

TOWN OF VICTORIA PARK

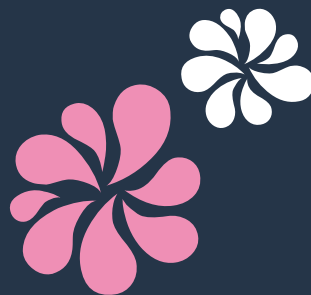
YOUTH ACTION PLAN

Our vision is that all young people who live in or visit the Town of Victoria Park feel safe, connected and informed, and have opportunities to contribute and thrive.

2025–2028



TOWN OF
VICTORIA PARK



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Ngany kaaditj Noongar moort keny kaadak nidja Wadjak Noongar boodja.
Ngany kaaditj nidja Noongar birdiya – koora, ye-ye, boorda, baalapiny moorditj
Noongar kaadijtin, moort, wer boodja ye-ye.

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land and respect past, present and emerging leaders, their continuing cultural heritage, beliefs and relationship with the land, which continues to be important today.

The Town of Victoria Park (the Town) recognises the Whadjuk Noongar people as the traditional custodians of the greater Victoria Park area. It's Noongar name is Mindeera and to the Whadjuk people, Mindeera is a place that has strong social, spiritual, cultural and historic significance.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF DIVERSITY

The Town acknowledges that the diversity of our residents is what makes our community unique. Diversity can be reflected in a number of ways including:

- Ethnicity and race
- Disability
- Language
- Gender
- Sexual orientation
- Age and generation
- Socioeconomic status
- Religion, faith, and other beliefs.

This diversity means our business practices need an understanding of how social and cultural background can influence interpretation and participation in the community. We acknowledge these impacts, and we are striving to present all communications to be inclusive and available to everyone.

If you or someone you know needs this document in another format, please contact the Community Development Officer (Youth and Diversity) on **(08) 9311 8111** or at admin@vicpark.wa.gov.au.

THANK YOU TO CONTRIBUTORS

The Town would like to thank all the young people who contributed to the development of this Plan by sharing their ideas at workshops and through surveys. A special thanks goes to the Vic Park Young Leaders (VPYL), who helped craft the survey and reach young people in the Town. We would also like to thank all the services and organisations who gave their time, and to Kent Street Senior High School who hosted the Town to run workshops at a very busy time of year.

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

I am proud to introduce our new Youth Action Plan 2025–2028 — a shared vision shaped by the voices, experiences, and aspirations of our youth.

With more than 5,000 young people aged 16 to 25 in our Town, this Plan builds on the achievements of the first Youth Action Plan 2021–2023 and aligns with the vision in our Strategic Community Plan to be a dynamic place for everyone, and our priorities to create a safe and inclusive community that celebrates diversity.

The Plan has three key focus areas with targeted actions that reflect what you've told us matters most:

- Communication – Clear, respectful, and two-way communication that keeps you informed and invites your ideas, feedback, and leadership.
- Civic and community participation – Greater opportunities for you to get involved, have your say, and help shape decisions that impact your lives and your community.
- Spaces and activities – Safe, inclusive and welcoming places, along with meaningful activities that reflect your diverse interests and support your wellbeing.

Four years ago, the Vic Park Young Leaders were established. They have enthusiastically championed our first Youth Action Plan and emerged as an ongoing success story in the Town, designing and helping deliver events, activities and advocacy for local youth. I congratulate and thank the Young Leaders for their contributions to life in our Town and to creating this new Plan. It reflects their creativity, resilience, and deep desire to be part of positive change.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the development of this Plan—young people, their parents, caregivers, educators and supporters, the Youth Affairs Council WA and the Town's community development team.

As Mayor, I want our youngest citizens to know that their voice matters—not just now, but for the future. Together, we will build a community where every young person feels valued, connected, and empowered.



Mayor Karen Vernon

August 2025



CONTEXT

WHY WE DEVELOPED THE PLAN

In 2021, the Town published its first Youth Action Plan with the aim of developing a best practice framework and coordinated approach to the inclusion and development of young people in our community. This Plan was developed when young people were still feeling the uncertainty and isolation that the COVID-19 pandemic brought. The landscape for young people has changed, with some challenges fading, and new ones emerging.

