

Warwick Shire Council

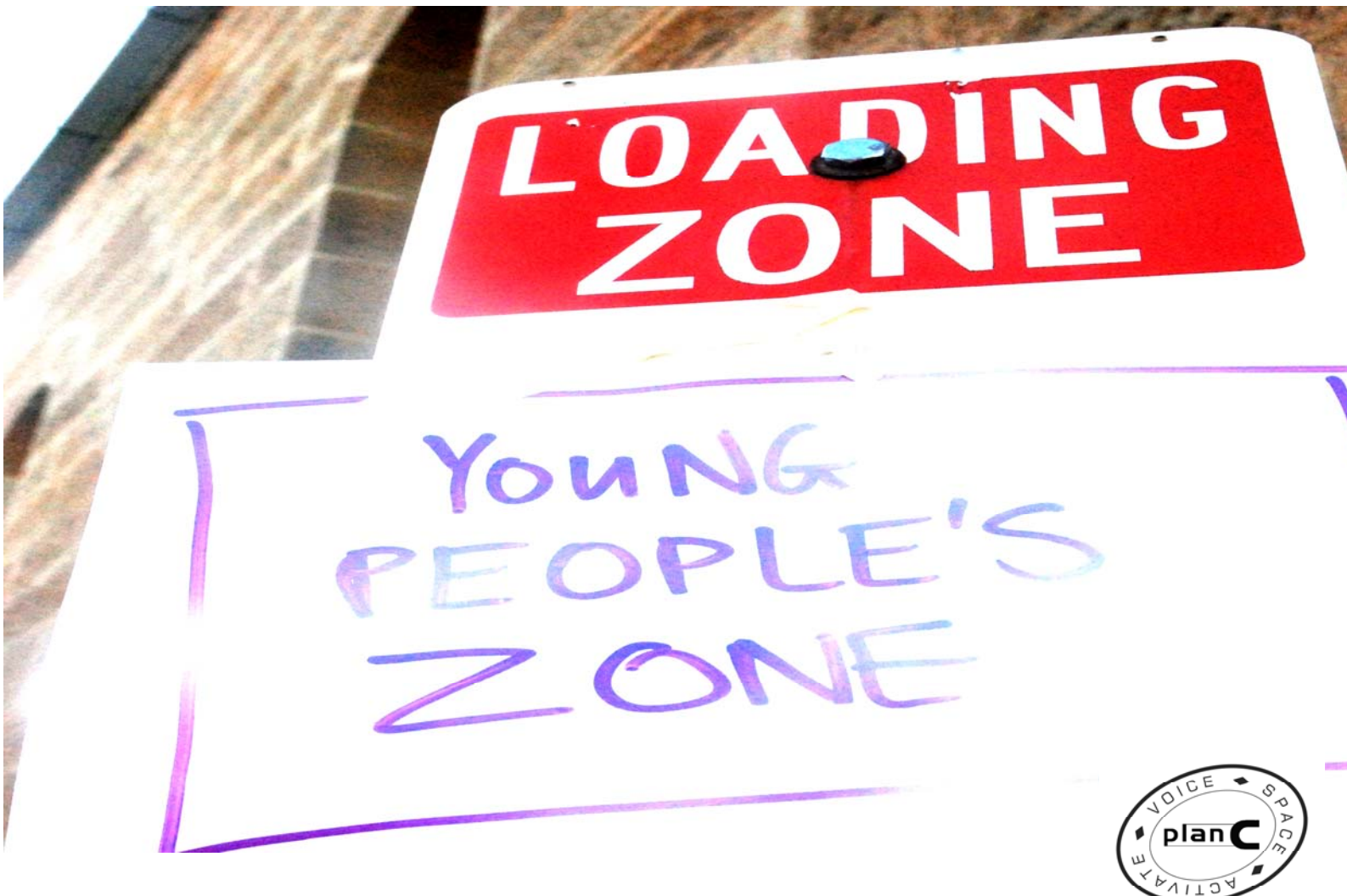
Activities for Young People

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Youth Activity Plan

FINAL DRAFT: June 2007

2007-08



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Warwick Shire Council is taking a highly proactive approach to improving the lives of young people by developing a Youth Activity Plan (YAP).

THE WARWICK YOUTH ACTIVITY PLAN (YAP)

The YAP sets out Council's vision, objectives, key drivers and processes associated with providing activities and events for young people aged between 10 and 18 in Warwick Shire. The YAP also describes:

- The way in which activities and events are provided for young people, including planning, facilitation, location, timing and marketing;
- How youth support organisations, including Council, collaborate to provide activity and event opportunities for young people;
- Opportunities and needs associated with infrastructure, activities and spaces; and
- Resource and capacity building needs associated with providing activities and events.

