

COMMITTEE REPORT

NO: P008

DATE: July 15, 2019

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

TO: Mayor & Council

DATE: July 10, 2019

FROM: General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture

FILE: 7450-30

SUBJECT: Surrey Anti-Gang Family Empowerment Program Update

RECOMMENDATION

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

INTENT

This report provides an update on the Surrey Anti-Gang Family Empowerment ("SAFE") Program. It outlines work completed to date by the City of Surrey and its partners to deliver new services to support children, youth and families and divert young people from pathways to gang involvement.

BACKGROUND

In July 2018, the City and several partner organizations held a series of workshops that led to the development of a new service delivery model to address gang violence across the region. This new model outlined a continuum of services including prevention, intervention, enforcement and research to address the gang issue and deliver services that support children, youth and families in Surrey.

This model formed the basis of two successful applications for funding to Public Safety Canada. The City of Surrey received \$7.5M over five years (2018-2023) to implement 11 new SAFE programs. In partnership with Simon Fraser University ("SFU"), the City also received one-time funding for 2018-2019 for the Altering Pathways to Youth Gang Involvement and Violence research project. The goal of the research project was to support new evidence-based policy and practices for at-risk youth. The City continues to advocate for support for the prevention and enforcement elements of the model. The goal is to disrupt the pathways to gang involvement and gang violence for identified populations at greater risk due to their neighbourhood, culture, gender or other risk factors.

DISCUSSION

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

SAFE is made up of 11 separate program interventions including the SAFE Centre which are detailed on a factsheet included as Appendix "I".

Implementation Update

All of the program elements for SAFE have been implemented to put in place the new services for children, youth and families in Surrey. Programs have begun service delivery in the community and over time the SAFE team will collect data to demonstrate the reach, impact and outcomes for all programs. This report provides an update on all 11 programs in Appendix "II" and provides detailed updates on City-led initiatives and oversight of SAFE.

1. Funding

A Contribution Agreement is in place with Public Safety Canada and the first funds were transferred to SAFE partners in the final quarter of the 2018/19 fiscal year. Funds for quarter one and two of 2019/20 are combined and next advances will be transferred to partners after they are received.

2. SAFE Program Leadership Group

A Program Leadership Group was established to oversee SAFE and provide policy direction and guidance for service delivery partners. The SAFE Program Leadership Group is made up of senior staff representatives of the City and the nine funded partner organizations and had its most recent meeting on June 21, 2019. Given the implementation of SAFE, future meetings will now occur quarterly.

Council Liaison

The Mayor has appointed Councillor Linda Annis to act as Council Liaison to the SAFE Program Leadership Group. The Council Liaison will participate in all meetings and provides a mechanism for direct input from Council to the SAFE Program.

3. SAFE Centre

The SAFE Centre is established in partnership with KPU at their City Centre campus. A lease agreement exists between KPU and the City to lease almost 10,000 square feet of multipurpose space on level nine of the campus. The SAFE Centre is operated by the Community Safety section of the Parks, Recreation & Culture Department which hosts all meetings related to the SAFE Program Leadership Group, the CHART and other program activities. The collaborative workspace available in the Centre has been promoted to SAFE partners as well as other City staff who work collaboratively with Community Safety. In the first few weeks of operation, several partner meetings and two full-day trainings supporting 35 professionals from CHART and the Surrey Mobilization and Resiliency

Table (“SMART”) have been facilitated in the Centre. Guidelines outlining priority users, available spaces in the Centre and how to book these spaces have been developed and circulated to internal and external partners.

4. CHART

This program offers a situation table to receive referrals for children, youth and their families and prioritise services for at-risk individuals. It is made up of the nine SAFE funded partners and five other social service and government agencies who deliver services to the target population. Other members include the Ministry of Children and Family Development (“MCFD”), the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction (“MSDPR”), Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit (“CFSEU-BC”), Fraser Health (Regional Youth Concurrent Disorders Program) and the Fraser Region Aboriginal Friendship Centre Association (“FRAFCA”).

CHART operates using a similar model to the SMART and is governed by a Privacy Impact Assessment. A Common or Integrated Program Agreement has been signed by each CHART member organization to manage the highly confidential information involved in the program delivery.

As of June 26, 2019, there have been 11 CHART meetings and 37 cases raised.

5. Evaluation

Managing program delivery and performance is a priority for the SAFE Program. An evaluation framework has been created and outlines the key performance measures for each of the SAFE Program elements and puts in place processes for the partners to track performance throughout the project life cycle. Public Safety Canada has reviewed and accepted the evaluation framework. Performance measure data is collected quarterly and rolled up into an annual report.

