

Proactive Release

Submissions on the Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy

August 2019

The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet has released the following submission received during its public consultation on the child and youth wellbeing strategy.

Some of the information contained within this release is considered to not be appropriate to release and, if requested, would be withheld under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

- Where this is the case, the information has been withheld, and the relevant section of the Act that would apply, has been identified.
- Where information has been withheld, no public interest has been identified that would outweigh the reasons for withholding it.

Key to redaction codes and their reference to sections of the Act:

- **9(2)a** – Section 9(2)(a): to protect the privacy of natural persons, including deceased people.

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Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy – Submission Template

This document is intended for individuals or groups who wish to make a formal submission on the child and youth wellbeing strategy.

Please complete this template and email it to: childand youthwellbeing@dpmc.govt.nz

A guide to making a submission is available on the DPMC website <https://dpmc.govt.nz/our-programmes/child-and-youth-wellbeing-strategy>

Submissions will close on **Wednesday 5 December**.

Please provide details for a contact person in case we have some follow up questions.

Contact Name:	9(2)(a)
Email Address:	
Phone Number:	
Organisation Name:	Porirua City Council
Organisation description: (tell us about your organisation – i.e. who do you represent? How many members do you have? Are you a local or national organisation?)	Porirua City Council is the territorial authority for Porirua City which has a population of 56,700. It is made up of three wards – Eastern, Western and Northern. Residents are represented by ten councillors. Wendy Walker is the Chief Executive and Mike Tana is the Mayor.
Executive Summary: (Please provide a short summary of the key points of your Submission - 200 words)	<p>Council supports the overall direction and intent of the Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy.</p> <p>As a Council we have prioritised children and young people in our planning and decision-making. <i>“Children and young people at the heart of our city”</i> is one of four strategic priorities in our current long term plan. It was also a strategic priority in our previous plan.</p> <p>We are a very young city, having celebrated our 50th anniversary in 2014. We also have one of the youngest populations in New Zealand with nearly a quarter of our population aged under 15 years.</p> <p>Our strategic priority for children and young people means that we consider the impact of every council decision on children and young people. We also provide our young people with opportunities to be involved in decision-making and to ensure their voices are heard.</p> <p>We congratulate the Government for also prioritising the needs of children and young people through the proposed Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy.</p>

	<p>There is much commonality between the Government's proposal and our own <i>At the heart of our city strategic framework for children and young people 2018-21</i>. Our priority areas were identified by asking children and young people what's important to them, and putting these messages alongside local wellbeing statistics. We also consulted with a number of community agencies that work with local families.</p> <p>Our Strategic Framework focusses on the things that we can do to improve the lives of local children and young people. But to truly make a difference we need central government to take the lead on issues we are not able to influence. The Child Poverty Reduction Bill, which requires the development of a national Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy, is the overarching framework we need. We look forward to Child Poverty Reduction Bill becoming law and the finalisation of the Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy.</p>
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#6199280

Submission Content

The Government is seeking public feedback on:

- The framing of wellbeing for the initial Strategy;
- The proposed vision statement for the initial Strategy;
- The proposed set of outcomes sought for all children and young people;
- The 16 potential focus areas proposed for the initial Strategy.

Framing of wellbeing

We support the general framing of the strategy and the five domains within it (safety, security, connectedness, wellbeing and development). There is substantial overlap between the proposed five domains and the Council's five focus areas in our *At the heart of our city strategic framework for children and young people 2018-21* (**Attachment 1** Refer page 23 – Our approach at a glance).

Proposed vision statement

We support the vision statement *New Zealand is the best place in the world for children and young people*. We would like to suggest the addition of "all" before "children" to emphasize the importance of equity.

The vision in Council's strategic framework for children and young people is twofold:

- Realising the full potential of all our children and young people; and
- Porirua as a healthy and beautiful place to grow up.

The latter reflects our influence as a place-maker and place-shaper and children's expectations of what they want from Council.

For examples of other key messages from our children, refer to **Attachment 2 - What's important to kids in our city?** This is a summary of top topics from students who participated in a pre-consultation workshop for our Long-term Plan.

Proposed outcomes

- *Safety – children are safe, and feel safe.*

We support the safety outcomes being sought. Data in the safety section of the Council's *Status Report: Children and young people Porirua 2018* shows that safety is a priority issue in our city. Rates of substantiated findings of abuse are very high, with Māori and Pasifika children over-represented. Porirua's rates of unintentional injuries are also higher than the national average, and our *Quality of Life Survey 2018* tells us that young people feel less safe than older age groups.

Children and young people have told us through workshops and informal discussions that they are concerned about the harm that people cause to themselves and others and how much they value safe families and strong communities.

- *Security – Children enjoy sufficient financial, natural and social resources to thrive.*

We support the security outcomes being sought. Children have told us they worry about some kids not having enough. They worry about the cost of living and the lack of affordable housing.

Poverty is a significant issue in parts of our city and there are significant disparities in outcomes between the children who live in deprivation index 1 and 2 communities compared to their neighbours in deprivation index 9 and 10 communities. For example, Porirua has high rates of hospital admissions for children with conditions that could have been prevented if they were living in warm, dry homes that weren't overcrowded. We still have issues with rheumatic fever in some parts of the city. We fully support a government focus on improving material wellbeing, including food and housing. We are delighted with the recent announcement of a significant investment in a housing redevelopment/regeneration project in Porirua East and West.

Security of tenure is also important. Our rate of transient students is also twice the national average, and it is likely that a housing shortage and housing stress is contributing to the number of times students are changing schools. This disrupts their education and their sense of community connectedness. Our *Quality of Life Survey 2018* shows that young people are much more likely than older groups to regularly feel stress. A recent cluster of youth suicides in Porirua East is a reminder that some young people are facing multiple challenges and that major systemic changes are needed to ensure young people feel safe and secure.

Our population is very youthful and our NEET (Not in Employment, Education or Training) rate is too high. We support a focus on helping parents, caregivers and young people transitioning to adulthood with quality employment.

- *Connectedness – Children understand who they are, where they belong, and their connection to whānau, culture and community.*

There is strong alignment between the Connectedness Domain and outcomes sought and Council's Focus Area 4: Connection and Belonging.

Children have told us that they love the cultural diversity of Porirua and that it is really important to

them to be able to be themselves and not have to leave their cultures at the door when participating in everyday activities like schooling.

