



AGENDA

Community Partnerships Subcommittee Meeting Thursday, 24 September 2026

Date Thursday, 24 September 2026

Time 1:00 pm

Location Council Chambers
District Council Building
King George Place
Timaru

File Reference 1874423

Community Partnerships Committee

Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the Community Partnerships Subcommittee will be held in the Council Chambers, District Council Building, King George Place, Timaru, on Thursday 24 September 2026, at 1:00 pm.

Community Partnerships Subcommittee Members

Nigel Bowen (Chairperson), Amanda Herewini-Wills, Angela Hall, Anne-Marie Chapman, Craig Chambers, David Duthie, Donna Lindsay, Gavin List, Gordon Handy, Graham Dellow, Joel Burgess, Katy Houstoun, Keith Shaw, Maria Parish (Deputy Chairperson), Martin Winterson, Merali Taylor, Nils Macfarlane, Rawiri Morunga, Rene Templeton, Rosie Chambers, Janya Lobb, Tim Barnett, Tracey Miron, Teresa May, Zoe Kirk, Owen Jackson and Chris Thomas

Quorum – no less than 6 members including at least one Elected Member

Local Authorities (Members' Interests) Act 1968

Members are reminded that if they have a pecuniary interest in any item on the agenda, then they must declare this interest and refrain from discussing or voting on this item and are advised to withdraw from the meeting table.

Stephen Doran

General Manager Corporate

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- 1 Apologies**
- 2 Identification of Items of Urgent Business**
- 3 Identification of Matters of a Minor Nature**
- 4 Declaration of Conflicts of Interest**

5 Confirmation of Minutes

5.1 Minutes of the Community Partnerships Subcommittee Meeting held on 25 June 2026

Author: Jessica Kavanaugh, Democracy Services Lead

Recommendation

That the Minutes of the Community Partnerships Subcommittee Meeting held on 25 June 2026 be confirmed as a true and correct record of that meeting and that the Chairperson's electronic signature be attached.

Attachments

1. Minutes of the Community Partnerships Subcommittee Meeting held on 25 June 2026



MINUTES

Community Partnerships Subcommittee Meeting Thursday, 25 June 2026

Ref: 1874423

**Minutes of Timaru District Council
Community Partnerships Subcommittee Meeting
Held in the Council Chambers, District Council Building, King George Place, Timaru
on Thursday, 25 June 2026 at 1:00 pm**

Present: Nigel Bowen (Chairperson), Clr Owen Jackson, Amanda Herewini-Wills, Gavin List, Graham Dellow, Keith Shaw, Tim Barnett, Tracey Miron, Chris Thomas, Jane Sullivan, Janya Lobb, Zoe Kirk, Katie Ryan, Rebecca Grooby, Carmen Cunningham, Julie Calder, Megan Harding, Cole Gillman, Catherine Fleischman

In Attendance: Stephen Doran (General Manager Corporate), Jess Hurst (Community Partnership Team Lead), Darryn Grigsby (Emergency Management Lead)

1 Apologies

1.1 Apologies Received

Resolution 2026/7

Moved: Chairperson Nigel Bowen

Seconded: Member Owen Jackson

That the apologies of Carol Haig, Nils Macfarlane, Angela Hall and Martin Winterson be received and accepted.

Carried

2 Identification of Items of Urgent Business

No items of urgent business were received.

3 Identification of Matters of a Minor Nature

3.1 Membership Updates

That the Community Partnerships Subcommittee agrees to receive member updates as a Minor Nature item.

4 Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

No conflicts of interest were declared.

5 Confirmation of Minutes**5.1 Minutes of the Community Partnerships Subcommittee Meeting held on 26 March 2026****Resolution 2026/8**

Moved: Member Owen Jackson

Seconded: Member Tracey Miron

That the Minutes of the Community Partnerships Subcommittee Meeting held on 26 March 2026 be confirmed as a true and correct record of that meeting and that the Chairperson's electronic signature be attached.

Carried

6 Reports**6.1 Community Partnerships Update Report - June 2026**

The Community Partnership Team Lead spoke to the report to provide the Community Partnerships Subcommittee with an operational update on activities and progress across the Community Partnerships programme.

Key workstreams included: Representatives from Community Partnerships, and local refugee support organisations attended the National Refugee Resettlement Forum in Wellington. Discussions focused on education, employment and youth outcomes for former refugees. Initial data presented indicated positive long-term settlement outcomes in smaller communities compared with larger centres.

The draft Timaru District Welcoming Plan has been completed and is being finalised prior to adoption.

Funding was successfully secured from MBIE for Welcoming Week activities. A pōwhiri at Arowhenua Marae is planned for 5 September to strengthen relationships with mana whenua and provide opportunities for participants to learn about te ao Māori, local history and harakeke weaving.

Cyber Safety Workshops are planned for September, including one professional development session and two community workshops.

An EcoTalk event was delivered in partnership with Alpine Energy to promote the Home Energy Toolkit programme. Due to strong demand, an additional toolkit has been purchased for the Timaru Library service.

Confirmation has been received that the Mayors Taskforce for Jobs (MTFJ) programme will continue. A recent highlight was the successful South Canterbury Careers Expo, attended by over 800 students.

Members were advised that Timaru will begin welcoming a new cohort of former refugees from Sudan from February 2027, alongside existing Syrian and Kurdish resettlement programmes. Work is underway with MBIE and local stakeholders to prepare the community and support successful settlement outcomes

Resolution 2026/9

Moved: Member Chris Thomas

Seconded: Member Tracey Miron

That the Community Partnerships Subcommittee receives and notes the Community Partnerships Update – June 2026 report.

