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MENTOR: Hip hop artist Blake "Teddy" Rhodes is eager to help establish a youth hub in Lismore.

PHOTO: MARC STAPELBERG

Youth hub for Lismore

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A COP, a musician and a social worker have teamed up to help fill a gap for young people in the Lismore community.

Hip hop artist Blake "Teddy" Rhodes jumped at the chance to collaborate with Senior Constable Lachlan Bransgrove and Francis O'Neill of Social Futures to launch a youth night initiative through the Police Citizens Youth Club.

When he was a teenager growing up in Lismore, Mr Rhodes through his friends

discovered an after-school youth connections group, which he said had helped shape the musician and person he is today.

He said the initiative led to a great place to hang out with his mates and equipped him with life skills such as learning how to cook.

"Lismore definitely needs something sort of like what I had back in the day," Mr Rhodes said. "I was one of those kids who fell into those bad habits until I found youth connections."

Snr Const Bransgrove said the hub would be crucial to

reducing anti-social behaviour around Lismore by providing various activities to engage youth.

"It (the hub) is about trying to find something that they can get involved in, trying to find something that takes them away from needing to do that kind of behaviour because they have an outlet somewhere else," Snr Const Bransgrove said.

Mr Rhodes, who also mentors school students and holds workshops around the community, wants to engage with Lismore's youth.

He said the combined

experience of the three men would create a constructive avenue to guide and support Lismore's young people through their teens.

Snr Const Bransgrove said setbacks such as the March flood had pushed back the launch of the hub.

Mr O'Neill said last week that he and Snr Const Bransgrove had started visiting high schools to "get the word out" about the hub and ask what youth wanted from the initiative.

For more information about the PCYC youth hub phone 0488 013 909.