

Blenheim Youth Development Centre Feasibility Study



Prepared by: Russell Montgomery
ProjX Marlborough Ltd

Date: February 2014

Approved by:

Table of Contents

Executive Summary and Recommendations.....	5
Summary	5
Recommendations	5
Introduction.....	6
Feasibility Study Brief.....	6
Definition of Youth/Young People	7
Does Blenheim Need a Youth Centre	7
Why Provide a Youth Centre.....	7
The Benefits of Support for Youth and the Community	8
Marlborough Youth Trust Background	9
Filling the Gaps in Service	10
The Marlborough Youth Trust ‘Youth Development Centre’ Proposal	10
‘HQ Youth Centre’ - Background.....	11
A Multi-use / Multi-user Community Asset	12
Marlborough Youth Trust as the Preferred Operator.....	13
Governance and Operational Management Structure	13
Provision of Health and Social Services	14
Drop-in Centre Provision.....	15
What Makes a Successful Youth Facility?	16
What do Youth Look for in a Youth Centre.....	16
Preferred Site Option	17
Facility Requirements	17
Keys to a Successful Community Partnership	18
Operating a Youth Centre in Partnership with another Youth Provider	19
Project and Partnership Business Case	19
Key Considerations - Introduction	21
Youth Needs Assessment	22
Marlborough Census Data	22
Regional Population	22
Blenheim Population.....	22
Age Structure	22
Ethnic Make-up	23

Unemployment	23
Marlborough Standard of Living	23
The Family Make-Up	24
Socio Economic Profile.....	24
Marlborough Youth Demographics	25
Health and Wellbeing of Young People	25
Youth Crime in Marlborough	26
Existing Youth Services in Blenheim	27
Key Considerations – Youth Needs Assessment	28
Community Consultation	29
Marlborough Youth Trust - Youth Services Survey	29
A Sample of Youth Written Feedback.....	34
Key Issues for Youth Survey Respondents	35
Youth Service Provider Consultation	36
New Zealand Youth Centre Models	38
Papanui Youth Centre - Christchurch.....	38
The Harvest Rock Youth Centre - Otorohanga.....	39
ATOMIC Youth Centre - Hastings	39
‘Evolve’ Wellington Youth Service	40
Location and Accessibility	40
Neutral Territory	41
Sustainability.....	41
Summary of Consultation	41
Key Considerations - Community Consultation	43
Strategies, Literature and Best Practice Relevant to Youth Centre Proposals	44
Youth Development Strategy Aotearoa.....	44
KEEPIN’ IT REAL.....	44
“Youth Centre Key Attributes” - Ministry of Youth Development 2010.....	44
‘Youth Health One Stop Shop’ Model 2009	45
Key Considerations - Strategies, Literature and Best Practice.....	46
Facility Requirements, Site Options and Cost	48
Facility Area Requirements.....	48
Planning Requirements.....	49

Location.....	49
Accessibility.....	50
Project Development Costs.....	50
Building Construction.....	50
Additional Project Costs.....	51
Project Funding.....	51
Operational Funding.....	52
Project Risks.....	52
Key Considerations - Facility Requirements, Site Options and Cost	54
APPENDICES.....	55
Appendix 1 Papanui Youth Facility Structure and Management.....	55
Appendix 2 Marlborough Youth Workers Collective Discussion Document.....	56
Appendix 3 Youth Providers Survey.....	58
Appendix 4 Blenheim Accessibility Map.....	66
Appendix 5 Reference Material	67

Executive Summary and Recommendations

Summary

1. This report, as commissioned by the Marlborough Youth Trust, confirms that there is both the need and the support for the development of a 'community' Youth Development Centre in Blenheim.
2. It also confirms that the proposal is feasible provided that financial backing of the project, both in the development of the facility and its on-going operation, can be confirmed.
3. The Marlborough Youth Trust is seen by other youth service providers and groups within the community as being ideally suited to run a community youth centre and that it has a foundation of experience in youth activity provision, development and facility management upon which a sound governance and management structure can be built to both progress this project and to provide for its on-going success.
4. For the project to proceed there must be a high level of youth, community, youth provider and council involvement and support. A close collaborative working relationship at all levels and throughout the design, planning, fundraising, construction and set-up phases of the project will be crucial to its ultimate success.

Recommendations

1. That the Marlborough Youth Trust seek the commitment and support 'in principle' of the Marlborough District Council and the community of Marlborough for the proposal to establish a multi-use/multi-user community youth development centre in Blenheim to service the needs of young people.
2. That the youth development centre be established and operated as a co-share facility in partnership with other youth service providers and groups within the community.
3. That the Marlborough Youth Trust holds the head lessee role over the building and primary assets so as to give greater security over its on-going future and the capital contributions and assets as vested with the Trust by the community and its funding partners in the project.
4. That a Project Governance Group be set up to further progress the project, addressing the key planning requirements of:
 - Community consultation and representation plan
 - Facility activity and services content
 - Partnership opportunities
 - Options for location
 - Building design and layout
 - Capital and operating cost budgets
 - Business plan
 - Marketing and fundraising plan
5. That, in giving 'support in principle' to the project, Marlborough District Council approve initial funding to enable preliminary designs and capital and operational budgets to be developed by the Project Governance Group for presentation back to Council, the community and potential funding sponsors of the project.

Introduction

Feasibility Study Brief

Commissioned by the Marlborough Youth Trust in mid-2013, the services required in undertaking this study were:

To work with Marlborough youth and youth providers to:

- Identify the youth services that are currently available in Marlborough.
- Identify the needs and gaps in service provision including access to health, education and activities/youth development centres/drop-in centres.

To work with Marlborough youth and youth service providers, including the Marlborough Youth Trust (and external providers) to identify potential support for a Marlborough Youth Hub and, in doing so, investigate the following:

- What it would look like.
- Where it would be situated.
- How it would operate.
- What would attract youth to such a facility.
- Potential partners/stakeholders.
- Potential funding streams.
- Sustainability.

The breadth of this study is significant and multi-faceted, with some difficulty being encountered in arriving at the answers to some questions in advance of key decisions that will need to be made by the community and council in respect to support for the basic concept of establishing a community based youth development centre in Blenheim. These difficulties primarily relate to the options for siting of such a facility and its ultimate design, layout and function. It is considered more appropriate to leave these issues for further investigation and resolution when and if the key decision milestones of the project are achieved.

In consolidating the objectives of the project at this stage, the study as undertaken has set out to determine the following:

1. The services and personal development opportunities as currently available to youth in Blenheim.
2. The benefits to youth and the community of providing community funded youth development facilities and services.
3. The level of support amongst Marlborough youth, youth providers and the wider community for a new youth development centre being established in Blenheim.
4. The suitability of the Marlborough Youth Trust as the principal partner in building and operating such a facility.

Establishing the level of support for a new youth development centre was undertaken through a combination of direct discussions with a wide range of groups, organisations and individuals and hard copy and electronic surveys targeted at the Trust members, youth providers and youth themselves. Anecdotal feedback from a range of sources within the community has also been taken into account to some degree for the reason that it brings in the views and wishes of parents and others who take a strong interest in the wellbeing and future of the districts youth.

Determining the feasibility of the Trust building and operating the centre has been done taking into account a wide range of factors, including the Trusts qualifications and ability to run such a facility, the benefits of a youth centre to the community, partnering options for the project, the potential capital and operating costs involved and funding considerations.

Definition of Youth/Young People

Youth are defined variously in different policies and documents as generally being between the age of 10 and 24.

For the purposes of this study however, the Trust has defined youth as being young persons between 11 and 17 years of age but on the proviso that a degree of flexibility is important to reflect the needs of individual youth, regardless of age, and the issues and circumstances they face in life.

Does Blenheim Need a Youth Centre

The 'almost' universal view of all those consulted during the course of this study is that Blenheim is in need of a dedicated youth centre that offers young people a safe and welcoming environment that they can call their own and where they can participate in a wide variety of activities and opportunities and gain access to support and assistance as required.

The view was often expressed that this facility needs to be a 'community' youth centre which is seen as 'neutral territory' in terms of its affiliation with any one group or organization if it is to be successful in appealing to and meeting the personal, social and health needs of all youth regardless of their religious, cultural, ethnic or social backgrounds.

Why Provide a Youth Centre

Blenheim does not currently have a 'community' youth centre devoted specifically to catering for the needs and development of all youth.

There is no rule that says that a community must have a youth centre. Blenheim could survive without one and thus avoid the financial costs involved in building and operating the facility.

The question that must be answered however is:

'What is the cost to the community of not having a dedicated youth centre?'

In the absence of provision for youth, in whatever form that may take, many youth would not have access, or be guided, to the opportunity to challenge themselves, develop existing or new skills, address problems that they may be contending with or find a more positive direction in their lives.

Is it the community's responsibility to provide for this guidance and opportunity for our youth? Some would argue not and that it should remain a parental responsibility. In many people's eyes, it isn't a 'core service' of Council so shouldn't be a burden on the ratepayer.

What needs to be considered however is:

'Is providing for our youth an investment in both their future and that of the wider community?'

Can we afford not to provide for them?

The Benefits of Support for Youth and the Community

Helping youth in their personal development has a direct bearing on many issues which impact on the whole community. These include:

- Improved connection and understanding between youth and the wider community.
- Addressing district employment needs.
- Reducing unemployment.
- Improving community perception on safety and wellbeing.
- Reduction in local crime rates.
- Reduced pressures on our health services.

All youth can benefit from a bit of help from time to time in dealing with issues and problems in their lives and being given positive direction on their journey to adulthood.

Marlborough District Council has acknowledged these benefits and the importance of providing for our youth through its Long Term Plan, Annual Plans and Youth Policy.

The Council's Long Term Plan includes a community outcome for youth as follows:

“Positive Youth: a community where young people are vibrant and optimistic, encouraged to take up challenges, and supported in their lifestyle choices”.

In addition Council adopted a Youth Policy in 1999 that states:

The Marlborough District Council will work towards developing a District where:

- *young peoples' views and contributions to their families and their communities are valued*
- *young people are cherished and their diversity is recognised, acknowledged and celebrated*
- *the views of young people will be sought and taken into account in the development of the Council's policies and activities.*

Council has also identified through its annual plan process that a key emerging issue for the community to address is:

Employment and training opportunities for our young people is also an area of concern. Evidence shows clearly that the longer the transition time for young people from school to training or employment the more likely they are to become long term unemployed. Advocating for this sector at a local and national level is a continuing challenge for Council.

How Council elects to address these issues and satisfy its policies for youth is central to any decision on the future provision of a youth development centre in Blenheim.

To date, Council has worked to meet its objectives through initiatives such as;

Marlborough Youth Council - 'providing a channel to the District Council for the local young people of this region to enable councillors to hear the views of young people on issues that affect their generation, at the same time encouraging younger people to take part in civic processes'.

Youth Initiative Plan - 'pulling together information provided through the Youth Scoping process and the Youth Council to identify annual priorities and initiatives. It also identifies actions to be undertaken in conjunction with other organisations such as the Marlborough Youth Trust, Police. It is intended that this information will assist

Council in achieving the Community Outcomes for youth and the Youth Policy as well as giving guidance on priorities for allocation of youth funding’.

Marlborough Youth Trust - The trust is partially funded by and works in partnership with the Marlborough District Council to provide development programmes and a range of monthly events providing entertainment and community connection for youth across the district. From 2001 to 2012, the council also supported the Trust in its provision and operation of the ‘HQ Youth Centre’ in Blenheim.

Marlborough Youth Trust Background

In 1997, a significant youth needs assessment was undertaken in Marlborough as a joint project between the Marlborough Safer Community Group (MSCG), the Marlborough District Council and the St Marks Forum.

The research showed an overwhelming need for a place in central Blenheim where young people could undertake a variety of activities, socialize and ‘be themselves’ in a drug and alcohol free environment.

Again, in 1999, MSCG and Council joined forces to run ‘Youth Summit Marlborough 1999’. Over 120 young people from around the province came together at the summit to workshop issues for youth and identify achievable solutions to those issues. The need for a youth facility was again strongly identified. As a consequence, the Marlborough Youth Trust was established in 2000.

The whaingā/purpose of the Trust was identified as being:

- To provide an accessible integrated community based service catering for the physical, emotional and social needs of young people in the Marlborough area;
- To promote wellbeing in young people by providing support, information and advocacy and an environment which is supportive and safe;
- To provide youth with opportunities to establish, operate and participate in Trust activities in an empowering environment;
- To provide other support and assistance consistent with this charitable purpose.

And its vision was to:

“provide services to communities, groups and individuals that enables, supports and encourages the development and wellbeing of the young people of Marlborough”

This vision was seen as being achieved through the provision of activities and programmes for youth in Marlborough and by ultimately establishing a community youth facility in Blenheim. This latter objective was achieved in 2001 with the opening of the ‘HQ Youth Centre’. (see ‘HQ Youth Centre’ - *Background*)

Marlborough Youth Trust provides a range of events and programmes for youth in Marlborough. These include the CACTUS and PCT (Police physical competency test) personal development programmes as run in Blenheim, Picton, Renwick and Havelock, along with a number of youth entertainment and community connection activities such as celebrating World Marshmallow Day and the Blenheim and Awatere Water Skirmish’s.

The Trust’s approach to youth development is inclusive of all youth and aligns with Ministry of Youth Development ‘Youth Development Best Practice Guidelines’. It is strongly of the belief that Blenheim and the wider community of Marlborough need and would benefit from the provision of a dedicated community youth development centre. In advancing this proposal, the Trust has demonstrated a strong commitment to engaging with both youth, youth providers, the wider community and potential partners as critical stakeholders in ultimately achieving their vision for youth in Marlborough.

Filling the Gaps in Service

“A youth centre would be nice so there is something else to do in Blenheim plus some more stuff because at the moment there is nothing to do here and it is super boring”

“..just more places for young people to hangout safely and socialize rather than maccas and the street”

“there is nothing to do”

Many of the respondents to the Youth Services Survey identified that there is a relative lack of opportunity and variety of affordable entertainment available to young people in Blenheim.

To say that there aren't a wide range of groups, clubs and activities catering for youth in Marlborough would be wrong. In truth, there are many opportunities for youth to get involved however, whether it be the cost, the lack of motivation on the part of some to participate in team sports or clubs or the particular faith based nature of the organisations offering the opportunities, there are still a large number of youth who are at a loose end, bored or moving in a direction that is less than desirable, for both them and the community as a whole.

The 'gaps' are not so much *'what is available to youth in Marlborough'* as opposed *'youth not taking advantage of what is available'* and why?

The provision of youth services and facilities needs to be inclusive of all youth - not just a segment of. If some youth are not accessing available services or facilities, or there are short-comings in what is available, then that is where the community focus needs to be placed.

The Marlborough Youth Trust sees itself as having a responsibility to Council and the community to identify these gaps and look towards how they can be filled, either by making the services or facilities available to youth or providing alternatives for those youth who are missing out, either by choice or circumstance. The Trust would not be fulfilling its responsibility to Council and the community if it simply duplicated what is already being provided for by others.

Council has responsibility under the Long Term Plan to ensure that there is adequate and appropriate provision for all youth in the community. It is recognised that this provision will be achieved through a collaborative effort involving both council and other community and government funded youth initiatives.

The Marlborough Youth Trust believes that the provision of a community based youth development centre in Blenheim will play a valuable role in addressing the current gaps in service to youth in Marlborough and that for such a project to be successful, and sustainable long-term, it must come about as a result of a collaboration effort involving all youth service providers and groups working alongside the community as a whole.

The Marlborough Youth Trust 'Youth Development Centre' Proposal

The Trust believes that a dedicated community based youth development centre in Blenheim would fill a significant gap in Marlborough's community provision for youth development and wellbeing.

To offer the young people of our community a safe and welcoming environment to hang out, participate in a wide variety of activities and access the services they need.

The proposal is to establish a multi-use facility which will meet the needs of youth for a drug and alcohol free venue offering the opportunity for group interaction and entertainment indoor concerts and specialist events, adventure based activities and learning, dedicated

arts and music studios, social worker support and access to health and social services; all of which will directly contribute to and encourage positive, healthy youth development.

While established in Blenheim as the regions principle population centre, the youth centre will operate as a base for out-reach programmes to be taken to youth in communities across the district.

To achieve this the Trust proposes a concept that brings together all youth providers and groups from across the district to contribute to the governance and operation of the facility and to take advantage of the opportunities it will provide for the growth and development of all youth in Marlborough.

Key aspects of the proposal include:

1. A building of a size and layout which offers a range of resources and activity spaces that appeal to both youth and youth providers and which is flexible enough to cater for multiple groups at any one time.
2. Co-sharing of the facility so as to maximize its use while spreading the costs and risk of the investment across a number of partner groups and/or organisations so as to make the youth centre more economically viable and less reliant on community funding for ongoing operational costs.
3. Providing opportunity for youth service providers to offer social and health clinic services to youth within the facility or on a referral basis through the centre youth workers.
4. To establish a base from which activities, programmes and services can be taken out to youth in the wider community of Marlborough.

‘HQ Youth Centre’ - Background

The “HQ Youth Centre” was initially opened in Scott St, Blenheim, in 2001 but later moving to a site in Alfred St.

Intended to cater for young people from 11 to 18 years of age, the HQ Youth Centre was described at the time as

‘a place where young people could relax and socialize in a neutral environment, do homework, play pool and just be themselves’.

