



Committee Matters: SCM 135/2024

Subject: Windsor Essex Regional Community Safety & Well-Being Plan Update

Moved by: Councillor Renaldo Agostino
Seconded by: Councillor Jo-Anne Gignac

Decision Number: **CSSC 243** CSSC 226

THAT the report of the Manager of Social Policy & Planning dated April 11, 2024 entitled "Windsor Essex Regional Community Safety & Well-Being Plan Update - City Wide" **BE RECEIVED** for information.

Carried.

Report Number: S 53/2024, SCM 42/2024 & SCM 365/2023
Clerk's File: SS/14026

Clerk's Note:

1. The recommendation of the Community Services Standing Committee and Administration are the same.
2. Please refer to Item 8.4 from the Community Services Standing Committee held on May 1, 2024.
3. To view the stream of this Standing Committee meeting, please refer to:
<https://csg001-harmony.sliq.net/00310/Harmony/en/PowerBrowser/PowerBrowserV2/20240501/-1/10481>

Subject: Windsor Essex Regional Community Safety & Well-Being Plan Update - City Wide

Reference:

Date to Council: May 1, 2024
Author: Stephen Lynn
Manager, Social Policy & Planning
slynn@citywindsor.ca
519-255-5200 ext 5270

Report Date: 4/11/2024
Clerk's File #: SS/14026

To: Mayor and Members of City Council

Recommendation:

THAT the report from the Manager of Social Policy & Planning regarding an update on the Windsor Essex Regional Community Safety & Well-Being Plan **BE RECEIVED** for information.

Executive Summary:

N/A

Background:

In 2019, the Provincial government amended the *Police Services Act* to mandate that every municipality prepare and adopt a Community Safety and Well-Being (CSWB) Plan. After discussions amongst the regional Chief Administrative Officers proposing a regional CSWB Plan, Report S198/2019 and CAO-2019-11 were brought to the City of Windsor (City) and Essex County (County) Councils, respectively, requesting authorization to engage the County of Essex and its municipalities to develop a Regional Community Safety and Well-Being Plan (RCSWB). –City and County Councils authorized a project team comprised of City and County administration staff. The Province established this deadline before the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequently passed the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Support and Protection Act, 2020, which granted an extension to December 31, 2021.

In October 2021, all lower-tier municipalities of the County of Essex received a final update presentation, which included the Plan's goals, initiatives and activities and a request to delegate approval authority of the final Plan to Essex County Council. Each municipality unanimously voted to authorize the delegation of approval authority to Essex County Council. The Plan was approved by City and County Council in October

and November 2021, respectively (CR522/2021). In early December 2021, the Windsor and Essex County Regional Community Safety and Well-Being Plan was submitted to the Ministry of the Solicitor General (SolGen) for approval before the revised deadline of December 31, 2021.

The vision for Community Safety and Well-Being in Windsor-Essex County was defined as “A community where everyone feels safe, has a sense of belonging, equitable access to services and opportunities and can have their needs met across Windsor and Essex County.” The Plan’s four regional areas of focus are:

- Good Governance and Data
- Engaged and Safe Communities
- Mental Health and Substance Use Supports; and,
- Financial Security and Economic Equity

In total, 8 goals, 17 initiatives and 47 activities were established as part of the Plan.

This report is intended to provide a status update on the RCSWB plan. It is also in response to Councillor Gignac's motion at the February 7, Community Services Standing Committee meeting, stating "That administration BE REQUESTED to prepare a report outlining the City of Windsor's responsibility within this mandated group as well as funding sources, possible impacts, priorities and implementation plan."

Discussion:

There are two main tables that govern the RCSWB work. The Regional CSWB Systems Leadership Table (RSLT) was established during the development phase of the Plan and was mandated by the Province. It is chaired by the City of Windsor's Human and Health Services Commissioner and the Chief Administrative Officer for the County of Essex and includes partners from various sectors, including health and mental health, education, community and social services, community and social services for youth, custodial services for youth, municipalities, police and public safety, and business.

To better leverage existing strategies and better inform the CSWB governance on community risks and protective factors, an Enhanced Sector Network (ESN) table has also been created. The ESN engaged committees and organizations that work alongside individuals from eight historically underrepresented communities. Those communities include Indigenous Peoples, Racialized Persons, Youth, Newcomers, Seniors, 2SLGBTQ+ communities, Accessibility communities and broader community groups. The goal of the ESN was to ensure that diverse voices and priorities were included throughout the planning process.

Since the Plan's approval by City and County Council, 7 goals, 12 initiatives, and 20 activities have been completed or are in progress. Attached, as Appendix A, is an overview of the work currently underway.