Research

The City of Surrey received \$122,000 in research funding from Public Safety Canada for a joint project with SFU researchers that uses existing data to suggest new approaches for community organizations to divert youth from gang involvement. This aspect of the project is called Altering Pathways to Youth Gang Involvement and Violence: Building a Foundation for Evidence-Based Policy. Researchers compiled data on gang-affiliated individuals in the justice system to assess their social networks and determine key risk factors and triggers for gang involvement. Through a series of workshops, research results were shared with over 100 practitioners representing over 30 cross-sectoral agencies operating in Surrey. Research was shared with the expressed goal of improving these agencies’ risk assessment capacity in order to enhance targeted interventions that disrupt youth pathways to gangs.

FUNDING

Funding for this project was for the 2018-2019 fiscal year and the project finalized upon submitting the final report to Public Safety Canada on June 20, 2019. Simultaneously, the City's Community Safety section created an executive summary of the fulsome 138-page report in order to underscore how this research applies to the current work being done by the SAFE Program. Currently, staff are awaiting Public Safety Canada's final approval on the altering pathways research report before circulating to 100+ practitioners. Once Public Safety Canada has conducted their review, the summary and full report will be circulated to professionals registered for one or more workshops in the series. With the consent of the researchers, each practitioner will be invited to set up individual meetings in order to explore how they may apply the research to their agency's programming and service delivery strategy. SAFE Partner, SFU will also be invited to attend and present on the report and its findings during a future Public Safety Committee Meeting.

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 Directions ("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;
- Health & Wellness DO5: Services and programs are responsive to shifting health and social needs, and local and external factors; and
- Health & Wellness SD1: Connect, facilitate and support people and organizations in innovative alliances for delivery of social, health and wellness programs.

CONCLUSION

The SAFE Program is an important initiative for the City that will directly address the gang violence across the region. With \$7.5M in funding over five years from the Government of Canada, the City and its partners are working collaboratively to deliver the new initiatives that have enhanced services to children, youth and families in Surrey at risk of gang involvement.

The Program is made up of 11 separate initiatives delivered by the City and its nine partners anchored in the SAFE Centre located in the City Centre. The Parks, Recreation and Culture Department will be providing regular updates to Council. Over time the SAFE program will have a measurable impact on gang violence in the community reducing the reach of gangs and creating a community where citizens are safe and engaged.



Laurie Cavan
General Manager,
Parks, Recreation & Culture

Appendix "I": SAFE Program Outline
Appendix "II": Update on SAFE Programs

SAFE Program Outline

SAFE

The Surrey Anti-Gang
Family Empowerment Program

SAFE is an evidence-based, multi-agency program designed to address and prevent youth gang violence.

SAFE programs will:

- address program gaps with innovative new services;
- build on effective existing programs;
- coordinate support for families across agencies; and
- evaluate programs for continuous improvement of services.

SAFE is supported by the Government of Canada in an innovative partnership with municipal government to deliver local solutions that meet the specific needs of our community.

PARTNERS

SAFE programs will be delivered in partnership with the following organisations:

- » City of Surrey
- » DIVERSEcity Community Resources Society
- » Kwantlen Polytechnic University (KPU)
- » Options Community Services Society
- » Pacific Community Resources Society (PCRS)
- » Progressive Intercultural Services Society (PICS)
- » Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP)
- » Simon Fraser University (SFU)
- » Solid State Community Society
- » Surrey Schools District 36

PROGRAMS

There are eleven programs within SAFE that will be delivered in the community:

- » SAFE Centre – Collaboration Hub
- » Children and Youth At-Risk Table (CHART)
- » Clinical Counselling
- » Clinical Counselling / Caregiver Education
- » Female Youth Gang Intervention Program
- » High Risk Youth Justice Program
- » Intercultural Family Intervention
- » Peer Leadership Program
- » South Asian Family Strengthening Team
- » Youth and Parent Outreach Team
- » Youth Hub and Social Enterprise

SAFE programs support children and youth to divert them from pathways to gang involvement. Family supports are also provided in target neighbourhoods to build resiliency against gang violence. Some programs deliver culturally appropriate support to groups at higher risk for involvement in Lower Mainland gangs.





SAFE CENTRE

The SAFE Centre is a partnership with Kwantlen Polytechnic University to establish a new collaborative hub. The new CHART group will operate from the SAFE Centre.

In addition to hosting CHART, the SAFE Centre will:

- » facilitate learning;
- » host workshops and community meetings; and
- » provide integration of service delivery.

The SAFE Centre will be located within the new Kwantlen Polytechnic University (KPU) campus in Civic Plaza in the City Centre.



CHILDREN AND YOUTH AT-RISK TABLE (CHART)

CHART will provide an integrated and collaborative mechanism for partners to work together to support children, youth, and families.

CHART will facilitate the process for partners to:

- » identify and assess needs;
- » develop case plans;
- » provide tailored interventions;
- » coordinate access to the referred programs; and
- » monitor progress for children and youth receiving support.