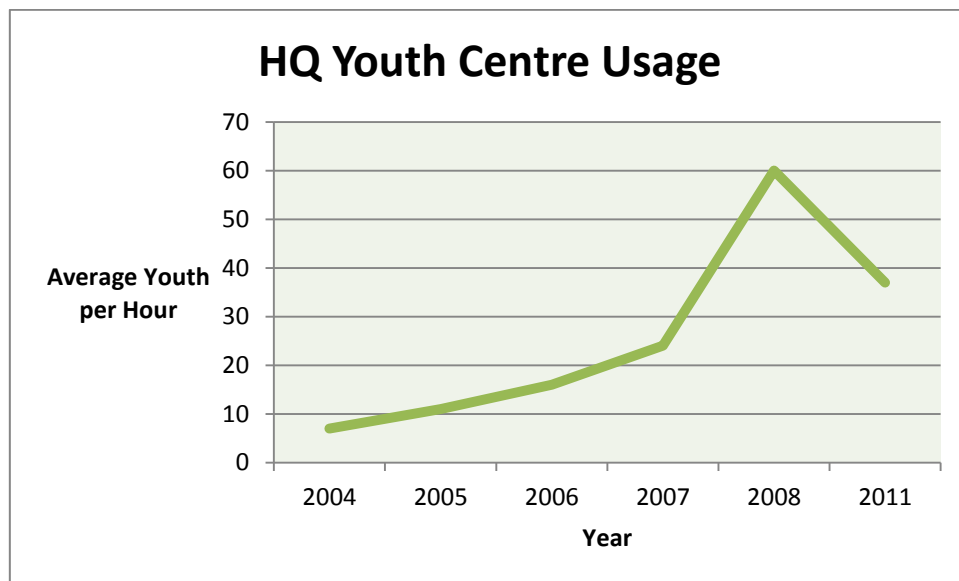
The centre was open 4 afternoons a week with occasional one-off events such as a pool tournament, play-station competition, girls' night and movie screenings. It was staffed by a Coordinator and six other part-time staff; with a Community Youth Worker being employed in 2006, with volunteers coming in to assist as required.

Feedback from users indicates that they preferred it to continue operating as a 'drop in' centre where they could meet their friends, socialize and use the equipment at their leisure before moving on, rather than having organized or structured activities.

As the nature and operation of the centre evolved, user numbers grew to exceed both Trust and Council expectations.

- May 2004 - averaged 7 youths per hour
- May 2005 - averaged 11 youths per hour
- May 2006 – averaged 16 youths per hour
- May 2007 - averaged 24 youths per hour
- May 2008 – averaged 60 youths per hour

However by May 2011, hourly usage had declined to between 34-40 youth per hour; forcing the Trust to carefully review the centres operation and performance.



This decline was attributed to a range of factors, many of which were reinforced by responses in the recent Youth Services Survey. These include:

- Youth becoming bored with the limited range of on-site activities and resources offered by the centre.
- The pace of technology in youth entertainment and connectivity and the inability of the centre to keep pace with it in regard to provision.
- The dominance of use of the centre by a particular sector(s) of youth and the deterrent factor that this represented to others.
- The size, age and perceived 'dingy appearance' of the centre as a direct factor of the building in which it was located.
- The centres lack of appeal to and use by other youth providers and groups due to limited opportunities and activities offered and their concerns over the negative influence of the predominant users.
- Funding constraints on the Trust and its operation of the centre as dictated by the facilities size, limited range of activities and services, restricted opportunities for expansion and the impact that this cumulatively had on securing additional funding and support.

With the declining usage of the centre by youth, concerns as to its tendency towards becoming a 'drop-in' as opposed to activity centre for youth and the coming to an end of key staff contracts, the Trust decided to close the HQ Youth Centre in 2012. In doing so however, the Trust reiterated to Council and the community that it still believed there to be a vital need for a dedicated multi-use/multi-user community youth centre in Blenheim and that it would work towards making this 'vision' a reality in the future.

A Multi-use / Multi-user Community Asset

Throughout the consultation as undertaken as part of this study, a strong desire was expressed by the vast majority of respondents that there is a real need for a community youth centre in Blenheim and that it needs to be of a size, design and layout that can be operated and provide the resources, activities and opportunities attractive to all youth.

It was also strongly advocated by many respondents that any new facility needs to be designed and operated in such a way as to be a community resource which directly supports

and enhances the programmes and services to youth as provided by all youth service providers and groups in the community.

This view directly mirrors the Trust's own aims for a multi-use/multi-user community youth development centre which satisfies their strategic 'vision':

'To provide services to communities, groups and individuals that enables, supports and encourages the development and well-being of the young people of Marlborough'

The Trust sees its role as not one of trying to provide for all youth in the community but more of **'ensuring that all youth are provided for'**, be it through MYT programmes and services or those of others.

Achieving the Trust's desire of working in closer partnership with other established youth groups and providers from throughout Marlborough and providing a community youth facility, the resources and the opportunity for them to further add to and enhance the positive work they are already doing with their target youth can only be good for those youth, the providers themselves and for the community as a whole.

Marlborough Youth Trust as the Preferred Operator

The outcomes of this study confirms that there is very strong support for the establishment of a community youth development centre in Blenheim. It has also been expressed by many that the Marlborough Youth Trust is seen as a preferred operator of such a facility for the reason that the varied backgrounds of its governance group means that they have an interfaith, intercultural foundation that bridges the religious, cultural and ethnic diversity of our community and won't be seen by youth, parents or partnership organisations or groups as exclusive to any particular sector of youth within the community. The importance of this 'neutrality' in both the operation of a community youth centre and the structure of its governance group should not be underestimated in terms of its achieving 'acceptability' across the full spectrum of the youth sector.

The Trust's qualifications and ability to manage and operate a facility of the size and nature envisaged is a vital consideration for the community and potential funding providers.

The Trust can however demonstrate a strong background in the provision of a wide range of youth development and support programmes in Marlborough since its establishment in 2000. Its operation of the HQ Youth Centre in Blenheim between 2001 and 2012 also gives it valuable experience of direct relevance to this project. Collectively, this gives the Trust a solid foundation of both credibility and experience from which to strengthen its governance structure and to move this project forward.

An area where the Trust does lack the skills or capacity is in managing the construction phase of the project. Significant time and skill will be required to successfully undertake this role so it is recommended that, should the project proceed, funding for a Project Manager be sought as part of the fundraising effort. The Trust's liaison with this position will be vital so a representative will need to be identified who has sufficient authority to make decisions; to be available on a daily basis and appropriate financial decision making and budgeting skills. The Trust should also consider approaching Council to assist them during this phase in terms of assistance in writing tender documents, appointing and liaising with the Project Manager and ongoing budget management.

Governance and Operational Management Structure

While having the background and experience on which to build, the Trust does recognize that scale of the proposed youth development centre project from a design, fund-raising,

construction and future governance perspective is realistically beyond its present capabilities to provide for.

The Trust is presently a small, dedicated but very capable body that has operated successfully given its strengths and capabilities and the present range of activities and services it provides. The scale, financial commitment and risk factors involved in the proposed youth development centre project are however recognised as requiring a much higher level of commitment, expertise and financial support than presently available to the Trust.

To remedy this situation, it is recommended that a multi-tiered project development, governance and operational management structure be put in place to ensure that the right people are involved and responsible at each level and that their focus is specifically on those areas of need where their professional and personal skills and connections can be most effectively utilized.

A key to the Trust achieving this multi-tiered structure will be in broadening its community partnerships, particularly with other established youth providers and by enlisting additional financial and management skills and community support through co-opting community representatives with the necessary skills, experience and motivation to meet specific needs as necessary. This model has been used to very good effect in the development and operation of a number of similar youth centre projects around the country.

The Papanui Youth Development Centre is one such example that has proved very effective in combining the unique strengths of the Te Papanui Trust and the Papanui Youth Development Trust in progressing 'a worthy idea' through to a reality by using the respective skills, abilities and motivation of those involved in each to good effect.

Papanui Youth Development Centre – Governance Structure

Te Papanui Trust

Building design, construction and ownership.

Strengths - high business knowledge and experience/concepts/from stationary to momentum/profile/community links with funders/specialist approach/long-term project/intelligence in the team.

Papanui Youth Development Trust

Day-to-day running of the centre.

Strengths - service provision and employment of staff, coal face delivery, community links with other youth providers long-term and ongoing.

(see Appendix 1 – Papanui Youth Centre Structure and Management)

In the Marlborough situation, the exact make-up and membership of each tier in the proposed governance and operation structure would not be determined and put in place subsequent to the project being approved in principle to progress to the next stage of its development. It is considered that a key factor in this will be the strengthening of the relationship between the Marlborough Youth Workers Collective and role that its members could have in providing both guidance to the Trust and in having formal representation on its governance body. (see Appendix 2 Marlborough Youth Workers Collective Discussion Document)

Provision of Health and Social Services

Recognised as the ideal with youth service providers and Councils, the 'One-Stop-Shop' youth centre concept aims to bring youth entertainment, skills and personal development components together with social and health services under the one roof. This enables young people to access all their needs at a location that is convenient and comfortable to them

while at the same time giving centre staff the opportunity to immediately guide youth to health and social services that they may see as being needed as a result of their interaction with the individual.

The Marlborough Youth Trust strongly advocates this approach to provision for youth in the community however they recognize that the likely costs and hurdles involved in achieving this model are considerable and may be out of reach for Blenheim in the immediate future at least.

To address the need locally, the Trust aims to ensure that their youth centre staff are both trained and motivated to assess the needs of youth from a health and social needs perspective and to have in place a referral procedure by which individuals are personally guided to the appropriate service providers and agencies as may be appropriate. Having close working relationships in place with those providers and agencies will be pivotal to the success of this approach.

Drop-in Centre Provision

There are many opinions on the issue of youth centres that predominantly operate as 'Drop-in' centres. Most will acknowledge however that youth need a community space that offers shelter and warmth where they can 'hang-out' and socialize with their mates. Adults generally take this opportunity for granted given their often enhanced financial means and access into licensed premises.

Not all youth are interested or involved in organized teams sports or clubs so for many their options for hanging out with their mates is either at home or on the streets, both of which can have their limitations and risks.

The ability to access a drug and alcohol free, warm, safe and controlled environment where youth can 'drop-in', meet and socialize with their friends is a valuable opportunity for many. Unfortunately these drop-in centres frequently become the domain of a limited sector of the youth population; more often than not the more at-risk individuals within the community. This becomes a deterrent to other youth using the facility and youth providers are reluctant to take their groups to them due to concerns of safety and negative influence.

If a youth centre doesn't have a component of drop-in centre however, it is unlikely to appeal to the groups who inherently are attracted to this environment. This means that the opportunity for centre youth workers to engage with these youth is lost to a large extent so the assistance or support they may need may not get to them. Given that these youth are often those most at risk in the community; a middle ground option is required.

A structured, controlled environment is highly desirable in a youth centre if negative influences and behaviour are to be avoided and youth are kept safe. This is of particular importance to youth groups who may want to use the facility for their own programmes and activities. For this reason, a booking system enabling exclusive use of individual activity areas and a restriction of free access within the facility needs to be put in place.

The Marlborough Youth Trust sees this approach as being very important based on their previous experience in operating the HQ Youth Centre in Blenheim for 11 years and given their strong desire to see a new facility actively used by other youth providers and groups within the community. The feedback from youth themselves through the Youth Service Survey also supports this view.

If however, the Trust is to satisfy its mandate to provide for the needs of all youth in the community, some 'smart' options need to be considered in the design and operation of the new youth centre.

One such option is to have a *Youth Café* attached to the youth centre which has free access by all youth but which is directly overseen by centre staff and possibly run by the youth

themselves as a means of drawing on the leadership skills and strengths of youth actively engaged in structured development programmes run within the centre itself.

In addition to food, drinks and a place to sit, this café may provide a limited range of other opportunities and activities such as lounge chairs, table games and limited internet. It could also be a place where youth who are actively involved in the youth centre can display their works with the aim of encouraging others to participate in the more structured programmes and activities offered. This participation and access to services available within the centre for those 'disengaged' youth will also be encouraged through interaction with centre youth workers in the café environment.

Under this concept, access by youth from the café through into the main hub of the youth centre would only be allowed for those who are signed up for prescribed programmes or activities as run by centre staff or who have been brought along by another youth provider or group for pre-booked events or activities.

This concept would enable a youth facility to be provided which truly caters for all youth but which satisfies requirement for a high level of structure and control over access to and use of the facility and the activities and programmes which take place within it.

What Makes a Successful Youth Facility?

The following points have been identified from a range of studies to be pertinent in establishing and operating a youth centre in a sustainable manner:

- ✓ Research and best practice identify that multipurpose facilities that provide, and are of a size to cater for, a range of services and activities are more likely to be successful.
- ✓ Co-sharing by several youth providers and groups effectively increases the diversity of youth sector groups and increases the number of youth utilizing the one facility.
- ✓ Co-sharing offers the potential for otherwise 'unaffordable' amenities and resources to be affordable to any one group and enables sharing of operating and administration costs and joint marketing.
- ✓ Where health and social services are offered in conjunction with activities and programmes, the facility can effectively become a 'one-stop shop' destination for youth.
- ✓ The need for a nucleus of activity to keep young people interested.
- ✓ A community supported youth facility must be accessible to all youth, including those at most risk of disengagement from the wider community.
- ✓ Long-term community support, both to develop the facility and to assist with its on-going operation, is essential for any youth facility along the lines proposed.

What do Youth Look for in a Youth Centre

Successful youth centres generally have the following features:

- ✓ they present a street presence, image and atmosphere that fits with youth expectations and appeals to them
- ✓ they have a name that youth can relate to
- ✓ they offer a warm, safe 'lounging' environment
- ✓ they have an element of 'drop-in' centre about them
- ✓ they give opportunity for a degree of 'unstructured' use of some areas and amenities by youth

Preferred Site Option

The brief for this feasibility study asked for a recommendation of:

“where would it (youth centre) be situated”.

This requirement has only been satisfied in general terms for the reason that the identification of specific sites at this stage of the process would not be appropriate in advance of establishing the level of community and council support for the proposal. Land/building costs and availability will also be critical factors in any decision made.

It is important however to identify those general areas within the town where the facility could be located and to detail the merits and constraints of each. The youth and youth worker surveys and subsequent consultation as undertaken are obvious and important guides in this respect, with the conclusion that the ideal location for the placement of a youth centre in Blenheim is on the periphery of the central business district, in close proximity to existing amenities as frequented by youth such as the shopping precinct, fast food outlets and skate park.

The Blenheim CBD precinct location offers the following advantages:

- Is relatively central to all of the town residential areas, particularly those identified as being more deprived from a socio-economic perspective.
- Is in close proximity to those amenities and services of importance and appeal to youth.
- Is relatively handy to many health and social services as are likely to be referred to youth by centre staff.
- Would be close to or located on the existing bus route.
- Is less likely to attract neighbour opposition and/or complaints.
- Will be more likely to readily comply with council planning requirements.
- Possible availability of existing buildings of a size and layout that could meet the needs of a multi-use/multi-user youth centre facility.
- Reflects the views of youth in terms of preferred location for a youth centre in Blenheim as expressed through the Youth Services Survey.

The disadvantages of the Blenheim CBD precinct may be:

- Potentially higher land/building costs and limited land availability.
- Preclusion of opportunity to co-share with other already established or proposed youth service centres beyond the CBD precinct.

Facility Requirements

The proposed facility would require a minimum floor area of approximately 700m², with an internal ceiling height in at least part of the building of 9 metres to accommodate a climbing wall structure. Adequate space for car parking will also need to be provided adjoining the facility to meet council planning requirements.

The cost of such a facility would be dependent on a range of factors including size and nature of the facility, services and amenities offered, location and relative land values, whether it involves a new or existing building, land/building ownership, design and construction, co-sharing with other youth providers and/or commercial operators and council planning requirements.

Further detailed investigation and costing of these factors will be necessary once the Trust has established the community and council support for a dedicated youth development

centre in Blenheim and the go-ahead is given to move to the next stage of project development.

Keys to a Successful Community Partnership

A 2009 research project commissioned by SPARC (now 'Sport NZ') developed the "Sportville" model of community partnership delivery. The term "Sportville" refers to a variety of partnerships entered into by sports clubs and, as an example of a partnership model, is useful to consider in relation to youth centre proposals. The SPARC research supports an integrated approach to sport provision however emphasizes the need for Council support for this to succeed.

Sportville partnerships are generally assumed to be partnerships between community or not-for-profit organisations seeking change for a range of reasons including:

- the struggle to survive as single-purpose organisations
- the desire for better and more professional delivery of services and opportunities
- the appeal of a more "family-friendly" environment
- the added attractions of a multi-sport (use/user) organisation
- the prospect of a new building development.

The research identified a range of critical success factors in setting up a partnership model that are important to considering in relation to the youth development centre proposal. These factors include:

Good Governance

Sports club partnerships are complex arrangements that must satisfy multiple stakeholders. They require enlightened leadership and a clear separation of governance and sport delivery functions.

Clarity of Purpose

The value proposition must be clear, simple, and compelling. The benefits of the partnership must be articulated in ways that everyone can understand. Formal amalgamations are not always necessary and a new entity need not replace existing clubs but instead can umbrella constituent members.

Clustering of Resources

The close physical proximity of facilities (fields, courts, changing rooms, café etc) is important in the same way the kitchen is central to a home.

Staged Progression

Building trust is essential as organisations feel their way toward new relationships. The influence of a respected "project champion" is critical, even where there are willing parties and conditions are favourable.

Council Support

Partnerships appear to have a greater chance of success if local authorities have supportive policies and are prepared to invest.

Operating a Youth Centre in Partnership with another Youth Provider

In presenting its proposal for the establishment of a dedicated youth development centre in Blenheim, the Marlborough Youth Trust recognizes their high dependence on long term financial partnerships, particularly with Marlborough District Council. The Trust also recognizes that it must move to broaden its funding sources, both through extending its sponsorship/partnership base and by exploring the option of operating such a facility on a co-share basis with other established youth providers within the community. Partnering through co-sharing in this way is seen as being crucial to the success of this proposal, not only through the sharing of operating costs and resources for the facility but also by increasing its appeal to a wider cross-section of the community as a result of the diversification of services and opportunities made available on one site and by expanding its appeal to a greater range of youth sector groups.

Discussions on the issue of partnering in this proposal have already been entered into by the Trust with an existing youth provider. In this case, the provider had their own building and the proposal was for the Trust to co-share the facility as a sub-lessee.

