

Vibrant Safe Waitomo: Our Impact

IMPACT REPORT 2021

Prepared by
the Vibrant Safe Waitomo
Regional Coalition

December 2021

Vibrant Safe Waitomo: Our Impact

IMPACT REPORT 2019 – 2021

Executive Summary _____	2
Creating a Vibrant, Safe Waitomo: Our story so far _____	3
Waitomo Residents Quick Stats _____	6
Spotlight on Local Leaders _____	7
Findings and Discussion _____	8
Theme 1: Whānau/Families _____	9
Theme 2: Mahi/Workplaces _____	15
Theme 3: Hākinakina/Recreation _____	19
Theme 4: Kotahitanga/Connected Leadership _____	24
Report against Vibrant Safe Waitomo 2020/21 Action Plan _____	28
Next Steps _____	43
Acknowledgements _____	44



Photo credit: Sasha Rickit

Executive Summary

By the end of the 2020/21 financial year, Vibrant Safe Waitomo (VSW) had been active for 18 months. This impact report tells the story of the difference VSW is making to those it is trying to help. It describes how VSW is fulfilling its purpose and working towards achieving change. This report focuses on progress towards the long-term, big picture changes articulated in the VSW Strategy through a combination of data and trend analysis and storytelling.

The report shows that since the VSW Strategy was developed in 2019, VSW has enabled a common understanding of the Waitomo District's key challenges, underpinned by local knowledge and data analysis. From this common understanding, the VSW Regional Coalition, local service providers and community members have been able to work towards a shared vision for how to address these challenges. This existing framework has proven to be an essential tool in the local response and management of the COVID-19 pandemic, which began to colour the implementation of the VSW Strategy from a few months after its inception. The challenge for VSW going forward is to continue to proactively seek opportunities for collaboration, connect funders with service providers, and break down barriers for those working directly with the community to achieve the priorities of VSW, specifically in the areas of suicide and addiction services.

Creating a Vibrant, Safe Waitomo: Our story so far

Vibrant Safe Waitomo is a community-led collaboration that provides leadership and direction, with everyone working in partnership to create a safer community for all. The Vibrant Safe Waitomo Regional Coalition Group developed the Vibrant Safe Waitomo (VSW) Strategy in 2019, providing a road map to address community safety issues in the Waitomo District collectively. The VSW Strategy works towards Vibrant Safe Waitomo's vision to create safe and vibrant communities where people want to live and do business.

The work achieved to date in response to the VSW Strategy covers all people, ages, and ethnicities living, visiting, or passing through the Waitomo District. A strong theme to this work has been intentionally seeking opportunities to add value to work that is already happening in neighbourhoods and communities. This has manifested in making connections between service providers, funders, and local leaders to increase access to knowledge and funding and remove obstacles through collaboration. This impact report uses the framework established by the VSW Strategy, assessing the impact of key actions within each theme over the past 18 months using the Strategy's impact measures as a guide.

Vibrant Safe Waitomo Regional Coalition

The Vibrant Safe Waitomo Regional Coalition has been in place since October 2018. The Coalition's primary purpose is enablement - providing influence and support at a governance level while connecting the implementation of the Strategy to local intelligence and local strategies. The group's membership has changed since its conception in response to the changing needs of the community and currently comprises representatives from the following organisations:

- Maniapoto Māori Trust Board
- Waikato District Health Board
- Legendary Te Kuiti
- Accident Compensation Corporation
- New Zealand Police
- Ministry of Education
- Fire and Emergency New Zealand
- Ministry of Social Development
- Sport Waikato
- Oranga Tamariki Ministry for Children
- Integrated Safety Response
- Representative for MP for Taranaki – King Country
- Waitomo District Council

Vibrant Safe Waitomo Strategy

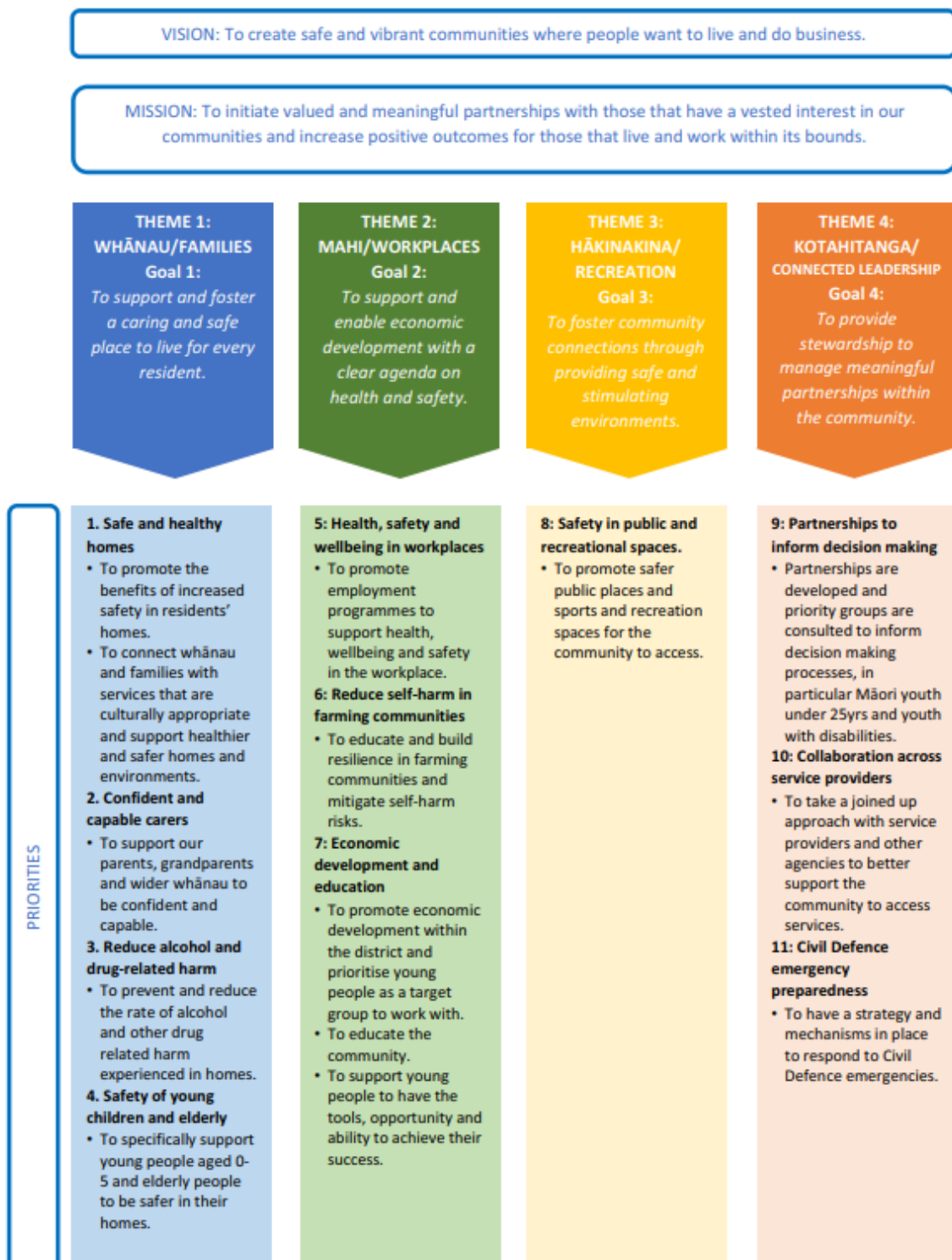
Adopted by the Regional Coalition in 2019, the VSW Strategy's strategic themes and focus areas were informed primarily through a stocktake of issues around safety and harm conducted as part of the initial application documentation to become an accredited Safe Community¹.

OUR VISION | NGĀ MOEMOEĀ

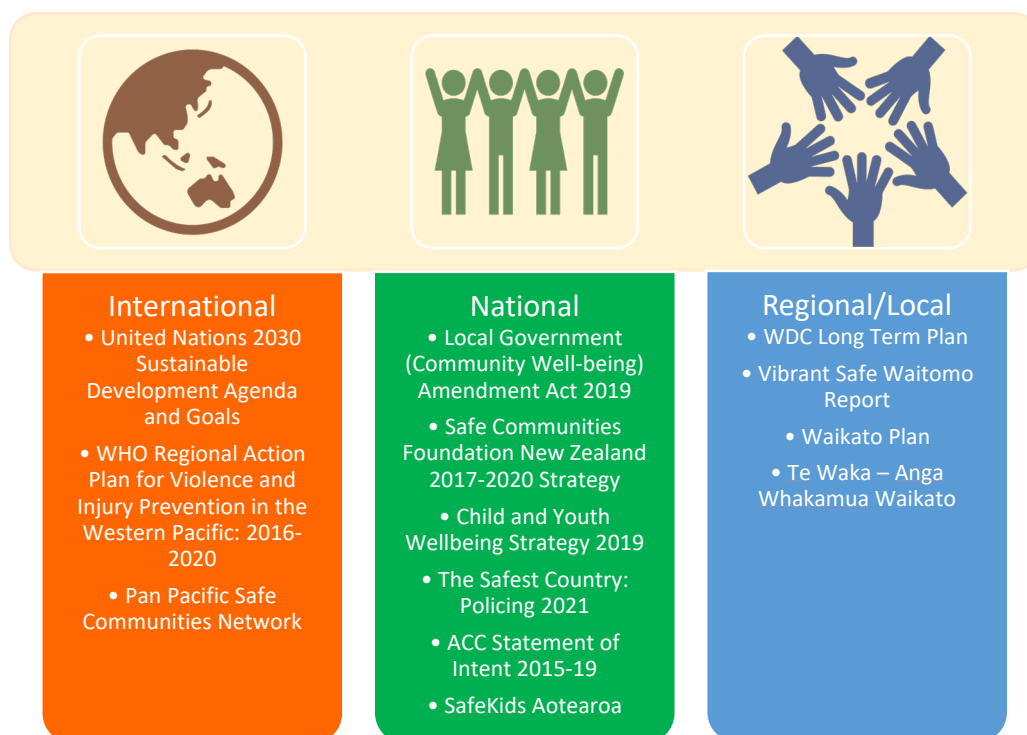
*TO CREATE SAFE AND VIBRANT COMMUNITIES WHERE PEOPLE WANT TO LIVE
AND DO BUSINESS*

¹ The application and other relevant documentation can be found at <https://www.waitomo.govt.nz/our-district/community-development/vibrant-safe-waitomo/>

Through analysing data sets, gathering information and cross-referencing, the Strategy reflects the main issues that affect the community and which populations are most at risk. These findings are illustrated in the *Course of Life Safety Matrix* within the application documentation. The VSW Strategy identifies three primary strategic themes most suited to promoting better safety outcomes: **Whānau/Families**, **Mahi/Workplaces**, and **Hākinakina/Recreation**. Underpinning all three of these is the fourth theme of **Kotahitanga/Connected Leadership** which guides the operation of the VSW Regional Coalition and its relationships with community partners. The strategic framework of the VSW Strategy is visualised below:



The VSW Strategy has links to and is informed by many international, national, regional, and local strategies, plans and networks. VSW was created as a contributing member of the Safe Communities Foundation New Zealand. These linkages are demonstrated below:

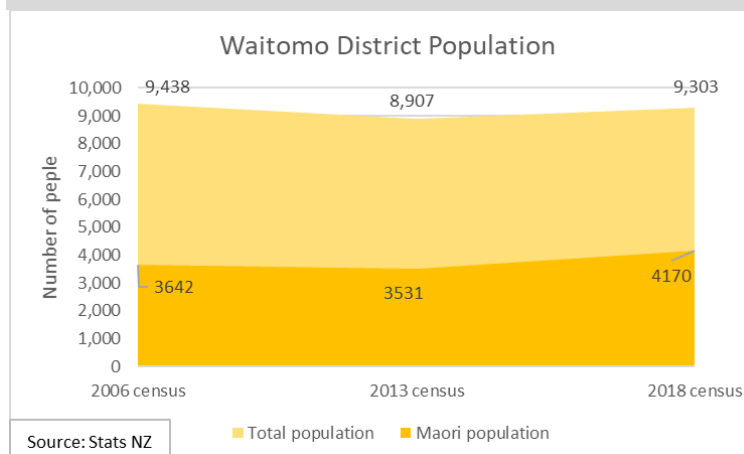


Disestablishment of Safe Communities Foundation NZ

The Safe Communities Foundation NZ (SCFNZ) supported the establishment of Vibrant Safe Waitomo and other accredited safe communities in New Zealand. The SCFNZ Board has recently determined that it is no longer feasible to support the wider network due to changing social, political and funding environments, coupled with the impacts of COVID-19. Therefore, this national organisation has notified the New Zealand network that they will cease operations from 1 January 2022. Work is underway to investigate the best way to manage the network of the 20 existing safe communities in New Zealand. The VSW Regional Coalition is participating in this work.

