UNLOCKING THE POTENTIAL OF SAFE COMMUNITIES

ABOUT SAFE COMMUNITIES

Safe Communities was established in New Zealand over 20 years ago, with 22 communities covering 70% of the NZ population currently accredited. These inter-agency collaborative governance coalitions create shared strategies and actions with their communities to improve community safety and wellbeing. They are supported by the Safe Communities Foundation NZ and based on an internationally-recognised model.

PROJECT BACKGROUND

In 2018, ACC sponsored a project to help unlock the potential of Safe Communities. This engaged over 150 Safe Community participants in 17 Safe Community coalitions through interviews, a survey and community meetings, plus two events with potential national partners in Wellington.

The Unlocking the Potential of Safe Communities plan has been designed to encourage a greater collective approach to making our communities safer. The plan is designed to be supported by an Oversight Group of partners and network representatives monitoring the implementation of its aspirations. Contributions to the Oversight Group and the project opportunities within the plan will be key to its success.

THE VALUE OF THE NETWORK

The Safe Community network enables community safety and wellbeing through collaborative community-led action guided by a measurable wellbeing framework.

UNLOCKING THE POTENTIAL

Opportunity 1: Demonstrate wellbeing outcomes
Strengthen how wellbeing outcomes are demonstrated.

Opportunity 2: Communicate the value
Tell the story of Safe Communities better to strengthen new and existing partnerships.

Opportunity 3: Partner with Māori
Build on existing partnerships with Māori and focus on equitable outcomes.

Opportunity 4: Resources, capacity and capability
Adequate resources, and network capacity and capability, to deliver the value of Safe Communities.

A Safe Community

STRENGTHS OF SAFE COMMUNITIES

The strength of Safe Communities is the structure for local collaboration that's supported nationally. Each Safe Community is built on local relationships and provides a structured way for agencies and communities to work together to improve safety and wellbeing in their area.

The key strengths that participants highlighted in this project were:

Sustainability of action
Grass roots innovation channel
Reduce government dependency
Platform for local collaboration
Reduced duplication
Community ownership
Increased reach

OPPORTUNITIES

1. DEMONSTRATE WELLBEING OUTCOMES

Actions	
1. Overall framework:	Adopt a network wellbeing framework that Safe Communities and agencies can align with
2. Metrics:	Develop metrics that demonstrate contributions to the national wellbeing framework

2. COMMUNICATE THE VALUE

Actions	
1. Centralised approach:	Resource the capture and sharing of stories that demonstrate the impact and value of Safe Communities
2. Advocacy:	Create a network advocacy plan to increase investment and participation.

3. PARTNER WITH MĀORI

Actions	
1. Increase Māori participation:	Invite Māori participation in governance at all levels of the Safe Community network
2. Reducing inequities of outcomes:	Identify and show reductions in inequities for Māori communities

4. RESOURCE THE MODEL

Actions	
1. Advocate for localised data:	Advocate for access to localised data that is collated nationally
2. Coordinator funding:	Advocate for the creation of sustainable coordinator funding model
3. Build capacity and capability:	Increase access to professional development opportunities across the network
4. Project funding:	Advocate for the creation of contestable project funds
5. Adapt Oversight Group:	Adapt the Oversight Group to support actions on this plan