The concept of a partnership with another provider in developing and running the proposed youth centre has strong merits and political support. Such an arrangement cannot be entered into lightly however as the nature of any partnership and any perceived or real imbalance of power or control over the centres governance and operation by either party will be critical factors in regard to public and youth perceptions and appeal, parental and youth support, the cross-section of youth and providers who will utilize it and the long-term funding support that can be anticipated.

It will be important for both the Trust and any potential partner(s) to retain and protect their independence of operation and individual identities as any loss of either could negatively impact on their service delivery and support within the community. This in turn could affect the very survival of the youth centre in the same way that loss of a primary income source by either partner could jeopardize its on-going viability and operation.

With many youth providers heavily reliant on central government agency funding for contracted youth programmes and services, the political whims of government can very well determine their survival from year to year. For this reason, it is strongly recommended that any partnership arrangement entered into by the Trust in provision of a youth centre be on the basis of the Trust assuming the head lessee role over the building and primary assets so as to give greater security over its on-going future and the capital contributions and assets as vested with the Trust by its funding partners in the project.

A number of youth providers spoken to as part of this study have expressed enthusiasm for their possible involvement in the project on a co-sharing basis as they see this as an opportunity to not only cost share on buildings and administration but also in providing youth with a greater range of services and opportunities in a central location.

The key challenge will be to meet individual requirements in a collective space that works successfully for each provider. The building design and layout will be critical to this, with a central hub and café area being recognised as 'must have' components. The need for a high profile location and accessibility to youth has also been identified by a number of potential partners as important in selecting a site. All were excited about the opportunity and believed, if done well, the proposed youth centre would be an asset in the community and an amenity that youth would readily gravitate to.

Project and Partnership Business Case

The development of a comprehensive, sound business case for any proposal will be important to enable potential partners to fully understand the financial implications, costs and benefits of co-locating alongside the Trust. Affordability in terms of space/site rental will be

an important factor in any decision to re-locate and these will need to be weighted up against the benefits of spreading building, administrative and operating costs, access to shared amenities and having greater access to resources, services and opportunities available to their youth.

Any potential partner will need to recognize and accommodate the following needs of a co-share youth centre operation:

- The location, design, street image and name of the centre must appeal to youth.
- The layout and image profile of the centre is compatible with the needs of individual partners, their varied client base and operations.
- The availability and allocation of space within the building meets the individual activity and staffing needs of partner organisations.
- The administration support and resource sharing and lines of authority and communication between each organization is consistent with the needs of each.
- Booking priorities for use of the building facilities, resources and services are well understood and accepted by all parties.
- Hours of operation and after-hours access to and use of the building and resources by each partner is understood and agreed upon.

Key Considerations - Introduction

- Blenheim lacks a dedicated drug and alcohol free community youth event facility and is considered to be missing out on the opportunity to run or host high profile youth events as a consequence.
- Putting aside financial considerations, every community would benefit from having a well-run, well-resourced youth development centre available to its youth.
- The importance of a youth centre being seen as 'neutral territory' in both its operation and the structure of its governance group is seen as key to its ultimate acceptance and success as a true 'community' facility.
- Appreciation and application of the factors that are recognised as being key to the success of youth facilities and acknowledgement of what youth look for in a facility that they can call *'their own'* is critical.
- Appreciation of the importance of scale is critical. Multi-use/multi-user youth centres are shown to be more attractive to youth and youth providers and are therefore likely to be more successful and sustainable long-term.
- Provision for health and social services and a "drop-in centre" component in a youth centre are considered very important in successfully attracting and catering for all youth.
- The location of a youth centre in relationship to all urban areas, recognised 'deprived' suburbs, public transport, urban connections and other services and amenities attractive to youth is considered as one of the most critical elements in ensuring accessibility and appeal to youth.
- The Marlborough District Council has a pivotal role to play in the provision for all Marlborough youth under its Long Term Plan 'community outcomes for youth' and Youth Policy document.
- The Marlborough Youth Trust is considered an ideal organisation to run a community youth centre in Blenheim given the governance group being drawn from across all youth service providers within the community.
- The Trust has proven commitment, experience and skills in the successful provision of youth development programmes and activities in Marlborough.
- The Trust has gained considerable experience in the operation of a youth centre during the 11 years of the HQ Youth Centre operating in Blenheim. This gives it a solid foundation upon which to build the necessary governance and management groups seen as necessary to develop and run the proposed Youth Development Centre.
- Strong youth and community involvement, connections, support and fundraising skills will be critical to the success of this project.
- The involvement of other youth service providers as partners in the occupation and day-to-day operation of the Centre is seen as highly desirable.
- Careful attention will need to be applied to developing a clear business case for the proposal so that all parties understands the financial and operational requirements of the project and the risks and benefits for the partnership group.
- It is important for the long-term security of the project and protection of the community's contribution to the project that the Trust retains the position of head-lessee in Centre.
- It is recommended that an experienced project manager be appointed to oversee the design and project build phases of the project.
- Council support of the Trust is highly recommended during the design and build stage of the project.
- All youth service providers and groups spoken to are excited about the project and believed that, if done to the scale and standard envisaged, the community will gain a centre that youth will gravitate towards.

Youth Needs Assessment

In looking at the needs of youth in Marlborough, it is important to have a clear appreciation and understanding of the wider community and of youth in particular; who they are and how they are represented in the community. This section summarizes the key district demographics and trends of youth in Marlborough and in Blenheim in particular.

Marlborough Census Data

Regional Population

As at the 2013 census, 43,416 people were recorded as usually resident in the Marlborough Region. This is an increase of 867 people on the 2006 census data and represents a 1.99% regional increase as compared to a 5.1% national increase in population for New Zealand as a whole.

The male/female population of the region is 21,240 males and 22,176 females.

Marlborough Region has 1.02% of New Zealand's total population.

The long term projected change in Marlborough's population as forecast by the Nelson Marlborough District Health Board is for an increase of around 8% over the period 2010-11 to 2025-26 which equates to around 232 new residents per annum.

2013 Census Data for Usually Resident Population Marlborough District	2006 Census Total	2013 Census		
		Male	Female	Total
0–10 Years	5,010	2,675	2,562	5,238
10 – 14 Years	2,913	1,275	1,239	2,514
15–19 Years	2,697	1,206	1,167	2,373
20–24 Years	1,941	984	915	1,902
25–29 Years	2,148	1,032	1,074	2,103
30 - 64 years	12,327	9,792	10,590	20,382
65 Years and Over	6,879	4,278	4,629	8,907
85 Years And Over	711	381	639	1,017
Total People, Marlborough Region	42,549	21,240	22,176	43,416

Blenheim Population

Based on the 2013 census data, Blenheim's population of 24,183 equates to 55.7% of the total Marlborough regions population of 43,416.

Age Structure

The median age (half are younger, and half older, than this age) is 44.9 years for people in Marlborough Region. For New Zealand as a whole, the median age is 35.9 years.

16.2 percent of people in Marlborough Region are aged 65 years and over, compared with 12.3 percent of the total New Zealand population

A notable age group increase was amongst 0-9 year olds, which correlate with increases in those across the key parenting age groups (25-39 years).

18.6 percent of people are aged under 15 years in Marlborough Region, compared with 21.5 percent for all of New Zealand.

Marlborough Region has experienced net migration loss across the 15-24 year age group.

Ethnic Make-up

The Māori population was recorded as 4,776 Māori living in the Marlborough Region, an increase of 501 people since the 2006 census. This represents a 11.7% increase over the period; well up on the regions 2% total population increase for the period.

32.7 percent of Māori are aged under 15 years in Marlborough Region, compared with 35.4 percent for all Māori in New Zealand.

The increase in new residents from the Pacific and Asian regions has increased significantly over the same period with a 51.2% and 84.9% increase respectively; taking the Pacific community from 642 to 969 and the Asian community from 639 to 1182 between 2006 and 2013.

Ethnic Groups - Marlborough Region	2006 Census	2013 Census
European	32,022	37,041
Māori	4,275	4,776
Pacific Peoples	642	969
Asian	639	1,182
Middle Eastern/Latin American/African(2)	192	246
Other Ethnicity	6,633	1,044
Total people stated	40,836	41,517
No stated ethnicity	1,722	1,902
Total People, Marlborough Region	42,549	43,416

Unemployment

The unemployment rate in Marlborough was 3.9% in March 2012, which was lower than the national rate of 6.6%.

The number of unemployment beneficiaries in Marlborough declined by 19.8% over the year to March 2012 compared with a decrease of 10.8% at the national level.

Marlborough Standard of Living

The median annual earnings in Marlborough was \$43,150 in the year to March 2011, which was significantly lower than the national median of \$49,900.

Median earnings in Marlborough increased by 2.6% over the year to March 2011 compared with an increase of 3.2% at the national level.

The Family Make-Up

The Marlborough Regional statistics for both couples with children and single parent families falls below the national average

Family Type and Number of Dependent Children in Family - Marlborough Region	2006 Census			2013 Census		
	Couple with child(ren)	One parent with child(ren)	Total Families	Couple with child(ren)	One parent with child(ren)	Total Families
No dependent children	738	369	1,110	657	387	1,044
One dependent child	1,287	621	1,905	1,278	681	1,959
Two dependent children	1,524	339	1,863	1,497	387	1,884
Three dependent children	585	123	708	537	117	654
Four or more dependent children	189	33	222	192	42	234
Number of dependent children unknown	66	18	84	87	21	108
Total families, Marlborough District	4,389	1,503	5,892	4,251	1,635	5,886
Percentage Total Families	74.50%	25.5%	100%	63%	27%	100%
Total families, New Zealand	447,894	193,635	641,529	469,290	201,804	671,091
Percentage Total Families	69.90%	30.1%	100%	69.30%	30.7%	100%

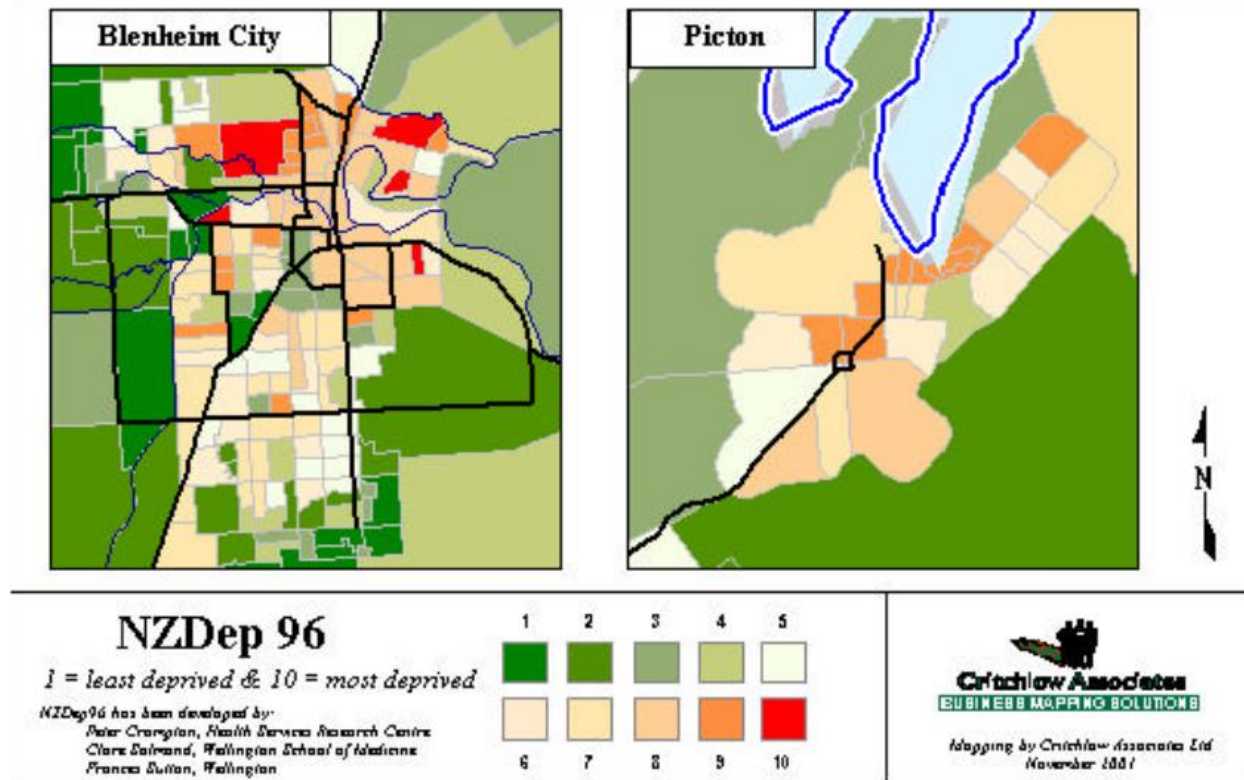
Socio Economic Profile

Socio economic deprivation data for Marlborough provides a visual presentation of the social and economic landscape based on census data.

The socio economic map for Blenheim identifies least deprived areas as being predominantly in the northern suburbs of the town. The Riversdale, Islington, Mayfield/Farnham, Townsend and the residential areas to the west of the main CBD are indicated as being the most deprived suburbs.

This data is an important consideration when looking to the provision of facilities and services for youth in Blenheim as youth from the more deprived suburbs of an urban area are generally recognised as being less mobile and less able in terms of access and opportunity to services. Provision for youth development has the potential to have greater impact on these more at risk young people so it is particularly important that investment in youth is accessible to these areas.

Blenheim Socioeconomic Profile



Marlborough Youth Demographics

2013 census data records 7728 residents under the age of 15 years living in Marlborough. This equates to 17.8% of population and is below the national figure of 20.4%.

4275 residents (9.8%) are aged between 16 and 24 years which is again below the national figure of 13.8% and down from 4644 in 2006 and 4290 in 2001.

Marlborough ethnic diversity amongst youth is higher than the national average.

Marlborough saw more youth leaving the region than arrived between 2001 and 2006. This outflow of youth was largest for older youth, aged 18-24. This can be attributed to the older tertiary aged youth moving out of the region for work or further education. The absence of a university in Marlborough is a key factor in this trend.

Marlborough had lower than average rates of higher school leaver qualifications (NCEA level 3 and above) and slightly higher rates of lower qualifications than the rest of the Nelson/Tasman, Marlborough and West Coast regions.

The rate of youth in employment, education or training (NEET) was higher in Marlborough than the national average; however Marlborough youth are more likely to have little or no formal qualifications on leaving school.

Marlborough had the eighth highest youth employment rate nationally.

Youth in Marlborough were more likely than average to be working full-time.

Health and Wellbeing of Young People

Good health is critical to wellbeing and general quality of life. Without it, young people are less likely to be able to enjoy their lives to the full and to feel positive and optimistic about the

future. Good health supports full participation in society and assists young people to meet their potential.

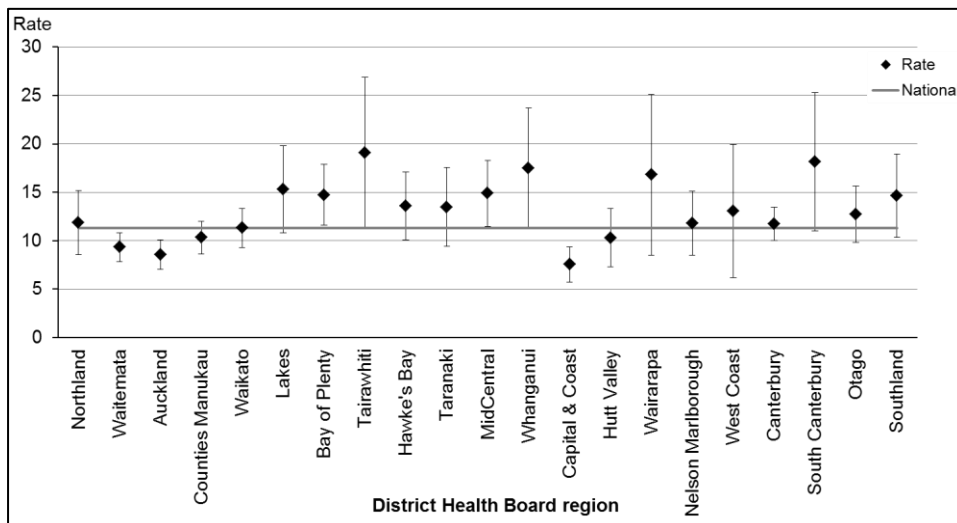
Good health includes both physical and mental health. A wide range of factors influence health outcomes. These include genetic inheritance, behaviour and the availability of health services. In recent years increasing attention has been paid to the interaction between health outcomes and socio-economic factors such as low income, poor housing, and low educational attainment, all of which affect living standards.

For any community looking at its provision for youth, the suicide rate is a relevant consideration in that it is seen as a valid indicator of general mental health and well-being. With the 2011 youth (15–24 years) suicide rate in New Zealand recorded as being significantly higher than for adults, young people clearly face significant issues in their teenage years:

- 15–24 years - 19.3 deaths per 100,000
- 25–44 years - 13.8 per 100,000
- 45–64 years - 13.2 per 100,000
- 65 years and over - 7.3 per 100,000 people

While the youth suicide rate in New Zealand has declined by 32.8 percent since the peak rate in 1995, the figures for Nelson Marlborough between 1996 to 1998 were recorded as notably higher than the national rate. Since 1998 however, the situation in the Top of the South has improved markedly to a point where they are now only just over that of the national rate and are no longer considered notable. The fact that many of Marlborough's youth initiatives have been implemented over this period may, or may not, have had a bearing on this positive outcome.

The national figures for Māori youth suicides are disproportionately high, being 2.4 times that of non-Māori youth. This is an important consideration along with the recognised fact that the socio-economic background of youth also has a significant bearing on suicide rates in that youth living in the deprived areas had significantly higher rates of suicide than the less deprived area.



Suicide Age-standardised Death Rates by DHB regions - 2007–2011

Youth Crime in Marlborough

In the year to June 2012, charges being dealt with by the Youth Court in Blenheim were down 77% and the number of individuals appearing in the Youth Court was down 26%.