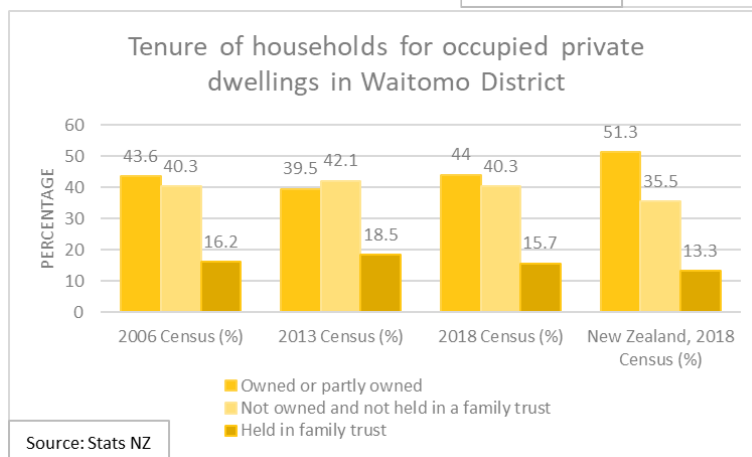
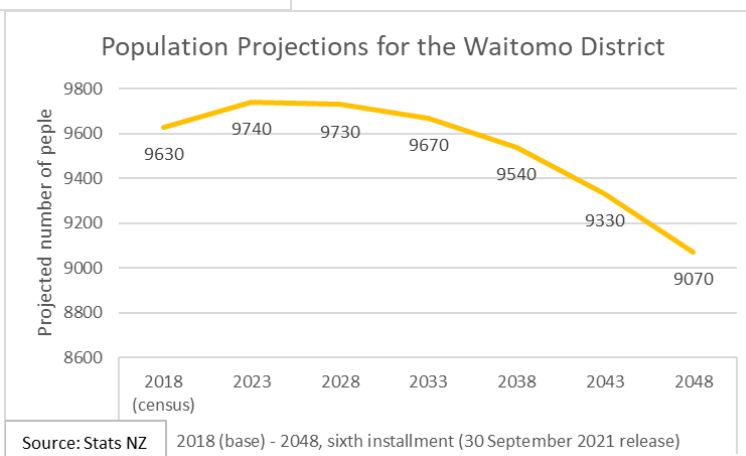


Waitomo Residents Quick Stats



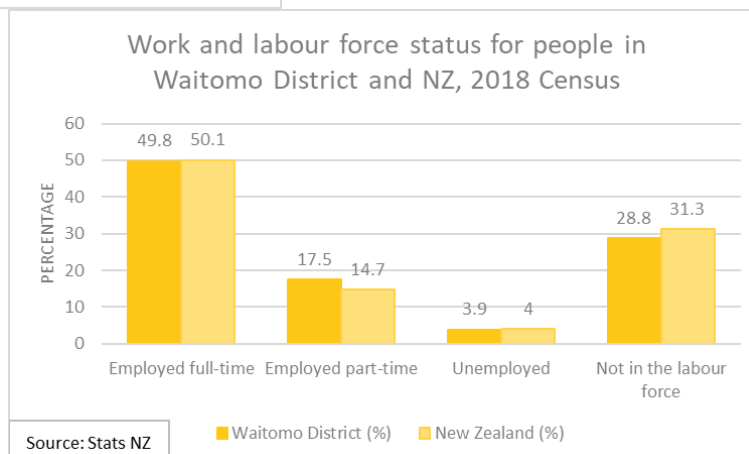
While Waitomo's population is projected to decrease over time, there was a slight increase in both the total population and the Māori population between the 2013 and 2018 census.

The median age of Waitomo residents is 38.2, compared to the New Zealand median age of 37.2 (2018 Census, Stats NZ).



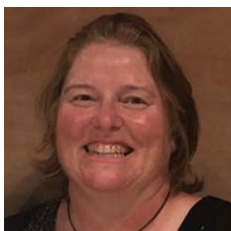
Waitomo has a lower percentage of people who own their dwelling than the rest of New Zealand; however, more people live in a dwelling owned by a family trust in Waitomo compared to national 2018 census data.

The Waitomo District has comparable work and labour force statistics to the rest of New Zealand, with a higher rate of part-time employment, a slightly lower rate of full-time employment, and a slightly lower unemployment rate.



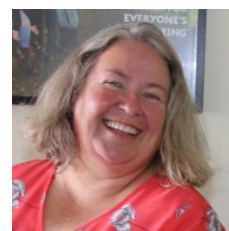
Spotlight on Local Leaders

Wendy Valler, Kay Walshaw, and Caren Campbell are local leaders who have been working with Vibrant Safe Waitomo since its inception. Wendy and Kay work within Waitomo Waipā Women's Refuge, and Caren is with Violence Free Maniapoto. Both organisations address family violence in the Maniapoto area. Being part of the Waitomo community is important to all three.



"I love the community, the people - they care. It's the reason I started working for Waitomo Waipā Women's Refuge. It's the networks and Māori community. The ethos of the organisation which comes through in the manaaki." – **Kay**

"I've been here for 15 years, and I have worked with Waitomo Waipā Women's Refuge for 11 years. Our children identify here as being home. I love the support and love that the Refuge provides for both women and children. The organisation and community have done so much for my family and me." – **Wendy**



"I've worked alongside Waitomo Waipā Women's Refuge via Violence Free Maniapoto mahi for the past seven years. There has been a real connect for me with my past work teaching in rural communities. I enjoy it – working with kids and families has created a passion." – **Caren**

"Seeing the data spreadsheet [VSW Course of Life Matrix] was awesome, it made us accountable to ourselves within our mahi."

Working alongside the Vibrant Safe Waitomo Coalition has built on this passion. The partnership with the Coalition provides another space to share the important message of both organisations. Since 2019, the Coalition has allowed access to a group of people and organisations they wouldn't usually have access to. The ability to form partnerships and discuss how they can provide support has been valuable.

They specifically mentioned the *Course of Life Matrix* as an exciting insight into trends within the community and what the data indicated was essential to focus on.

The Resilience Programme Research and the Housing Project have been significant recent highlights supported by their interactions with the Vibrant Safe Waitomo Coalition; however, the 2020 Maniapoto Arts Festival has been the most successful and the most significant recent highlight. With the lead being Violence Free Maniapoto, the Festival was a collaboration between different organisations. The Coalition opened doors to new and exciting ways to deliver on a new vision to reach the community.

"The really special part of the whole event was the gentle and softly spoken lady that visited our office to discuss the idea of using the arts as a waka to spread the message. Watching her see the Festival all come together, and the sparkle in her expression was worth the work."

Findings and Discussion

Impact report 2019-2021

It is important to take the opportunity this year to report back to VSW Coalition members, other key stakeholders, and the Waitomo community about how VSW is going so far in working towards its strategic objectives and what impact is being seen and felt in the community, in addition to the regular annual reporting and the required reporting to Safe Communities Foundation New Zealand.

This document provides VSW stakeholders and the Waitomo community with an overview of what impact the VSW framework and Coalition is having in terms of strategic and community outcomes, as well as being a tool for the VSW Regional Coalition to assess how well the Coalition itself is operating and whether there are improvements that could be made to allow for a bigger impact and better outcomes.

Reporting against the VSW Strategy

The VSW Strategy contains impact measures for each theme, providing a guide for measuring the long-term impact of the Strategy. These measures, by nature, rely on longitudinal data collection and comparison, so the findings of this impact report should serve as a first step of understanding the potential long-term impact of the Strategy.

Information to support reporting against the VSW Strategy's impact measures was identified through conversations with key coalition members and support staff. The evaluation method uses a combination of data from existing surveys and data collection, interviews with key community members, and existing members VSW annual reports. As alignment against and progress towards the priority areas of the VSW Strategy, it is likely that more data specific to the impact of the VSW Strategy will become available.

Specific findings and discussion relevant to each theme from the VSW Strategy are examined in turn in the following section.



Waitomo District Youth Council members attending the 2021 Maniapoto Arts Festival

Theme 1: Whānau/Families

The goal of the Whānau/Families theme is *to support and foster a caring and safe place to live for every resident*. This is achieved by focusing on the following priorities:

1. Safe and healthy homes
 - To promote the benefits of increased safety in residents' homes.
 - To connect whānau and families with services that are culturally appropriate and support healthier and safer homes and environments.
2. Confident and capable carers
 - To support our parents, grandparents and wider whānau to be confident and capable.
3. Reduce alcohol and drug-related harm
 - To prevent and reduce the rate of alcohol and other drug-related harm experienced in homes.
4. Safety of young children and elderly
 - To specifically support young people aged 0-5 and elderly people to be safer in their homes.

Progress to date

Progress as indicated through VSW action plans

Through the VSW action plans delivery, external providers such as Digital Inclusion Alliance Aotearoa have joined with local service providers like Te Kuiti Community House Trust and whānau support groups such as Ko1² Aroha. This initiative connected 210 modems within homes in the community.

As the financial year progresses, some actions have emerged, responsive to the community needs as they become apparent or are identified. An example of this is the *Tikanga Ririki Wananga - Parenting Workshop*, which was held as a collaboration between the Waikato District Health Board Maternity Resource Centre and Number Twelve Youth Hub. This workshop was a strengths-based Māori parenting programme that provided young parents with a safe platform to discuss parenting skills.

Summary of the impact of this theme

The Whānau/Families space is the most targeted theme through the execution of the VSW Strategy, and the reasoning for this is clear. The research conducted in 2018 and summarised by the *Course of Life Matrix* and the data presented in this report paints the picture that Waitomo whānau/families are experiencing the most harm within their own homes. There is also evidence that Waitomo people experience more negative health outcomes when compared to other areas within the Waikato District Health Board area. It is evident that the programmes and initiatives which make the most positive impact in this space are the ones that continue to practice manaaki/care and support and are bravely rewriting the narrative so Waitomo whānau/families can obtain hauora/well-being.

² Ko1 is pronounced 'kotahi'

Impact measures

From the data currently available, the progress towards the impact measures for this theme is assessed below.

