

SAFE COMMUNITIES ASHBURTON DISTRICT:

- **Six-Month Report - July-December, 2020**
- **2021-2022 Business Case and Business Plan**
- **Request for Inclusion in the Long Term Plan, 2021-2031**



Introduction

The Safe Communities Ashburton District Steering Group of twenty-eight agencies is pleased to present to the Ashburton District Council its Six-Month Report, covering July-December, 2020, plus its Business Case and detailed Business Plan for 2021-2022.

The Steering Group is also requesting that the Council consider the inclusion of funding for this programme in its Long Term Plan, 2021-2031.

These documents represent just eighteen months of collaborative work, with outstanding results. Key outcomes of the programme include:

- the development of the community transport service - the “Mid Canterbury Connector”
- the development and opening of the Mid Canterbury Citizens Advice Bureau service
- the establishment of a network of agencies focussing on falls prevention and home safety for older adults
- the development of the Mid Canterbury Suicide Prevention/Postvention Network, Charter and Strategy (2019-2024)
- the co-ordination of the Caring for Communities Social Recovery Group. The Group conducted a large social research project to look at the impact of COVID-19 on the Mid Canterbury community; impact on the not for profit sector supporting the community; and to inform funders about local needs and gaps. The Group has now developed an Action Plan to address the recommendations from the research.

Each project the Safe Communities Ashburton District Steering Group and its Working Groups undertake is carefully researched, and designed to be an independently managed/governed, long lasting, “legacy project”, which will benefit the people of the District.

This approach also enables the Safe Communities Co-ordinator and the Safe Communities Steering Group to be freed up to move on to other priority community safety areas, as can be seen in our 2021-2022 Business Plan, which lists a number of new community safety initiatives.

Ashburton District Is “Safe”, But It Could Be Safer

Ashburton District is “safe” but it can be safer. Analysis of District data tells us that falls in older people, leading to both fatal and non-fatal injury; road crashes; theft and burglary; family harm; and suicide are key safety concerns for Ashburton District.

The key priority areas identified for Ashburton District by the Safe Communities Ashburton District programme are:

- Rural Safety/Isolation

- Falls in Older People
- Road Safety
- The Environment (built and natural)
- Alcohol, Drugs and Community Safety (early intervention/prevention)
- Harm Reduction/Prevention (family harm; suicide prevention)
- Social/community resiliency in COVID-19 times

There is always work to be done to promote safety and reduce injury and crime, and key priorities may change over time. Having an active Safe Communities programme helps to keep community safety to the forefront and to address new and upcoming community safety concerns in Ashburton District as they arise.

Ashburton District Council Long Term Plan, 2021-2031

We are seeking inclusion of the Safe Communities programme in the Council's Long Term Plan 2021-2031, and have provided budget figures for each year of the ten-year period for the Council's information.

This will enable the programme and its projects to be sustainable longer term, particularly as it can take more than twelve months to develop a robust project, with the appropriate management and governance requirements in place.

We appreciate the support of the Ashburton District Council for this programme.

Lesley Symington

Safe Communities Co-ordinator

Safer Mid Canterbury

SAFE COMMUNITIES ASHBURTON DISTRICT

SIX MONTH REPORT:

1 JULY – 31 DECEMBER, 2020



Our Vision: Ashburton District, our place, a safe place to live, work and play, free from preventable injury and harm

What is a “Safe Community”?

The Safe Community model creates an infrastructure in local communities to increase action on injury prevention and safety promotion through local collaboration. Working together provides the opportunity to take a district-wide, strategic overview of community safety issues in the District and enables greater reach and a collective “weight” to respond to them.

Background

Ashburton District gained accreditation as a Safe Community from the Safe Communities Foundation of New Zealand in May, 2019.

The Safe Communities Steering Group of 27 agencies (now 28 with the addition of Red Cross) developed a Strategic Plan (2019-2024) and an annual Business Plan to address the key priority areas identified for Ashburton District, which are:

- Rural Safety/Isolation
- Falls in Older People
- Road Safety
- The Environment (built and natural)
- Alcohol, Drugs and Community Safety (early intervention/prevention)
- Harm Reduction/Prevention (family harm; suicide prevention)
- Social/community resiliency in COVID-19 times

Ashburton District is “safe” but it can be safer. District data tells us that falls in older people, leading to both fatal and non-fatal injury; road crashes; theft and burglary; family harm; and suicide are key safety concerns for Ashburton District.

Achievements: 1 July to 31 December, 2020

Introduction

The Safe Communities Steering Group is chaired by Deputy Mayor Liz McMillan and meets bi-monthly. At each meeting it receives reports from the Working Groups established to develop the Business Plan projects.

The Steering Group recognises the work of other networks focussing on community safety (for example, the Road Safety Co-ordinating Committee; the Mid Canterbury Suicide Prevention Network) and works collaboratively with them.

Key achievements:

- **Community Transport Service – the “Mid Canterbury Connector”**- this project aims to reduce rural and social isolation and increase personal safety, by looking at the need for a low cost community van service, driven by volunteers, to bring people living in the more rural/remote areas of the District into Ashburton Township for medical appointments, doing business with Council, seeing friends and family, shopping etc.

The Mid Canterbury Community Vehicle Trust was established over this period, and will be eligible for funding grants from ECAN and other local funders. Nine volunteer drivers were recruited and vetted. A six-month trial of the service, covering two routes around the District, and using the Community House Mid Canterbury Community Van, will commence on 12 January, 2021 and has been funded by the Community Organisation Grants Scheme (COGS).

Longer term, the Trust will manage the project, including administration, the recruitment of volunteer drivers, vehicle maintenance and seeking ongoing funding.

- **Community Information** – a collaboration between the Citizens Advice Bureau National Office and Community House Mid Canterbury, with support from Safe Communities Ashburton District. This project aimed to establish a CAB branch for the District, so that residents have access to quality, up to date information to help keep themselves and their families safe, be involved in the community via clubs and activities, etc.

