

**STRATEGY AND POLICY REVIEW COMMITTEE**  
**7 JULY 2008**

**POLICY AND PLANNING**

<b>A10</b>	<b>YOUTH DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY 2008</b>
<b>LOCATION/ADDRESS:</b>	
<b>RESPONSIBLE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:</b>	<b>GEOFF OULTON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT &amp; PLANNING</b>
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<b>FILE NO.:</b>	
<b>ATTACHMENTS:</b>	<b>1. DRAFT YOUTH DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY</b> <b>2. CITY OF PORT PHILLIP DEVELOPMENTAL ASSETS PROFILE (DAP) 2006</b>

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**1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 1.1. The City of Port Phillip Youth Development Strategy advances the values and commitments of the Community Plan (2007- 2017) and the Council Plan (2005 – 2009) and builds on the Youth Assets Framework that underpin the previous Youth Development Framework 2004.
- 1.2. In 2004 the City of Port Phillip embraced “Asset Building” as the guiding premise for its Youth Development Framework providing a strength-focused approach to youth development within the City. The Framework advocated for “developmental assets” to be considered in all aspects of the planning and delivery of a community response to the support of young people.
- 1.3. ‘Developmental assets’ are key personal qualities that are considered important for young people to acquire through a variety of experiences, opportunities and supports to ensure that young people develop as healthy and resilient people within a community.
- 1.4. The Youth Development Strategy 2008 focuses on developing the assets of young people, their families, communities and schools.
- 1.5. The Strategy recognises that community collaboration and shared responsibility are central in ensuring that young people achieve their true potential.
- 1.6. Following a review of the existing youth framework the strategy has been developed in consultation with young people, youth service sector, educators and community stakeholders.

- 1.7. The draft Youth Development Strategy 2008 identifies six strategic goals being:

Building alliances in a community that collaborates

City of Port Phillip commits to sustaining a collaborative service sector with the capacity to provide effective developmental experiences, resources and opportunities that contribute to the positive wellbeing of young people within the context of community.

Learning environments that are accessible, relevant and engaging

City of Port Phillip will lead a progressive community/education discourse that advances collaborative partnerships and enrich the learning experience for all young people.

Leadership development that empowers young people to speak out and be heard

City of Port Phillip is committed to presenting real opportunities for young people to gain leadership skills and a meaningful voice in planning and decision-making. City of Port Phillip commits to supporting agencies, schools and community organisations in developing and refining methods of engaging young people.

Supported information access, use and dissemination

City of Port Phillip will explore and advance key modes of communication in order to support young people and community stakeholders to both converse and be informed.

Planning, research and advocacy

City of Port Phillip is committed to ensuring the community is informed and responsive to issues that compromise wellbeing and thereby capable of collectively increasing the positive/thriving assets of young people.

Access to local services, supports and opportunities

The City of Port Phillip is committed to ensuring social, cultural and wellbeing supports and opportunities are relevant, accessible and sustainable.

- 1.8. In addition, the Youth Development Strategy is unique in local government as the document also commits to measuring the difference the strategy makes to the development of young people using the 'Youth Developmental Assets Framework and Survey'.

## **2. BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT**

- 2.1. In 2005 City of Port Phillip consolidated international research to develop a strength based framework for youth support. Key direction was drawn from the Search Institute of Minnesota's extensive research of young people across both Canada and the United States. The Search Institute sought to identify what makes some people resilient, healthy and connected to their community.

- 2.2. Research showed that this resilience was not by chance but the result of key personal qualities being attained through a variety of experiences, opportunities and supports. These personal qualities were identified as assets essential to a young person's development and were aptly named developmental assets.
- 2.3. In 2006 a survey of 193 school children across the City of Port Phillip assessed how young people viewed themselves when measured against the 40 developmental assets. [Note: The developmental assets framework is an internationally understood methodology for assessing the attributes within an individual young person, being attributes which should be present to provide the greatest chance for young people to develop as resilient and healthy people within a community].
- 2.4. In CoPP the assets framework identified that generally young people rated well against the framework with many strengths and assets in place. In the survey (Developmental Assets Profile 2006) young people surveyed also responded in a manner which indicates that young people assessed themselves as having a less positive sense of themselves with regard to (but not limited to) the following:
- 2.4.1. Perception of neighbours and neighbourhoods being caring
- 2.4.2. Feeling valued by others.
- 2.4.3. Perception of neighbours "watching out" for young people
- 2.4.4. Connection to religious group or spiritual community
- 2.4.5. Involvement in creative activities i.e. music or art
- 2.4.6. Finding learning an enjoyable experience
- 2.4.7. Serving community
- 2.4.8. Helping solve social problems
- 2.4.9. Helping to make community a better place
- 2.5. In the development of the proposed draft Youth Development Strategy consultation has taken place via a strategic planning day; two (2) 'Big Cake' Youth Forums, the Youth Strategy conversation and the CoPP Education Round-Table. The strategy is also informed by findings from the Inner City and Southern Regional Youth Affairs Network Forums held between April and May 2008.

### **3. RECOMMENDED OPTION**

#### **3.1. Criterion for recommendation**

The Youth Strategy 2008 outlines key drivers for youth sector leadership within the City of Port Phillip. Specifically it describes an agreed set of strategy goals to be guided by council's leadership and a community commitment to supporting the healthy development of young people

The Key criterion for the strategy are

- Across the youth services there is a commitment to work collaboratively within a consistent "asset building" framework
- Young people will be mobilised within community

- Adults will be engaged in informing planning and advocacy
- Programs will be invigorated through informed planning, youth
- The youth sector and young people will influence in civic decisions
- Overall developmental asset score of a representative core sample of young people will increase, with a particular focus on any trend in deficiencies identified.