Impact measure: *Support is available to whānau to reduce alcohol and other drug-related harm and reduce the desire to use alcohol and other drugs.*

NZ Police show awahi

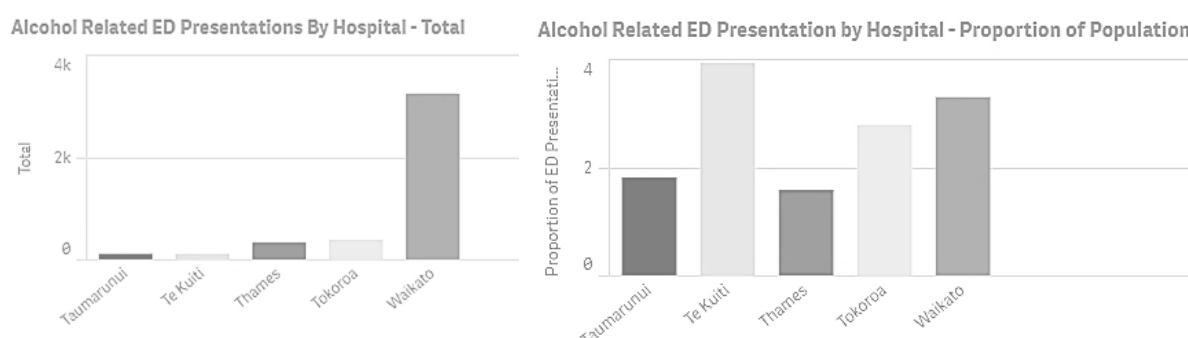
During the life of the VSW Strategy, NZ Police have implemented an app designed to support a prevention-first model, diverting people to support services rather than directly into the criminal justice system. The app, named 'awhi' (Te Reo for embrace or help), gives Police Officers the ability to make on the spot referrals to social services for people in need that they come across.

Usage of the app encompasses many social services, and data specific to addiction services shows a slow local uptake with two referrals in 2020 and four referrals in 2021 within the Waitomo District, as reported by NZ Police.

Alcohol-related emergency department presentations

In November 2019, the Waikato District Health Board (WDHB) started a project to code alcohol involved presentations to the emergency departments across the five hospitals in the WDHB area (Taumarunui, Thames, Tokoroa, Waikato (Hamilton) and Te Kuiti).

While there is no multi-year comparative data available, comparative data is available across the hospitals, showing that Te Kuiti Hospital experiences the highest alcohol-related ED presentations per proportion of the population. This is demonstrated by the data below, supplied by WDHB.



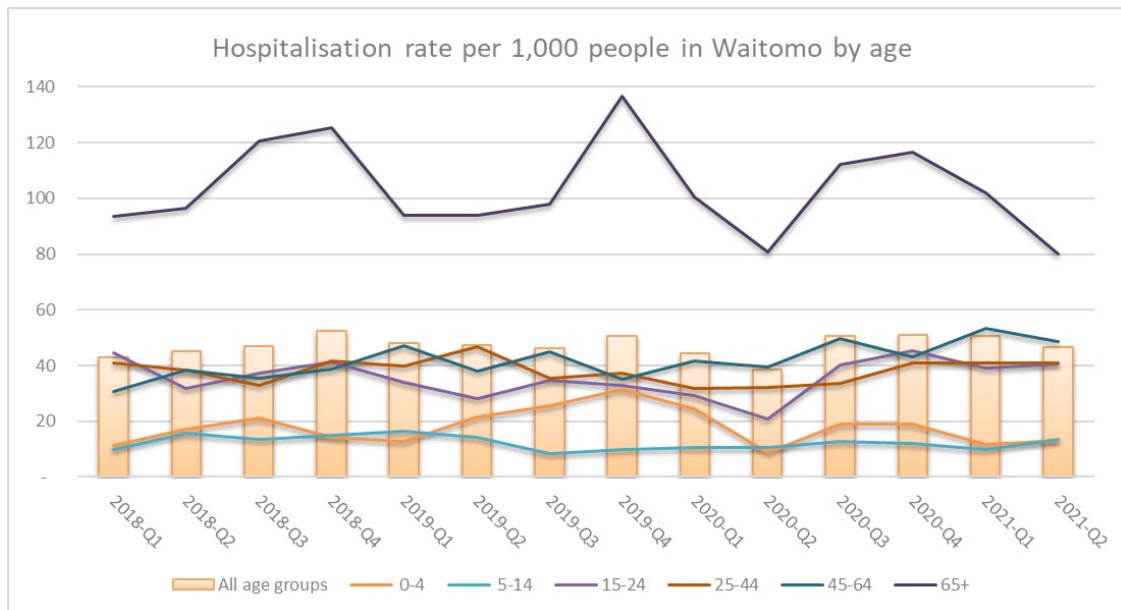
Impact measure: *The number and severity of hospitalisations of the very young and the elderly are reduced.*

Hospitalisations of Waitomo residents

Hospitalisations by age

In data provided by Waikato District Health Board (WDHB), since the beginning of 2018, there has been a gradual decline in the hospitalisation rate in the 65+ age group per 1,000 people, with a smaller decline visible in the 0-4 and 4-14 age group. There is a slight upwards trend across all other age groups, likely driven by the 45-64 age group³.

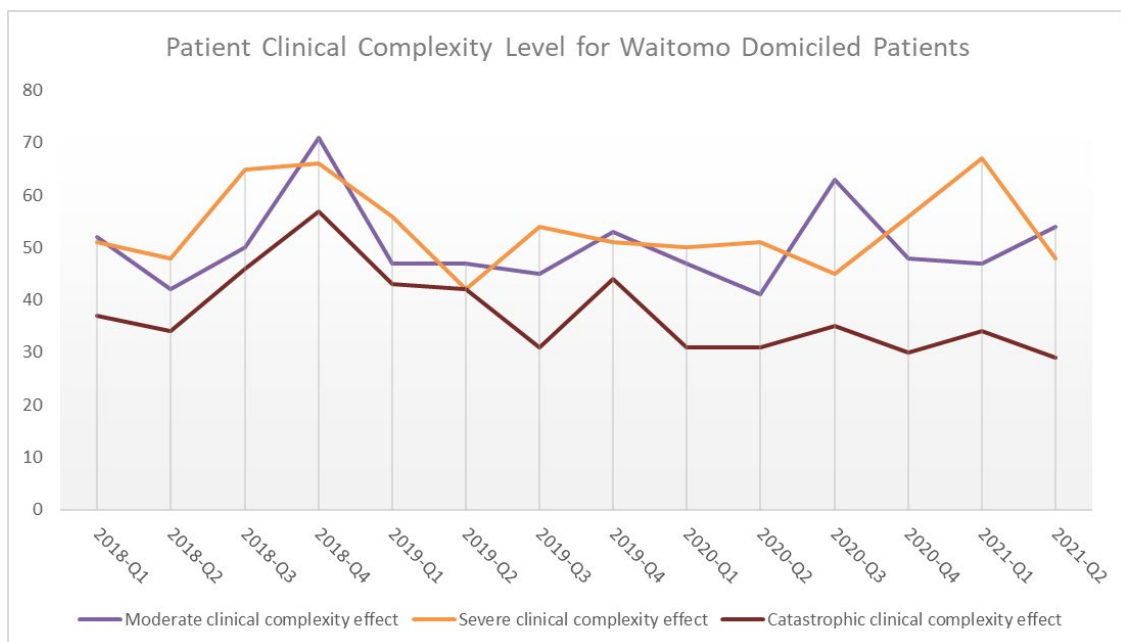
³ Value of slopes on each trend line (the further away from 0, the greater the increase/decrease): 0-4 age group: **-0.06**, 4-14 age group: **-0.18**, 65+ age group: **-0.56**, all age groups: **0.18**. The data includes all acute and arranged admissions for Waitomo domiciled patients. Population figures are from the WDHB Population Demographic Model (2021).



Spikes in the data, more pronounced in the 65+ age group, are often around quarters three and four (July – September and October – December) and can be attributed to seasonal variance.

Hospitalisations by severity

While not broken down by age, the WDHB also provided data to demonstrate the severity level of those hospitalisations. Hospitalisations with no or minor clinical complexity effects are excluded from this data. Hospitalisation rates for Waitomo residents classified as moderate, severe, and catastrophic all trend downwards⁴, with catastrophic being the most significant decrease from 2018 to the second quarter of 2021.



⁴ Value of slopes on each trend line (the further away from 0, the greater the increase/decrease): Moderate: **-0.03**, severe: **-0.14**, catastrophic: **-1.06**. The data includes all acute and arranged admissions for Waitomo domiciled patients, excluding those admissions with no or minor clinical complexity effect.

Health information for Waitomo - Ōtorohanga residents compared to the wider WDHb area

The following information was reported in the 2019/2020 WDHb Annual Report, specifically relating to the Waitomo-Ōtorohanga area and how it compares to the rest of the Waikato.



Hospitalisations per capita for Waitomo-Ōtorohanga residents is nearly **1.0** times

the rate of the Waikato DHB, and Māori are hospitalised **1.5** times more than non-Māori



ED presentations per capita of Waitomo-Ōtorohanga residents

is **0.8** times the rate of the Waikato DHB, and Māori present at **1.5** times the rate of non-Māori

65+ year olds needing complex home and community support services



5.3% Waitomo-Ōtorohanga

5.6% Waikato



Waitomo-Ōtorohanga's mortality rate is **1.2** times greater than the rest of the Waikato DHB

Cause of death



Impact measure: People in the community understand how to identify abusive behaviour, how to access family violence support services and how to support one another.

Raising awareness of support services through art

In November 2020, the inaugural Maniapoto Arts Festival was held. This is elaborated in the following case study.

Case study: Maniapoto Arts Fest

What?

This initiative's **goal** was to bring people together – with healing in mind. The theme of the event was *The Journey, from hurt to healing*.

How?

It **did this by** hosting a four-day, three-night arts Festival at the local Les Munro Centre in Te Kuiti in collaboration with a range of partners.

Why?

The **call to action** was a local individual who personifies manaaki – a beautifully caring person. She approached Violence Free Maniapoto, who started connecting with people and kept building on the idea, taking it from conception to delivery.

Who?

Partners included:

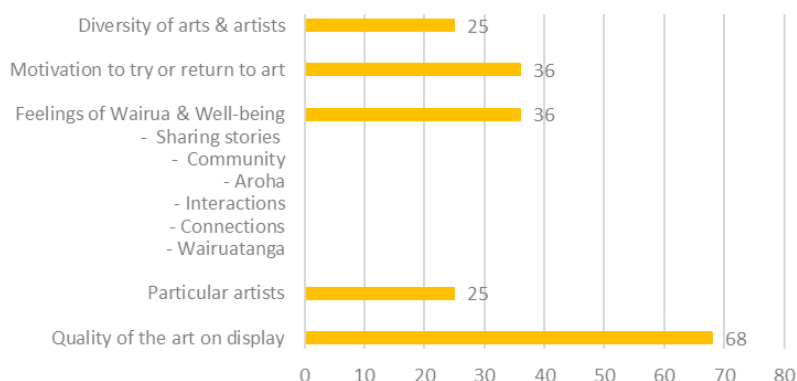
- Violence Free Maniapoto
- Waitomo Society of Arts
- Waitomo District Youth Council
- Waitomo Artists (individuals)
- Hetet and Te Kanawa Whānau
- Creative Communities Scheme (part funders)

"The event was an overwhelming success that has continued to ripple on. It provided over and above the dream."

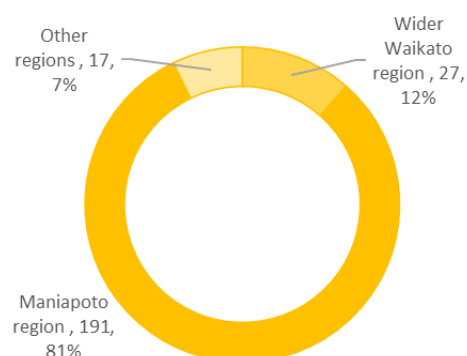
When?

The inaugural event was **held** in November 2020, and it is planned to occur every two years.

What inspired you after visiting the Arts Fest?



Where do you come from?