A part-time Co-ordinator commenced work in July. Fifteen volunteers were recruited and trained and the Mid Canterbury CAB offices established at the Community House. The new Mid Canterbury CAB service opened to the public on 2 December, 2020. The Ashburton District Community Directory (previously listed on the Community House Mid Canterbury website) was uploaded onto the CAB national database/website and updated. This was funded by a grant from the Community Organisation Grants Scheme (COGS).

Ultimately the CAB branch will be managed by an incorporated society and board and will become a full CAB service.

- **Falls Prevention for Older People** – The Falls Prevention Network undertook a promotion in October, with a feature page in the Ashburton Courier newspaper on 1st October, focussing on the International Day of Older Adults and promoting the Live Stronger for Longer approved strength and balance classes in the District. Four local class providers offered free classes for the month and Presbyterian Support offered free transport. Over 20 people took

advantage of the free offer to try a class over the month. Follow up research is being conducted to see if people have continued to participate.

- **A Mid Canterbury Suicide Prevention Network** was established in July and 19 agencies signed a Charter, committing them to work together to promote wellbeing and resiliency and, ultimately, to reduce the incidence of suicide in the District.

A Mid Canterbury Suicide Prevention/Postvention Strategy and Action Plan (2019-2024) was developed in partnership with the Safer Mid Canterbury Lives Worth Living (LWL) Programme and the Network, and includes the work of the LWL Programme and collaborative projects identified by the Network.

- **Caring for Communities Social Recovery Project/Network** – In June, 2020 the Safe Communities programme assumed co-ordination of this project, which had been established as the Ashburton District Council's Welfare Response Group during the lockdown.

The focus of the Group is social and community recovery needs and capacities in COVID-19 times. The Group commissioned a large piece of research, so as to be well informed about community needs in the short, medium and long term; the capacity of the not for profit/social sector to support the community; and to provide information to funders about local needs and gaps.

An Action Plan has been developed from the research recommendations.

Projects/actions undertaken from the research will enable the Ashburton community to become more resilient and better able to respond in times of emergency or crisis.

- **Safety Village, Ashburton A and P Show, 30th and 31st October** – planning was undertaken for this event, which was unfortunately cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions.
- **Promotion** - The Ashburton Courier newspaper offered the Safe Communities programme a free, monthly column to promote safety messages. The column commenced in November and spaces were offered to Safe Communities member agencies. To date the first ten columns over the next ten months have already been taken.

Concluding Remarks

Ashburton District has developed a robust coalition of government and community stakeholders, working across a range of sectors, under the Safe Community "umbrella".

Working collaboratively and the sharing of skills, knowledge, resources, information, ideas and experience between local community safety agencies will increase community safety in Ashburton District over time.

The success of the Safe Community model around New Zealand has been proven to depend on the employment of a skilled co-ordinator. The Safe Community Foundation of New Zealand commented on the Ashburton project that *".....the ability of the Safe Communities Co-ordinator to be the connector and catalyst for change will be a key pivotal component moving forward"*.

Thanks to the Ashburton District Council and ACC for their support of this project.



2021-2022 BUSINESS CASE AND BUSINESS PLAN



Table of contents

Executive Summary	3-6
- Who doesn't want to live in a safe community?	3
- Ashburton District is already 'safe', but can it be safer	3
- The Safe Communities model is proven and it works to reduce injury rates	3
- Safe Communities Ashburton District - contribution to Council's Vision "The District of Choice for Lifestyle and Opportunity", to community well-being and to social/welfare recovery in COVID-19 times	4
- 2021-2022 Business Plan	5
- Investment	6
Background	7-11
- What are Safe Communities?	7
- The Safe Communities model	7
- Ashburton District is 'safe' but could it be 'safer'	9
- Ashburton District residents want a safe community	9
- Why should the Council continue to be involved: contributing to Ashburton District Council's Vision "The district of choice for lifestyle and opportunity", to community wellbeing and to social/welfare recovery in COVID-19 times	10
Implementation	12
- 2021-2022 Business Plan	12
- Delivering the Business Plan	12
- Safer Mid Canterbury leadership role	12
Investment	13
- 2021-2022	13
- Long Term Plan 2021-2031	14
Monitoring and Reporting	15
Appendices	16-32
Partner Agencies	16
Strategic Plan 2019-2024 and Business Plan 2021-2022	17-32

SAFE COMMUNITIES ASHBURTON DISTRICT VISION:

“Ashburton District, our place, a safe place to live, work and play, free from preventable injury and violence”

Who doesn't want to live in a safe community?

- In a safe community homes, roads, public spaces and the workplace are safe, for everyone to enjoy
- Community safety is important to the people of Ashburton District – consultation on the Ashburton District Council Long Term Plan saw community safety ranked second highest out of eight areas where the community thought Council should be prioritising its spending in the future
- A safe community encourages people and families to move to the District and stay, and contributes to attracting and retaining workers to fill gaps in the Ashburton District labour market

Ashburton District is already “safe”, but it can be safer:

- District data tells us that falls in older people, leading to both fatal and non-fatal injury, family harm, road crashes, suicide and theft and burglary are of particular concern for Ashburton District

The Safe Communities Model is proven and it works to reduce injury rates

- In Ashburton District 27 agencies (now 28 with the addition of Red Cross) have committed to work together to find solutions for local community safety concerns
- Collaboration generates a collective “weight” to identifying and responding to pressing community concerns
 - *“alone we can do so little, together we can do so much”*
- The Safe Communities model commenced in New Zealand in 2004 and is currently operational in 20 territorial authorities across New Zealand.

