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## **NEW HUB TO IMPROVE WELLBEING OF LOCAL YOUTH**

The City of Ryde's first youth hub for 11-18 year olds will open in Eastwood later this year.

Council has endorsed the establishment of an Integrated Youth Service Hub which will co-locate and work with a variety of services to improve the well-being of local young people.

City of Ryde's Community Projects Coordinator, Chris Hellmundt, said: "We began with research to identify the key issues for both young people and the youth services sector. The outcome highlighted the need for a service hub that brought a range of services under one roof".

"Young people can experience a wide range of issues and the Youth Hub, when it is up and running, will be a welcoming place where all local young people can go to get the right support to help them develop the confidence and skills they need to succeed in life."

Ryde Council is partnering with Oasis Youth Support Network – The Salvation Army, Christian Community Aid, and Ryde Family Support Service to establish the one-stop-shop in a recently vacated Council property in Shaftesbury Road, Eastwood. Programs offered will include:

- A Board of Studies endorsed Alternative Education Program, supporting at risk youth re-engage with education
- Case management for young people 11 – 18 years disengaged from education or at risk of disengaging
- The delivery of a variety of Youth Connections programs for the region
- Project based learning and skills development
- After school homework help and assignment assistance
- Financial support – for buying text books, school and work uniforms.
- Strength based workshops - self esteem, bullying, resilience, positive relationships, body image, identity, sexual health
- After School creative workshops including art, dance, music
- Schools Holiday programs promoting healthy lifestyles
- Counselling and coaching services for youth and families
- Six week intensive parenting programs and parenting workshops and groups.

Josh Field, Manager of Education, Oasis Youth Support Network, said: "Oasis is really excited about the opportunity to be a part of this project. The hub will allow collaboration of services to best meet the needs of the young people in the Ryde community. It will be a place where there is always something happening, from free tuition, to programs that inspire creativity."

The new Integrated Youth Service Hub joins the Brush Farm House Learning and Development Hub and the West Ryde Community Centre – A Child, Family and Neighbourhood Hub, as the third Council initiated local service hub in the Ryde local government area.