

# Attachment C: Youth Advisory Panel Self-Review in the 2013-2016 Term

## 1. Introduction

This paper outlines the self-review process undertaken by members of council's Youth Advisory Panel (YAP) and the key insights captured at the final YAP meeting on the 8 August 2016. The concept of a YAP self-review was first developed as a recommendation of the youth voice transition team at the end of 2015.

The aim of the self-review was to allow members of the YAP to reflect on their experiences as representatives of young peoples' voices across the 21 local youth boards in Auckland during the 2013-2016 term. A self-review is a valuable mechanism to allow members to document experiences and learnings, while also celebrating the achievements of the panel.

The YAP makes a valuable contribution to the Mayor's vision by fostering conversations between young people and the council, while connecting youth with council decision-making, programmes and events.

## 2. Scope of the self-review

The approach to the self-review enabled a co-design process. This involved working with panel members to generate opportunities for members to lead or design the activities themselves. Meetings between council staff and YAP members informed the approach of the self-review. The self-review focused on the panel's advisory and influencing role, which recognise the interests and preferences of the youth of Auckland in relation to strategies, policies, bylaws and plans of council.

Overarching principles for the self-review include:

- youth-centred
- strengths based approach
- focus on achievements
- safe processes that support information collection.

## 3. Identified achievements and panel impacts

The process (Appendix A) allowed YAP members to identify their own achievements from a range of items that they had either provided advice and feedback on or topics that they received updates on over the term. Two goals from the I Am Auckland strategy were used to frame the workshop:

- Goal 1 - I have a voice, am valued and contribute
- Goal 5 - I can get around and get connected

Information was collected through a creative self-reflection process which encouraged conversations about members experience and values. These were framed within an overall context that enabled members to create stories that provided rich insights.

Although there was some variation in the length of time some members have served at the time of the self-review, most members had some experience of the goals as either YAP members or members of youth voice groups.

Section 4 of the terms of reference for the YAP enables panel members to undertake a wide range of activities. The expected impacts of those activities have been categorised under three broad theme areas:

- influence
- shared learning and Development
- leadership.

#### 4. Matrix to capture impacts and key insights of YAP activities

Broad themes of YAP impacts	Rationale	Terms of reference examples	Quotes and insights from YAP members
Influence	YAP influences council's engagement and communication, consultation, participation practices, funding priorities, decision-making processes to meet the needs of young people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Providing input and advice on key strategies and plans</li> <li>• Engaging with key decision makers</li> <li>• Understanding views and needs of youth across Auckland</li> <li>• Drafting communications and media strategies</li> </ul>	<p>"The Youth Advisory Panel is a great platform for young people to come together from local areas to share ideas and provide a voice and perspective for a better future for youth."</p> <p>"YAP encourages you to stand your ground, find your values and stick to them."</p> <p>"Being able to represent youth voice is a very rewarding and empowering experience."</p> <p>"My aspiration is to give every young person an opportunity to have a voice and contribute to shaping Auckland."</p> <p>"Submitting on the Long Term Plan raised the profile for your people's needs, particularly in</p>

Broad themes of YAP impacts	Rationale	Terms of reference examples	Quotes and insights from YAP members
Shared learning and Development	YAP members develop their interpersonal skills, knowledge and behaviours to have the courage to act	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identifying aspirations, goals and responsibilities</li> <li>• Decision-making processes at meetings</li> <li>• Understanding different world views</li> </ul>	<p>relation to improving public transport frequency and reliability.”</p> <p>“I feel proud of our achievement in regards to having a say on the Unitary Plan at the governing body meetings.”</p> <p>“It is my hope for more affordable housing option for young people and young families.”</p> <p>“Being part of the Community Empowerment Unit youth voice transition team made me feel empowered and that I could have an impact in the community.”</p> <p>“My hope is to be able to make council more relatable to young people by informing how council communicates and consults.”</p> <p>“The impact of my involvement left me feeling like I had a voice, and that my voice mattered.”</p> <p>“My opinion about the Auckland plan is that it gives council a framework to prioritise young people.”</p>
			<p>“YAP has been an incredible learning experience into local government and how to impact my local community at a strategic level.”</p> <p>“I have learned that your community is your team so represent them well.”</p> <p>“YAP has given me knowledge about local government and encourages you to learn from</p>

Broad themes of YAP impacts	Rationale	Terms of reference examples	Quotes and insights from YAP members
Leadership	YAP is viewed by organisations and young people as a credible leader for advocating systems change and improved participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Setting strategy and identifying issues</li> <li>• Advocating on behalf of young people and organisations that represent youth</li> <li>• Leveraging networks and relationships</li> <li>• Advocating for improved youth consultation and representation</li> </ul>	<p>those around you.”</p> <p>“It pushes you outside of your comfort zone, and encourages you to put your hand up.”</p> <p>“Always have the heart to learn and develop ideas that can help young people overall.”</p> <p>“The people who enable me were council staff - it is fantastic how supportive they were.”</p>
			<p>“It’s encouraging to be able to meet with young leaders who are passionate about their communities.”</p> <p>“Allows us to better engage with our youth voice groups and get involved with community.”</p> <p>“YAP ensures that youth are heard on all levels across council.”</p> <p>“We ran a youth consultation event on the Long Term Plan at Auckland University with 100+ people. It was a really successful way to engage with youth.”</p> <p>“I see YAP as an excellent platform for youth representatives of each local area to voice their areas opinions and share news that we can all take back to our own boards.”</p>

## **5. Key learnings and outcomes**

At the final panel meeting on the 8 August the following were noted as key learnings for the Youth Advisory Panel:

- Ability to influence within the community and council,
- Building understanding of local government functions,
- The importance of community focus and a collective youth voice,
- Shared learning and development amongst panel members,
- Ensuring equity across youth voice representation.

The following were noted as some of the key outcomes for Auckland Council as a result of the work of the Youth Advisory Panel:

- Meaningful youth engagement and youth development,
- Inclusion of diverse perspectives,
- Increased awareness of local government functions for youth which enables youth voice in council,
- Youth leadership and input into key decision making processes.

Youth Advisory Panel members felt it is important that these outcomes should continue to be prioritised going forward in whatever mechanism council chooses to engage with youth.

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Appendix A: **Process outline for the self-review**

