

NO: P007

DATE: May 6, 2019

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

TO: Mayor & Council

DATE: May 3, 2019

FROM: General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture

FILE: 7430-00

SUBJECT: Surrey Anti-Gang Family Empowerment - Prospectus for Prevention Program Funding

RECOMMENDATION

The Parks, Recreation & Culture Department recommends that Council receive this report for information.

INTENT

The intent of this report is to provide Council with the Prospectus for Prevention Program Funding (the "Prospectus") that has been developed by the Community Safety Section of the Parks, Recreation & Culture Department to facilitate outreach to government and other potential funders. The goal of the Prospectus (attached as Appendix "I") is to encourage support for additional funding for prevention programs to augment the existing funded interventions in the Surrey Anti-Gang Family Empowerment ("SAFE") Program.

BACKGROUND

In July 2018, the City developed the SAFE model for gang prevention, intervention and enforcement. An application to Public Safety Canada to support the intervention stream of the SAFE model was successful and Council launched the new SAFE Program at City Hall on January 22, 2019. Since the implementation of the SAFE program, the Community Safety section has updated the communications materials regarding the SAFE model to support continued advocacy for funding from government, and other potential funders for the prevention and enforcement streams of the SAFE model.

DISCUSSION

The SAFE model was developed to create an evidence-based continuum of programming that includes prevention, intervention, enforcement and research. Federal funding was received and is now being implemented for the SAFE interventions stream of the model.

The SAFE interventions are delivered in partnership by the City, Surrey School District, police, academic institutions and not-for-profit community-based service providers. Together, the interventions in the SAFE Program are enhancing coordination among stakeholders; targeting at-risk children and youth and their families; delivering evaluative, outcome-based programming that is culturally and gender-specific; and prioritizing neighbourhood and cultural context in program delivery.

In addition to the intervention stream funding for SAFE, the City was able to secure one-time funding of \$122,000 for a research project – *Altering Pathways to Gang Involvement* – that was completed in March 2019. This was the first of many planned research initiatives under the SAFE model for which the City intends to continue to pursue funding support.

The City will also continue its advocacy efforts with the Provincial and Federal governments and other possible program funders to attract additional funding for the prevention and intervention activities and to support continued research.

The Prospectus (Appendix “I”) outlines the opportunity for potential funders to invest up to \$1.46 Million per annum over five years (total \$7.3 Million) to support six prevention programs that would be brought under the SAFE Program umbrella. The programs are outlined in Table 1.

Table 1. SAFE Prevention Programs in the Prospectus

Program Name	Lead Agency	Funding Proposed per annum	Nature of Program delivery
Afterschool for All Drop In Program	Parks, Recreation & Culture Department	\$626,500	This will dramatically expand the afterschool activities currently delivered to enhance services across Surrey neighbourhoods for the critical hours of 3 – 6 pm during week days (e.g., MYzone).
Cultural Community Engagement	Parks, Recreation & Culture Department	\$130,000	This initiative focuses on connecting with marginalized immigrant and refugee children, youth and families in the Newton area to build anti-gang messages into cultural events. The program also promotes the benefits of community engagement and healthy child and youth development through culturally appropriate outreach in the community.
Mobile Art Program	Parks, Recreation & Culture Department	\$146,400	This program focuses on building skills and creativity through pop-up art events in the target neighbourhoods. Once youth participate in the mobile art projects, they are linked to free skill based, leadership development projects including working with professional arts and developing art projects and events. This program targets a core population of youth not attracted to traditional physical activity programs or academic pursuits.

Strength Based Gang Prevention Program	Kwantlen Polytechnic University	\$126,200	Based on significant research at Kwantlen Polytechnic University into the protective factors that create barriers to recruitment into the gang lifestyle, this program will be delivered within the South Asian community in Surrey to support youth and families. An eight-week syllabus for program leaders in the community will help to integrate strength-based approaches into existing programs.
Yo Bro Yo Girl Youth Initiative	Yo Bro Yo Girl Youth Initiative	\$250,000	This program connects youth with education and recreational activities that focus on improving school and community engagement, social interactions and improve individual confidence and autonomy. The Yo Bro Yo Girl Initiative works with elementary and high school aged children after school to build relationship skills and improve physical literacy through recreation programs. The program has demonstrated value in diverting young people away from the gang lifestyle and other precursors to criminal activity.
Junior Civic Ambassador Program	Options Community Services Society	\$189,712	This program is delivered during after school hours and involves children 5-12 years old participating in groups to build leadership, life skills, performing arts skills, and activities that build civic responsibility. The program involves youth in workshops, tours and activities (e.g., street garbage clean ups) that focus on civic pride and participation.
Total per annum funding required:		\$1,468,812	

