



## Tauranga Western Bay Safer Communities Overview

Western Bay of Plenty's commitment to improving community safety, violence and injury prevention began in 2006 with the formation of a collaborative partnership between Tauranga City Council and key safety stakeholders.

In 2008, Tauranga City received formal designation as an International Safe Community, administered by the Safe Communities Foundation NZ. Western Bay of Plenty District Council joined the programme in 2014.

The district is still one of the fastest growing sub-regions in NZ, with a diverse range of cultures calling the Western Bay of Plenty home. The sub-regions population has increased by 18.6 % since the 2013 census, and 29% since the region was first accredited on 2008 (*Shared drive folder 4*).

### Structure and governance

With the establishment of Tauranga City Council's Community Development Team in 2014, the safer communities programme was reviewed, and the coordinator function brought 'inhouse' to ensure sustainable governance and funding. This approach enabled a new governance structure and leadership role. The programme was also rebranded to reflect Western Bay of Plenty District Council's joint accreditation application with Tauranga City Council's reaccreditation in 2014.

In 2015, a strategic group was established to focus on the effective implementation of Tauranga Western Bay Safer Communities (TWBSC) strategic direction and action plan. Tauranga City Council and Western Bay of Plenty District Council are the lead agencies and the programme's strategic governance is provided by the Tauranga Western Bay Safer Communities Strategic Group through a Terms of Reference and Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). This group is supported by existing network coalitions, community forums and collaborative initiatives, a wider collection of relevant agencies and organisations and community groups working in the safety space, plus other safe communities nationally. (*Shared drive folder 5 and 6*).

The strategic group membership (*Shared drive folder 5*) has remained consistent over the years and is reviewed annually alongside the action plan. This is to ensure effective implementation of the strategy and action plans. The addition of our local Family Violence Response Coordinator in 2017, and Department of Corrections and Iwi representation in 2018, were in response to gaps within our action plan that needed representation and expert advice.

In 2019, we saw the resignation of Accident Compensation Corporation (ACC) from the strategic group, one of TWBSC foundation members, and a key funder of the coordinator role and safety initiatives in previous years. While we are disappointed with this, we understand the Injury Prevention Specialist now has a bigger area to cover due to an organisational restructure and needs to prioritise her time in areas that align more with ACC priorities. ACC still receive TWBSC correspondence and have been invited to attend the reaccreditation ceremony on May 15<sup>th</sup> 2020.

### Strategic Plan 2020-2025

Looking ahead for the next five years, other possible members to help implement the 2020-2025 strategic plan are being explored. This approach to community safety encourages greater cooperation and collaboration between non-government organisations, the business sector, and local and central government agencies.

TWBSC has aligned its new strategic direction with the reaccreditation timeframe as a way of utilizing the stakeholder engagement feedback and statistical evidence collected to inform both documents.

New safety goals of the 2020-2025 strategic plan are:

- Safety goal 1: Tauranga and the Western Bay of Plenty is a connected and collaborative community.
- Safety goal 2: People are free from addiction related harm.
- Safety goal 3: Tauranga and Western Bay of Plenty is free of violence, fear and crime.
- Safety goal 4: People in Tauranga and the Western Bay of Plenty keep themselves safe and injury free.

In response to emerging issues the 2020-2025 strategic plan sees the inclusion of:

- Ethnic and vulnerable communities as target groups,
- Natural environments have been included as a target area – as in water, for water safety and natural-made emergencies, alongside the other target environments of homes and public spaces.
- Water safety, suicide prevention, emergency readiness and public perceptions of safety, as new focus areas.

*(Shared drive doc 3, Shared drive folder 7)*

### **Priority focus areas**

TWBSC aim is to focus on key safety areas relating to injury prevention, crime prevention, violence prevention, community wellbeing and addiction related harm. Focus areas are set based on community feedback, local, regional and national strategic links, and statistical evidence. *(Shared drive folder 6 and 7).*

Projects and initiatives to date have focused on a variety of areas to improve safety outcomes and prevent violence or injury. As an established safe community, we are proud to say, that we have redevelopment, modernised, and continued several foundation programmes, documents and relationships to what was initially set up when first accredited in 2008. Evolving what was in place to meet the needs of today's community. A great example of this is the City Safety Plan. The City Safety Plan is an enhanced City Centre Safety Plan, which is a redevelopment of The Strand Night Management Plan. Several actions from the initial plan have carried forward and been improved. For example, bar staff radios for safer communication between door staff, the camera room and Police. This has improved via technology, and also through staffing of Tauranga City Council's 24-hour camera room to monitor and be in communication with bar door staff. Increased proactive surveillance via CCTV and LED lighting has led to an improvement in the public's perception of safety in the area, as well as, a drop in antisocial behavior. A formal relationship between TWBSC, Council and Tauranga Moana Maori Wardens has been established. The wardens provide a presence at the Willow Street bus stop, which provides an increased perception of safety for bus users during peak commute times. This safety plan is transferable and is being used as a template for Katikati and Te Puke Safety Forums, as well as, the outer suburbs of Greerton, Gate Pa and Mount Maunganui. *(Shared drive folder 6 and 9).*

The popular youth resource, Teen Tools has been redeveloped and relaunched at the request of the local secondary schools and community stakeholders working in the youth space. Teen Tools is a youth specific health and wellbeing resource that provides a list of places where young people can seek confidential help and advice on a wide range of issues from mental health and counselling, to drug use, family violence, financial support and personal development. This resource was first developed

in 2014 and has been modernised and updated to reflect the changing social sector environment and current/emerging issues that face our young people. The redevelopment of this resource was project managed by a youth specific organisation, which sought input from young people (including using a young graphic designer). (*Shared drive folder 9*). A second and third stage of Teen Tools is currently in development.

TWBSC continue to consistently submit annual reports to Safe Communities Foundation NZ (SCFNZ), attend and present at the SCFNZ national hui, and have engaged with SCFNZ visits - Sustainable Development Goals workshop and regional hui (*Shared drive folder 12*) as well as participating in regular governance surveys.

The key opportunities for TWBSC as we enter our new strategic phase are centered around community wellbeing, resilience and inclusive communities. Recent activities have seen an increased collaboration with diverse communities that are often hard to reach or communicate with. The alignment with our Welcoming Communities programme to help engage migrant communities has been invaluable in the water safety, youth and family harm areas (*Shared drive folder 6 and 9*).

### **Resourcing**

TWBSC is proud to say the safer communities coordination and strategy implementation is fully funded through Tauranga City and Western Bay of Plenty Councils' Long Term Plans (LTP). Better alignment between the programme and both Council visions has seen community safety included in council reporting, strategies, LTP funding support for projects, infrastructure, staffing resource and community funding agreements. (*Shared drive folder 5, 6 and 8*). This has raised the profile of, and created a platform for, the Safe Community Model and shows commitment from both Councils to community safety.

### **Looking to the future**

Tauranga Western Bay Safer Communities is eager to achieve local solutions to local problems and promote positive change and sustainability for strong, healthy and safe communities. We have worked hard to evolve the work we are doing in the safety space through research, engagement, and community collaboration. It is pleasing to see community and key stakeholders value the Safer Communities programme positively in terms of engagement, collaborative relationship building, coordinator contributions and support. Letters of support from current members (*Shared drive folder 14*) reflect the level of respect our key partners have for the Safer Communities programme also.

TWBSC values our supportive relationship with SCFNZ and looks forward to continued support in the future as we work to improve community safety, injury prevention and harm reduction in our region.