- Communities which have adopted the model report reduced injury rates in road safety, falls, safer public places, reduced alcohol-related harm and overall violence prevention over time, as they work collaboratively to create solutions.
- Robust evaluation requirements mean that the Safe Communities model can demonstrate the value and impact of initiatives
- The success of the model has been proven to depend upon the employment of a skilled co-ordinator

Safe Communities Ashburton District Contributes to Council's Vision "The District of Choice for Lifestyle and Opportunity", to Community Well-being and to social/welfare recovery in COVID-19 times

- There is a natural fit between the Safe Communities model and Council's Community Outcomes, which outline how Ashburton District Council seeks to make a difference to residents' lives (see pages 10-11)
- The Safe Communities model contributes to the social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being of Ashburton District, working towards a safe, vibrant community; economic prosperity as people want to live, work and play in a "safe" Ashburton District; the design of safe environments for people to live, work and recreate in and a community welcoming of cultural diversity.
- The Caring for Communities Social Recovery Group, co-ordinated by Safe Communities and with c.40 agency members, is working collaboratively to make the District and its people more resilient and better able to respond in times of crisis.
- The implementation of the 2021-2022 Business Plan formalises the Council's commitment to working with Safer Mid Canterbury to create the safest possible environments for those who live, work and play in Ashburton District.

2021-2022 BUSINESS PLAN

- **Council funding in 2020-2021 enabled the employment of a part-time Safe Communities Co-ordinator, who worked with a number of agency collaborations to develop key legacy projects for the District, including:**
 - **Support for the development of a Citizens Advice Bureau branch (to be established at the Community House Mid Canterbury) – a partnership between Safe Communities, Community House Mid Canterbury and the CAB National Office**
 - **The development of a community transport service to bring people living in the more rural/remote areas of the District Research into Ashburton Township for medical appointments, seeing friends and family, accessing government departments and social services, doing business with Council, etc**
 - **The establishment of a Falls Prevention/Home Safety Network and promotions on strength and balance programmes and home safety**
 - **The co-ordination of the Caring for Communities social recovery group (previously the Council's welfare recovery group during the pandemic lockdown/state of emergency). Development of a large social research project looking at the impact of COVID-19 on the community; the capacity of the not-for-profit sector to manage additional demand; and to inform local funders about local needs and gaps. An Action Plan was developed to address the 25 recommendations from the research.**
 - **Planning for another Safety Village as the Ashburton A and P Show was undertaken, but unfortunately the Show was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.**
- **Programmes such as the Citizens Advice Bureau branch and the community transport (van) project will have separate legal entities established (an incorporated society for the CAB and a trust for the community transport project), which will enable them to be independent, long lasting projects for the District.**
- **A detailed business plan for 2021-2022 is attached (see Appendix 2), which includes the further development/completion of the projects begun in 2020-2021, plus new initiatives such as:**
 - **The development of strength and balance programmes for men, to prevent falls in older age**
 - **Promotion of the Safekids Toolkit, a programme for parents and children which aims to reduce home-based injuries to children**

- **Promotion of use of cycling helmets to children and parents as part of the Council's Walking and Cycling Strategy**
- **Working with ACC and the Road Safety Co-ordinating Committee to promote motor cycle safety (ACC Ride Forever programme) as part of Men's Health Week (June, 2022)**
- **Working with the Council's Walking and Cycling Working Group to explore the development of an off-road cycle track, where children can learn to ride bikes/scooters and learn road rules (mini stop signs, pedestrian crossings, etc)**
- **Exploration of the demand and need for appropriate social housing and the lack of emergency housing**

INVESTMENT

ACC is a partnership funder for the Safe Communities project, providing \$15,000 per annum for a five-year contractual period. The 2021-2022 financial year will be the third year of ACC contribution towards the project.

We are therefore seeking \$35,787 from the Ashburton District Council to achieve the 2021-2022 Safe Communities Ashburton District Business Plan.

We are also seeking inclusion of this programme in the Council's Long Term Plan, 2021-2031 and have provided budget figures for each year of this ten year period.

What are Safe Communities?

A safe community is a place that is attractive to live in, work in and visit. A safe community is a liveable community, where people can go about their daily activities in an environment without fear, risk of harm or injury. Homes, roads, public spaces and the workplace are safe for everyone to enjoy.

Community safety is not only about reducing and preventing injury and violence. It is about building strong, cohesive and vibrant communities, where people take pride in their community and are aware of community safety and how to look after themselves and others.

The majority of community-based injuries and accidents are preventable and predictable (for example, falls in the home).

The Safe Communities Model

The Safe Communities model, based on international safety standards, is recommended as an effective approach to community safety by the World Health Organisation (WHO). The Safe Communities Foundation of New Zealand (SCFNZ), established in 2004, supports communities to adopt the Safe Community model and to become effective advocates and enablers of community safety.

The model is based on collaboration, bringing together a wide range of agencies involved in all aspects of community safety to generate a “collective weight” to identifying and responding to pressing local community issues and solutions.

SCFNZ is also a member of the Pan Pacific Safe Communities Network (PPSCN), which brings together Safe Communities from New Zealand, Australia, United States of America and Canada – working closely on injury prevention and community safety management systems.

Currently there are 20 accredited Safe Communities in New Zealand. Just over 70% of New Zealanders live in an accredited Safe Community.

Safe Communities Ashburton District was accredited as a Safe Community in May, 2019 and brings together a unique collaboration, with 27 (now 28) agencies involved in a wide range of community safety activities, some of whom have not

collaborated together before, meeting monthly to discuss community safety issues in an open and positive environment. For example, first response agencies like St John and Fire and Emergency NZ, are sitting alongside social service agencies such as Presbyterian Support and learning about their services, many of which are relevant to the people these first responders are dealing with when they visit their homes.

The model is “bottom up” driven, seeking and responding to local community safety issues as they arise. It creates an infrastructure in local communities to increase action by building local partnerships and collaborative relationships. The collaboration builds critical mass and credibility and has increased impact and reach – one message across many voices leads to continuity of messages and interventions and reduced duplication.

In other areas around New Zealand where the Safe Communities model has been operating for a number of years, collaborative groups report that working together has created a platform for high-level strategic governance that is a driver to create on-the-ground action and deliver programmes. These groups are powerful advocates for community safety in their local communities.