We fully support the outcomes being sought. As a Council we endeavour to provide many opportunities for children and young people to participate in social, community and cultural activities. We have a separate focus area on civic participation and enabling the voices of children and young people to be heard. We agree that opportunities for environmental engagement are important. This is the top issue that children raise with us and hence has its own focus area in our strategic framework.

- *Wellness – Children enjoy the best possible physical and mental health.*

We support a focus on the physical and mental health of children and young people. We agree with the outcome “children and whānau are empowered to understand and make positive decisions about health”. Health literacy is a very important part of this, but it is not sufficient when children and whānau are surrounded by unhealthy environments that do not support making healthy choices.

The food environment is a good example of this. It’s often cheaper and easier to choose unhealthy foods and drinks and the fast food industry heavily targets children and young people. If we are to make any progress reversing the rates of childhood obesity, type 2 diabetes and poor oral health we need greater regulation, such as mandatory labelling of added sugar, sugar taxation or GST exemptions on basic healthy foods such as milk and bread. There could also be merit in regulating to ensure that free water is available in public places and outdoor spaces.

Our physical environment also needs to be ‘enabling’ for people with disabilities. Further work is needed by Government to make our buildings, roads, and outdoor spaces barrier-free. Universal design principles need to underpin our regulatory settings and legislation. We recommend a review of current policy settings by people with disabilities who have daily real-life experience of the challenges the physical environment presents. This would give a truer picture of what works and what doesn’t – for children with disabilities and disabled people of all ages.

- *Development – Children have the skills and knowledge to live good lives and meet their aspirations.*

We support the outcomes sought for the Development Domain and the focus on positive development before birth (a previously neglected area) and the recognition of the importance of the first three years. The wellbeing of mothers is mentioned and we support this. However, the healthy development of children is contingent on the wellbeing of all primary caregivers including fathers, grandparents and supportive others.

16 potential focus areas

The Government has identified 16 potential areas of focus in the strategy, with six areas proposed for initial focus. All 16 areas have merit. We support the six areas for initial focus that have been prioritised based on evidence. For the ‘Connected’ Wellbeing Domain there is no specific focus area related to Pacific children and young people. As a group that experiences many poor social outcomes, a specific focus area is warranted.

We welcome the focus area about celebrating cultures and promoting Te Ao Māori and Te Reo Māori. We would encourage the addition of the promotion and preservation of Pacific languages.

One of the initial areas is 'children are free from racism, discrimination and stigma'. We support this focus area as it has been identified by some of our children and young people as their experience when engaging in institutions such as schools.

Alongside the need to reduce child poverty and ensure children are safe and nurtured, it is critical that families have access to affordable, stable, good quality housing. Housing is a key determinant of health and an absence of good quality housing will undermine all the outcome improvements being sought.

Working together

Improving the wellbeing of children and young people will take a collective effort and we commend the Government for the proposals outlined in the draft Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy. There are strong synergies between what the Government would like to do and what our children and young people have told us is important to them.

In Porirua we have outlined our contribution to wellbeing in our Strategic Framework for Children and Young People. We have identified five roles for local government – provider, advocate, convenor, partner and monitor. In some areas we have greater direct influence than others. For example, as a Council we make a significant contribution to community health and wellbeing as a provider of parks, pools, playgrounds, sports programming and green spaces. We have less influence over income adequacy, the cost of living or the quality of formal education. These issues are determined through central government policy and investment.

If central government policy settings are adjusted to reflect the priorities in a national Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy, then local government activities to support child wellbeing in cities such as Porirua are more likely to be effective. It also means we can focus more fully on our respective spheres of influence.

The Child Poverty Reduction Bill before the House is soon to be legislation and requires the development of a Child Wellbeing Strategy that has measurable outcomes. We urge the Government to make data on outcomes available at a territorial authority level (where possible) as well as at national level.

As a Council we are keenly interested in monitoring what's happening in our city. We want to know if changes in Government policy are reducing child poverty and socio-economic disadvantage in Porirua. Improved access to local data and information will enable us to better plan and prioritise what we can do to improve the lives of our children and young people.

Please note that your submission will become official information. This means that the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet may be required to release all or part of the information contained in your submission in response to a request under the Official Information Act 1982.

The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet may withhold all or parts of your submission if it is necessary to protect your privacy or if it has been supplied subject to an obligation of confidence.

Please tell us if you don't want all or specific parts of your submission released, and the reasons why. Your views will be taken into account in deciding whether to withhold or release any information requested under the Official Information Act and in deciding if, and how, to refer to your submission in any possible subsequent paper prepared by the Department.

What's important to kids in our city?

Outcome of the pre Long-term Plan workshop for students from Porirua schools

We talked to students about what they love about their city now, and how they'd like to see it change in the future. Here's what they told us!

Who was there

- The workshop was held at Pātaka on 26th November 2018. All schools in Porirua were invited to bring a carload of kids.
- 52 students attended from 13 primary and secondary schools.

What we asked them

We asked students who were coming to workshop to gather ideas from other students before they came. We wanted to hear from as many young people as possible

Questions we asked them to ask were:

- What do you love most about living in Porirua?
- What concerns you most about living in Porirua?
- If you were Mayor for a day, what's the biggest decision you would make?
- In ten years' time, what's the biggest change you would like to see in Porirua?

What they told us

We recorded 503 responses to our questions! We sorted these into ten categories to help us better understand this huge amount of information.

The themes (and how many answers were recorded for each) were:

- Nature and the environment, the harbour beaches and waterways (115)
- People causing harm to self or others (75)
- Things to do, places to go (69)
- Ease of living, nice neighbourhoods (68)
- People not having enough (56)
- Family, friends, and community (39)
- Rubbish, litter, and waste (31)
- Education and employment opportunities (25)
- Cultural diversity (20)
- Civil Defence emergencies (5).

Where to from here

- We want to ensure this feedback is incorporated into big decisions made for our city. We will present this to Council and other senior decision makers before the end of the year.
- We really value the ongoing support from schools for our kaupapa to include children and young people in Council decision making.
- We will contact schools in term one with information about a workshop on the Draft Long-term Plan. Students will be invited to provide feedback on our proposed focus areas, and to present submissions so their views can be considered as part of the formal consultation process.

