



OWEN SOUND POLICE SERVICE

BOARD POLICY

Issued: November 30, 2022

Reviewed:

Revised:

May 15, 2023

December 18, 2024

Expires: Indefinite

Rescinds

CP-001OSPSB SP-001 Community
Safety and Well-Being.

a) **Community Safety and Well-Being:**

The Ministry of the Solicitor General has been working with multi-sectoral government partners and local community and policing partners to develop the Provincial Approach to Community Safety and Well-Being.

This work began in 2009 with a partnership between the Ministry and the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police (OACP) – together, these two groups initiated the development of a provincial response to crime and victimization.

A new legislative requirement came into force on January 1, 2019, and municipalities had until January 1, 2021, to prepare and adopt a plan. The current Police Services Act (1990) mandates every municipal council to prepare and adopt a Community Safety and Well-Being Plan (CSWBP). Under the legislation [s. 4(1)], the responsibility to prepare and adopt a CSWBP applies to:

- I. Single-tier municipalities;
- II. Lower-tier municipalities in the County of Oxford and in counties; and
- III. regional municipalities, other than the County of Oxford.

Municipalities have the discretion and flexibility to develop joint plans with surrounding municipalities or First Nation communities [s. 143(2)], although First Nation band councils are not required to engage in Community Safety and Well-Being Planning by legislation.

The majority of Municipalities of Bruce and Grey have come together with community partners to undertake Community Safety and Well-Being Planning - this process involved the identification of risks across Bruce and Grey related to safety and well-being, and then the creation of a plan to address priority risks, taking a crime prevention approach.

The goal of this plan is for residents and local agencies to collectively develop and implement actions that will address the root causes of crime and complex social issues with the community. Through this collaboration, a plan has been developed that focuses local efforts and investments towards the long-term benefits of social development, prevention, and – in the short-term – mitigating risk factors. Emphasis is on prevention measures designed to improve quality of life for all.

Specifically, this plan includes:

- Local priority risk factors that have been identified based on community consultations and multiple sources of data;
- Evidence-based programs and strategies to address those priority risk factors; and
- Measurable outcomes with associated performance measures to ensure that the strategies are effective, and outcomes are being achieved.

The Plan Priority and Goals are:

a) Homeless and Affordable Housing:

- I. Align leadership from the Collaborative Committee with current Housing and Homeless Plan goals;
- II. Ensure more support is available to meet the needs of precariously housed people; develop and implement prevention approaches to enable people to retain housing;
- III. Increase opportunities for housing support service agencies to collaborate; and
- IV. Support and advocate for increased housing and shelter options for people across the county.

b) Mental Health:

- I. Increase access to services, including availability outside of traditional office hours, in a range of settings, and delivered at the time of need; and
- II. Ensure meaningful collaboration between mental health partners.

c) Poverty, Income and Employment:

- I. Support activities that promote employment options and skill building through education providers;
- II. Co-ordination and development of an agreed definition of poverty and measure of success across Northumberland;
- III. Explore options for food security; and
- IV. Explore how social determinants of health could be improved for vulnerable people within the healthcare system and outside of traditional medical model.

d) Substances Use and Addiction:

- I. Increase housing options available for people living with addictions;
- II. Addictions prevention services and safety programs are available across the County;
- III. Community education and information; develop a consistent way to inform and share; and
- IV. Alternative resolutions and responses.

It is the policy of the Owen Sound Police Service Board with respect to Community Safety and Well-Being that:

- I. As a legislative requirement, a member of the Board will participate as an Advisory Committee member to undertake the Community Safety and Well-Being planning and the subsequent implementation of a Community Safety and Well-Being plan; and

- II. As a legislative requirement, the Chief of Police or designate will participate as an Advisory Committee member to undertake the Community Safety and Well-Being planning and the subsequent implementation of a Community Safety and Well-Being plan;

John Thomson
Chair

December 18th, 2024
Date

K. Wardell
Board Secretary

December 18th, 2024
Date