



TOWN OF
VICTORIA PARK

Youth Action Plan

2021-24

All young people who live or visit the Town of Victoria Park feel safe, connected, and have opportunities to contribute and thrive.



WE'RE OPEN
VIC PARK

What's in the Youth Action Plan

Acknowledgement of Country	3
A thank you to our peer researchers	3
Context	4
Message from the Mayor	4
Why we developed the Plan	4
How we developed the Plan	5
The strategic context	5
Six key issues and trends	5
Mental Health	5
Employment	6
Poverty and hardship	6
Technology and online media	7
Youth activism and advocacy	7
Co-design	8
Community Engagement	8
Who we talked with	8
What we learned	9
A snapshot of young people in the Town	9
Key findings	9
Youth Action Plan 2021-2024	13
The framework	13
Our vision for young people	13
Our strategic direction and actions	13
Focus area 1: Civic participation	14
Focus area 2: Communication	15
Focus area 3: Places, activities and events	16

Focus area 4: Health and wellbeing	17
Delivering the Plan	18
Review	18

Acknowledgement of Country

The Town acknowledges 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 thanks them for the contribution made to life in the Town of Victoria Park and to this region.

A thank you to our peer researchers

The Town of Victoria Park thanks all the young people who contributed to the development of this Plan by sharing their ideas at workshops and through surveys. We especially thank the eight young people who formed our peer research team. These young residents provided their advice and guidance throughout the process. They spoke with hundreds of their peers and ensured that young people were involved in the Plan at every stage.

Figure 1: Backrow left to right: Reagan, Noah, Madieson, Isabella, Ella. Front row left to right: Jafari, Madi, Farbod.



Context

Message from the Mayor

I am delighted to present this Youth Action Plan to enhance the lives of young people living in the Town of Victoria Park, and to empower them to make their own unique contributions to the life of our community.

Local government has an important role in valuing the contributions that young people make to the fabric of our society, in creating opportunities for them to feel safe and connected to their community, and in planning and delivering affordable, accessible and diverse services for the benefit of all youth.

I also believe that Council has a responsibility to encourage and inspire the next generation of leaders and community citizens.

The key focus areas for this Plan are Civic Participation, Communication, Places, Activities and Events, and Health and Wellbeing. Central to all these focus areas is working collaboratively with young people about the issues that matter to them, and giving them a voice in planning, designing and decision-making that will impact on them.

The Plan is a roadmap for delivering positive outcomes and helping the Town to live its vision to be a dynamic place for everyone.

I would like to acknowledge and thank the Town's Community Development Officers and the Youth Affairs Council of Western Australia for their hard work in making this special Plan a reality.

Most importantly, on behalf of our Council, I would like to acknowledge with gratitude more than 500 young people, their families, supporters and educators who participated in the preparation of this Plan, and with special mention to our peer researchers. Your voices are the heart and soul of this Plan, and your excitement and commitment to creating the vision, principles and actions in the Plan has been truly inspiring. With the Town's ongoing support, I feel certain that our future is in your good hands.

Mayor Karen Vernon

Why we developed the Plan

The Town of Victoria Park is a vibrant inner-city local government authority with young people aged 12 to 25 making up approximately 16% of our resident population. At the end of 2020, the Town started work on the development of a *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.

The development of this Plan has been driven by the Town’s vision that Victoria Park is a *dynamic place for everyone*. Its development has centred on the empowerment of young people, engaging with both young residents and visitors to understand their needs and what the Town can do to ensure that they are heard, included and planned for.

This Plan provides an innovative and responsive guide to our investment in programs, events and facilities for young people and how we will involve young people in planning and decision making across all areas of the Town’s operations.

How we developed the Plan

The development of this Plan involved desk top research on the strategic context, current and future youth issues and trends and a robust community consultation with young people, parents and caregivers, community organisations and Town staff.

