

Friday 16 August 2019

New Provider of Integrated and Responsive Mental Health and Addictions Recovery Support Services in Nelson Marlborough

After a significant procurement process Nelson Marlborough Health (NMH) are pleased to announce that we have made a final decision on who the provider of Integrated and Responsive Mental Health and Addictions Recovery Support services for our region is going to be. This provider will be Pathways. They are a new provider for our area and I am sure you will join with us to make them feel very welcome.

NMH would like to acknowledge and thank our current providers for the significant contribution that they have made to supporting people in our region. We especially recognise the effort that they have also put in over the last year to support teams and people and whanau who have accessed your services.

Background:

NMH recently underwent a process to procure a new model of care for our contracted community support workers and housing and recovery mental health and addiction services in the Nelson Marlborough District.

This followed external and internal reviews which identified that our previous model needed significant changes.

Under the Government Rules of Procurement, a contractual and service delivery change of this magnitude meant NMH had to use an open tender process. This process was put on hold while NMH awaited the Government's response to *He Ara Oranga: The Report of the Inquiry into Mental Health and Addictions*.

Pathways was selected as the preferred provider by unanimous recommendation by our evaluation panel, which included clinical, consumer, Māori, external and state sector representation. After considering *He Ara Oranga*, this recommendation was accepted in full by the Nelson Marlborough District Health Board. Pathways has been providing community-based mental health, addiction and wellbeing services throughout New Zealand for 30 years.

Transition and communications

People who are currently receiving community support or housing based support from Mental Health Support Solutions (MHSS), Gateway Housing Trust and Emerge Aotearoa will be affected by this change. They will receive a letter outlining the procurement outcome. These letters will be distributed next week and will contain information about drop-in sessions for consumers and family and whanau to talk about the changes if they have any concerns.

Pathways will establish a base and staffing in the community from October 2019 and begin delivering services in the region from 1 February 2020. A project group will be established to oversee the transition, made up of NMH and Pathways staff, existing providers and clinical, community and peer representatives to develop a detailed plan for the transition of services. People using mental health services will always be kept at the centre of all decisions around the level of support they need. NMH and Pathways will actively involve people using services and their whānau in planning and delivering care.

Effect on staff

All staff employed by the current providers of mental health services and affected by these changes will be offered the opportunity to apply for positions with Pathways. All of those applicants will receive an interview.

More Information

Our website will be updated with FAQs and information regarding this change, see <https://www.nmdhb.govt.nz/health-services/mental-health-and-addiction-services/community-support-services/>. You can also sign up to Pathway's new Nelson Marlborough newsletter on <https://www.pathways.co.nz/contact/nm>.

Yours sincerely,



Jane Kinsey
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Nelson Marlborough Health