

Community Safety and Well-being Plan Interim Report July 2021

City of Peterborough
County of Peterborough
Township of Asphodel-Norwood
Township of Cavan Monaghan
Township of Douro-Dummer
Township of Havelock-Belmont-Methuen
Township of North Kawartha
Township of Otonabee-South Monaghan
Township of Selwyn
Municipality of Trent Lakes



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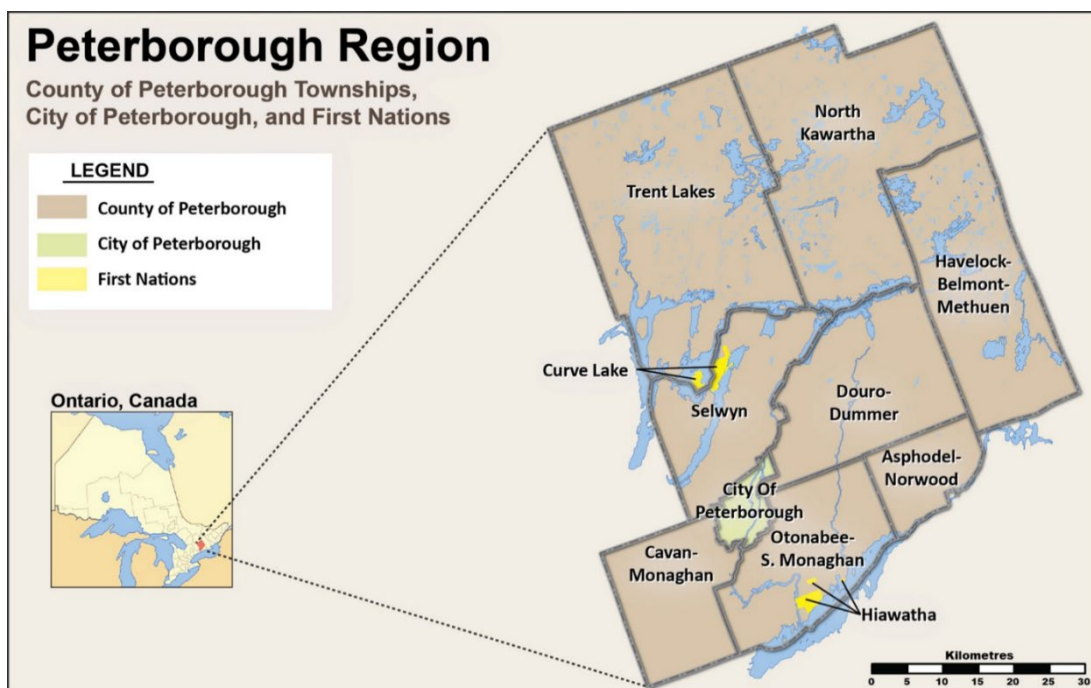
Acknowledgements

This Interim Report for the development of a Community Safety and Well-being Plan (CSWB Plan) for the City of Peterborough, County of Peterborough, and the Townships of Asphodel-Norwood, Cavan Monaghan, Douro-Dummer, Havelock-Belmont-Methuen, North Kawartha, Otonabee-South Monaghan, Selwyn, and the Municipality of Trent Lakes is the beginning of a collaborative effort among local organizations, stakeholders, government, and the public to address cross-sectoral challenges that affect the safety and well-being of the community. The COVID-19 pandemic hindered the ability for municipalities to move forward to create a CSWB Plan. As we move forward it is also recognized the pandemic has placed enormous strain on the delivery of local service providers who are represented on the Advisory Committee. However, their commitment to creating a CSWB Plan that will have positive impacts in the community is appreciated and recognized. All involved are looking forward to creating a full CSWB Plan with the goal of a Spring 2022 completion.

Introduction

Community safety and well-being plans are provincially legislated for municipalities under the Police Services Act, 1990. It is recognized that a multi-sectoral approach to safety and well-being must be taken and that more policing is not the answer to complex social problems. A single organization, sector, or municipality cannot address complex and interconnected issues in isolation.

The Greater Peterborough Area is home to a medium sized city, small towns and villages, First Nations, and a rural landscape. It also contains a diverse community located in an area where the people have a strong connection to the natural environment.



Over the years, police have been increasingly called into situations involving complex social issues with people dealing with issues such as addiction, homelessness, or a mental health crisis. As first responders, they are the first point of contact in many situations and serve as a temporary remedy where long-term, community supports may be better suited.