Nov 2020 - Feb 2021	Feb – April 2021	April 2021	April – May 2021	June – July 2021	July – August 2021
Desktop research and planning	Community engagement	Draft vision and focus areas presented to Council	Draft <i>Youth Action Plan 2021-2024</i> developed	Public comment on Draft <i>Youth Action Plan 2021-2024</i>	Finalise the <i>Youth Action Plan 2021-2024</i>

The strategic context

The development of the *Youth Action Plan 2021-2024* was informed by the Town’s *Strategic Community Plan (SCP) 2017-2032*. Actions within this Plan support a number of the SCP’s strategic outcomes. Information gathered through this consultation also fed into *VicVision*—the major review of the SCP that ran in parallel to the development of this Plan.

Six key issues and trends

The Plan was informed by desktop research into the key issues and trends facing young people in WA. We identified **six key issues and trends** relevant to the Town—these represent challenges to addressing the most pressing needs of young people, but also opportunities for new ways of working and connecting.

Mental Health

An estimate of 17.5% of young people aged 12 to 24 have mild, moderate or severe mental health issues and one in ten young people aged 16 to 24 have reported seriously considering ending their own life. COVID-19 has had a significant impact on young people’s mental health with 91% reporting an impact on their mental health and stress levels during the pandemic. Mental health has consistently stayed in the top three issues for young people in Mission Australia’s annual youth survey over many years. We know that early intervention

and prevention is critical to supporting young people's mental health and needs a whole of community response.

The Town of Victoria Park

- Approximately 15% of young people we talked with self-identified as living with a mental health difficulty.
- 60% of young people aged 18 to 25 we spoke to told us that mental health was an issue relevant to them.
- The Town has a youth specific mental health service within its borders, but many young people had not heard of it.

Employment

Youth unemployment in WA was at critical levels before the pandemic with young people facing increasing instability and casualisation of their work. Mitigation measures related to the COVID-19 pandemic in WA have disproportionately impacted young people's work with many of the hardest hit industries—hospitality, retail and the arts—employing high numbers of young people. At the peak of the outbreak in 2020, 23% of all jobs lost in WA affected 15-to-19-year olds. The transition for young people from full-time education to the world of work is increasingly uncertain. Recent research by the Foundation for Young Australians (FYA) tells us that half of Australia's 25-year-olds are unable to secure full-time employment, despite 60% holding post-school qualifications. Things that helped included an education that builds enterprise skills, being able to undertake paid work experience, finding employment in a growing sector and an optimistic mindset.

The Town of Victoria Park

- Unemployment or underemployment was considered a relevant issue for the 23% of young people we talked with.
- Young people whose employment was impacted by COVID-19, said this had led to other challenges, such as housing insecurity.
- Many identified significant employment opportunities in the Town for young people due to the café/restaurant strip, Optus stadium and Burswood.

Poverty and hardship

COVID-19 has created new poverty and exacerbated existing hardship. Whilst the Federal Government provided some supports during the peak of the crisis, these were not equally accessible, and many young people missed out. More than half of those accessing at least one food pantry during COVID-19 were young people. Young people are more mobile in their employment, and a large number work in casual roles—meaning many were ineligible for JobKeeper payments. For young people to achieve parity in their quality of life with other members of the community, local government authorities have a role to play in providing free or low-cost, low barrier access to quality community services such as community events and activities, sport and recreation facilities, parks and open spaces, libraries and museums.

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- 33% of young people told us that the cost of things was a barrier to them accessing places and activities; 48% of parents/caregivers told us that the cost of things was a barrier for young people in their care.
- Free or low-cost activities were highly desired by the young people we spoke with.
- Financial hardship was an issue that was relevant for 30% of 18-to-25-year olds and housing affordability was an issue for 39% of this same age group.