Measures of success	What was done?	How well was it done?	Is anyone better off?
	The four-day, three-night arts Festival started with a pōwhiri and ended with poroporoaki and karakia.	Each day was different and provided for different groups. An estimated 2,000 people attended the Festival, with 235 people providing feedback. Most people who provided feedback were from the Maniapoto Region (81%), with 12% being from the Waikato Region and the remaining 7% from other parts of New Zealand.	Through the medium of art, the event enabled reach to a demographic of people that was not normally accessible. Connections were made on many levels to learn about the services and support provided. There were many networking opportunities, and the spaces and days were all so different and held their own mana.
	The Arts Festival had an adult and rangatahi arts exhibition component. There was a stage programme each day and interactive activities to take part in like paint vine, whānau photo sittings, storytelling and observing artists at work (adult Kapa Haka, piano performance, whatu muka, painting and tāmoko).	When asked what inspired them following their attendance of the Festival, the following was communicated by attendees: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quality of the art on display • Feelings of Wairua and Wellbeing • Motivation to try or return to art • Diversity of arts & contributing artists (ages & ethnicities) • Particular artists. 	The artists involved are better off because they sold work and strengthened networks.
	The exhibition was also host to some of the artefacts from local whānau the Hetet / Te Kanawa collection.		Rangatahi were able to make connections safely and positively.
	The Festival's message of <i>moving from hurt to healing</i> was promoted, and support services were advertised and constantly available.		



Jo Gallagher, Artist, painting at the Maniapoto Arts Festival.

What next?	<p>The plan next is to hold another event in 2022.</p> <p>The initiative's aspirational work will build on the possibilities the Arts Festival unveiled. The event demonstrated different ways service providers like Violence Free Maniapoto can bring the community together and by doing so how that reduces barriers to accessing services.</p>
------------	---

Theme 2: Mahi/Workplaces

The goal of the Mahi/Workplaces theme is *to support and enable economic development with a clear agenda on health and safety*. This is achieved by focusing on the following priorities:

5. Health, safety and well-being in workplaces
 - To promote employment programmes to support health, well-being and safety in the workplace.
6. Reduce self-harm in farming communities
 - To educate and build resilience in farming communities and mitigate self-harm risks.
7. Economic development and education
 - To promote economic development within the District and prioritise young people as a target group to work with.
 - To educate the community.
 - To support young people to have the tools, opportunity and ability to achieve their success.

Progress to date

Progress as indicated through VSW action plans

It is particularly beneficial to have had the community business association, Legendary Te Kuiti, provide representation within the VSW Coalition. This involvement has ensured the link to maintain support to the impacted local business sector was maintained and strengthened. This benefit is coupled with the Ministry of Education taking a more targeted approach toward supporting school leavers through its membership within the VSW Coalition.

In addition to the case study and data examined below, another action recently completed relevant to this theme is the delivery of the Novice Driver Training Programme, which provided support so 55 young people from the Waitomo District gained their next stage of driver's licence. This programme offers a great example of how local government can sub-contract community-based services to deliver in a locally appropriate and effective way.

Summary of the impact of this theme

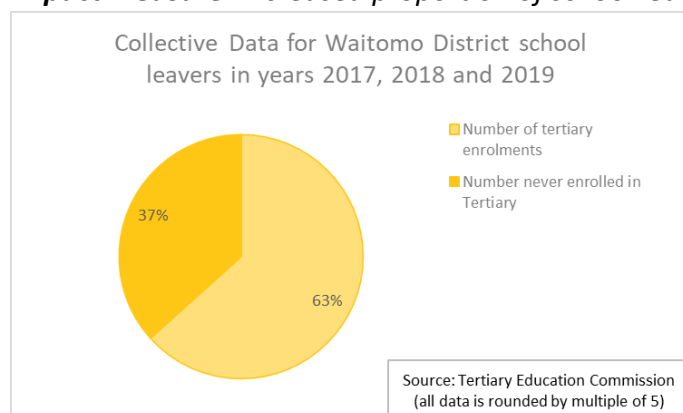
The focus on the Mahi/Workplaces theme has intensified during the 2020/2021 year, reflected in the VSW Action Plan. The VSW portfolio has provided an immediate structure to be responsive to the communities needs within the Covid-19 pandemic, which is particularly visible within this theme.

The support the VSW structure was able to give to the Mayors Taskforce for Jobs (MTFJ) Community Recovery Programme shows the real way in which funders can connect resources directly to service providers, who can then deliver programmes in a locally appropriate and bespoke way. The existing networks and relationships fostered by VSW ensured the success of this programme, far exceeding the targets. This initiative is examined further in the case study within this theme.

Impact measures

From the data currently available, the progress towards the impact measures for this theme is assessed below.

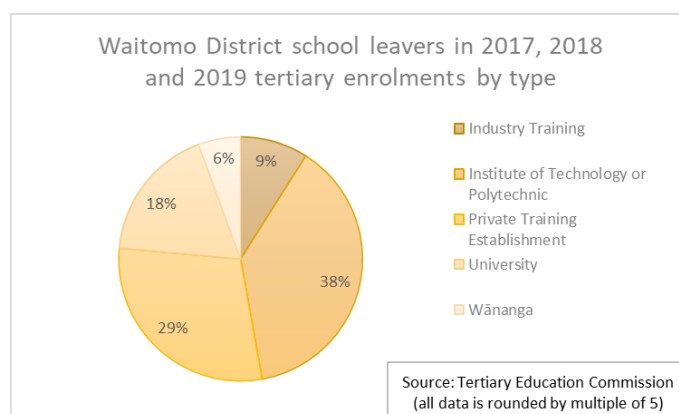
Impact measure: Increased proportion of school leavers moving on to tertiary education.



Between 2017 to 2019, there were approximately 300 school leavers from the three schools/kura in the Waitomo District. Approximately 63% have enrolled in tertiary study since leaving school. This includes students who have enrolled the same year that they left school, the following year or had a gap year. (Source: Ngā Kete, Tertiary Education Commission).

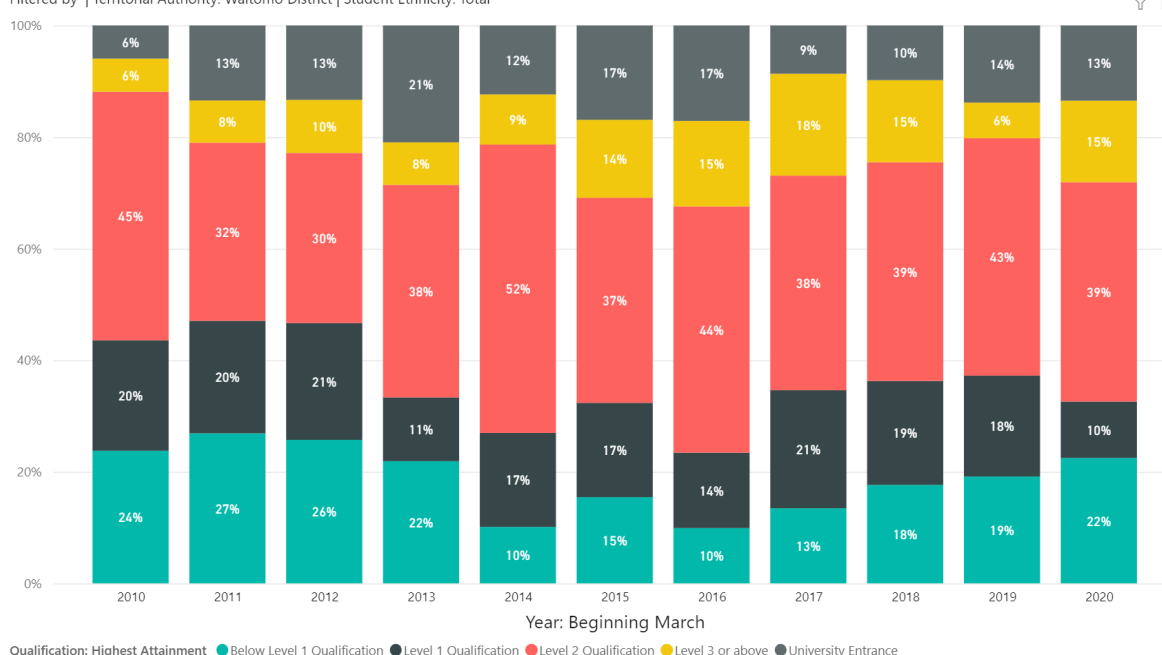
Of this 63% (approximately 190 school leavers over the three-year period, rounded to the nearest multiple of 5), the majority have enrolled in Institutes of Technology or Polytech (38%), with private training establishments the next most common enrolment (29%).

The trend of school leavers achieving university entrance is gradually increasing, from 10% in 2018 to 13% in 2020, after a sharp decrease from 17% to 9% between 2016 and 2017. (Source: School Leaver's Attainment, Education Counts, New Zealand Government).



School Leavers: Highest Attainment

Filtered by | Territorial Authority: Waitomo District | Student Ethnicity: Total



Impact measure: More people in farming communities access support services.

Mayors Taskforce for Jobs Community Recovery Programme

In response to the disruption of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Mayors Taskforce for Jobs (MTFJ)⁵ partnered with the Ministry of Social Development to provide funding targeted to small rural councils to support young people or COVID-19 displaced people engaged in a sustainable employment pathway. The following case study explains this programme in more detail.

Case study: MTFJ Community Recovery Programme

What? This initiative's national **goal** was to get 1,150 young people or COVID-19 displaced people engaged in a sustainable employment pathway across 23 different councils. Waitomo District's target for the 2020/21 year was to provide 50 placements.

How? It **does this by** providing funding and support to small rural councils (populations less than 20,000 people), including Waitomo District Council. Waitomo District Council has received \$500,000.00 from the programme.

Why? The **call to action** was the disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. This initiative is a pilot programme.

Who? **Partners** included:

- Aotahi Ltd (Number Twelve Youth Hub)
- Mayors Taskforce for Jobs (MTFJ)
- Ministry of Social Development (MSD)
- Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ)
- Waitomo District Council
- Local businesses and employers

"The programme has been an outstanding success in our District...we can be reasonably confident that the cost long term, had this programme not taken place, would have far exceeded the investment."

When? The work was **initiated** in 2020, with Waitomo District joining the programme in December 2020.

	What was done?	How well was it done?	Is anyone better off?
Measures of success	Since December 2020, the programme has assisted 80 young people to be placed into employment positions, with 59 remaining in sustainable employment positions (at least 30 hours/week, ongoing for three months or more) by the end of the contract on 30 June 2021. Of these, eight were apprenticeships.	Waitomo District exceeded its target for the first contract year of the programme's operation, which was especially noteworthy given the programme only commenced in December 2020. At the end of the 2020/21 financial year, 59 of the 80 initially placed were still employed.	All people placed in employment were under 30 years old, with all but one under 25. Many of the young people have been placed in farming sector employment and have had barriers preventing them from otherwise achieving employment.

⁵ The Mayors Taskforce for Jobs (MTFJ) is a nationwide network of mayors working on the issues of work and livelihood in their communities. It focuses on youth employment and engagement in local communities.