Safety and well-being planning will focus on preventions and getting people access to supports they need before a crisis exists. Prevention measures require investments in upstream social, health and community infrastructure and services. By addressing root causes of issues that negatively affect safety and well-being, opportunities for all residents in the Greater Peterborough Area will increase so they may prosper and enjoy healthy connections to the community.

Demographic Information

	City & County	Province
Total Population	138,236	13,448,494
Age (percent)		
0-14	14%	16%
15-29	18%	19%
30-44	16%	19%
45-59	21%	22%
60-74	21%	16%
75+	10%	7%
Median Age	46.9	41.3
Household Income		
Median (before tax)	\$64,437	\$74,287
Visible Minorities		
Percentage of Population	4%	29%
Immigrants		
Percentage of Population	8%	29%
Education (percentage)		
15 yrs+ without postsecondary	14%	14%
Secondary certificates	24%	23%
Postsecondary certificate	45%	45%

Source: Statistics Canada, 2016

Impact of COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic had a significant impact on the local efforts to develop a Community Safety and Well-being Plan. All local municipalities, police services, and key partners established a plan to move forward together in early 2020. Work was underway until the pandemic was declared by the World Health Organization in March 2020. All staff associated with safety and well-being planning were redeployed to essential services and business continuity. Planning resumed in late 2020, however it was clear the new Provincial deadline of July 1, 2021 to complete the plan would not be met. It was decided that this Interim Report would be submitted to meet the prescribed deadline. The Report reflects the work currently being done with the goal of completing a Community Safety and Well-being Plan for Spring 2022.

Provincial Guidelines

In 2018, the Province of Ontario, through the Ministry of the Solicitor General, amended the Police Services Act to mandate all municipalities to develop and adopt a Community Safety and Well-being Plan.

The Planning Framework developed by the Province defines community safety and well-being as “the ideal state of sustainable communities where everyone is safe, has a sense of belonging, opportunities to participate, and where individuals and families are able to meet their needs for education, health care, food, housing, income, and social and cultural expression. The success of society is linked to the well-being of each and every individual.”

In developing a CSWB Plan, municipalities will:

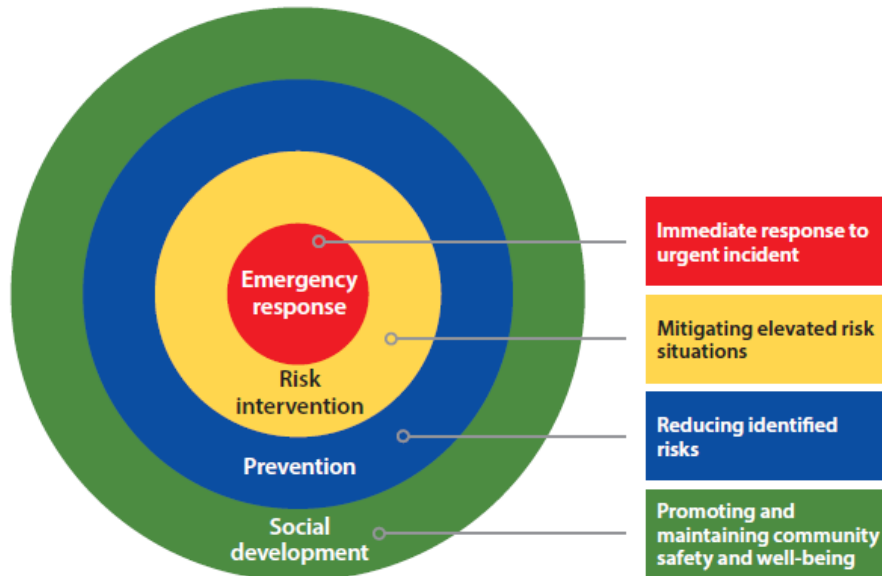
- Identify risk factors that lead to systemic discrimination and other social factors that contribute to crime, victimization, addiction, drug overdose and suicide and any other risk factors.
- Identify which risk factors will be treated as priorities to reduce.
- Identify strategies to reduce the prioritized risk factors, including providing new services, changing existing services, improving the integration of existing services or coordinating existing services in a different way.
- Set out measurable outcomes that the strategies are intended to produce.

The approach for addressing the risk factors that affect safety and well-being fall within four levels of intervention.