Carried

7 Consideration of Urgent Business Items

No items of urgent business were received.

8 Consideration of Minor Nature Matters**8.1 Member Updates Received*****Zoe Kirk – South Canterbury Neighbourhood Support***

Crime statistics were shared publicly through social media and at the Positive Ageing Expo, generating strong community interest and discussion around crime prevention and home security.

Joint home visits were undertaken with Fire and Emergency New Zealand and Civil Defence, including outreach in Milford Huts, to support household preparedness and community resilience.

SCNS will be attending the upcoming Family Fun Day, delivered jointly by Women's Refuge and Multicultural Aoraki. A "Feel Safe at Home" zone will be included, featuring community safety agencies and information. Preparations are underway for Neighbours Month in October, including the Amazing Neighbourhood Race, community events, workshops, and activities designed to strengthen neighbourhood connections. Planned activities include security camera workshops, community potluck events, colouring competitions, and emergency preparedness training. Members were advised that additional committee members are being sought, particularly from the Waimate area.

Graham Dellow and Gavin List – Timaru Community Patrol

Update on patrol activities and CCTV monitoring throughout Timaru. Community Patrol volunteers continue to work closely with Police, with volunteers monitoring CCTV cameras during Saturday night patrols. While existing camera coverage in the CBD, Caroline Bay and along key transport routes was acknowledged as valuable, concerns were raised about gaps in coverage around the future Theatre Royal and Museum precinct, Station Street, parts of Caroline Bay, and Marine Parade. Members discussed the process for reviewing CCTV coverage and future camera installation requirements. It was agreed that Community Patrol would work with Council staff to identify areas where additional surveillance may be beneficial and provide recommendations for consideration through future planning and budget processes.

Tim Barnett – Community Trust Mid and South Canterbury

The Community Trust currently manages assets of approximately \$65 million and continues to provide annual grant funding to the community. Recent changes to funding programmes include the introduction of a small grants fund of up to \$5,000, a Flourishing Communities Fund of up to

\$20,000 aimed at groups that have not previously engaged with the Trust, and community-led funding pilots in selected communities. The Trust is also focusing its work around priority areas including youth, housing, health and the environment. Members were advised that Community House will celebrate its 20th anniversary in December. Tim also outlined recent advocacy work, including submissions relating to community investment opportunities. The Trust has been selected by Creative New Zealand to participate in a new regional arts funding partnership for Mid and South Canterbury, creating opportunities for increased arts investment and regional decision-making. Members noted that Creative Communities Scheme funding for Timaru District will continue for the next financial year, with further information on future funding arrangements expected as the regional partnership model develops.

Janya Lobb – Grey Power

Janya Lobb provided an update on behalf of Grey Power South Canterbury and the Timaru Hospital Supporters Group. Members were advised of a new community information brochure focused on scam awareness, personal safety and home security, which will be distributed throughout the district. It was noted that Grey Power is celebrating its 40th anniversary and continues to advocate on issues affecting older people, including New Zealand Superannuation and the contribution older people make through employment, volunteering and caregiving. An update was also provided on projects being supported by the Timaru Hospital Supporters Group, including artwork, seating improvements and specialised chairs to improve comfort and accessibility for patients and visitors. The Group is continuing to explore opportunities to support enhancements at Timaru Hospital and strengthen community involvement in supporting local health services.

Jane Sullivan – National Public Health Services

Update on health promotion activities, with a particular focus on transport as a determinant of health. Work is continuing with schools across the district to support active transport initiatives and promote safe travel for children and young people. Members were advised of ongoing concerns regarding driver behaviour around pedestrian crossings and the importance of improving road safety awareness for both motorists and children. An update was also provided on a bicycle education pilot programme aimed at improving young people's cycling skills and road safety knowledge, with discussions underway about how a sustainable community-led model could be implemented locally. Members were further advised that a new role focused on disability population health has recently been established, with work commencing to better understand how people with disabilities access health services and identify opportunities to improve health outcomes at a community level.

Carmen Cunningham – National Public Health Services

Update on behalf of the National Public Health Service, outlining the organisation's focus on preventing ill health, protecting communities and promoting positive health outcomes. She noted the importance of working closely with community organisations and welcomed the opportunity to reconnect with local networks and initiatives. Current areas of focus include food security, housing, climate-related impacts on health and strengthening community wellbeing through collaborative approaches. Members were also advised that a Medical Officer of Health has recently been allocated to South Canterbury following several years without dedicated local coverage. Work is underway to redevelop smokefree services through a co-design approach with community partners, with a particular focus on supporting young people.

Keith Shaw – The Y Central South Island

Acknowledgment of the success of the recent Youth Impact Awards and thanked the many organisations involved in delivering the event through a collaborative community effort. The Y

continues to deliver its core education, employment, youth development and community programmes. Current priorities include developing a community youth intake and referral system, exploring opportunities for a criteria-free community youth worker role to improve access and engagement for young people, and undertaking advocacy work to encourage greater youth enrolment and participation in local and national elections. Keith also noted that planning is underway for the YMCA's biennial youth survey, which will be conducted across multiple districts from Waitaki to Christchurch to better understand the perspectives and needs of young people.

Councillor Owen Jackson

Clr Jackson provided a brief update and advised that he is producing a monthly podcast focused on community issues and activities. Community groups were encouraged to get in touch if they would like to share information, promote their work, or contribute content for future episodes.

