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1. PREAMBLE

1.1 Background

The City of Holdfast Bay is committed to fostering and promoting the contributions and achievements of young people throughout the community.

Council will evaluate and monitor its approaches to create a healthy and collaborative relationship with young people and is committed to exploring opportunities for young people to become active members and community leaders.

Council supports the rights and associated responsibilities of young people to equal opportunity and equitable distribution of services and resources, taking into consideration those with special needs and from trans-cultural backgrounds.

1.2 Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to provide the guiding principles that will set the direction for the City of Holdfast Bay Youth Action Plan in developing programs, services and engagement activities with young people.

This policy recognises the significance of young people in the community and promotes opportunities for young people to be actively involved in decision making, council activities and local and regional community development.

1.3 Scope

This policy applies to the City of Holdfast Bay’s delivery of programs and services for young people within the City of Holdfast Bay, and directs the actions of staff, volunteers and Elected Members.

1.4 Definitions

Child – refers to a person under the age of 18 years of age.

Youth/ Young People – refers to persons falling between the ages of 15 and 24 in accordance with The United Nations definition ‘youth’ as those persons falling between the ages of 15 and 24 years inclusive (www.un.org).

The Youth Sector - The Youth Sector is the term given to organisations, both government and non-government that work with, for and on behalf of young people

Health-The World Health Organisation defines health as “a state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity”.

1.5 Strategic Reference

Community: Building a healthy, active and resilient community

Community: Celebrating culture and diversity

Community: Providing welcoming and accessible facilities

Community: Fostering an engaged and contributing community

2. PRINCIPLES

2.1 Council acknowledges that:

2.1.1 It has a leadership role in understanding and responding to the needs of young people, and in representing their interests to other spheres of government and the broader community.

2.1.2 Young people are active stakeholders in our community.

2.1.3 Young people play an important role in the social, economic, environmental and cultural life of the community, now and into the future.

2.1.4 Young people have a right to be involved in local affairs and in the decision making process of matters that affect them.

2.1.5 Young people have a diversity of strengths, needs, interests, and aspirations reflective of their differing social, economic and cultural backgrounds.

2.1.6 Skill development and social supports plays a central role in enabling young people to participate in community life.

2.2 Positive Youth Profile

The City of Holdfast Bay will:

2.2.1 Promote the positive contributions made by young people within the community.

2.2.2 Seek co-operation from the media to promote positive images of young people.

2.3 Youth Participation and Engagement

The City of Holdfast Bay will:

- 2.3.1 Empower young people to share their views and opinions around issues that may affect their lives, including; Council strategic planning, event and program planning and development of new community facilities, open spaces and public realm.
- 2.3.2 Continue to review and evaluate the effectiveness of the approaches it uses when consulting with young people. Council will support the participation of young people through; HoldUp Youth Committee, Your View, National Youth Week activities, Youth Forums, Focus Groups and digital media.

2.4 Collaboration to Build Capacity

The City of Holdfast Bay will:

- 2.4.1 Work in conjunction with Federal and State Government and non-for-profit youth services to identify gaps and opportunities for improvement and collaboration.
- 2.4.2 Continue to maintain and further develop its relationship with local primary and secondary schools and their Student Representative Council's, within our area, to improve services for young people in our community.
- 2.4.3 Continue to work in association with community organisations, for example church groups, community centres, recreational facilities, State Government agencies and the private sector to ensure that young people have access to a range of services that meet their needs and interests.

2.5 Training and Employment

The City of Holdfast Bay will:

- 2.5.1 Work in partnership with government and non-government employment agencies to support young people to enter and sustain training and employment. This will include; promoting opportunities through local service providers, advocating for the training and employment needs of local young people and where gaps are present, facilitating training and pre-employment programs.
- 2.5.2 Develop links with local industry to encourage job creation and work experience opportunities for young people as well as providing work experience opportunities within Council.

2.6 Promotion of Healthy Lifestyle and Sustainable Living

The City of Holdfast Bay will:

- 2.6.1 Create healthy living environments that enable healthy lifestyle choices for young people and the wider community.
- 2.6.2 Empower young people to act in ecologically sustainable ways.

2.7 Provision for Appropriate Youth Services, Facilities and Activities

The City of Holdfast Bay will:

- 2.7.1 Provide sufficient resources to work with and to support the development of young people in the community.
- 2.7.2 Engage young people during the planning process for all new recreation, community facilities and public spaces.
- 2.7.3 Offer and promote opportunities for young people to engage in arts and cultural events and programs.

2.8 Safe Communities for Young People

The City of Holdfast Bay will:

- 2.8.1 Work with young people, the community, the youth sector, government agencies and non-government organisations to build a safe community for young people.
- 2.8.2 Assist in promoting a positive relationship between young people, law enforcement police and emergency services.

3. REFERENCES

3.1 Legislation

- *Local Government Act 1999*

3.2 Other References

- "Our Place" 2030 Strategic Plan
- City of Holdfast Bay Public Health Plan 2014-2019
- City of Holdfast Bay Children and Vulnerable Persons Safe Environment Policy
- City of Holdfast Bay Tourism Plan 2020
- South Australia Strategic Plan 2011-2020
- Local Government Association Strategic Plan 2011-2015
- Mission Australia Annual Youth Survey www.missionaustralia.com.au
- United Nations World Programme of Action for Youth 1995
- United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child 1989