



Improving community wellbeing, resilience and safety through collaborative efforts

Safe Communities Foundation New Zealand

SCFNZ Activities Report (July 2019 to June 2020)

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He aha te mea nui o te ao
What is the most important thing in the world?
He tangata, he tangata, he tangata
It is the people, it is the people, it is the people

Maori proverb

From the Director

Kia ora koutou

In the past year, there has been an increased focus on wellbeing, resilience and “working together” especially as we adapt to life in the midst of a global pandemic. At SCFNZ our role is not so much to “do stuff”, but more to work with the people from the communities to “make stuff happen”. By working together, we engage, enable and support communities to influence behaviours, change environments, and impact policies.



The commitment and collaboration of the community coalitions continues to inspire and confirms that local action is at the forefront of individual and community wellbeing. We hope the impact of Safe Communities in Aotearoa New Zealand is motivating and whether you are an elected member, business or professional, community member, philanthropist or wellbeing advocate, you will join us in making our communities inclusive, connected, vibrant and safer for all.

Ngā mihi

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read 'Tania Peters'.

Tania Peters, Director, Safe Communities Foundation New Zealand (SCFNZ)

From the Board,

Kia ora Safe Community friends

What a year it has been so far as we all grapple with Covid-19, resulting in many changes in the way we work. Despite all that we have seen the network step up and provide a strong response in a number of communities. Ensuring the importance and relevance of ‘the safe community model’, has shown us just how important it is to work collaboratively through the many coalitions across the country. While during this time many of you had a change in role or more tasks added to your role, local coalitions have continued and played a significant part of a response to Covid-19.



The ability to keep in touch with others during this time has provided a great forum to share ideas, strengthen responses to resilience, safety and how coalitions can contribute to ensuring your communities are safer and continue to see a reduction in injuries and harm. The results achieved are encouraging with successful outcomes in many locations. It continues to show that working together in a collaborative and coordinated manner we can achieve much more ensuring our communities not only have improvements in safety outcomes but the wellbeing and quality of life for many will be enhanced for all people in those communities.

Ngā mihi nui

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read 'Laurie Gabites'.

Laurie Gabites, Trustee, Safe Communities Foundation New Zealand

About

What is a Safe Community?

Aotearoa New Zealand has a well-established local, regional and national Safe Community network that supports wellbeing, placemaking, resilience and community safety initiatives. There are no other national organisations, networks or coalition models that offer a comparable structure and reach.

Just over 3.3 million (68%) New Zealanders live in an accredited Safe Community. 25 cities and districts are currently engaged in the network and participation is open and accessible to any and every community within Aotearoa New Zealand.

The Safe Communities concept embodies the values and philosophies of whanaungatanga (relationships) manaakitanga (respect, care, and support) and tino rangatiratanga (self-determination and autonomy). It is seen as a mechanism for bringing together agencies and groups that usually work in isolation or in silos to develop a collective 'lens' and generate a collective 'weight' to the process of identifying and responding to pressing community issues. A setting where conventional thinking can be challenged, where new and innovative ideas are developed, and where there is a balance between strategic and tactical thinking/planning.

The Safe Community movement is committed to working together to collectively strengthen cultural capability, diversity and inclusion. It recognises that in working with tangata whenua we contribute to a safer environment not only for Māori but for all New Zealand communities.



*“Communities in New Zealand
are safe, vibrant, resilient and
connected.*

*He haumaru, hihiri, manahau
me hono hapori i roto i
Aotearoa.”*

SCFNZ Vision

Safe Communities Foundation New Zealand

SCFNZ is a non-government organisation with charitable trust status, and is a Safe Community Support and [Accrediting Centre](#) of the Pan Pacific Safe Community Network. Established in 2004, SCFNZ adopts both public health and community development principles in its approach to building social capital and increase wellbeing.

SCFNZ is an Agent for Change working alongside communities to promote safety, wellbeing and resilience through:

1. **Relationship management:** national and interagency engagement, local and regional collaboration, maintaining the network of networks
2. **Development and distribution of information and resources:** national and international data, research, analysis and planning tools, evidence-based 'best buys'
3. **Personal and organisational development:** webinars, workshops, regional and national hui, coaching and mentoring
4. **Communications:** web-based, social media, zoom/skype, phone/email, site visits
5. **Marketing and promotion:** 'telling the stories', building and raising the profile, advocating for funding and resources, bringing new voices and partners to the table.