Safe Communities have robust evaluation requirements, meaning that they can demonstrate the value and impact of initiatives, potentially improving opportunities for funding from central government, charities and other external funders.

Safety is kept at the top of every community's priorities by annual check-ups (reporting to SCFNZ) and reaccreditation every 5 years.

Ashburton District is “safe”, but it could be “safer”

- Of the 17 fatal injuries in 2016, 5/17 were due to a fall; 5 (29.4%) were aged 60 years and older were people 60 years and older – this is above the national rates.
- Of 394 hospital discharges in 2018, 46% were due to a fall; 47/394 were people aged 65-74 years and 102/394 were people aged 75 years plus.
- In 2018 there were 13 fatal and serious road crashes; 1/18 was alcohol-related.
- 2019- 44 victimisations for assault by a family member and 32 victimisations for assault in public place locations.
- Year ended 31 March, 2020 – 891 crime victimisations; 90 of reported crimes were theft and related offences.
- Family harm is a growing issue in our District.
- Ashburton District has a higher rate of suicide than urban areas.

Ashburton District residents want a safe community

- The 2019/20 Annual Residents Survey conducted by the Council to ascertain levels of satisfaction with its performance and service delivery found 89% of respondents satisfied with Council's involvement in Community Safety (provision of CCTV, street lighting, tree trimming, liquor licensing, building inspection, food safety, road safety initiatives and an annual grant to Safer Mid Canterbury), compared with 86% in 2018 and 81% in 2017.
- Feedback from the community on local safety issues was collected by Ashburton District Council over April and May, 2018 as part of its consultation on the preparation of the Long Term Plan, 2018-28. Community safety ranked second highest on a list of eight areas where the community thought Council should be prioritising its spending in the future.

Why should Council continue to be involved?

For the 2020-2021 financial year, the Ashburton District Council funded the rollout of community safety projects identified in the second year of the Safe Communities Ashburton District Five Year Strategic Plan (2019-2024). Funding was utilized to enable a part-time Safe Communities Co-ordinator to work with a number of Working Group agency collaborations to develop projects including:

- Support for the development of a Citizens Advice Bureau branch (to be established at the Community House Mid Canterbury) – a partnership between Safe Communities, Community House Mid Canterbury and the CAB National Office
- The development of a community transport service to bring people living in the more rural/remote areas of the District Research into Ashburton Township for medical appointments, seeing friends and family, accessing government departments and social services, doing business with Council, etc
- The establishment of a Falls Prevention/Home Safety Network and promotions on strength and balance programmes and home safety
- The co-ordination of the Caring for Communities social recovery group (previously the Council's welfare recovery group during the pandemic lockdown/state of emergency). Development of a large social research project looking at the impact of COVID-19 on the community, the capacity of the not-for-profit sector to manage additional demand and to inform local funders about local needs and gaps

The Safe Communities Steering Group of 28 agencies meets bi-monthly and is chaired by an Ashburton District Council representative, Deputy Mayor and Councillor Liz McMillan. Agencies are now seeing the benefits of working together, with the establishment of a number of Working Groups to develop the projects listed above. These projects will make a significant difference to residents' safety and become ongoing, independent "legacy" projects for the District, some with their own legal and operational structures.

There is a natural fit between the Safe Communities model and the Council's Community Outcomes and community well-beings, which outline how Ashburton District Council seeks to make a difference to residents' lives well beyond simply providing "core services". The Safe Communities Ashburton District project contributes to all four well-beings (social,

economic, environmental and cultural) by working towards a safe, vibrant community; economic prosperity as people want to live, work and play in a “safe” Ashburton District; the design of safe environments for people to live, work and recreate in and a community welcoming of cultural diversity.

The Caring for Communities Social Recovery Group, co-ordinated by Safe Communities and with c.40 agency members, is working collaboratively to make the District and its people more resilient and better able to respond in times of crisis.

Funding the implementation of the 2021-2022 Business Plan formalises Ashburton District Council's commitment to working with Safer Mid Canterbury and ACC to create the safest possible environments for those who live in, work in or visit Ashburton District.

ASHBURTON DISTRICT COUNCIL VISION: THE DISTRICT OF CHOICE FOR LIFESTYLE AND OPPORTUNITY

COMMUNITY OUTCOME	SAFE COMMUNITIES CONTRIBUTION	COMMUNITY OUTCOME	SAFE COMMUNITIES CONTRIBUTION
Residents are included and have a voice	The Safe Communities model seeks “bottom up” feedback from the community on safety issues and concerns, using a number of methods, and shares this with key partners so that collaborative solutions can be found.	A prosperous economy based on innovation and opportunity	People and families want to live in a Safe Community. Safe Communities contribute to a stable workforce, allowing the District's economy to thrive.
A district of great spaces and places	A Safe Community creates attractive, vibrant environments. Accreditation is a tangible demonstration that Ashburton District is a safe, desirable place to live, visit and do business.		

2021-2022 BUSINESS PLAN

Following a rigorous analysis of injury and crime data, national, regional and local strategies and policies, community feedback and feedback from community safety agencies, a Five Year Safe Communities Ashburton District Strategic Plan (2019-2024) was developed. The 2021-2022 Business Plan will be the third year of the implementation of the Strategic Plan and will allow projects commenced in the 2020-2021 Business Plan to come to fruition and the development of new projects to meet identified community safety issues and concerns. Safe Communities Ashburton District will take the leadership role for a number of projects, while others will be led by other agencies which are part of the Safe Communities Ashburton District collaboration or by other networks such as the Road Safety Co-ordinating Committee.