OUR PROGRESS

The Town made significant progress in achieving the goals and actions from the Youth Action Plan 2021–2024 and the interim Youth Action Plan 2024–2025. Some of the highlights are:

- Employing a part-time Youth Programs Officer to deliver the Town's youth leadership and civic engagement model
- Establishing the VPYL group; comprised of passionate and local young people aged 16 to 25 who generate ideas for youth-based events, help with youth communications and provide advice and feedback to the Town
- Partnering with Headspace Cannington and local cafes to run the well utilised and innovative Spill the Beans program for young people aged 18 to 25, to connect with peers and address their health and wellbeing
- Delivery of an Advocacy and Arts program for LGBTQIA+ young people and allies
- Improving library programs for young people including Boardgames Club, Anime Club, Coder Dojo and job seeker workshops
- Developing the youth-focused Vic Park Vibe Instagram page, youth page on the website and a youth events calendar.

This new Plan aims to build on our previous successes and readjust our focus to address the landscape of youth needs over the next three years. The Town's focus is working in partnership with our community to deliver strong outcomes for young people. This Plan can be used by community stakeholders to inform their youth-focused work over the next three years.

SNAPSHOT OF YOUNG PEOPLE

- Approximately 5,386 young people live in the Town
- Young people make up 14.6% of the Town's population
- Proportion of young people aged 12 to 17 is 4.3%—much lower than the Greater Perth average of 7.4%
- Proportion of young people aged 18 to 25 is 10.3%—slightly higher than the Greater Perth average of 8.6%
- Proportion of young people aged 15 to 24 disengaged from employment or education is 5.6%—higher than the Greater Perth average of 4.9%
- Approximately 8% of young people in the Town will have a disability
- Three schools cater for secondary aged students in the area, as well as two education support/alternative education services
- Curtin University is located within the Town.

HOW WE DEVELOPED THE PLAN

The development involved a review of the progress made toward the goals and actions in the previous Plan, desktop research on youth trends, systemic local issues, the current provision for young people, and community consultation with young parents/caregivers, local organisations and Town staff.

Sept to Nov 2024	Sept to Dec 2024	Jan to Feb 2025	April 2025	May to June 2025	July 2025
Planning and desktop research	Community consultation	Draft Youth Action Plan 2025–2028 developed	Draft Youth Action Plan 2025–2028 presented to Council	Public comment on draft Youth Action Plan 2025–2028	Finalise Youth Action Plan 2025–2028

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

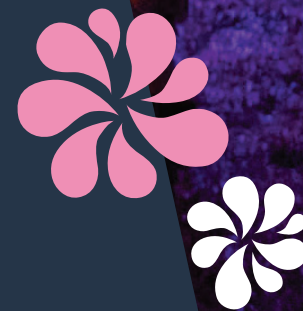
Community consultation to develop the Youth Action Plan 2025–2028 was delivered between September and December 2024. The Town talked with approximately 136 young people including 80 through surveys, 45 at youth workshops, and 11 through the youth roundtable and 'VPYL' engagements. The survey data showed that:

- 76% were aged 12 to 17 and 24% were aged 18 to 25
- 61% identified as female, 33% identified as male and 5% identified as another gender (such as non-binary)
- 30% of respondents identified as being from a multicultural background
- 25% of respondents identified as neurodivergent
- 20% of respondents identified as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex, Queer and/or Asexual (LGBTQIA+)
- 13% of respondents identified as living with a mental health issue
- 11% of respondents identified as living with disability or chronic illness
- 3% of respondents identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander
- 1% of respondents identified as being a young carer
- 1% of respondents identified as being young parents
- 41% of respondents reported that they lived in the Town
- 65% of respondents said that they went to school in the Town
- 6% of respondents said that they attended TAFE/university in the Town
- 11% of respondents said that they worked in the Town
- 11% of respondents said that they volunteered in the Town
- 20% of respondents said that they used groups and services in the Town
- 68% of respondents said that they used facilities in the Town.

We also talked with:

- 34 parents and caregivers via a survey
- Five organisations and services that work with young people via one-on-one interviews and a solution-focused roundtable
- Town staff and leaders at a solution focused roundtable.

Promotion of the opportunities to participate in the consultation was delivered through the Town's website and social media pages, as well as direct engagement with local schools and key stakeholders.



STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

The Youth Action Plan 2025–2028 aligns with key youth development frameworks at international, national and state levels, ensuring a coordinated approach to supporting young people within the Town.

International: The Plan reflects the United Nations' World Programme of Action for Youth, focusing on priorities such as education, employment and youth participation to drive global youth development.

National: It aligns with the Engage! Strategy, which empowers young people, values their contributions and advocates for their involvement in government decision-making.

