COUNCIL REPORT

Date: November 20, 2015
From: Arleta Beckett, Manager, Community Development, Youth and Families
Subject: Community Consultation Update: Future Youth Space and Resource Needs
File: 3000-01

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the report dated November 20, 2015 titled, “Community Consultation Update: Future Youth Space and Resource Needs” be received for information.

1.0 Purpose

To bring forward a report on the status of the Future Youth Space and Resource Needs community consultation project.

2.0 Legislation/Bylaw/Policy

The 2008 Blueprint for Social Responsibility and Change identifies principles and actions to strengthen community social support systems and ensure that social issues are considered an integral part of long-term planning for sustainability in West Vancouver.

westvancouver.ca/government/bylaws-strategies-reports/strategies-plans/blueprint-social-responsibility-change

The current community consultation on youth space and resource needs in West Vancouver is the first consultation specific to the needs of West Vancouver’s youth since the District completed a review of its municipal youth services in 2011.

3.0 Background

3.1 Previous Decisions

At the July 18, 2011 regular meeting, Council passed the following resolutions:

1. Parks and Community Services staff take action to implement the six “Key Strategic Directions” identified in this report (pages 6-8) as priorities from the Youth Services Review;
2. Council direct staff to bring forward, in the 2012 Budget submission, with a business case and job description, one additional full-time Youth Development Worker position as part of the ongoing budget for Parks and Community Services in the amount of $75,000 (inclusive of benefits) to start January 1, 2012 to enable the District to meet the underserved needs of youth in the western half of the community;

3. Council authorize staff to bring forward bylaws to expend $15,000 annually for a five year period (2012-2016) from the Youth Activity Fund to provide increased programming that will support the healthy development of youth in West Vancouver;

4. Council direct staff to look at long-term planning options for the revitalization of the Ambleside Youth Centre based on a joint funding model with community partners. The vision of 'Ambleside Youth Place' is for a multi-use facility to serve a broad range of youth activities and services;

5. Council direct staff to establish a Youth Services Review Implementation Group comprised of community stakeholders (youth, parents, external partners, and internal partners) to ensure the six "Key Strategic Directions" identified in the Youth Services Review are implemented; and

6. Council direct staff to bring forward an annual progress report containing key performance indicators, which demonstrates how West Vancouver is moving forward with the delivery of Youth Services.

3.2 History

Municipal recreation services for youth have been delivered through the Parks, Culture and Community Services (PCCS) Division for decades, and from the District's various community centres and facilities. In 1996, the Ambleside Youth Centre (AYC) opened to provide a dedicated drop-in space for youth and to serve as a base to connect with young people through outreach activities.

The District's 2009-2011 strategic planning processes identified youth services as a priority, and this need was further reinforced as a key community priority in the 2010 Community Survey. In September 2010, the District initiated a review of its municipal youth services, delivered through the PCCS Division, to respond to this community priority.

A Youth Services Review Technical Group, comprised of community leaders with specific expertise in youth services, and a Council representative, was formed to assist staff with this process. The Technical Group's primary role was to come forward with an updated municipally delivered youth services strategy for the next five years.

The Youth Services Review Technical Group presented their findings to Council in a Final Report on July 18, 2011. Within the key findings of the report came six key directions, one being to revitalize the AYC site by
pursuing a collaborative community partnership funding model that would result in a multi-use youth facility to serve a broad range of community youth activities and services. The last of the six strategic directions was to ensure implementation and evaluation of the six key strategic directions coming from the Youth Services Review by establishing an implementation group that would monitor implementation and report annually on achievements.

The last remaining key strategic direction that the Youth Services Review: Implementation Group is completing is the revitalization of the AYC, and the current community consultations on future youth space and resource needs will provide options on solutions to this item.