Technology and online media

Rapidly evolving technology and online media is a permanent fixture of most young peoples' lives with access to information being at their fingertips. This provides exciting new opportunities for organisations to engage with young people, however unless those organisations stay abreast of current trends, social media platforms and the way young people consume information, communication strategies quickly become outdated and fail to hit the mark. New technology also brings new risks including privacy concerns, fraud, social media misuse, cyber bullying and more. The recent pandemic also brought the somewhat hidden digital divide to light—with a small portion of young people who lack access to devices and data being less able to apply for jobs, access online services such as Centrelink and telehealth, access online education and stay connected during times of isolation.

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- 43% of parents and caregivers thought social media was an issue for young people they cared for, and 78% thought it was an issue for other young people.
- Social media was the most frequently suggested method for capturing young people's ideas on a regular basis.
- Facebook and Instagram were the most popular social media platforms for young people finding out about things that were going on.

Youth activism and advocacy

Young people have always been involved in agitating for change. However within the last five years, there has been a significant surge in young people instigating and leading large-scale global movements, such as the school strikes for climate justice; Black Lives Matter rallies for racial justice; and rallies and social media campaigns about sexual assault and gender inequality. Progressive and bold organisations are recognising these youth-led movements as a force for change. Both not-for-profit, business and Government entities are starting to use their resources and reach to elevate the voices of young people and provide support through access to spaces, funding, structures, processes, and platforms.

Town of Victoria Park

- 53% of young people aged 18 to 25 said climate change was an issue of relevance to them.

- Many young people were concerned about issues such as homelessness, inequality and racism and wanted to be involved in doing something to help in their community.
- The Town's value of being 'proactive' aligns with supporting young people in this way—with the SCP stipulating '*We will look to cause positive things to happen rather than waiting to respond*'.

Co-design

An understanding of the need to involve community members in the design of services has been growing steadily for a number of years. This has included a growing understanding of the benefits of involving young people in the design and delivery of spaces, facilities, programs, and initiatives. The language typically used now is co-design. Organisations that wish to co-design with young people often employ a youth advisory group model, however this model is not without its pitfalls. Typical challenges include high attrition and drop-off rates, difficulties in attracting participation from minority groups, and engagement being tokenistic. The reasons for these challenges include a mismatch between youth expectation and actual scope of the group, poor support for the young people involved, not allocating appropriate resourcing to compensate young people for their lived experience and not embedding the model adequately in the organisation's decision-making process.

Town of Victoria Park

- Many young people who responded to the youth survey said they were interested, or possibly interested in being part of a youth leadership program at the Town.
- The Young Changemaker workshop hosted at the end of the consultation had a high level of interest—places sold out and there was a waitlist.
- Young people told us that they wanted to get real life and hands on experience with roles that had responsibility.

Community Engagement

Who we talked with

To develop the *Youth Action Plan 2021-2024*, we talked with **521 young people** aged 12 to 25. This included 434 through surveys and 87 at workshops.

- 38% were aged 12 to 17 and 62% were aged 18 to 25
- 68% lived in the Town and 32% were connected with the Town in other ways
- 78% were studying full-time or part-time
- 54% were working full-time, part-time or casually
- 29% went to high school in the Town; 25% went to Curtin University
- 8% volunteered
- 55% female, 43% male and 2% non-binary or intersex

- 22% LGBTIQ+
- 18% culturally and linguistically diverse
- 15% living with a mental health difficulty
- 3% Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander
- 3% young carers
- 1.6% identified as having a disability

We also heard from:

- 56 parents and caregivers
- 14 organisations that work with young people
- Town staff and Councillors

What we learned

A snapshot of young people in the Town

- Young people aged 12 to 25 represent 16% of the Town's population¹
- The Town has a *lower* proportion of young people aged 12 to 17 than that Greater Perth average (3.9% compared to 7.2%)
- The Town has a *higher* proportion of young people aged 18 to 25 than the Greater Perth average (11.9% compared to 9.4%)
- East Victoria Park has the highest number of young residents
- Five schools that cater for high school aged young people are located within the Town
- Three tertiary institutions are located in the Town
- 7.1% of 15-to-24-year-olds in the Town of Victoria Park are disengaged from employment and education

Key findings

Young people who live and visit the Town of Victoria Park have a diverse range of experiences. What they have in common is that they want to feel **safe and connected**, they want to be part of a community that enables them to **thrive**, and **opportunities to contribute** to that community.