The purpose of the YAP is to:

- Develop a consistent and coordinated approach to the delivery of structured and unstructured events by creating an Activity Plan for key periods, such as school holidays, weekends and after hours for the Warwick Shire, and
- Integrate and enhance linkages between community organisations, business, schools and sport and recreation clubs, including the Warwick Indoor Recreation and Aquatic Centre and other local sporting bodies through a community development approach.

THE VISION

Young people in Warwick Shire have greatly improved access to a diverse range of activities, events and active spaces. Collaboration between government, organisations and young people can provide these opportunities and assist in growing young people's participation, knowledge and skills for the betterment of the broader Warwick Shire and community.

PROCESS

Developing the YAP has involved the following stages and approaches:

Stage	Activity	Approach
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Leading practice review• Stakeholder review	Researching: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Current theory and approaches in development of activities for young people• Comparable approaches to developing youth activities and strategies at the local government level, both local, national and international and models of implementation• Council's current Strategy Frameworks, strategic documents and other guiding instruments

2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WSC document review • Demographic review 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review background documents and demographic statistics • Incorporate into the development of the YAP
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engagement with young people • Preliminary engagement with Warwick Shire organisations and related youth services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing the Young People's Network • Film interviews • Bus tour • Laneway event • Phone interviews • Organisation interviews
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft Youth Activity Plan and supporting documents • Draft short film 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop the YAP based on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - young people's input - observations - broader consultation - discussions with organisations - review of background materials • Prepare the draft short film
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multi-stakeholder workshop 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Present the findings of the project to date, including the draft YAP • Review findings with primary focus on collaboration and implementation
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final Youth Activity Plan • Final short film 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop the final YAP and short film based on all input and review from Multi-stakeholder workshop and public comment.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Nine key recommendations and actions have been identified to enable the Warwick Youth Activity Plan to be delivered.

1. **Document, promote and conduct currently planned activities**
 - a. Use new framework provided through this document
 - b. Focus on capacity building, network development & evaluation
2. **Develop networks**
 - a. Shared Youth Calendar
 - b. Form the Schools Network (to apply for funding and to assist with delivering the program)
 - c. Further develop partnerships with youth service agencies and Warwick Shire organisations
 - d. Further scope activity delivery options:
 - e. Meeting with key funding agencies to discuss program development & delivery and capacity building within Shire
3. **Funding applications**
 - a. Training and capacity building
 - b. Part time Youth Activities Worker
 - c. Marketing and communications training with young people (YPN)
 - d. Program delivery and evaluation
4. **Youth Activities Officer**
 - a. Develop role and responsibilities
 - b. Engage with networks
 - c. Funding applications
 - d. Develop program
5. **Conduct capacity building and training**
 - a. Young people
 - b. Youth service providers
 - c. Youth District Office

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6. **Deliver additional activities/events through funding allocations**
 - a. 6 activation events in laneways and parks
 - b. Other events and activities where possible according to funding availability
 7. **Evaluate activities program and capacity building/training outcomes**
 - a. With WYN
 - b. With young people
 - c. With schools
 8. **Funding applications for 2008:09**
 9. **Develop program for 2008:09**

KEY ASPECTS TO SUCCESS OF THE YAP

Although all of the nine identified recommendations are important to the effective implementation and delivery of the Plan, the following six elements have been identified as critical to the Plan's success and have been included in recommendations above.

STAFF RESOURCING

To successfully deliver this Plan, an additional part-time position needs to be created and funded. Warwick Shire, like numerous regional and rural areas in Australia, is under resourced in the provision of services and activities intended for young people when compared to the levels of service offered by larger urban local authorities.

Presently, the Warwick District Youth Office Manager, supported by a part time trainee, is largely undertaking coordination of the youth sector on their own. It needs to be recognised that the role of coordination is different to delivery and there is only limited capacity under the current staff resources to deliver additional activities or other recommendations of this plan.

Obviously there is a cost associated with the creation of a new part-time position and it is recognised that funding is not be available from within the Warwick Shire Council's budget at this time. Several external funding sources are available for initiatives such as the creation of a Youth Activities Officer, particularly in conjunction with the development of the YAP. Further information about funding sources is provided in Volume 2 of the Plan.

FUNDING

Commitment to provide or seek to secure funding for both the additional part-time position and events associated with the Plan is critical. Key funding opportunities that are able to deliver key aspects of the implementation approach are detailed in the Plan, including provisional scoping of particular areas of the YAP implementation these grants may be able to cover. Grants are particularly accessible for Warwick Shire as they are provided to meet regional, Indigenous and youth needs all of which are relevant to the development of the YAP.