	<p>The placements were in a range of rural support industries (such as retail, customer service, construction, electrical, health, fire safety, supermarket, hairdressing, accounting, real estate, hospitality, building, weed spraying, and early childcare) or within the farming sector directly (such as agriculture, farming, meat processing, and beef industry).</p>	<p>Outside of the 80 placed in sustainable employment, the programme notes another 26 employment placements, which for various reasons do not meet the criteria of full-time, sustainable work. Still, the programme has supported or continues to support them regardless.</p>	<p>In connecting them with support services, this programme has demonstrably made a difference in many people's lives.</p>
--	--	---	--

What next?	<p>The plan next is to further develop the partnership between local and central government partners. Local organisations like councils have knowledge about communities that can positively impact the delivery of services within communities. It would be good to work with MSD staff to enhance this further.</p> <p>The initiative's aspirational work is to work towards future-proofing the District, as it is vital in the survival of the District's economy. Becoming self-reliant for higher skillsets within key industries in the District is essential in a self-determining community. Further investment in upskilling, furthering education and learning to be work-ready is just the starting point to this work.</p>
------------	---

Sophie Juno (left) supports Ashliegh Papaa (right), who is one of two MTFJ young people working alongside Council sub-contractors to assist with the first stages of the Three Water Reform – counting the assets.



Impact measure: *Workplace culture change nurtures an environment that values employees' well-being at work and at home.*

MTFJ Community Recovery Programme

Within the community recovery programme (outlined in the case study above), there are many personal stories of employees' increased well-being, driven by the employer's participation in the programme.

The programme has focused on building relationships and providing training and ongoing support to the young people it has assisted. Many of the outcomes achieved through the programme were particularly notable due to the challenges experienced when initially engaging with the young people.

"...this young person has not attended school since he was 12... he was later introduced to youth services and has been supported with licencing and employment. This role provides him with accommodation which is extremely beneficial."

Theme 3: Hākinakina/Recreation

The goal of the Hākinakina/Recreation theme is *to foster community connections through providing safe and stimulating environments*. This is achieved by focusing on the following priorities:

8. Safety in public and recreational spaces.
 - To promote safer public places and sports and recreation spaces for the community to access.

Progress to date

Progress as indicated through VSW action plans

The Waitomo District Council adopted the Waitomo District Play, Active Recreation and Sport Plan in May 2021. This signals a new strategic way of working with local groups and clubs to increase physical activity within the Waitomo District. The Plan is designed to help guide decision making and priority of workstreams (and in some cases, investment) in sport and active recreation for Waitomo District Council, Sport Waikato, and sport and recreation providers in the Waitomo District. Through the umbrella of VSW, one of the focus areas of this Plan is on building communities and facilitating closer connections and collaboration between clubs, education, health, Sport Waikato and Council, and providing safe facilities, venues, and spaces for play and active recreation participation.

Summary of the impact of this theme

Initiatives such as the Ko1 Aroha collaboration with This is ME, examined in the case study below, are a prime example of an individual's ability to impact sectors of a community positively and should be a form of delivery organisations look to reproduce or at the least support so they can work directly alongside the community. VSW is well-placed to continue actively supporting and enabling work to this effect in this space.

Progress towards smoke-free public places within Waitomo continues, with key pieces of work still being undertaken, supported by the New Zealand Government's commitment to Smokefree Aotearoa 2025. It is promising that projects such as Club Champs continue to offer support to communities that have not traditionally participated in the programme, like Marae.

Impact measures

From the data currently available, the progress towards the impact measures for this theme is assessed below.

Impact measure: *Licensed premises fully understand and operate responsibly within the law.*

Club Champs

The NZ Police, in conjunction with partners, deliver a programme aimed at supporting sports clubs (predominately rugby clubs) to reduce alcohol-related harm by increasing the capacity of bar staff, committees and broader communities to reduce alcohol-related harm. The programme aims to influence policies, practices and the management of club environments to support people to drink at low-risk levels or not to drink at all. More recently, the Club Champs committee has been approached to support local Marae with increasing the safety measures on marae grounds. The Club Champs initiative has been in place since 2010 and continues to gather support and make funding applications.

The VSW structure has enabled the Club Champs initiative to work more closely as a collaborator with Waitomo District Council. While the number of manager and premises licences being processed for the District remains consistent, according to licencing staff, there has been an increase in the number of accurate licence applications received, which can be attributed to the success of Club Champs. Clubs, by their nature, have a high turnover of elected committee members and the Club Champs programme helps the new members understand their responsibilities.



Club Champs attendees, 2021

Controlled purchase operation

In December 2020, Police Officers visited eleven premises across the Waitomo District Council area to conduct a controlled purchase operation. Nine of these premises were within the Te Kuiti township. Controlled purchase operations (CPO) are planned operations designed to monitor and enforce the provisions relating to the sale of alcohol to minors. Two premises failed the CPO, both of which were outside the Te Kuiti township. The premises that failed the CPO had their liquor licences suspended, shutting down the sale of alcohol for three to five days. There were no failures in the last CPO operation, conducted in 2017.

“While the results are disappointing and identify there is a real risk of young people accessing alcohol from licensed premises, there were some good examples of many premises ensuring they played their part to reduce alcohol harm in the community.”

- West Waikato Police Prevention Manager Senior Sergeant Dave Hall

Impact measure: Public places in the District are smoke-free.

Waitomo Environment Smokefree policy

Waitomo District Council is progressing the development of a Smokefree Environment Policy for the Waitomo District. The policy is in the early stages of development. It will be progressed through the Council’s policy creation process, which includes reporting a draft policy to Councillors and likely involving public consultation. Smokefree Councils are increasing within New Zealand and internationally, and they promote playgrounds, swimming pools, parks, and events as smoke-free. Such policies are of particular benefit in parks with children’s playgrounds. Smoke-free parks and playgrounds provide opportunities to reduce smoking being modelled to children as normal behaviour and help reduce smoking uptake rates.⁶

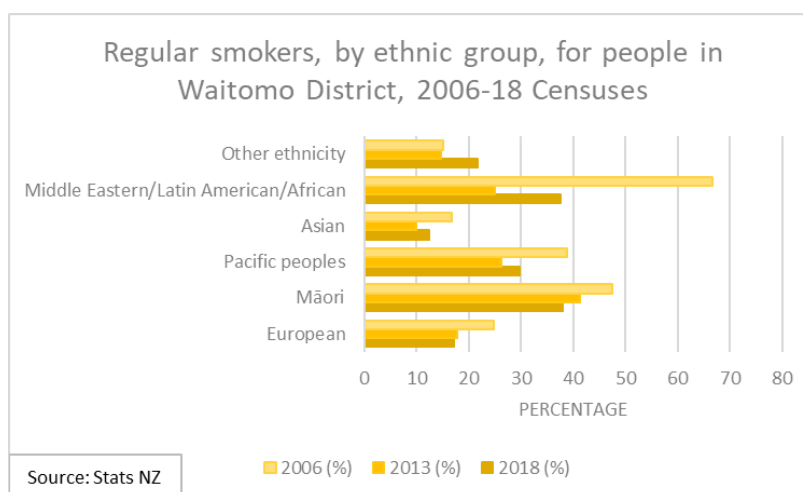
⁶ 1 Thomson, G., Wilson, N., Edwards, R., & Woodward, A. (2008). Should smoking in outside public spaces be banned? Yes. BMJ, 337, a2806. doi: 10.1136/bmj.a2806

Smokefree waka

In May 2020, the New Zealand Government prohibited smoking and vaping in cars carrying children and young people under 18. The Te Kuiti Ōtorohanga Action Smokefree Team has received funding from Te Hīringa Hauora to provide awareness and understanding of the law change around smoke-free cars in the Waitomo and Te Kuiti area. This work will be conducted in the 2021/22 year and will involve multiple local service providers.

Smoking statistics in the district

Across the past three censuses, the percentage of regular smokers has reduced across all ethnicities, except in the 'other ethnicity' category. In the 2018 census, 38.1% of Māori smoke, an almost 10% reduction from 47.5% in 2006.



Impact measure: *There is an increase in safe recreational opportunities available.*

New recreational opportunities

It is challenging to ensure equitable access to recreational facilities within rural communities. In the Waitomo District there have been several developments to support increased opportunities for community recreation to address these barriers. Over the past two to three years, the Waitomo District Council has installed or upgraded several new play areas, including:

- Redwood Park (south of Te Kuiti main street).
- Eketone Street (in a built-up residential area).
- Kara Park (in Piopio to install new playground modules).
- Development of a gym within the local Mokau hall.
- Resealing netball courts to increase the anti-slip factor at the courts.
- Co-funding has been granted for the Te Kuiti BMX track upgrade.

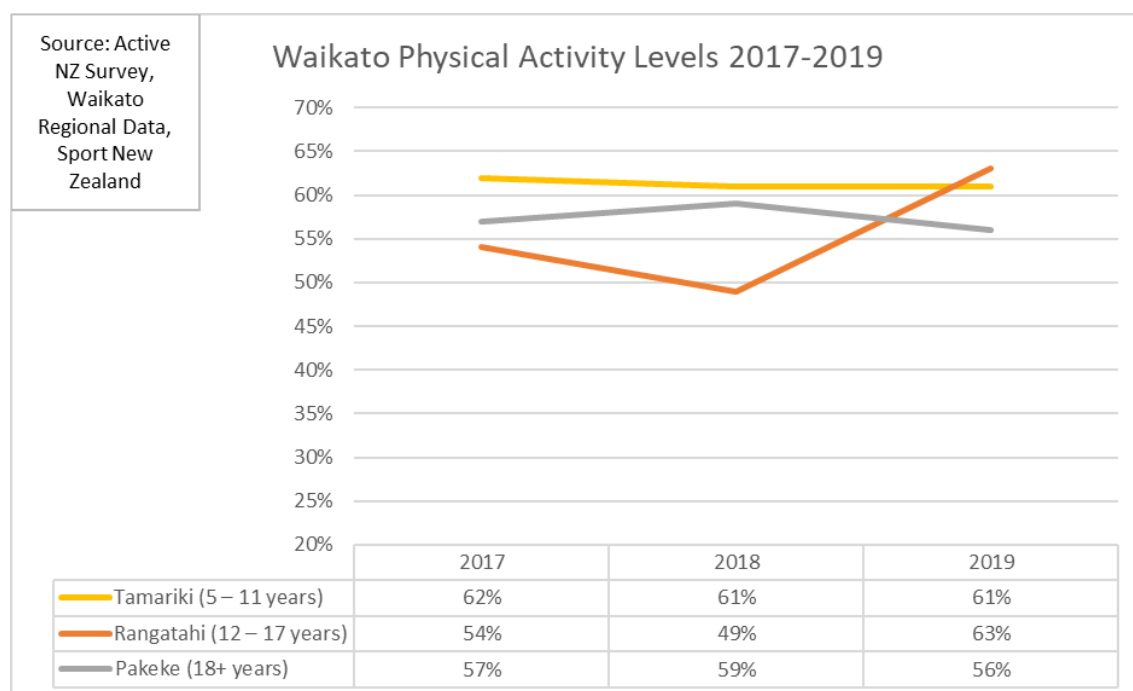


Redwood Park, Te Kuiti

Impact measure: Waitomo residents are actively involved in recreational opportunities around the District.

Waitomo District Sport and Active Recreation survey

In the 2017 Active New Zealand survey, Sport Waikato found that 46% of Waitomo adults (18+) and 61% of Waitomo young people (aged 5-17) do enough physical activity each week to positively impact their health – 150 minutes per week for adults and 420 minutes per week for young people. While the next survey specific to the Waitomo District is due to be reported in mid-2022, trends since 2017 throughout the Waikato Region point to an increase in the activity levels of rangatahi aged 12-17 years.



This is ME

The This is ME initiative is an example of service providers collaborating with the community to enable young people to be more active within the community. This initiative is examined in the case study below.

Case study: Ko1 Aroha collaboration with This is ME

What?

This initiative's **goal** was to support wāhine in the community to be active.

How?

It **does this by** identifying and addressing period poverty as a significant barrier for young wāhine to get involved in physical activity through providing real solutions, education, and support.

Why?

The **call to action** was the identification of the need to work collaboratively to address period poverty and how it affects participation in both education and sport through a collaboration between This is ME (a Sport Waikato initiative) and Kotahi Aroha, a local Te Kuiti community service provider.