Darryn Grigsby – Emergency Management Lead

Members were advised that a new Emergency Management Bill is being developed, which may result in some changes to emergency management processes, although the role and importance of community collaboration groups is expected to remain. Darren noted that the next regional emergency management exercise is scheduled for 3 November and encouraged members to keep the date available. He also highlighted positive engagement through recent Social Sector Recovery Forums and ongoing work to strengthen coordination across agencies involved in community resilience and recovery. Darren introduced Catherine Fleischman, Group Welfare Manager for Canterbury Emergency Management, who outlined her role in supporting connections between emergency management and social service agencies across the region.

Katie Ryan – Alpine Energy Limited

Katie is the new Stakeholder Engagement Lead at Alpine Energy, introducing herself and outlined her role in strengthening connections between Alpine Energy and the community, with a focus on customer experience, energy wellbeing and energy hardship. Members were updated on the Home Energy Toolkit initiative, which has been delivered in partnership with the three South Canterbury councils and local libraries. The programme has received positive uptake from the community, and additional toolkits have been provided to community organisations, including Presbyterian Support, and Arowhenua Whānau Services, to support wider access. Katy advised that additional kits are available for community groups that may be interested. She noted that Alpine Energy is seeking to better understand community needs and challenges to help inform future community engagement, wellbeing and energy support initiatives

Megan Harding – Waitaha Primary Health

Megan introduced herself as a new team member with Waitaha Primary Health, outlining her role supporting primary care services across South Canterbury, including working with general practices, supporting patient enrolment in GP services, building relationships with primary care providers, and participating in clinical leadership forums focused on strengthening relationships between primary and secondary healthcare services. Megan noted that this was her first attendance at the Community Partnerships meeting and that she was looking forward to building connections and learning more about the work occurring across the community

Cole Gillman – Waitaha Primary Health

Cole Gillman, Chief Operating Officer for the Primary Health Organisation, provided an update on the transition of primary healthcare functions in South Canterbury following the transfer of responsibilities from Health New Zealand earlier this year. Members were advised that the transition remains ongoing, with Michelle Amos recently appointed as Regional Manager for South

Canterbury. Key initiatives currently underway include the development of a suicide prevention coordinator role, a refugee nurse clinical coordinator role, and a project to improve after-hours access to general practice services through a single point of access model operating seven days a week. Cole also outlined plans for a primary care-focused health promotion role and advised that the organisation now has access to Canterbury's Primary Response Group, which supports business continuity and emergency planning across the primary health network.

Amanda Herewini-Wills – Ministry of Justice

Update provided on Family Court services across Timaru and Ashburton. Mandy outlined her role as a bridge between the Court and the community, supporting whānau to navigate Family Court processes, particularly where they do not have legal representation. Members were advised that Timaru Family Court services also support Ashburton and Ōamaru, with staff travelling to ensure court users in those communities receive appropriate assistance. Mandy noted recent organisational changes, including Timaru taking responsibility for the Ashburton Court area, and highlighted the value of having consistent resident judges serving the region. Members were advised that Judge Dravitzki will be leaving in September. Mandy acknowledged Judge Stravinsky's strong commitment to supporting whānau and community organisations within the Family Court environment. An update was also provided on plans to digitise Family Court records and introduce online access to court information, which is expected to improve accessibility and efficiency for court users.

Tracey Miron – Refugee Settlement Services

Tracey provided an update on behalf of Refugee Settlement Services. Members were advised that Timaru will begin welcoming a new cohort of former refugees from Sudan in 2026, alongside the ongoing resettlement of Syrian and Kurdish former refugees. Tracey encouraged members to attend upcoming community information sessions with MBIE and Sudanese community leaders to learn more about the programme and support the community's preparedness. She noted that the new cohort shares many cultural and language characteristics with existing refugee communities and that the transition is not expected to significantly change current service delivery. Tracey highlighted several recent activities, including World Refugee Day celebrations, a successful Syrian food stall at the Timaru Farmers Market, and a display created in partnership with the Timaru District Libraries. Members were also advised that Refugee Settlement Services continues to support refugee participation in local sporting activities, including football. Cultural awareness workshops are being offered to organisations and community groups, focusing on understanding refugee experiences, trauma-informed approaches, and cultural competency.

Chris Thomas – Age Concern South Canterbury

Update provided on the organisation's activities and emerging trends. Members were advised that referrals have increased by approximately 30% since the start of the year, with social connection, loneliness and isolation continuing to be the most common reasons for support. Chris noted increasing demand for assistance relating to changes in government processes, including disability allowance reviews and assessments of home support services, which can be stressful and challenging for older people to navigate. Age Concern continues to provide advocacy and support to help people access services and explore alternative options when required. Members were advised that the organisation is facing funding constraints and staffing challenges following the recent loss of a staff member, making it difficult to meet growing demand. Chris also highlighted the success of the recent "Kitchen Kings" programme, which provided older men with opportunities to learn cooking skills, build confidence and strengthen social connections. Due to

the positive outcomes achieved, Age Concern is exploring opportunities to secure additional funding to continue the programme.

Julie Calder – Te Aitarakihi

Julie provided an update on activities at Te Aitarakihi. Members were advised that weekly kapa haka sessions continue to be held during school terms and are open to the wider community. A kaumātua group also meets fortnightly, providing opportunities for older people to connect socially and participate in cultural activities, with plans to introduce guest speakers in the future. The current Rangatahi Programme is concluding, with a new intake scheduled to begin shortly, and vacancies remain available. Julie also highlighted mentoring support available in primary schools and advised that significant progress is being made on the marae's new building project, which will provide additional space for community activities, wānanga and events. Accessibility and entrance improvements are also planned as part of the development. Te Aitarakihi will shortly hold its Annual General Meeting, with several board positions becoming available. Julie also invited members to attend upcoming Matariki celebrations, including a Hautapu ceremony, breakfast and cultural activities at the marae.