Delivering the Business Plan

All accredited Safe Communities have a paid co-ordinator, most contracted/employed on a part-time basis. The role is fundamental to the success of Safe Communities, transcending organisational boundaries and actively promoting partnerships and collaboration. Key elements in the role include: strategic planning, relationship management, interagency networking and collaboration, data analysis and reporting and project planning and delivery. The co-ordination role brings an added dimension to the identification of complex issues/problems, reaching across multiple agencies and sectors to link them together to create solutions. Ultimately this avoids multi-faceted approaches and potential duplication. The Safe Community Foundation of New Zealand commented on the Ashburton project that “... *the ability of the Safe Communities Co-ordinator to be the connector and catalyst for change will be a key pivotal component moving forward*”. Without this co-ordination role the Safe Communities Ashburton District initiative will have significant difficulty meeting its objectives, as delivery of the project work contained in the 2021-2022 Business Plan is not within the capacity of existing Safer Mid Canterbury staffing.

Safer Mid Canterbury Leadership Role

The Safe Communities Co-ordinator position and the Safe Communities project is well placed within Safer Mid Canterbury, which is recognised by Ashburton District Council as the lead agency to deliver the Safe Communities model.

INVESTMENT: 2021-2022

Delivery of the 2021-2022 Safe Communities Ashburton District Business Plan is budgeted to cost \$50,787 annually (subject to yearly inflation). The cost breakdown for the project over the coming year is:

INCOME	2021/2022
Ashburton District Council	\$35,787
Accident Compensation Corporation	\$15,000
TOTAL	\$50,787

EXPENDITURE	
Salary and associated staff costs	\$31,869
Overheads	\$5,500
Project resources	\$2,932
Direct project delivery costs	\$10,486
TOTAL	\$50,787

ACC will provide partnership funding of \$15,000 towards the project for the third year of its 5-year contractual period.

LONG TERM PLAN INVESTMENT: 2021-2031

We are seeking inclusion of this programme in Council's Long Term Plan and provide the following budget figures for each year of the ten year Plan.

EXPENDITURE	
2021/2022	35,787
2022/2023	36,898
2023/2024	38,034
2024/2025	39,211
2025/2026	40,423
2026/2027	41,674
2027/2028	42,963
2028/2029	44,291
2029/2030	45,661
2030/2031	47,073

MONITORING AND REPORTING

Safe Communities Ashburton District reports annually to the Safe Communities Foundation of NZ on the success of initiatives implemented and on any new community safety issues/concerns as they arise.

The Steering Group is also required to complete a Coalition Survey annually and the Co-ordinator is required to participate in the Safe Communities Annual Forum and online Zoom meetings with Safe Communities Foundation of NZ staff and other Safe Communities Co-ordinators.

As the host organisation, Safer Mid Canterbury will report six monthly and annually to the Ashburton District Council on achieving the Business Plan and annually to ACC.

Safe Communities are required to submit applications for re-accreditation five years after their entry to the network. For Ashburton District this will be in 2024. While the information contained within the application changes, the requirements and steps are the same for both accreditation and reaccreditation.

APPENDICES:

1. SAFE COMMUNITIES ASHBURTON DISTRICT – PARTNER AGENCIES

1. ACC
2. Age Concern Ashburton
3. ARA Polytechnic
4. Ashburton College
5. Ashburton Community Alcohol and Drug Service
6. Ashburton District Council
7. Ashburton District Neighbourhood Support
8. Ashburton Town Watch Society Inc.
9. CCS Disability Action
10. Department of Corrections
11. Experience Mid Canterbury
12. Fire and Emergency NZ (FENZ)
13. Hakatere Marae
14. Mid Canterbury Principals' Association
15. Mid Canterbury Provincial Rural Women New Zealand
16. Minister's Association
17. New Zealand Police
18. Oranga Tamariki Ministry for Children
19. Presbyterian Support Ashburton
20. Rakaia Community Association
21. Red Cross
22. Rural Canterbury Public Health Organisation
23. The Rural Support Trust Mid Canterbury
24. Safer Mid Canterbury
25. Sport Canterbury
26. St John
27. Work and Income/Ministry of Social Development
28. YMCA Mid Canterbury

2. SAFE COMMUNITIES ASHBURTON DISTRICT

- **STRATEGIC PLAN 2019-2024**
- **BUSINESS PLAN 2020-2021**

VISION – Ashburton District, our place, a safe place to live, work and play, free from preventable injury and harm

MISSION:

- to collaborate to achieve a safer Ashburton District
- to empower Ashburton District residents to feel safe and to know how to be safe

PRINCIPLES AND VALUES: SAFE COMMUNITIES ASHBURTON DISTRICT STEERING GROUP

- Collaboration – working together will create positive change - one message, many voices
- Sharing of skills, resources, information, ideas and experience will increase community safety in Ashburton District
- A safe and injury-free community to live in is achievable; injuries are preventable
- We are champions of community safety in the District
- We empower Ashburton District residents to know how to keep themselves safe
- Honesty, respect and integrity guide the work of the Steering Group

THE ASHBURTON DISTRICT SAFETY PICTURE: KEY FACTS

- Population 34,800
- 2016 – 17 fatal injuries – 5/17 were due to a fall; 5 (29.4%) were aged 60 years or older, down from 9(52.9%) the previous year; above national rates
- 2018 - 394 hospital discharges due to injury, up from 384 the previous year; 46% due to a fall; 47/394 were people aged 65 to 74 years and 102/394 were people aged 75 years plus

- 2018- 13 fatal and serious road crashes, down from 18 in 2017; 1/18 was alcohol-related, compared to 5 in 2017; below national rates
- 2019 – 44 victimisations for assault by a family member, down from 67 in 2018 and 32 victimisations for assault in public place locations, down from 35 the previous year; below national rates
- Year ended 31 March, 2020– 891 crime victimisations, down from 1,084 the previous year; 90% of reported crimes were theft and related offences
- Family harm is a growing issue in our District
- Ashburton District has a higher rate of suicide than urban areas

WHAT THE COMMUNITY SAYS

- 89% of respondents (up 3% from 86% in 2018/19) were satisfied with Council's role in helping keep the community safe through the provision of CCTV, street lighting, tree-trimming, liquor licensing, building inspection, food safety, road safety initiatives and an annual grant to Safer Mid Canterbury (2019/20 Annual Residents Survey).
- Community safety ranked second highest when the community was asked by Ashburton District Council where to prioritise its spending (Long Term Plan consultation, April-May, 2018).