Network Growth

Diverse Partners Working Together: accredited Safe Communities have met standard criteria and use a model that turns collaboration and information into action. They provide the ideal platform and channels for central and local government to increase wellbeing, resilience and safety by focusing on high risk groups and environments, and through leadership, partnerships and collaboration.

SCFNZ and the Safe Community model is aligned to numerous central government objectives including: Department of Internal Affairs, ACC Strategic intent, Ministry of Health, Te Hiringa Hauora/Health Promotion Agency focus on reducing drug- and alcohol-related harm, Ministry of Social Development outcomes, NZ Police Prevention First Strategy, and NZTA 'Safer Journeys 2020'. The Local Government Amendment Act 2018 includes "promote the social, economic, environmental, and cultural wellbeing of communities in the present and for the future". The Safe Communities model is well placed to address the needs of local government to address the four wellbeings – in particular, the social and cultural aspects.



The Pan Pacific Safe Community Network (PPSCN) collectively represents around 60 Accredited PPSCN Safe Communities in New Zealand, United States of America and Australia. SCFNZ has formal operating arrangements with national Safe Community organisations in the USA and Australia through the PPSCN. PPSCN accreditation is built upon a framework of four interrelated parts of collaborative governance, priority setting, effective strategies and shared learnings. These are essential components of an effective community wellbeing safety programme; when any of these are weak or absent, a community will struggle to consistently deliver strong results. Initially, the criteria work like building blocks which demonstrate whether the community is heading in the right direction with its priorities and in making sure the initiatives reflect what the greater community is trying to achieve.

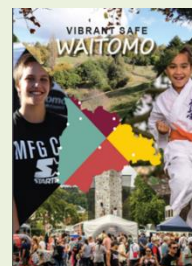
SCFNZ conducted one accreditation, and welcomes Waitomo to the network.

Waitomo District

Waitomo became an accredited Safe Community in August 2019. Under the leadership of Waitomo District Council and in partnership with the Maniapoto Māori Trust Board, a wider regional coalition was established with over 13 members and supported by local stakeholder groups. Vibrant Safe Waitomo started from a vision of place shaping and putting people first. It is fitting that Waitomo Safe Community sits firmly within the wellbeing space and has the potential ability to continue connecting across many existing work programmes and collaborative projects.

In their application Vibrant Safe Waitomo successfully outlined their approach and utilised the 'Safety Matrix' tool in assisting to determine priority areas. The ability to ask 'who else can we be partnering with?', alongside the focus on transformational change and addressing inequities that can make a difference in terms of wellbeing, bodes well for the future. Using a community empowerment approach, they are committed to enhancing and focusing on wellbeing, resilience, and safety across the district.

View the accreditation application and link to other information about Vibrant Safe Waitomo on the [SCFNZ website](#)



Measuring Success

Waimakariri was the first Safe Community to go through the new simplified approach to reaccreditation which was developed in 2019. The new approach includes three different pathways which are designed to address the status and particular needs of the individual Safe Community.

Within the past 12 months, SCFNZ conducted three reaccreditations, providing the opportunity for a formal reassessment of priorities and progress, with a focus on growth and sustainability

Waimakariri: - Congratulations on 20 years as a Safe Community

In early December 2019, SCFNZ had the pleasure of reaccrediting Waimakariri for the third time. The review team observed first-hand cross-sectorial collaboration, the reach and effectiveness of community safety and wellbeing in Waimakariri. Progress was shown in community regeneration, building community resilience, young people, wrap-around support services, building neighbourhoods, safe schools, migrants and newcomers, falls prevention, and connected communities. Highlights included a continuous improvement approach, alongside a long history and strong commitment from senior positions within key stakeholder's organisations.

Waimakariri is to be commended for the management of their community wellbeing programme so it has become business as usual in the development of community and individual resilience, safety, and wellbeing. In addition, the inclusion of Safe Communities in council's long-term plan and the holistic equity lens, along with the community empowerment approach, bodes well for the future.



Pictured are signatories representing the key networks/organisations working in the area: Ngāi Tūāhuriri Rūnanga, Police, Youth Council, Social Services Waimakariri, Waimakariri Health Advisory Group, Waimakariri District Council, Waimakariri Access Group.