Existing Youth Services in Blenheim

Blenheim has a wide range of opportunities, facilities and services that are accessible to the wider community including its young people. These include the Stadium complex, gym facilities, the library, sports clubs and sport centres. In addition, Blenheim enjoys an extensive reserve and pathway network providing free and informal recreation opportunities for all in the community. Youth specific recreation facilities intended for individual and/or non-club use are limited however. The Blenheim Skate Park, Horton park netball courts, Athletic Park cycle track and open space areas are largely the extent of casual, 'no-cost' facilities available to youth who are not members of faith based youth groups or clubs and sporting/fitness establishments.

The 'Youth 2012' survey identified that 45% of students were involved in a sports team in their community while 23% of students belonged to a church. Overall, 68% of students belonged to at least one community-run group including church groups. Applying these statistics to Blenheim youth between the age of 10 and 19 years (4887), this suggests that while 3323 young people are involved in at least one community run group, 1564 young people are not.

Not all youth are inclined towards or interested in clubs or church groups or are members of the more mainstream sports clubs that are traditionally supported by councils through the provision of sports grounds and facilities. Those youth who are involved in such groups or clubs often have the programmes, challenges, guidance and support that help in their positive development as individuals. Those that don't fall into this category however are frequently left to their own devices and are looking for alternative opportunities or services as often provided by youth centres.

There are a limited range of youth focused programmes available in Marlborough, including the Marlborough Youth Trust CACTUS and PCT programmes and the Foundation for Youth's 'Project K'. These programmes offer excellent opportunity for youth to gain the confidence and skills they need in life however enrolment is restricted in numbers and they are run over a limited time period only.

Numerous education, health and social service initiatives specifically for young people are provided within the community. These a valuable service and opportunity to many youth however, again, they are often only accessible during prescribed periods of the day/week, they are focused in terms of course content or the service provided and are not intended to cater for the leisure time available to youth.

The Marlborough District Council website contains a Community Information Database offering an up-to-date listing of community groups and organisations in the Marlborough region. Under the 'Youth' section, there are 43 organisations and groups listed, offering a range of services and opportunities for youth. These include social welfare and employment services, health and social services, along with a number of youth orientated groups such as scouts, guides and the Air Training Corps.

Under the 'Sports and Recreation' section, 128 clubs and groups are listed. A large number of these are, or may be, appropriate for youth participation however many are targeted at the older generations in the community.

The opportunity for all youth to access services and support and to participate in some form of clubs or recreational pursuit is certainly available in Marlborough. The vast majority of youth do take up these opportunities to some degree. Many don't however and even those that do, are looking for other opportunities to fill in their leisure time or are unaware, or not accessing, the services and support that they need. Well run youth centres, offering quality programmes and activities, staffed by trained youth workers, are recognised as being able to fill this need and/or gap in service for many youth.

Key Considerations – Youth Needs Assessment

- Marlborough's population is growing at a rate below the national average.
- The region's population is aging one, with youth numbers growing but at a rate less than the national average.
- The median annual earnings in Marlborough are notably lower than the national median and are increasing at a notably lower rate than the national median increase.
- The age of Marlborough's youth is reasonably evenly spread through to late teens when they drop away as youth migrate away from Blenheim for work or tertiary studies.
- The significant change in Marlborough's youth demographics lies in the rapidly changing ethnic diversity of young people in our communities across the region; with the Maori population in Marlborough growing by 11.7%, Pacifica by 51.2% and Asian by 84.9% as compared to total population growth of only 2% for the same period (2006 – 2013).
- Marlborough ethnic diversity amongst youth is higher than the national average.
- Within Blenheim there are pockets of high deprivation centred principally in the northern suburbs of Riversdale, Islington, Mayfield/Farnham, Townsend and the residential areas to the west of the CBD
- Maori, Pacifica and Asian families are predominantly resident in the more deprived residential suburbs.
- Youth from lower socio-economic backgrounds are often less mobile and less able so are therefore less likely to travel any distance to gain access to services or facilities.
- Youth from lower socio-economic backgrounds are more at risk of physical and mental health issues, including suicide.
- The location and accessibility of youth facilities and services have a major bearing on their use by youth within the community. This in turn will have a direct impact on the opportunities, personal development and general health and well-being of youth, especially for those in the more 'at risk' category.
- In the year to June 2012, charges being dealt with by the Youth Court in Blenheim were down 77% and the number of individuals appearing in the Youth Court was down 26%.
- Council 'Resident Satisfaction Survey' identifies that there are some community concerns about youth crime, youth "roaming" and young people not being under control.
- Marlborough's youth suicide and teen pregnancy rates are at or only just above the national average. This is in contrast to previous years when youth suicide rates were notably high relative to the national level. Does this positive situation mean that we don't need to put additional time, effort and money into our youth or could complacency see the situation regress back to the sad statistics of previous years.

"When you are on the right track, you have to keep the pedal to the metal!"

Ross Banbury, Manager, Papanui Youth Centre

Community Consultation

Especially during their teenage years, youth are at a time in their lives when they face specific social, health, employment and education challenges. Constructive use of their leisure time, positive social interaction with both their peers and the wider community, the opportunity to develop their strengths and talents and face challenges in a supportive structured environment can be pivotal in guiding them on their journey through to adulthood.

In determining the needs of our youth and in making provision for them as a community, it is essential that we ask for and take account of their views on the things that are important to them and that they are integrally involved in the decision making processes as put in place to address identified gaps in services and provision.

Similarly, the vital role that the youth service providers and groups play in the health and wellbeing of our young people cannot be under-estimated or overlooked when considering the future provision of services and amenities targeted at youth needs.

Marlborough Youth Trust - Youth Services Survey

A self-selected survey of the views of Marlborough youth on the proposal to develop a new youth centre in Blenheim was undertaken using a 'Survey Monkey'. This survey was disseminated to youth via the Marlborough Youth Council 'My Voice' website, on fliers as handed directly to youth at the Blenheim and Picton skate parks and in the Blenheim town centre, through local retail outlets popular to youth, at Marlborough Boys, Marlborough Girls and Queen Charlotte College assemblies, through local youth providers and by the college peer support networks.

The sample size was not considered big enough to be statistically accurate; however it does offer a snapshot of youth opinion at the time.

The survey was presented to youth with the background of why it was created;

The Marlborough Youth Trust is a not for profit organisation which has as its vision

"To provide services to communities, groups and individuals that enables, supports and encourages the development and well-being of the young people of Marlborough".

It presented the Trust's goal of establishing a new youth development centre in Blenheim to replace and improve on the previous HQ Youth and asked youth to provide their ideas and views in the hope that whatever is provided in the new centre reflects the needs and wishes of the young people of Marlborough.

At the conclusion of this online survey, there were 201 responses to this survey.

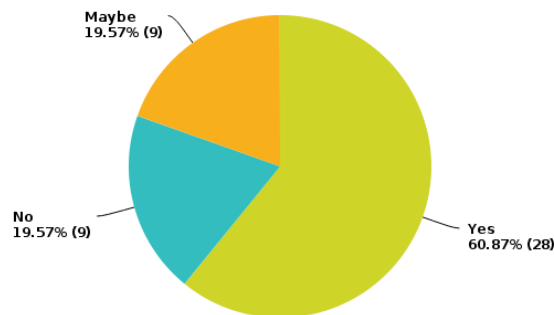
A summary of the responses is as follows:

- 201 respondents to the survey
- 121 (61%) respondents being female. 80 (39%) respondents being male.
- 86% of respondent were in the 13 – 17 age range, with 14yrs being the most common age.
- The majority of respondents were NZ European (82%), with Maori ethnicity represented by 13% of the respondents and 3% of Pacifica ethnicity. These figures are in line with the ethnicity breakdown for Marlborough overall.
- 61% of those surveyed weren't currently in a youth group/organisation
- Of the 78 (39%) of the survey sample that were in a youth group, 61 (78%), said that they benefited from being in that youth group.
- 157 youth (78%) haven't been involved in any youth development programmes.

- Of the 39 (19%) of respondents that have been involved in a youth development programme, the Marlborough Youth Trust/Police CATCUS programme was the most popular with 17 (43%) of the youth having undertaken this particular programme.
- Of the 39 youth involved in youth development programmes such as the Marlborough Youth Trust 'CACTUS' programme, 28 (72%) indicated that they had benefited from these programmes.

Q8 Have you benefited from involvement in the programmes?

Answered: 46 Skipped: 155



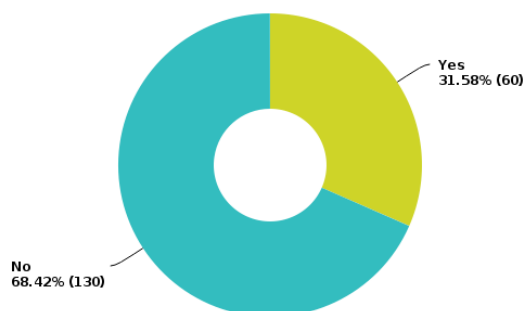
From the responses, one can ascertain that the ranges of skills obtained from these programmes were, in no particular order:

- Self-confidence
- Social Skills
- Teamwork
- Travel
- Leadership skills
- Life skills
- Trust in adults
- Fitness
- Discipline
- Relationship building
- Qualifications

When asked if they thought there were enough opportunities and services provided in the community to meet their needs, a slight majority of respondents, (51%), thought that there weren't. When asked the same question, but in relation to ALL youth, the majority of youth, 68%, say no, "there are not enough opportunities and services provided in the community for ALL youth". This response suggests that many youth see others as has having a need for services, support or opportunity which are currently not available to them.

Q10 Do you believe there are enough opportunities and services provided in the community to meet the needs of ALL youth?

Answered: 190 Skipped: 11



When asked “Did you ever use the HQ Youth Centre”, a high proportion of youth (61%) weren’t aware of its existence, with only 8.21% saying that they frequented it. This response could well be a reflection of time that has passed since the centre closed down and the youth that did use it having moved on from the district or out of the survey sample group.

Of those youth that did know of the HQ Youth Centre, 47% had a negative thing to say about it, with its limited size, ‘dingy appearance’, lack of activities and dominance by some youth being the major deterrents.

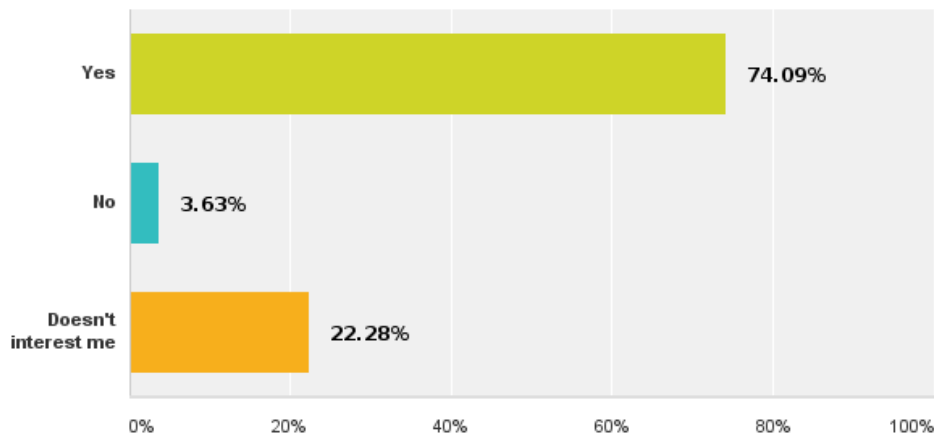
In response to the question “Would you like to see a new youth centre established locally?”, the vast majority of youth (74.09%) responded ‘YES’.

The key message coming through from youth is

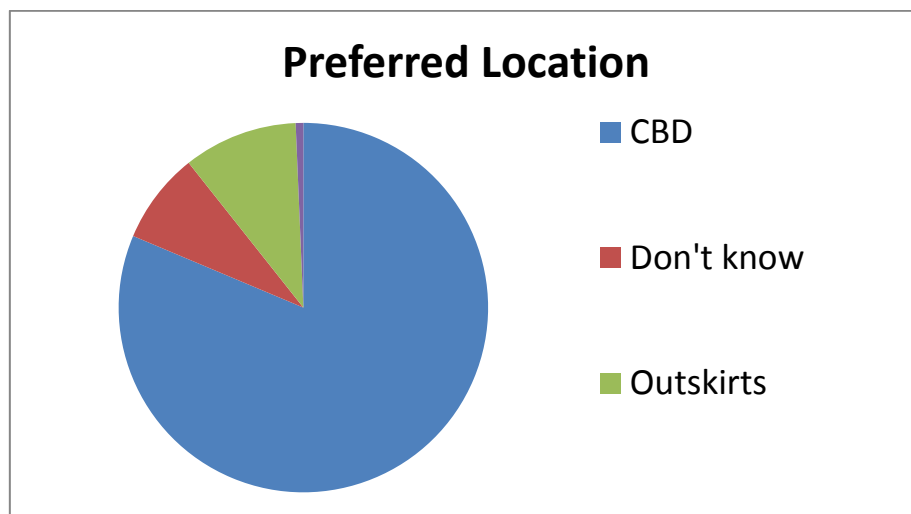
‘Youth need to have somewhere safe to go and socialize’, ‘relax away from school’ and also ‘keep out of trouble’.

Q12 Would you like to see a new youth centre established locally?

Answered: 193 Skipped: 8



When asked to consider transport as a factor in their use of a new youth centre, 122 felt that a new youth centre needed to be located within the CBD precinct. In the vicinity of the Blenheim skate park came through as a strong preference.

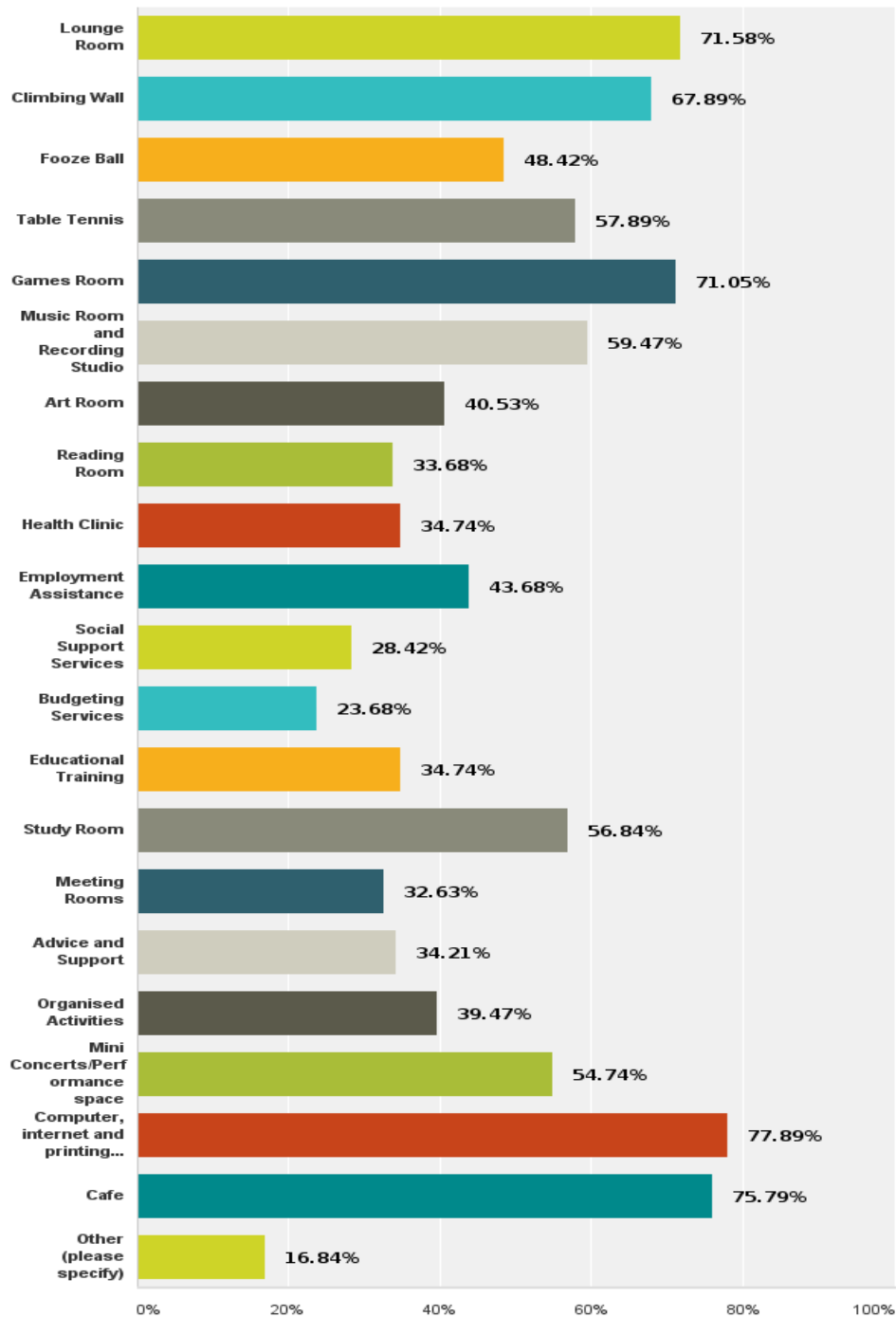


A key question of the survey was what activities and services would you use if provided in a new youth centre. The large number (123) of written responses to this question strongly indicates both a need on the part of youth and a keenness to have their views heard. Only one negative response was received to this question.

'Computer, internet and printing' was rated the highest at 77.89%, with a 'Café' only just behind on 75.79%. 'Lounge Room', 'Games Room', 'Climbing Wall', 'Music Room and Recording Studio' and 'Study Room' followed in priority in that order.