WHAT'S IMPORTANT TO US?

- Rural Safety
- Road Safety
- Falls in Older People
- Harm Reduction/Prevention (Family harm; suicide prevention))
- Alcohol and Drugs and Community Safety (Early intervention/prevention)
- The Environment (built; natural)
- Community and Social Recovery post the Covid-19 Pandemic

SAFE COMMUNITIES ASHBURTON DISTRICT STRATEGIC PLAN 2019-2024

Goal 1: Collaboration – we work together to improve community safety

Priorities	Responsible	What we will do
The Safer Communities Ashburton District Steering Group is a vibrant and achieving collaboration	SCAD Steering Group	<p>Meet bi-monthly, with demonstrated commitment by partner agencies to the Safe Communities model through sharing of information, skills and resources and the establishment of multi-agency collaborations to address complex community safety issues</p> <p>Deliver the 2019-2024 Strategic Plan, the 2021-2022 Business Plan and the Communications Plan</p> <p>Undertake an annual community engagement forum to update the community on achievements and to seek feedback on future directions/priorities</p> <p>Review and develop the Business Plan annually, utilising community feedback; data; best practice research and international/national/local policies and strategies</p> <p>Advocate for community safety at local and central government levels</p> <p>Report annually to the Safe Communities NZ Foundation on achievements and community safety issues/concerns</p> <p>Report annually to funders</p>

Goal 2: People in Ashburton District know how to keep themselves safe

Priorities	Responsible	What we will do
<p>Increase awareness of community safety by making information readily available and accessible</p>	<p>SCAD/agencies providing information to the public</p>	<p>Deliver initiatives in the SCAD Communications Plan</p> <p>Work with relevant agencies to ensure the District has good quality, up to date, information which is readily available and well utilised by the public</p>
<p>Positive parenting – ensure parents and caregivers in Ashburton District are capable and confident carers, giving our children and young people the best start in life</p>	<p>SCAD/parenting agencies</p>	<p>Develop a collaboration of agencies offering parenting support</p> <p>Publicise programmes to ensure parents are aware of services</p> <p>Examine whether agencies have the capacity to meet demand</p> <p>If required, advocate for increased parenting support resources for the District</p>

Goal 3: Ashburton District's Rural Communities are well supported

Priorities	Responsible	What will we do
Support initiatives which help to reduce social isolation	SCAD/rural support agencies	Work with rural support agencies to develop initiatives to reduce social isolation/increase personal safety
Explore ways to increase public transport opportunities around the District	SCAD/agencies involved in public transport	Seek to reduce social isolation by investigating opportunities to increase public transport options around the District

Goal 4: Ashburton District's older residents are aware of ways to prevent falls

Priorities	Responsible	What we will do
Work collaboratively with agencies involved in falls prevention/education and safety in the home	Sport Canterbury/ Age Concern Ashburton/Presbyterian Support/Elder Care Canterbury/ACC/agencies involved in falls prevention/education/home safety/ SCAD	Establish a Falls Prevention Network to collaborate on falls prevention/education and home safety via an annual promotion Promote community strength and balance programmes to reduce harm from falls

Goal 5: Ashburton District's roads experience no serious crashes or fatalities

Priorities	Responsible	What we will do
Continue to reduce fatal and serious crashes, with a focus on the top crash causes – speed, intersections, young drivers, alcohol and drugs	Ashburton District Road Safety Co-ordinating Committee/ Ashburton Community Alcohol and Drug Service (ACADS)	Support the implementation of the Ashburton District Road Safety Plan. Contribute to initiatives as appropriate

Goal 6: People in Ashburton District are free from harm

Priorities	Responsible	What we will do
Support programmes that reduce family harm	MSD/Oranga Tamariki/Ashburton Family Harm Network/He Waka Tapu/Victim Support/Womens Refuge/Police/SCAD	Work with agencies involved in delivering services for victims and perpetrators to examine the need for increased services in the District If required, advocate for increased service provision
Support services that assist to reduce suicide rates	Lives Worth Living Programme/SCAD/ Mid Canterbury Suicide Prevention Network	Support the implementation of the Lives Worth Living initiative for Ashburton District and the implementation of the Mid Canterbury Suicide Prevention Strategy and Action Plan

Goal 7: Ashburton District Makes a Positive and Effective Social Recovery Post the Covid-19 Pandemic

Priorities	Responsible	What we will do
Support the Caring for Communities Welfare Recovery Group	SCAD/Agencies involved in social and community recovery	Co-ordinate the Caring for Communities Group; implement recommendations from the Social Recovery research which will contribute to the resiliency and capacity of the community and of agencies supporting the community

SAFE COMMUNITIES ASHBURTON DISTRICT BUSINESS PLAN 2021-2022

(Projects in **RED** denote new projects for 2021-2022)

Goal	Actions	Timeframe	Lead Agency	How we measure success
Everyone works together to improve community safety – collaboration	The Safe Communities Ashburton District Steering Group meets regularly to share information and work together on addressing community safety issues and promoting community safety	Bi-monthly – ongoing	Safe Communities Co-ordinator/ Safe Communities Ashburton District Steering Group	Attendance by organisations at Steering Group meetings
	New members are well briefed about the Safe Communities model, the Steering Group and its work	Ongoing	Chair/Safe Communities Co-ordinator	Number of multiple agency collaborations to improve community safety
	Steering Group partners and the Ashburton District Council receive regular information on potential legislative changes, national and international community safety research on best practice and new data on injury, crime, road crashes, etc as this becomes available	Ongoing	Safe Communities Co-ordinator	Safe Communities Foundation of NZ governance survey results