Good Governance & Data:

The Good Governance and Data priority is designed to undergird all three priorities of the Plan. In an effort to advance this priority's data initiatives, a partnership with St. Clair College to seek grant funding under the auspices of the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) and WE-SPARK Incentive grant program was established. The WE-SPARK grant was successful between the City of Windsor and St. Clair College's Social Justice & Legal Studies program. Together, the project reviewed an internal capacity assessment to evaluate the systems utilized for tracking information pertinent to homelessness, also known as the Homelessness Information Families Information System (HIFIS). This project, albeit on a smaller scale, was designed to provide insights crucial for the overarching Data Consortium Project, which had originally been slated to launch with funding through a National Sciences Engineering Research Council (NSERC) Grant that was unsuccessful.

The unsuccessful NSERC Grant led to impeding the envisioned foundation of the Data Consortium Project. Although the grant was earmarked to significantly address issues surrounding Affordable Housing, including the pertinent subtopics of Homelessness, Social Housing, and Affordable Housing, the WE SPARK grant with St. Clair College has proven to be a successful partnership. However, due to the lack of available funding, members from the Data Table have been reengaged and conversations are taking place with partners regarding similar projects for collaboration.

Engaged & Safe Communities:

The Engaged & Safe Communities Priority has allowed cross-sectoral regional collaboration between many partners. Under Goal 3, the RCSWB has been working closely with the Housing Services Department and members of the RSLT to align multiple initiatives and activities from the Plan. The work is in progress and should be completed and launched by Summer 2024.

The Safety and Crime Prevention walks were successfully launched across Windsor and Essex County in 2022 and throughout 2023. The walks were held in Windsor, Leamington, Tecumseh, Essex (including Harrow and Essex Centre), with plans for other municipalities this year. The walks have received significant media attention, resulting in positive feedback from residents and stakeholders. The walks are in partnership with local police services, elected officials and municipal administration and apply a Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) lens to focus on assets and unique suggestions to improve deficiencies. Due to significant demand, an action and sustainability plan is being developed in partnership with St. Clair College and the WESPARK grant to build internal capacity amongst community and municipal partners.

The Regional Crime Prevention Council (RCPC) was established through grant funding from the Federal Government's Building Safer Communities Fund (BSCF). For the first two years, the RCPC will focus on preventing youth gun and gang violence in Windsor and Essex County. The RCPC will leverage expertise, share best practices, and act as an interdisciplinary consultative body.

In 2023, the City and County of Essex Council declared Intimate Partner Violence an epidemic. Per direction from the Council, the Project Manager met with members of the Violence Against Women Coordinating Committee of Windsor-Essex (VAWCCWE) to discuss their advocacy work and potential alignment with the WERCSWB. In early 2024, members of the VAWCCWE presented to the RSLT. Ongoing meetings and information sharing with the group will continue throughout the Plan.

Mental Health & Substance Use Supports:

Through SolGen's Community Safety & Policing grant stream launched in late 2021, multiple activities until the Mental Health & Substance Use Supports priority were able to be implemented. The Substance Supports in Neighbourhoods Accessed through Police Partnerships (SSNAPP) is a program designed to combat opioid/substance use and related crime through coordinated planning, public education, and training. This project involves the Windsor Police Service as the grant holder, the Windsor Essex County Health Unit, and the City of Windsor as collaborative partners. There are four key objectives of this project, many of which are in progress or have reached completion milestones:

1. Work with multi-sectoral partners to establish individualized "community safety plans" for postal codes with high-risk settings related to opioid use and overdose.
2. Work with partners to develop a promotional campaign of available mental health and community services and WPS services;
3. Provide reciprocal education and training opportunities for both the community and services providers working in identified area and high-risk settings.
4. All work will be evaluated and reported to the Province.

Many successful training events have taken place including Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) workshops with partners as well as De-escalation and Trauma-Informed training for key frontline staff from various sectors. A website, www.ssnapp.ca was launched with community updates being added monthly. Through this grant, the Windsor Police Service was able to leverage funding to successfully pilot the Nurse Police Team (NPT).

Additionally, the Project Manager has been successful in partnering with police services across the region to apply for Community Safety and Policing (CSP) grants from SolGen. Although not led by the Project Manager, multiple successful grants are linked directly to activities in the Plan.

Financial Security & Economic Equity:

In late 2023, work commenced with a vendor to conduct a social policy review of social and financial support services available to residents of Windsor-Essex, including federal, provincial and local, to determine where there are gaps in services and support. Community stakeholders were involved in its development, and the final review will be presented to the RSLT in Spring/Summer 2024.