**4. SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT**

Social Pillar	<p><i>Through a strength-based approach to youth development this strategy focuses on developing the assets of all young people through the mobilisation of families, communities and schools. Imperative to a strength-based strategy is the shift away from short-term issue based preventative interventions that can isolate and polarize young people and to be merely recipients of issue based interventions. This strategy recognises and build upon the inherent strength and potential of all young people</i></p> <p><i>The Strategy is structured to reinforce equity of access to quality youth services and programs. It also places an emphasis on providing opportunities for all members of the community contribute to the positive development of young people.</i></p>
Economic Pillar	<p>The continued focus on youth development partnerships that drive mutual benefits across a number of sectors. The Strategy ensures council funded services reflect emerging and changing needs and incorporate the views and opinions of young people. The Strategy promotes sensible economic management and assures that the impact of Council's financial investment can be measured against tangible key indicators.</p>
Environmental Pillar	<p>The Strategy's focus on young people as resources in community and generates key connections that will positive influence youth driven sustainability initiatives at a local, national and global level. The Strategy advocates for, and supports key cross sector connections between environmental community champions with local agencies and educators.</p>

Cultural Pillar	<p><i>The Strategy emphasises the importance of supporting young people within the context of their community and establishes a variety of avenues to explore, experience and drive cultural outputs.</i></p> <p><i>Through a “whole of community” focus this strategy engages key agents in the lives of young people using community development events and strategies to design a series of youth generated cultural events that are free, accessible and non-discriminatory</i></p> <p>Initiatives deliberately prosper community driven partnerships, intergenerational relationships and inspire a positive image the cultural contribution of young people.</p>
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4.1. Policy and legislative implications

The Youth Development Strategy has been developed in context with existing Council policy and updates the Youth Development Framework 2005

The Strategy provides a youth context to the Community Plan and Council Plan and is aligned to State Government “Future Directions” policy agenda.

4.2. Risk implications

The risk of not endorsing the Youth Development Strategy is the diminishing of Council’s leadership role within the youth services sector. This may result in a breakdown in existing collaborative partnerships, state level advocacy, annual planning and active youth participation.

4.3. Resource implications

The Youth Development Strategy presents a service model that has no additional resource implications to Council.

**5. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

5.1. The Youth Development Strategy is presented as the only option and updates council’s existing Youth Framework.

5.2. The Youth Development Strategy clearly articulates the outcomes Council intends to achieve through leading a whole of community response to supporting young people.

**6. PARTICIPATION AND ENGAGEMENT**

6.1. Internal

- The people who have been engaged with in relation to this issue are:
- Manager of Culture and Recreation
- Youth and recreation Coordinator

- Library, Arts and festivals, Community Services and Assets, Community Development and Planning, Governance and Community Relations (Team leaders and Staff)

## **6.2. External**

The external people and organisations who have been engaged with this topic include

- Port Phillip Youth Service Network including, Inner South Community Health, Ardoch, Kombiz Youth Foundation, St Lukes, Alana and Madeline Foundation, Victoria Police, Hanover, Salvation Army, PCYC, SKYS, Good Shepherd
- Other cultural and community based organisations (ie: Gasworks and the Port Phillip Eco Centre)
- Local Schools and students from Elwood College, Mac Robertson Girls, Christian Brothers, Montague Continuing Education, Victorian College for the deaf, Port Melb Primary, Albert Park Primary, Elwood Primary, St Kilda Primary, St Kilda Park Primary, Galilee, St Columbus
- Consultation took place through a strategic planning day February, two *Big Cake* Youth Forums March and April, the Youth Strategy Conversation April and the CoPP Education Round-Table May 2008.
- The strategy is also informed by findings from the Inner City and Southern Regional Youth Affairs Network Forums held between April and May 2008.
- Consultation was targeted to Council officers, Educators, service providers and young people through a series of formal conversations and planning sessions. Consultation specifically targeted stakeholders currently active within the local services network. This ensured that the strategy is achievable and realistic across community

## **7. IMPLEMENTATION**

- 7.1. A further consultation period will be allowed for the draft Youth Development Strategy to be considered by interested members of the community.
- 7.2. Following adoption of the final Youth Development Strategy implementation will occur through the existing collaborative frameworks within the community.

## **8. KEY COMMUNICATIONS**

- 8.1. There are 10,756 people between the ages of 12 – 24 within City of Port Phillip, being 12.6% of the City's population. (ABS 2006).
- 8.2. City of Port Phillip is a municipal leader in its approach of supporting a community to support and develop the it's young people.

- 8.3. Youth Development Strategy 2008 builds on the City's reputation by continuing to increase the community's capacity to support young people and drive initiatives that truly value young people, strengthen their view of themselves and develop their resilience within our community.

**9. RECOMMENDATION**

That the Strategy and Policy Review Committee recommend that Council resolve to:

- 9.1. That Council thanks the community sector for their extensive work and contribution to the draft Youth Development Strategy.
- 9.2. That the Council resolves to lay the draft Youth Development Strategy on the table for a period of one (1) month and that during this time the draft Creative Futures Strategy be made publicly available for comment prior to being formally considered by Council in the August cycle.