Most young people really enjoy living and being in the Town—they like the vibrancy, inclusiveness, diversity and central location. They also identified areas for improvements and opportunities for the Town to address youth issues, build connection and provide opportunities for them to contribute to their community.

Civic participation

- 52% of youth survey respondents shared ideas for ways that they thought the Town could develop a program to help young people be community leaders

¹ ABS Census data 2016.

- 57% were interested in finding out more about opportunities for young people

Having opportunities to contribute to their community was important to a lot of young people, with many expressing an interest in social issues and a desire to help in some way. Some wanted to see more young people on Council and more young people voting. There was also an interest in funding and supporting youth-led initiatives.

Many young people expressed an interest in contributing more to how decisions were made in Council. Some were keen on being part of advocacy and lobbying for big changes. Others said they wanted to be asked their opinion more often through polls, surveys or social media. Some young people thought they could help the Town plan and organise events and promotions.

"Maybe programs that set aside a budget to allow youth groups to have the freedom in setting up programs the way they feel is best and the way they feel is most successful. Coordinators can be assigned to assure they stay on track."

Communication

Top five ways young people report that they find out what is going on:

1. Friends
2. Facebook
3. Family
4. Instagram
5. Google search

45% of young people said that 'not being aware of things' was the biggest barrier for them getting to things they wanted. Both young people, parents and caregivers and some organisations told us that they often just did not know about what services, facilities or events were available. Young people use Instagram and Facebook but also find out about things from friends and family. Parents and caregivers find out a lot of information from local Facebook pages.

Young people said that the Town needs to communicate in more youth friendly ways and thought that it would be helpful and innovative to get young people to help design campaigns to promote things in the community. Most importantly they said that the Town needed to hold events and programs and talk to young people in places that they went to already.

"More engagement through social media, especially through Instagram and TikTok as most young people use those apps more frequently. Personally, it's easier for me to engage in social media like Instagram story polls."

Places, activities and events

The top five places young people enjoy visiting in the Town:

1. Cafes and restaurants

2. Optus Stadium
3. The Swan River
4. Parks and ovals
5. Shopping areas

Young people reported that they really love the Town's café and restaurant strip, but money is an issue; and the desire for student nights or discounts for young people was raised a number of times.

Young people said most events in the Town seemed family oriented and not for them. They wanted to see more youth-focused events and activities. Most people we talked with felt that there were good *formal* sport options in the Town, but that there was a need for more informal or drop-in sport activities. Young people really valued some of the green open spaces and natural places such as the Swan River and MacMillan Park and wanted to see these looked after well. They identified these spaces as great locations for pop up sports or other activities.

All the groups we engaged with expressed a desire to see more creative arts and music opportunities for young people in the Town. There were many places in the Town that young people hadn't heard of, such as the Victoria Park Centre for the Arts or the Victoria Park Community Centre, and others such as the Victoria Park Library and Leisurelife that they thought needed a refresh and more youth specific programming to be attractive.

“Think about the pursuits of the 13-17 age group. They have sport opportunities or nothing. It's awful.”

Health and wellbeing

Young people told us that the top five issues relevant to them were:

1. Mental health
2. Climate change
3. Body image
4. School or study stress
5. Environmental sustainability

Many young people told us that it was difficult to find a job, both entry level and in their field and identified that there could be opportunities for partnerships with businesses in the Town and educational institutions. Young people wanted more opportunities to develop life skills and job ready skills, and more chances to get their foot in the door via volunteering, work experience and internships.