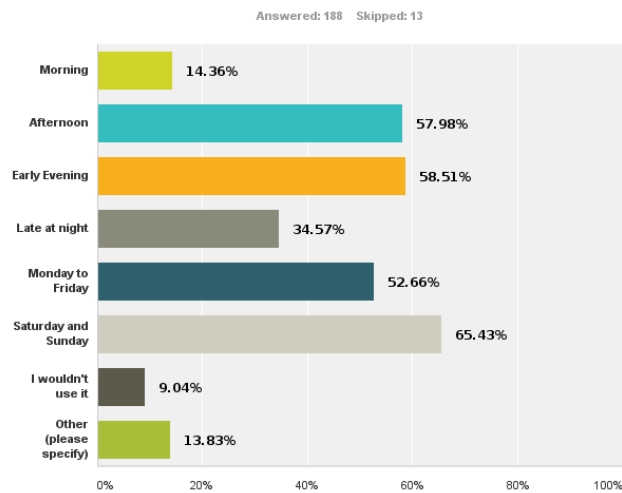
Q15 If the following activities and services were provided in a youth centre, which ones would you use?

Answered: 190 Skipped: 11



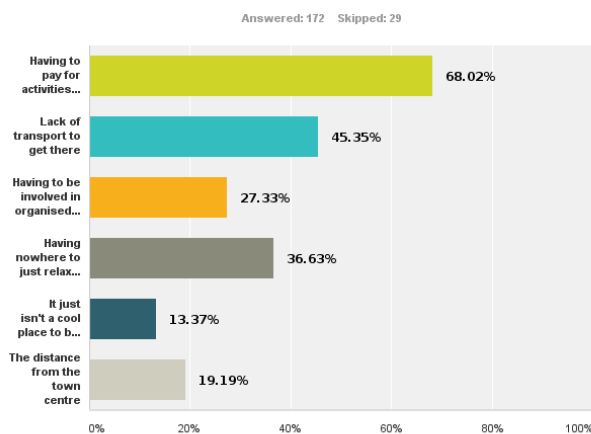
The weekend ('Saturday and Sunday') was identified as the most important period to access these services, with 65% requesting these days of the week. This could possibly be due to the fact that it's a non-school day and so potentially more of a challenge to socialize and keep entertained. 'Early evening' with 59% and 'Afternoon' was very popular too.

Q16 What time of the day do you want to access these activities and services?



172 youth responded to the question on what barriers may stop their use of a new youth centre. Cost (68%) and transport (45%) were indicated as the most prohibitive reasons why Marlborough youth in this survey, wouldn't use the youth centre. These responses and the validity of results are reinforced by similar surveys undertaken elsewhere in the country and by the actual use of established facilities.

Q17 What are the barriers that may stop YOU using a new youth centre?



The fact that there were 92 written responses to the question of barriers, with cost and transport being the key concerns of youth, indicates that these are very real issues for them in considering their use of the proposed youth centre. Of note, is the large number of respondents who were not expecting 'something for nothing' in terms of free access. Many suggested that an entry fee or annual subscription would be acceptable, so long as it reflected the limited financial means of most young people.

“A music room and also a good place to just talk and meet people a recording studio would be awesome”

“Computers, Quiet places Hang outs Events on Friday nights Studio for arts please!!”

“Adults who are relatable and friendly”

“Trained people to help deal with teens/children suffering issues at home or school”

“Everything. food... happiness”

“Just a place to chill out”

“Just a place where youth can feel comfortable”

Key Issues for Youth Survey Respondents

- Many youth perceive Blenheim as boring and lacking in activities or opportunities that appeal to those not already involved in existing youth groups or team sports.
- Youth want a place they can call their own and with which they can identify.
- Youth want a safe, warm place where they can meet and ‘hangout’ with their mates.
- The ‘neutrality’ of a youth centre is perceived as important by many youth.
- The preferred location of any new youth centres is in close proximity to the Blenheim CBD for reasons of limited personal mobility and public transport and accessibility to other services and amenities used by youth in or around the town centre.
- Cost of activities is an issue for youth however most recognize that some charge may be appropriate.
- The size and range of activities and services on offer in a youth centre is considered important to youth in terms of its appeal and use.

Youth Service Provider Consultation

As part of this feasibility study, consultation with Marlborough youth service providers was undertaken in three ways:

- Meetings were held with the members of the Marlborough Youth Worker Collective.
- One-on-one interviews were undertaken with individual providers.
- A survey was distributed to key youth providers seeking their views on a range of issues.

This consultation focused on establishing:

- The considered need in the community for a youth centre.
- Whether or not other youth providers saw the proposal as having benefit to their own programmes and services to youth.
- What involvement they may wish to have in advancing the project.
- What role they may see themselves as having in the future governance and/or day to day operation of the youth centre.

(See Appendix 2 for feedback from the meetings, interviews and the responses to the Youth Worker survey)

A summary of key findings is outlined below.

There was eager enthusiasm from the Marlborough Youth Workers Collective for the youth development centre proposal on the following grounds:

- Marlborough Youth Service Providers are very supportive of a community youth centre that can provide activities, programmes, facilities and access to the services that could enable young people to fully participate in the community.

“There is a definite need for a good, well set up centre for youth with a variety of programmes and activities on offer” (Bread of Life)

- Blenheim does not currently have a ‘community’ youth centre where all youth, regardless of their backgrounds or affiliations, can access activities, programmes and services specifically tailored to young people.

“A lot of youth I’ve talked to say that they are offending or using drugs simply because they are bored”. (Gateway Housing Trust)

- All youth, regardless of their involvement or not with a youth provider or group, need and desire alternative options to occupy their leisure time and where they can experience different activities, programmes, challenges and services beyond that currently available to them.

“A lot to do (in Blenheim) if you have money and a car but youth without these can feel very restricted” (Gateway Housing Trust)

- Several providers specifically identified the Marlborough Youth Trust as being the ideal body to oversee a ‘community’ youth centre for the reason that the Trust has a unique working relationship with Council and its governance group is drawn from all sectors of the youth worker community.
- While it is generally accepted that there is a need for an element of ‘drop-in-centre’ to a youth centre to enable full inclusiveness of all youth, there is a strong expectation amongst providers that the use and access to the youth centre be tightly structured in terms of activities and programmes as offered and that its use be primarily by scheduled appointment to allow for exclusive use of specific facilities by individual groups and to provide for the safety of youth within the care of individual providers.

“Parents put a lot of faith in groups to provide a safe environment for their kids so youth centres need to have a structured operation to cater for that” (Youth Worker)

- Providers identified a wide range of activities as appropriate to a youth centre. Most saw the need for space for informal indoor sport, a place to hold drug and alcohol free music events, a recording studio, music and art studios, meeting rooms, access to computer and printing services, lounge space and café for youth. These very much mirrored the similar desires of youth themselves.

“Most emphatically - YES. (A place) to take my students for example, many are very talented in terms of Art and Music” (Synergy)

- Young people want access to effective advice and support, opportunities to reach their potential as well as giving to others, events and facilities that cater to a range of interests, and the opportunity to ‘be themselves!!’

“Kids know their ‘wants’ but not so much their ‘needs’. They often don’t think beyond what they are used to or have already done. The youth workers are often the ones that recognize the ‘needs’ of youth”. (Bread of Life)

- Several providers expressed a desire to see numeracy and literacy, job skills and career skills training opportunities to be incorporated into a new centre to supplement those presently available through schools and tertiary institutions but which youth may not be availing themselves of for some reason.

“Hopefully there is growing recognition of the needs of our young people which will lead to more resources / facilities”. (Mana Rangitahi)

- Many of the youth providers saw the proposed youth centre as an opportunity to access facilities and resources that are not presently available to them in Blenheim and which are beyond their financial ability to provide for themselves. This would provide them with the opportunity to enhance and strengthen their own programmes and services to their youth.

“Absolutely, I think it is a fantastic idea and would get huge support from youth focused organisations” (FYD Marlborough)

- Several providers expressed an enthusiasm for the youth centre proposal for the reason that they recognize that there are many youth in the community who are not presently engaged with either themselves or other providers and for whom they would like to see some provision made. They recognize that many of these youth are unlikely to connect with their programmes for reasons of background or belief however this does not stop the provider looking to how they may be able to contribute to programmes or services that do appeal to these youth. The ‘community’ youth centre concept satisfies this desire.

“Groups have to think outside the square to introduce new ideas and programmes. This is essential if the interest of kids is to be maintained”. (Youth Worker)

- One provider expressed the desire to see a youth centre become the hub around which all youth providers are connected and it be the means by which information on activities, services and opportunities are disseminated to them. The centres role could further extend to up-skilling of providers through ‘train the trainers’ programmes. MYT were seen as the ideal facilitator of such programmes as they are a bipartisan body with no specific affiliation to any one ethnic or faith based body.

“We totally support this project; if this goes ahead it will be an asset to all young people...”. Maataa Waka

New Zealand Youth Centre Models

A key component of this study was to make contact with youth centre and youth service providers around New Zealand seeking their comments and guidance as drawn from the lessons learnt from their own operations and endeavours. The response to this request was very positive, with a significant amount of both verbal and written information and documentation made freely available.

The respondents include:

- Papanui Youth Centre - Joy Williams, Papanui Youth Development Trust, Papanui, Christchurch.
- Oasis Church Blenheim – Ross Banbury, Project Development Coordinator, Papanui Youth Centre
- ‘Youth Space Café’ - Deon Knox, Youth Development Team Leader, Palmerston North City
- Harvest Rock Youth Centre - Peter Coventry, Otorohanga
- Evolve Wellington Youth Service - Wellington
- ‘Vibe’ Youth Centre - Kerry Leggett, Lower Hutt
- ‘Atomic’ Events Centre - Mark Wilson, Director, Hastings City
- Natasha Carswell, Community Planning Manager, Napier City
- BASE Youth Centre - Bexx Soper, Coordinator, Ashburton
- New Zealand Human Rights Commission - Sarah Peters, Human Rights Specialist
- HBC Youth Centre - Gaylene Atchison, Service Delivery Administrator, Hibiscus Coast
- ‘YOSS” Youth One Stop Shop - Trissel Mayor, Director, Palmerston North
- Pacific Youth One Stop Shop - Counties Manukau

The feedback from these providers gives some interesting insights to the many issues, barriers and demands, along with constructive advice on establishing and operating a youth centre of the nature proposed by the Trust.

A snap-shot of these is presented below:

Papanui Youth Centre - Christchurch

The Papanui Youth Centre project was nine years in the making. The idea for the facility came out of a youth forum in 1998. Te Papanui Trust and Papanui Youth Development Trust collaborated to make it happen - both trusts were established by Papanui Baptist Church. St Paul’s Anglican Church made the land available and allowed the Trust to build and own a building on the site. The Community Trust, Christchurch City Council, local businesses and other donors also came on board early as “pillar” support groups however the Trust states that the desire to make the project happen came from the community itself.



The venue was all designed to be easy to use and multi-purpose. There is a “state-of-the-art” climbing wall, a recording studio, a video editing suite, art rooms and a “positive” gaming space. There is also space for youth to ‘chill out’. Students and young people have access to internet and printing facilities and a computer suite is planned as an important resource for the local community. It is also planned to have a range of professionals - a doctor, a sexual health worker, a budget advisor and youth workers - based at the centre who can provide advice and assistance to young people when and where they need it.



Flexibility in design was seen a critical to enabling multiple use and users. The climbing ropes come out, for example, enabling the space to be used as small stage or for concerts. Other rooms can be used as offices, teaching rooms and seminar rooms. The Trust promotes the facility as 'there for the community to use'. A booking system for each activity area enables structured use by multiple groups at one time.

The Trust showcases the youth centre as being what can be achieved through the "the power of dreams" and a community legacy for its future generations.

[The Harvest Rock Youth Centre - Otorohanga](#)

Established in 2007 by Assembly of God's 'Harvest Christian Fellowship and Harvest Trust' at a cost of \$650,000, the Harvest Rock Youth Centre provides school holiday, leadership and mentoring programmes and after school activities for youth. Kitting it out with a mock Waitomo indoor rock climbing wall, commercial kitchen with informal cooking lessons, musical instruments, mentoring programs, and on site public health nurses and pastor services, all for their young people to enjoy for free. Open Monday–Saturday for groups, schools and corporate hire (closed Sundays for church activities)



[ATOMIC Youth Centre - Hastings](#)

ATOMIC Hastings established in 1998 is a joint venture between Hastings District Council (HDC) and the ATOMIC Events Centre. HDC leases the building occupied by Atomic and sub-leases it back to them. Council contributes \$100,000 annually towards rental (total annual expense of \$146,000) and currently have a 3 year contract for services with ATOMIC of \$46,000 per year. This contract funds a range of services provided by ATOMIC and stipulates Centre opening hours.

Annually around 30,000 young people visit the Centre, which includes a sports centre, indoor skating facility, youth hangout space and cafeteria, gaming machines and events space. There is no charge for casual use of the centre although certain programmes and events attract a charge. One of the key challenges of their centre is its relative isolation, being located on periphery of the Hastings CBD in a semi-industrial complex with no other youth or family activities in the area. This places a significant constraint on their operations in terms of working collaboratively with other providers and activities and has also limited their ability to provide a family focus and gain wider acceptance in the community.



'Evolve' Wellington Youth Service

The 'Evolve' Youth Service centre provides a range of medical, health, counselling, support and youth development activities and event free of charge to around 12,000 young people annually. Primarily focused on youth health, the centre does however provide a separate youth café and hangout space.

With an annual operating budget of approximately 1 million dollars, the centre is principally funded by Capital and Coast District Health Board and Primary Health Organisation funding. All services are provided at no cost to the youth who use the centre.



'Evolve' credit their ongoing success to:

- A commitment to taking services to young people who would ordinarily not be engaged.
- Direct youth involvement in governance is essential, with half of the trustees required to be under 26 years of age.
- Having trained and supported young people available to talk to their peers
- Youth support workers so that young people can readily identify with staff when they walk in the door
- Location is considered a key to success. The facility must be easy to get to (close to public transport) in an area that young people already frequent.

Location and Accessibility

The location of a new youth centre was seen by most respondents, youth and youth providers alike, as being a key issue for consideration. The ability of youth to be able to access the centre independently is seen as an important requirement for its siting. While Blenheim has gained a public bus service in recent years, it only operates between the hours of 9am and 3.00pm, Monday to Saturday, so is not available to youth as a means of transport to a youth centre during the afternoons (late), evenings and weekends (Sunday) when their use of the centre would be highest.

Cycle and pedestrian networks have also been improved in recent years in Blenheim, however the reality remains that the car is still the dominant form of travel and for most young people this means they will be reliant on someone else to drop them off. Young people in higher socio economic neighbourhoods are likely to be more mobile and able to travel further distances than those in the lesser well off neighbourhoods. These young people will rely more on walking. They may not attend a centre if it is too hard to get too.

The youth survey question relating to preferred location identified the Blenheim CBD precinct as the majority (81.3%) preference amongst youth for a new youth centre. Only 10% of youth showed preference for a centre located on the outskirts of the town.

Key perceived advantages of locating in the CBD included that a facility would be integrated with the rest of town where there is existing activities and vibrancy. The CBD is most accessible as people are going there anyway and there is a lot of other stuff to do.

In the vicinity of the Blenheim skate park came through as a strong preference for many youth and its advantages were identified by some providers for the reason that clustering of youth facilities enabled variety of opportunity and activities in one location. The proximity of the skate park to the youth centre is also likely to encourage greater movement of youth

between the two facilities and would enable a degree of supervision and oversight of the skate park by centre staff.

Discussions with youth providers supported the desirability of the CBD location due to its 'appeal' to youth however recognition was made by several that acquiring a suitable site of the size envisaged, regardless of where it is, will not be an easy, or cheap, process so availability and cost may dictate to a large degree at the end of the day.

Neutral Territory

Many of those youth and youth providers consulted during the course of the study have either alluded to or made direct reference to the desire and importance of a community youth centre being seen as a safe and neutral territory with a culture that is embracing of all young people, regardless of background or beliefs. Youth gang culture is often a threat to providing neutral and safe territory and yet these youth are often at greatest need of a safe place to be.

The issue of 'neutral territory' even extended to discussion on preferred location; with the CBD again being identified as a preference for this reason.

It will therefore be important that the Marlborough Youth Trust, and other providers, consider how they can make their services available to all youth, including those with high needs. There will likely be a need, particularly as the centre gets established, to provide community based youth services.

Sustainability

Many successful youth centres around the country are church based. Their strength is seen to lie in the structure, strong fellowship and sense of community that church groups often have. Does this mean that non-church based youth centres are doomed to fail?

Does MYT draw its strength from the fact that its membership is drawn from several church groups and that they can bring the strength of their church community to the Trust?

Summary of Consultation

The results of the surveys and consultation as undertaken with youth and youth providers provide a guide as to the opinions and preferences of both and what some of the issues and challenges in setting up a youth centre will be. They also indicate a high level of support within the community for a community 'youth specific' facility being established in Blenheim.

It is also clear that any centre will need to serve a wide variety of youth needs and that there is some expectation that there would be a cost associated with certain activities and or services.

Accessibility is an issue for young people in terms of travelling to the centre. While a large number of respondents identified they would get themselves to the centre (either on foot, by bike or skateboard or in their own car) in reality this will to a large degree depend on the distance to be travelled and the ease of getting there.

Young people represent a significant sector within Blenheim's population and past youth needs assessments clearly identify them as having quite specific health, employment and education challenges. The consultation as undertaken as part of this study has identified strong support for a youth development centre to help address these key issues for Blenheim's young people.

Parents are supportive of a safe place for their children to be able to access and enjoy and where they can participate in independent activities in a supervised environment.

Youth service providers also support a centre specifically for young people where youth can independently access activities and support and where they, as providers, can take their youth to participate in activities currently not available in Blenheim and which they are not financially able to resource themselves.

On the basis of the youth survey results, the young people of Blenheim, and of wider Marlborough, have a strong desire to see a facility established that they can call their own where they can 'hang out' with their peers, enjoy a range of activities and programmes, gain support with issues that they face in their daily lives and where they feel safe.

