

# PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

## VISION AND MISSION

**Kia eke noa a Taiohi**

*All Taiohi/Young People realise their full potential*

**Whakatuu Tuakana whakakohe, Whakamana a Taiohi**

*Enable life-changing mentoring relationships to ignite the power and potential of Taiohi/Young People.*



## COMMUNITY BASED MENTORING

Big Brothers Big Sisters matches mentors (adults) with children (mentee) who have been identified as benefitting from a one-on-one mentoring relationship with an adult role model outside their own whānau.

- We accept children aged 6 to 11 years on the programme, with the aim to keep them involved until age 18.
- The initial commitment for mentors and mentees is one year. Once matched children may stay on the programme until they are 18 years of age, we do see mentoring as a long term commitment.
- Children are referred to BBBS by social agencies, schools, health professionals, Police and other community organisations.
- Mentors spend 1-4 hours each week with their mentee having fun, experiencing new activities, and forming a trusted friendship. This friendship is the foundation upon which youth potential is ignited.
- All matches are fully supported by a trained BBBS Mentor Coordinator for their duration.

Mentors advise and challenge children, act as their champions, provide consistency in their lives, connect them to broader experiences, opportunities, networks. They provide safe, non-judgmental environments in which the child can grow and thrive. Mentors are our champions and the backbone of our programme.

## REFERRAL PROCESS

Do you know a young person who could benefit from a community-based mentor?

Talk to the young person and their family first, then pass on our contact details, alternatively if you are an agency or social service ask for a BBBS referral form.

## NEW ZEALAND HISTORY

Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS) started in the USA in 1904, it is the largest and most replicated mentoring programme in New Zealand and the world. Dannevirke was the first branch in New Zealand, setting up in 1996. In 2020 Big Brothers Big Sisters of New Zealand was the fourth largest BBBS International affiliate country, providing over 1000 young people/taiohi with a trained mentor/tuakana throughout the 12 programme regions/rohe across Aotearoa.

## HAWKE'S BAY HISTORY

The Hawke's Bay branch was established in 2006 by local Police and run successfully by Police staff until restructuring and disestablished positions resulted in the programme going into limbo for a couple of years.

In September 2017 a new Hawke's Bay Board was formed and the Programme relaunched with a dedicated Programme Manager to get it off the ground. Since then BBBS has matched over 130 young people with a mentor, providing opportunities for our youth to have their potential ignited. A list of current team members and Board of Trustees can be found on our website. [www.bbbshb.nz](http://www.bbbshb.nz)



*"It is still true that it takes a village to raise a child - especially so for a child or family with extra challenges.*

*A big brother or big sister is a person who is prepared to be part of the village, to be the person who breaks the cycle. The person who sees the child, who values them, who shows them that they matter, and helps them to learn to value themselves." - Dr Sarah Currie, Hawke's Bay Paediatrician*

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## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

### **How can my child get a mentor?**

- Children between the ages of six to eleven years are accepted on the programme (however due to demand at times there may be a waiting list and we may not take anyone younger than 7 or older than 10).
- You must be living in the geographical area of Napier/Hastings and not plan on moving away for 12 months.
- Ask your school principal or social worker to refer you to BBBS.
- Phone Big Brothers Big Sisters for a referral form.

### **How long does the programme last?**

- The child, parent/caregiver, and mentor commit for a minimum of one year.
- BBBS can close a match at any time, and when a mentor or child has a change in circumstances.
- Once a child is matched they can stay on the programme until they are 18 years old.

### **Supervision of the match**

As the child's parent/caregiver you give consent for your child to participate in the programme, and you too are an active partner in the match. This means:

- You arrange outing times with your child's mentor each week.
- You (and your child) speak with your Big Brothers Big Sisters mentor coordinator every month. This is to ensure your child is having a good experience and everyone is safe.
- You complete a six monthly survey to report on how the match is going.

*This contact is vital and a requirement of BBBS national policy and procedures.*

### **Volunteer mentors**

- Are referee checked, interviewed, police vetted and trained.
- Mentors are reliable, positive role models. Their role is as a friend, not counsellor, tutor, parent, babysitter.
- Receive ongoing supervision and training for the length of the match.

## HOW THE APPLICATION PROCESS WORKS

- When we receive a referral, we will call and talk to you about how the programme works.
- We send you an application form to complete or we can help you to complete the form.
- We meet with you to talk about BBBS in more detail and ask questions about your child and family situation.
- We meet with your child to find out what their interests and hobbies are, and complete a booklet called 'Strong from the Start', which covers safety and boundaries.
- Your child is then ready to be introduced to a mentor with a view to being matched.

## HOW WE MAKE A MATCH

- If we find a mentor who we believe is suitable we will be in touch to make a time for the match meeting.
- We match based on: similar interests, values, personality, gender, age of child, location, individual needs.
- You, your young person, the mentor and BBBS will attend and we normally do this at your place. We discuss the programme requirements, contact details are exchanged and the first outing is planned.