
Subject: Community Safety and Well-Being Plan

Report to: Regional Council

Report date: Thursday, July 18, 2019

Recommendations

That this report **BE RECEIVED** for information.

Key Facts

- On January 1, 2019, a new legislative requirement under the *Police Services Act* mandated municipalities across Ontario to develop **Community Safety and Well-Being** plans, to be completed no later than December 31, 2020.
- On March 26, 2019, the provincial government subsequently passed the *Comprehensive Ontario Police Services Act*, in which this provision continues to be in force under section 248 (1): “Every municipality shall prepare and, by resolution, adopt a community safety and well-being plan.”
- Within the legislation, municipalities are required to work in partnership with an Advisory Committee comprised of representation from the local police service board, police service, and providers in health services, mental health services, education, community services, and children/youth services, to develop and implement a local Community Safety and Well-Being (CSWB) plan that:
 - Identifies and prioritizes risk factors that contribute to crime, victimization, addiction, drug overdose, suicide and any other risk factors;
 - Identifies strategies to reduce prioritized risk factors, including providing new services, changing existing services, improving the integration of existing services or coordinating existing services in a different way; and,
 - Sets out measurable outcomes that the strategies are intended to produce.
- Additional requirements are also outlined in the legislation pertaining to conducting consultations, contents of the plan, and monitoring, evaluating, reporting and publishing the plan.
- As identified in the Ministry of the Solicitor General (formerly known as the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services) planning document, CSWB plans are viewed to support safe and healthy communities through an approach that is less dependent on reactionary, incident-driven responses and instead refocuses efforts and investment on a holistic, multi-sectoral approach to community well-being that better addresses root causes of crime and social disorder.
- In situations of two-tier municipalities, it is recommended that the coordination of planning occurs at the regional level where the existing boundaries of service delivery for police, health, education and community services are defined.

Financial Considerations

The Ministry of the Solicitor General provided municipalities notice of this legislative requirement through local police departments as it was enacted under legislation which guides local police services. Within the planning document and through correspondence with an upper-tier municipality that was an early adopter of this requirement (i.e. Halton Region), **it is important to identify and appropriately dedicate incremental resources to this initiative** to coordinate the work of local community engagement and CSWB plan development. A business case will be completed to define these resources and to align with the 2020 regional budget consideration process. Of note, there is no specific provincial funding was provided to support the work associated with the development of local CSWB plans, while it has been suggested by the Ministry of the Solicitor General that municipal application to a small number of grants in 2020 may be of some assistance.

Analysis

Background

In 2009, the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services began identifying that police services were frequently responding to crisis situations that were non-criminal in nature. Upon examining the type of complex crises where police are called, such as an individual experiencing a mental health crisis, it was proposed that a collaborative, multi-sectoral approach would better meet community needs related to safety and well-being. From 2013 to 2016, the Ministry engaged pilot communities across Ontario to test components of the Community Safety and Well-Being Framework, and in 2017 released the *Community Safety and Well-Being Planning Framework: A Shared Commitment in Ontario*.

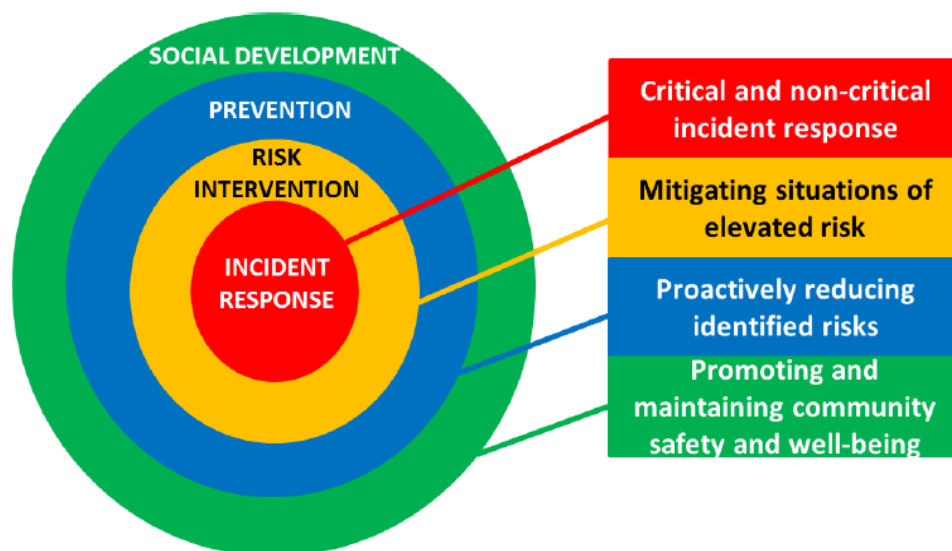
The legislative requirement of municipalities to develop and implement a Community Safety and Well-Being Plan came into effect January 1, 2019 and continues to be in force today under the *Comprehensive Ontario Police Services Act, 2019*.

Ministry of the Solicitor General - Community Safety and Well-Being Framework

The Framework is proposed to support municipalities develop their CSWB plan to address the root causes of crime and complex social issues through multi-sectoral partnerships that minimize risk factors and improve the overall well-being of communities. The Framework identifies four key focus areas to be addressed within each municipal plan:

1. **Social Development** (i.e. promoting and maintaining community safety and well-being)
2. **Prevention** (i.e. proactively reducing identified risks)
3. **Risk Intervention** (i.e. mitigating situations of elevated risk)

4. Incident Response (i.e. critical and non-critical incident response)



The Ministry of the Solicitor General identifies that the majority of investment, time and resources should be spent on developing and/or enhancing social development, prevention and risk intervention strategies in order to reduce harm, crime or victimization of individuals by meeting their needs before escalation to crisis, and; prevent more costly emergency response interventions.

Some factors identified as critical to the success of the plan include that it is both strengths-based and risk-focused, that the development of the plan obtains the highest level commitment from local organizations and agencies, and that outcomes are based on evidence and evaluation.

In Niagara, there are a number of initiatives and collaborative tables that would support or complement the development of Niagara's Community Safety and Well-Being Plan (e.g. Opioid Network, Port Colborne Situation Table, Housing and Homelessness Action Plan, EMS System Transformation). It will be important to ensure that Niagara's plan is informed by local needs, leverages best practices, builds upon current local efforts, engages local leaders and community champions, and identifies/addresses gaps.

Alternatives Reviewed

Not applicable.

Relationship to Council Strategic Priorities

Not yet identified.

Other Pertinent Reports

N/A

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