>	<i>CCB</i>	<i>2018</i>	<i>2023</i>
Advocate for sustainable funding for delivery of accessible early childhood, children and young people services within Rockingham including affordable respite for children with a disability	<i>Officer time</i>	<i>CCB</i>	<i>2018</i>	<i>2023</i>
Advocate for programs/services that support vulnerable families to be based in Rockingham	<i>Officer time</i>	<i>CCB</i>	<i>2018</i>	<i>2023</i>
Advocate with the State government for the ongoing provision of DCPFS funding for a generic Youth Service within the City of Rockingham	<i>Officer time</i>	<i>CS&SS</i>	<i>2018</i>	<i>2023</i>
Advocate to improve accessible public transport routes for young people to popular social destinations day and night/ align with school timetabling	<i>Officer time</i>	<i>CCB</i>	<i>2022</i>	<i>2023</i>
Advocate for subsidised learning driver opportunities or programs	<i>Officer time</i>	<i>CCB/CS&SS</i>	<i>2018</i>	<i>2023</i>
Advocate for funding for counselling services specifically for children 5–10	<i>Officer time</i>	<i>CCB/CS&SS</i>	<i>2018</i>	<i>2023</i>

7.2 Ongoing Actions

Key Element 1: Consultation, Engagement, Inclusion and Leadership

<i>Task</i>	<i>Cost</i>	<i>Team</i>
Promote Youth Encouragement Grant Program and Access to Arts funding	<i>Officer time</i>	<i>CCB</i>
Revitalise the City's Youth Advisory Council program to have a stronger focus on advocacy, leadership, skills development and consultation	<i>10,000</i>	<i>CCB</i>
Revitalise the City's Junior Council program to have a stronger focus on consultation, leadership and knowledge development.	<i>10,000</i>	<i>CCB</i>
Continue to work with local media , young people and community stakeholders to promote good news stories about local children and young people	<i>Officer time</i>	<i>CCB/CS&SS</i>
Continue to work with community stakeholders to encourage the nomination of local young people for awards and recognition	<i>Officer time</i>	<i>CCB</i>
Support community events that encourage families and young people (all age groups) to engage and participate in the Rockingham community together, rather than in isolation.	<i>Officer Time</i>	<i>CCB</i>
Continue to provide pop up and major events		<i>CCB/CS&SS</i>
Provide coordination of the WA Youth Development Network	<i>1,000</i>	<i>CCB</i>

Key Element 2: Capacity Building and Resilience

<i>Task</i>	<i>Cost</i>	<i>Team</i>
Continue to promote to and enable community access to the Community Grants Program for funding to address the needs of early years, children and young people	<i>Officer time</i>	<i>CCB</i>
Support and grow the sustainability of the KRAFTY network to promote strategic discussion regarding the general issues for young people	<i>1,000</i>	<i>CS&SS</i>
Support relevant community groups to apply for grant funding	<i>Officer time</i>	<i>CCB</i>
Implement creative arts and music programs that are not readily accessible for local young people	<i>42,767</i>	<i>CCB</i>
Provide a generic youth service to 'at risk' young people in outreach locations	<i>737,155</i>	<i>CS&SS</i>

<i>Task</i>	<i>Cost</i>	<i>Team</i>
Maintain and meet requirements of the consortium membership of headspace Rockingham	<i>Officer Time</i>	<i>CS&SS</i>
Provide skate/BMX/Scooter events/clinics	<i>10,000</i>	<i>CCB</i>
Implement Youth Activation events/programs	<i>56,000</i>	<i>CCB</i>
Implement Life Skills workshops and projects	<i>42,802</i>	<i>CCB</i>
Implement Early Years AEDI findings projects	<i>20,000</i>	<i>CCB</i>