Top Topics – for students now and in the future

What they love about their city and what changes they'd like to see

Nature and the environment, the harbour, beaches, and waterways

- This is the topic that students talked about the most compared to all other topics!
- Children and young people love the clean air, wonderful views, and lots of beautiful green spaces. They love the shining sun and living by the sea, the harbour, and the animals that live there.
- It makes sense then that students are very concerned about the health of the environment and the negative impacts of pollution, litter, and urban development on the harbour.
- They'd like to see more trees being planted, plastic bag bans, more electric cars, and to clean up the harbour so they can swim there.

People causing harm to themselves and others

- Students are very concerned with the number of people in their community suffering with drug and alcohol addictions.
- They think it's important to build resilient, strong families and keep children safe. They are concerned with some behaviour such as crime that they associated with gangs, and want to see more unity amongst the community.
- Students think it's very important to provide more support and services for people with substance abuse issues, as well as children not being able to live with their families.

Things to do, places to see

- Students really value the activities, events and facilities in our city. They made special mention to playgrounds and parks, shops, and places to swim. They also love public events that celebrate culture, and the various sports opportunities.
- There are plenty of great ideas for the future including specialist play areas for dogs, bikes, trampolines and water play. They would like things that bring people together such as teen hang out places, community gardens, programmes for people with disabilities, and cultural events and celebrations.

People not having enough

- Students really value and appreciate what they have and have mentioned all the great things that our city has to offer – this is why they want to ensure everyone has the same opportunities.
- They are concerned about the cost of living and want to make sure that having dry and warm homes was affordable for all families.
- It made them sad to see homeless people going without and wanted to make sure that there was a focus on supporting these people into jobs and homes.

Family, friends, and community

- Students told us that they really value their schools, and communities and that it's easy for families to live close to each other.
- Students loved the cultural diversity of their city and being surrounded by lots of different people from all walks of life.
- It was important for students to see te reo Māori being spoken more frequently and that people use correct pronunciation of Māori names.



At the heart of our city

Strategic framework for children and young people
2018-2021

poriruacity

Whakataukī

*Ka whakanunua te tamaiti
Ke te aroha
Ka whāngaia te hinengaro ki te wairua
O ngā tūpuna
Whitikingia ia ki tōnu tūrangawaewae
Ka whakaritea ana ki whakamua
Ka puāwai te katoa*

*When a child is immersed in love
Nourished with an understanding of the past
With an awareness of self
And knowledge for the future
Then we all will prosper*

Na Matiu Rei

(Chief Executive Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Toa Rangitira)



Contents

Introduction	4
Part 1: Background	
1. Youth profile – who are we?	5
2. Strategic direction – our Long-term Plan	6
3. Links to other council work	6
4. What’s important to children and young people?	7
5. What the data tells us	10
6. Porirua city’s role in getting it right for children	12
7. Importance of partnerships	13
Part 2: Strategic Framework for Children and Young People 2018–2021	
Overview	14
Focus areas	14
Focus Area 1: Environment and place	15
Focus Area 2: Safety and well-being	16
Focus Area 3: Opportunities and experiences	18
Focus Area 4: Connection and belonging	20
Focus Area 5: Engaged and involved	22
Our approach – at a glance	23

Introduction

We have made a commitment in our Long-term Plan to support children and young people - placing them *at the heart of our city*. As a strategic priority this means ensuring that our plans and decisions help all our children and young people to reach their potential. It also means providing a healthy and beautiful city in which to grow up.

Council has an important role as an advocate to improve quality of life and ensure more equitable access to services and opportunities for children and young people. We also seek to amplify the voices of children and young people to enable them to advocate for themselves.

As a Council we have a unique role as a place-maker and place-shaper. In partnership with iwi and communities, we help to make the city and its villages attractive, healthy and safe. We want a city that children, young people, and their families are proud to call home because it reflects our story – our history, development, and cultural diversity.

Council acknowledges Ngāti Toa Rangatira as mana whenua. Our partnership agreement with Te Rūnanga o Toa Rangatira recognises our long standing relationship and on-going commitment to work together for the benefit of Ngāti Toa Rangatira and the wider Porirua community. The Strategic Framework supports the vision of Te Rūnanga o Toa Rangatira for tamariki, rangatahi and whānau to reach their potential and improve overall ora (well-being). This includes better health, education, employment, housing and income outcomes for iwi and a commitment to care for the natural environment – kaitiakitanga.

This framework also complements the vision and mahi of Tumai Hauora ki Porirua Alliance; an interagency network that works collaboratively to improve the health and well-being of tamariki and rangatahi in Porirua.

Our Strategic Framework aligns with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCROC) to which New Zealand is a signatory. Most relevant are Article 3 (Best interest of the child when making decisions that will affect them) and Article 12 (Respecting the views of the child). This means children have a right to say what they think should happen and have their opinions taken into account.¹

We cannot achieve the aspirations of this framework alone. We value the partnerships we have with our communities and organisations to ensure that we provide a city that is great for everyone. Community stakeholders have endorsed the overall direction outlined in this framework and have asked us to pick up our licence to lead, to show leadership, and create opportunities.

This framework is a guide to our investment for children and young people over the next three years. It is firmly based on what children and young people have told us is important to them and is supported by data on their well-being.

As part of our monitoring we will report back annually on our progress toward achieving our vision of ‘children and young people at the heart of our city’.

¹ Unicef Factsheet: A summary of the rights under the Convention on the Rights of the Child

Part 1: Background

1. Youth profile – who are we?

Compared to other centres in New Zealand...²

...we are youthful:

- Nearly four out of ten of us are aged under 25 years (that's over 20,000 people)

...we are ethnically diverse:

- 60% European/Pakeha
- 20% Māori
- 25% Pacific People
- 6.0% Asian
- 0.7% Middle Eastern/Latin American/African.

Some of our communities have high numbers of Māori and Pacific People, for example:

- 53% of the population in the Eastern Ward identify as Pacific people compared with 19% in the Western Ward and 5% in the Northern Ward

- 35% of the population in the Western Ward identify as Māori compared with 23% in the Eastern Ward and 10% in the Northern Ward.

Some of our communities are more youthful than others. Under 25s make up:

- 32% of our Northern Ward
- 38% of Western Ward
- 43% of our Eastern Ward

Our families are bigger and more likely to be multi-generational.

We are proud – nearly eight of ten young people think Porirua is a great place to live.

We are a city of contrasts – there are big differences between our communities with high and low income communities living side by side.

There are differences in social outcomes. Not all children and young people in Porirua have the same chance at success.