Who?

Partners included:

- Ko1 Aroha
- Sport Waikato (This is ME)
- AWWA (a national period underwear brand)

When?

The work was **initiated** in 2021, and a workshop was held in Te Kuiti at the PUNA in May 2021.

Measures of success

What was done?

A workshop was held with 16 young wāhine aged between 11 – 16. The workshop created a safe space for the young women to share their feelings and experiences, learn about ikura (period), understand how to use and care for the underwear provided by AWWA, and participate in a yoga session facilitated by a local yoga instructor. AWWA donated three pairs of underwear to each of the young women who attended the workshop.

How well was it done?

The young women left the workshop with an understanding of how to use the underwear and increased confidence in their ability to manage their period. Their confidence to participate and be active has since increased further through using the period underwear.

Is anyone better off?

The 16 young wāhine attendees received practical advice and support on caring for themselves and feeling more comfortable participating in sport.

This kind of initiative ensures that no individual misses out on opportunities to engage in sport, recreation, or education due to having their period.

What next?

The **plan next** is to continue collaboration. The workshop and the resulting impact on the young women that participated shows the value of collaborative partnerships and what can be achieved when organisations work together at the local, regional and national levels to address personal and practical barriers to females' participation in physical activity.

The initiative's **aspirational** work is to undertake similar workshops to reach more young women. Through the promotions of this workshop further interest from local sports clubs was identified, and they are considering running similar workshops to support women in participation with sport over the 2021/2022 contract year.

"[The] workshop was about bringing young girls from our community into our PUNA and talking to them about ikura... and to also talk about their wellbeing and how they can look after their bodies. If young women participate in sport and they believe in themselves, and they have the confidence, it has ongoing effects"



Theme 4: Kotahitanga/Connected Leadership

The goal of the Kotahitanga/Connected Leadership theme is *to provide stewardship to manage meaningful partnerships within the community*. This is achieved by focusing on the following priorities:

9. Partnerships to inform decision making
 - Partnerships are developed, and priority groups are consulted to inform decision-making processes, in particular, Māori youth under 25yrs and youth with disabilities.
10. Collaboration across service providers
 - To take a joined-up approach with service providers and other agencies to better support the community to access services.
11. Civil Defence emergency preparedness
 - To have a strategy and mechanisms in place to respond to Civil Defence emergencies.

Progress to date

Overall progress as indicated through VSW action plans

This theme prioritises community collaboration in action, such as that displayed when local service providers, schools and community organisations were invited to support the WDHB with a targeted approach focused on Suicide prevention and postvention. As a result, an interagency coalition was formed, and a strategic plan was developed and presented to the VSW Coalition. This is discussed in detail in the case study below.

This focus on a joined-up approach served the community well throughout the initial COVID-19 outbreak in 2020 and the subsequent lockdowns throughout the 2020-2021 year. For example, the Maniapoto Māori Trust Board coordinated weekly meetings with partnering services (NZ Police, Civil Defence, Foodbanks, Local Government) to meet the community's needs better.

Summary of the impact of this theme

The membership of the VSW Regional Coalition has evolved since its formation. This reflects the flexibility of the VSW Strategy and the approach, ensuring the Coalition can respond to the community's changing needs. The Coalition meets four times a year (approximately once each quarter) and has started to seek presentations from service providers at meetings to reinforce the Coalition's relationship with the community. The forward plan is to have two of the four meetings attended by service providers per year.

It is clear from the available data at this stage of the Strategy's lifespan that the impact of having a formal and accessible joint understanding of the community's priorities is resulting in more focused and joined-up efforts from previously siloed agencies and community service providers. The VSW Strategy is increasingly being used as a tool to unify partners to achieve a commonly understood goal.

Impact measures

From the data currently available, the progress towards the impact measure for this theme is assessed below.

Impact measure: *The Vibrant Safe Waitomo Stakeholders Group is instrumental in assisting and securing local partnerships to support the positive implementation of Vibrant Safe Waitomo and advise on project progress.*

Safe Communities Foundation NZ 2020 Assessment of VSW

At its heart, the VSW Coalition is driven by the desire of agencies to come together to achieve more than they can apart. Each accredited safe community must demonstrate that they operate within the broader national and international safe community model. Part of assessing this compliance is through annual reporting and a survey of coalition members. The most recent survey for VSW was conducted in 2020, and the results indicate the Coalition is making good headway towards becoming a highly functioning collaborative group.

The report notes that the Coalition's challenge is to maintain and improve levels of performance and address the lower scoring areas of the Coalition, namely:

- **Synergy** (*the extent to which the group can do more collectively than individually*)
 - Carry out comprehensive actions that connect multiple services, initiatives, programmes, or systems (score 3.3/5)
 - Clearly communicate to the community how actions will address safety issues that are important to them (score 3.1/5)
- **Leadership**
 - Inspiring or motivating members (score 3.4/5)
 - Taking responsibility (score 3.4/5)
- **Administration and management**
 - Providing orientation to new members as they join (score 3.5/5)
- **Non-financial resources**
 - Data and information (e.g., statistical data & information about community perceptions) (score 3.4/5)

"This is great example of using our collective resources to achieve great outcomes for Waitomo. We have a plan we are working towards as opposed to doing twenty different things that aren't aligned and have limited impact. Other Councils are looking at this with interest so well done on the continuation of this vision."

It is important to note that while scoring lower than other areas, these aspects of the report still fall within the headway zone (3.0 – 3.9) of the assessment, with the target zone being 4.0 – 5.0.

Waitomo District Council Community and Funding Policy

Waitomo District Council updated their Community and Funding Policy in 2021 and now requires applications across all community grants and funds to demonstrate alignment with VSW themes and priorities. The new policy amalgams Council's community grants and streamlines the process to ensure funding is distributed consistently and effectively and is transparent, fair and accountable. Increased visibility through this grants process and the close link between Council staff and the coalition group enables linkages to be made between grant applications and existing initiatives known to the VSW Coalition.

Suicide Prevention and Postvention Interagency Coalition

In 2019, VSW was instrumental in bringing together agencies to address the growing rates of suicide within the community urgently. This is elaborated in the following case study.

Case study: Suicide Prevention and Postvention Interagency Coalition

What?	This initiative's goal was to gain community direction on preventing further loss of life following a number of suspected suicides within the community.
How?	It does this by supporting the Waitomo and Ōtorohanga District service providers to come together and support a joined-up approach to suicide post and prevention work.
Why?	The call to action was the sharp increase in suicides within the community within a short timeframe in 2019/20, resulting in an immediate and targeted response. Previous to the 2019/20 year, the number of suicides completed was considerably lower each year per year for both the Waitomo and Ōtorohanga Districts.
Who?	Partners included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maniapoto Marae Pact Trust • Maniapoto Whānau Ora Centre • Violence Free Maniapoto • Number 12 Youth Hub • Te Kuiti Community House • Ōtorohanga Community House • Waikato DHB
When?	The work was initiated in 2020 with the WDHB Pre/Post-vention coordinator initiating contact and regular zoom meetings. Following the initial lockdown phase, the group meet regularly to progress project plans.

	What was done?	How well was it done?	Is anyone better off?
Measures of success	An initial meeting was held with local delivery services, iwi and secondary school representatives between Te Kuiti and Ōtorohanga. Concerns were discussed with a solution-focused approach outlined in a strategic plan that provided foundations for an action plan to be developed.	A meeting was set up with MoE, MSD, WDHB and OT to discuss what had been done to date regarding community mobilisation around the plans. Additional to the meeting was the request for financial support towards a part or full-time coordinator role to support the strategy delivery within the Ōtorohanga/Waitomo Districts.	While it is too soon to measure the impact of this group, given no resourcing has been provided to it, the positive impact of community services coming together and away from a silo approach to work on an issue has been recognised.

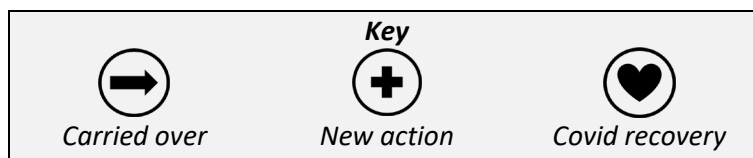
Measures of success	What was done?	How well was it done?	Is anyone better off?
	It was identified that a considerable capacity issue led to the demise of a similar community-based group operating in 2016. The newly established group would seek support for a coordinator position to be funded.	This initiative was not successful in principle with any of the organisations met with. A common theme is that the funds were unavailable despite the identified need for an immediate and targeted intervention from the WDHB 12 months earlier.	
	A business plan is being developed to submit to the Waikato DHB to support. It has been made clear that it is unlikely this will lead to funding.	The strategic plan was presented to the VSW Regional Coalition.	
	Training was delivered for service upskilling with a workshop held at the Les Munro Centre in Te Kuiti. The presenter, Dr Annette Beautrais, is an internationally renowned researcher in the area of suicide and suicide prevention and has published extensively on the topic.	A total of 16 participants attended the Dr Annette Beautrais presentation, and anecdotal feedback suggests the workshop was helpful.	

What next?	<p>The plan next is to develop a business plan to be submitted to the Waikato DHB, and for meetings to resume within the group.</p> <p>The initiative's aspirational work would see a coordinator appointed to run the group and to act in an inter-sectorial role.</p>
------------	---

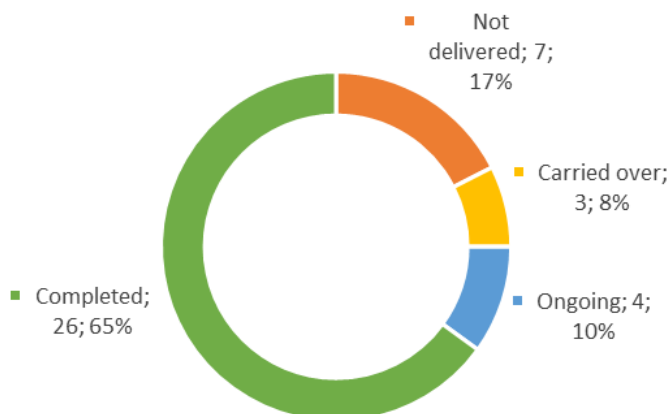
Report against Vibrant Safe Waitomo 2020/21 Action Plan

The 2020/21 Action Plan was the second action plan developed in support of VSW, with the first action plan covering the first six months of the Strategy's implementation. The 2020/21 Action Plan covers the 12 months from 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021, and while the actions within the plan still broadly align with the 2019-2024 Strategy, the VSW Coalition, supported by Waitomo District Council, agreed to change the immediate focus of the action plan to support the district's recovery from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

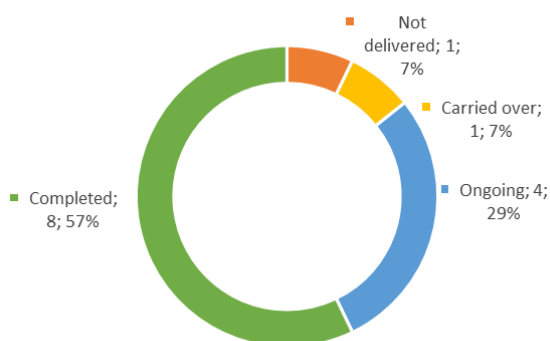
Of the 40 actions over all four themes, 26 or 65% were completed within the 2020/21 year.