Rebecca Grooby – Oranga Tamariki

Rebecca, Site Manager for Oranga Tamariki Timaru and Hakatere, provided an update on recent developments within the organisation. Members were advised that recent Government budget announcements will support additional frontline positions, with recruitment currently underway for an Allied Support Worker and Workplace Administrator in Timaru. Rebecca noted that there are currently 34 tamariki in care in Timaru and that approximately 100 Reports of Concern are received each month. Across the Canterbury region, Reports of Concern have increased significantly, with a 75 percent increase reported through the National Contact Centre. Oranga Tamariki is currently reviewing its intake and referral processes to ensure families receive support from the most appropriate services and to strengthen collaboration with community organisations where community-led responses may be more suitable. Rebecca noted that further organisational changes and developments are expected over the coming year as the agency responds to increasing demand and recommendations arising from recent child protection reviews.

Nigel Bowen – Timaru District Mayor

The Mayor provided an update on local government reform and the Long-Term Plan process. Council is currently reviewing its services, assets and future operating model to ensure it is well positioned for anticipated reform. Discussions are continuing across Canterbury regarding options for regional collaboration and governance arrangements, with a joint proposal due to be submitted to Government by 9 August. The Mayor noted the importance of balancing efficiency, sustainability and local representation, and encouraged community involvement as the reform process progresses. He also highlighted ongoing challenges facing local government, including infrastructure funding, water reform and affordability pressures for ratepayers.

Attachments

- 1 Timaru Community Patrol Request
- 2 Grey Power pamphlet

A RECOMMENDATION TO THE
TIMARU DISTRICT COUNCIL
IN REGARD TO EXTRA CAMERA; S

It is felt that the CBD and Caroline Bay it would be beneficial to have better coverage in these areas.

In the CBD we have the Bullock Bar and Burger King in a busy area a camera covering these trouble spots and also the main arterial route.

We will soon have the new Museum and the Theatre Royal this I think will need a good coverage both front and back for Public safety.

There is a blind area in Station St looking from the overhead bridge down to the Speights Ale House car park.

The Caroline Bay has areas that are well covered but there are some just like the games area, Merry go round, and the Sound Shell from looking down on the stadium this also would give a good coverage of a big area, there are those cameras that are fixed some of these don't really do much when looking at a suspicious vehicle etc.

There is also the Marine Parade, what can be done there.

As a member of the Timaru Community Patrol I spend my part of the Patrol on the Cameras and do take real interest on what's happening in and around our Bay and CBD working along side the Police helps us and them to help keep Timaru a better place.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: SCAMMERS AT THE DOOR



Never open your door to someone you do not know

- Ask for a business card, then close the door and phone the company on a publicly listed number, not the phone number they have given you
- Never pay upfront for home repairs or services before the job is finished and you are satisfied
- Never give out your personal information. If you feel pressured to do so, decline their offer and ask them to leave your property
- Call a trusted loved one before making a decision

JOIN US

Help us advocate for New Zealand seniors

Find a Grey Power Association in your region by visiting www.greypower.co.nz

Or call our office: 09 299 2113



SOME OF OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

- Higher income threshold for Rates Rebate
- No prescription charges for 65+
- Security doors on council pensioner flats
- Winter Energy payment
- Spot audits for rest homes
- Removal of the NZS surtax

PREPARED BY GREY POWER ZONE 6
MARCH 2026



Protect Yourself: Phone and Home Scams

SCAMMERS ON THE PHONE



- The caller is someone you don't know who may struggle with English
- The caller has a sense of urgency and does not give you time to think or respond
- They may be friendly to put you at ease and earn your trust
- You will be asked to share your personal or financial information
- The scammer may give a number to call to verify their authenticity (another scammer will answer)
- They often claim they have found a suspicious transaction on your account and you are entitled to a refund

WHAT YOU CAN DO: SCAM CALLS

- Hang up if the caller is unknown or asking for personal or financial information
- If you think the call may be genuine, call the organisation back on their public number
- Never share your online passwords/ pin numbers
- Never give out your bank account number or password. No bank will ever ask for them over the phone
- If you have been asked to keep the call to yourself, this is a red flag and you should hang up



REMEMBER

If you ever feel uneasy, just hang up!

SCAMMERS AT YOUR DOOR

- Scammers often pretend to be tradespeople by offering home repairs or security upgrades
- They use high pressure tactics such as a limited time offers
- They may be overly persistent or aggressive
- A scammer may act as if they are conducting a survey or collecting for a charity
- They often ask questions to find out if you live alone, when you are home, or if you have valuables
- Offers may sound too good to be true with low cost promises, or assurance of easy money and massive savings

REMEMBER

Scammers rely on a victim's sense of politeness. If something feels off, it most likely is. Trust your instincts

The meeting closed at 2pm

Chairperson

6 Reports

6.1 Community Partnerships Update Report - September 2026

Author: Jessica Hurst, Community Partnership Team Leader

Authoriser: Stephen Doran, General Manager Corporate

Recommendation

That the Community Partnerships Subcommittee receives and notes the Community Partnerships Update – September 2026 report.

Purpose of Report

- 1 To provide the Community Partnerships Subcommittee with an operational update on activities and progress across the Community Partnerships programme.

Assessment of Significance

- 2 This matter is deemed as low significance under the Council's Significance and Engagement Policy as this has ongoing but limited community interest and affects a small number of people in the community.