² Data from Census 2013, Statistic NZ

2. Strategic direction – our Long-term Plan

We decided a few years ago to give priority to children and young people in our Long-term Plan (2015-25). Children and young people at the centre of city decisions was one of four priorities in the 2015 plan. Each priority was retained in the subsequent plan and underpins our decision-making.

The children's priority has been expanded from a council focus (at the centre of city decisions) to a more city-wide focus (at the heart of our city).

The four strategic priorities in the Long-term Plan 2018-38 are:

- A growing prosperous and regionally connected city
- Children and young people at the heart of our city
- A great village and city experience
- A healthy and protected harbour and catchment.

The four priorities are interconnected– for example, work to improve the health of the harbour will contribute to ensuring our children and young people can enjoy a healthy and safe recreational environment. Our villages programme provides opportunities for children and young people to shape their neighbourhoods through local projects.

We will put children and young people at the heart of our city by:

1. Advocating for our children's success in education, work, arts, recreation and sport
2. Engaging them in city decisions
3. Promoting healthy choices
4. Providing opportunities to participate in the life of our city; and
5. Monitoring the range of services that deliver to children, young people and their families.

The Strategic Framework for Children and Young People outlines what we are doing to support the children's priority – Children and young people at the heart of our city. Children and young people are defined as those aged 0-24 years.

3. Links to other council work

In addition to being an important part of our Long-term Plan, the strategic framework for children and young people complements a number of other plans and activities across Council.

In early 2018 we launched three new funds to improve the well-being of young people and assist in bringing innovative ideas to life that support children and young people – 'Making an Impact Fund', 'Making it Happen Fund' and the 'Getting You There' mayoral grant.

Environmental education continues to be a fundamental element of our **Te Awarua-o-Porirua Harbour & Catchment Strategy and Action Plan**. Council supports and provides a range of initiatives that mobilise schools so that students are actively learning about, and taking an interest in, action for the harbour.

Council's **cycling plan** will extend and connect our cycleways and promote healthy and active lifestyles for our children and communities. We continue to expand our cycle trails and Council is working to support the development of **Porirua Adventure Park** – a significant project that will promote new opportunities for mountain biking, running, walking and other adventure recreation.

Porirua Adventure Park is one of four big projects in our economic growth plan alongside city centre revitalisation, Eastern Porirua regeneration and Transmission Gully. Each project provides an opportunity to improve the quality of life of young people through improving connectivity, making it easier to move around the city or increasing employment.

In partnership with Rotary and Otago University we have **audited our playgrounds for accessibility** and are making changes to ensure children and young people of all abilities and their parents and caregivers can enjoy our playgrounds. We continue to **develop facilities for children** such as the new splash pad at Aotea Lagoon and a new children's play area in the city centre currently under construction.

We partner with other agencies to work with young people in their transition from school to training and employment. We are part of the **Youth2Work Movement** and offer employment opportunities for young people through Jobfest. We also offer two scholarships for young people including paid work experience at the Council.

We will continue to include children and young people in our **consultation processes**. This will include our District Plan Review, our next Long-term Plan and any relevant policy or bylaw reviews.

4. What's important to children and young people?

We couldn't put this framework together without listening to what's important to our children and young people. We have heard their voices through workshops, written and verbal submissions, youth surveys, and through informal discussions.

Over the last three years we have been listening, and this is what we've discovered:

- Porirua has amazing children and young people. They are passionate about their families, their cultures, and the environment. They care about the well-being of others and want everyone to have what they need to live a good life.
- Our children and young people love Porirua and are proud and happy to live here. They are keen for opportunities to learn and earn here, and to make positive contributions to the city's future.
- Our research has shown that most children and young people in Porirua are doing well, however there are concerning disparities in social and health outcomes.

Our findings have been grouped into themes and are described below.

Nature and the environment – the harbour, beaches, bush and waterways

"We want to clean rubbish out of Porirua Harbour, so it will be healthier for people and all the sealife."³

"We want Porirua to be beautiful."⁴

³ Nathan, Finn and Cassie from Pauatahanui School, annual plan submission 2016

⁴ Adventure School student submission to draft annual plan 2016

This is the topic most talked about during our consultation workshops with schools. Our children and young people are passionate about the harbour, beaches, and waterways, the quality of the water, and wildlife that lives there. They strongly support action to restore and protect the harbour including investment in infrastructure, planting trees, and reduction of pollutants.

Children and young people are aware that previous generations enjoyed swimming and collecting food from clean and safe local waterways and want to have the same experiences and opportunities.

Children and young people are strong supporters of waste minimisation such as composting and recycling, and have innovative ideas for enterprise and community engagement to reduce the amount of waste to landfill. They also want to have clean and attractive neighbourhoods, shopping centres, and open spaces.

Safety and well-being

Children and young people think its important to build strong resilient families and keep children safe. They want to see more unity in the community and more support services for people who need help. For example, help for those with drug and alcohol issues or experiencing family violence. There is growing concern about the impact of synthetic drugs on young people and their families.

While most young people generally feel safe, some people and places are considered unsafe. Gangs are an issue for some. Young people are concerned about other's poor perception of Porirua.

Emergency management is important as many children have experienced flooding or earthquakes:

*"Come and tell us what you are doing about the stormwater and flooding so we don't get scared."*⁵

Children and young people had many ideas and suggestions about how to make Porirua a safer and healthier city:

*"Imagine if gambling machines paid out in vegetables, imagine how healthy and well balanced our community would be."*⁶

*"Could you please add more crossings across to the shops so kids can stay safe?"*⁷

*"Can you make more health foods and less sugary foods?"*⁸

Opportunities and experiences

Equity is important to children and young people. They are aware that not all young people get to enjoy what Porirua has to offer. They also felt that some families aren't able to support children to do well at school because they were struggling to provide the basics such as rent, food, school uniforms, and stationery. Support for families was therefore important for their education:

*"If things are going well at home you will generally do well at school."*⁹

Young people are aware of the importance of education and feel there are opportunities to make improvements. They want to feel valued by teachers, and for their families and teachers to have high expectations of them:

*"We want teachers that we want to impress."*¹⁰

5 St Pius X student submission to draft annual plan 2017

6 Titahi Bay School student submission to draft annual plan 2016

7 As above

8 Titahi Bay School student submission to draft annual plan 2017

9 Comment by young person from nine community conversations about their main concerns, 2017

10 As above

Young people want more local training and employment options. The cost of transport is a barrier to accessing training and employment, especially opportunities in Wellington City and the region.

