

If this information is required in an accessible format, please contact 1-800-372-1102 ext. 2666



The Regional Municipality of Durham Report

To: The Committee of the Whole
From: Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development and
Commissioner of Social Services
Report: #2021-COW-11
Date: June 9, 2021

Subject:

Durham Region Community Safety and Well-Being Plan (CSWP) - Interim Submission

Recommendation:

That the Committee of the Whole recommends to Regional Council:

- A) That this report be submitted to the Solicitor General of Ontario as the Region's interim submission on the Community Safety and Well-Being Plan in fulfilment of the July 1, 2021 deadline; and
 - B) That a copy of this report be sent to Durham MPPs, Area Municipalities, Durham Regional Police Service, and the CSWP Steering Committee.
-

Report:

1. Background

- 1.1 In January of 2019, legislative amendments to the Police Services Act mandated communities across the province to develop a Community Safety and Well-Being Plan (CSWP). The province describes community safety and well-being as a place where everyone feels safe, has a sense of belonging, where individuals and families can meet their needs for education, health care, food, housing, income, as well as social and cultural expression.

- 1.2 It is the responsibility of the Region of Durham to develop the CSWP. The original legislated deadline for CSWP completion was January 1, 2021. Shortly after the COVID-19 provincial emergency was declared, the CSWP deadline was suspended by the Province and the Region's work on the project slowed considerably to manage the demands of the pandemic.
- 1.3 On December 24, 2020, the Province announced a new CSWP deadline of July 1, 2021. Given the ongoing demands of the COVID-19 pandemic facing the Region and its CSWP stakeholders, it is simply not possible to deliver a final Plan by the deadline. However, Provincial staff have advised that if an interim submission is made by July 1, this will be acceptable for the purposes of meeting the deadline.
- 1.4 Despite the pandemic, CSWP work has continued and Regional staff are confident that the groundwork has been laid to deliver a meaningful plan to the community in early 2022.

2. CSWP Interim Submission

- 2.1 Further to the information provided in [Report 2019-COW-15](#), [Report 2019-SS-17](#), [Report 2021-INFO-16](#) and durham.ca/cswp, Durham Region has been committed to developing a community led CSWP.
- 2.2 The following demonstrates how Durham Region has met the legislative requirements to date:
 - a. **Establishment of a Steering Committee:** A Committee has been established, consisting of system leaders from across the Region. A list of members can be found in [Report 2021-INFO-16](#). This committee is supported by senior staff from the Health, Social Services and Planning and Economic Development Departments.
 - b. **Area Municipal Involvement:** An area municipal working group has been established to ensure an integrated approach to identifying and addressing local priorities.
 - c. **Data Analysis:** To assist in the identification of local risk factors, the Region relied on several data sources, including:
 - Provincial Risk Driven Tracking Database
 - Statistics Canada

- Heath Department data including [Durham Region Health Neighborhoods](#)
 - Durham Regional Police Services data
 - Paramedic Services data
 - Social Services/Housing data
 - Feedback through a public survey
 - Service provider/stakeholder roundtable
 - Guidance and feedback from the Steering Committee, area municipal working group and internal working groups
- d. Identification of Preliminary Risk Factors (Pre-COVID-19):** Based on the analysis of data and feedback from stakeholders, the following risk factors were identified:
- Mental Health
 - Substance Use
 - Homelessness & Basic Needs
 - Criminal Involvement
 - Victimization
 - Social Isolation
- e. Evidence Based Programs & Strategies:** An extensive list of regional programs and strategies have been identified to address the priority risk factors. Currently this inventory consists of over 100 documents and staff are in the process of developing a risk factor specific, searchable database.
- f. Measurable Outcomes:** To date, the Region has identified the following data points to act as trackable performance measures, to ensure the programs and strategies are effective in addressing the identified risk factors:
- Proportion of calls for service that were mental health related
 - Proportion of calls that resulted in a mental health apprehension
 - Youth diversion rate
 - Crime severity index
 - Property crime rate
 - Violent crime rate
 - Proportion of repeat victims
 - The number of residents actively experiencing homelessness
 - The number of residents actively experiencing chronic homelessness

- The number of emergency department visits for opioid poisonings
- The number of opioid deaths
- Paramedic calls related to suspected opioid overdoses
- The number of infants born with Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome

3. Next Steps

3.1 Work on the CSWP will continue and the following milestones are anticipated by the end of the year:

- Release a new public survey to better understand the shifting priorities of the community, given the impacts of COVID-19 (currently underway).
- Host community open houses with Indigenous peoples, service providers, the public and equity seeking groups (currently underway).
- Seek Council approval and adoption of the final CSWP.
- Post the CSWP on durham.ca within 30 days of adoption.

4. Conclusion

4.1 This interim submission demonstrates the Region's commitment to the CSWP. Without the COVID-19 disruption, staff were on track to meet the legislated deadline. To meet our obligations as primary responders to COVID-19, the CSWP is anticipated to be presented to Council for approval in early 2022.

4.2 Regional staff remain focused on completing a plan that will capably serve this community while meeting legislative requirements, relying on the relationships that have been carefully cultivated. As such, it is recommended that this report be submitted to the Solicitor General as the Region's interim submission of the CSWP for the July 1, 2021 deadline.

Respectfully submitted,

Original signed by

Stella Danos-Papaconstantinou
Commissioner of Social Services

Original signed by

Brian Bridgeman, MCIP, RPP
Commissioner of Planning and
Economic Development

Recommended for Presentation to Committee

Original signed by

Elaine C. Baxter-Trahair
Chief Administrative Officer