Discussion

- 3 The Community Partnership Team Leader (CPTL) continues to work closely with a wide range of community organisations, agencies, and stakeholders to strengthen relationships, identify emerging issues, and support collaborative responses across the district.
- 4 During this reporting period, this has included attending the AMPSS101 Open Day, joining the South Canterbury Neighbourhood Support Committee, meeting with Health New Zealand / Te Whatu Ora representatives regarding the re-establishment of the local Consumer Council, and attending and contributing to a Mental Health and Addiction Strategy Workshop. These engagements help ensure Community Partnerships remains connected to community priorities, aware of emerging opportunities and challenges, and well positioned to support collaborative initiatives that contribute to community wellbeing.
- 5 **Together Timaru:** The Together Timaru online community directory has now been launched, representing a significant milestone in improving access to community information across the district. The directory brings together information on community organisations, support services, schools, early learning services, health providers, churches, clubs, activities, volunteer opportunities, and other local resources in a single, easy-to-access location.
- 6 The directory has been developed to help residents, newcomers, community organisations, and frontline staff more easily connect people with the services, support, activities, and opportunities available across the district. It also provides a platform for community groups and organisations to increase their visibility and reach a wider audience.
- 7 A key strength of Together Timaru is that it is designed to be a dynamic and evolving resource - information can be added, updated, amended, or removed quickly and easily, ensuring the

platform can continue to grow and remain relevant as community needs and services change over time.

- 8 The directory supports a number of Community Partnerships priorities, including community connectedness, welcoming newcomers, improving access to information, supporting volunteerism, promoting community participation, and strengthening awareness of local support services. As use of the platform grows, Together Timaru is expected to become an increasingly valuable tool for both residents seeking support and organisations seeking to connect with the community.
- 9 **Community Governance Workshops:** A series of three Community Governance Workshops is scheduled to be delivered over coming months, with facilitation support funded by Ahu Community Trust. The workshops are designed for trustees, committee members, board members, and volunteers involved in community organisations across the district.
- 10 The workshops will provide practical governance training and development opportunities to help strengthen the capability and sustainability of community organisations. Topics will focus on good governance practice and supporting volunteers and governance members in their roles.
- 11 Registrations are currently open for all three sessions. While there has been some interest to date, additional participants are being encouraged to register to ensure the opportunity is well utilised by community organisations across the district.
- 12 This initiative reflects ongoing efforts to support a strong, capable, and sustainable community sector and to provide local governance members with access to quality training and development opportunities.
- 13 **Refugee Settlement:** Planning continues in preparation for the arrival of a Sudanese former refugee cohort from February 2027. A Sudanese Cultural Information Session will be held at the Timaru District Council Chambers on 9 October 2026, facilitated by representatives from Immigration New Zealand alongside a Sudanese Cultural Advisor with extensive experience supporting refugee resettlement in Aotearoa New Zealand. The session aims to support local organisations, schools, service providers, Council staff, and community members to build their understanding of Sudanese culture, traditions, family structures, and settlement experiences, helping to ensure the district is well prepared to welcome and support new arrivals.
- 14 Work is also underway to explore opportunities to strengthen education support for former refugees and migrants. A meeting was recently held with a local stakeholder to discuss the potential role of education hubs and how they may assist newcomers to access learning opportunities, information, and support pathways.
- 15 Ongoing engagement with the education sector continues through participation in local school cluster meetings. These meetings bring together schools and support agencies to discuss the needs of former refugee students, share information, and strengthen coordination to support positive educational and settlement outcomes for young people and their whānau.
- 16 These activities form part of the wider collaborative effort across the district to prepare for the arrival of Sudanese former refugees in 2027 and to support successful settlement, inclusion, and belonging for newcomers.
- 17 **Meaningful Refugee Participation Fund:** The Meaningful Refugee Participation Fund has supported the development of a new futsal programme delivered by The Y. The programme provides former refugee young people with a regular opportunity to connect with others, be

physically active, develop teamwork skills, and build confidence in a supportive environment. The programme has been developed in response to community interest and provides another accessible pathway for young people to strengthen their sense of belonging and participation within the wider Timaru community.

- 18 **Welcoming Communities:** All eight elements of the Welcoming Communities Standard have now been completed following a series of meetings with the Aoraki Settling-In Collective and wider partners. Since the previous update, the Community Partnerships Team Leader has completed the full draft of the Timaru District Welcoming Plan, bringing together the feedback, priorities, actions and aspirations identified throughout the engagement and development process.
- 19 The draft plan has now been reviewed and endorsed by the Welcoming Plan Committee and has progressed to the design stage. Work is currently underway to format and design the document internally, with the intention of presenting the completed draft to the Community Partnerships Subcommittee at its next meeting.
- 20 The completion of the draft plan represents a significant milestone and a substantial body of work involving many months of engagement, collaboration, coordination and writing. Once adopted, the Plan will provide a shared framework to guide welcoming and inclusion activities across the district over the coming years.
- 21 **Welcoming Week 2026:** Welcoming Week was successfully delivered through a collaborative programme of events designed to celebrate diversity, strengthen belonging, and help newcomers connect with their community.
- 22 The highlight of the week was the Whakatau ā Iwi, delivered in partnership with Te Rūnanga o Arowhenua. Funding secured through MBIE's Welcoming Communities programme supported the event, which welcomed newcomers onto the marae and provided an opportunity to learn about local history, tikanga Māori, the significance of mana whenua within the Timaru District, and to share a hāngī. The event provided a meaningful welcome for newcomers and aligned strongly with the vision and objectives of the Welcoming Communities programme.
- 23 Other activities throughout the week provided opportunities for people to connect, learn, and celebrate the diversity of the district. Timaru District Library hosted both a Living Library event and an International Storytime, encouraging conversations across cultures and identities while providing tamariki and whānau with opportunities to experience stories, languages, and traditions from around the world.
- 24 An International Students Vibe Night was delivered in partnership with The Y Central South Island and Multicultural Aoraki, creating opportunities for international students to meet others and build social connections. The success of the event has led to discussions about establishing a regular monthly programme for international students across the district.
- 25 Multicultural Aoraki also hosted a community potluck gathering, bringing together people from a wide range of cultures to share food, stories, and traditional dress. The week also marked the relaunch of the Plunket Multicultural Playgroup, where children received a "Plunket Passport" and will learn about a different country each week, collecting stamps as they explore cultures from around the world. A Welcoming Week-themed Disability Youth Club session further supported inclusion, participation, and belonging for young people with disabilities.