Young people find it difficult to meet the high cost of living because of casual work and income insecurity.

Children and young people value activities and events that bring different people together. They told us there needs to be lots for young people to do such as outdoor programmes, and things that are cheap or free. Some felt that boredom leads to risky behaviour. They also challenged us to provide activities catering for all age groups.

“Think of children aged 9-16 as well, not just the little kids.”¹¹

Connection and belonging

Family and friends are the most important thing to children and young people. School, church, and sports provide supportive networks for children which they value. They told us that those most at risk of not succeeding are the ones without these connections.

Young people are concerned that many youth programmes are short term, and when they finish they leave a gap. They are also concerned that young people are not involved in funding decisions and that all the funding is received by adults.

Specific ideas from children and young people on how to strengthen a sense of belonging and connection include more things to do that bring people together, places to go that enable supportive social groups to gather such as hubs and pop-ups, more information about what’s

going on, and improved connections between suburbs – both physical and social.

Children and young people love the cultural diversity of their city. Cultural events and celebrations help young people to feel a sense of belonging and pride in their city. It’s important to children and young people to hear and see te reo Māori and Pacific languages, and that people use correct pronunciation, particularly of names and local places.

Engaged and involved

Children and young people are keen to share their views and ideas about what’s important to them, what they love about living in Porirua, and what changes they would like to see. They also appreciate being asked about their concerns, issues that are affecting them and what they think the solutions might be.

Children and young people enjoy learning about Council, how decisions are made, and being part of the public participation process. They have presented to Council with confidence and enthusiastically join in with projects to help shape the look and feel of their neighbourhoods and the local environment.

“If you need any help I’m sure us Aotea College leaders are keen.”¹²

Children and young people are keen to hear about what is going on around the city and how to get involved. They offer suggestions on how better to reach younger audiences and how to identify and work with young leaders.

“Please listen to what we say. We might be little but we are important.”¹³

“We are part of the community and we want to be part of making it a cool place to live.”¹⁴

¹¹ What’s important to kids in our city? Comments from council workshops for schools 2015-17

¹² Aotea College student submission to draft annual plan 2016

¹³ Discovery School Student submission to draft annual plan 2016

¹⁴ Student submission to draft annual plan 2016

5. What the data tells us

In addition to listening to our children and young people we have looked at different sets of data on the well-being of our young people aged 0-24 years. This information is provided in the annual Status Report: Children and Young People in Porirua (Status Report)¹⁵.

The Status Report collates data into a range of topics including: satisfaction with living in Porirua, education, health, unemployment, engagement, recreation, housing and safety. The key findings are outlined below.

Key findings from the Status Report 2018

Satisfaction with living in Porirua

1. Most young people consider Porirua a great place to live and satisfaction levels with council events and facilities popular with children and young people remains high.

Education

2. The high levels of participation in early childhood education have been sustained since the first Status Report, albeit with small ethnic disparities persisting.
3. Achievement rates in National Standards in reading, writing and maths are similar in Porirua to national rates. There are however ethnic disparities both locally and nationally.
4. Porirua students are slightly below the national average in NCEA level 2 achievement rates. However, our Māori and Pasifika students have higher achievement rates than their ethnic counterparts nationally.

5. Attendance rates are of concern both locally and nationally with nearly a third not attending school regularly and significant ethnic disparities for Māori and Pasifika students.
6. The rate of transient students (that is students who change schools twice or more between March and November of the school year) is also of concern. Our rate is over twice the national rate. Both attendance and transient rates were issues in the previous status report.
7. Our tertiary participation rates are similar to the national rates, as are our rates of internet access; however there is variability across suburbs for the latter. There are ethnic disparities in tertiary participation with Māori and Pasifika students from Porirua under-represented.

Health

8. Most young people have a positive perception of their overall health. Our infant immunisation rates remain high.
9. Concerns in the previous Status Report related to poor child oral health and high rates of hospital admission for under-fives remain. The level of tooth decay remains high locally and nationally for Māori children, and particularly for Pasifika children.
10. Young people aged 18- 24 years have higher levels of stress and feelings of isolation than older age groups.

Unemployment

11. Porirua young people are more likely to be NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training) and receiving a benefit than their counterparts nationally.

¹⁵ A full copy of the latest Status Report can be found on the Council's website: porirua.govt.nz/your-council/city-planning-and-reporting/our-strategic-priorities/children-and-young-people/

Engagement

12. Overall young people would like to have more say in council decision-making and a better understanding of council decision-making processes.
13. Young people aged 18-24 years have relatively high engagement in elections in local and central government, with higher enrolment and voter turnout than their counterparts nationally.

Recreation

14. Approximately half of young people in Porirua and New Zealand are doing enough physical exercise. There is room for improvement for both groups to meet Ministry of Health guidelines.

Housing

15. In Porirua over a fifth of children live in overcrowded houses and quarter live in homes with damp and mould. A third of young people struggle to afford to heat their home in winter. Poor housing is a known contributor to poor child health and is likely influencing the high rate of hospital admissions for children in Porirua.
16. Rising house prices, falling house sales and fully occupied social housing stock is creating housing stress for families in Porirua. Housing stress means many families are struggling to cover their everyday costs because they are paying too great of proportion of their income (over a third) on housing costs.

Safety

17. Most people consider Porirua a safe place to live and safe for children. However young people are more likely to feel unsafe than older age groups, particularly in the city centre at night or walking alone in their neighbourhood at night.
18. Increasing numbers of Porirua children and young people are experiencing abuse in their own homes, bucking a national trend where findings of substantiated abuse have declined. Accidental injury rates are also higher in Porirua than nationally.

The most concerning issues are:

- Low attendance rates at school and high rates of transience (moving schools)
- High rates of young people NEET (Not in employment, education or Training)
- Poor child oral health
- Poor housing – quality and affordability
- Safety – accidental injury and child abuse rates.

6. Porirua city's role in getting it right for children

As a Council we have a range of roles and responsibilities. This means that our responses to issues will vary. For example if it is something that we can control such as the services we provide we can make direct changes. However,

if it is something outside our control but of interest (such as national legislation and policies that affect our residents) we can act as an advocate with central government, or bring interested parties together to work out a solution. In many cases we partner with others to make improvements.

Our main roles are described in the table below.