- 1. Social Development:** Taking a long-term, multi-disciplinary approach to addressing underlying causes of social issues. This level of intervention relies on multi-sectoral planning to achieve community-wide social and economic inclusion. This can be done by building on the social determinants of health and engaging a wide range of sectors, agencies, and organization together to address complex issues, such as poverty, homelessness, access to education, isolation, and food insecurity.
- 2. Prevention:** Developing and implanting proactive strategies, policies, and programs to known and identified risks before conditions worsen that could result in crime, victimization, or harm.
- 3. Risk Intervention:** This is an immediate level of intervention where identifying and responding to situations of elevated risk is critical to prevent a serious incident, such as a crime, tragedy or harm. Situation Tables are an example of a risk intervention that works to avoid a crisis where an emergency response is needed.

4. **Emergency Response:** This area represents what is traditionally thought of when referring to crime and safety. Circumstances that require intervention by first responders such as police, EMS, or fire. It also includes other crisis-driven services in the human services system, such as child welfare removing a child from their home, a person being apprehended under the Mental Health Act, or a school principal expelling a student.

Areas of intervention for Community Safety and Well-being Planning



This approach recognizes it is beneficial to take actions in the first three levels of intervention to reduce harm, have needs met, and prevent escalated situations where an emergency response is needed. Improving community safety and well-being will require strategies and action at all levels of intervention using a multi-sector collaborative approach to see that needs are address by the most appropriate and effective level of service.

Local Approach

The local approach to developing a CSWB Plan will follow the guidelines provided by the Province of Ontario.

1. Form an Advisory Committee

A multi-sector Advisory Committee has been established to provide expert guidance to developing the CSWB Plan. Members of the Advisory Committee are listed in the next section of this Interim Report.

2. Collect relevant data

Collecting data will be critical at all stages of developing and implementing the CSWB Plan. Data will be used to benchmark current conditions, support recommendations, and evaluate future activities and progress. Various sources of data will be researched, including Statistics Canada, police and crime data, employment data, education data, social services data, and health care data.

- **Plan alignment and asset mapping**

Significant progress has been made in many areas of safety and well-being. Local governments, agencies, and institutions have developed policies, procedures and plans that align with the objectives of the CSWB Plan. The data and research that went into these local plans will be vital to the CSWB Plan.

Asset mapping will identify various committees, groups, boards, task forces, tables, and resources (existing and potential) that complement the objectives of the CSWB Plan. The CSWB Plan will align with local plans and assets to avoid duplications and strengthen local efforts where possible.

- **Local data**

Data that is relevant to the City and County of Peterborough will be sourced to support informed and evidence-based decisions.

- **Expertise from Advisory Committee**

The Advisory Committee is comprised of community leaders who bring many years of experience, knowledge, and wisdom. Their input will be invaluable to creating CSWB Plan.

3. Community consultations

Community consultations will be a critical component for gauging local priorities, issues, and concerns related to safety and well-being. Community consultations will provide another source of local data for consideration when developing the CSWB Plan.

The pandemic has placed limits on the methods used to conduct community consultations. Various methods of receiving public input will be considered, including such options as: online surveys, interviews, Township websites, Township tax bills, social media, virtual round-table discussions, Connect Peterborough (and all

available tools), and others. Pandemic guidelines from Peterborough Public Health will be followed related to the options of having in-person public meetings, interviews, and focus groups.

4. Identify local risk factors and selecting those that will be included in the CSWB Plan

A wide range of risk factors will be identified that impact the safety and well-being of the community. The CSWB Plan must be strategic in the priorities it identifies for action. The Advisory Committee will identify high-impact specific risk factors that can realistically be achieved.

5. Develop strategies and actions to reduce identified risk factors

The strategies and actions developed to improve community safety and well-being will require the development of effective partnerships between multiple organizations, agencies, and governments to collaboratively address the complex challenges associate with improving community safety and well-being beyond existing efforts.

6. Create measurable outcome that will monitor and track progress

Measurable outcomes will be established to monitor and track the progress of each strategy set out in the CSWB Plan. Measuring outcomes will reveal where progress is being made and where more attention is needed if goals are not achieved.

Advisory Committee

The CSWB Plan Advisory Committee is currently comprised of the members below. Additional member will be recruited as needed until the full Plan has been completed.