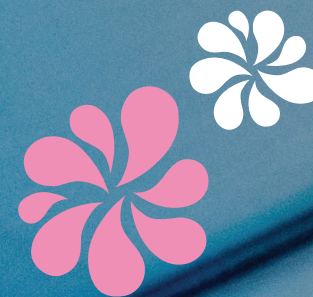
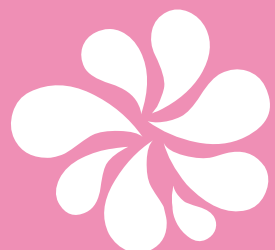
State: The Plan supports the WA Youth Action Plan 2024–2027, which amplifies young voices, enhances wellbeing, promotes diversity and inclusion and helps young people reach their goals.

The Plan also aligns directly with the Town's Strategic Community Plan, particularly with the following priorities:

- S1 Helping people feel safe
- S3 Facilitating an inclusive community that celebrates diversity
- S4 Improving access to arts, history, culture and education
- CL2 Communication and engagement with community.

By aligning with these frameworks, the Town ensures its initiatives not only contribute to broader efforts to empower and support young people, but also address the specific needs and aspirations of local youth.

The Youth Action Plan 2025–2028 builds on these priorities, focusing on safe spaces, youth leadership, community participation and wellbeing in line with the Town's ongoing commitment to fostering an inclusive, thriving youth community.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

THE FRAMEWORK

This framework has been developed with a focus on practical and achievable actions to guide the Town's delivery of the plan.

Vision	Focus areas	Actions
What we want the Town to be like for our young people in the future	The areas we will focus on to move towards achieving the vision	The tangible initiatives we will explore, resource and deliver to achieve the vision

ROLE OF THE TOWN

The Town has six critical roles to play in the Plan's delivery.

Role	What this means
Provider	Delivers the initiative, activity, service or facility
Partner	Collaborates or is part of making something happen
Connector	Links community assets and resources to support something to happen
Capacity Builder	Develops and engages to enhance leadership and capability
Advocate	Talks about or promotes an issue to people who need to listen
Funder	Provides money or resources to support

OUR VISION

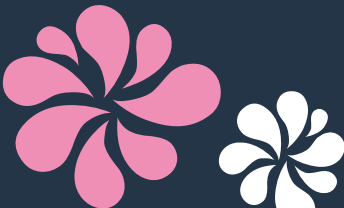
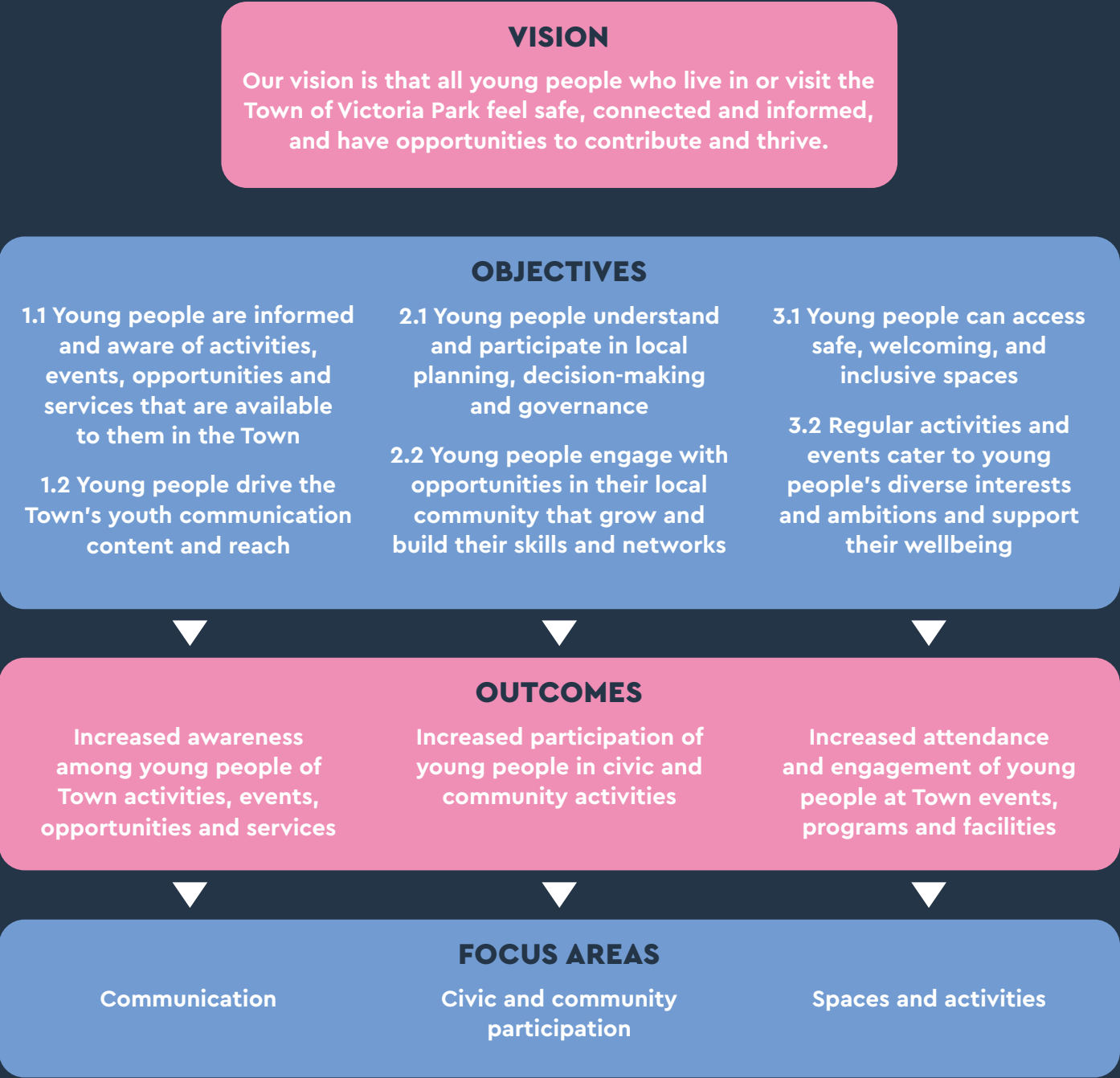
Our vision is that all young people who live in or visit the Town of Victoria Park feel safe, connected and informed, and have opportunities to contribute and thrive.