<p>People in Ashburton District know how to keep themselves safe</p>	<p>“Safety Village” project, bringing together community safety agencies into one large safety promotion, for the November, 2021 Ashburton A and P Show</p> <p>Regularly contribute safety information/promotions to the Safer Mid Canterbury Facebook page. Share information on partner agency Facebook and website pages</p> <p>Monthly column in the Ashburton Courier newspaper promoting key safety messages.</p> <p>Share information on partner agency Facebook and website pages</p>	<p>Planning to begin in July, 2021</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Safe Communities Co-ordinator/ interested agencies</p> <p>Safe Communities Co-ordinator</p>	<p>Number of agencies participating in the Safety Village</p> <p>Number of visitors to the Village</p> <p>Community feedback gathered at the event</p> <p>FB numbers, comments and shares</p> <p>Number of enquiries</p>
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	<p>Improve community access to information via the of a Citizens Advice Bureau branch in Ashburton Township</p>	<p>Continue as from July, 2021</p>	<p>Mid Canterbury CAB/CAB National Office/SCAD</p>	<p>Number of enquiries</p> <p>Community resources developed (eg Health and Social Services Directory)</p>
	<p>Develop a Network of agencies involved with parenting. Promote parenting programmes and advocate for increased parenting programmes if required</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>SCAD/ agencies delivering parenting programmes</p>	<p>Community resource booklet on parenting developed</p>
	<p>Explore the safety needs of at risk populations – for example, Maori; migrants and newcomers; children and youth</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>SCAD/relevant agencies</p>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children – reduce the incidence and severity of home-based injuries to children by promoting the Safekids Toolkit to parents and children 	<p>Monthly community sessions for parents and children</p>	<p>SCAD/parenting agencies/Safekids/A CC</p>	<p>12 x monthly sessions run</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children – promote the use of cycle helmets as part of the Walking and Cycling Strategy (Action Plan 4.1A) 	<p>To be determined</p>	<p>SCAD/Council Walking and Cycling Working Group/ACC</p>	<p>To be determined</p>

Ashburton District's Rural Communities are well supported	Develop a community safety project in one rural area each year, which has been determined by the local community, possibly in partnership with the Council's Emergency Services Manager	Commence July, 2021	Safe Communities Co-ordinator/ Methven Community Board, Rakaia Community Association/Mt Somers District Citizens Association/Emergency Services Manager	Project completed by 30 June, 2022
	Explore ways to reduce social isolation in the more rural areas of the District, by developing a community transport option to bring people into Ashburton Township for medical appointments, shopping, etc	Review 6 -month trial in June/July 2021	Community Vehicle Trust/SCAD/ECAN	Review results/feedback from the 6-month trial
	Further research rural burglary/theft and the possibility of an awareness campaign for medical appointments, shopping, etc	Commence August, 2021	Safe Communities Co-ordinator/ Police	Possible campaign run

<p>Ashburton District's older residents are aware of ways to prevent falls</p>	<p>Promote falls prevention messages, strength and balance classes and home safety via an annual campaign and involvement bi-annually in the Age Concern Ashburton Positive Ageing Expo</p> <p>Work with Sport Canterbury to develop strength and balance training opportunities for men</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Programme developed and promoted as part of Men's Health Week, June 2022</p>	<p>Ashburton/ACC/Pre sbyterian Support/Elder Care Canterbury/agencie s involved in falls prevention/Safe Communities Co-ordinator</p> <p>Sport Canterbury/SCAD</p> <p>Safe Communities Coordinator/ACC/F ENZ/St John/falls prevention providers/service groups</p>	<p>collaborating to promote falls prevention/home safety</p> <p>Community feedback received from the promotions</p> <p>Programme(s) developed</p> <p>Attendance numbers to Men's Week promotion</p> <p>Programme commences September, 2021</p>
<p>Ashburton District's older residents are aware of home safety</p>	<p>Develop a home safety "fix it" programme for older residents who are unable to action required safety improvements to prevent falls</p>	<p>Programme developed by September, 2021</p>		

<p>Ashburton District's Roads experience no serious crashes or fatalities</p>	<p>Continue to reduce fatal and serious crashes with a focus on the top crash causes – speed, intersections, alcohol and drugs, young drivers</p>	<p>Refer Ashburton District Road Safety Action Plan</p>	<p>Ashburton District Road Safety Co-ordinating Committee/ Ashburton Community Alcohol and Drug Service (ACADS)</p>	<p>Reduction in number of crashes at intersections, specifically serious injury and minor injury crashes</p> <p>Reduced number of crashes involving young drivers, specifically fatal and serious injury crashes</p> <p>Increased number of young drivers who understand risks on the road</p> <p>Reduction in the number of crashes involving speed and alcohol and drugs</p>
<p>Promote Road Safety Awareness</p>	<p>Explore the development of a kids cycle track, located in a safe, off-road environment where children can learn to ride/navigate road rules</p> <p>Promote motorcycle safety via the ACC Ride Forever programme, as part of Men's Health Week</p>	<p>Commence July, 2021</p> <p>June, 2022</p>	<p>SCAD/Council Walking and Cycling Working Group/community organisations</p> <p>SCAD/Road Safety Co-ordinating Committee/ACC</p>	<p>Possible track developed by June 2022</p> <p>Promotion run</p>

<p>People in Ashburton District are free from harm</p>	<p>Work with agencies involved with family harm to ascertain the need for /advocate for increased family harm services to be provided in the District</p> <p>Support the implementation of the Lives Worth Living (suicide prevention) initiative for the District</p>	<p>Continue as from July, 2021</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	<p>MSD/Oranga Tamariki/Ashburton Family Harm Network/Women's Refuge/He Waka Tapu/Police/Victim Support/Safe Communities Co-ordinator</p> <p>Lives Worth Living/Mid Canterbury Suicide Prevention Network/SCAD</p>	<p>Discussion paper produced by December, 2021</p> <p>Number of projects in the Mid Canterbury Suicide Prevention Strategy and Action Plan actioned.</p>
<p>Ashburton District Makes a Positive and Effective Social Recovery Post the Covid-19 Pandemic</p>	<p>Co-ordinate the Caring for Communities Welfare Recovery Group</p> <p>Work with the Group to implement Action Plan of research recommendations on the short, medium and long term social recovery needs of the District</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Safe Communities Ashburton District/agencies involved in social recovery</p>	<p>Number of Action Plan recommendations initiated or completed</p>