“More job/volunteering opportunities to enhance resume and gain experience”

Feeling safe was very important for young people. Young people told us that they feel unsafe in areas of poor lighting or where there was a lot of anti-social behaviour, with 'hotspot' areas including the underpass on Shepperton Road near Ursula Frayne Catholic College, train stations, bus stops and John MacMillan Park. Some of the areas they felt

unsafe related to places where drinking alcohol was taking place, such as the Albany Highway Strip and Crown Casino. There was a desire for better lighting in areas where young people want to spend time.

Transport around the Town was seen as good in some areas, and poor in others. Young people said they often didn't feel safe waiting at bus stops, and poor transport after hours on weekends was a concern for young people that didn't drive or found it hard to get their licence. Young people who were without family support found it difficult to get their supervised driving hours needed to get their licence.

Young people were concerned about lack of mental health services, but many didn't know that the Town has a mental health service located in Burswood.

Climate change and sustainability was an important issue for young people, and they identified many sustainability areas that they are thought the Town could work on.

Youth Action Plan 2021-2024

The framework

This framework has been developed with a focus on practical and achievable actions to guide the Town's delivery of the Plan. The content has been informed by robust community engagement and research into current issues and trends for young people in the Town of Victoria Park.

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

Our vision for young people

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

Our strategic direction and actions

The *Youth Action Plan 2021-2024* sets out a number of desired outcomes and a set of coordinated actions, each with an identified lead, budget, defined timeframe, and measures for monitoring our progress that will help us achieve our vision for young people in the four defined focus areas.

Focus area 1: Civic participation

Young people have opportunities to be involved in Town planning and decision making in areas that impact them. These opportunities are delivered in ways that enable a diversity of young people to contribute according to their skills, interests and abilities.

Our Strategic Community Plan states that *'We are the Perth's most empowered and engaged community'*. The Plan's first focus area puts this into practice through an innovative Youth Leadership and Civic Engagement model. Our consultation with young people in the development of this Plan demonstrated that they welcome being genuinely asked to contribute and that they want to do this on an ongoing basis. Youth issues and culture change quickly and an engagement such as this is always a singular point in time. The actions in this focus area are prioritised for immediate roll out because they are critical to the successful delivery of actions in the other three focus areas. The Youth Leadership and Civic Engagement model will maximise the skills and passions of young people and facilitate contribution to many areas of operation across the Town.

#	Actions	Lead	Budget	Y1	Y2	Y3	Measures of success
1.1	Establish <i>Young Changemaker</i> program—a team of young people recruited for their diversity in backgrounds and interest in working on youth advocacy and engagement with the Town.	Community Development	\$8,000 (annual)				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recruitment process established Eight young residents participate Diversity of young people represented
1.2	Establish a <i>Young Influencers</i> program—a team of young people recruited for their diversity in backgrounds and interest in working on youth events and youth communications with the Town.	Community Development	\$8,000 (annual)				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recruitment process established Eight young residents participate Diversity of young people represented
1.3	Roll out the <i>Young Changemaker</i> and <i>Young Influencers</i> program including annual recruitment, delivery and evaluation	Community Development	Additional CD staffing				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 80% participant retention rate 80% of participants report skill development 80% of participants report making a difference to their community
1.4	Establish and roll out a Youth e-database—a mechanism for young people to sign up to and provide responses to quick questions/surveys via SMS/email on their opinions to Town plans and decisions	Community Development / Communications	Existing				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Database established Minimum of 100 sign-ups each 18-months 50% response rate to each engagement

							<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % increase satisfaction rate of young people with engagement by the Town
1.5	Develop a youth engagement cheat sheet for all staff in the Town who connect with or plan for young people in their role	Community Development	Existing				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Youth Engagement Programs are used by teams in the Town to inform planning/decision making
1.6	Work with the <i>Young Changemaker Team</i> to develop youth-focused Council election copy and materials to encourage more young people aged 18 to 25 to vote in Council elections	Communications	Existing				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trial undertaken in first year • % increase of young people aged 18 to 25 voting in the Town's Council elections
1.7	Review and rescope the youth donations program to support youth-led projects and programs that focus on youth development within the Town	Events, Arts and Funding	Existing				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Donations budget is fully expended • At least 1 impact story collected and shared

Focus area 2: Communication

Young people receive information about initiatives and opportunities in the Town in the most efficient and effective way for them. This information is delivered in youth-friendly formats in places young people go, or from people they connect with.

