

CUMBERLAND COUNCIL YOUTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of Meeting held on Monday, 25 February 2019 at 6pm in the Committee Rooms, Council Administration Building, Merrylands.

1. *Open of Meeting*

Roydon Ng gave an Acknowledgment of Country and welcomed all members to the Youth Advisory Committee of Cumberland Council at 6:14pm.

2. *Record of Attendance, Introductions and Apologies*

Attendance List:

Clr Suman Saha	Councillor and Committee Member
Clinton Colaco	Committee Member
Hayat Akbari	Committee Member
Madison King	Committee Member
Roydon Ng	Committee Member
Skandan Siva Kumaradas	Committee Member
Trina Anupoma Das	Committee Member

Council Staff in Attendance:

Adama Kamara	Acting Manager, Community Development and Planning
Apajok Biar	Youth Participation Officer
Maia Giordano	Youth Participation and Programs Coordinator
Merryn Howell	Acting Group Manager, Community and Culture
Michael Brown	Manager, Culture and Activation

Apologies:

Clr Kun Huang	Councillor and Committee Member
Brindha Srinivas	Committee Member
Zoya Fazil Shah	Committee Member

Non Attendance:

Jack Zhang	Committee Member
Sami Mongol	Committee Member

3. *Conflicts of Interest*

There were no conflicts of interest declared.

ITEMS DISCUSSED BY THE COMMITTEE:

4. *Minutes of Previous Meeting*

Minutes of the last meeting held on 3 December 2018, were passed and adopted as a true and accurate record. Moved by Skandan Siva Kumaradas and seconded by Maddison King.

5. **Business Arising**

Rotation of Chairperson

Council has developed a roster to rotate the role of chairperson for future meetings amongst Youth Advisory Committee members under 25 years of age. The following roster was adopted for future meetings in 2019.

Committee Meeting	Chairperson
27 May 2019	Brinda Srinivas
26 August 2019	Trina Anupoma Das
25 November 2019	Clinton Colaco

Women in Construction Project (*Youth Strategy Actions 2.3.2, 3.1.3*)

Maddison King provided an update on the Female High School Students in Construction Program.

- University of Technology Sydney (UTS) is now affiliated with the Women in Construction Project. This provides the project access to funding from UTS and free use of UTS venues for events.
- The one day event will be held at UTS. The event will target high school students and will be open to all students from the Cumberland Local Government Area.
- Council has submitted a grant application through the Department of Industry, Innovation and Science for the project and is currently awaiting the outcome of the application. UTS Women in Construction is also seeking interest from potential sponsors to support the event.
- Once the date is confirmed for the competition, promotion to schools will commence.

Actions or Recommendations Arising:

- 5.1 Brinda Srinivas to chair the next meeting in May as per roster adopted by the Committee.
- 5.2 Further planning to be undertaken by Council and Committee Working Group members to determine the date and promote the Women in Construction Project event to local schools.

6. **Update on Implementation of the Cumberland Youth Strategy 2017 - 2021**

- Overall 66% of actions in the Cumberland Youth Strategy 2017 - 2021 are either 'in progress', 'on track' or 'completed', based on key performance indicators in the year 1 and 2 implementation plan.
- A mid-way progress review on the implementation of the Youth Strategy will be completed and to Council in July 2019.

January School Holiday Program Review (*Action 3.1.1*)

A total of 160 young people participated in the January School Holiday Program with 95% of participants providing feedback on activities they attended. Feedback showed an overall high level of satisfaction.

Highlights from feedback showed:

- 97% of respondents said they would recommend the activity to a friend.
- 80% of participants reported the activities were excellent or very good.
- 65% of participants gained new skills or knowledge during the activity.

Girls Only Program at Auburn Centre for Community (Actions 3.1.3, 3.1.2)

In response to needs identified by young girls, Council has established a new weekly girls-only program commencing in March at the Auburn Centre for Community in partnership with local services.

To develop the Program, Council, NSW Service for the Treatment & Rehabilitation of Torture & Trauma Survivors (STARTTS) and the Community Migrant Resource Centre (CMRC) consulted 39 girls between August and December 2018. The girls identified that they wanted a variety of activities to be offered.

Services have reported that girls have low knowledge of services and support in the Cumberland area so a weekly program program has been developed in partnership with 6 different local services to connect and build awareness of local services amongst girls. Youth Off The Streets will be the lead agency, expanding on their existing Girls-Only Program.

Employment Hub Program (Action 1.1.1)

A new Employment Hub at Guildford Community Centre commenced in Term 4, 2018. The Program is run in partnership with MTC Employment.

In the first 2 months, 3 young people have secured jobs and at least 5 have been trained.

Council is also exploring other partnerships with services who provide support to people seeking asylum and/or from refugee backgrounds.

Cumberland Youth Interagency (CYI) Schools Working Group (Actions 2.3.2, 2.4.1)

A Schools Working Group has been established through the Cumberland Youth Interagency to build greater coordination amongst services and address the lack of coordination amongst service providers working in schools.

Current Priorities and Projects

Current priorities for Council's Youth Participation and Programs Team include:

- Youth-Led Social Media Campaign (Action 4.1.5)
- Youth Participation Framework (Actions 4.1.1, 4.1.2) - Consultations with 23 young people have informed the development of a Youth Participation Framework to inform the work of Council and ensure the 'local lens' of youth participation in Cumberland.
- Homework Help and Literacy Program (Action 2.1.1) - Council has undertaken a review across the LGA to understand existing programs, needs and gaps for Homework Help, Study Support and Literacy Programs in Cumberland. A total of 13

services and 6 schools have responded to the survey. Council will play a coordination and connection role with local partners to understand and respond to the gaps.