"In the 20 years since its original accreditation, the Waimakariri District has experienced significant change, in terms of both size and demographic make-up. This has translated into an evolution of what constitutes a 'Safe Community' and the associated priorities.....If safety, health and social outcomes were to improve, we needed to get those working in those sectors talking to each other; collectively identifying gaps and opportunities to reduce duplication and facilitate easier access to community supports..... Consequently, the need to focus on wellbeing and resilience, and to facilitate inclusive and empowered communities became key."

Excerpt: WAIMAKARIRI DISTRICT - 20 Years a Safe Community Overview

View the reaccreditation application and link to other information about these Safe Communities on the [SCFNZ website](https://www.safecommunities.org.nz).

Hastings

Congratulations to Safer Hastings, Haumarutia a Heretaunga, on achieving reaccreditation on 12 September 2019. Since Hastings's original accreditation in March 2013, the structure has evolved to meet changing priorities. Safer Hastings partners include a diverse range of stakeholders. With seven coalition partners originally, it has now grown to over 29, with Hastings District Council the lead agency, providing co-ordination support for the group. Over the last six years much work has gone into creating and sustaining supportive and connected communities, safe homes, safe roads, safe public spaces and reducing the effects of addiction-related harm in Hastings.

"I am incredibly proud to support this application for the reaccreditation. We are striving to make Hastings a great place to live, work and play for all of our whānau and this organisation plays a vital role in doing that throughout our community. There is so much more to do for our people – from the increasing difficulties people are facing with the housing shortage and our high statistics for family harm, self-harm and crime, it is more important than ever for Safer Hastings to be active and successful in all parts of our district. Now with a new 3-year implementation plan, we are confident Safer Hastings can achieve all of their strategic goals for our people by 2022." Mayor Sandra Hazelhurst



Tauranga and Western Bay of Plenty

Congratulations to Tauranga Western Bay Safer Communities on their 2nd reaccreditation. They submitted their application in March 2020 with the ceremony taking place in September 2020, due to COVID-19 pandemic restrictions.

In their application, Tauranga Western Bay Safer Communities provided evidence of and demonstrated a well-established regional network that supports wellbeing, placemaking, resilience and community safety initiatives. The evolution and growth that has occurred over the past 12 years is commendable.



Left to right Mayor Garry Webber (Western Bay of Plenty) Tania Peters- (SCFNZ Director), Michael Mills (SCFNZ Community Engagement Advisor), Alana Rapson (Coordinator), Mayor Tenby Powell (Tauranga) .