	Explore the issue of lack of appropriate social housing and lack of emergency housing	Commence July, 2021	SCAD	Discussion paper produced by December, 2021
The Safe Communities Foundation of NZ and funders (Ashburton District Council; ACC) are well informed about the activities, achievements and benefits of Safe Communities Ashburton District	Safe Communities Ashburton District Steering Group to undertake an annual community engagement forum to inform the community about its activities and seek feedback on upcoming community safety issues/concerns for use in future planning	Annually - November	Safe Communities Ashburton District Steering Group/Safe Communities Co-ordinator	Feedback from community forum attendees
	Prepare an annual report to the Safe Communities Foundation of NZ updating on the governance structure, achievements, and innovative and effective programmes	Annually by July 31 2012	Safe Communities Co-ordinator/Safe Communities Ashburton District Steering Group/Safer Mid Canterbury General Manager	Reports prepared and submitted Feedback from the Safe Communities Foundation
	Report to the Ashburton District Council twice yearly on achievements of the programme, including an annual report for each year ended 30 June	Twice per year	As above	Feedback from the Ashburton District Council

	Report six monthly and annually to ACC on achievements of the programme	Annually	As above	Feedback from ACC
	Explore potential funding opportunities	Ongoing	Safe Communities Co-ordinator/Safer Mid Canterbury General Manager	

APPENDIX B: Safer Communities Model Schedule of Service Levels

Service		Standard Targets		Performance Measures and Milestones	
Establish a sound return on investment by leveraging Council funding to obtain central government agency funding for community safety initiatives.		Safer Ashburton will obtain central government funding for core community safety projects that it delivers within the Ashburton District.		For every dollar of Council investment, Safer Ashburton will endeavor to obtain four dollars of central government investment, community funding, donations and event income for core community safety programmes. Maintain appropriate accreditation sufficient to continue Central Government investment.	
Safer Mid Canterbury has continued to obtain a sound return on investment for Council. In the previous year, as of 31 December 2019, Safer Mid Canterbury’s income was \$578,917.00, Council contribution toward that income being \$105,903.00. As at 31 December 2020, Safer Mid Canterbury’s income was \$811,815.00, Council contribution toward that income being \$105.903.00. This is a substantial increase on return on investment as compared to the same period last year. Whilst we have seen some small increases in income for our fee for service work for the Department of Courts and Oranga Tamariki, most of this increase is attributed to the Refugee Settlement Service, Migrant Social Work Support, Youth Transition Service and our suicide prevention project, Lives Worth Living.					
Provide / coordinate programmes that support our community’s needs		Safer Ashburton ensures the range of programmes run are diverse but appropriate for the Ashburton community.		A performance report will be provided based on the Key Initiatives Action Plan in Appendix C.	
Programmes		Measures	As at 31 December 2019		As at 31 December 2020
Neighbourhood Support		Households on Gets Ready Database	4,948		4,973
Restorative Justice (Turnaround)		Referrals	38		47
		Conferences	75		89
Attendance Service		Referrals – Non Enrolled	8		10
		Referrals – Unjustified Absence	38		34
ROCK ON		Referrals	4		5
Families Without Violence		Network Meetings	12		14
		Training and events	4		7
Youth Justice Services		Referrals	11		9
Hakatere Multi Cultural Council		Events / Workshops	49		18
		Individuals supported	133		116
Youth Health Centre		Referrals	91		84
		Client interactions	1018		1013
S.E.E.D.S Family Wellbeing programme		Referrals	19		18

Supervised Access – Organa Tamariki	Families Supported	12	10
Supervised Contact – Department of Courts	Families Supported	15	12
Youth Support	Referrals	14	23
Children's Team	Children Supported	4	4
Rural Driving Project	Learners Licence Referrals	12	23
	Restricted Licence Referrals	9	9
CACTUS Programme	Referrals	24	21
Family Resource Workers	Families Supported		16
Transition Service	Referrals		8
Refugee Settlement Service	Individuals Supported		None yet
Migrant Social Work Support Service	Individuals Supported		19
Lives Worth Living (Suicide Prevention)	Workshops attendees		248
	Grief and loss Programmes		18

In addition to the ongoing delivery of our current programmes, Safer Mid Canterbury received additional funding through the Ministry of Social Development that was used to provide a Social Work Support Service targeted at Migrants who had been affected by COVID 19, most of the work focused on the stresses migrants faced around uncertain futures re visa's. We also received new contract funding at the end of the period through another area of the Ministry of Social Development to employ a "Community Connector" who has a focus on supporting people whose employment and/or income has been affected by COVID 19 with a view to supporting them back into employment. We received this funding at the end of November so were not in a position to launch the service until the start of 2021.

It was also in the latter part of the period being reported on that we were able to start a lot of our group work and activities and capitalize on many other events that we attend providing support or to promote services, with many not occurring it has been somewhat of an unusual year.

Community safety is increased in Ashburton through the Safe Communities programme.

Safer Ashburton drives the implementation of actions for the Safe Communities programme.

The 2019/20 Business Plan accredited by Safe Communities Foundation is implemented.

An attached six-month report outlines progress to date on the Safe Communities Plan.

Overhead Costs	Granted	Expended 1 July – 31 December	Expended 1 January – 30 June	Remaining
Staff (mgmt., admin)	\$176,806	\$88,403		\$88,403
One-off funding to enable Safer Communities Accreditation	\$ 35,000	\$17,500		\$17,500
Total	\$211,806	\$105,903		\$105,903

Signed by: Kevin Clifford
Date: February 11th 2021
Position: General Manager

Being a person with authority to sign on behalf of: Ashburton Safer Community Council (Safer Ashburton)

Signature: 

Phone: 03 308 1395

Email: kevin@safermidcanterbury.org.nz