4.0 Analysis

4.1 Discussion

The 2014-2015 Youth Services Review: Implementation Group work plan is:

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| Pursue a coordinated model of service delivery with community partners, using formal partnership agreements, to ensure that youth who need services, beyond the scope of the municipal youth delivery model, are provided with them. | - Support the West Vancouver Hub of Youth Services in its first year of operation around the subject of membership.  
- Continue to explore the gaps that exist for youth in West Vancouver who need access to mental health services. | - The West Vancouver Hub of Youth Services has been in operation since January 2014 and is entering its second "school year" together.  
The Hub meets five times per year and consists of 11 partners from 10 organizations.  
- In the spring of 2015, the North Shore Child and Youth Mental Health and Substance Use Collaborative officially formed and continues to work towards creating timely access to appropriate mental health services for children and youth. |

Revitalize Ambleside Youth Centre.  
Pursue a collaborative community partnership funding model that would result in a multi-use youth facility to serve a broad range of community youth activities and services.  
David Nairne + Associates has been hired to complete a community consultation on future youth space and resource needs in West Vancouver. Two of the three focus groups have occurred, with the third scheduled for
November 27. Following the focus groups, a community survey will go out through westvancouverITE and together with the focus group information will help to inform recommendations for future space and resource needs.

| Building on the success of the work of the Youth Services Review Technical Group, and the community consultations held during the review, establish a model of ongoing implementation and evaluation of the six “Key Strategic Directions” coming from the Youth Services Review. | Determine metrics to measure the effectiveness of the West Vancouver Hub of Youth Services, as well as suggesting additional means of measuring and sustaining progress on the remaining issues dealt with outside of the Hub. | In the June 2015 survey, Hub members report increased communication among partners and positive connections and working relationships as a result of their participation on the Hub. 70% of Hub participants completed the year-end survey. |

4.2 Sustainability

The information gathered through this final phase of the Youth Services Review: Implementation Group will help to inform the District’s land use strategy as it relates to youth needs in the context of overall District land use needs and priorities.

4.3 Public Engagement and Outreach

In the fall of 2015, the District engaged with David Naime + Associates, a local firm with expertise in strategic planning approaches for analyzing services, identifying gaps, and change management recommendations, to develop a comprehensive plan on finding out what youth space and resource needs were in West Vancouver. The project work plan includes community focus groups, surveys, outreach, a gap analysis, and recommendations. The first focus groups held in November 2015 were directed at youth 11-18 years, parents, caregivers, and guardians. Each group went through several interactive exercises that were designed to identify where youth are in West Vancouver (where do youth go when they need help, where do youth go to hang out, where else do they go?); what youth in West Vancouver need and ranking those needs; and what would an ideal youth space look like. Community stakeholders will go through a similar focus group on November 27, 2015, followed by a community survey on westvancouverITE and then further public engagement in January.

Subsequent engagement sessions will take place with the Executive and front line staff.
Once the data has been gathered, a small project group, consisting of staff from PCCS, Planning, and two members of the Youth Services Review: Implementation Group will work with David Nairne + Associates to analyze the gaps and prepare recommendations to come back to Council in the spring of 2016.

4.4 Other Communication, Consultation, and Research

There have been other consultations conducted by the District and/or community partners that have informed the development and delivery of youth services in West Vancouver in recent years:

2006 Civic Youth Strategy Review (of 2002 Civic Youth Strategy): *Take a Walk in our Shoes* (District of West Vancouver);

2009 North Shore Family Court and Youth Justice Committee: Youth Subcommittee Report and Family Subcommittee Report;

2009 *Youth Cafe and Strategic Planning*;

2009 *Living and Learning in West Vancouver* (West Vancouver School District);

2010 West Vancouver Community Survey; and

2011 Youth Services Review – Comparative Review of Other Youth Service Delivery Models.

5.0 Options

5.1 Recommended Option

It is recommended that Council receive this report for information.

6.0 Conclusion

This report is being provided to Council in order to share the achievements of the Youth Services Review: Implementation Group in 2015 and to provide an update on the final work plan item which is expected to conclude in spring 2016.

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