



## Notes from forum held 22 June 2020 At Community Waikato & Zoom

**Facilitator and Note taker:** Sarah Gibb, Community Waikato

### 1. Welcome

It was wonderful to see so many people in person (20) and zoom (8) after the period of Covid lockdown.

### 2. Waikato DHB Transport and Access Plan –

Greg Morton, Senior Planning & Engagement Manager

Greg introduced the draft plan and asked for feedback from the community transport providers.

DHB currently holds contracts with 13 organisations and provides grants to them. Mostly in the Thames/Coromandel area and based on historic relations. This is being reviewed.

The Plan was requested by the DHB Commissioner and CEO in January 2020 and has been developed by a joint cross-sector working group with representation from community transport providers (Wayne Thomson from North Waikato Transport Trust), the DHB Consumer Council, and local government.

#### *Identified problems*

The problems DHB want to solve that form the basis of the Plan's case for action are:

##### Problem 1

Lack of suitable, accessible and affordable transport options in many of our rural localities is impacting on access to health services and community health and wellbeing –particularly for our priority population groups.

##### Problem 2

High population growth and increasing car dependency in greater Hamilton and a lack of alternative travel options is limiting access and productivity, and putting pressure on travel demand to, from and at Waikato Hospital and between the Hospital and key DHB facilities e.g. Waiora CBD site (Alexandra St, Hamilton).

#### *Desired outcomes*

- Increased number of people able to access health services
- More equitable and affordable access to transport service options to enable access essential health services –for DHB priority population groups i.e. Māori, people living in rural localities, and people living with a disability
- Better alignment between DHB appointments and available transport services by locality
- Greater accessible and sustainable travel options available to DHB staff based at, or living near to, Waikato Hospital campus, Waiora CBD building and other key DHB facilities within greater Hamilton.

Greg provided copies of the plan and asked groups to give feedback/comments, prioritising the actions listed under the headings: Access and accessibility for our rural localities, Transport choices to and from Waikato Hospital for our staff and consumers, Parking management at Waikato Hospital campus, Improving consumer travel and appointment booking linkages.

Feedback due July 13<sup>th</sup>. An email will be sent to the full forum database with the summary and feedback form.

### **3. Red Cross moving away from Community Transport**

NZ Red Cross is to move away from providing Community Transport from December 2020. The organisation will focus on migration and disaster relief.

This will impact on 5 providers in the Waikato where they are either governed by Red Cross or receive a Red Cross grant that comes indirectly from DHB.

Ruth Rhodes, DHB, was able to assure these groups that DHB will continue to hold contracts with the individual Trusts that are already established and with those that will replace Red Cross Branches by December 2020.

Sarah Gibb offered to assist the Red Cross groups in forming new Trusts and establishing relationships with DHB.

### **4. Thames Hospital**

Tricia from St John shuttle in Thames commented that she has had a couple of requests from people outside of Thames, needing to get to Thames Hospital. Other providers indicated they do go from their towns to Thames.

So Thames Health Shuttle will not do that and will direct people to the providers in their own communities.

Greg pointed out that having a National Transport Assistance Coordinator, as actioned in his Access and Transport Plan will help with that coordination.

### **5. Forum meeting dates for 2020**

- Monday September 21
- Monday November 23 – presentation by Gary Goodman, creator of booking system for ST John

All 1.00 – 3.00pm at Community Waikato

Please email through any agenda item suggestions to Sarah Gibb.

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