

Fendalton-Waimairi-Harewood Youth Hui – September 2026

Date: Wednesday, 16 September 2026

Time: 10:30 am – 12:30 pm

Venue: Fendalton Library & Service Centre

Notes

Overview

The second annual Youth Hui brought together people and organisations supporting young people across the Community Board area. The discussion reinforced the importance of trusted relationships, safe and affordable places to connect, and activities that young people can help shape. Participants also identified opportunities to improve inclusion, communication and support across the youth sector.

Attended

Twenty-two people attended the hui.

Organisation	Name
Anglican Parish of Burnside Harewood	Shawn Liu
Asian Community Transformation Trust	Allen Hou
Burnside Community Transformation Trust	Emma Saunders
Christchurch City Council Fendalton Waimairi Harewood Community Governance Team	Lisa Gregory, Karen Boag and Natalie Dally
Christchurch City Council Metro Team	Danielle Endacott
Christchurch Youth Council	Kate Burgess
Citizens Advice Bureau	Ronnie Davey
Enabling Good Lives	Mel Haworth and Steve Pesta
Kōmanawa Wesleyan Church	Andrew Sinclair
Papanui Youth Development Trust	Hamish Flynn
St Barnabas Church and Papanui Youth Development Trust	Charlotte Carrell
St Christopher's Avonhead	Jack Hollis
St Margaret's Presbyterian Church Bishopdale	Ryan Feng
Te Haereroa Youth and Girls Brigade at Avonhead Baptist Church	Izzy Byrne-Ladbrook and Viv Fyfe
Te Ora Hou Ōtautahi	Te Kooti Warbrick and Vicki Campbell
Waimāero Fendalton Waimairi Harewood Community Board	Lucy Keown and Nicola McCormick

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Apologies

Organisation	Name
Belfast Community Network	Justine Balcar
Canterbury Rugby Football Union	Vaughan Utteridge
Christchurch Community Church and Burnside Community Transformation Trust	Marcus Sim
Health New Zealand Te Whatu Ora	Sarah Eynon
New Generation Church	Cíntia Rossaneis
Rangatahi Bryndwr Trust	Sarah Coulson
St Christopher's	Joshua Taylor
Te Ora Hou Ōtautahi	Maya Middleton and Jonelle Bennett
The Village Presbyterian Church	Gene Koster

Purpose of the hui

The hui provided an opportunity to connect, compare what organisations are seeing and hearing, explore whether the Burnside Bryndwr Community Network (BBCN) youth survey findings reflect experiences across the wider area, and identify priorities or opportunities to work together.

What participants are noticing

During introductions, each person was invited to briefly explain how their mahi supports young people and share one thing they are currently noticing. A wide range of observations emerged:

- Young people continue to look for connections, belonging and safe places where they can spend time with friends.
- Anxiety appears to be affecting young people at an earlier age, including those at intermediate school.
- Poverty and other pressures on families are contributing to stress for some young people.
- Technology and social media bring both opportunities and concerns, including division, attention pressures and harmful online influences.
- Services are seeing increased demand for support for neurodiverse children and young people.
- New subdivisions and migrant families may need help to build local connections.
- Youth workers, trusted adults and volunteers make a significant difference, but some organisations struggle to find enough people to support the work.
- Sports, gyms, youth groups and welcoming community or faith-based spaces continue to be important places of connection.

Priorities carried forward from the 2025 hui

The group briefly revisited the potential priorities identified in 2025:

- Youth voice and meaningful engagement
- Mental health, wellbeing and safety
- Accessible activities and welcoming spaces
- Youth worker capacity and stronger collaboration
- Better engagement with migrant and culturally diverse young people

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These themes helped shape the 2026 programme. They were originally identified as possible priorities and opportunities for collaboration rather than agreed actions. Discussion at this year's hui indicated that they remain relevant.

BBCN youth survey

Karen presented key findings from the Burnside and Bryndwr Community Voices youth survey. The survey received 577 responses from students in Years 7 to 13 at Cobham Intermediate and Burnside High School. The findings provide a useful local snapshot, but they do not represent every young person across the Community Board area.