The ability to successfully apply for funding for the YAP is significantly increased by the community-wide approach adopted throughout the project. This has been confirmed by discussions with key State Government funding agencies including Department of Communities and Sport and Recreation.

ACTIVATION

A suitable activation approach is integral to the success of the Warwick Youth Activity Plan. Activation is the temporary use of a space for an event; an arts or community cultural development program focussing on a space or issue or any other activity that brings increased connections and activities

within a space. Activation ensures spaces are made attractive to a wide range of young people, and facilitates increases in physical activity participation within spaces. Activation also seeks to legitimise, encourage and promote young people's positive use of public space, by providing an innovative model to support a fuller range of young people's engagement in community life. Hence, an activation model promotes young people's relationship, networks, social developments and all over wellbeing in their local communities through physical and cultural activities.

CAPACITY BUILDING

Young people in Warwick feel that the Shire is "adult-centred" and that there is a gap in the 20s and 30s age groups of people interested in working with young people to organise activities and events. Building community capacity through developing a mentoring approach builds understanding and collaboration between generations as well as providing young people with opportunities to learn skills in areas of interest. Ensure the community develops the skills to maintain and progress the YAP is critical.

NETWORK DEVELOPMENT

Collaboration between the Warwick Youth Support Network, the Young People's Network, WSC, the wider community and young people can yield supportive relationships that widen the potential net of activity, venue and resource possibilities.

The activity and venue scoping conducted as part of this project has revealed a wide array of resources and facilities within Warwick Shire available for activity and event use. However, there are issues in young people's knowledge of these activities and opportunities such as sharing resources or cross promotion currently do not exist to a large extent. Facilitating closer relationships with providers and facilitators is an important component in building on existing strengths and delivering as diverse an activity/event program as possible within budget and capacity.

ACTIVITY DELIVERY AND EVALUATION

Ensuring that planned activities are delivered successfully and that success of the program and its activities is continually evaluated and when or if necessary, the Plan is amended to meet the changing needs of the community and the young people of Warwick is again critical to the success of the Plan.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

A preliminary understanding of key roles and responsibilities required to effectively deliver the YAP appears in the table below.

Agency	Role	Responsibilities	Funding / Support
Warwick Shire Council	YAP management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Funding applications - Program evaluation and review - Liaison and development of networks (YSN, YPN, Schools) through Warwick District Youth Office - Support for Warwick Schools Network 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Warwick Shire Council - Funding applications
Warwick District Youth Services Office	Youth Network facilitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Coordination of all existing networks including Youth Services, sporting/recreation/arts/culture organisations and venue/resource owners & managers - Develop new schools and young peoples networks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Warwick Shire Council - Funding applications - Sport & Recreation Committee

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Development of training and capacity building opportunities - Creating opportunities for training, capacity building and mentoring. 	
Warwick Schools Network	Overall program delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Supported accessing of funding for program - Location of YPN - Schools Network 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Active Healthy funding - Our Place Our Future funding - Warwick Shire Council
Warwick Youth Network	Program review, targeted delivery and facilitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support for program delivery and activity facilitation - Mentoring opportunities for young people - Collaboration on funding sources and applications - Development of a cohesive youth support network 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Warwick Shire Council - Active Healthy funding - Our Place Our Future funding
Youth Activities Officer (<i>new position to be created</i>)	Program delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Delivery of program - Development of activity, facilitator and venue resources - Fund raising assistance - Training and capacity building with young people and networks - Evaluation and review of program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This position is tied to accessing funding from State and Federal government agencies. - The position sits within Warwick Shire Council and the Youth Services Office. To be most effective it is recommended that the position be at the same level of responsibility and autonomy as the position of the Youth Services Officer.
Young People's Network and Young Ambassadors	Participation in activity provision and evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Participation in event design, marketing, conduct and evaluation - Networking and communication among young people in Warwick Shire - General marketing and networking advice to youth support agencies wanting to provide activities or events 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Our Place Our Future funding
SDIEA & other training organisations	Training opportunities for young people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Training and capacity building for young people - Preparations for workplace transition for young people - Coordination of skills, resources and venues to increase training opportunities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Active Healthy funding - Our Place Our Future funding - Other program delivery funding
Sporting, recreation, arts & culture organisations	Activity facilitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provide activity opportunities through facilitation, funding and ideas generation. Collaboration through email, phone, printed communications media and otherwise to maximize activity opportunities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Active Healthy funding - Our Place Our Future funding - Other program delivery funding
Venue and resource owners and managers	Activity facilitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Coordinate the use of local venues and resources to maximise activity opportunities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Active Healthy funding - Our Place Our Future funding - Other program delivery funding

IMPLEMENTATION

Three implementation resourcing options have been developed.

