

Report to Council



Date: May 17, 2021
To: Council
From: City Manager
Subject: Community Safety Plan - Update
Department: Corporate and Protective Services – Community Safety

Recommendation:

THAT Council receives, for information, the report from the Community Safety Department, dated May 17, 2021 regarding the Community Safety Plan.

Purpose:

To present an update on the development of the Community Safety Plan including amendments to the project timeline as well as public and stakeholder engagement.

Background:

On September 28, 2020, Council endorsed the development of a Community Safety Plan (CSP). The CSP seeks to engage government ministries, community organizations and the public to generate shared ownership, vision and collective action to reduce crime and increase sense of safety.

Since Council endorsed the development of the CSP, a Steering Committee formed with senior representatives from First Nations Health Authority, Interior Health, Ministry of Children & Family Development, Ministry of Social Development & Poverty Reduction, Kelowna RCMP, School District #23 and City of Kelowna; all leaders who can leverage the systems-based changes necessary to enhance community safety in our City.

Supported by a Project Management Team (PMT) of City and contracted personnel, the Steering Committee provides advice and guidance to steer the development of a draft CSP for consideration and approval by City Council. Together, the Steering Committee will develop a shared vision for change including a common understanding of the problem(s) and joint approaches to solving the problem(s) through collective actions.

While the PMT and Steering Committee are fully engaged and committed to the development of Kelowna's CSP, the project has faced challenges which have impacted timelines. The fall 2020 provincial election and resulting caretaker period required most Steering Committee members to

temporarily withdraw. Consequently, the project launch was suspended until the full group could reconvene in early January 2021. Since, three Steering Committee meetings occurred, and an intensive research project was completed to produce a relevant community profile.

In March 2021, due to multiple staff changes within the CSP’s original consulting firm, City staff determined the firm had insufficient capacity to support the project and terminated the contract. In April 2021, the Canadian Municipal Network on Crime Prevention (CMNCP) was procured as the Plan’s new consulting partner. CMNCP has significant experience assisting municipalities across Canada in the development of community safety and well-being plans.

Next Steps - Engagement Plan:

Developing Kelowna’s CSP includes looking at what currently exists and is working well to support community safety, as well as uncovering challenges and needs to be met. To do so, consultations help to develop a better understanding of the perspectives and experiences of various groups in Kelowna, particularly those who tend to be more marginalized or experience more challenges related to community safety and well-being. At various stages of the consultation process, the PMT will employ different formats for engagement, recognizing varied objectives, scope and timelines involved with engaging with various groups.

Overall, the goals of engaging with the community are to:

- Inform the planning process
- Understand how people think and feel about safety / well-being
- Ensure that needs / priorities of the community are addressed in the plan

Engagement for Kelowna’s CSP will occur across several groups including:

- Steering Committee (on going)
- City Council via Council Workshops (June & September)
- Stakeholder groups via targeted, facilitated engagement sessions (May – June)
- General public via open survey (July – August)

The PMT has developed specific, do-it-yourself (DIY) discussion guides to support stakeholders, service providers, community groups and neighbourhood associations to conduct consultation with their respective members and/or clients. The DIY format leverages established connections between local partners and/or service providers already working with and delivering services to specific groups. Invitations to participate in the DIY process have been sent to 30 community groups. In addition to the DIY, the PMT will facilitate five consultation sessions, on a virtual platform, with social service and well-being agencies, local business community and community organizations. Throughout engagement process, the Plan will continue to be informed by the Steering Committee.

Previous Council Resolution

Resolution	Date
<p>THAT Council receives, for information, the report from the Director of Community Safety, dated September 28, 2020, regarding the Community Safety Plan;</p> <p>AND THAT Council endorses the Community Safety Plan Terms of Reference</p>	<p>September 28, 2020</p>

as provided in the report from the Director of Community Safety, dated September 28, 2020.	
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AND THAT Council directs staff to move forward with the development of the Community Safety Plan.	
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Conclusion:

Kelowna CSP is committed to being tangible, pragmatic and targeted. While remaining aspirational and challenging the status-quo of how systems operate, it will endeavor to be realistic in the context of “real-world” constraints (i.e., organizational structures and budgets) and the great complexities of bringing multiple organizations and communities together to co-create a plan. Further, the Kelowna CSP will seek solutions that are achievable locally and within the next five years.

With this focus on delivering tangible results and having measurable impact through localized action, the Kelowna CSP priorities/objectives/initiatives will focus on prevention, risk intervention and social development on reducing demand for incident in some areas than others.

Submitted by:

C. Cornock, Community Safety Department

Approved for inclusion:



S. Leatherdale, Division Director