OUR FOCUS AREA AND GOALS AT A GLANCE

The Youth Action Plan 2025–2028 has three focus areas and six goals. To achieve these goals, 21 actions have been identified to be delivered over the next three years.

Focus area	#	Goals
Communication	1.1	Young people are informed and aware of activities, events, opportunities and services that are available to them in the Town
	1.2	Young people drive the Town's youth communication content and reach
Civic and community participation	2.1	Young people understand and participate in local planning, decision-making and governance
	2.2	Young people engage with opportunities in their local community that grow and build their skills and networks
Spaces and activities	3.1	Young people can access safe, welcoming and inclusive spaces
	3.2	Regular activities and events cater to young people's diverse interests and ambitions and support their wellbeing

THEORY OF CHANGE



FOCUS AREA 1: COMMUNICATION

OUR ACTIONS

1.1 Young people are informed and aware of activities, events, opportunities and services that are available to them in the Town							
#	Action	Role	Who	Y1	Y2	Y3	Measures of success
1.1.1	Map hotspots where young people gather and use those to target the placement of promotional material for activities, events, opportunities and services	• Provider	• Community Development • Communications • Local businesses	✓	✓	✓	• Map of hotspots created • Map is utilised, reviewed and updated annually • Young people report an increase in awareness of Town programs
1.1.2	Continue to develop the 'Vic Park Vibe' Instagram page, with a focus on: • Creating tailored content for young people (e.g. trends, memes etc.) • Budget for social media advertising • Competitions and giveaways	• Capacity Builder • Provider • Partner	• Communications • VPYL • Community Development	✓	✓	✓	• Vic Park Vibe has an increased following of 10% per annum • Vic Park Vibe has overall increased engagement with content • Young people report an increase in awareness of Town programs
1.1.3	Maintain the youth events calendar on the Town website and find ways to cross promote event calendar content (e.g. via social media, enewletters, sector networks)	• Provider • Connector	• Communications • Community Development	✓	✓	✓	• All events, initiatives and programs relevant to young people in Vic Park are posted in the calendar • The youth calendar is cross promoted quarterly • Young people report an increase in awareness of Town programs
1.1.4	Develop and roll out a simple style guide for differentiating marketing for a youth audience, inclusive of promotion for community-wide activities, events, opportunities and services	• Provider	• Communications • Community Development • VPYL		✓		• Youth style guide developed • Community-wide events consider young people in their marketing • Young people report an increase in awareness of Town programs