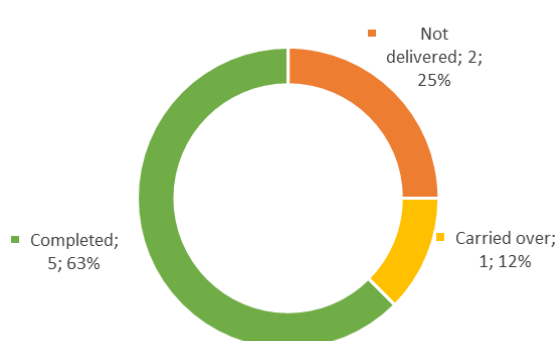
Summary of 2020/21 VSW Action Plan results



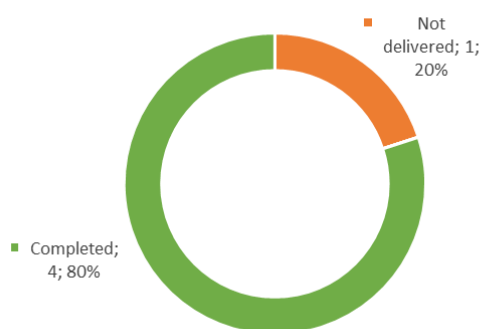
Theme 1: Whānau/Families



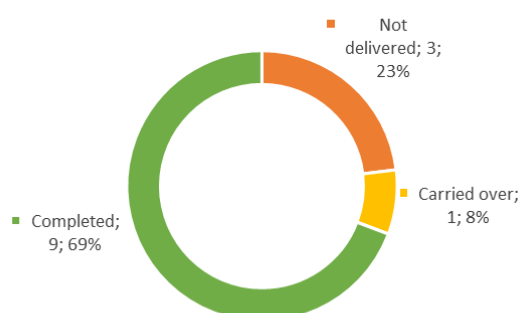
Theme 2: Mahi/Workplaces












Theme 3: Hākinakina/Recreation



















Theme 4: Kotahitanga/Connected Leadership








Theme 1: Whānau/Families









#	Specific actions and timeframe	Success measures	Lead	Partners actions	Partners	End of year results
1.1  	Undertake promotions to link more people in the community to family violence intervention services. (Throughout 2020/21)	Increased number of people reached by Violence Free Maniapoto.	Violence Free Maniapoto	Funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Social Development Integrated Safety Response 	Completed 
1.2 	Provide positive messaging to the whānau that will support harm reduction related to alcohol and access to alcohol and other drugs services. (Throughout 2020/21)	<p>Reduction of alcohol being a factor in family harm incidents as reported by NZ Police.</p> <p>Two promotions projects are undertaken during the 2020/21 year to support the reduction of harm related to alcohol and other drugs.</p>	Maniapoto Whānau Ora Centre	<p>Provide statistics on alcohol related family harm incidents and traffic offences involving alcohol.</p> <p>Provide contacts.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NZ Police Waikato DHB Club Champs 	Completed 
1.3  	To re-establish community connections through the weekly Strong and Stable exercise classes for elderly people who are mobility challenged. (By December 2020)	Attendance numbers to the classes are equal or greater to that prior to COVID-19 (approximately 20 people).	Te Kuiti Community House Trust	Promotion of Strong and Stable and other activities available in the community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sport Waikato 	Completed 
1.4	Design a whānau centred service to support whānau to become and	Whānau resilience service design is funded for implementation.	Waitomo Waipa Women's Refuge			Completed 









#	Specific actions and timeframe	Success measures	Lead	Partners actions	Partners	End of year results
	stay family violence free. (By June 2021)					
1.5 	Loves Me Not - To continue to deliver the Loves Me Not programme at secondary school level. (By June 2021/ongoing)	<p>One “train the trainers” workshop is undertaken with partners</p> <p>One Loves Me Not programme run for Te Kuiti High School, Piopio College and Te Wharekura o Maniapoto.</p>	Violence Free Maniapoto	Provide resources and support for funding, including access to the student’s education setting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NZ Police • Te Kuiti High School • Piopio College • Te Wharekura o Maniapoto 	Completed 
1.6 	Locks, Lights and Line of Sight (LLL) - To provide free installation of security measures in homes victimised by burglary to prevent revictimisation. (By June 2021/ongoing)	100% of households that are identified as fitting the LLL criteria are assessed and considered for additional security measures in line with the LLL trial.	NZ Police	Provide support to victims	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Victim support 	Completed 
1.7 	To secure funding in order to reinstate the child car seat checks with a Baby on the Move technician. A schedule of dates for the workshops are confirmed. (By December 2020)	<p>Funding is secured and Workshops are continued within the Waitomo District.</p> <p>Up to 15 seats will be inspected each quarter.</p>	Waikato DHB – Maternity Resource Centre	Providing funding for the Baby on the Move car seat technician Supporting traffic control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waitomo District Council • NZ Police 	Ongoing 
1.8	Provide crime prevention advice to rural communities in the	At least 20 people will be in attendance at	NZ Police	Educating/ informing the rural community about crime	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waitomo District Council 	Not delivered 








#	Specific actions and timeframe	Success measures	Lead	Partners actions	Partners	End of year results
	Waitomo District. (By June 2021)	meetings held in the community.		prevention opportunities through a joined-up approach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Federated Farmers FMG 	
1.9 	Educate secondary school students in the District around sexual assault and consent definition. (By December 2020)	The Mates and Dates programme is delivered to Year 13 students at Te Kuiti High School, Piopio College and Te Wharekura o Maniapoto.	NZ Police	Delivery of programme, Programme host, Pastoral care, Networking connections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tautoko Mai Education Te Kuiti High School Piopio College Te Wharekura o Maniapoto Medical practitioners Ministry of Education 	Ongoing 
1.10 	Provide a free Home Fire Safety campaign that promotes fire safety checks in homes within the Waitomo District, specifically focused on the Te Kuiti township. (By June 2021)	At least 30 homes in the Waitomo District are visited, advice provided, and smoke alarms checked.	Fire and Emergency NZ	Support community networking and connections and to support communications.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Waitomo District Council Maniapoto Māori Trust Board Te Kuiti Neighbourhood Support Group Piopio Tui Trust. 	Ongoing 
1.11  	To increase the number of families connected to technology by providing free Spark Jump Modems to households. (By June 2021)	A promotions campaign is undertaken within the community to raise awareness of this free service.	Te Kuiti Community House Trust	Provide free modems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Digital Inclusion Alliance Aotearoa 	Completed  <i>This action is ongoing</i>

#	Specific actions and timeframe	Success measures	Lead	Partners actions	Partners	End of year results
1.12 	To determine how best to support Lead Maternity Carers (LMCs) and GP practices to take action on the delivery of Smoking Cessation for Hapū Māmā. (By June 2021)	A formative evaluation is undertaken inclusive of a baseline survey and forums with local LMCs and GPs which will inform local action for Hapū Māmā.	Smoke Free Coordinator, Public Health Unit - Waikato DHB	Networking Informing formative evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Once and for All Local Service Providers 	Ongoing 
1.13 	Work collaboratively with Waitomo District Council and NZ Cancer Society to investigate the development of a Smokefree Environment Policy. (By June 2021)	Scoping for a WDC Smokefree Environment Policy is completed.	Policy Advisor, Public Health Unit - Waikato DHB	A potential Waitomo District Smokefree policy is scoped to inform the development with key partners and support promotion through community networking, connections and communications.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NZ Cancer Society Waitomo District Council 	Carried over 
Extra	Tikanga Ririki Wananga - Parenting workshop held with young parents to discuss skills of parenting.	<p>Attendance of caregivers. Mums, dads, aunties to learn new skills that help to become even better parents. Connecting new parents with services from MRC.</p> <p>EXTRA: Hapu Māmā workshop provided for expecting mums.</p>	Maternity Resource Centre	Support young people to attend the workshop	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number Twelve 	Completed 









Theme 2: Mahi/Workplaces






#	Specific actions and timeframe	Success measures	Lead	Partner actions	Partners	End of year results
2.1  	Undertake a “build resilience” promotional event focused on mental health and well-being. Supporting farming communities with connecting to support services. (By June 2021)	One event is held and is attended by at least 20 business owners inclusive of at least 10 attending from within the farming industry.	Legendary Te Kuiti	To utilise industry networks to support promotion of the project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waikato DHB – Public Health Unit • ACC • Federated Farmers • Dairy NZ • Ministry for Primary Industries • Dairy Women’s Network • Beef & Lamb 	Completed 
2.2  	Educate and raise awareness within the community and workplaces of the impact of family violence and the support available through a meeting held by Legendary Te Kuiti (LTK), with business owners and leaders. (By June 2021)	One meeting held with Legendary Te Kuiti members.	Legendary Te Kuiti	Meeting attendees and venue sponsorship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Violence Free Maniapoto • ACC 	Carried over 
2.3 	Provide a free presentation/session for Waitomo District businesses to develop understanding and compliance with relevant	FENZ provides at least one presentation to local Waitomo Business associations.	Fire and Emergency NZ	Support community networking and connections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waitomo District Council • Maniapoto Māori Trust Board • Worksafe • Legendary Te Kuiti 	Not delivered 

#	Specific actions and timeframe	Success measures	Lead	Partner actions	Partners	End of year results
	fire safety legislation. (By June 2021)				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tere Waitomo Trust 	
2.4  	Provide young people in the Waitomo and Ōtorohanga Districts with the support to progress to the next level of driver licencing to increase their opportunities for employment and independence. (By June 2021)	At least 110 drivers aged 16-24 in Waitomo and Ōtorohanga Districts are supported to achieve the next level of their driver licencing.	Waitomo District Council	Funding (NZTA) Contract administration (TKCH) Programme delivery (No 12 Youth Hub) Co-contract (ODC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Te Kuiti Community House • Number 12 Youth Hub • NZ Transport Agency • Ōtorohanga District Council 	Completed 
2.5  	Provide training and the delivery of initiatives that will increase the likelihood of recruitment into the workforce with a targeted approach to support those affected by Covid-19 or young people that are NEET*. (By June 2021) <small>*Not in Employment, Education or Training.</small>	Provide at least 50 people with support to secure casual, part-time or permanent employment (with permanent employment being the target)	Waitomo District Council	Funding (MSD) Networking and connection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Social Development • Number 12 Youth Hub • Tere Waitomo Trust • District wide PGF Applicants 	Completed 
2.6 	Run Youth Employability Programme to help 14-24 year olds to gain the insight, confidence and skills to get work, keep	At least 20 young people attend two workshops focused on increased knowledge and skills in areas such as: Positive	Number 12 Youth Hub	Develop localised programme and facilitate delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COMET • Local organisations • Businesses for work experience 	Completed 

#	Specific actions and timeframe	Success measures	Lead	Partner actions	Partners	End of year results
	work and create careers. (By June 2021)	attitude, Willingness to learn, Communication, Teamwork, Resilience and Self-management.				
2.7  	Deliver Money Management workshops for young people aged 16-24 to enable them to gain control of their current financial situation and learn tips to make the most out of their money. (By June 2021)	Two workshops held and at least 30 young people complete the programme, demonstrating increased knowledge and financial literacy.	Number 12 Youth Hub	Develop localised programme and facilitate delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aotahi Limited (Consultancy Company) 	Completed 
2.8  	Provide an event that promotes the importance of workplace well-being preparedness in the recovery from COVID-19 and beyond (By December 2020)	One local event is facilitated within the Waitomo District.	Healthy Workplaces, Public Health Unit Waikato DHB	To inform direction / content and support promotion through community networking, connections and communications.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Waitomo District Council Legendary Te Kuiti Inframax Construction Local businesses and stakeholders 	Not delivered 