Key findings

- 75% already participated in activities at school, outside school or both. A further 12% did not usually participate but would like to.
- 48% wanted more youth-friendly spaces or activities. Another 45% selected 'Not sure', highlighting the value of involving young people in shaping what is offered.
- Friends and family were the main way young people heard about activities. Having friends attend was also the strongest reason for taking part.
- Fun, affordability, timing, proximity and feeling welcome influenced participation.
- The main barriers included being too busy, not knowing what was available, cost, feeling shy or nervous, and transport. Responses also differed between intermediate and high school students, reflecting their different ages and stages of life.
- Young people wanted safe places to connect with friends, varied and affordable activities, and a say in shaping what is available.
- Ideas included sport, music, arts, gaming, events, relaxed places to spend time after school, and improvements to parks, crossings and lighting.
- The parks, recreation and safety feedback has already been shared with the Council Parks team to help inform the renewal of Burnside Park. The wider findings have also been shared with schools, youth workers, community organisations and the Community Board.

Group discussion

Participants worked in small groups to discuss what felt familiar, what appeared different across the wider area, whose voices may be less visible, and what organisations could do better together. Each group then shared its key points. The summary below draws on both the verbal feedback and the comments recorded on the flip-chart paper.

What felt familiar

- Relationships remain central. Young people often go where their friends are and respond to consistent relationships with trusted adults.
- Safe, free and welcoming places to spend time remain important. Participants mentioned youth hubs, sport and recreation spaces, churches, shopping malls and informal places to 'hang out'.
- Food, access to technology and activities that feel social and enjoyable can help young people engage.

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- Young people need a mix of structured activities and informal spaces where they can spend time together.

Differences and voices that may be less visible

- Needs and provision differ by age, neighbourhood and life stage. Participants noted that services are adapting through both targeted and mainstream support.
- Migrant and culturally diverse young people, including those new to the country or neighbourhood, may face language, cultural and relationship barriers.
- Disabled and neurodiverse young people may be less visible in the survey findings and in general youth opportunities.
- Some survey wording may not have resonated with all young people or may have been difficult to interpret.
- Young people who did not feel motivated, invited or connected to the survey may be missing from the findings.
- Social media pressure, gaming, reduced attention and online harms were raised as issues that may require further discussion.
- Participants also raised the importance of culturally safe spaces and youth leaders or volunteers who reflect the communities they support.

Opportunities raised by participants

- Upskill and diversify the youth workforce, including training in mental health, neurodiversity and culturally responsive practice.
- Create more drop-in opportunities at a range of times, including options during the school day where appropriate.
- Explore shared or multi-organisation spaces that can provide consistent relationships and a wider range of support.
- Improve information for young people and schools, potentially through a short youth information sheet or directory.
- Use tools such as youth audits to assess how welcoming and accessible local places and services are.
- Continue exploring healthy ways for young people to manage stress and online influences, including practical self-help resources and harm-reduction approaches.

Asian Youth Collective

Allen Hou from the Asian Community Transformation Trust introduced the Asian Youth Collective and its 'support the supporters' approach. The initiative connects Asian youth leaders with peers, useful resources and experienced mentors.

- Asian young people may be navigating identity, belonging, family expectations, voice and agency, and different understandings of authority and decision-making.
- Many people supporting Asian young people are volunteers who may face leadership tensions or have limited access to wider youth-sector support.

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- Connections with peers can reduce isolation, while mentoring can help leaders work through complex and relational issues.
- Emerging learning suggests that Asian youth leaders benefit from connections with people who have similar experiences, access to resources beyond their existing networks, and experienced leaders who can walk alongside them.

Anyone interested in learning more about the Asian Youth Collective or becoming involved is welcome to contact Allen Hou at allen.hou@actt.org.nz.

Marcus Sim was unable to attend because of illness, so the planned session on his practical experience supporting Asian young people locally did not take place.

Suggested follow-up areas

The discussion identified the following ideas for further consideration. These are suggested follow-up areas rather than confirmed actions, and responsibility, timing and scope still need to be agreed.

- Establish a simple way for organisations in the youth sector to share information, maintain relationships and stay aware of local work.
- Explore a local youth directory or concise information resources that schools and organisations can share with young people.
- Consider joint training for youth workers and volunteers on youth mental health, recognising support needs, neurodiversity and culturally responsive practice.
- Identify or develop tools that young people can use to recognise when they need support and find healthy, reliable help.
- Explore opportunities for shared drop-in spaces, varied opening times and collaboration between organisations.
- Continue finding ways to hear from young people whose voices may be missing, particularly migrant, culturally diverse, disabled and neurodiverse young people.
- Keep youth voice central by involving young people in shaping spaces, activities and future priorities.

Overall takeaway

The hui reinforced that young people value safe and welcoming places, trusted relationships, affordable and varied opportunities, and a genuine say in what happens locally. Participants also saw value in stronger communication, shared learning and practical collaboration across the youth sector.

Thank you to everyone who attended and contributed to the discussion, and to Allen Hou for sharing the work of the Asian Youth Collective.