

Reimagining Community Safety

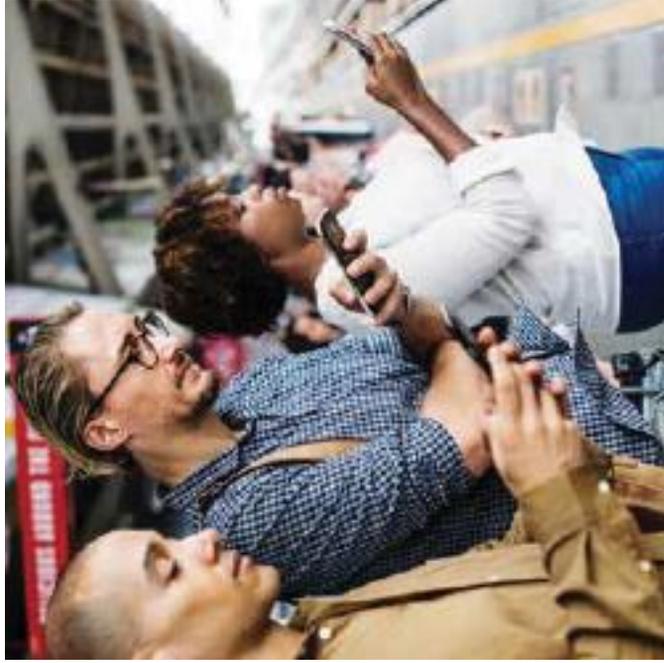
A holistic community-led approach to creating safer places

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Reimagining Community Safety

Community Safety in an Empowered Communities Approach context



In recent years, there has been a shift from the traditional crime and injury prevention approach to community safety, to a more focused holistic view that supports thriving, connected, cohesive and resilient communities.

This more holistic approach aligns with both Auckland Council's [Thriving Communities](#) community and social development action plan and the outcomes of the [Empowered Communities Approach](#).

Reimagining Community Safety

Community Safety in an Empowered Communities Approach context

[Safe Communities Foundation New Zealand](#) defines a safe community as:

“... a place that is attractive to live, work 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.

It creates an infrastructure in local communities to increase action by building partnerships and collaborative relationships.

It is about building strong, cohesive, vibrant, participatory communities.”

The Empowered Communities Approach

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An Empowered Communities Approach Framework

Nāku te rourou, nāu te rourou, ka ora ai te iwi

With your basket and my basket the people will live

Empowered Communities

An empowered community is one where individuals, whānau and communities have the power and ability to influence decisions, take action and make change happen in their lives and communities

Enabling Council

An enabling council is one where every opportunity is maximised for council to work in ways that empower communities

Empowered Communities Approach Principles

Treaty partnership

- Work in ways that are enabling and responsive to the aspirations of mana whenua, mataawaka, marae and other Māori organisations

Social inclusion and equity

- Ensure everyone can participate in decision-making
- Prioritise activities that will increase opportunity and participation

Collaboration

- Work in joined up way together with communities
- Demonstrate high levels of trust in the expertise of communities

Outcomes

- Communities and local people have greater control and influence over things they care about
- People from diverse backgrounds are engaging meaningfully and participating in public and community life

- Māori development is enhanced by council working together with mana whenua, mataawaka, marae and other Māori organisations
- Community outcomes are improved through council and communities working together in joined up ways

- Voluntary and community groups have increased capacity and capability; they are inclusive and competent, committed to equity and connected to their wider community
- Local initiatives are designed and delivered locally

Key Focus Areas

Increase diverse community participation in council decision-making

Build community capacity to do things for themselves

Develop and support community-led placemaking activities

Respond to Māori aspirations in practical and effective ways

Integrate the Empowered Communities Approach across council to achieve local board and regional outcomes and community aspirations

What is Placemaking?

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A key focus area of the Empowered Communities Approach is the development and support of community-led placemaking initiatives:

- **Placemaking** is a multi-faceted approach to the planning, design, activation and management of public spaces. Placemaking capitalises on a local community's assets, inspiration, and potential, with the intention of creating public spaces that promote people's health, happiness, and wellbeing.
- **Community Placemaking** describes projects in which communities are engaged in shaping the look, function and feel of the places in which they live, work and play, building a sense of community, local pride, identity and connection.
- **Community-led Placemaking** describes projects initiated by communities that create change in public places where they live, work and play through collaboration, inspiration, building on local strengths and meeting local needs.



What is Placemaking?

Placemaking is a wide spectrum of activities centred around “growing the soul of a place”, ranging from:

- short-term creative and tactical activations, such as events programmes in local parks and neighbourhood clean-ups
- medium-term projects such as the community coming together to self-organise an ongoing series of activations or to change the use of a public space temporarily with the view to long-term development.
- long-term physical space redevelopment of public space, such as the Te Auaunga Awa project in Albert-Eden, the Huapai Hub in Rodney, or Wynyard Quarter in Waitematā.



What is Placemaking?

Benefits of community and community-led placemaking include:

- strengthening and connecting communities through a collaborative culture of co- design, creativity and construction of unique gathering places
- an equitable and accessible process for communities to identify and determine local priorities
- increasing civic engagement, wellbeing and social capital
- building community identity and neighbourhood resourcefulness
- improved perceptions of safety in their community reported by participants
- creating community ownership of public spaces, with the communities assuming responsibility for care and protection of these spaces



Reimagining Community Safety

The Reimagining Community Safety approach will contribute to community safety through:

- supporting community-led initiatives where communities lead and are actively engaged in establishing a response to local community safety issues
- emphasising placemaking as a practice to achieve outcomes wider than community safety through integration of activities and initiatives
- engaging with the diverse range of community to determine the safety needs



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The Reimagining Community Safety approach will contribute to community safety through:

- developing and working in partnership with local community safety organisations
- implementing initiatives that reflect local needs, values and objectives
- supporting infrastructure and urban planning and design which provide many and varied opportunities for the planning of safe environments



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The community placemaking process also offers a mechanism to incorporate all the other focus areas of the Empowered Communities Approach - building capacity, allowing for broad diversity and participation, Maori responsiveness and working across council.

Establish meaningful and purposeful community partnerships to identify and support the delivery of local initiatives to address local needs, and create local preventative and resilience factors that are crucial to creating safe communities.