- 26 The delivery of Welcoming Week involved significant coordination and collaboration between Council, Te Rūnanga o Arowhenua, Multicultural Aoraki, The Y Central South Island, Timaru District Library, Plunket, and a range of community partners. The programme demonstrated welcoming in action and provided opportunities for people from different backgrounds to connect, learn, and feel a sense of belonging within the Timaru District.
- 27 Overall, Welcoming Week represented a significant achievement and reflects the ongoing commitment of local organisations, volunteers, mana whenua, and community leaders to building a welcoming, inclusive, and connected community for everyone who calls the Timaru District home.
- 28 **Disability:** The Te Kōtuitui Pūkeko Disability Network has recommenced, bringing together disability organisations, support agencies, advocates, and community partners to strengthen connections, share information, and identify opportunities for greater collaboration across the district. The network provides an important forum for discussing emerging issues and helping ensure disability perspectives are reflected in community planning and development activities.
- 29 Community Partnerships has also been working alongside the National Public Health Service to plan a disability engagement project that will explore the experiences, priorities, and aspirations of disabled people and their whānau. The work will begin with a series of hui and engagement opportunities, providing a platform for disabled people, families, carers, and support organisations to share their experiences and help shape future priorities.
- 30 Planning is also underway for the next Whakanuia Awards, which celebrate the achievements, strengths, and contributions of children and young people with disabilities, neurodivergence, and health impairments across the Timaru District. The Awards are scheduled to be held on 14 November 2026.
- 31 Looking ahead, planning has started for a Transition to Adulthood Information Series to be delivered in February. The need for this work has been consistently identified by families and through discussions at the Te Kōtuitui Pūkeko Disability Network, where members highlighted that many families would benefit from starting transition planning earlier and having access to clear, practical information before key decisions need to be made. The workshop series will bring together a range of agencies and service providers to support young people with disabilities and their whānau as they navigate pathways relating to education, employment, independent living, funding, support services, and community participation.
- 32 The first session has already been confirmed and will be facilitated by a representative from the Aotearoa Disability Law Centre. The session will focus on topics that families frequently identify as challenging to navigate, including welfare guardianship, supported decision-making, enduring powers of attorney, and personal, property, and protection rights. Additional sessions are currently being planned in response to areas of interest identified by families and disability-sector organisations.
- 33 The Disability Youth Club continues to provide a regular opportunity for young people with disabilities, neurodivergence, and health impairments to connect, build friendships, develop confidence, and participate in inclusive activities. Feedback from families has highlighted the value of the programme, with some parents advising their Needs Assessment Coordinators that Youth Club is one of the key activities their young person looks forward to and benefits from. For many participants, the programme provides an important sense of belonging, friendship, and community connection.

- 34 **Food Resilience Meeting:** Work has continued in partnership with the National Public Health Service and South Canterbury Neighbourhood Support to better understand and strengthen food resilience across the district. This work was prompted by ongoing community conversations around food access, affordability, and supply. A stakeholder survey and Food Resilience Hui brought together community organisations, food providers, growers, funders, and community members to share experiences and explore opportunities for greater collaboration.
- 35 Feedback highlighted strong interest in a more coordinated approach to food resilience. Key themes included improving connections between organisations, increasing awareness of existing services, reducing food waste, supporting local food production, and building skills around gardening, cooking, and food preservation. There was also strong interest in looking beyond emergency food support and exploring longer-term approaches to strengthening food security across South Canterbury.
- 36 Since the hui, the National Public Health Service has continued discussions with stakeholders and is considering options for how a more connected food resilience network could operate. Conversations have also focused on building on the significant amount of work already happening across the district through food rescue initiatives, community gardens, community organisations, growers, volunteers, and support agencies.
- 37 Council continues to remain connected to this work and ongoing discussions across the sector. There is also an opportunity to utilise the Together Timaru online community directory to increase the visibility of food-related services, initiatives, and organisations operating across the district.
- 38 **Community Funding:** Council recently accepted an additional \$36,000 in funding from Ahu Community Trust to support arts and cultural funding within the Timaru District. The additional funding will be administered through existing community funding processes and will increase the amount of funding available to support local arts and cultural initiatives. Ahu Community Trust funding complements the existing Creative Communities Scheme funding and reflects a shared commitment to supporting local creativity, cultural expression, and community participation in the arts.
- 39 The Youth Initiatives Subcommittee met on 9 September 2026 to consider applications to the Youth Initiatives Fund. Five applications were received, requesting a total of \$16,900.00. Four applications were approved, with a total of \$8,732.00 allocated to projects supporting young people within the Timaru District.
- 40 The Local Arts Subcommittee met on 10 September 2026 to consider twenty applications, requesting a total of \$58,760.86. Seventeen applications were approved, with a total of \$38,399.50 allocated to support arts and cultural activities across the district. The level of demand received demonstrates the strong interest in arts and cultural activity within the district and the ongoing value of accessible funding opportunities for local artists, organisations, and community groups. Creative Communities Scheme funding is administered by Council on behalf of Creative New Zealand.
- 41 The next Community Funding Subcommittee meeting is scheduled for 6 October 2026, where applications received through the Community Development Fund and Community Local Events Fund will be considered.
- 42 This reporting period has seen strong engagement across Council-administered funding programmes, with funding continuing to support a diverse range of community, youth, arts,

cultural, and local development initiatives that contribute to community wellbeing and connection throughout the district.