Alana Solman	Township of North Kawartha
Aleks de Oliveira	Peterborough and Kawartha Economic Development
Amie Kroes	Peterborough Youth Services
Amy Bickmore	Hiawatha First Nation
Bianca Boyington	Township of Havelock-Belmont-Methuen
Candice White	Township of Asphodel-Norwood
Carolyn Doris	Peterborough Public Health
Chris Galeazza	Ontario Provincial Police
Chris Kawalec	City of Peterborough - Community Services
Danielle Belair	Community Care Peterborough
Elana Arthurs	Township of Douro-Dummer
Ellen Armstrong	City of Peterborough - Social Services
Emily Jones	Peterborough Police Services
Heather Scott	Township of Otonabee-South Monaghan
Jayne Culbert	Age-friendly Peterborough
Jeannette Thompson	Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board
Jennifer McLauchlan	Kawartha Haliburton Children's Aid Society
Jessica Penner	Peterborough Drug Strategy
Jim Russell	United Way of Peterborough and District
John Lyons	Peterborough Police Services
Karlie Cornish-Tkalec	Township of Cavan Monaghan
Kathy Neil	John Howard Society
Larry Stinson	Peterborough Public Health
Leisha Newton	Township of Selwyn
Lori Flynn	Nogojwanong Friendship Centre
Lynn Fawn	County of Peterborough
Mandy Hamu	Peterborough Victoria Northumberland and Clarington Catholic School Board
Mark Graham	Canadian Mental Health Association
Meagan Hennekam	Youth Emergency Shelter
Melinda Wall	Peterborough Regional Health Centre\Peterborough Health Team
Randy Mellow	County of Peterborough - Emergency Medical Services
Rebecca Morgan-Quin	City of Peterborough – Housing
Sandra Dueck	Peterborough Police Services
Susan Jackett	Municipality of Trent Lakes

Key Themes

Existing policies and plans will be the starting point for creating the CSWB Plan. The Community Wellbeing Plan (CWP) was created in 2019 and identified 7 key themes based on data, research, and community consultation at that time. The CWP remains current and relevant to the development of the CSWB Plan. The 7 key themes found in the CWB are being used to frame broad risk factors in this Interim Report. These themes are:

1. Environmental Stewardship
2. Democratic and Community Engagement
3. Good Jobs
4. Safe and Healthy Community
5. Housing
6. Income and Poverty
7. Transportation

Results from the CWB and input from the Advisory Committee have been used to identify broad issues that relate to each theme. All key themes will be viewed through both an urban and rural lens to understand the commonalities and diverse needs of each setting. Issues impacting small towns may not be relevant in the city while some priorities in the city are not as critical in rural areas.

Environmental Stewardship

Our wellbeing is directly linked to the overall health of the environment globally and locally. The actions taken locally by individuals, groups, and government to protect and use the environment impact our ability to effectively steward the environment. The state of our environment has impacts on our social, economic, and ecological wellbeing.

Some of the areas being examined as part of this theme include:

- Local opportunities to reduce climate change
- Improved air quality and reduced Green House Gas Emissions
- High standards for water quality
- Enhanced waste reduction efforts
- Flood management
- Foster a healthy local food system
- Encourage community gardens and local food production
- Promoting electric vehicles

Democratic and Community Engagement

A positive and effective relationship between residents, governments, organizations, businesses, and institutions have a significant impact on the functioning, safety, and well-being of a community. Many people want to feel included and engaged in their community and local government.

Some of the areas being examined as part of this theme include:

- Increasing voter turnout
- Increasing diversity among elected officials and decision-makers
- Indigenous engagement
- Youth engagement
- Community policing
- The desire for people to be informed, heard, and included by decision-makers
- Local councils and governments to be accountable, transparent, and honest
- Advocacy with provincial and federal governments on key local issues
- Tools that support engagement at all levels of accessibility and technological ability

Good Jobs

Unemployment rates and resulting social implications are often a local concern. Stable employment with a living wage are factors that contribute to improved physical and mental health and the overall well-being of a community. Attracting new businesses, diverse job opportunities, managing precarious employment, retaining youth, and accessible training all lead to economic growth and promotes a higher quality of life. While many residents continue to struggle with low-incomes, the current trend locally is toward increasing job opportunities and availability of training and education opportunities.

Some of the areas being examined as part of this theme include:

- Coordinated services between education, training, placement, and economic development
- Differences between job opportunities in the city versus small rural towns
- Labour force participation rates and unemployment rates
- Youth employment
- Services for businesses to succeed
- Infrastructure needs for businesses to succeed
- Availability and awareness of workshops, courses, and training to meet labour and employment needs
- Innovations to support social enterprise, social procurement, small businesses, and young professionals

- Disconnect between job opportunities and the ability for employers to find workers

Safe and Healthy Community

This theme covers a large range of issues and intersects with many of the other themes. It encompasses the public's need to access high quality health, community, and social services while highlighting the challenging issues faced by first responders. Collaboration among all service providers will be critical in this area. Dealing with complex community issues will need to consider new approaches that eliminates silos of service delivery and be replaced with collective actions that build on community strengths, abilities, and resources.