1.2 Young people drive the Town's youth communications content and reach							
#	Action	Role	Who	Y1	Y2	Y3	Measures of success
1.2.1	Explore and implement a feasible model of a 'Vic Park Young Influencers' initiative to drive marketing. This may include: • Identifying existing local, well-networked young people • Supporting social media content development • Dispersion of physical promotion	• Provider • Partner • Connector • Capacity Builder • Funder	• Community Development • Communications • VPYL		✓	✓	• Young influencers model is explored and developed • Young influencers appointed • Young people report an increase in awareness of Town programs
1.2.2	Hold targeted engagements with harder to reach young people to get input into the Town's communications and marketing	• Provider • Partner	• Community Development • Communications • Service providers • Schools	✓	✓	✓	• One consultation held per annum • Feedback incorporated into the youth style guide • Hard to reach young people report an increase in awareness of Town programs

FOCUS AREA 2: CIVIC AND
COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

OUR ACTIONS

2.1 Young people understand and participate in local planning, decision-making and governance							
#	Action	Role	Who	Y1	Y2	Y3	Measures of success
2.1.1	Continue to run the VPYL with a focus on: - Strengthen roles within the group - Ongoing targeted training - Increasing engagement with Town staff and elected members	- Capacity Builder - Provider	- Community Development - All directorates - VPYL	✓	✓	✓	- Minimum of eight young people are part of the VPYL per annum - VPYL receive one training per year - VPYL report increased engagement with elected members and staff - VPYL report an increase in participation in civic and community activities
2.1.2	Investigate the recognition of the VPYL as a formal Town Advisory Group	- Provider - Advocate	Community Development		✓	✓	Investigation complete and findings reported
2.1.3	Ensure youth representation in existing Town Advisory Groups, as well as related plans and strategies, by establishing a quota or designated youth position	- Provider - Advocate - Partner	- Community Development - Advisory Group leads		✓	✓	- A minimum of two Town Advisory Groups has youth representation - Number of young people consulted in the development of Town plans and strategies (e.g. Access & Inclusion Plan, Public Health & Wellbeing)
2.1.4	Develop and roll out a Youth Engagement Framework to guide Town-wide youth consultation	- Provider - Capacity Builder	- Community Development - All directorates		✓	✓	- Staff from all directorates provide input into framework - Young people are involved in at least two significant pieces of Town work outside of the youth space
2.1.5	Explore and implement a 'Council Day' where students explore and gain insight into functions of the Town	- Provider - Connector - Partner	- Community Development - All directorates - Elected Members - Schools		✓	✓	- Event delivered with representatives from all directorates 70% young participants report they have a better understanding of the functions of local government

2.2 Young people engage with opportunities in their local community that grow and build their skills and networks							
#	Action	Role	Who	Y1	Y2	Y3	Measures of success
2.2.1	Continue to build opportunities for young people to gain job ready experience at the Town through internships, work experience placements, and job shadowing	- Provider - Capacity Builder	- People and Culture - All directorates	✓	✓	✓	Number of young people achieve internships or work experience placements in the Town
2.2.2	Build partnerships with local business and organisations to deliver a life skills opportunities for young people	- Partner - Connector	- Community Development - Local businesses		✓	✓	- Three partnerships are developed 70% of young participants report they have developed new skills
2.2.3	Improve young people's connection to volunteering by formalising the Town's volunteering processes	- Provider - Connector - Partner	- People and Culture - Community Development - VPYL			✓	- Young people that have input into the revision of the process - Young people report that the process was easy to use
2.2.4	Continue to deliver the youth donations program to support youth development, including a review of the program for maximum impact	- Provider - Funder	- Events, Arts and Funding - Community Development	✓	✓	✓	- Consultation undertaken and donations program reviewed and revised - Schools and young people report awareness of the program - Number of young people supported

FOCUS AREA 3:

SPACES AND ACTIVITIES

OUR ACTIONS

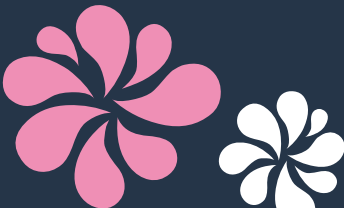
3.1 Young people can access safe, welcoming, and inclusive spaces							
#	Action	Role	Who	Y1	Y2	Y3	Measures of success
3.1.1	Include youth-focused elements when re-developing Town precincts, places and spaces, with a focus on: - Youth-friendly infrastructure - Access and inclusion elements that support socialising - Safety features	- Provider - Advocate	- Strategic Projects - Place Planning - Community Development	✓	✓	✓	- Number of young people who participate in consultation towards the re-development of Town precincts and spaces (e.g. John Macmillan Park) - Youth-focused elements are included in precinct plans
3.1.2	Explore partnerships with local services and organisations to provide a regular drop-in space with activities for young people	- Partner - Advocate - Funder	- Community Development - Local services		✓	✓	- A minimum of one partnership is developed - Number of young people that attend drop-in spaces
3.1.3	Explore the most feasible format of a business safety sticker program on the Albany Highway strip	- Provider - Partner - Funder - Advocate	- Community Development - Community Safety - Health		✓	✓	Business safety sticker program explored

3.2 Regular activities and events cater to young people's diverse interests and ambitions and support their wellbeing							
#	Action	Role	Who	Y1	Y2	Y3	Measures of success
3.2.1	Continue to deliver free and/or low-cost activities and events for young people with a focus on: - Diversifying locations and venues - Regular and consistent programming - Targeting different age ranges	- Provider - Connector - Capacity Builder - Partner	- Community Development - Events, Arts and Funding - Library Services - Place Planning - Leisure	✓	✓	✓	- Number of young people attending Town activities and events - Initiatives are held in at least three different locations - Diversity in ages of young people attending events and activities - Young people report an increase in wellbeing because of programs
3.2.2	Continue partnerships with youth health and wellbeing services to offer activities and events that support young people's wellbeing	- Partner - Provider - Connector - Advocate - Funder	- Community Development - Service providers	✓	✓	✓	- Number of young people attending youth health and wellbeing programs - Young people report an increase in wellbeing because of programs
3.2.3	Progress the development of a Town-wide Child Safe Organisation Plan	- Provider - Capacity Builder - Advocate	- Community Development - People and Culture - All directorates	✓	✓	✓	- Quarterly Child Safe Champions meetings hosted - Progress towards development of Plan reported

DELIVERING THE YOUTH ACTION PLAN

Central to the success of the Youth Action Plan 2025–2028 is building internal and external capacity, striving for excellence, and partnerships with our community and external organisations. Outlined below are the foundational elements that will be implemented to ensure the successful delivery of the Plan. Where these elements are not able to be provided as required, then prioritisation of actions will occur on an annual and ongoing basis.

Staffing and volunteers	• Continue to allocate adequate staffing within the Community Development team to deliver the actions outlined in the Plan • Apply for interns to support Plan delivery where appropriate
Implementation and review	• Develop a Youth Action Plan implementation tracker • Hold an annual Youth Action Plan focused planning and review meeting with all internal stakeholders to check progress and coordinate actions for the year
Partnerships	• Continue regular networking with external organisations who work or interact with young people • Support what other organisations are doing for young people through funding, sharing of resources and/or promotion • Continue partnerships with surrounding local government entities where appropriate
Funding	• Use the Plan as the foundation of youth-focused resourcing conversations with funders • Leverage funding from State Government (where appropriate) to support initiatives, such as through Youth Engagement Grants, Youth Week Grants and opportunities identified in the WA Youth Action Plan 2024–2027 • Apply for other grant funding where available to support Plan initiatives
Reporting	• Continue to provide quarterly reports to Council showcasing key outcomes, and development of annual Impact Reports



APPENDIX: BACKGROUND INFORMATION

FOCUS AREA 1: COMMUNICATION

The Town of Victoria Park runs a diverse schedule of events, activities and initiatives, with many of these being targeted at, but not always highly accessed by young people. Local government's traditionally struggle to communicate well with young people, and by far the most prominent barrier in the Town is a lack of awareness of what was on. In the youth survey, 74% of young people said the biggest barrier to them attending or using an event, activity or space was not knowing about it; up from 45% four years ago. Consultation data indicates that there are several problems; not enough promotion, promotion in places that young people won't see it, the style of promotion not appealing to young people, and promotion not sufficiently nuanced to target different demographics. We heard that promotion for Town-wide events aimed at the whole community often missed the mark for young people, with them assuming things were just for families.

"No advertising/not well known."