Key Considerations - Community Consultation

- Blenheim young people have identified the desire for a place “to hangout” as one of their top most desired improvements for Blenheim. This demand is also supported by survey responses from local youth service providers and by unsolicited feedback from parents and others in the wider community.
- There is strong support amongst youth, youth providers and parents for a community youth development centre to be established in Blenheim.
- A youth centre needs to be of sufficient size and design to be able to provide a wide range of activities, programmes and events to ensure its on-going appeal to both youth and youth providers as a safe, fun and challenging amenity for their use.
- A youth centre will have greater support by all youth if it recognizes the needs and wishes of young people and reflects what appeals to them in terms of design, presentation and culture.
- Youth providers are very positive about the potential benefits to them of a multi-use/multi-user youth development centre being available for them to use in Blenheim however they felt that the need for carefully controlled access and a booking system for each activity area is essential to ensure the safety of their youth and the avoidance of negative influences.
- Incorporation of a ‘drop-in centre’ component into the youth centre is recognised as being important if all youth are to be encouraged to access it. The way in which this component is provided for without negatively impacting on the overall facility use and appeal will be a key challenge of the project.
- Ideally, a youth centre needs to provide access, either directly or by referral, to the broad range of youth health and social services available in Blenheim.
- Based on national statistics for youth, 68% (3323) of young people in Marlborough between the age of 10 and 19 years are involved in at least one community group, church or club. 32% (1564) of young people are therefore not presently involved in any community group, church or club.
- Not all youth want to participate in faith based youth groups or the more mainstream sports clubs as traditionally supported by councils and the community.
- Youth centres are often the only opportunity for young people to gain access to dedicated youth focused activities, services or facilities, particularly outside of school hours.
- Youth need to have somewhere safe to go and socialize, relax away from home and school’ and also keep out of trouble.
- The location of a youth centre is critical to its appeal and accessible to all Blenheim’s young people.
- The Blenheim CBD precinct was identified as the top preferred location for a youth centre, with the need for accessibility emphasized by all groups.
- The vast majority of youth want a new youth centre to be located in proximity to the Blenheim CBD for reasons of transport and access to other services and amenities.
- The most wanted facilities by Blenheim’s young people in a youth centre are ‘Computer, internet and printing’ (77.89%), a youth ‘Café’ (75.79%), a youth ‘Lounge Room’ (71.58%), ‘Games Room’ (71.05%), ‘Climbing Wall’ (67.89%), ‘Music Room and Recording Studio’ (59.47%) and ‘Study Room’ (56.84%).
- Unprompted comments from members of the public suggest that the wider community supports more entertainment and facilities for young people.

Strategies, Literature and Best Practice Relevant to Youth Centre Proposals

A wide range of investigations and studies into the provision of youth centres in New Zealand are available for consideration in respect to the Marlborough Youth Trust proposal. The following are a representative few as considered relevant:

Youth Development Strategy Aotearoa

The Youth Development Strategy Aotearoa considers how government and society can support young men and women aged 12-24 years inclusive to develop the skills and attitudes they need to take part positively in society, now and in the future.

The key message presented by this strategy is that:

'positive youth development is a result of youth engagement and connection with the wider community'.

KEEPIN' IT REAL

Developed by the Ministry of Youth Development in 2003, the KEEPIN'IT REAL guidelines provide advice and guidance on youth participation in policy development, services and programmes and describes how adults can contribute to the positive development of young people by creating opportunities for them to influence, inform, shape, design and contribute to an activity or project.

It advocates inclusiveness of all youth and emphasizes the importance of addressing barriers to youth inclusion, including those related to cultural, sexuality, geographical disabilities and youth vulnerability factors.

In line with the Youth Development Strategy Aotearoa, this guide emphasizes the need for positive youth engagement.

"Youth Centre Key Attributes" - Ministry of Youth Development 2010

The Ministry of Youth Development has produced a study on the key attributes of youth centres in 2010 that is particularly relevant to this study. While it identifies that a youth centre may not necessarily answer a community's need to make a difference for youth, key success factors are attributed to centres being integrated both in approach (service provision) and facility provision (multifunctional or meeting a range of youth needs). The importance of involving parents as stakeholders is also emphasized.

A summary of relevant findings from this study include:

- The evidence for youth centres making a difference to young people is mixed.
- Disadvantaged youth are often overrepresented at youth centres and while participation in a youth centre will reduce time spent on the streets, just being trouble free does not mean they will reach their full potential.
- Youth centres do not operate in a vacuum, and a key part of the effectiveness of contemporary youth centres is through integrated provision. This is where different agencies and organisations providing services to young people join up in a holistic

approach. Information is shared to avoid duplicating effort, or missing opportunities to help young people.

- Activities sponsored by youth centres should be relevant to the needs of the local community. Youth centres should talk with parents, as parents are major stakeholders in the education and well-being of their children.
- Effective youth centres share many of the characteristics of successful youth work (Merton et al., 2004). In their own right, youth centres are effective when they give young people:
 - ✓ Somewhere to go
 - ✓ Something to do
 - ✓ Some space of their own
 - ✓ Some-one to talk to.

'Youth Health One Stop Shop' Model 2009

A review of 'One Stop Shops' for youth health in New Zealand was undertaken by the Ministry of Health in 2009. This study identified a set of "optimal" characteristics for Youth One Stop Shops. While these characteristics relate specifically to youth health they are equally worth considering in relation to youth centre projects.

Optimal characteristics include:

- ✓ Provision of services: An optimal service provides a combination of services in the one place to encourage access and utilization. Access to all of these services is facilitated by trained youth workers who are able to provide a communication bridge between young people and the services they need. Mentoring programmes provide a higher level of on-going support for young people in need and encourage positive growth and development as they transition to adulthood.
- ✓ Configuration of services: Services are community-based and located centrally in a safe area close to public transport routes. Access is further facilitated through the provision of mobile, outreach and satellite services that are available at times and in locations which suit local youth. These include school based services.
- ✓ Structures and staff: All staff are specially trained as youth health providers. They are responsive to young people's needs and deliver high quality service in a non-judgmental manner that engenders trust and confidentiality.
- ✓ Governance and funding: Services are governed by a board whose members are interested in young people, are of good standing in the community and contribute to an effective skill mix. Youth are represented on the board and supported to do so. Maori are also represented at the governance level. Funding includes an administrative component and is not just for the service delivery.
- ✓ Links and relationships: Community links are fostered and opportunities such as participation in special events are taken to promote and increase service access.
- ✓ Measurement and quality: Robust and user friendly information system is used to collect all information that is required to manage and improve the services. Capacity for self-evaluation will have been developed and quality improvement activities are a component of business as usual; and a standard agenda at team meetings.

Key Considerations - Strategies, Literature and Best Practice

From the relevant research literature and guidance given by existing providers of youth centres around the country, the following key learning's have been identified:

- It is well documented that youth need:
 - ✓ Somewhere to go
 - ✓ Something to do
 - ✓ Some space of their own
 - ✓ Someone to talk to
- A youth centre needs to reflect the culture of the youth for whom it is intended so it is important that they are involved in its design and decoration.
- Location and access is a particularly important factor for young people given their often limited means of travelling to a facility. The more deprived an area in a socio economic sense, the less mobile and able its youth tend to be. A facility should be located in a safe, neutral area.
- A sense of 'ownership' of a youth centre by young people is important to their acceptance of it as a place to be. It is important however to ensure that this is 'collective' as opposed to exclusive ownership (perceived or real) by any one group or groups. Exclusive ownership can result in a clash of cultures which can lead to some young people not attending. Non-exclusive ownership does however need to be balanced against the importance of providing a safe place for all youth.
- A youth hub with a cross section of activities and services is more likely to succeed as it caters for a wide range of young people.
- The provision of 'magnet' activities that appeal to and excite youth and encourage their participation often provides the opportunity for engagement and the addressing of other needs or issues they may have.
- It is essential that young people are involved in decisions being made about them. Good governance is essential to good provision and young people should participate directly in the process.
- Youth centres offering multiple activities and services are more likely to succeed.
- Key benefits of a shared facility include greater access to young people, shared administrative and centre costs and clustering of resources creating a nucleus of activity. Understanding success and convincing potential funding partners of the value of a youth centre's positive contribution to youth and the community is a significant challenge for youth providers.
- The 'measures of success' are important to the on-going support and sustainability of a youth centre. Clearly establishing these measures with both funders and the community are essential from the very beginning. While numbers through the door is a simplistic measure frequently used by funders, the successful engagement with higher risk youth within the community and the take-up of personal development programmes by all youth may be a more significant measure if positive community benefits are the overall objective.
- The provision of space, resources and expertise to enable the delivery of events and opportunities (youth music events, recording studios, indoor climbing walls) not currently/normally provided in the community can consolidate the value of a centre in the eyes of both youth and the wider community.
- The provision of a 'one-stop-shop' service (social, health, personal development, peer and community connection) to youth, either directly or by referral to available service providers is the 'ideal' in a youth centre. Offering a facility and opportunities

that appeals to all youth can enable a wider range of needs to be addressed which would otherwise go unchecked.

- Not all youth enjoy or accept structured involvement in a youth centre. A carefully controlled 'drop-in' component to a centre where youth can engage in 'hang-out' activities (socializing, gaming, internet, etc.) will provide opportunity for informal counselling by trained youth staff on site.
- The provision of alcohol free youth events and a non-judgmental, safe, fun place for young people to 'hang out' can be a valuable asset in any community. Having access to bars and clubs for casual relaxation and entertainment is taken for granted by many adults while many youth are restricted to roaming the streets.
- Maintaining an appropriate balance between a youth driven approach (and its perceived anti-establishment culture) and the need for a level of comfort for adults about what was happening at a youth centre presents a challenging community advocacy role for the Governance group and management.
- It is important to allocate space in a centre to satisfy specific purposes or activities however it is vital to also recognize the need for flexibility to provide the greatest adaptability in use of the facility.
- The provision of trained, qualified youth workers to assist young people as, when and how required is critical to a centre's effectiveness.
- The availability and support of volunteers in a youth centre is invaluable in addressing basic operating needs and freeing up professional staff to enable their effective engagement with youth.
- Raising sufficient funds to operate a youth centre is a significant challenge for its governance group. Insufficient funding and resources will definitely compromise its likelihood of success long-term.
- The administration, governance and funding are key aspects of any not-for-profit organisation. This can place a huge burden on an organisations ability to deliver services. Support from both local and central government organisations is therefore likely to be required either through purchasing of services or in relation to administrative and operating costs.

Facility Requirements, Site Options and Cost

Facility Area Requirements

The size of the building and area available for activity areas and administration is considered critical to the appeal and long-term success of youth facilities.

A frequent comment from existing youth centre operators around the country was “*you can never have too much space!*”

Available space enables multiple activities and multiple activities will keep youth interested. The opportunity to offer a range of activities helps maintain the vitality of a facility and multiple spaces allows for multiple groups to use it at the same time. If space and opportunity are limited then the likelihood of other youth providers and groups using the centre to enhance their own programmes is slim.

‘*One boot will not fit all*’ so if a new youth centre is to be built to meet the needs of all youth then it must be able to accommodate the varied interests, motivations and talents of those youth. A building of adequate size and design will be the key to achieving this.

As a guide, the floor areas of the Papanui and the proposed Napier Atomic youth centres are given below:

Papanui Youth Centre

Church Hall and Toilets – 233.65m²

Ground Floor Activity Area – 243.29m²

Mezzanine Area – 123.79m²

Office/Reception Space – 86m²

Total – 686.73m²

Napier ‘Atomic’ Youth Centre (proposed)

Activity Area – 1000m²

Office Administration – 280m²

Central Reception – 250m²

School of Rock – 100m²

Café’ – 150m²

Total – 1780m²

The significant difference in floor area of these two youth centres is a reflection of the Atomic proposal being intended to cater for a larger youth population (11,736 < 15yrs) than the Papanui Youth Centre (8,900 <15yrs) and the intention for the Atomic building to also accommodate 3 commercial operators offering youth related entertainment activities on site. The combined total for both the Atomic/non-profit organisations and the commercial operators took the floor space requirements for this proposal up to 3670m²

The Papanui Youth Centre also does not include a separate dedicated youth café as proposed by Atomic. They do have kitchen facility and a foyer/lounge area however many youth centres consider a dedicated youth café to be of significant value as a place for youth to relax and socialize with their friends.

Blenheim's youth population (7752<15yrs) is just under that of Papanui. This being the case, a building of similar size can be assumed to be adequate for local needs.

It is important to recognise that the size of a facility such as a youth centre cannot be determined by population size alone as the space required for many activities to be feasible is the same regardless of the number of people seeking access to it. This applies equally to the likes of a recording or arts studio as it does to a rugby field. For this reason, it is recommended that the Papanui example be looked on as minimum in respect to Blenheim's needs.

The exact size of a youth centre servicing Blenheim will be able to be determined when the activities, services and amenities that it will house have been finalized. This will need to be done in close consultation with council, the community, other youth providers and groups, potential co-share partners and, in particular, the youth for which it is intended. From the feedback from youth and youth providers, it is envisaged that the facility would house, as a minimum, the following:

- Youth café
- Climbing wall
- Mini sports and games room
- Music room and audio/visual recording studio
- Craft/art room
- Reading room
- Study room
- Computer, internet and printing facilities
- Youth Agency/Groups meeting rooms
- Office facilities for youth agencies
- Administration and storage

Some of these activities will also dictate the shape and design of the building. A climbing wall of the nature envisaged would for example require a 9 metre ceiling height within part of the building. Similar design requirements would also relate to the mini sports and games room.

Planning Requirements

Planning requirements as determined by the Wairau/Awatere Resource Management Plan and relevant land status would need to be taken into account when considering possible locations to establish the proposed youth centre and when assessing any particular preferred site. Issues such as permitted and discretionary activities, minimum car parking requirements, possible reserve status over land, maximum building heights, noise restrictions and floor area are possible constraints that will need to be addressed depending on the chosen site(s).

Location

The area in or adjoining the Blenheim CBD precinct has been identified as the preferred location for a new youth centre by young people. Benefits of a central site include good accessibility in terms of getting to the site, location relative to deprived socio-economic suburbs and schools, its proximity to the main shopping area, food, cultural, recreational and other activities. A new youth centre in this location could be expected to benefit from existing high youth foot traffic in the CBD. Positioning in close proximity to an existing facility such as

the Blenheim Skate Park in Horton St would have obvious benefits in terms of youth appeal and site supervision by centre staff.

Specific concerns about a CBD site include youth access to licensed premises in the town centre and the perception that a youth centre can lead to undesirable youth behaviour in a highly visible location. These are management issues that would need to be addressed by Centre management.

Accessibility

Throughout the consultation process, accessibility is considered a key factor in the siting of a new youth centre. The following factors are important when considering a location:

- Proximity to local schools
- Proximity to public transport
- Proximity to residential areas.

Research has shown that the travel thresholds for youth on foot or cycling are 2 and 5 kms respectively. This means that the maximum distance that a youth walking from home to a youth centre will be approximately 2 kms; with a youth cycling being prepared to travel up to 5 kms. (See Appendix 4 Blenheim Accessibility Map)

Beyond these distances, their use of a youth centre will be reliant on public transport, their access to a motor vehicle, transport by parents/care-givers or alternate transport provided by the centre. This will obviously result in a reluctance to use the facility by some youth and/or reduced frequency of their use.

In terms of accessibility, a CBD location is convenient. Most urban routes lead to the CBD where there are other activities and amenities available to youth so existing "foot traffic" is already high. Blenheim's limited public bus routes radiate out from the CBD and cycle lanes and urban pathways connect many areas to the CBD.

Project Development Costs

Building Construction

At this stage of the project, the level of information available is insufficient to provide any detailed design and therefore any detailed associated costs. As a guide, the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Business provide a guide for estimating building costs for light commercial buildings which is likely to apply in the case of a youth centre as proposed.

Light commercial or Industrial Building

Single-storey warehouse, with mezzanine on a flat site accommodating warehouse, office accommodation, reception and display area, staff lunchroom, kitchen, and toilet facilities. Constructed of reinforced slab, reinforced concrete columns, tilt-up precast concrete external walls, powder-coated external aluminium joinery, Coloursteel roof, timber-framed internal partitions with painted plasterboard linings. Site works, security and carpet are excluded.

The estimate \$ per square metre cost for a light commercial building with site coverage of 687m² is:

New Development: \$1315 per square metre = \$903,405

These figures include development of the shell and internal spaces but do not include land costs, and individual space fit-outs such as rock climbing wall, recording studio, café, etc. It

would include toilets, internal walls, insulation, electrical requirements etc. No costs have been included for car-parking or other site works

The option of retrofitting an existing building will be an obvious consideration should a suitable building in the right location be found. The cost of retro-fitting is generally estimated as being in the vicinity of 43% of a new building so this would enable the following approximate costs to be used:

Retro-fit Development: \$566 per square metre = \$388,842

This figure is based on the same exclusions as for a new development however the cost of purchase/lease of the building will need to be allowed for.

Additional Project Costs

In addition to land purchase/lease and building costs there are other project costs that should also be budgeted for. These include project management (design, quantity survey, and project management); Council consents (building and resource consents and any site works requirements such as parking provision); and marketing costs. In addition, given the high level of uncertainty around the actual construction costs at this early stage a 10% contingency fee should also be allowed for.

Once a suitable site has been identified, land or building purchase/lease costs are known and a detailed design has been completed, then a more accurate budget can be developed.

Project Funding

The funding of youth development centre of this scale is undoubtedly going to be a critical factor in the community's decision to support the project. As a community facility, funding from Council will be required, both to enable the capital development to take place and to provide for its annual on-going operating costs to an agreed level.

This financial commitment by the community will be weighed against the benefits of a community youth centre for both the districts young people and for the community as a whole in respect to factors such as meeting the objectives of Council's Youth Policy, enhanced personal development and wellbeing of our youth, strengthening of employment skills and training and the perceived or real safety for all residents, young and old.