The Options are in order of preference with Option 1 being the preferred model and would its self, to a large degree, ensure the fulfilment of the Plan.

Option 1 (preferred option)

Warwick Shire Council initiated

- Shared funding between Council and other bodies such as State or Commonwealth government departments
- Council assists with seeking funding and can provide support
- A Youth Activities Officer delivers the program - 3 days per week ~ \$15,000 to 35,000 pa
- Resourcing required for:
 - 6 events \$40,000 in year 1
 - Capacity building of WDYS, YPN & WYN
 - Youth Activities Officer wages - \$~35,000
 - External assistance with capacity building and delivery ~\$10,000 to \$30,000
 - Programs and courses for young people
 - Developing youth calendar and stakeholder database resources with key stakeholders (based in work commenced in this project)
 - Funding applications for additional events/activities/programs

Option 2

Council and Schools collaboration

- On the provision that no Council funding is available and other funding will need to be sought
- Council assists with seeking funding and support and schools collaboratively deliver the activities and programs
- Network and partnership development is key
- Potential to develop a new community association to receive funding, employ workers and deliver program
- Capacity building, participation and activity delivery is the focus
- Resourcing required for:
 - Developing the inter-school network
 - Events and activities
 - Capacity building of WDYS, YPN & WYN
 - External assistance with capacity building and delivery ~\$5,000 to \$20,000
 - Developing youth calendar and database resources with key stakeholders
 - Programs and courses for young people developed and implemented
 - Network coordinator position ~ \$20,000

Option 3

Strategic maintenance of current program

- On the provision that no Council funding is available and other funding will need to be sought
- Council assists with seeking funding
- Develop networks and partnerships
- Strategic coordination of activity provision
- Capacity building and delivery on a project basis
- Resourcing required for:
 - Events and activities
 - Programs and courses for young people
 - Developing youth calendar and database resources with key stakeholders
 - External assistance with capacity building and delivery ~\$5,000 to \$20,000

PROPOSED ACTIVITY PROGRAM SUMMARY FOR YEAR 2007- 2008

The proposed Activity Program

- is achievable and able to be implemented;
- represents what young people are asking for;
- is based on leading practice research and engagement processes with young people;
- integrates and enhances linkages between various community groups; and
- increases young people's opportunities for physical activity of in Warwick Shire.

Month	Proposed activities	Estimated delivery \$
July 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Guard DVD - Raw Dance workshops - Skate competition - Wake Up Call laneway event organisers workshop - Blue Light Dance Party (13th) 	\$5,715
August 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Operation Drag - In the Bin - Peace Pole Painting - Event management workshop - VJing workshop - DJ workshop - Allora Youth Cafe - Blue Light Dance Party (3rd) - Outdoor movies 	\$5,300
September 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Operation Drag - Blue Light Dance Party (7th) - Skateboard workshops - Hip Hop Workshops - Disability Art Project - Trial Event #1: Wake Up Call 	\$6,300
October 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Blue Light Dance Party (12th) - Photography workshops and calendar development - 	\$1,500
November 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Blue Light Dance Party (2nd) - Outdoor movies 	\$2,800
December 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Blue Light Dance Party (7th) - Outdoor movies - Nature walks - Multicultural Family Event - Photography workshops and calendar development - Trial Event #2: Queens Park 	\$11,300
January 2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Blue Light Dance Party - Allora Youth Café - Outdoor movies - Trial Event #3: Laneway event - Trial Event #4: Leslie Park 	\$9,600

Month	Proposed activities	Estimated delivery \$
February 2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mega Family Fun Day - Operation Drag - Blue Light Dance Party 	\$4,000
March 2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Supported involvement in Warwick Show - Operation Drag - Outdoor movies - Blue Light Dance Party 	\$1,300
April 2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Blue Light Dance Party - Operation Drag - Trial Event #5: Youth Week Laneway event - Tennis workshops - AFL workshops - Boxing & self defense workshops - Skate & BMX clinics - General life skills workshop 	\$8,500
May 2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Blue Light Dance Party - Operation Drag - Outdoor movies - Youth Gym 	\$800
June 2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Blue Light Dance Party - Art workshops - Sports "Have a go" day - Outdoor movies - Laneway event - Trial Event #6: Laneway event 	\$7,800
ESTIMATED TOTAL		\$66,915