The Town now has a webpage with information about events and activities for young people with a linked events calendar, but the events calendar isn't well promoted. The Town hosts a youth-focused Vic Park Vibe Instagram page with content driven by the VPYL. The page has been slowly building a following since its inception. When asked what would make them follow and visit the page, young people said visually appealing content, such as reels; information about fun, affordable places to go, or things to do; information about safety; and

updates on young people doing good things in the community. Young people talked about starting an Instagram broadcast channel to better communicate with followers on social media as well as prizes and giveaways. Using strategically placed QR codes in places that young people frequent which links to the Vic Park Vibe Instagram page was suggested to drive traffic there. The survey showed that parents/caregivers primarily find out about events and initiatives through their local community Facebook page (72%) and the Town's Facebook page (66%).

"Reels would be nice. Would attract a lot of people. Short bursts of content, colourful content."

"Short fun videos showcasing great spots around Vic Park and firsthand stories about inspiring local businesses or community groups."

Many young people reported that they still find out about events through physical media such as flyers and posters in popular places, as well as through their school. Utilising the vibrant main strip of Albany Highway and tapping into youth hotspots during busy times would help reach young people where they frequent. Young people primarily find out about events and initiatives from their peers or through 'word of mouth'. The Town's previous Youth Action Plan included recruiting for a young influencers program. Upon implementation, this initiative was combined with a young changemaker group and became the VPYL. During this consultation there was a strong focus on the

need for young people to be driving the Town's communication, and the potential of leveraging the role of 'young influencers' came up multiple times. There was talk of recruiting a team of young people that could drive social media content, participate in social media 'takeover days', cross promote on their own channels/pages and/or hand out posters/flyers.

"Use young people to develop content for promoting, including paying young people to directly distribute, like influencers."



APPENDIX: BACKGROUND INFORMATION

FOCUS AREA 2: CIVIC AND COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

The Town has established and built the Vic Park Young Leaders (VPYL) program for local young people who want to make an impact in their community. The VPYL have participated in a range of training, have planned and delivered events, and have talked with other young people at school engagements. The VPYL and Town staff expressed a desire for more focus on the development of their roles, engagement with other areas of the Town, including Elected Members, and more decision-making opportunities.

Having opportunities to contribute to their community continued to be important to many young people in the Town. When asked how often they would like to be asked their opinions and ideas, 57% said slightly or much more often than now; only 5% wanted to be asked for their opinion less often. The topic that young people were most interested in having a say about was events, activities and programs (55%); over 40% were also interested in having a say on arts and culture, sport and recreation, and environmental initiatives. Many young people said they didn't feel connected to the processes of decision-making in the Town, and lacked awareness and understanding of how decisions are made. The survey showed that 77% did not know any councillors. Young people indicated that they would like more education and information about local government and how Council worked, and would be more likely to engage if they saw people like themselves in positions of responsibility, or saw issues that they cared about being represented.

Young people, staff and stakeholders felt that there should be more engagement of young people outside areas that typically attract youth involvement. They said that involving young people in working groups, advisory groups and other consultations across directorates would help young people influence things they cared about, such as urban planning, safety and the environment, were frequently raised as issues of concern, but which are out of scope of a Youth Action Plan. Young people suggested the idea of a 'council day' where young people (through schools) could visit the council for a day and rotate through different work areas to get a taste of different roles and responsibilities. They suggested Councillors could also increase their presence at youth events.

Two of the most well-known events, activities and programs in the Town related to job/skills development—the Youth Careers Expo at the Victoria Park Community Centre and the youth career training in the Victoria Park Library. When asked what (if any) life, job or skill development opportunities they would like to see in the Town, young people suggested practical workshops for resume writing, interviewing and writing job applications, as well as more internship and volunteer opportunities. When generating solutions, young people, staff, and stakeholders all saw opportunities to partner with the abundance of businesses, groups and services in the area; especially given the current skills shortage many industries are facing. They also wanted to see Town job shadowing and work experience provided to help young people develop their understanding of local governance.

"More opportunities for council jobs (Town planning)."

"Advice service for job application, resume writing etc."

"I would like to see a place online or in the Town that is well advertised where those who want to hire young people are advertising the jobs"

Volunteering is important for young people. It helps develop skills and connection to community, however it's not always accessible for young people who may not know who to approach, or encounter organisations not well set up to support them. Young people, staff and stakeholders alike felt there was an opportunity for the Town to improve young people's connection to volunteering by formalising the Town's volunteering processes. At the time of writing, people could express interest in volunteering on the Town's website, but it was unclear what roles they would be volunteering for. While there is currently limited clarity around volunteer roles, the Town does have a youth-focused donations program, which supports young people nominated to undertake youth leadership/development courses or to participate in a sporting discipline at a national or international level. These are well expended each year.