Our Strategic Community Plan states that *'We are inclusive and connected with a thriving community'*. One of the strongest themes from the consultation for this Plan was that young people just did not know what was on offer in the Town. They frequently hadn't heard of places and events that were suitable for them and they didn't feel included because the Town's communications were not targeted to them. They wanted to see more youth-friendly information from the Town; and for this to be co-developed with young people to keep it fresh and on trend. They emphasised the importance of communicating with young people where they are at rather than expecting them to come to us.

#	Actions	Lead	Budget	Y1	Y2	Y3	Measures of success
2.1	Develop a youth page on the Town's website with information about all that is on offer for young people; tag all Town events suitable for young people on the Events page	Communications / Community Development	Existing				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Web page established • All Town events, initiatives and programs relevant for young people are kept up to date on the website • Increase in # of unique visits per annum

2.2	Work with the <i>Young Influencers team</i> to develop youth-friendly promotional campaigns for Town facilities, events and initiatives, including identifying where to promote things	Communications	Existing				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Town staff report an increase in young people attending their programs, services or initiatives
2.3	Work with the <i>Young Influencers team</i> to develop youth-friendly digital content	Communications	TBA				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two youth take over days are held per year Young people involved report learning new skills # of youth related posts per annum
2.4	Work with the <i>Young Influences team</i> to build stronger connections with local community Facebook pages to promote youth related events and programs to parents and caregivers	Community Development	Existing				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New connections are built with community run Facebook pages 50% of youth programs are promoted through these platforms
2.5	Develop and promote a youth-friendly annual report on progress made towards the <i>Youth Action Plan 2021-2024</i>	Community Development	Existing				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report is promoted on social media, to schools and other organisations that work with young people

Focus area 3: Places, activities and events

Young people visit places and spaces in the Town that are activated, youth-friendly, inclusive and accessible. Young people have a variety of youth focused and youth-friendly activities and events available to them.

Our Strategic Community Plan states that *'We are Perth's premier place for entertainment and entrepreneurship'* and *'We put people first in urban design'*. The Plan's third focus area looks at young people's inclusion in the planning and programming of inclusive spaces and activities. Young people told us that there were great, vibrant places and spaces in the Town, but that few were youth focused. The cost of things was a barrier, and they wanted to see more arts and culture activities and more activities for high school aged young people. Young people saw a great opportunity to partner with businesses in the Town. They also saw a role for the Town in making places around their communities safer so that could access them more easily.

#	Actions	Lead	Budget	Y1	Y2	Y3	Measures of success
3.1	Trial afterschool casual sport drop-in sessions at local parks or other Town spaces	Community Development	TBA				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> # of sessions held per annum 75% average capacity attendance across sessions

3.2	Increase the delivery of free or low-cost arts experiences for youth audiences	Events, Arts and Funding	TBA				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two arts experiences are delivered during the year • 75% average capacity attendance across sessions
3.3	Develop and promote free or low-cost activities for young people aged 12 to 17 (i.e. arts, sustainability, educational)	Library Services	TBA				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in programming for young people aged 12 to 17 • 75% average capacity attendance across sessions
3.4	Co-design and co-deliver an annual youth event with young people from the <i>Youth Influencers team</i> (location to vary)	Community Development	TBA				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual youth event held • 100 young people attending, increasing annually • % satisfaction of young people attending event
3.5	Partner with local business and/or community organisations to run a life skills series for young people in fun, innovative, pop up locations	Place Planning / Community Development	TBA				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two life skills sessions held per year • 75% of young people report a skill increase as a result of attending
3.6	Explore an initiative with local businesses to run student discount days, nights or initiatives	Place Planning	Existing				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discounts for students explored
3.7	Codesign an annual youth safety project with young people, i.e. night activation project, public art mural, safety hotspot focus etc.	Community Development	Grant funding				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One annual youth safety project developed per year

Focus area 4: Health and wellbeing

Young people are aware of and have access to programs and services that support their health and wellbeing. They feel safe and included in their community.