Collaboration • Interventions • Solutions

APPENDIX “II”

Update on SAFE Programs

Program Element	Lead Agency	Program Description	Program Update
SAFE Centre	City of Surrey	The centre is the physical location from which program partners will deliver services and coordinate delivery. It is a partnership with KPU and is located at the City Centre KPU Campus.	Since the SAFE centre opened in May, over 300 people have been to meetings, training and workshops at the Centre.
Children and Youth At-Risk Table (“CHART”)	City of Surrey	CHART is a weekly meeting of partners to receive referrals from partner agencies and provide necessary multi-agency coordinated support services to children, youth and their families. CHART is delivered from the SAFE Centre which hosts all meetings and program activities.	As of June 26, there has been 11 meetings of CHART with 37 referrals made to the table. CHART data was presented at the Program Leadership Group meeting on June 21, 2019
Clinical Counselling for At Risk Cultural Populations	Simon Fraser University	Services include risk assessment, case management, and consultation services to individual children, youth and families.	Counselling groups have been created that will be co-delivered by DIVERSEcity and SFU. They are working with individual youth and families and several CHART referrals have been made to this service for both individual youth and families. Data on number of cases addressed will be provided in the Q2 report.
SAFE Community Clinical Counselling	DIVERSEcity Community Resources Society	Provides multi-systemic therapeutic clinical counselling services for immigrant and refugee children, youth and families (with a focus on those from South Asian and Arabic countries).	
Caregiver Education/Clinical Counselling	School District No. 36	Includes bi-weekly workshops and supports using attachment theory to build healthy family relationships for at-risk children and youth with identified gang involvement or precursors to gang affiliation.	A new counselling group for South Asian mothers has been opened out of the Newton Recreation Centre facilitated by a Punjabi speaking wellness specialist. Participants are hand selected based on level of need assessed by the School District’s work with their children. Data on number of cases addressed will be provided in the Q2 report.

Female Youth Gang Intervention Team	Pacific Community Resources Society	The project added a specialized female gang intervention worker to an existing youth sexual exploitation program that focuses on young girls, ages 12-19, who are currently involved in the sex trade and gangs or who are at risk of gang involvement.	PCRS is delivering Healthy Relationships Workshop for young females. A hip-hop drop-in program has been implemented facilitated by the Female Gang Intervention worker for young girls who are at risk of, or are currently, being sexually exploited either through the gang lifestyle or street level. Two girls have been identified through the Stop Exploiting Youth program and two others have been accepted into the program. The caseload continues to grow. Data on number of cases addressed will be provided in the Q2 report.
High Risk Youth Justice Program	Options Community Services Society	The program provides life skills training and support to children and youth, in and out of school time (including evenings). Services include mentorship, education programs and monitoring services for youth on probation or required to deliver community service hours.	Options is working with youth and families to create goals for positive lifestyles. The youth involved have been engaged individually and with their families. One-on-one support has been offered as well as group life skills workshops. Data on number of cases addressed will be provided in the Q2 report.
Intercultural Family Intervention	Progressive Intercultural Services Society	Outreach workers receive referrals and proactively undertake outreach to children, youth and families with high risk factors for gang involvement living primarily in the Newton area and from immigrant and refugee backgrounds.	The youth counsellor from PICS has been working with youth and collaborating with DIVERSEcity and PCRS closely to deliver supports to the South Asian and other target communities. Data on number of cases addressed will be provided in the Q2 report.
Peer Leadership Program	School District 36	Led by the school district this program provides leadership opportunities for alumni of at-risk youth programs to mentor and build life skills for middle years youth in target communities with defined vulnerabilities.	The Peer Leadership program is engaging WRAParound program students who are graduating school in 2019. The program is ramping up for summer, engaging these youth in the School District summer programs. Data on number of cases addressed will be provided in the Q2 report.
South Asian Family	Options Community	The project provides social workers from immigrant backgrounds to support parents of at-risk and gang	The program is currently connected with six South Asian Families whose youth are at risk for gang involvement.

Strengthening Team	Services Society	involved youth in the Newton area, with a focus on immigrant and refugee families.	Data on number of cases addressed will be provided in the Q2 report.
Family and Youth Resource Support Team ("FYRST")	Surrey RCMP	Intervenes with youth, aged 9-13, exhibiting early risk factors for crime and gang involvement, and includes outreach to the youths' families. FYRST includes specialist youth outreach workers and be led by Surrey RCMP.	This program officially launched July 2 2019. The Youth Outreach Counsellor has received enhanced security clearance and Cst. Mike Della-Paolera is the member assigned to the program. FYRST is already working with youth in their program. They have also planned to work with WRAParound program youth over the summer. Data on number of cases addressed will be provided in the Q2 report.
Youth Hub for Co-operative Enterprise	Solid State Community Society	The Youth Hub focuses on immigrant and refugee children and youth and provides access for at-risk individuals to build life and employment skills and create social enterprises.	The program has received great interest from students and new mentors recently allowing it to expand at a greater rate than expected. Over the summer, SSI intends to secure a new location where the work will take place. Data on number of cases addressed will be provided in the Q2 report.