

# YOUTH CONNECTIONS SOUTH LOCAL GOVERNANCE GROUP

## TERMS OF REFERENCE

### 1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Mangere-Otahuhu and Otara-Papatoetoe Local Boards were pioneers of the Youth Connections initiative, which was launched by Auckland Council in May 2012. The initiative is a collaboration with the Mayors Taskforce for Jobs, the Tindall Foundation, Auckland Airport Community Trust and several other key stakeholder organisations to help Auckland's young people get local jobs by improving the links between school leavers and local employers.
- 1.2 The two Local Boards made a joint application for the available philanthropic funding from the outset. Local board leaders made sure the project was delivered to meet local needs and championed the initiative by encouraging and supporting local employers, schools, trainers and associated services to get behind it.
- 1.3 Mangere-Otahuhu and Otara-Papatoetoe Local Boards decided to work together on this initiative for a number of reasons including the fact the two Boards have similar youth populations and ethnic diversity, similar youth unemployment and disengaged rates, similar social issues, some local secondary schools were already engaged, through the former Manukau City Council and school populations move between the two boards. Both Boards also have proximity to the same key employers in the area. In addition the Otara – Papatoetoe Board had been involved with the Mayors Taskforce for Jobs and a number of youth employment projects through the former Manukau City Council. The Mangere- Otahuhu Local Board was keen to collaborate as being part of the previous Auckland City Council they had not been a member of the Mayors Taskforce for Jobs. Both Boards saw an advantage in combining the available funding, particularly those funds external to council.
- 1.4 The Local Boards therefore set up a joint governance group with members nominated by their respective Boards to drive the initiative. Delivery plans to suit the specific youth employment needs of their communities were developed, members worked collaboratively on the initiative as the Youth Connections South Local Governance Group and employed their own staff. These Local Board Youth Connections Advisors reported formally on the progress of the project against outcomes, and the Local Governance Group used direct contact via their community networks, regular local media opportunities and general media releases, to communicate progress to their local communities.
- 1.5 Subsequently the Youth Connections Local Governance Group (LGG) initiative has grown and developed with significant investment and financial support from some funding providers and the Local Boards. The group has a joint strategic plan, which shapes its vision and provides a basis for accountability to the Local Boards, funders and the public.

## **2. VISION**

That all young people under 25 be engaged in appropriate education, training, work or positive activities in our communities.

## **3. OBJECTIVES OF THE LOCAL GOVERNANCE GROUP**

- 3.1 Set the strategic direction of the Youth Connections initiative.
- 3.2 Ensure the delivery of the strategic plan and programme of work.
- 3.3 Advise on priorities in allocation of resources.
- 3.4 Provide relevant intelligence to inform the strategic direction on a real time basis.
- 3.5 Communicate the wider strategic vision of Youth Connections (improving youth employment, ensuring every young Aucklanders has a career plan and a clear pathway into sustainable employment), with key stakeholders.
- 3.6 Advocate and champion young people in their transition journeys to become work ready and employers in their journey to become youth ready and provide quality employment.
- 3.7 Share local examples of “best practice” initiatives.
- 3.8 Advocate for systemic change in education, training, employment and social perception.

## **4. ROLES**

- 4.1 The Local Governance Group (LGG) provides the civic leadership opportunity to engage the whole community in the culture shift needed to value our young people and support them to reach their full potential and contribute to the economic development of the area.
- 4.2 The LGG will address the strategic and systemic issues about youth employment in their communities.
- 4.3 The LGG will contribute to the wider Youth Connections work across Auckland and other Local Boards and where possible share insights and resources to avoid duplication and reduce gaps in service delivery.
- 4.4 LGG members will regularly attend LGG meetings, or provide an alternate.

## **5. RESPONSIBILITIES**

The LGG :

- 5.1 Has delegated authority from their respective Local Boards for the Youth Connections budget.
- 5.2 Will ensure funding and resources are shared equally between both Local Boards.
- 5.3 Will ensure all requirements of funders are adhered to and milestones met.
- 5.4 Report 6 monthly to both the Local Boards on progress, including a financial report. Report annually to significant funding providers.
- 5.5 Will ensure Youth Connections contributes to the development and delivery of Local Board Agreements and Plans as well as the Auckland Plan and the Council’s statutory obligations to Māori.

## **6. MEMBERSHIP**

- 6.1 The LGG will be made up of 3 members from each Local Board and appointed by formal resolution of the relevant Local Board. An alternate or proxy may also be appointed.
- 6.2 A Chair and Deputy chair will be elected by the LGG on an annual basis.
- 6.3 The quorum for formal decision-making will be 3 members with at least one from each Board.
- 6.4 Where possible decisions will be made by consensus but if necessary Local Board standing orders will apply.
- 6.5 The Chair is the designated spokesperson for the collective views of the LGG.
- 6.6 The LGG may appoint in advisory capacities, key representatives from the secondary and tertiary sectors, private and public sectors, industry and local iwi to assist with their reach into the wider community and help with the development of a whole of community responsibility for youth employment.

## **7. LGG members are committed to:**

- 7.1 Acting in good faith and communicating openly with other members and stakeholders, including funding providers.
- 7.2 Working in a co-operative and constructive manner with respect, goodwill, trust and integrity.
- 7.3 Ensuring young people remain connected to their communities, recognising that communities are based on livelihood, and that employment and income are central to livelihood.
- 7.4 Acknowledging there are serious skill shortages which require training and development of the next generation work force.
- 7.5 Recognising that in a global labour market our young people are a valuable world resource and our commitment to them will help ensure that they want to use their skills and talents to improve our communities.
- 7.6 Recognising that with our ageing population we will need every young person in the labour market now and into the future.

## **8. SUPPORT**

Support for LGG and the Youth Connections strategy will be provided by:

- 8.1 The Youth Connections Programme Manager.
- 8.2 Youth Connections Specialist Brokers.
- 8.3 Youth Connections contractors.
- 8.4 Local Board Services secretarial staff.
- 8.5 Local Board Services Relationship Manager.
- 8.6 Reports will be provided for all LGG meetings, including financial reports.