Some of the areas being examined as part of this theme include:

- Addressing drug and alcohol addiction and abuse
- Effective harm reduction strategies
- Proactive responses to drug overdose issues
- Domestic violence and abuse
- Prevention of adverse childhood events
- Human trafficking
- Support for emergency responders with appropriate tools and training
- Strengthened Community Policing and community outreach
- Community Safety Zones
- Increased mental health supports and services across entire spectrum of services
- Helping vulnerable residents move from crisis situations to stabilized conditions and ultimately to a position where they are progressing in a healthy and independent manner
- Support for healthy aging to address issues faced by older adults
- Health services for everyone with more health practitioners and reduced wait times
- Access to services in rural communities, possibly through community hubs
- Activity and community centres with free and accessible programs
- Promotion and availability of healthy food that is affordable for everyone
- Build a welcoming community that foster social inclusion, belonging, social capital and strong neighbourhoods
- Addressing needs of vulnerable residents of all ages, from infants to seniors

Housing

There are many layers of need associated with local housing challenges. Low vacancy rates, high rental costs, and the rapid increase of housing prices are some of the factors that hamper progress in addressing housing issues. The local need for housing to help vulnerable groups such as seniors, students, working poor,

people with disabilities, people needing in-home supports, and people who are unemployed remains an ongoing challenge.

Some of the areas being examined as part of this theme include:

- Appropriate, safe, secure, housing that is affordable for all ages and incomes
- Housing for vulnerable groups, such as youth, abused women, and seniors
- Ending homelessness and keeping people housed
- Building more housing
- Addressing housing take-overs
- Ensuring adequate shelter services
- Increased incentives for retrofits and renovations
- Investigate innovative housing options such as tiny homes

Income and Poverty

Financially supporting people and families with low incomes is a critical priority. Poverty is considered a significant barrier to social inclusion and wellbeing. People in poverty have daily challenges paying for basic needs such as healthy food, rent, utilities, and transportation.

Many factors that directly impact those living in poverty are not controlled locally, such as social assistance rates, minimum wage rates, food costs, and utility rates. Increasing advocacy efforts needs to be considered for meaningful structural changes to be possible by upper levels of government.

Some of the areas being examined as part of this theme include:

- Increased financial empowerment and financial literacy
- Participation in Social Assistance reform
- Support poverty reduction efforts, such as basic income guarantee and a living wage
- Food insecurity
- Access to education not hampered by low-income status
- Access to services, such as health care, social services, employment services, and mental health care
- Addressing cost of living increase in areas such as utilities, rent, food, and medications

Transportation

Access to various modes of transportation is needed for many different reasons. The goal is for all residents to be able to get around their community, and between communities, by various methods such as walking, riding, driving or by public transit.

Access to transportation not only allows people to get where they need to go for necessities such as work, school, food, medical appointments, and other services, it also provides access to shopping, restaurants, entertainment, socializing, and tourism. Active transportation modes, such as sidewalks, bike lanes, and trails promote a healthy lifestyle and have environmental benefits when people choose this mode over cars. Lack of transportation options removes the ability to access many of these amenities and leads to isolation and reduced wellbeing.

Some of the areas being examined as part of this theme include:

- Access to affordable and accessible transportation
- Enhance active transportation options and infrastructure, such as bike lanes, trails, snow removal, and lighting
- On-road and off-road safety
- Pleasure vehicle safety, such as all-terrain vehicles, boats, and snow mobiles by both local residents and visitors
- Improvements to public transit, including affordability and options for rural residents
- Addressing gaps in access to transportation to help outcomes related to other social issues such as isolation and access to services

Next Steps

The Greater Peterborough Area has a wealth of engaged residents, organizations, institutions, businesses, and governments who are committed to the safety and well-being of the community. The next steps for Advisory Committee to support the CSWB Plan include:

1. Identify, collect, and analyze needed data
2. Identify relevant and aligning plans and assets
3. Design and implement a community consultation process
4. Build a process for identifying risk factors
5. Prioritize and select appropriate risk factors to be included
6. Develop strategies and actions to address the selected risk factors
7. Develop measurable outcomes to monitor and track progress