

Report to Council



Date: September 28, 2020
To: Council
From: City Manager
Subject: Community Safety Plan
Department: Corporate and Protective Services – Community Safety

Recommendation:

THAT Council receives, for information, the report from the Director of Community Safety, dated September 28, 2020, regarding the Community Safety Plan;

AND THAT Council endorses the draft Community Safety Plan Terms of Reference as provided in the report from the Director of Community Safety, dated September 28, 2020.

AND THAT Council directs staff to move forward with the development of the Community Safety Plan.

Purpose:

To present information on the development of a Community Safety Plan, including the draft Terms of Reference for a Steering Committee, for endorsement by City Council.

Background:

Community safety is identified as a top priority for citizens and City Council. Council has publicly committed to develop a community safety plan to generate shared ownership, vision and action among the range of government ministries and community organizations critical to community safety. Kelowna's Community Safety Plan (CSP) will form the basis for an overall multi-pronged, systems-based approach improve community safety in our City, which includes improving residents' sense of safety. Among other, a CSP will provide a framework to:

- engage and align relevant community stakeholders, systems and partners;
- identify and validate community safety issues and priorities;
- uncover local assets and identify risk factors underlying local community safety issues;
- outline tangible, evidence-based actions through multi-system / agency approaches; and
- develop new ways of measuring, monitoring and reporting progress.

The development of the City of Kelowna Community Safety Plan will be guided by the following overarching project objectives:

- Activate future partnerships to deliver community safety strategies and outcomes, while also building future governance for ongoing coordination and integration from systems leaders.
- Confirm the scope of the police role in delivering on community safety strategies and outcomes and the roles of other agencies engaged in community safety.
- Ensure evidence-based actions and meaningful, multi-sectoral metrics exist within the Community Safety Plan.
- Align with existing City of Kelowna commitments and outcomes for community well-being and inclusion (e.g. Journey Home Strategy, Healthy Housing Strategy, Imagine Kelowna).

Fundamental in the CSP is the acknowledgement and understanding that safety and security must involve the broader public, private and civil sectors and include meaningful involvement of those most affected.

Discussion:

Community safety is a priority in Kelowna as we continue to grapple with increasing crime in our community. Since 2017 when Ontario legislated municipalities to develop and implement community safety plans, they have become increasingly common across Canada. There is no single approach or form that CSPs take though all seek to engage a cross-section of government and non-governmental leaders in a process designed to establish a shared vision and a shared action plan for change. Other principles and considerations that will shape the development of a made-in Kelowna CSP follow:

- Community safety and crime reduction are not the responsibilities of police, alone. Shared ownership and responsibility among “upstream” systems/partners, among other, is critical to ensure individuals, families and communities experiencing risk factors are identified earlier, and receiving timelier, targeted and effective preventative supports before requiring urgent and costly intervention/emergency response.
- Broad based senior leadership is essential to the success and sustainability of city-wide community safety efforts. As such, a Steering Committee comprised of senior government designates with responsibilities for systems/institutions relevant to a Kelowna CSP will be relied upon to develop and champion a shared vision for change.
- A Kelowna CSP will align with existing local social policy work (i.e., Imagine Kelowna, Healthy Cities Initiative, Social Policy Framework and Journey Home Strategy) completed/underway, but not overlap or duplicate.
- The Project Management Team (PMT) and Steering Committee will rely on existing data from a range of credible sources, including partnering agencies, to develop the relevant profile of our community, identify and validate community safety issues, and to drive the development of tangible, evidence-based and action-oriented responses.
- The CSP process will build upon, but not duplicate, results from recent and relevant stakeholder engagements (i.e., Imagine Kelowna, Journey Home Strategy, tiered policing review, Intelligent Cities, and community safety survey); therefore, focused and timely engagement strategies will be employed.

- A Kelowna CSP will vigilantly maintain a direct line of sight to community safety outcomes including reduced crime and victimization, along with increased sense of safety (from crime).
 - The risk factors and root causes affecting community safety are broad and often multi-generational. Identifying issues and actions that are most directly linked to current community issues and those most likely to have the desired impacts in the short to medium term will be the focus.

Once the CSP is complete, an RCMP-specific plan will be developed to update its now expired 2016-2019 Crime Reduction Strategy, with emphasis on community policing, crime prevention, organizational efficiency and effectiveness, as well as goals/objectives and tangible actions to support the completed CSP. In the interim, the RCMP will continue to accountably deliver and report on priorities outlined in its Annual Performance Plan (2020/21) which includes priorities set by the City.

Process:

A Project Management Team comprised of MNP, Community Safety Department staff, RCMP staff and the City’s Communications Division will provide the necessary support and management of the project. Developing a draft CSP will also rely on the expertise and active contribution of a Steering Committee, comprised of representatives from government agencies positioned to leverage the systems-based changes necessary to enhance community safety in our City. Supported and directed by the PMT, the Steering Committee will provide advice and guidance throughout the development of a draft CSP for Council consideration and approval.

In addition to research and engagement through the Steering Committee, stakeholder engagement will include a range of organizations / agencies representing the business and social sectors, Indigenous Peoples, faith groups, seniors, youth, people with lived experience and more. The general public will have an opportunity for input. Council will also be engaged through a “workshop” to drive the development of strategic directions and actions for the Plan and will receive regular updates throughout the process.

Timeline:



Internal Circulation:

Jim Gabriel, Divisional Director – Active Living & Culture
Carla Weaden, Divisional Director – Corporate Strategic Services
Sue Wheeler, Social Development Manager
Insp. Dale Somerville, Acting OIC – Kelowna Regional RCMP

Considerations applicable to this report:

Legal/Statutory Authority:

Legal/Statutory Procedural Requirements:

Existing Policy:

Financial/Budgetary Considerations:

External Agency/Public Comments:

Communications Comments:

Considerations not applicable to this report:

Submitted by: Darren Caul, Community Safety Director

Approved for inclusion:



Stu Leatherdale, Division Director

Attachments:

Community Safety Plan – Steering Committee Terms of Reference