

2023

To the householder,

We called by today to provide you with some information regarding an individual under our supervision who resides in this general area.

Although we are not able to provide specific information about them, we would like to talk to you regarding how this person is managed in the community.

Our number one priority is keeping the community safe. We'd like to improve public understanding about how we manage people who return home because this happens in every community, every week of the year.

If you would like to know more, feel free to get in touch with me:

- by phone (text or call):
- by email:

I am contactable during normal office hours, 8:30am-5pm Monday-Friday.

Alternatively, you can visit our website where we have lots of information about working with people serving community based sentences. Find us by Googling "corrections" or visiting www.corrections.govt.nz.

Kind regards,

Senior Advisor Community Engagement & Reintegration
Ara Poutama Aotearoa/Department of Corrections.

2023

Tēnā Koutou,

Important Community Message

Department of Corrections staff have met with us and the Ministry of Education to advise that they are managing a person in our community who is on sentence for sexual offences against children.

Through this conversation we were assured that this person has good oversight from Corrections and other agencies. The purpose of this letter is to share this information with you.

It is also a timely reminder to us all; whanau, schools and centres; to have conversations with our children and to develop strategies for keeping themselves and each other safe, including on the way to and from school/centres if not accompanied by adults.

We want to be sure that:

- Our children are clear about safe practices walking, scootering or cycling to and from school/centres
- Parents know which route children are taking to and from school/centres
- Children walk in pairs or small groups
- Children, parents and caregivers know procedures for dropping off and picking up from school; it is important that children are not dropped off too early as there may not be anyone available to supervise them.
- Children know who is collecting them if it is not the parent or caregiver.
- Children know they can report anything that makes them feel unsafe or uncomfortable (this could be to a trusted adult, teacher or Police)

This is also a good time for you to check we have your current contact details; emergency contacts and names of adults permitted to collect your child and notify us of any relevant changes.

In terms of our conversation with Corrections, it is important to know that there are many people on similar sentences and orders living safely in the community, across the country. So, this is not a new situation.

Corrections are experienced at working with people on these types of sentences and orders and developing strategies to support these persons to live safely in their community and across the country. They were able to provide us with some information about how this individual is being managed and to answer questions around the information that would be important to share with parents/caregivers.

The information they were able to provide us was that the individual:

- Is in accommodation a safe distance from any school or childcare facility;
- Is managed by an experienced Probation Officer with close management oversight and is visited at home regularly;
- Is not permitted to have contact, directly or indirectly, with anyone under 16;
- Is GPS monitored (a real time response is triggered if they approach any areas that they are not permitted to approach);
- Is not permitted to approach schools, early childhood centres, parks, playgrounds, or places where children would congregate, and
- Is subject to a nightly curfew.

Many assessments and checks are done before these people are returned to live in their community. Corrections and Police will continue to work closely together, and with other agencies, to ensure that these persons, residing in the community, continue to comply with the conditions of their order.

For some of you, this communication may raise other issues for you or for your children. If this is the case please don't hesitate to contact me and, alongside Corrections, I can put you in contact with people who can help.

As a community we already have strong practices in place (including teaching the Keeping Ourselves Safe programme every second year) and are great at looking out for and after each other. I am sure we will continue to do this in a supportive, community minded way.

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact the Corrections Community Engagement Adviser, on *****

Nā māua noa, na

E mails

MP's, Community Boards, Mayors

Tena Koe,

This email is to advise you in advance of an Ara Poutama planned notification in the ***** area.

We will be completing a "door knock" in your community on Monday 6th March 2023.

As part of this notification the following education providers will be met with and given the opportunity to letter their parents to advise Ara Poutama is managing someone in their community with convictions for sexual offences against children. The education providers are:

Preschools:

Schools:

This is a courtesy email to advise you.

Should you have any enquiries from constituents, please do not hesitate to pass on my contact details and I will be more than happy to discuss with them.

Should you have any further questions, happy to discuss the process with you.

Police

Tena Koe,

This email is to advise you in advance of an Ara Poutama planned notification in the ***** area. We will complete a "door knock" on *date* in a specific area of ***** Street and ***** Street, *Area*. We are advising this community that we are currently managing someone with convictions for child sex offences that resides there.

This is a courtesy email to advise you that these are occurring.

Messaging Guidance (Verbal briefs)

- Advise that there is a person in the area on sentence for sexual offending against children going to reside or residing in the area.
- Provide community safety information in relation to children and provide information on how the person is being managed in the community
- Advise that there is a service in the area that provides accommodation to men with sexual offending against children. Provide information about the level of service.
- Provide contact details of Ara Poutama contact person (SACEAR) to deal with any concerns.

- We are in your neighbourhood today to speak with you and answer your questions about a managed accommodation service in your community that was established in ***** and has been operating successfully in partnership with a specialist/contracted service provider. (We can adapt the next bit dependant on whether we are talking to a new resident or a resident that was previously notified).
 - **Previously notified residents** – we are interested in receiving any feedback that you have about how you have experienced having the service in your community.
 - **New residents** - this accommodation houses up to four individuals who are on longer term community sentences for sexual or violent offending, including historical sexual offending against children. The people in this accommodation want to live quietly and safely in the community. Some of them have already been living safely in the community for many years.

- The service has been operating successfully and some residents are now working towards a stepped transition to more independent living in the community.
- The purpose of the service is to enable people with complex needs to transition back into the community and live independent lives free of crime.
- Each resident has a robust reintegration plan that may include learning about basic living skills, assistance in obtaining employment and finding suitable, permanent accommodation.
- The needs and progress of individual residents are continuously assessed and if positive progress is sustained over a period of time this may lead to the New Zealand Parole Board endorsing some periods of free time to enable the resident to move forward in their journey to independence. (We can also talk about risk management here if required).
- During these periods of free time the person will continue to be subject to electronic monitoring and restrictions on where they can and cannot go including places that are designed for children. This time will be pre planned and time limited.
- Corrections staff are committed to public safety and reducing re-offending. We've been managing people in the community for over 130 years and our engagement today is to tell you about how we are working with a provider to continue to effectively manage this in your community.

Other messages as required.

- They are being managed in their accommodation by one of Corrections specialist service providers. This is a group who are well respected and experienced in the transition of people from prison and the safe management of these people in the community.
- Our partner organisation is responsible for monitoring and managing the men in this accommodation on a daily basis, with ongoing support from Corrections.
- The men will also continue with their rehabilitation programmes and engage in appropriate activities and employment. They have conditions regarding their movements and behaviour in the community and if they breach these conditions at all, they will be held to account.
- Public safety is our absolute priority and a significant amount of preparation goes into approving a suitable address for an offender being released from prison and living in the community.
- We support people to make positive changes and stay offence free. We work with other agencies and the public to ensure everyone can take steps to keep themselves safe such as MSD, HNZ, PARS, and DHB.

For more information

- We realise that this conversation may raise other issues for you or your children. We encourage you to contact local Police who will direct you to appropriate community support.
- Contact Corrections or visit the Corrections website for information about working with offenders in the community, including information about offender management and electronic monitoring.
- Information for schools, families and whanau can be found at <http://www.police.govt.nz/advice/personal-and-community-advice/school-portal/resources/successful-relationships/keeping>

Advice/Guidance

Advise what people can do if they have general concerns or notice suspicious behaviour from any individual.

- Call Police for suspicious behaviour, if feeling unsafe or to report a crime
- Contact Corrections with non-urgent queries or feedback (Chris to provide details)
- Provide resources
- Your Community Liaison Advisor (Corrections)
- Quick Guide to Community Sentences and Orders (Corrections)
- Behaviour danger resource (Police)