Key Element 3: Infrastructure Development

<i>Task</i>	<i>Cost</i>	<i>Team</i>
Facilitate the inclusion of young people in site selection and design of outdoor youth recreation spaces	<i>Officer Time</i>	<i>CCB/CIP</i>
Provide advice and assistance to Community Infrastructure Planning in the development of consultations briefs and scopes with regard to the development of age appropriate infrastructure	<i>Officer Time</i>	<i>CCB</i>
Develop an engagement consultation plan with Asset Management to inform ongoing maintenance, upgrade and/or replacement of the City's skate parks and youth spaces.	<i>Officer Time</i>	<i>Asset Management/CIP</i>

8. Stakeholder Engagement

<i>Key Stakeholders invited to participate</i>	<i>Contributed? (Yes/No)</i>	<i>Engagement method used</i>
<i>Families of Children 0-11 years</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Focus Groups and Survey (online and hard copy)</i>
<i>Young People 12 – 25 years</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Focus Groups and Survey (online and hard copy)</i>
<i>Service Providers</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Focus Groups</i>
<i>KEYS (Kwinana Early Years Group)</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Stakeholder Interview</i>
<i>CLANWA</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Stakeholder Interview</i>
<i>NGALA</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Stakeholder Interview</i>
<i>CACH (Child and Adolescent Community Health – Child Health Nurses)</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Stakeholder Interview</i>
<i>CoR Managers and Staff Mary-Jane Rigby Manager Community Support and Safety Services Gary Rogers Manager Community Infrastructure Planning Alison Oliver Manager Libraries Alicia Kilminster Coordinator Youth and Community Support Services Rohan Blee Coordinator Sport and Recreation Olivia Forsdike CDO (Young People) Beth Webster CDO (Youth Development) Ellie Efijemueh CDO (Youth Development) Jo Draper CDO (Youth Development) Dean Stoitis Senior Projects Officer Nadine Stone (Youth Worker) Melissa Laris (Youth Worker) Veronica Smith (Youth Worker) Sheila Cleaver CDO (Early Years and Children) Jessica Lavers, Secretary Community Support and Safety Services Carly Krozeck, Senior Infrastructure Planning Officer Matthew Emmott, Infrastructure Planning Officer Adam Johnson Manager Parks Services James Henson Manager Land Development</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Focus group meeting regarding consultation scope Focus group discussion regarding design of survey Draft 1 provided for comment and comments received</i>

9. References

1.	<i>WACOSS Local Government and Early Years Networks Working in Partnership Resource 2017</i>
2.	https://www.unicef.org/crc/ <i>Convention on the Rights of the Child</i>
3.	<i>Centre on the Developing Child Harvard University Building Core Capabilities for Life</i>
4.	<i>OECD Education Indicators in Focus Report 2016</i> http://www.oecd.org/edu/skills-beyond-school/educationindicatorsinfocus.htm
5.	<i>UNICEF State of the World's Children Report 2011</i> https://www.unicef.org/sowc2011/
6.	<i>Council of Australian Governments 2015 Healthy, Safe and Thriving: National Strategic Framework for Child and Youth Health</i>
7.	<i>Australian Government National Strategy for Young Australians</i>
8.	<i>Australian Youth Foundation 2016 Renewing Australia's promise Report Card 2016</i>
9.	<i>Mission Australian Youth Survey Report 2015</i>
10.	<i>David Lawrence, Sarah Johnson, Jennifer Hafecost, Katrina Boterhoven de Haan, Michael Sawyer, John Ainley, Stephen R. Zubrick 2015 The Mental Health of Children and Adolescents</i>
11.	<i>Davis MacKenzie, Paul Flatau, Adam Steen, Monica Thielking: The Cost of Youth Homelessness in Australia Research Briefing</i>
12.	<i>YACWA 2017 Forging a Fair Path Forward</i>
13.	<i>Commissioner for Children and Young People 2015 Listen to Us using the views of WA Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander children and young people to improve policy and service delivery.</i>
14.	<i>Commissioner for Children and Young People 2016 Children and Young People from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Backgrounds Speakout</i>
15.	<i>Dr Teresa Swist, Dr Phillipa Collin, Ms Jane McCormack, Associate Professor Amanda Third, Institute for Culture and Society, University of Western Sydney 2015 Social media and the wellbeing of children and young people: A literature review</i>