- Police and Youth Footy Game (*Action 5.6.2*) - In response to barriers between police and young people identified through the Youth Strategy, a football match is being planned for 15 March 2019 at Granville Park involving police and young people.

Actions or Recommendations Arising:

- 6.1 Council to distribute a status update on the progress of the implementation of the Youth Strategy to the Committee for further review and for discussion at the next Youth Advisory Committee meeting.
- 6.2 Council will provide an update on the Employment Pathways Program (*Actions 1.1.2, 1.2.1*) at the next Youth Advisory Committee meeting.

7. Cumberland Cultural Plan Consultation (Youth Strategy Action 5.4.1)

Council has been developed a new Cultural Plan to guide Council's planning of events, programs, and infrastructure in relation to arts and culture over the next ten years.

Input was sought from Committee members on ideas to support arts, culture and creativity to inform the Draft Cultural Plan.

Feedback from Committee:

- Opportunities to involve more local churches and Christian groups in Council's Christmas event.
- Programs which support arts and drawing to support local artists.
- Decorations around Town Centres which represent and promote the diverse cultures across Cumberland as well as promoting street art. These factors increase the vibrancy of Town Centres.

Actions or Recommendations Arising:

- 7.1 Council to review feedback from young people and distribute the Draft Cultural Plan during public exhibition period.

8. Youth Participation Framework (Youth Strategy Action 4.1.1)

The aim of the Youth Participation Framework is to embed a youth participation approach within Cumberland Council and identify all the ways in which Council connects and works with young people.

The purpose of this Framework is to ensure an evolving understanding of and approach to/practice of youth participation which:

- Is evidence-based.
- Is founded on the lived experience of local young people.
- Draws on local and international good-practice.
- Functions within the scope, role and responsibilities of Council.

- Transforms Council's approach to better represent the best interests of the community.

Young people were consulted on the term 'Active citizenship'.

Feedback from Committee:

Feedback from the Committee Members on their first impressions of the term "Active Citizenship" included:

- Participation
- Sharing youth talents/volunteering
- Donations or monetary
- Cultural integration
- Australia pride/being Aussie
- Singing the National Anthem
- Law abiding
- Engaging with friends
- Helping government bodies see short comings and gaps
- Giving suggestions to improve the community
- Having your say
- Being yourself, others and the community
- Express opinions safely and securely
- Contributing to the community
- Having opportunities
- Economic and social contribution to society
- Participation in social events
- Asked to express one's own opinions and ideas
- Honesty
- Respect
- Networking with all ages
- It can give the impression that only citizens can get involved

Discussions also focused on who may be excluded from the term "Active Citizenship" and alternative terms that could be used such as "Active Participation". Feedback suggested that participation can be a bit vague and may not necessarily indicate belonging.

Actions or Recommendations Arising:

- 8.1 Council will provide an update on the Youth Participation Framework at the next Youth Advisory Committee meeting.

9. Youth Week Update and Youth Week 2020

The Youth Week Planning Team, comprised of 9 young people, has been planning activities for Youth Week, April 2019. The Planning Team have developed a Social Media Campaign, called 'Faces of Cumberland', after receiving Social Media Training.

Three Youth Week events being planned including:

- Movie and Night market on 12 April 2019.
- Basketball workshop at Auburn PCYC on 13 April 2019.
- Inflatable Land at Bathurst Street Park Greystanes on 16 April 2019.

Input was sought from the Committee on planning for 2020 Youth Week and how best to involve a wider group of young people in the planning process.

Feedback from Committee:

- Seek youth representatives from different, existing community groups (sporting groups, religious, cultural groups, organisations and schools) to be involved.
- Promote as a leadership opportunity and tap into existing networks.
- Council to better engagement with networks to promote opportunities and use different promotional strategies.
- Council's 'Have Your Say' site could be more youth friendly and there are better ways to engage.

Actions or Recommendations Arising:

9.1 Feedback from the Planning Team on the outcomes of the 2019 Youth Week activities and 2020 planning to be discussed at the next Youth Advisory Committee meeting.

10. Youth Advisory Committee Vacancies

There are currently 2 vacancies on the Committee. Expressions of Interest are open until Friday, 1 March 2019.

Feedback from Committee:

- Council to promote the opportunity through local schools.

Actions or Recommendations Arising:

10.1 Council to promote the EOI through Council's Facebook site and share with Committee members.

11. General Business

Progress on the implementation of the Cumberland Youth Strategy 2017 – 2021

The Committee requested a detailed overall progress update on all actions in the Youth Strategy. Council will be undertaking a midway review of the Strategy to cover the period July 2017 to June 2019. This will be the focus of the next Committee meeting in May 2019.

Safety Audits (Youth Strategy Action 5.4.2)

Council will be undertaking a Safety and Access Audit in Toongabbie Town Centre on Tuesday, 26 March 2019 from 7 to 9pm and is seeking youth representation. Participants will meet at the Toongabbie Community Centre for a short briefing before going out to the audit area.

Actions or Recommendations Arising:

- 11.1 Council to send a scorecard update on the progress of implementing the Youth Strategy to Committee members.
- 11.2 Committee members to promote the safety audit and encourage local young people to attend.

12. Close of Meeting

Meeting closed at 7:50pm.

Next Meeting: Monday, 27 May 2019 at 6pm in Committee Rooms, Council Administration Building, Merrylands.