A further important consideration for the community to take into account in deciding on whether or not to support this project is that while there will be a cost to the rate payer, there are also financial benefits for the community in the form of the funding that becomes available and is brought into the district as a result of not-for-profit community based projects of this nature. As with the likes of the Stadium 2000 and Civic Theatre projects, not-for-profit bodies such as the Marlborough Youth Trust can access significant charity, corporate and central government funding and support which is not ordinarily available to Council's undertaking projects of this nature on their own. This can mean that the level of actual Council funding going into a project, both in terms of capital development and on-going operating costs, can be significantly outweighed by the funding from outside sources. This is evidenced by the following examples:

Papanui Youth Centre

\$1,325,741 - capital project cost

\$386,500 - Christchurch City Council contribution (29.2%)

Napier 'Atomic' Youth Centre (proposed)

\$2,431,275 – capital project cost

\$431,275 – Napier City Council contribution (17.7%)

Operational Funding

If the project is to proceed, acknowledgement of the ongoing operational funding requirements for the youth centre will need to be made. It is anticipated that a portion of this funding will come from Council as the primary funding provider of the Trust. This will not be the only source of required funds however as the Trust presently received funding from a number of charity trusts and government agencies.

The annual operating costs will be very much dependent on a number of factors including building size, staffing levels, resource requirements, rental, administration costs, programmes and activities and user charges. The level of use of the facility by other youth service providers and groups and any charges that may apply will also have a major bearing on income for the facility. This usage will however be determined to a large extent by the value placed on the youth centre by these providers/groups as a component of their youth programmes and services. It is for this reason that the size of the building and what it has to offer other providers/groups will be critical to its value within the community and its long-term sustainability.

The Trust's proposal seeks to lessen dependence on stakeholder and funder reliance for operating costs through a co-share partnership approach in conjunction with other youth service providers.

Project Risks

Facility Development

The key risk in developing this facility relate to the Marlborough Youth Trust's ability to raise sufficient funds to enable the project to proceed. While it is anticipated that there would be a sizable Council component in the funds required, a significant amount will need to come from the wider community, both within and beyond the district. This will require a very capable and committed fund raising team and pulling this group together will be one of the first challenges facing the Trust.

Project Management Risk

There is a degree of risk to the management of this project in that the Trust is not experienced in managing large capital works on the scale envisaged. If willing, Council will be able to provide valuable assistance in this regard, particularly in the design, consent and tendering aspects of the process. It is still recommended however that funding be allocated within the budget to enable the engagement of an experienced project manager to oversee the main construction phase through to completion.

Facility Operation

As with any community facility of this nature, the bricks and mortar phase is generally the easy bit. Keeping the facility running smoothly thereafter, particularly from a financial perspective, will often pose the greatest challenge.

The location, scale, design, services and activities offered will all have a significant bearing on the success and long-term sustainability of a youth centre. Ensuring that the building is flexible in terms of its use also enables diversity in both programmes and activities and an ability to accommodate multiple users and service providers in response to changing demands or opportunities over time.

The move to a 'one-stop-shop' approach in the provision of youth centres around the country not only provides a better service to youth but also generates alternate income sources and spreads the operational costs by enabling other providers to be accommodated as co-share partners.

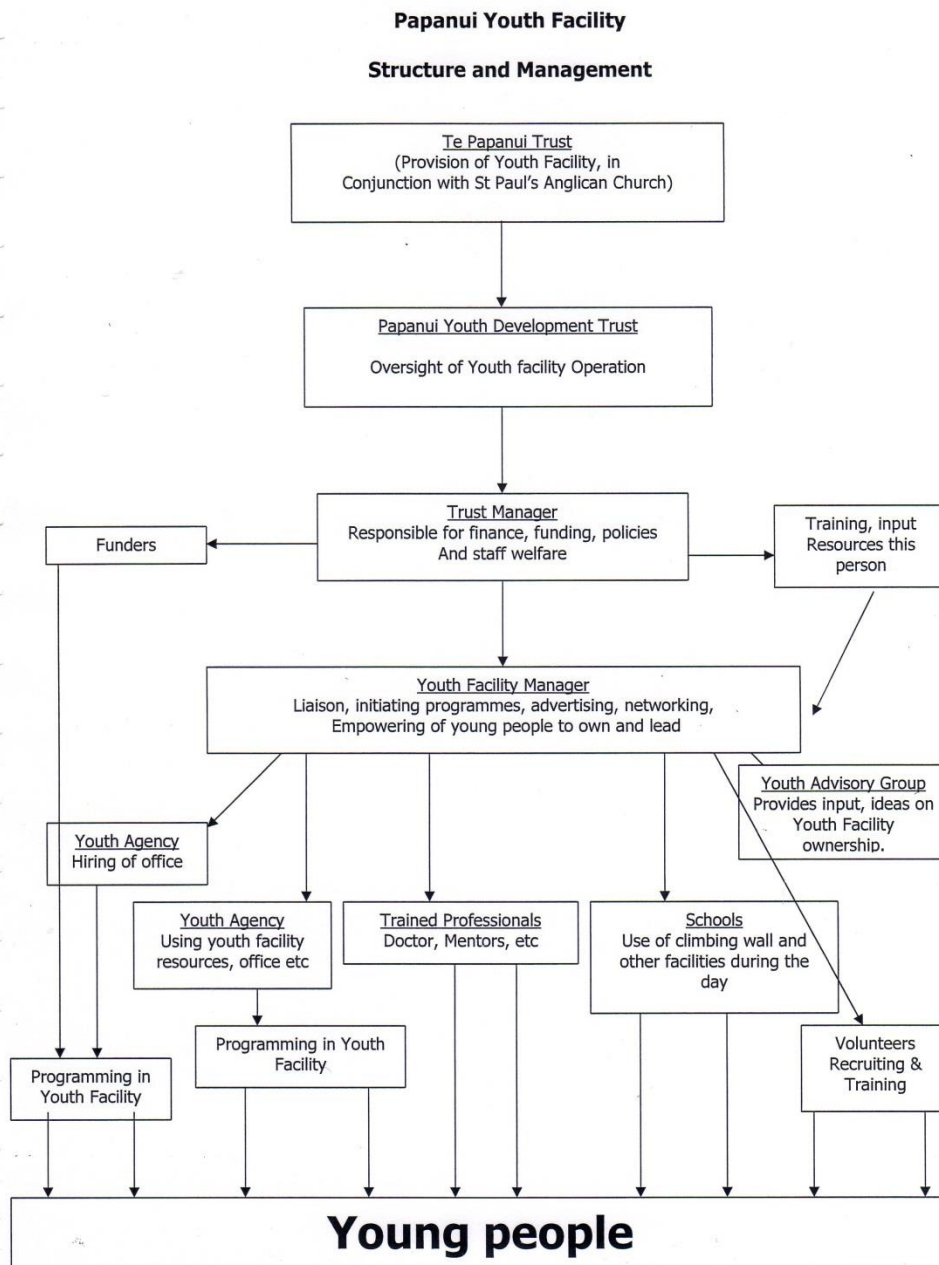
Given the importance to the project of buy-in and support from other youth service providers and the importance of realizing the desired benefits from the centre, it is recommended that a business case be undertaken to identify a feasible 'one-stop-shop' model and operational structure for the centre to enable a better understanding of the level of on-going operational funding support that may be required for it to be both successful and sustainable long-term.

Key Considerations - Facility Requirements, Site Options and Cost

- Building scale and area available for activity areas and administration is considered critical to the appeal and long-term success of youth facilities – “you can never have too much space!”
- Space enables multiple activities and multiple activities will maintain appeal.
- If the quality and variety of activities in a youth centre is limited then the likelihood of other youth providers and groups using the centre to enhance their own programmes is diminished.
- A youth centre need to be able to accommodate the varied interests, motivations and talents of all the youth for which it is intended.
- A ‘Youth Café’ is an attractive component for youth in a youth centre.
- A new youth development centre in Blenheim should have a minimum floor area of approximately 800 m² and a minimum ceiling height, in part, of ideally no less than 9 metres.
- Accessibility to a youth centre is critical if youth are going to be attracted to it. Youth and youth providers have identified the CBD precinct as being the preferred location for a new youth centre in Blenheim. Careful consideration of location factors will need to be given to any identified site options.
- Gaining community support for this project will be dependent on the effective clear communication of its benefit to the youth of Marlborough and the financial implications involved in the project. A key aspect of this will be the actual level of Council contribution relative to the level of funding brought into the region through its sponsorship by outside funding agencies.
- The lessening of dependence on stakeholder and funder reliance for operating costs through a co-share partnership approach in conjunction with other youth service providers is highly desirable in a project of this nature.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Papanui Youth Facility Structure and Management



Appendix 2 Marlborough Youth Workers Collective Discussion Document

Talk as Given to Marlborough Youth Workers Collective by Russell Montgomery on behalf of the Marlborough Youth Trust on 14th August 2013

I apologise in advance for any wrong assumptions that I may make in the following however if I make them now then that gives you an opportunity to put me right.

This group is evidence to the fact that youth providers in Marlborough are talking together so as to share ideas, initiatives, knowledge and concerns for the betterment of Marlborough youth. While this will no doubt contribute to some “filling of gaps” in service or provision when looking at all Marlborough youth, it is probably fair to say that most of your networking relates to how you can improve on what you are doing for the sector of youth that is your primary target group.

I also think it would be fair to say that while you do have a particular sector of youth on whom your efforts are focused, or ‘targeted’, you, by your very background and personal motivations, hold concerns for those youth in the community who may not be getting the attention, assistance and support that they need. I also feel safe in making the assumption that, if there were a way in which you could contribute to remedying this situation (without overloading your already overtaxed time and resources), you would be keen to assist in some way.

I leave you with that thought at this stage.

On another tack.

The Marlborough Youth Trust (MYT) had its origins back in 1997 as a result of the collective efforts of the Marlborough Safer Communities Group, Council and the St Marks Forum which identified the need for a youth facility in Marlborough which filled a gap in provision for youth not already linked to existing groups or providers and which could be utilised by all Marlborough youth as a neutral environment in which they could meet, relax and socialise, while also hopefully getting the support and assistance that they may need.

From that vision grew the HQ Youth Centre and the employment of some very effective youth workers to man it. It also brought about the introduction to Marlborough of some very successful youth programmes like CACTUS, PCT and a variety of youth events.

The Marlborough Youth Workers Collective has also worked in with MYT in the past. Why? – because the Trust, as a legal entity, was able to secure the funding that you required to carry out activities and initiatives that you, as a group, identified as being important for youth. On that occasion the Collective had the ideas and enthusiasm but not the means. The Trust had the means – and still does. You need to take advantage of that as a group.

What does the Trust want to do?

It doesn't want to provide for the needs of all youth in Marlborough!

What it wants to do however is to ensure that the needs of all youth in Marlborough are being provided for.

If you are a provider for a particular sector of youth – great! Box ticked!

But what about those youth who aren't effectively engaged with one of you? Who is or should be looking after their needs? They are the gaps in provision that the Trust wants to identify and fill, be either by referral to an appropriate provider or by direct involvement with the youth by whatever means appropriate.

The Trust also has as its vision to assist all providers in Marlborough in whatever way possible to enable you to do what you are doing better. That could be through training, access to services, assistance in securing funding or simply by providing a facility and activities which you can use as part of your current programmes and activities. And who isn't always looking for new activities and programmes to occupy and motivate the kids that we have each week??????

The 'facility' as envisioned by the Trust could include activities and resources such as a climbing wall, music studio, art room, computer suite, meeting rooms, games room, fooze ball, etc.; all of which would be available for your use in entertaining your kids.

As a youth provider, the Marlborough Youth Trust has a unique relationship with Marlborough District Council in terms of providing for the needs of youth, and I mean all youth, in Marlborough under Councils Youth Policy. The Trust presently comprises members from across the youth sector, faiths and government agencies and this in itself is unique and very important in looking at the needs of all youth within the community.

Can I be so bold as to suggest that you, as 'targeted' youth providers, need to recognise the unique position of the Marlborough Youth Trust in terms of its relationship with Council and its objective to provide for all youth in the community; either by assisting other providers in their endeavours or by engaging with youth directly. The Trust's 'vision' of a new, comprehensive "Youth Development Centre" in Blenheim for use by all providers would supplement and support your own endeavours and would be for the betterment of all youth in Marlborough, especially those that you recognise as not presently receiving the support and assistance that they really need. The Trust needs your support for this initiative if it is ever to become a reality. It isn't asking for you to take a hands-on-role in initiating the Trusts initiatives; that's for the staff to do. It is asking for you to consider adding your ideas, your observations and your concerns as to the gaps in service to youth within our community so as to guide the development of policy and programmes to address those gaps.

This Collective and the Trust need to be more closely aligned so as to benefit from what each has to offer. Politically it could be of huge advantage to both bodies. Financially, it could open doors to significant funding opportunities that will benefit all providers and, in turn, all youth. Personally, it could address those concerns for some youth that you all no doubt hold but don't have the time or resources to address within your own organisations or groups.

I encourage you all to give serious thought to these opportunities and to assist the Marlborough Youth Trust in its present endeavours by providing your input through the survey as sent out to you all by Lyne Reeves. Please give us a small amount of your time in completing the survey now and we will hopefully 'return the favour in spades' when the Trust's visions for the future of youth in Marlborough become a reality.

Appendix 3 Youth Providers Survey

Youth Worker Survey Responses

1. Name of your Group or Organisation.	
1	Bread of Life Trust and Hope House Trust
2	Community College Marlborough / Marlborough Youth NEETS
3	Maataa Waka Ki Te Tau Ihu Trust
4	Business Management School
5	Synergy Youth Mentoring (Family Works /Presbyterian Support)
6	Supporting Families Marlborough
7	Gateway Housing Trust : Snapshot
8	Foundation for Youth Development (FYD) Marlborough
9	Mana Rangatahi Alternative Education

2. Please briefly describe the nature of the activities or services that you provide to youth.	
Bread of Life	Bread of Life facilitates 10 OSCAR programmes and Hope House is a home for teenage mothers. Hope House run a number of programmes that will build into the lives of teenage mothers and fathers and also ensure the care and safety of babies. Bread of Life also holds the contract for Strengthening Families in Blenheim, working with families, children and youth.
ComCol	We offer Youth Guarantee Fees Free Tertiary Programmes for 16-18 year olds and 15 year old if exempt from secondary school. We support 16 and 17 year old young people to gain NCEA Level 2 and create a career path through learning
Maataa Waka	Youth Mentoring, Youth holiday Programme, Counselling, Supported Bail, Supervision with activity, Court ordered mentoring, Anger management programmes
Business Mgt Sch	Currently offering FREE Youth Guarantee programmes with options of gaining a National Certificate in Computing level 2, or National Certificate in Business Administration and Computing level 2
Synergy	Mentoring children/youth people through weekly outings and activities for a minimum of a year (intake age 5-12 but mentoring can be extended into the teens if that the relationship is established in the early impressionable years). Beyond having fun together, the aim is to broaden their horizons and opportunities through connecting them into the wider community; exposing them to new ways of thinking and being; encouraging them in problem-solving and goal-setting. We also get funding through Spring Creek Lions to address equity issues and remove financial barriers to participation in sports, recreational and cultural activities. We also run Youth Services for young people on Youth Payment (YP) and Young Parent Payment (YPP)
SF Marlborough	Family/ whanau support
Gateway	One on one support for 'at risk' youth (14-17 yrs.) for up to 3 months, referrals can be made from any agency of families or organizations. Mobile service and also completely confidential.
FYD Marlborough	Delivery of Project K – 14 month programme incorporating a 3 wk. wilderness adventure, a community challenge phase and a year-long mentoring partnership with trained local adult volunteer mentors. Possibly not relevant for the survey – Intend to introduce Kiwi Can in 2014, which is a

	primary school based values and life skills programme.
Mana Rangatahi	Alternative Education Unit, Mana Rangatahi, provides new learning opportunities for a maximum of 14 learners who are disengaged from the education system. The students who attend Mana Rangatahi have multiple and complex needs.

3. In what area of Marlborough do you currently operate or provide youth activities or services?	
Bread of Life	Blenheim
ComCol	All Marlborough and hoping to provide in Kaikoura 2014
Maataa Waka	We work with youth who live in any area of Marlborough
Business Mgt Sch	Blenheim
Synergy	Primarily Blenheim but also Picton, Renwick, Seddon, Wairau Valley and Okaramio.
SF Marlborough	All areas
Gateway	N/C
FYD Marlborough	Blenheim – through MGC and MBC
Mana Rangatahi	We are based at 66 Scott Street and take students who are referred from MBC, MGC and QCC. Our current students reside in Blenheim itself with one from Koromiko, but we can take students from all areas serviced by the three colleges.

4. If possible, please describe the youth for whom you are primarily catering.	
Bread of Life	Primary school children and teenagers
ComCol	Youth who have not achieved in the mainstream school environment
Maataa Waka	The target group specified in our contract is at risk Maori youth however we work with anybody that needs our service.
Business Mgt Sch	16 and 17 year olds that meet the Youth Guarantee criteria for free training. Generally with low School qualifications and sometimes with learning difficulties and social issues.
Synergy	Vulnerable. Mentoring: a large proportion of boys from single parent families (usually living with Mum and not having a good male role model) - but also the daughters of solo Dads, children living with grandparents.. Often low socio-economic. Children with behavioural issues or a physical or psychological diagnosis (such as ADHD, anxiety, attachment disorder). Children living in a household with mental health issues. * Referrals come from a broad range of agencies including SF Marlborough, Birthright, Barnardos, Public Health Nurses, RTLBs and teachers, Youth Aid and sometimes Maori agencies.
SF Marlborough	All youth where there is mental health or addiction issues in their family. We receive referrals for all families engaged with the local CAMHS service.
Gateway	14- 17 yr. old at risk, young offenders, any young people who require assistance with issues whether it be completing court directed plans to mapping career paths or looking for positive ways forward. Snapshot tailors the service to suit the individual.

FYD Marlborough	Year 10 students identified as having lower self-efficacy, either academically, socially or seeking adult help. Selection process includes surveys of all year 10 students across MBC and MGC.
Mana Rangatahi	We are dealing with hugely at risk young people who deal with one (or often several) of the following: Mental health problems (one student was at home for 2 years before joining us), suicidality, drug and alcohol issues, truancy, domestic violence & all forms of abuse, gang violence - teenage pregnancy, PTSD, separated families, parents in prison, ADHD, dyslexia, mild intellectual disabilities, low literacy levels, involvement in crime. There is generally a history of negative experiences at school, with students displaying challenging behaviours and / or low levels of engagement.