Council roles

Provider	Advocate	Convenor	Partner	Monitor
Provider of infrastructure, sport and recreation spaces and facilities, public events, funding for children and young people.	Amplify children and young people's voices and support their efforts to call for change.	Leverage our unique role as city leaders to bring groups together to broker partnerships, celebrate successes, and address common concerns and issues.	Work alongside various sectors in the community to deliver outcomes together. This includes business, community and government.	Keeping a citywide overview of the well-being of children and young people.
Regulatory role in implementing bylaws, enforcement and licensing.	Champion issues and initiatives that will deliver better outcomes for children and young people.			Reviewing and improving our services for children and young people.
Provider of education programmes and recreation through Pātaka Art+ Museum, libraries and pools.				
Provider of project opportunities through partnership programmes and village planning.				

7. Importance of partnerships

We can't get it right without working alongside others who share similar aspirations for our children and young people. Our contributions when working in partnership with other organisations depend on the needs and opportunities in each circumstance, and we seek to optimise the unique role of local government.

Key partnerships include:

Ngāti Toa Rangatira – mana whenua of Porirua, we have a formal agreement with the Rūnanga to work together for the well-being of Porirua City and its people.

Pacific peoples – connections to Pacific communities through community-based organisations and church groups.

Agencies and organisations in the formal education sector – from early childhood to secondary schools and kura, tertiary and vocational training institutions, organisations providing services and programmes, and relevant government agencies.

The business sector – collaborative workforce development to provide opportunities in training and employment for young people, and strengthening pathways for careers.

The not for profit community sector – smaller and independent organisations working to strengthen outcomes for children and young people, including sports clubs and community groups.

Professional associations and interest group networks – such as collaborative groups that focus on the harbour or health and social issues affecting children and young people.



Part 2: Strategic Framework for Children and Young People 2018-2021

Overview

Children and young people at the heart of the city is a strategic priority for Council. We are interested in our young people because:

- Nearly 40% of the population is aged under 25 years
- They are big users of our facilities, programmes and public spaces
- They are likely to have a different perspective from adults; and
- They will live with the legacy of our decisions.

We have listened. Our Strategic Framework reflects the voices of children and young people and is supported by data and research. The voices and the data have informed the focus areas where we believe strategic actions will help us realise the full potential of all our children and young people, and ensure that Porirua is a healthy and beautiful place to grow up.

Vision

1. Realise the potential for all our children and young people
2. Porirua is a healthy and beautiful place to grow up

Focus areas

Environment and place

Children and young people are actively involved in the care and protection of the harbour and the environment, and enjoy living in clean and attractive neighbourhoods.

Safety and well-being

Children and young people in Porirua grow up healthy, active, and safe. Public places promote health and well-being and strengthen connections for the well-being of young people.

Opportunity and experiences

Children and young people are supported to achieve academic success at school, and to transition from formal education into a future they aspire to. They participate in the life our city, broadening their experiences and expanding their horizons.

Connection and belonging

Children and young people feel supported by strong connections with families, each other, and the wider community. They have places to go and things to do, and enjoy celebrating a variety of cultures in their everyday life.

Engaged and involved

Children and young people are active participants in decision making processes and local projects to help shape the look and feel of our city.

Focus Area 1: Environment and place

Children and young people are actively involved in the care and protection of the harbour and the environment, and enjoy living in clean and attractive neighbourhoods.

What have young people told us?

This is the topic that children and young people talk about the most when we are engaging with them. Children and young people love the clean air, wonderful views and lots of green spaces. They love the shining sun and living by the sea, the harbour and the wildlife that lives there.

It makes sense then that students are very concerned about the health of the environment and the negative impacts of pollution, litter and urban development on the harbour.

They would like to see more trees being planted, plastic bag bans, more electric cars, and to clean up the harbour.

Children and young people have also told us that living in neighbourhoods clean from rubbish and graffiti is important to them, and they appreciated attractive shopping centres and streets.

Why is this important?

Research shows that when children have regular contact with nature it improves their social, psychological, academic and physical health.¹⁶

Connecting with, and caring for the natural environment also resonates for Māori through the concept of kaitiakitanga - the exercise of guardianship by the tangata whenua of an area in accordance with tikanga Māori.

Our young people demonstrate a high degree of awareness of the need for sustainable practices to protect the environment and ensure a good quality of life for everyone. They are keen to be involved in planning and caring for their environment, both urban and natural.

Council's role

Council has unique and varied responsibilities regarding the environment. We provide spaces including parks and playgrounds, reserves and beaches, street cleaning and waste management services, waste minimisation education and community engagement. We are also responsible for providing city infrastructure such as wastewater and stormwater, district planning and regulatory services.

We are responsible for implementing the *Te Awarua O Porirua Harbour and Catchment Strategy and Action Plan* with our key partners Te Rūnanga o Toa Rangatira, Wellington City Council and the Greater Wellington Regional Council. This Strategy details the actions and measures for reducing sedimentation, pollutants and restoring ecological health.

Monitoring harbour health is an important measure of progress in the Harbour Strategy. Most relevant to children and young people are the measures of water quality in recreational areas.¹⁷

¹⁶ Benefits of connecting children with nature, Department of Conservation

¹⁷ Refer to page 11 of the *Te Awarua O Porirua Harbour and Catchment Strategy and Action Plan*, 2015

Council's contribution

There are many ways that we can help to protect the environment and keep our neighbourhoods clean and attractive. Some examples of how we currently involve children and young people are:

- Council led programmes and projects to restore and protect the harbour and waterways eg Drains to Harbour education programme, Compost Classroom and the Elsdon wetlands development
- Council led programmes for local neighbourhood improvements such as the cage basketball court upgrades and the Bedford Reserve Project
- Partnerships with environmental education programmes such as Enviroschools, Porirua Harbour Trust and Mountains to Sea Trust
- Graffiti management programmes such as Tag Free Kiwi
- Consulting on environmental issues in the draft long-term and annual plans, such as the subsidised recycling programme for schools proposal
- Targeted involvement in our review of the District Plan
- Involvement in shaping their neighbourhoods through the projects in Village Planning
- Involvement in playground function and design
- Convening a harbour education network; and
- Contributing to partnership programmes involving schools and children and young people.

Focus Area 2: Safety and well-being

All children in Porirua grow up healthy, active, and safe. Public places promote health and well-being and strengthen connections for the well-being of young people.

What have young people told us?

Children and young people have told us they value the facilities, programmes and spaces we provide – spaces to hang out with friends or places with interesting things to do. They also appreciate spaces for creative expression – so they can see themselves reflected in the community.