APPENDIX: BACKGROUND INFORMATION

FOCUS AREA 3: SPACES AND ACTIVITIES

Young people like the vibrancy of the Town of Victoria Park. They said it was mostly accessible to get around, with walkable neighbourhoods, bus services and many local train stations that are close to schools and tertiary education options. They also appreciate the inclusive focus of the Town, mentioning multiculturalism, an LGBTQIA+ focus and socio-economic variability. They like the good public parks, the Library and the main strip on Albany Highway, which they said has great food options.

"I like the mix of cultures and community spirit in Vic Park, the strip is supported by locals who look out for one another."

"Vic Park feels super inclusive towards the LGBTQIA+ community."

Although there were lots of positives, high school-aged young people said that there weren't many free places they could safely hang out after school, or on the weekends to socialise. Some young people and parents/caregivers said that due to its small size, the Town lacked facilities that other local governments have, such as skate parks, bike tracks or a youth centre. 'Not enough places for young people to hang out' was the second most important issue for young people in the youth survey (42%). Stakeholders talked about exploring drop-in spaces for young people at existing organisations and public places, and said that partnerships with local organisations such as PCYC, Fusion or the City of South Perth should be explored. Young people were also asked what considerations should be included within the planned Macmillan Park

redevelopment. Their ideas primarily focused on infrastructure to support their preferred activities (such as a movie theatre, arcades and food trucks), and amenities to increase comfort and accessibility (such as shaded seating and water fountains). They also expressed a desire for it to be safe.

"I feel that because there are very little places that I can go with my friends after school, I end up spending more time on social media instead of in real life and I think it's impacting me mentally."

"No place for young people to meet up and build relationships outside school, no free and accessible activities." – Parent

"Use the spaces we have already established and add in a teen element. A single key hoop for basketball at Fraser Park. Add some natural bike jumps in at Higgins or Kent Street's reserve under the trees." – Parent

Safety was a significant theme throughout the consultation. Behaviour that made young people feel unsafe included being followed or harassed, seeing alcohol and drug use and/or effects in public and, at times, the visibility of homelessness and not knowing how to respond. Poor street lighting especially impacted young people as they were more likely to be pedestrians or getting around by bike/scooter, and many expressed a desire for improved lighting across the Town. Young people also raised concerns about pedestrian safety, citing issues such as heavy traffic, limited parking, and increasing congestion. Parents/caregivers said

that these factors made it less likely that they would allow their young people to be out in public by themselves and rated it the top barrier (65%) for their child engaging in activities and events in the Town.

"More lighting everywhere, such as parks, parks and footpaths, increase street lighting maintenance."

"Education around homeless people and rough sleepers – what the Town does already."

"Identifying businesses on the strip that are safe spaces, implementing a sticker system to identify a space and maybe listing them on an app map." – Stakeholder

In terms of 'things to do', library programs were some of the most well-known and used, and the range of library offerings for young people has increased over the last few years. Outside of better promotion, the main feedback was that activities need to be more age appropriate— young people said they often felt too old or too young; that there should be more small and local events, and that consistency was really important. We also heard that with the current cost of living crisis impacting the state, that continuing to offer free and low-cost options was important; especially for local services supporting vulnerable young people. The WA Government encourages organisations across the state that engage with children and young people under the age of 18 to implement the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations. A focus on developing child safe policies and practices by using existing templates from

the State Government, the Commissioner for Children and Young People and work that other local governments in this space have done will be addressed in this Plan.

"In Vic Park there isn't a lot of things to do, yes there definitely is some such as going shopping or going to cafes, but maybe not enough activity-wise for people under 18."

The Town and surrounding areas are relatively service-dense, meaning there are opportunities for the Town to work collaboratively with local mental health support providers, community organisations and small businesses to deliver diverse and engaging opportunities for young people. Some of the most critical issues for young people in the Town related to their health and wellbeing, including school/study stress (50%), cost of living (36%) and mental health (32%).

"Focus on consistency; activities being the same place, same time (which helps with not needing to do ongoing promotion for ad hoc events and activities)." – Stakeholder

"Continue to improve the relationship with PCYC and City of South Perth for resource sharing (funds and people)."

MORE INFORMATION

To discuss the Youth Action Plan
2025–2028 or provide feedback,
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