5. Do you believe that there are gaps in the activities, opportunities or services provided for youth in Marlborough at the present time?	
Bread of Life	There is a definite need for a good, well set up centre for youth with a variety of programmes and activities on offer.
ComCol	There is a need for more anger management and programmes for drug and alcohol use
Maataa Waka	Lack of professional support services to meet the needs. We constantly have a waiting list for mentoring and anger management counselling. Gap in funded services for youth over the age of 17. CYS funded contracts are up to 17. Lack of healthy activities for youth
Business Mgt Sch	Services – we understood that the newly formed Youth Services contract required the Provider to work with our Youth and support them to achieve while they were training with us – mostly this is not happening.
Synergy	Vulnerable. Mentoring: a large proportion of boys from single parent families (usually living with Mum and not having a good male role model) - but also the daughters of solo Dads, children living with grandparents. Often low socio-economic. Children with behavioural issues or a physical or psychological diagnosis (such as ADHD, anxiety, attachment disorder). Children living in a household with mental health issues. * Referrals come from a broad range of agencies including SF Marlborough, Birthright, Barnardos, Public Health Nurses, RTLBs and teachers, Youth Aid and sometimes Maori agencies.
SF Marlborough	We have difficulty finding enough mentoring services for Youth over the age of 12. Often the services available are short term. Holiday programmes and activities which are affordable are difficult to find. Alternative education programmes for youth who do not thrive in the mainstream
Gateway	I believe there is a lack of low cost activities for young people to participate in around Marlborough, A lot to do if you have money and a car but youth without these can feel very restricted. A lot of youth I've talked to say that they are offending or using drugs simply because they are bored. I believe there is a need in Marlborough for Male mentors to work with youth to provide male role model and guidance for some of the young people who are struggling with life. Often in single parent families a positive male is not part of a young man's life and has not been. (Just one observation). Plenty of other situations where youth could benefit from mentors also. Creating some diverse groups that youth want to be a part of that will keep them busy and interested. (No idea how this would look yet). Some structured activities available to youth on regular basis could be beneficial.
FYD Marlborough	Linking youth with clubs and activities that are already available in the area. Also providing additional youth focused activity opportunities – the proposed central youth facility is a great idea. There is scope for additional mentoring services. Building additional links between youth and local businesses –

	identifying career opportunities locally.
Mana Rangatahi	A & D programme – youth residential. ‘Safe’ places to go outside of school hours to hang out / socialize / get support / take part in art / music / sport.

6. Do you believe there is a need for increased/improved collaboration between youth providers in Marlborough?	
Bread of Life	N/C
ComCol	Through the youth guarantee networks maybe?
Maataa Waka	We have always advocated for a one stop shop approach model for youth services. There are several small services and it would be advantageous to offer them under one roof and provide a more cohesive robust service.
Business Mgt Sch	As a Provider of education – collaboration with other Providers appears to be working now that the new Youth Guarantee network has been established. We need more organised affordable activities - such as orienteering - healthy outdoors pursuits that would appeal across a wide age range. We need to save activities such as the Riverlands driving range, mini, golf, etc. - preferably closed to town where they would be more easily accessible. Places like the race track lie idle a lot of the time - not that flying golf balls and horses would be a good mix! The proposed waterslide in Picton sounds like a great idea if the prices aren't too high. Stronger links with DOC so more youth can participate in voluntary DOC work projects. A lot of focus is on sports - it would also be good to reach disenfranchised young people with talents in the arts (drama, music, dance, visual arts, film-making)...Equipped facilities.
Synergy	I would appreciate it if I was always notified well in advance when there are opportunities for Synergy children to participate in activities such as the waterslide on the riverbank, the Star Wars party, etc. My mentors sometimes run out of ideas or would like the opportunity to join the children in with such group activities...intergenerational challenges such as the one run by the colleges last year was a good idea - wish Synergy mentors and buddies had been invited.
SF Marlborough	The networks are good.
Gateway	There can be good collaboration between providers, however can be difficult at times for all groups to come together with differences in schedules and availability. No real suggestions for improvement.
FYD Marlborough	This survey and review is a great beginning – getting an idea of what services are provided, what the target groups are will enable a clearer picture of where greater collaboration is possible.
Mana Rangatahi	I do feel this to be true. While there is collaboration I feel that we are, as a group of people, very stretched and attending meetings etc. is often difficult. Also the services and agencies are so fragmented and many-fold that maintaining effective communication between all parties is difficult.

7. Do you presently utilise publically available recreational or learning facilities to supplement your youth programmes.	
Bread of Life	Schools are used as venues for the OSCAR programmes
ComCol	Stadium 2000, Indoor Sports Stadium, Rugby Union / Lansdowne Park \$'s - in some cases yes
Maataa Waka	Golfers World (closing soon), Aquarium Picton, Beachcomber, Picture Theatre \$'s - yes
Business Mgt Sch	No
Synergy	Stadium 2000 and Aquatic Centre; Brayshaw Park; Marlborough Museum; Edwin Fox Museum; Ecoworld; Dolphin Watch, KiwiKids Conservation; Omaka Air Heritage Centre; Mistletoe Bay; various parks \$'s - some
SF Marlborough	No
Gateway	Golfers world, indoor sports/ten pin bowling, parks and rivers. \$'s yes for some activities, some offer discounts
FYD Marlborough	We attempt to link in with a various local clubs and services – recently Orienteering club, Small Bore rifle shooting. Based in Stadium 2000 and utilise rooms there. Tramping and biking is part of the wilderness adventure.
Mana Rangatahi	Amateur Weightlifters' Association gym (rear of Stadium 2000) – no cost to us. We have used Athletic Pk – no cost. Bowling at Simcox Stadium – full costs apply

8. Do you presently utilise publically available health and/or social services in support of your youth programmes and services.	
Bread of Life	N/C
ComCol	CAMS, Public Health, Maata Waka, Youth Service, YPP and Yp services, Family planning, Others that we try to find as the need arises
Maataa Waka	Ngati Koata A & D services, CAMS, Public Health Service, Family Planning, Smoking Cessation – Ngati Rarua
Business Mgt Sch	Family Planning, Alcohol and Drug counsellors - Ngati Koata - Witherlea House, Youth Worker - Snapshot - Damian Oehlrich, Anger Management- Maata Waka - Malcolm Pitman, Youth Mentor - Maata Waka - Paora Mackie, Supporting Families (SF) mental wellbeing - Lynne/Sheryl, Social Worker - Care Solutions - Karen McCarthy, Health Promoters - DHB - Helen McLean/Monica McKone, Idea Services, Open Home
Synergy	SF Marlborough, Birthright, Barnardos, Public Health Nurses, RTLBs and teachers, Youth Aid and sometimes Maori agencies and CYF (and referrers listed mentioned in #4).
SF Marlborough	Maataa Waka, Relationship Services, A & D, CAMHS, Women's Refuge, Presbyterian Support, Care Solutions, CYF, WINZ, Education providers and schools, Barnardos, Bread of Life, Budgeting, Whenua Iti, Youth Aid
Gateway	Family planning, Maata Waka anger management
FYD Marlborough	Have used Red Cross and Youth Public Health as part of Community Challenge phase
Mana Rangatahi	Health nurse from Nelson Bays' PHO. Marlborough PHO – Helen McLean. Agencies such as: the police, CYFs, Open Home, Maataa Waka, Snapshot, Family Planning, Women's Refuge, St Marks' A & D Clinic, Addictions Services, Ngati Koata, Barnardos, CAMHS, MOE Special Education, RTLb, Truancy Services.

9. Do you see merit in the Marlborough Youth Trust's 'vision' of establishing a central youth facility in Blenheim which provides recreational and learning facilities, such as a climbing wall, music studio, art room, computer suite and meeting rooms, and access or referral to health and social services for use by other Marlborough youth providers?

Bread of Life	N/C
ComCol	Yes it would be good but you would need to be very careful that it didn't attract young people out of their education environments and be a place they hung out just for social activities during school hours.
Maataa Waka	It is a great model and one that would benefit all young people in the community. It is a model that is working well in other centres.
Business Mgt Sch	Yes
Synergy	This would be highly valued if we could have access to such a facility!
SF Marlborough	Yes
Gateway	Yes definitely if it is well structured and easily accessible to all and low cost
FYD Marlborough	Absolutely, I think it is a fantastic idea and would get huge support from youth focused organisations.
Mana Rangatahi	Most emphatically YES. To take my students for example, many are very talented in terms of Art and Music. These activities are therapeutic to them feeding mind, body and soul and are crucial to their coping and survival strategies. They are virtually untapped – any means by which they can express themselves and develop their talents would be very significant. Students here are keen to have a meeting place that is safe and homely. Furthermore they have learned to mistrust adults so somewhere where they can interact positively with adults and build relationships leading them to a point where they can seek mentoring and counselling support would be fantastic. A lot of our young people are not talking (especially young men), and do not get the idea of being sent to a counsellor. As they explain to me – why would I talk to someone that I don't really know or trust (why indeed). The climbing wall also presents safe risk-taking and confidence building.

10. If the MYT were to develop such a facility, how often might you see your group making use of them to supplement or support your present programmes and activities.

Bread of Life	Reasonably often
ComCol	Yes we might use them in school hours
Maataa Waka	A minimum of weekly
Business Mgt Sch	Weekly / Fortnightly
Synergy	Regularly (for age appropriate activities).
SF Marlborough	We may use it for one off trainings. We would more often make sure the youth in the families we work with are aware of events where they can participate. We would definitely promote the venue when appropriate.
Gateway	One on one work , so would depend on what we were working on together
FYD Marlborough	Twice monthly, but potential for more often

Mana Rangatahi	Our Alternative Education programme runs Mon – Fri 09:00 – 14:30 and we have a completely flexible timetable. We could therefore have students going even once a day. Again as we are flexible, we can work around availability. Afternoons would be great, but if others used them then, we could easily go earlier. The students would use such facilities evenings and weekends.
----------------	---

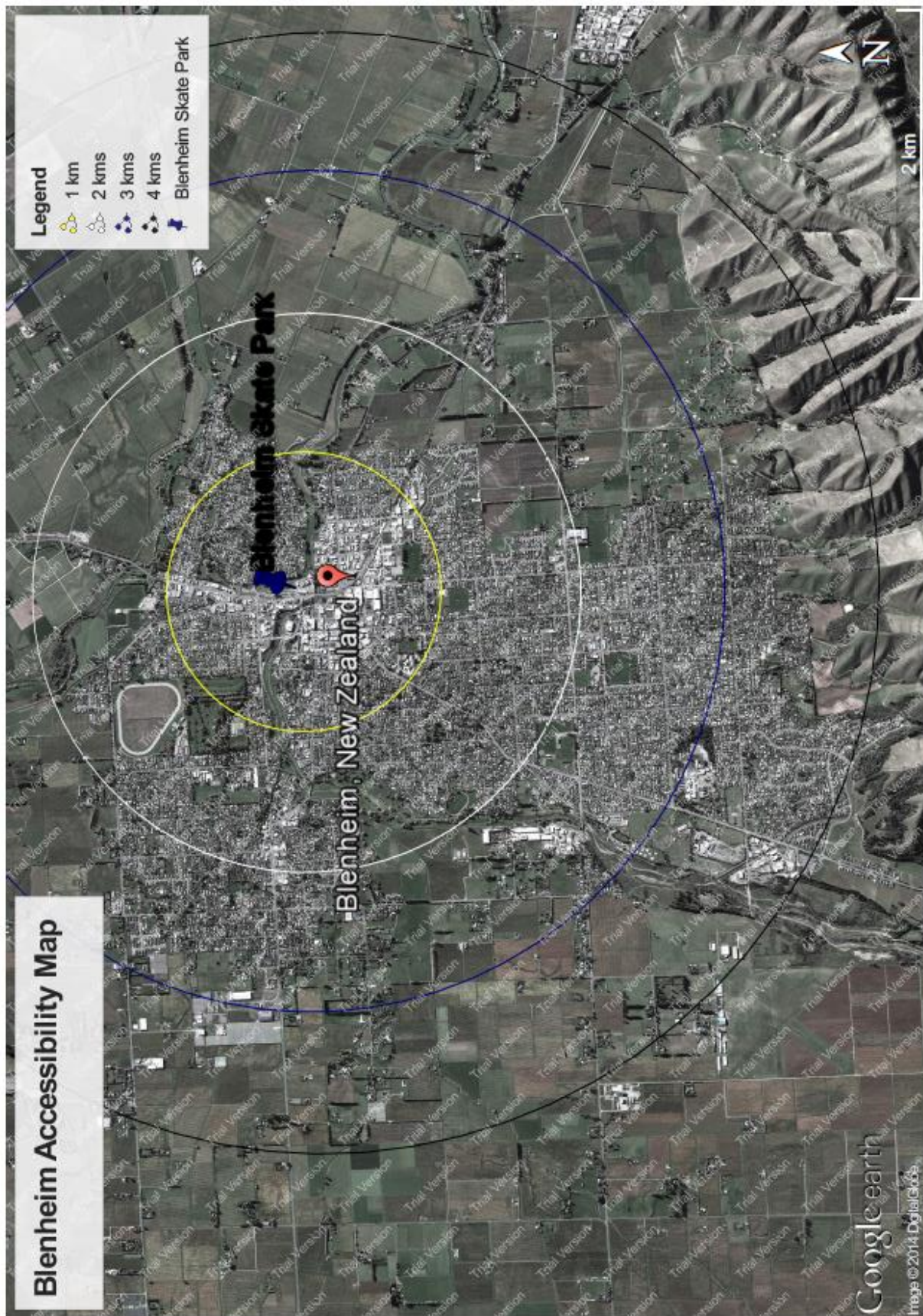
11. What time(s) of day would you most commonly use such facilities?
Daytime 8
Evenings 5
Weekends 5

12. What types of recreational and learning facilities would you like to see MYT make available for use by youth providers such as yourself.	
Bread of Life	Perhaps a skatepark within the facility so that it is in a safe environment and can be monitored.
ComCol	Climbing wall, Art and craft room, Music facility
Maataa Waka	All of the options suggested in question 9. There are other outdoor activities that could link in such as Waka Ama, Mountain biking.
Business Mgt Sch	Literacy and numeracy, Physical activities
Synergy	A lot of focus is on sports - it would also be good to reach disenfranchised young people with talents in the arts (drama, music, dance, visual arts, film-making)...Equipped facilities.
SF Marlborough	Music facilities a priority
Gateway	Climbing wall, table tennis, indoor sports gear, boxing bag, a set aside area with a lot of information and possibly a computer for young people to use as a tool to help decide on a career path and learn more about what jobs are out in the world and how to go about landing the one you want. Not just the regular jobs that we all hear about like trades , doctors, lawyers etc. but now with such a diverse range of jobs around it would be good to have some interesting ones featured that most people have never heard of before to spark some enthusiasm into some young ones without direction.
FYD Marlborough	Personally I see great benefit to the climbing wall. An activity space would be useful (e.g. indoor soccer or volleyball?). Smaller meeting rooms – space for 12-15.
Mana Rangatahi	Adventure-based learning. Carving, jewellery-making. Automotive engineering (many of my young chaps are interested in this).

13. Please feel free to add any further comments, thoughts or suggestions.

Bread of Life	N/C
ComCol	I think the most important thing is that being in education needs to be the first priority for young people or they will be left behind. I would like to see MYT support all education providers not just the main secondary schools. Our students are the most marginalized and the most at risk at being on the fringes of society. Yet we are never approached by them and in the past when I have talked of working together nothing has eventuated. I know our group are the very hard high risk ones but they need the support the most.
Maataa Waka	We totally support this project, if this goes ahead it will be an asset to all young people in the area.
Business Mgt Sch	N/C
SF Marlborough	N/C
Gateway	N/C
FYD Marlborough	I've spent many hours on climbing walls – happy to discuss ideas
Mana Rangatahi	I am really encouraged to hear of the ideas that you are investigating with regards to youth services in Marlborough. Hopefully there is growing recognition of the needs of our young people which will lead to more resources / facilities. Three suggestions from me would be to look at doing art projects run by our young people. For example painting the skate park, painting murals around town. Also actively showcasing the talents / works / endeavours of our young folk – spreading some great PR to change attitudes. Work experience opportunities – having some key employers lined up to take a young person for one day so many times a year to expose the youngsters to opportunities and programs that provide healthy youth leaders and senior mentors

Appendix 4 Blenheim Accessibility Map



Appendix 5 Reference Material

The information in this study has been drawn from a number of sources. The following list details documented sources as used:

- Statistics New Zealand Census data (2013)
- Marlborough District Council 'Resident Satisfaction Survey (2013)'
- Marlborough Youth Council 'Youth Initiatives Plan 2012'
- Economic Profile Marlborough 2012 – Infometrics
- Marlborough, Nelson and Tasman Regions – A Socio-Demographic Profile 1986-2061 Waikato University June 2012
- An Assessment Of Health Needs In The Nelson Marlborough District Health Board Region: 2001
- Annual In-Depth Regional Report for Tasman, Nelson Marlborough and West Coast Regions 2008 - Statistics New Zealand
- A Statistical Profile of Young People in New Zealand – MSD
- Deaths and Intentional Self-harm Hospitalizations 2011 – Min of Health
- Youth'12 Overview: The Health and Wellbeing of New Zealand Secondary School Students in 2012 – University of Auckland
- Papanui Youth Centre - "Growing Youth in Papanui"
- 'Youthtown' Voice of New Zealand 2013 survey
- Youth Centres: Attributes of Effectiveness Ministry of Youth Development 2010
- Youth Development Strategy Action for Child and Youth Development" Ministry of Youth Affairs 2002
- A Resource for Involving Young People" Ministry of Youth Development 2009
- Napier Youth Centre Feasibility Study - Opus International Consultants Limited