Research on gang recruitment and participation recognizes that it is critical that youth are directed to programs at early ages, when they are still adaptable to program influences. This means that prevention programming must start early and remain consistent throughout childhood and adolescence. Through investment in preventing programs, it is possible to address the factors and reduce the likelihood of child and youth gang involvement.

SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

The work of the SAFE Program supports the objectives of the City’s Sustainability Charter 2.0. In particular, this work relates to Sustainability Charter 2.0 themes of Public Safety and Health & Wellness. Specifically, this project supports the following Desired Outcomes (“DO”) and Strategic Direction (“SD”):

- Public Safety DO5: Surrey is recognized and perceived as a leader in establishing and maintaining collaborative partnerships for community safety and wellbeing;

- Public Safety DO4: Local residents and businesses are connected and engaged within their neighbourhoods and with the broader community – including police, public safety partners and social service agencies – to enhance safety;
- Public Safety SD3: Ensure programs, policies and initiatives exist along the public safety continuum, and support the entire community; and
- Health & Wellness DO5: Services and programs are responsive to shifting health and social needs, and local and external factors.

CONCLUSION

The SAFE Program is an important initiative for the City that is directly addressing the gang violence that is plaguing the region. With \$7.3Million in funding over five years from the Government of Canada, the City and its partners are delivering new interventions for children, youth and families in Surrey at risk of gang involvement.

Continuing to advocate for funding to support prevention programs on the continuum of the SAFE model will enable the City to support children and youth to help them build resiliency and strong social connections. Independent review of evaluations of gang prevention programs in the literature reveal that strong prevention programs promote positive social connections to families and friends while building attachment to schools and communities. Prevention is the starting point that gets children, youth and families into the continuum of care, upstream before challenges begin to occur. Therefore, investing in strong, coordinated prevention programming is needed to address the issue of youth gang involvement.

The Prospectus (Appendix “I”) has been developed to help support the City’s advocacy efforts to attract the investment needed for these prevention programs.

Laurie Cavan,
General Manager,
Parks, Recreation & Culture

Appendix “I” – SAFE Prospectus for Prevention Program Funding

SAFE

Surrey Anti-Gang
Family Empowerment
Program



**Surrey Youth Prevention
Program Prospectus**



MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

The City of Surrey has a track record of success when addressing complex issues in innovative ways. Bringing together partners, adopting best practices and ensuring our efforts are measurable, are fundamental to the work we do.

The Surrey Anti-Gang Family Empowerment (SAFE) model is an example of how the City uses a collaborative, “outside of the box” approach to address challenges in our community. SAFE has been developed in response to the urgent need for a coordinated, evidence-based, multidisciplinary approach to address gang violence and disrupt the pathways by which youth are recruited into the gang lifestyle.

In 2018, the Task Force on Gang Violence Prevention conducted a program review and from their findings SAFE was developed. The model includes prevention, intervention and enforcement activities that are coordinated across multiple government agencies and community-based organizations.

The intervention piece of the model is up and running and is being supported by the Federal Government through Public Safety Canada funding. The City and its partners are now seeking support to implement the prevention piece of the model that will ensure our children and youth are given the best opportunity to steer clear of gangs and the gang lifestyle.

In the following pages you will find out more about SAFE and how you can join us in supporting this one-of-a-kind model to create positive change in our communities.

Doug McCallum
Mayor





Table of Contents

The Opportunity..... 4

Prevention Works 5-6

Surrey’s Prevention Programs - A Review 7

SAFE Model Prevention Programs 8-9

Budget Estimates 10

Invest In Our Future 11

The Opportunity

Investing \$1.5 million per year for five years will prevent youth in our community from becoming involved in gangs and the gang lifestyle.