Good urban design, attractive public spaces and regulatory services help children and young people to feel healthy and safe and make it easier for them to move around the city.

They care about others and are concerned about the harm from alcohol and drugs.

Why is this important?

It is important for all children and young people to be safe to grow into healthy adults. Abuse and neglect, stress and anxiety all undermine a child's capacity to reach their potential.

A healthy, active lifestyle is also important for children and young people as it improves their mental and physical health. Being active is especially important for growing bodies, making them stronger and more flexible and leading to better health outcomes in the long term.

A holistic understanding of health and well-being is important for this Strategic Framework. For Māori the physical dimension (including the environment) is interconnected with other

dimensions such as wairuatanga (spirituality) and waiora (total well-being of the individual and family). All dimensions need to be in balance. Well known models include Mason's Duries' Te Whare Tapu Whā or Rose Pere's Te Wheke.¹⁸

Pacific People also take a holistic approach to health involving multiple dimensions including the influence of the physical environment on the overall well-being of individuals and fono, as seen in the Fonofale Model by Fauimaono Karl Puloti-Endemann.¹⁹

Council's role

Council has multiple roles it can play. The most significant contribution is as a provider of facilities and programmes and open spaces. We have 41 playgrounds, 39 sport fields, 100km of walking and cycling tracks and nearly 1000 hectares of reserves in 184 parks.

We also provide swimming and water safety programmes and road safety services for schools. Funding is available for innovative programmes to improve youth well-being.

We work with central government on significant complex issues such as housing and health. We have strategic partnerships with Tumai Hauora ki Porirua Alliance, New Zealand Police and social service and health service providers. We monitor a range of health indicators in our annual status report of children and young people in Porirua.

We can ensure that we are a good role model by making healthy choices easier in our recreational facilities. For more complex issues, such as healthy housing, we have an important role to play as an advocate or broker for our city and communities.

Harm reduction is part our regulatory function.

For example, through liquor licensing, dog and noise control, building and food safety inspections and smoke free playgrounds.

We can play a brokerage and advocacy role for issues outside our control that are harming our communities, for example, responding to community concern about young people's lack of knowledge about the toxicity of synthetic drugs.

Council's contribution

We want children and young people to be healthy, active and safe. There are many ways we contribute to this:

- Deliver quality recreational programmes enjoyed by thousands of children such as learn to swim, water safety and kindy gym
- Providing and upgrading city infrastructure such as stormwater to ensure the public's health
- Continuously improving and expanding places and spaces for children and young people to enjoy as our city grows eg new playground in the city centre, new cycle trails etc
- Regularly upgrading our playgrounds and implementing accessibility audit recommendations to ensure playgrounds can be enjoyed children of all abilities and their parents/caregivers
- Advocating to central government for improvements in social housing and community regeneration in Eastern Porirua
- Implementing new policies to make a facilities and events healthier, such as improving access to free water at events, more healthy food options and more water fountains in public spaces

¹⁸ www.health.govt.nz/our-work/populations/maori-health/maori-health-models

¹⁹ apps.centralpho.org.nz/Permalink/MoM/General%20Documents/MoM/Published/Pacific%20Health%20Forms/Fonofale%20model.pdf

- Exploring the merits of establishing a youth-led safety advisory group
- Prioritise projects that promote youth well-being through young people's Making an Impact Fund.

Focus Area 3: Opportunities and experiences

All students in Porirua are supported to achieve academic success at school, and to transition from formal education into a future they aspire to. All children and young people participate in the life of our city, broadening their experiences and expanding their horizons.

What have young people told us?

Education is seen as the key to employment and providing opportunities for the future, however many young people are concerned that some students are not given the support they need to succeed at school, and as such are left with few qualifications and pathways. Attendance, transience, and teacher attitudes were all seen as factors that make a difference to student success at school.

Young people love living in Porirua and want to see well paid jobs with meaningful careers and opportunities available to them here. Local work experience is hard to get.

Keeping it local is important. Young people don't want to have to travel out of Porirua to access recreational and learning opportunities. Travel costs are a barrier for some.

Children and young people have also told us that they really value the activities, events and facilities in our city including parks and playgrounds, shops, places to swim, sports opportunities and events that celebrate the arts and cultures.

Children and young people want equity. They want to ensure everyone has the same opportunities. They are concerned about the cost of living and want to make sure that having warm dry homes is affordable for all families – “some people go to school starving or without enough clothes”.²⁰

Why is this important?

We want to work collectively as a city to provide an enabling environment for our children and young people – an environment that sets them up for success. This means making a wide range of experiences and opportunities available. We all want our children to follow their dreams and mature into confident adults with choices. Children tell us growing up is challenging and the data tells us that too many children and young people aren't reaching their potential.

“We need to be seen as more than athletes. We should push... to dream big and go for it.”²¹

²⁰ Comment by a participant in a Youth Conversations Project, November 2017

²¹ As above

Council's role

Our core business provides many children and young people with positive experiences and we will continue to do this. We have an important role as provider and need to be mindful of barriers to access.

In addition to being a provider we can act as a convenor, for example, connecting and promoting education programme providers to local schools, regularly updating schools on opportunities to work with council. We also partner with others to expand training and employment opportunities, and monitor education and employment indicators through our annual status report.

Council's contribution

Council can help in a variety of ways to make it easier for all our children and young people to participate in city life and enjoy a wide range of experiences. Examples include:

- Te Pahi community bus which offers students from decile 1-4 schools free transport to our facilities and programmes, and trips to educational destinations in the Wellington Region
- Contracting Partners Porirua to provide workforce development for our young people, such as Jobfest and Youth2Work to help their transition from school to training or employment
- Education programmes through Pātaka Art + Museum, Te Rauparaha Arena, Porirua

Aquatic Centre, Cannons Creek Pool and our libraries and parks offer a wide range of opportunities for all young people to experience arts, culture, the environment, languages, sports and recreation

- Delivering educative programmes in schools on a range of topics such as road safety, environmental issues and graffiti management
- Partnering with tertiary providers to promote post-secondary school partnerships
- TUIA Mayoral Mentoring programme for rangatahi Māori
- Entrepreneurial activities such as pop-up businesses/training and enterprise schemes
- Two new tertiary scholarships with work experience at Council during the school holidays.
- Encouraging business growth and economic development that support employment opportunities for young people e.g. opportunities from Adventure Park for tourism, hospitality and outdoor adventure careers
- Over the longer-term, case-by-case strategic property purchases to promote economic growth and employment opportunities e.g. in Porirua East leveraging off Transmission Gully motorway developments
- Promoting local and regional education opportunities to schools through newsletters and seminars.

