

Report to Council



Date: June 21, 2021

To: Council

From: City Manager

Subject: Community Safety Plan: Council Workshop

Department: Corporate & Protective Services Division – Community Safety Department

Recommendation:

THAT Council receives, for information, the report from the Community Safety Department, dated June 21, 2021 regarding the Community Safety Plan.

Purpose:

To present an overview of the work achieved to date in relation to the Community Safety Plan (CSP), engage Council in a workshop to identify key community safety priorities, and to validate/distill preliminary findings from the community safety assessment.

Background:

In September 2020, Council endorsed the development of a CSP which 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.

After delays due to the provincial election, a Steering Committee comprised of senior leaders representing key “systems” (i.e. health, education, and police) commenced in January 2021. Since, the Committee has met four times and a comprehensive community profile was completed based on statistical and qualitative data.

In March 2021, City staff terminated its contract with the original consulting firm which was assessed to have insufficient capacity to support the project. In April 2021, the [Canadian Municipal Network on Crime Prevention](#) (CMNCP) was procured as the Plan’s new consulting partner. CMNCP is a nationally recognized community of practice created to build capacity and mobilize Canadian municipalities to prevent crime and foster community safety and well-being. CMNCP has extensive experience completing CSPs and strategies that go beyond established, reactive police and criminal legal activities.

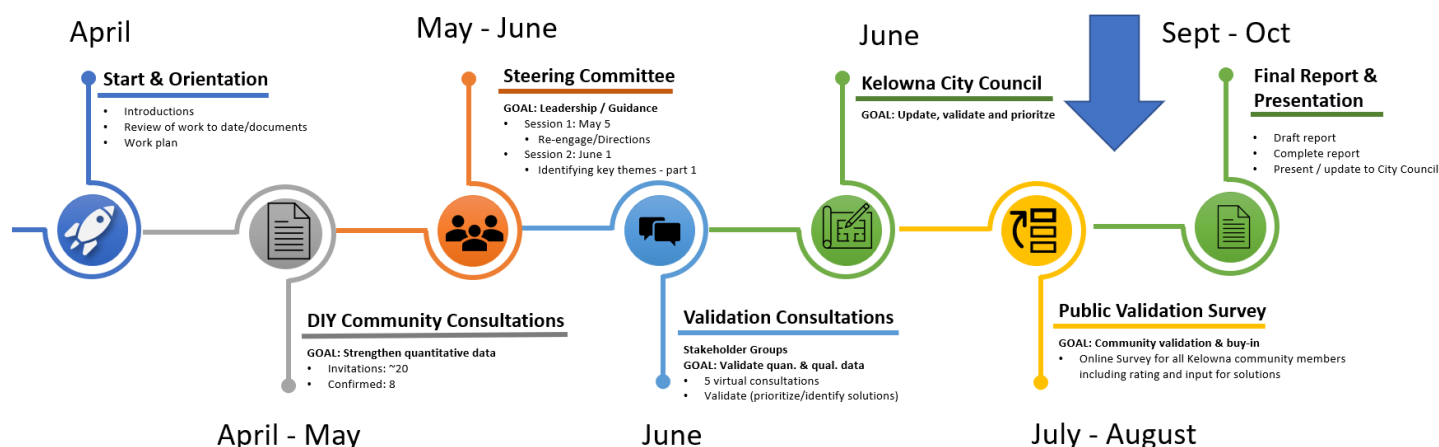
Project Workplan and Activities:

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, the project team has engaged in an assessment process to help 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.

To date, eight groups conducted self-led consultations to share their perspectives and experiences related to community safety in Kelowna. Between June 14 and June 29, four additional consultations will be conducted virtually – facilitated by CMNCP – with social service and well-being agencies, community-based organizations, the business community, and Indigenous communities / organizations. The goal of these consultations will be to distill and validate findings from the quantitative (existing statistics) and qualitative data (consultations) gathered to date. A Public Validation Survey will also be completed this summer.

The workplan and timelines are outlined below:



Key Community Safety Challenges:

Analysis of statistics and results from community consultations conducted to date identified key challenges/themes relating broadly to community safety in Kelowna. The key themes will be presented during the workshop and there will be an opportunity to distill and validate them. They include:

- Unemployment
- Housing precarity
- Transportation challenges
- Lack of sense of belonging
- Mental health & substance use challenges
- Crime rates (violence and property crime)
- Victimization and women's safety
- Number of children in care
- Homelessness & social disorder
- Youth assistance
- Driving & road safety
- Forest fires

Internal Circulation:

Communications Department

Submitted by: C. Cornock, Community Safety Department

Approved for inclusion:



S. Leatherdale, Divisional Director