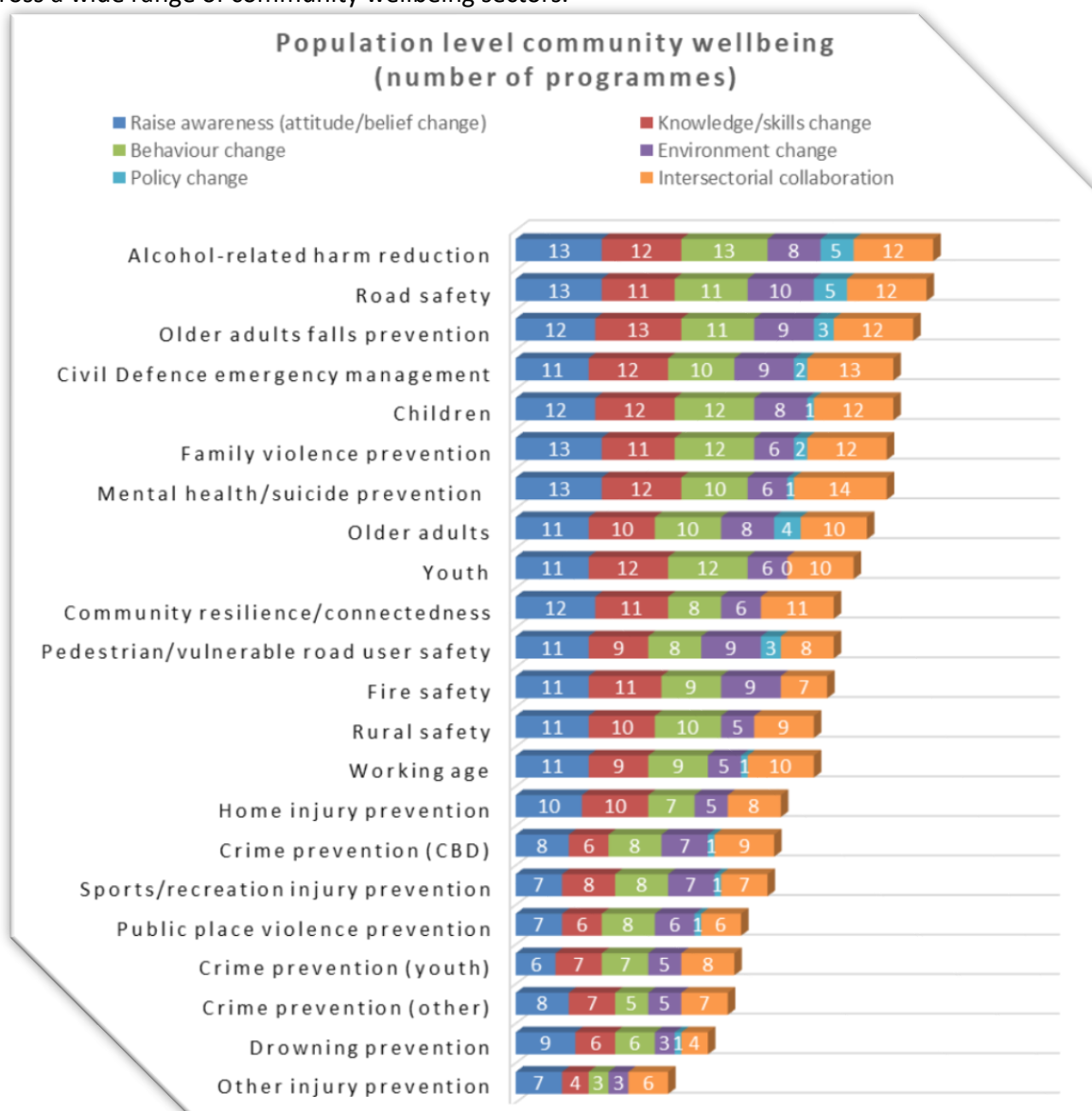
Since the application pack was completed, New Zealand has moved from responding to the Covid-19 pandemic to recovery and the 'new normal'. Tauranga and the Western Bay of Plenty region is well placed to respond to the emerging stressors and trends as they demonstrated a strong commitment to wellbeing and developing resilience in their community. The excellent examples of these included the focus on homelessness, community wellbeing action plans, and reducing family harm and drug-related harm. These, alongside the other goals identified in the action plan, will form the basis to provide an immediate and effective resource to support the Civil Defence emergency recovery response.

Reach and Priorities

Monitoring is an ongoing activity that is incorporated into the Safe Communities journey.

Annual reports: Safe Communities report annually to SCFNZ, successfully demonstrating the implementation of Safe Community model. This collection of information provides increased understanding and effective operation of Safe Community activities (governance, coordination and work streams). It shows whether things are going to plan and helps SCFNZ to identify potential issues and implement steps to solve problems quickly. This, in turn, is a key component of achieving the effectiveness of Safe Community coalitions, including reach of programmes and building networks for action. The full 2019/20 annual report for the Safe Communities network can be viewed online [here](#).

The chart below looks at the population level community wellbeing programmes, aggregating the intervention topics and modes across the whole country. Each number in each segment represents the number of communities that reported on that particular topic and mode. The cumulative length of each bar shows the areas of highest priority and activity within each sector. This demonstrates that Safe Communities are not restricted to single approaches but are utilising a variety of interventions across a wide range of community wellbeing sectors.



Building Capacity & Capabilities

Strengthening the capacity and increasing the capability of all existing accredited Safe Communities to improve the effectiveness of local Safe Community coalitions is core business.

Strength in Numbers: In November 2019, SCFNZ held its 12th Annual Safe Communities National Hui *‘Enhancing Community Wellbeing and Sustainable Development’*

- 95% of Safe Communities attended the two-day event, to learn, connect, interact, and engage
- 100% agreed with the statement *‘I have learnt something new relevant to my Safe Community work and have upskilled my knowledge and capabilities’*
- 83% of respondents rated SCFNZ overall in relation to the hui as ‘excellent or very good’
- The hui included five main topics: *localism & 4 wellbeing’s; wellbeing in the workplace; community response to methamphetamine; alcohol-related harm & inequities; and meaningful partnerships.*
- Community presentations remained an essential tool to enable best practice shared learning, with presentations on collaborative governance, priority setting and effective strategies.
- Interactive roundtable discussion allowed sharing of experience and generated a range of ways to facilitate Māori participation in Safe Communities
- Focused discussion sessions allowed for in depth analysis and collective discussion/problem solving of key issues after each of the five key topic areas. Evaluation showed a 94% positive rating – *‘a great way to share ideas and different perspectives and experiences’, ‘good for networking and reflection’, ‘valuable for enriching learnings’.*

Overall, the hui was well received and participants appreciated the opportunities to build and strengthen relationships between Safe Communities Network Aotearoa NZ, funders & external partners (organised and self-initiated), coalition sharing & problem solving, and to increase their knowledge of community wellbeing topics, both formally and informally.

