

If you require this information in an alternate format, please contact the Accessibility Coordinator at [accessibility@northumberlandcounty.ca](mailto:accessibility@northumberlandcounty.ca) or 1-800-354-7050 ext. 2327



## **Report 2021-XX**

**Report Title: Community Safety and Wellbeing Plan**

**Committee Name: Social Services**

**Committee Meeting Date: June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021**

**Prepared by: Sarah Tanner, Manager Community Services**

**Reviewed by: Lisa Horne, Director, Community & Social Services**

**Glenn Dees, Director of Finance & Treasurer**

**Strategic Plan Priorities: Thriving & Inclusive Communities**

---

### **Recommendation**

**“That the Social Services Committee recommends that County Council approves Northumberland County Community Safety and Wellbeing Plan (CSWB), and approves the County leads the implementation.**

**Further That Northumberland County Council approve and commit to the activities of the Northumberland County Community Safety and Wellbeing Plan:**

**Further That Council directs staff to forward a copy of the Northumberland County Community Safety and Wellbeing Plan to the Ministry of the Solicitor General**

**Further That Council directs Community and Social Services hire a temporary full-time Community Services Coordinator for a duration of 12 months, to support and lead the County wide implementation of the CSWB plan.**

**Further That Northumberland County approves the allocation of existing funding within the current 2021 approved budget towards the cost of a temporary staffing resource for the purpose of implementation.**

**Further That Northumberland County Council directs staff to conduct the following activities during implementation of its Community Safety and Wellbeing”**

- **Renew the Terms of Reference and review alternate governance models for the current Advisory committee moving to a Northumberland County Collaborative Table**
  - **Collaborate with the all member municipalities, agencies, and committees to jointly achieve progress as outlined in the goals and activities of the plan**
  - **Monitor evaluate and report on the performance of implemented initiatives and utilize the data to assist the County Collaborative Table in planning for the key priorities.**
- 

## **Purpose**

To provide Council with the Northumberland County Safety and Wellbeing Plan and outline the implementation requirements for 2021-2022.

## **Background**

The new legislative requirements related to Community Safety and Wellbeing planning came into force on January 1, 2019, as an amendment to the *Police Services Act, 1990* (PSA). The initial date for completion of the plan was January 2021 however this has been amended considering the pandemic and re-direction of resources. The new date for completion of the initial plan to be submitted to the province has been determined July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021.

The Community Safety and Well Being plan requires developing and implementing evidence-based strategies and programs to address local priorities (i.e., risk factors, vulnerable groups, protective factors) related to crime, safety, and complex social issues on a sustainable basis.

## **Consultations**

A range of consultations was completed over the fall and winter of 2020/21, and included the following

- Service Provider Survey
- Community Perspective Survey
- Strategic Plan reviews and Network Inventories were completed
- Review of local, Regional and National Data was completed

The results of these consultations and surveys form the data set that supports the Advisory Committee being able to identify the top four priorities to enhance community safety and well-being in Northumberland. These four priorities include (i) Homelessness/Affordable Housing, (ii) Substance use/addictions, (iii) Poverty, Employment, and Income and finally (iv) Mental Health

The Community Services Manager and the Data Analysis Coordinator for Community and Social Services, has supported the integration of all relevant local and regional data such as crime, health and social services to coordinate and develop the Community Safety and Wellbeing plan priorities on behalf of all stakeholders across Northumberland. This information has been shared, reviewed, and discussed with Advisory Committee members.

The Community Safety and Wellbeing webpage has been developed and can be found at [Northumberland Community Safety and Well-being](#) and will be regularly updated to reflect the activities of the Committee and progress of the plan starting with implementation.

During the months of May and June, presentations were started with member municipalities and key stakeholders, including governing boards and organizations representing required service sectors.

## **Legislative Authority/Risk Considerations**

The legislative requirement for Community Safety and Well Being plans has come from the Police Services Act 2018 amendment which came into effect on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2019.

The responsibility to prepare and adopt a CSWB plan applies to:

- ▶ Single-tier municipalities;
- ▶ Lower-tier municipalities in the County of Oxford and in counties; and
- ▶ Regional municipalities, other than the County of Oxford.

The risks associated with not approving the plan and supporting the additional resources for implementation for 2021/22 will result in failure to meet mandatory requirement to the province for a CSWB plan. Additional risk in not supporting the need for a dedicated resource will have a negative impact on the community, as the goals and objectives of the plan will not be strategically embedded with member municipalities, agencies and committees who are supporting residents of the County and their safety and wellbeing .

## **Discussion/Options**

The development and implementation of a Northumberland County Community Safety and Wellbeing Plan will further enhance communication and collaboration among sectors, agencies and organizations and encourage increased understanding of and focus on local risks and vulnerable groups.

The County-wide plan will help to build on the modernization and transformation of service delivery, including realignment of resources and responsibilities to better respond to priorities and needs in our community, thus reducing the financial impact of social determinants of health and crime.

## **Financial Impact**

The financial impact of the development of the CSWB plan within the legislated timeline has been absorbed within existing staffing resources and workplans and there were minimal associated costs for external consultation, administration, and writing.

Going forward, to ensure successful implementation of the plan over the next four quarters (12 months), the need for an additional dedicated resource has been identified. When Community and Social Services department assumed the responsibility for coordinating the plan development in 2019, COVID 19 was not yet on the radar and capacity was not a risk.

The daily responsibilities and costs associated with managing ongoing administration and operations of client services and supports during the pandemic within Community and Social Services has significantly increased throughout 2020 and into 2021. The capacity to dedicate current staffing resources that would be required to ensure a coordinated implementation is no longer possible. A request is being made to employ a temporary full time Community Services Coordinator, within Community and Social Services, for a twelve-month period only. The role would focus on development of an implementation plan that identifies the parties responsible for supporting execution and communication of the CSWB plan goals and objectives. This role would also help to prepare an evaluation plan that assesses the success of the Plan goals and objectives and identifies priority areas requiring additional attention.

The total cost of the implementation is estimated at \$110,000 which includes costs associated with staffing and additional resources, materials, and contingencies. Following the twelve-month period of implementation, it is anticipated that ongoing monitoring and data collection and analysis required to support the Northumberland Collaborative Table will be reasonably incorporated within the existing staffing model.

The required costs for implementation will be drawn from existing 2021 funding resources that includes \$55,000 from Safe Restart Funding which is representative of the limitations on internal resourcing as a result of time committed to managing activities related to the COVID-19 pandemic, \$35,000 from a current reserve set aside for the CSWB project, and reallocation of \$20,000 within Community and Social Services budget due to salary gapping from an existing vacancy.

## **Member Municipality Impacts**

Lower tier Municipalities will continue to have critical influence on subsequent planning and implementation groups. The opportunity to share the objectives of the plan, which include facilitated collaboration, knowledge sharing, and improving access to services across Northumberland County. The plan runs on a four-year cycle, with the top four priorities aligned with goals, objectives, activities, and measurements. The collection and analysis of the data and reporting that will be required will be most effective and efficient on a County-wide basis.

## **Conclusion/Outcomes**

The creation of a Northumberland plan will help address identified risks and opportunities through evidence-based programs and strategies, focusing on social development, prevention, risk intervention and incident response.

It is recommended that the CSWB plan be received and staff directed to forward the plan to province. It is also recommended that council support investing in additional resources to ensure implementation of the plan over the next twelve months.

## **Attachments**

1. Northumberland County Community Safety and Wellbeing Plan
2. Council Presentation