- 43 **Mayors Taskforce For Jobs (MTFJ):** A new Mayors Taskforce for Jobs Community Employment Programme contract has been received for the period 1 July 2026 to 30 June 2027.
- 44 The contract provides up to \$180,000 (plus GST) to support employment placement, work readiness, pastoral care, and in-work support activities for young people, particularly those aged 16 to 24 who are not in employment, education, or training, and MSD clients.
- 45 The contract requires Timaru District Council to achieve a minimum of 24 employment placements, including 20 MSD clients and up to 4 other eligible participants who are NEET or at risk of becoming NEET. At least 70% of participants placed into employment must achieve sustainable outcomes, defined as remaining employed (or off a main benefit, where applicable) for 182 days.
- 46 Since the commencement of the new MTFJ contract, the Coordinator has continued to actively support rangatahi into employment, training opportunities, and education pathways. At the time of writing, there are 24 participants actively engaged in the programme, with 19 participants referred through MSD and 5 participants self-referred through community connections and word of mouth.
- 47 During this reporting period, four young people have achieved sustainable employment outcomes. The Coordinator continues to provide intensive one-to-one support, including employment placement assistance, driver licensing support, training opportunities, CV development, employer engagement, and ongoing pastoral care to help participants overcome barriers and move towards sustainable employment.
- 48 Training and skill development remain a key focus of programme delivery. Participants have successfully completed a range of training opportunities, including the Customer Service Star programme, Wheels, Tracks and Rollers training, Forklift Operator training, and Barista training. Participants have also continued to progress through driver licensing milestones and work readiness activities designed to improve employability and confidence.
- 49 The Coordinator continues to work closely with local employers, training providers, schools, and community organisations to identify opportunities and support young people into sustainable employment, training, and education pathways. Strong local partnerships remain critical to achieving employment outcomes and ensuring participants receive the support required to succeed.
- 50 Previous contract close-out: The 2025/26 Mayors Taskforce for Jobs contract concluded on 30 June 2026. Across the contract period, the programme achieved 34 employment placements, comprising 21 MSD clients and 13 young people who were not in employment, education, or training.
- 51 These outcomes represent much more than employment statistics. Each placement reflects a significant amount of one-to-one engagement, relationship building, advocacy, employer liaison, and practical support. Many participants face multiple barriers to employment, including limited work experience, transport challenges, confidence issues, financial hardship, and difficulties accessing training and driver licensing opportunities. Supporting rangatahi to overcome these barriers and move into sustainable employment requires ongoing commitment, persistence, and tailored support.

- 52 A particular strength of the programme continues to be the dedication of the MTFJ Coordinator, who works alongside participants to identify goals, build work readiness skills, access training and licences, connect with employers, and navigate challenges that may arise both before and after employment commences. Significant effort is also invested in developing and maintaining relationships with employers and providing in-work support to help ensure placements are successful and sustainable.
- 53 The achievement of 34 employment placements during the 2025/26 contract period is a significant accomplishment and reflects the combined efforts of participating young people, employers, community partners, and the MTFJ Coordinator. The programme continues to demonstrate the value of intensive, locally delivered employment support that is responsive to local workforce needs and focused on achieving meaningful, long-term outcomes for rangatahi.

Attachments

Nil

6.2 Tāima Kōrero Online Harm and Digital Safety Workshops Update**Author:** Jessica Hurst, Community Partnership Team Leader**Authoriser:** Stephen Doran, General Manager Corporate**Recommendation**

That the Community Partnerships Subcommittee receives and notes the Tāima Kōrero Online Harm and Digital Safety Workshops Update Report.

Purpose of Report

- 1 To provide the Community Partnerships Subcommittee with a summary of the Tāima Kōrero Online Harm and Digital Safety Workshops.

Assessment of Significance

- 2 This matter is deemed as low significance under the Council's Significance and Engagement Policy as this has ongoing but limited community interest and affects a small number of people in the community.

Discussion

- 3 The need for greater community education and awareness around online harm and digital safety was identified through discussions at a previous Community Partnerships Subcommittee meeting. In response, a small working group was established comprising representatives from Te Rito South Canterbury, Life Church, the Ministry of Justice, and Timaru District Council.
- 4 The working group collaborated to develop and deliver the Tāima Kōrero Online Harm and Digital Safety Workshops, combining expertise, networks, and resources to provide a community-focused response to an identified need.
- 5 The Tāima Kōrero Online Harm and Digital Safety Workshops were delivered to increase community awareness of online harm, digital safety, and safer online behaviours, while providing practical tools and information to support children and young people in an increasingly complex online environment.
- 6 The workshops provided an opportunity for participants to hear from subject matter experts, increase their understanding of current online trends and risks, and gain practical information to support children and young people in the digital environment.
- 7 Feedback from participants attending the 'From Curiosity to Concern' professional development workshop was overwhelmingly positive. Most respondents rated the workshop as either excellent or very good, considered the content highly relevant to their role, and indicated they would recommend the workshop to others. Participants also reported increased confidence in responding to concerns relating to online harm, harmful online content, and sexualised behaviours.
- 8 Common themes identified through the feedback included:

- 8.1 Increased understanding of current online platforms, trends, and the changing nature of online harm.
 - 8.2 Greater confidence in responding to disclosures or concerns and recognising the importance of remaining calm, curious, and avoiding assumptions.
 - 8.3 Increased awareness of available resources, support services, and practical tools that can be used when working with children, young people, and families.
 - 8.4 Recognition of the importance of having open and informed conversations with young people about their online experiences.
 - 8.5 A stronger understanding of the scale and complexity of online harm and its impacts on children and young people.
- 9 Participants reported a number of intended practice changes as a result of attending the workshop, including asking more exploratory questions, taking a more curious rather than reactive approach, feeling more confident discussing online issues with young people and whānau, and sharing the knowledge and resources with colleagues and other organisations.
 - 10 Several participants described the workshop as valuable because it provided practical information, increased awareness, and strengthened their confidence to support children, young people, and families navigating online environments. Feedback also highlighted appreciation for the resources provided and the collaborative approach taken to delivering the session.
 - 11 Feedback also highlighted an ongoing need for community education and awareness on digital safety issues, with several participants expressing interest in future opportunities to continue learning in this area.
 - 12 While the Tāima Kōrero Online Harm and Digital Safety Workshops have now concluded, participating organisations recognise that online harm and digital safety continue to evolve. The relationships and collaborative approach developed through this initiative have created a foundation for future partnership opportunities, and the working group intends to remain connected to explore further education, awareness, and community response activities as needs emerge.
 - 13 The initiative demonstrates the value of agencies working together to respond to emerging community issues and deliver locally relevant education and awareness opportunities.

Attachments

1. **Extended Feedback - Tāima Kōrero** [!\[\]\(c8bbb643de42b9ef111ff510ae51cf4b_img.jpg\) !\[\]\(3a49519868c47852808f08b76f337d38_img.jpg\)](#)

Extended Feedback: Tāima Kōrero Workshops

This feedback was received from an attendee of both the professional workshop, and one of the parent workshops:

What a fantastic opportunity this workshop was for our organisations and services within South Canterbury to better understand the impacts of sexual behaviour and digital harm with our children and young people. Not only was this workshop informative, but hearing the personal stories from the speakers made it just that much more real. Brett spoke with care, passion, and concern for our youth in a way that related back to the audience as someone who genuinely understands the impacts pornography is having. Brett shared the hard facts, his own story, and followed it up with how we can address these issues as someone who has been through it himself.

Rebekah and Lyn spoke with understanding and care when talking about the impacts of sexualised behaviours with children. Again, they shared stories, facts, and prevention advice which was received well with the audience.

I attended this workshop to help better my understanding for what is happening in the digital world and left with so much more knowledge, compassion, and understanding on this topic.

As a someone in a Community Services role, I now understand just how great the issue is, but also why and how it has become such a big problem. I now appreciate the work and effort that these speakers and other organisations are doing to help prevent and reduce this issue within our community. Now I also see the true impacts it has on our children and youth and how we can support them through this.

As a Primary School Board Member, a lot of this related to issues we are seeing in schools where children are talking and acting on sexualised behaviours without realising the impacts or understanding the consequences of their actions. This workshop would be a brilliant way to help our teachers and support staff understand what is also happening and how they can identify the issues before they become more serious.

As a parent of three children under age 9, I was shocked to the core. It was very difficult to accept the facts and realise that this is happening no matter how hard parents try and stop it from happening. That very day, I sat with my daughter after school and had a chat about "good and bad photos", what happens online with Roblox and other gaming sites with chat rooms, and we talked about what she can do if she ever feels unsafe or if she sees something not okay. I think as parents, we have to have this talk no matter how uncomfortable or awkward it feels. We need to prepare our children for what the world holds and the best way to do it is by learning, talking, and creating a safe space for them to trust you.

Overall, I could not recommend this workshop or the presenters enough. We were very lucky to have this opportunity for free thanks to Timaru Council, Te Rito, and the Ministers Association. Removing the cost of attending removed the financial barrier. It would have been great to see more parents, grandparents, teachers etc. at the parent workshops so perhaps next time we could look at some sort of onsite day care for children whilst the parents attend. Fantastic work from all who organised this, it was a great talk and I am so pleased I attended!

6.3 Housing and Homelessness Sector Update

Author: Jessica Hurst, Community Partnership Team Leader

Authoriser: Stephen Doran, General Manager Corporate

Recommendation

That the Community Partnerships Subcommittee receives and notes the Housing and Homelessness Sector Update report.

Purpose of Report

- 1 To provide the Community Partnerships Subcommittee with an opportunity to receive updates on housing and homelessness within the Timaru District and hear from organisations involved in supporting local housing outcomes.

Assessment of Significance

- 2 This matter is deemed as low significance under the Council's Significance and Engagement Policy as this has ongoing but limited community interest and affects a small number of people in the community.

Discussion

- 3 Council officers have facilitated discussions between agencies involved in housing and homelessness support within the Timaru District. These discussions provide an opportunity for agencies to share information, build connections, and improve awareness of services and initiatives operating across the sector.
- 4 Housing instability can have wider impacts on health, education, employment, community wellbeing, and social connectedness. Regular opportunities for agencies to come together help strengthen relationships, improve understanding of current issues and trends, and support a more coordinated response where appropriate.
- 5 Representatives from Kāinga Ora, Timaru District Council's Social Housing Team, Ahu Community Trust, and MSD's Housing team will be in attendance to provide updates on their respective areas of work and discuss current housing and homelessness issues, trends, initiatives, and opportunities within the district.

Attachments

Nil

7 Consideration of Urgent Business Items

8 Consideration of Minor Nature Matters