Over 27 Territorial Authorities participated in SCFNZ shared learning events (regional or digital). Evaluation showed *‘80% of participants intended to use the learnings from these events in their work’*

- **#4 regional workshops:** Sustainable Development Goals; Introduction to Safe Communities model, evaluation and success planning, linking national and regional priorities.
- **#2 webinars facilitated:** *‘It’s not what happens- it’s how you deal with it’* – maximising opportunities and addressing challenges; *‘Crime Prevention, Local Government and Safe Communities’*. There are over 27 archived webinars available online.
- **#3 Zoom discussions:** To share initial Covid-19 responses during levels 3 & 4, including priority areas and activities; then to identify, share the gaps and opportunities in the Covid-19 recovery phase and the alignment/realignment of the Safe Community annual plans feeding into regional recovery plans.
- **#4 newsletters:** to build the network profile and celebrate and share success stories
- **#25 e- alerts:** on effective practice, new resources, events, training opportunities, key learnings, network news and information

Celebrating Leadership

Safe Communities leadership and support acknowledged. SCFNZ annually provides awards to recognise the contribution and leadership shown by individuals who are committed to furthering the objectives and goals of the SCFNZ and the Safe Community movement. These were announced at the annual SCFNZ National Hui.

Congratulations to Kath Forde (Injury Prevention Partner - central region, ACC) who received the Carolyn Coggan Safe Community Award in recognition of her outstanding leadership and support for Safe Communities at the national level.



Kath Forde

Congratulations to Teresa Stanley (Auckland/Tāmaki Makaurau) and Saniya Thompson (Invercargill/Southland/Gore) who each received a SCFNZ Safe Community Award, in recognition of their individual outstanding leadership and support for Safe Communities at the regional and local levels.



Saniya Thompson



Teresa Stanley receiving award from George Fairbairn, SCFNZ Chair.

COVID-19 (Lockdown response March-June 2020)

The COVID-19 pandemic has been an ongoing challenge this year, both at the individual and community levels. In Aotearoa New Zealand, a national lockdown was imposed in response to the global pandemic. There were severe movement restrictions and an unprecedented impact on daily life. During the lockdown SCFNZ supported the Safe Community network with:

- Weekly e-news to collate and distribute timely, relevant and concise information
- 'Zoom' meetings: two focused on communities sharing their initial Covid-19 responses during levels 3/4, including priority areas and activities. Priority areas in the response phase were *reducing family harm; reducing alcohol-related harm; and mental health and wellbeing.*
- The subsequent meeting focusing on sharing the gaps and opportunities in the recovery phase and the alignment/realignment of the Safe Community annual plans feeding into regional recovery plans.
- Local response and recovery efforts were clearly linked to national direction.

Following the initial response, the ongoing challenges of COVID-19 impacted communities in a multitude of ways. These included unemployment, financial concerns, health risks, mental health, isolation and uncertainty.

Overall, Safe Communities involvement has been essential in local Covid-19 responses and plans as communities moved through the alert levels into the recovery phase. Participants willingly shared their experiences and offered advice to their colleagues, enabling identification of opportunities and problem-solving any challenges, and demonstrating the value of the already extensive use of the Safe Communities network. The high level and quality of involvement of Safe Communities personnel was impressive. Safe Community networks were used extensively to disseminate information and connect the right people, with a focus on relevant and timely communication. Excerpt COVID-19 Safe Community Summary Document

Collective Approach

Hear from two Safe Community coordinators – **note these articles were written late 2019 pre-COVID.*

Meet Helen Algar, Community Development Facilitator for Waitaki District Council. As part of her role, Helen coordinates the Safer Waitaki Safer Communities Project.