Theme 3: Hākinakina/Recreation






#	Specific actions and timeframe	Success measures	Lead	Partner actions	Partners	End of year results
3.1  	A strategic plan is developed by Sport Waikato to better understand what it takes for Waitomo District residents to become more active. (By June 2021)	<p>The strategic plan is presented to the Vibrant Safe Waitomo Regional Coalition by June 2021.</p> <p>The strategic plan is launched in the community.</p>	Sport Waikato	Collaborate with Sport Waikato to finalise the strategic plan with input from Waitomo District partners.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waitomo District Council • Community groups • Community sports clubs 	Completed 
3.2  	Host a meeting of all administrators and leaders of junior sporting codes to work together to discuss and share restructured 2020/2021 sporting competitions post Covid-19. Set regular* junior code meetings schedule. (By November 2020) <small>*Regular meetings may be quarterly or six monthly – this will be determined when the initial meeting is held.</small>	All winter junior sporting codes hold a delayed/modified competition round without putting undue pressure on other codes. All codes communicating effectively with each other to minimise pressure on schools and parents.	Sport Waikato	Support sporting networks, collaboration, community networking, connections and communications. Provide Junior Sport Directory.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local sport associations and clubs • Primary Schools • Regional Sports Organisations (RSOs) • Waitomo District Council 	Completed 
3.3 	The Club Champs Committee - Provide education to the wider Waitomo District area to reduce and eradicate the alcohol related harm	Funding is secured with Health Promotion Agency and two Club Champs Workshops are undertaken each year.	NZ Police	Support through coordination, funding and provision of training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health Promotion Agency • Fire and Emergency NZ • Waikato DHB • Sport Waikato 	Not delivered 







#	Specific actions and timeframe	Success measures	Lead	Partner actions	Partners	End of year results
	experienced by club members. (By June 2021/ongoing)	WDC Inspector reports a marked improvement in the quality of applications for alcohol licences.			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Waitomo District Council Violence Free Maniapoto Ōtorohanga District Council 	
3.4 	Rangatahi of the Rereahu/Maniapoto iwi catchment will be nurtured to provide a celebration of young people within the rohe. (By December 2020)	<p>At least 50 rangatahi participate in a positive community-based event alongside a community-based group and whānau.</p> <p>Reporting to Te Puni Kōkiri is completed.</p>	Waitomo District Youth Council	Funding and support with facilitation of event	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Te Puni Kōkiri, Waitomo District Council NZ Police 	Completed 
3.5  	To provide a positive and safe environment for Maniapoto whānau to meet regularly and be supported to extend their physical activity and hauora aspirations. (By September 2020)	The Ko1 Aroha group hosts an open day at their new (Puna Ora) location and utilises the space as a means of contributing to the health and well-being of the whānau of Maniapoto.	Ko1 Aroha	Provide facility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Waitomo District Council 	Completed 

Theme 4: Kotahitanga/Connected Leadership

#	Specific actions and timeframe	Success measures	Lead	Partner actions	Partners	End of year results and commentary
4.1 	Addition of a Vibrant Safe Waitomo representative to the Maternity Resource Centre Governance Group to partner in a joined up approach to addressing inequities experienced by the very youngest of residents. (By June 2021)	New ways of working together and opportunities for collaboration between Vibrant Safe Waitomo and the Maternity Resource Centre are identified.	Maternity Resource Centre	Resource and coordination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Waitomo District Council 	Not delivered 
4.2  	Investigate opportunities for the Vibrant Safe Waitomo Strategy and future Action Plans to align with the Sustainable Development Goals work undertaken by the Waikato Wellbeing Project. (By June 2021)	Vibrant Safe Waitomo aligns with the Sustainable Development Goals and has specific actions in place supported by the Waikato Wellbeing Project.	Waitomo District Council	Connections to regional networks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vibrant Safe Waitomo Regional Coalition 	Completed 
4.3  	Host an event for local businesses to inform them of support available through Waikato's Regional Economic Development	One event is held by December 2020.	Legendary Te Kuiti	Meeting attendees and venue sponsorship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Te Waka Ministry of Social Development 	Completed  <i>Amalgamated with 2.1</i>

#	Specific actions and timeframe	Success measures	Lead	Partner actions	Partners	End of year results and commentary
	Agency, Te Waka. (By December 2020)					
4.4  	Host an event for local tourism providers to inform them of the support available through the Regional Tourism operator, Hamilton & Waikato Tourism. (By December 2020)	One event is held by December 2020.	Legendary Te Kuiti	Meeting attendees and venue sponsorship of event	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hamilton & Waikato Tourism • Ōtorohanga District Development Board • Waitomo District Council 	Completed 
4.5  	Police will conduct a minimum of three community meetings within the Waitomo District to provide a coordinated approach to community safety. (By June 2021)	<p>Three community meetings held in the 2020/21 year.</p> <p>The majority of meeting attendees are satisfied* that the meetings provided a useful forum for community input to increasing safety in the Waitomo District.</p> <p><small>*Satisfaction determined by conducting surveys with meeting attendees.</small></p>	NZ Police	Educating/ informing the community around crime and Police actions whilst gaining feedback from the community regarding localised issues concerning them as community members.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Te Kuiti Neighbourhood Support Group • Social sector groups • Business association groups 	Not delivered 
4.6 	To provide a 4 day / 3 night arts exhibition to focus on a hurt to healing journey within the White Ribbon campaign week. This	The exhibition is held by December 2020, and an opening night event is held with attendance from the artistic community, youth	Violence Free Maniapoto	The Waitomo Arts Society – providing exhibition knowledge, Waitomo District Youth Council with Rangatahi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waitomo Arts Society • Waitomo District Youth Council 	Completed 

#	Specific actions and timeframe	Success measures	Lead	Partner actions	Partners	End of year results and commentary
	will be a collaborative exhibition drawing in local artists, the youth council, local high schools and the Waitomo Arts Society. (By December 2020)	council, high school representatives and Waitomo Arts Society representatives.		expression of lock down. Allocation of funding for the exhibition.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creative Communities Scheme Committee 	
4.7  	Engage and support businesses and organisations to prepare plans for their recovery from an emergency event. (By June 2021)	At least 20 businesses and other local organisations have an Emergency Plan or Business Continuity Plan to help reduce the impact on their organisation and support their recovery.	Waitomo District Council	Providing advice and support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Waikato Civil Defence Emergency Management Group 	Not delivered 
4.8 	Raise awareness of the interagency suicide prevention network established in order to have a coordinated and targeted approach to reduce suicide attempts within both Waitomo and Ōtorohanga Districts. (By December 2020)	A strategic plan is developed and presented at the Suicide Prevention & Postvention Interagency Coalition hui and to the VSW Regional Coalition.	Suicide Prevention & Postvention Interagency Coalition (Subgroup 1)	Networking partners Contributing to the development of the strategic plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maniapoto Marae Pact Trust Maniapoto Whānau Ora Centre Violence Free Maniapoto Number 12 Youth Hub Te Kuiti Community House Ōtorohanga Community House Waikato DHB 	Completed 

#	Specific actions and timeframe	Success measures	Lead	Partner actions	Partners	End of year results and commentary
4.9 	To re-establish bi-monthly Disability Link - Māori Needs Assessment Coordination Service hui in Te Kuiti that will address the barriers to accessing services for whānau. (By December 2020)	That the number of Māori referrals to Disability Link is increased.	Disability Link, Waikato DHB	Host hui and support networking within community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maniapoto Marae Pact Trust 	Ongoing 
4.10 	To connect the events of the Vibrant Safe Waitomo Action Plan with the wider community and in doing so support collaborative delivery. (By October 2020)	To develop and establish a District Event Calendar that will highlight the actions of the Vibrant Safe Waitomo Action Plan and other community events.	Waitomo District Council	Information about events happening in the community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wider Community organisations and groups VSW Regional Coalition 	Completed 
Extra	MSD will launch a new online website for employees and those looking for employment and training opportunities. (By September 2020)	There is an increased number of employees connected to employers.	Ministry of Social Development	Site is launched and promoted among networks of VSW. www.connected.govt.nz	VSW Regional Coalition	Completed 
Extra	Young male students at secondary schools are supported to understand the key topics to respectful and safe relationships.	That a workshop focused on keeping young people safe is offered to male students of all secondary schools	Te Kuiti High School	Provide pastoral support, transport and registration for the workshop.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Violence Free Maniapoto Waitomo District Council Te Wharekura o Maniapoto 	Completed 

#	Specific actions and timeframe	Success measures	Lead	Partner actions	Partners	End of year results and commentary
	(By June 2021)	within the Waitomo District. . "Keeping it REAL "				
Extra	Boards, educators and Staff from all Maniapoto based schools and also located within the Waitomo Arotahi Kahui Ako (WAKA) catchment area are invited to attend a free presentation on the Treaty of Waitangi and the role of educators. (By June 2021)	A majority of staff, educators and governance boards are provided with an environment to learn about the Treaty of Waitangi and Te Kawenata and how that aligns with the collective roles in education that lead to improved outcomes for young people.	Waitomo Arotahi Kahui Ako (WAKA)	Provide Venue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Waitomo District Council 	Completed 

Next Steps

With 2020/2021 being the first full year with a VSW action plan based on the Strategy's priorities, coupled with the response to the Covid-19 pandemic and the health, social development, and economic challenges living through a pandemic brings, it is commendable that organisations have been as willing as they have to continue to work collaboratively towards the themes and priority areas of the VSW Strategy.

Communication of the VSW vision

The VSW Regional Coalition must continue to communicate both the work underway, and the potential impact the VSW Strategy could have, to the community and service providers to ensure the community knows the potential for change and how they can both contribute and benefit from VSW. Consistent and clear communication will be especially important with the upcoming changes in how the Safe Communities network in New Zealand is managed and administered. The VSW Regional Coalition should aim to continue working in collaboration with the Waitomo Community and the wider national and international Safe Communities framework.

Continued advocacy

One of the VSW Strategy's strengths, especially throughout the Covid-19 pandemic response, has been its flexibility to advocate on behalf of its community in response to emerging issues. The VSW Regional Coalition should continue to proactively scan for other emerging issues to ensure the VSW structure can continue to respond to new challenges. For example, the national housing shortage will increasingly affect communities such as Waitomo, and collaboration with agencies such as Kāinga Ora will be an essential consideration for VSW.

Whilst not reflected in the VSW action plans to date, no other event will impact the priority groups served within the VSW Strategy more than the 80% support received by the Ngāti Maniapoto voters that agreed on resolutions on the Maniapoto Deed of Settlement, the proposed Post Settlement Governance Entity and the transfer of fisheries assets from the Maniapoto Māori Trust Board to the new governance entity.



Maniapoto Māori Trust Board chair Keith Ikin (centre) initialling the Deed of Settlement between Ngāti Maniapoto and the Crown at Parliament's Legislative Council Chamber in Wellington, December 2020.

Targeted data collection

To ensure the ongoing impact of the VSW Strategy and the Safe Communities framework in Waitomo can continue to be monitored, information gathering and data-collection specific to the priorities is important. There are areas where regional Waikato data is relied upon rather than local data. While this indicates trends in interim years, it does not replace specific local data collection. This targeted data collection should ideally build on the baseline data from within the *Course of Life Matrix* and be utilised alongside storytelling and reporting against the achievement of annual action plans.

Acknowledgements

As the Governance body for the Vibrant Safe Waitomo Strategy, the Regional Coalition acknowledges the many hours of work organisations, community groups, clubs and individuals have put into and continue to put into the communities that mean so much to us all.

A whakataukī was provided to support the VSW kaupapa (initiative) by the Maniapoto Māori Trust Board:

Nāu te tokanga, nāku te tokanga, ka ngata a hiahia

With your basket and my basket, one's desires shall be fulfilled



*The 2020 Waitomo District Youth Council members
Izarna Ngatai-Wilson, Taetia Kopa, Hinearangi Ngatai, Halima Shah and Te Oranga Anderson
with Waitomo District Councillors Janene New and Lisa Marshall (front)
and Waitomo District Council Community Development Manager Clowdy Ngatai (back left)*