Risk Analysis:

The Province legislates all municipalities to develop a Community Safety and Well-Being Plan, which will need to be updated every four years. The Province did outline consequences should a municipality not develop a CSWB plan, but there are currently no known financial or management oversight consequences if the approved Plan is not fully implemented. Under the City of Windsor's Enterprise Risk Framework, Legislative & Regulatory Risk category, without ongoing funding, there will be moderate operational impacts due to initiatives not having necessary resources for implementation, which may lead to reputational impacts by regional media and community and sector groups who were an integral part of the Plan's development and ongoing implementation.

Climate Change Risks

Climate Change Mitigation:

N/A

Climate Change Adaptation:

N/A

Financial Matters:

Although Community Safety & Well-Being implementation funding opportunities available for municipalities from the Province have still not been announced, OMSSA has a network of municipalities and continues to advocate to the Province for funding. The Project Manager has been successful in partnering with police services across the region to apply for Community Safety and Policing (CSP) grants from SolGen. In the first half of 2022, the RCSWB project team identified and sought out two grant streams: Implementation Grants & RCSWB Supported Grants. Implementation grants were written in partnership with key project partners or to directly receive funding for the implementation of key RCSWB initiatives. RCSWB Supported Grants were examples when the Project Manager collaborated on applications led by police service partners related to Community Safety and Well-Being through the Community Safety and Policing Grant stream by SolGen.

A total of seven grants were submitted, with five successful grants to date. The total value of successful grants was \$9.7 million approved for various initiatives and organizations across Windsor-Essex County. Of the \$9.7 million, \$4.2 million is directly tied to implementation grants for the Plan, including the City of Windsor receiving \$2.7 million over four years for the Building Safer Communities Fund (CR328/2022). Through these implementation grants, the City has successfully secured a salary cost recovery of up to 10% of the project manager's time.

In a municipal scan across Ontario, it was determined many regional municipalities have created a regional fund for the implementation of CSWB initiatives. A Community Investment Fund has been launched or made to align with CSWB goals and initiatives in regions across the Province, including Halton, York and Peel regions.

During the 2023 budget process, the City of Windsor allocated \$50,000, and the County of Essex implemented \$50,000 for a total of \$100,000 towards a Community Investment Fund to implement the Plan's activities. The City and County also contribute equally to the cost of the RCSWB Project Manager position. The budget for the creation of a CSWB Community Investment Fund serves as a foundation for the millions of dollars secured and will help build momentum and sustainability. The Project Manager will continue to liaise with OMSSA and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) CSWB tables for funding information, in addition to searching and applying for alternative funding opportunities from senior levels of government, foundations or other sources that align with the Regional Community Safety and Well-Being Plan's goals, initiatives and actions. The additional funding sources will help build a more robust community investment fund throughout the duration of the Plan.

Consultations:

Doran Anzolin, Executive Initiatives Coordinator
 Linda Higgins, Manager of Intergovernmental Funding
 Michelle Oake, Project Manager, Windsor Essex Regional Community Safety & Well Being Plan

Conclusion:

The Windsor-Essex Regional Community Safety and Well-Being Plan stands as a cornerstone in addressing the multifaceted challenges facing the Windsor Essex region. By prioritizing the four initiatives, the Plan underscores a commitment to fostering a safer and healthier community environment.

Planning Act Matters:

N/A

Approvals:

Name	Title
Linda Higgins	Manager, Intergovernmental Funding
Stephen Lynn	Manager, Social Policy & Planning
Janice Guthrie	Commissioner, Finance & City Treasurer
Andrew Daher	Commissioner, Human & Health Services
Joe Mancina	Chief Administrative Officer

Notifications:

Name	Address	Email

Appendices:

- 1 Appendix A - CSWB Plan Project Progress

Appendix A: CSWB Plan Project Progress

Good Governance & Data

Goal	Initiative /Activity	Progress
1. Improve collaboration between CSWB partners for better data and service outcomes.	1.1. Establish a permanent table of CSWB partner organizations to institutionalize cross-sectoral collaboration to address systemic and specific service delivery opportunities.	In-Progress
	1.1.1 Establish a Memorandum of Understanding and Terms of Reference with System Leadership Table partners (RSLT) around collective action on identified CSWB priorities and initiatives.	Completed
	1.1.3 Leverage or establish Action Tables for key goals and initiatives in the RCSWB plan, that include RSLT members, municipal representation, Community Service Providers, and representation from priority and Persons with Lived Experience (PLE) populations.	In-Progress
	1.2. Develop a Data "Consortium" of partner organizations to support ongoing CSWB planning and service delivery.	In-Progress
	1.2.1 Data Consortium Planning	In-Progress
2. Improve representation and inclusion of priority populations in collaborative decision-making processes for CSWB initiatives.	2.1. Increase representation of priority populations and those with lived experience at RCSWB leadership table and partner advisory/leadership tables.	In-Progress
	2.1.1 Ensure RSLT Terms of Reference include priority and PLE population requirements for RSLT and all Action Tables.	Completed
	2.1.2 Communicate and advertise opportunities to engage representative levels in a culturally appropriate manner.	Completed
	2.1.3 Provide resources to value and support priority population's ability to participate meaningfully in implementation processes (e.g. honourariums, communities of practices).	In-Progress
	2.1.5 Reaffirm commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion among partners at the Systems Leadership Table.	Completed
	2.2. Include consultations with priority communities early in planning stages of CSWB activities.	Completed