Research clearly demonstrates that a truly comprehensive approach to addressing gangs is what works. Investment and dedication to efforts that fall along a full continuum of programs and services specific to gang prevention, intervention, and enforcement is needed. With this in mind, the Surrey Anti-Gang Family Empowerment (SAFE) model was developed.

SAFE represents a new model for community wide youth violence and gang prevention. The model is built on the understanding that prevention, intervention and enforcement are all required. By investing along the entire continuum we will collaboratively address gaps, build on effective existing programs, as well as ensure community-wide coordination. All of which will be complemented by a rigorous evaluation framework.

The model is led by the City of Surrey and relies on a partnership approach delivered by municipal and provincial government, police, and not-for-profit community-based service providers. The partners enrich the model through their expertise and experience working with the target client population.

Public Safety Canada has provided a substantial contribution to the City of Surrey and its partners for the “intervention” portion of the continuum to address youth gang involvement for the next five years (2019-2023). This investment in Surrey, for the development and provision of direct intervention is necessary and welcomed. We thank the Government of Canada for their support.

We are now seeking partners to support the prevention stream of the model so we can holistically address this complicated issue.

Independent review of evaluations of gang prevention programs in the literature reveal that strong prevention programs promote positive social connections to families and friends while building attachment to schools and communities.

Prevention is the starting point that gets children, youth and families into the continuum of care, upstream before challenges begin to occur. This is why investing in strong, coordinated prevention programming is needed to address the issue of youth gang involvement. As such, the City and its partners are seeking support for the prevention programs in the SAFE model.



The model is built on the understanding that prevention, intervention and enforcement are all required.

Prevention Works

By supporting our children and youth we can help them build resiliency and strong social connections.

The City of Surrey is a fast growing, vibrant and diverse community that welcomes over 800 new residents each month.

- It is the second largest City in British Columbia, one of the fastest growing in Canada and has over 500,000 residents.
- It has a large youth population, with 25 per cent of the overall population being under the age of 19.
- It has the largest school district in B.C. at 71,350 students in 2016/17.

With this rapidly growing, diverse youth population, it is clear that Surrey needs support for prevention programs designed to divert young people from gang involvement.

Youth gangs and violence are serious issues for citizens and policy makers. In 2017, half of Surrey's six homicides had a link to gangs. Between 2016 and 2017, the city's youth crime increased 34 per cent, with spikes in 15 to 17-year-old suspects. Recent high-profile gang-related homicides have eroded feelings of safety.

Gang violence prevention and disrupting the pathways by which youth are recruited into gangs is a challenge for several reasons.

- Surrey's location and population make it particularly vulnerable to gang and drug activity. Surrey's gangs are non-traditional, coming from multi-ethnic backgrounds and a mix of affluent, middle-class, and low-income households.
- Youth are being recruited into gangs at a younger age than in other communities.
- We know that, the first criminal offense for gang members typically occurs at age 16 and the first school suspension at age 13.

Prevention is the key – it works to stop a negative trajectory before it begins.

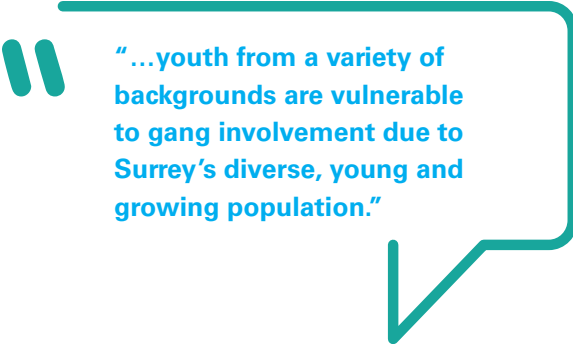


Through investment in prevention programs, we can address the following factors and reduce the likelihood of child and youth gang involvement.

- Trauma or domestic abuse
- Substance use
- Lack of parental involvement
- Peers or family involved in crime
- Lack of positive friendships
- Few positive adult role models
- Cultural identity issues
- Poverty
- Mental illness and behaviour issues
- Perceived glamour, status and desire for money
- Lack of fear of consequences or enforcement
- Neighbourhood influences
- Being in debt to a gang and threatened with violence

In 2018, the City of Surrey conducted a systematic review of existing programs and services and reviewed research to understand the issues and opportunities around programs for children and youth more broadly. It was found that youth from a variety of backgrounds can become involved in gangs for many reasons and it is often a combination of these factors that lead to vulnerability.

