

## **Municipality of Chatham-Kent**

### **Fire & Rescue**

**To:** Mayor and Members of Council  
**From:** Chris Case, Fire Chief  
**Date:** July 15, 2024  
**Subject:** Community Safety and Well-Being Coordinator

---

### **Recommendations**

It is recommended that:

1. A permanent full-time FTE to implement, monitor and report on the Chatham-Kent Community Safety and Well-Being Plan be recruited.
2. The funding of \$82,646.00 for a dedicated Community Safety & Well-Being Coordinator be one-time funded from the Strategic Reserve for 2024.
3. Base funding for the position be presented in the 2025 budget process.

### **Background**

In January 2019, legislative amendments to the Police Services Act mandated communities across the province to develop and adopt a community-based approach to address the root causes of complex social issues. In response, a cross agency Community Safety and Well-Being (CSWB) Steering Committee was formed, and the required plan was developed to begin to tackle these issues.

On June 14, 2021, the Chatham-Kent Community Safety and Well-Being Plan was presented and accepted by Council with the following recommendations:

1. The priorities, activities, and outcomes of the provincially mandated Chatham-Kent Community Safety and Well-Being Plan (Appendix A) be adopted and supported by Council.
2. A request for dedicated staffing resources to implement and monitor the Chatham-Kent Community Safety and Well-Being Plan progress, to be presented and finalized with Council at a later date, be supported by Council.

The purpose of this follow-up report is to proceed with recommendation number 2, seeking approval to recruit a dedicated staffing resource to implement and monitor the plan. The plan is to be updated and submitted to the Province by July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025.

## **Comments**

Since the approval of the June 14, 2021, report, the CSWB Steering Committee has met quarterly to develop its terms of reference and priorities with a diverse membership of Police, Municipal and other agencies dedicated to addressing complex social challenges.

The CSWB Steering Committee has created and embedded the plan as per the legislative requirements and now recommends proceeding with the recruitment of a Plan Coordinator. The Plan Coordinator will act as the municipal lead, collect and analyze data, and monitor/update the plan as per the Ministry requirement. The Plan Coordinator will focus on the three priority areas outlined by the CSWB Steering Committee, encompassing Community Awareness and Integration, Mental Health and Substance Use, Housing and Homelessness.

Police are unable to fund this position from their budget.

The key tasks of the coordinator will include:

- Maintaining and reporting on statistics and agreed upon key performance indicators pertaining to community safety and wellbeing. By providing this information to Council, the community, and staff, we can ensure that all stakeholders have shared awareness regarding population level outcomes.
- Recruiting the appropriate agencies/organizations and individuals to become members of an advisory committee. This should include multi-sectoral representation and people with knowledge and experience in responding to the needs of community members.
- Planning and coordinating advisory committee meetings.
- Participating on the advisory committee.
- Planning community engagement sessions.
- Ensuring the advisory committee decisions are acted upon.
- Receiving and responding to requests for information about the plan.
- Ensuring the plan is made publicly available.

Successful community plans rely on input from a variety of sources. The Community Safety and Well-Being Plan will benefit from the voices of residents and subject matter experts with lived experience through Working Groups. Working Groups will consist of person(s) with lived experience, service providers, Municipal staff and community partners.

Failure to provide human resourcing to engage community and local partners to advance and implement the Community Safety and Well-being Plan could result in:

- Critical risk to financial investment in and reliance on crisis incident response.
- Critical risks to the safety and well-being to vulnerable groups, neighbourhoods, residents, and local businesses.
- Critical risk to feelings of safety and being cared for, creating an environment that will discourage newcomers and those choosing to relocate or return to the community which will have a continued negative impact to the local labor market.
- Major risk to the effectiveness and coordination of service delivery, including the duplication and competing of resources and responsibilities providing disjointed response to priority risks and needs.
- Major risk to communication and collaboration among sectors, agencies and organizations resulting in significant financial, reputational, operational, and pure hazard risk for individuals with complex needs and victims of such.
- Medium risk to families and potential impacts to healthy child development, more productive individuals that positively contribute to the community.
- Medium risk to service delivery, gaps in multi-sectoral data and evidence to better understand the community through identifying trends, gaps, priorities and successes.

### **Council Term Priorities**

This report supports the following Council Term Priorities:

			
<b>Deliver Excellent Service</b>	<b>Promote Safety &amp; Well-Being</b>	<b>Grow Our Community</b>	<b>Ensure Environmental Sustainability</b>
	2a		

### **Consultation**

Consultation took place with members of the Community Safety & Well-Being Steering Committee, including Jodi Guilmette, General Manager, Health and Human Services.

### **Communication**

Communication is proposed to be through the inclusion of this report on the Council agenda and related communications.

### **Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Justice (DEIJ)**

The Community Safety and Well-Being Plan Coordinator will support coordinated responses related to mental health, substance use, housing and homelessness. While, anyone can be impacted by mental illness, substance use, or experience challenges accessing quality, affordable housing and may experience inequities that contribute or exacerbate this experience, some groups of people are more likely to be disproportionately affected, including:

- Indigenous Peoples and communities
- Racialized communities
- People with disabilities
- 2SLGBTQIA+ communities
- People with a history of trauma

While it will be the responsibility of the Community Safety and Well-Being Plan Coordinator to provide support for all individuals in our community, it is specifically important to address and provide support to the identified groups.

### **Financial Implications**

The funding of \$82,646.00 for a dedicated Community Safety & Well-Being Coordinator be one-time funded from the Strategic Reserve for 2024. Base funding for the position for the amount of \$112,038.00 to be presented in the 2025 budget process.

Prepared by: Adam Walters, Assistant Fire Chief

Reviewed by: Chris Case, Fire Chief

Michael Duben, Chief Administrative Officer

Consulted and confirmed the content of the consultation section of the report by:

Jodi Guilmette, General Manager, Health & Human Services

Kirk Earley, Chief of Police

Gord Quinton, General Manager, Finance, Budget, Information Technology & Transformation

Attachment(s): CWSB Report to Council – June 14, 2021