Engaged & Safe Communities

Goal	Initiative / Activity	Progress
3. Increase access to safe and affordable housing.	3.1. Increase awareness and utilization of existing housing supports and programs.	Completed
	3.1.1 Work with the City of Windsor’s Housing department, as the designated Municipal Service Manager for housing services in Windsor and Essex County, to review existing communications channels between service providers and those in need of supports and identify opportunities to improve outreach and engagement, especially in the County.	Completed
	3.1.2 Leverage, enhance or develop a communications plan that aligns with the Home Together: Windsor Essex Housing and Homelessness Master Plan and the mandate of the Housing and Homelessness Advisory Committee, to promote awareness of existing supports and programs that is targeted at reaching those in need of affordable housing, or those at risk of losing their housing.	In-progress
	3.2. Review and assess planning and growth-related policies to promote a larger and more diverse housing supply.	In-progress
	3.2.2 Promote innovative pilot projects among municipal partners that align with Home Together to support the creation of more attainable housing within existing legislation and regulatory frameworks	In-progress
	3.3. Increase provincial and federal advocacy to support more affordable housing through streamlined approval processes and capital and operating investment in housing projects.	In-progress
	3.3.1 Leverage, expand or develop a strategic advocacy plan with a broad coalition of municipal and sectoral support that identifies key intergovernmental investment priorities to increase access to affordable housing across the region	In-Progress
4. Promote safe, healthy, and connected neighbourhoods and communities.	4.2. Promote community-led projects and initiatives - including neighbourhood building initiatives to help increase feelings of safety, strengthen social capital with neighbours and promote ongoing, sustainable engagement within communities.	In-Progress

	4.2.2. Pilot a CSWB Walks Program based on Neighbourhood Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) model for City and County.	In-Progress
	4.2.3. Work with partners to develop and pilot a Regional Crime Prevention Council (or committee) focused on leveraging expertise and sharing best practices as an interdisciplinary consultative body for priority communities and neighbourhoods.	Completed

Mental Health & Substance Use Supports

Goal	Initiative/Activity	Progress
5. Increase frequency of preventative care and early interventions to reduce overall service need and crisis intervention.	5.1 Promote de-stigmatization of mental health and addiction issues and raise awareness of existing supports to promote early intervention and overall wellbeing.	In-Progress
	5.1.1 Leverage, enhance or develop a region-wide campaign to raise mental health awareness and local available resources and initiatives.	In-Progress
	5.1.2 Ensure resident information pathways are harmonized among service providers to provide residents with as many resources as possible (e.g. RCSWB Asset Map).	In-Progress
6. Safe and effective emergency response to those in crisis.	6.1 Expand programs that leverage crisis response teams that include both police and mental health workers (e.g. COAST, Youth Crisis Response Team (YCRT), Mobile Crisis Rapid Response Team etc.).	Completed
	6.2 Improve community trust in the emergency services and improve community outcomes, especially for priority populations, by building stronger relationships between service providers (e.g. Community workers and police) and communities.	In-Progress
	6.2.1 Leverage partnerships with existing community networks and priority populations to create opportunities for ongoing dialogue and feedback from community members.	In-Progress
	6.2.2 Identify opportunities to establish community-emergency responder partnerships.	Completed

Financial Security & Economic Equity

Goal	Initiative/Activity	Progress
7. Identify existing gaps in the social safety net for those facing income insecurity and poverty with a lens of equity and inclusion for priority populations.	7.1. Conduct a social policy review of support services available to residents of Windsor-Essex, including federal, provincial, and local initiatives to determine where there are gaps in services or supports.	In-progress
	7.1.1 Develop an inventory of available support services and conduct a gaps analysis.	In-Progress
	7.1.2 Identify opportunities for collective action to fill identified gaps.	In-Progress
	7.1.3 Select and work collaboratively with successful vendor to complete the review.	In-Progress
	7.2 Leverage report finding and the work already completed by local strategies and organizations by advocating for additional resources and funding at intergovernmental and non-profit levels.	In-Progress