Research on gang recruitment and participation recognizes that it is critical that youth are directed to programs at early ages, when they are still adaptable to program influences. This means that prevention programming must start early and remain consistent throughout childhood and adolescence.



“...youth from a variety of backgrounds are vulnerable to gang involvement due to Surrey’s diverse, young and growing population.”

SAFE Model Prevention Programs

Given what we know about what works, as well as what is currently being offered, the City and its partners have identified a number of new prevention programs that would be part of the SAFE prevention stream of the model, as well as some existing programs which would be enhanced. The partner agencies involved in prevention programming enrich the model through their expertise and experience working with the target client population.

These programs are designed to target specific demographic factors yet also include programs that would be delivered to all children, youth and families in the target neighbourhoods where the need is greatest. A brief description of the programs is provided below.

After School for All Program

This relates to a range of programs and services delivered to support children and youth with high quality, affordable programming especially in the critical after school hours (3:00pm-6:00pm). Included in this area are programs like MYzone, which focuses on middle years children to provide healthy activities and supports.

Cultural Community Engagement

This initiative focuses on connecting with marginalised immigrant and refugee children, youth and families in the Newton area to build anti-gang messages into cultural events. The program also promotes the benefits of community engagement and healthy child and youth development through culturally appropriate outreach in the community.

Mobile Art Program

This program focuses on building skills and creativity through pop up art events in the target neighbourhoods under the SAFE model. Community art is able to transform environments into safe spaces for people to connect. Once youth participate in the mobile art projects, they are linked to free skill based, leadership development projects including working with professional artists and developing art projects and events. This program targets a core population of youth not attracted to traditional physical activity programs or academic pursuits.

Strength Based Gang Prevention Program

Based on significant research at Kwantlen Polytechnic University into the protective factors that create barriers to recruitment into the gang lifestyle, this program will be delivered within the South Asian community in Surrey to support youth and families. An 8-week syllabus for program leaders in the community will help to integrate strength-based approaches into existing programs.

The Yo Bro | Yo Girl Youth Initiative

This program connects youth with education and recreational activities that focus on improving school and community engagement, social interactions and improve individual confidence and autonomy. The Yo Bro|Yo Girl Initiative works with elementary and high school aged children after school to build relationship skills and improve physical literacy through recreation programs. The program has demonstrated value in diverting young people away from the gang lifestyle and other precursors to criminal activity.

Junior Civic Ambassador Program

This program is delivered during after school hours and involves children 5-12 years old participating in groups to build leadership, life skills, performing arts skills, and activities that build civic responsibility. The program involves youth in workshops, tours and activities (e.g., street garbage clean ups) that focus on civic pride and participation.



Budget Estimates

The SAFE model is led by the City of Surrey. The City facilitates the work of the partner agencies and organizations and manages the program budget. Investments in the SAFE model will flow through the City to partner agencies at the ground level. A high level of coordination and accountability is in place to ensure investments are maximized.

The table below highlights the funding needs for each program per year with a five-year total commitment value noted at the bottom.

PROGRAM	COST	AGENCY
Afterschool For All Drop in Program	\$626,500	City of Surrey
Cultural Community Engagement	\$130,000	City of Surrey
Mobile Art Program	\$146,400	City of Surrey
Strength Based Gang Prevention Program	\$126,200	Kwantlen Polytechnic University (KPU)
Yo Bro I Yo Girl Youth Initiative	\$250,000	Yo Bro I Yo Girl Youth Initiative
Junior Civic Ambassador Program	\$189,712	Options Community Services Society
Total dollar value for one year		1,468,812
Total dollar value for a five-year commitment		7,344,060

Invest In Our Future

The SAFE Model is an innovative, collaborative, one-of-a-kind model that supports our children, youth and families. It demonstrates how all levels of government can effectively work together to support those most in need in our community.

Investing in children and youth is an investment in the future. Together, we will build safe families, safe communities, and a safe City. The time is now. By investing in positive change today, we will create a bright and positive future for tomorrow.

Contact the SAFE Office at publicsafety@surrey.ca to discuss how you can support SAFE prevention programs in Surrey.



