



City of
Peterborough

To: Members of the General Committee

From: Sheldon Laidman, Commissioner, Community Services

Meeting Date: August 5, 2025

Report: Renewing Community Safety and Well-being Plan, Report CSD25-004

Subject

A report to provide an update on the Community Safety and Well-being Plan and to recommend an approach to renewing the Plan as required by the Province of Ontario.

Recommendation

That Council approve the recommendation outlined in Report CSD25-004, dated August 5, 2025, of the Commissioner of Community Services as follows:

That staff be authorized to proceed with a renewal of the Community Safety and Well-being Plan as outlined in this report.

Executive Summary

- The Community Safety and Well-being Plan adopted in July 2022 is due for renewal in July 2026 as required under Provincial legislation.
- The renewal would be done in collaboration with Peterborough County. Discussions with local townships to join the process are currently underway.
- A modest approach to renewing the Plan is being recommended as the priorities in the current Plan are still relevant and there are no new resources expected to be available to assist with implementing the Plan.

Background

The *Safer Ontario Act, 2018* requires all municipalities to adopt a Community Safety and Well-being Plan. In 2023, amending legislation through the Ministry of the Solicitor General required all municipalities to review, and if necessary, update their Community Safety and Well-being Plan every four years.

[Report CSD22-008 Community Safety and Well-being Plan](#) was approved July 25, 2022, which adopted the City's first [Community Safety and Well-being Plan](#) (the Plan). Peterborough County adopted the Plan on August 3, 2022, with the Townships of Douro-Dummer, Havelock-Belmont-Methuen, Selwyn, and Trent Lakes adopting the Plan in July and August 2022. The Townships of Cavan Monaghan, Otonabee-South Monaghan, and Asphodel-Norwood adopted their own Plan. The Plan therefore needs to be renewed for July 2026 to comply with Provincial Legislation.

The current Plan contains 62 Strategies across the following five Priority Areas:

- Housing & Homelessness
- Poverty & Income Security
- Healthcare & Mental Health
- Substance Use & Addictions
- Active Transportation & Connectivity

These priorities remain relevant, and significant factors affecting the safety and well-being of the community and are intended to remain within a renewed Plan.

The City and County of Peterborough staff recommend moving forward with a joint Plan. Discussions are underway regarding the involvement of all eight Townships. The three Townships that have a separate Plan are considering the option of joining the combined City/County Plan. One critical aspect will be the structure of the new Plan and how it addresses local safety and well-being concerns specific to each municipality.

First Nations are not required to adopt a Community Safety and Well-being Plan; however, discussions will take place to ensure Curve Lake First Nation and Hiawatha First Nation have an opportunity to decide their level of involvement with the Plan renewal. The strategy will include opportunities for First Nations and urban Indigenous to provide input.

[Report CSSS23-007 Community Safety and Well-being Plan Implementation Strategy](#) was adopted on February 27, 2023, which endorsed the creation of a Leadership Table to guide the implementation of the Plan. The Leadership Table is comprised of senior representatives from agencies and organizations who are involved in the Priority Areas, including: local government, upper levels of government, law enforcement, Emergency Medical Services, fire services, social services, community services, health, public health, business, children's services, poverty, and others.

The main purpose of the Leadership Table was to create a forum for a group of cross-sectoral leaders to discuss community-wide priorities and develop strategies for further action. The Leadership Table started meeting in March 2024 and has met quarterly. After several meetings, it became apparent that the group was not able to have a collective impact to advance the Plan. The following barriers were limiting factors to meaningful progress:

- No authority over the strategies in the Plan.
- No financial resources to pilot or implement strategies.
- No financial resources to assist local agencies with their work on the strategies.
- No staff resources to support the implementation of strategies.

The Leadership Table held a planning meeting in September 2024 where it decided to focus its attention on building awareness of emerging issues and sharing important information connected to community safety and well-being. They agreed that members would add timely issues, projects, and pending initiatives to meeting agendas and also invite local organizations and groups to deliver presentations on new initiatives and opportunities. The Leadership Table also decided to change the meeting schedule to twice a year.

The Plan has been recognized as a useful and informative document but has not been a driver of change in the five Priority Areas. It has predominantly been used as a reference document to support programs, local directions, and funding applications.

Approach to Plan Renewal

The approach used to develop the current Plan involved significant engagement, consultation, staff time, and financial resources. It is being recommended that a less intensive approach be employed to renew the Plan. While there have been changes and progress associated with the Priority Areas in the Plan, these developments can be incorporated without a full rewriting of the Plan. It is important to recognize that these changes and progress were achieved independently from the Plan and the efforts of the Leadership Table. Most of the Strategies in the Plan relate to activities associated with the work of the many organizations, agencies, and institutions already working on improving the safety and well-being of the community.

It is being recommended that the renewal of the Plan, where necessary, include:

- Reporting on the status of strategies in the current Plan through a Report Card.
- An updated framework for interpreting and implementing the Plan.
- Flexibility to incorporate new and/or emerging priorities, such as Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, and Intimate Partner Violence.
- Updating and supplementing data in the Plan.

- Suitable engagement and consultation.

There is no indication that any new resources will be attributed to the development or implementation of the Plan from the Province. Local resources are already being used to advance the priorities in the Plan and since they remain high priorities for the community, it would be impractical for the City and County to dedicate significant resources to the renewal of the Plan.

Strategic Plan

Strategic Pillar: Community & Well-being

Strategic Priority: Encourage our neighbourhoods to be safe, diverse, accessible, and affordable across all ages, incomes, and abilities.

Work proactively with local community partners to find an amicable workable solution towards reducing homelessness, mental health, and addiction issues within our community.

Engagement and Consultation

The Greater Peterborough Joint Services Committee approved this Report as presented at their meeting on June 12, 2025. This Report will also be on an August agenda for consideration by Peterborough County Council.

The engagement and consultation associated with preparing this report has been limited to internal discussions between the City, County, and Townships. The approach being recommended in this report was raised at the March 21, 2025, meeting of the CSWB Leadership Table with no objections. The renewal of the Plan has also been discussed with the Peterborough Domestic Abuse Network and the DEI Network Peterborough with agreement that further discussions will follow for suggested contributions to the renewed Plan. Discussions with Local First Nations and urban Indigenous groups will take place as part of renewing the Plan.

Budget and Financial Implications

There are no budget or financial implications associated with adopting this report. Any costs incurred to renew the Community Safety and Well-being Plan will be covered by the approved Community Development budget. The Plan has an approved budget of \$50,000 from the Community Development Program Reserve.

Conclusion

The current Community Safety and Well-being Plan needs to be renewed by July 2026 to comply with Provincial Legislation. This report outlines a focused and modest approach to undertake the Plan renewal without devoting unnecessary resources to the process. Since the priorities in the Plan are still current, and there are no new financial resources to actively implement the Plan, beyond the work that is already being done in the community, a modest approach to renewing the Plan is being recommended. The City and County have agreed to collaborate and have a common Plan, while discussions with the local Townships continues.

Submitted by,

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Commissioner of Community Services

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