Safer Waitaki is a coalition with a current network of 160 organisations, 103 of whom take an active role. We adopt a co-design, community led approach to identifying and addressing safety and well-being in our community which is a fun and effective way to learn from our community, share the load and achieve some amazing outcomes. Activities are evidence-based and fit within our Safer Waitaki Community Safety Strategic outcomes. Where there are local research gaps we undertake our own research and have undertaken a number of community surveys and focus groups. We work in a collaborative model across 7 working groups which incorporate all sectors of the community including industry.

We reviewed and updated our strategy last year and in 2020 we have a particular focus on housing, age friendly status, mental health (which includes a methamphetamine community response plan), family harm, and pathways for vulnerable youth. I am a member of a number of regional leadership groups which is a great networking tool and helps us to advocate for service gaps when necessary. It also means that we can work collaboratively across the region on shared issues which provides collective impact.

If you would like to know more about what happens in Waitaki, check out www.saferwaitaki.co.nz



Helen Algar (left) with colleague Shirley Bee.

Kia ora koutou, meet Alisha Stone the Safe Community Programme Manager for [New Plymouth Injury Safe](http://www.newplymouthinjury.co.nz) Trust (NPiS) for almost 2 years. NPiS represents a coalition of local organisations and groups with an interest in injury prevention and community safety. Established in 2001, NPiS was the first community in New Zealand to be designated a Safe Community by Safe Communities Foundation NZ (in 2006), and has since been reaccredited in 2011 and again in 2016.



The priority areas for NPiS are based on national and local data and include: suicide prevention, falls prevention and alcohol-related harm reduction. NPiS supports a number of other injury prevention collaboratives throughout our community. One significant project NPiS is currently working on is mental well-being and suicide prevention in the local construction industry. We are working with key stakeholders in the sector to identify an industry-specific response that the sector owns and is committed to long term.

NPiS is also working on a new innovation with the Taranaki Alcohol Harm Reduction Group, developing an application for funding for a project: *'Delaying the onset of alcohol consumption: a targeted approach for caregivers and whānau of intermediate age children'*.

Over the coming year we will be exploring local information about drugs in relation to preventable injury and death in the community, as this is an area the trustees are seeking a deeper understanding of to make future decisions. We are also involved in exciting projects related to older adults falls prevention, and supporting the Kidsafe Taranaki Trust with coordination of car seat clinics and help with child falls prevention initiatives.

If you have any queries about the mahi that NPiS does, contact [Alisha](mailto:Alisha@newplymouthinjury.co.nz)

Strategic direction

SCFNZ is an independent NGO, with charitable trust status, governed by a board with funding for 2019/20 by Accident Compensation Corporation, Ministry of Health and Health Promotion Agency.

SCFNZ STRATEGY 2020-2023

OUR VISION

Communities in New Zealand are safe, vibrant, resilient and connected.
He haumarū, hihiri, manahau me hono hapori i roto i Aotearoa.



OUR VALUES

Approachable/Whanaungatanga and Connected/Kotahitanga

- Participation and strong effective relationships, Collaboration is the heart of what we do
- Flexibility and choice underpins our community support, being nationally led, but community delivered

Respect/Manaakitanga and Integrity/Tikanga

- Demonstrate, honesty, respect and integrity
- Embrace diversity (understanding) and accepting the differences of each community

Responsible/Kaitiakitanga and Proactive/Tūhonohono

- Embrace innovation, in supporting strengthening community social impact
- Evidence-based approach - on local and international best practice

WHAT WE DO?

- Sustain and grow the Safe Community movement
- Be an influencer to adopt wellbeing and safety practices
- Build community social impact
- Grow and diversify our sphere of influence
- Strengthen Safe Community capabilities

THE DIFFERENCE WE WANT TO MAKE

Increased community capability and self-determination Communities have the skills, leaders and capabilities needed to drive and sustain positive local change to achieve their aspirations.

Increased synergy through developing collaborative relationships that can build critical mass and credibility.

Increased impact and reach One message many voices, resulting in the continuity of messages and interventions, and their sustainability.

Increased family and whānau resilience People have the skills, strategies and networks that they need to achieve and maintain wellbeing.

Increased inclusion and social cohesion Connections are built within and between communities, creating an environment in which people feel included and that they belong.

Increased social equity All people, families and communities can access safe housing, health, education, sporting and employment opportunities.

Enhanced community safety Improvements in perceptions of safety, the creation of vibrant yet safe environments, adoption of safer behaviours, increased wellbeing with a long-term reduction in severity and incidence of injury/violence/crime and alcohol related harm.