Our Strategic Community Plan states that *'We are inclusive and connected with a thriving community'*. In order to thrive, young people need key issues and challenges that they face to be addressed. Some of the most critical issues for young people in the Town included employment, mental health, and a limited

income. For some of our young people, they also didn't feel connected because of negative images or perceptions of young people in the community. This final focus area delivers actions which aim to provide young people with access to initiatives that will help them thrive and reach their full potential.

#	Actions	Lead	Budget	Y1	Y2	Y3	Measures of success
4.1	Establish a youth career development activities program (or partnership) with a focus on areas in the Town with higher rates of youth disengagement and unemployment	Library Services	Existing				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • # activities held per annum • 75% average capacity attendance at programs • 75% of young report the program activity developed their skills
4.2	Explore the development of a youth-focused career expo in collaboration with schools, university/TAFES, business and other LGA's	Community Development / Place Planning	Grant funding				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exploration undertaken
4.3	Explore opportunities for young people to gain job ready experience at the Town through internships, placements and volunteering	Human Resources	TBA				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • # of Town offered placements for young people annually
4.4	Explore opportunities to partner with Youth Focus to promote youth mental services to young people at Town events and other initiatives	Community Development	Existing				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partnership with Youth Focus established • Youth Focus report increased service awareness by Town residents
4.5	Work with the <i>Young Influencers team</i> to develop a youth-focused initiative for Mental Health Week	Community Development	Existing				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual youth initiative for Mental Health Week delivered
4.6	Explore the feasibility of supporting young people on low income and/or with limited family support to get their licence through establishing or access to a RYDE program (or similar)	Community Development	Grant funding				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exploration undertaken
4.7	Counter negative images of young people by promoting 'good news stories' through the Town's social media and e-newsletter	Communications	Existing				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A minimum of four good news stories are shared per annum

Delivering the Plan

Central to the success of the *Youth Action Plan 2021-2024* is building internal capacity and excellence and partnerships with our community and external organisations. There are a number of actions that will be established to help deliver on the Plan including:

- Employment of a *Youth Programs Officer* who will focus on delivering the *Youth Leadership and Civic Engagement Model*.
- Establishing an internal working group that will meet twice a year to discuss progress on the *Youth Action Plan 2021-2024* and plan coordinated actions.
- Reviewing the *Youth Action Plan 2021-2024* background document and providing information for internal staff on themed areas (i.e. safety and crime prevention, communications, transport, the environment).
- Hosting six-monthly youth focused touch point sessions for external organisations in the Town who work or interact with young people to come together, connect and share upcoming initiatives. This could include a training or upskilling component.
- Exploring partnerships with businesses and community organisations to deliver on key components of the Plan, where appropriate. This could also include joint projects with other connected Local Government Authorities and building strong partnerships with schools.
- There are key projects identified within the Plan that lend themselves to grant opportunities either in their entirety or to establish the project—grant opportunities should be explored over the duration of the Plan.

Review

The Plan will be reviewed annually, with measures of success evaluated and new opportunities incorporated as needed.

Partnership, sponsorship and programming opportunities will be regularly sought by the Town.

To discuss involvement in the Town's youth development or provision, or provide feedback on the Plan, please contact the Town of Victoria Park via:

- Phone (08) 9311 8111
- E-mail admin@vicpark.wa.gov.au
- 99 Shepperton Road, Victoria Park, WA - opening hours 8:30am-5pm Monday to Friday
- Postal address Locked Bag 437, Victoria Park WA