Focus Area 4: Connection and belonging

Children and young people feel supported by strong connections with families, each other, and the wider community. They have places to go and things to do, and enjoy celebrating a variety of cultures in their everyday life.

What have young people told us?

“We are the community and want to be part of making it a cool place to live.”

Children and young people have many great ideas. They would like more things that bring people together such as teen hang out places, community gardens, environmental programmes and cultural events and celebrations. They see benefits particularly for young people who aren't connected to supportive social groups to have somewhere to go, and would like to see stronger connections between suburbs who usually don't have much to do with each other.

It's important to children and young people to see te reo Māori being spoken more and that people use correct pronunciation, particularly pronunciation of people's names and places.

Connection through technology is important to support children and young people's education and learning and access to the employment market. Social connections can also be enhanced through online channels.

Public transport and walking and cycling routes for children are important to open up access to opportunities for children and young people.

Why is this important?

Children and young people told us they think stronger connections in the community would make people less lonely, keep young people busy and more likely to be successful. We agree. There is plenty of evidence to support this. Research shows that people who are connected to a network of people – through friends, family, work and recreation – are more likely to be happy, active and maintain good health. Cities that welcome and acknowledge cultural diversity are more cohesive and resilient.

If our tamariki and rangatahi have a strong cultural connection to their tūrangawaewae (place), can whakapapa their genealogy and have access to their history (kupu tuku iho) this will contribute to their sense of identity and belonging. Kaumatua and marae provide learning opportunities to support this.

Council's role

Our primary role for this focus area is as a provider. Many of the core services we provide contribute to connection and belonging – events such as our Waitangi Day celebration and matariki which have become highlights on our events calendar. We can also provide opportunities for people to learn about or showcase their culture and heritage through exhibitions, performances and community projects.

Good urban design helps to make the city easier for children and young people to move about in, for example, child-friendly pedestrian and cycling connections.

Council's contribution

There are many ways the Council can help our children and young people to feel a sense of belonging and city pride. Opportunities to participate in city life are important, as are chances to celebrate culture and heritage. Some of the things we are doing to contribute to connection and belonging are:

- Pātaka education programme and supporting exhibits
- New children's gallery *Our Harbour – Te Awarua-o-Porirua*
- Child and youth friendly events programme and cultural celebrations
- Brokering better internet services in low income communities and providing wifi in the city centre
- Making it easier to get around through a better connected cycling network and supporting cycle programmes to build skills
- Pedestrian and cycle friendly city centre revitalisation
- Greater use of te reo in council publications and signage
- Providing safe and well maintained neighbourhoods, parks and playgrounds
- Exploring a revitalisation project in Eastern Porirua. Involving young people in revitalisation ideas and plans will strengthen their sense of belonging and connection in Eastern Porirua.



Focus Area 5: Engaged and involved

Children and young people are active participants in decision making processes and local projects to help shape the look and feel of our city.

What have young people told us?

Children and young people have told us that they feel understood and important when:²²

- “You ask my views in fun ways, not just a questionnaire”
- “You show me that you listened”
- “You focus on the things that are important to me”
- “You ask my views about a range of things, not just things you think kids are into”.

Why is this important?

With just under 40% of our population aged under 25 years it's essential that we listen to their views and get children and young people involved in city decisions. Our decisions affect them. Not only are young people big users of our facilities and services, they can become involved in shaping the city.

Engagement with young people is more than just giving them a say. It is about listening to their views, taking them seriously and where feasible, putting their ideas and suggestions into effect.

When children and young people are engaged they:

- Have a voice and are listened to

- Are active citizens provided with opportunities for involvement
- Are part of an ongoing conversation with the Council about decision that affect them
- Are supported by the Council and their communities to reach their potential.

Council's role

Our primary role for this focus area is that of provider. We provide opportunities for children and young people to share their views, grow their leadership skills, and to be involved in a variety of community projects.

Council's contribution

We want children and young people to be active participants in city decisions and involved in the life of the city. We will do this by:

- Annual consultation programme on key planning documents – annual plans, long term plans and district plan and policy reviews, aiming to increase the number and quality of written and oral submissions by children and young people to Council
- Involving youth in our district plan review
- Building strong networks with children and young people and those who work with them, including schools
- Greater involvement of children and young people in village planning
- Involvement of young people in the assessment panel for young people's funding
- Responding to requests for support for student led initiatives
- Delivery of City and Schools Partnership Programme with Partners Porirua that sees students involved in local projects.

²² Our Porirua Journey: a guide to quality engagement 2017

Our approach – at a glance

Strategic priority – children and young people at the heart of our city

What does this mean?	<div>We will<ul style="list-style-type: none">• advocate for our children’s success• engage them in city decisions and projects• provide healthy and safe environments• provide opportunities to participate in city life.</div> <div>We will monitor and review progress:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• asking children and young people about their experiences of the city• through our annual status report• via annual reports to council.</div>				
Vision:	1. Realising the full potential of all our children and young people		2. Porirua is a healthy and beautiful place to grow up		
Why:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nearly 40% of the population is aged under 25 years• They are big users of our facilities, programmes and public spaces• They are likely to have a different perspective from adults; and• They will live with the legacy of our decisions.				
Key focus areas	<div>Environment and place<p>Children and young people are actively involved in the care and protection of the harbour and the environment, and enjoy living in clean and attractive neighbourhoods.</p></div> <div>Safety and well-being<p>Children and young people grow up healthy, active, and safe. Public places promote health and well-being and strengthen connections for the well-being of young people.</p></div> <div>Opportunity and experiences<p>Children and young people in Porirua are supported to achieve academic success at school, and to transition from formal education into a future they aspire to. They participate in the life our city, broadening their experiences and expanding their horizons.</p></div> <div>Connection and belonging<p>Children and young people feel supported by strong connections with families, each other, and the wider community. They have places to go and things to do, and enjoy celebrating a variety of cultures in their everyday life.</p></div> <div>Engaged and involved<p>Children and young people are active participants in decision making processes and local projects to help shape the look and feel of our city.</p></div>				
Council role:	Provider	Advocate	Convenor	Partner	Monitor

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