

Present:

Councillor Stutt, Chair
Councillor Kooner, Vice Chair
P. McEvoy
P. Richards
R. Rai

Absent:**Staff Present:**

T. Waterhouse, General Manager, Community Services
P. Sanderson, Manager, Strategic Planning & Responses
T. Ahmad, Senior Policy and Program Lead, Community Services
B. Aasebo, Community Safety Manager, Community Services
H. Mushiana, Gang Prevention Lead, Community Services
L. Thomas, Fire Chief, Surrey Fire Services
A. Murphy, Acting Manager, Housing and Social Development
S. Lee, Administrative Assistant
J. Sung, Administrative Assistant

Guests:

E. Semple, Registered Social Worker, Dan's Legacy Foundation
K. Chow, Registered Social Worker, Dan's Legacy Foundation

A. ADOPTIONS**1. Adoption of the Agenda**

It was Moved by P. McEvoy
Seconded by P. Richards
That the agenda of the Public Safety Committee
meeting of October 25, 2023 be adopted.
Carried

2. Adoption of the Minutes – June 28, 2023

It was Moved by Councillor Kooner
Seconded by R. Rai
That the minutes of the Public Safety Committee
meeting held on June 28, 2023 be adopted.
Carried

B. STAFF PRESENTATIONS**1. Manager, Strategic Planning and Responses, and Senior Policy and Program Lead, Strategic Planning and Responses Division, City of Surrey**

Staff provided an update and overview of the planning to develop the Integrated Community Safety and Wellbeing (ICSWB) Strategy requested by the Public Safety Committee. The following information was highlighted:

- The evolution of the program began in 2010 with the Crime Reduction Strategy that focused on crime prevention, enforcement, and intervention with repeat offenders.

This was followed by the 2017 Public Safety Strategy which broadened the scope to include the community and focused on children, families, community connections, safe spaces, and support for the vulnerable. The City then created Mayor's Task Force on Gang Violence which provided recommendations for preventing and disrupting gangs in Surrey. The Surrey Anti-Gang Family Empowerment (SAFE) program emerged out of that work. The Community Services Department aims to revitalize ICSWB Strategy with efforts by the entire department and the City.

- The Community Safety and Wellbeing Strategy is being formed by learning from successful community safety programs globally. In Canada, Toronto and Edmonton have the most developed programs. Community safety and wellbeing is defined in three parts by physical safety, cultural safety, and psychological safety. Policy and terminology have shifted from a public safety lens to community safety and wellbeing. The shift results in a more holistic approach to individual and community safety and wellbeing, including a focus on anti-racism and systemic issues, such as addressing Indigenous reconciliation. Locally, the shift has also been influenced by decriminalization of small amounts of drugs for personal use, and by the toxic drug poisoning crisis.
- Staff concluded the presentation by discussing the roadmap for the ICSWB Strategy. Community Services Department mandate is now integrated across the divisions to create a unified approach and align goals. The department aims to bring all the stakeholders together to show their work and obtain support for their programs. Currently the ICSWB Strategy is obtaining input from committees and communities to prepare a strategy report on engagement. This will lead to a draft strategy being brought before the committee. The report will then be reviewed by Council and once endorsed, the strategy will launch with events and activities. The Public Safety Committee will receive a progress report on measures and plan for ongoing monitoring at a future meeting.

In response to questions from the Committee, staff provided the following information:

- Bad news gets more exposure than good news, which makes past narratives about gang violence prominent despite decreasing incidence of violence. The perception of safety is what affects the public view, and one of the main goals of the ICSWB Strategy is to help build that perception. The planned community engagement will raise awareness of the services available and to provide factual statistics to inform communities.
- Staff will visit Toronto this year to study their SafeTO Program. One focus will be to investigate the impact of school-based officers on student safety or youth violence.
- To respond to mental health issues within the community, the Community Engagement Plan is designed to allow people to provide their perspective in a safe environment using a trauma-informed approach. The engagement will include public open house events and interact with special focus groups, street entrenched residents, and affected groups. ICSWB Strategy will engage both communities and frontline workers to gather feedback on existing programs and insights into future needs.

- Staff will advocate with senior levels of government and partners based on the Public Safety Committee review of the ICSWB public engagement report.

The Committee noted the following comments:

- ICSWB Strategy will use other jurisdiction models as reference to adapt to police and non-police response services in Surrey. There are now more non-police response and outreach teams to respond to a mental health crisis. The goal of the integrated approach is to improve the effectiveness of programs.
- It was suggested that this Committee and the Livability and Social Equity Committee occasionally have meetings together to collaborate on identifying and addressing issues related to safety and wellbeing.
- It was suggested that the Committee share their input with staff as needed and not only during monthly formal meetings. All projects should have a measurability to them which will allow the Committee to assess their effectiveness.

2. Harmeet Mushiana, Gang Prevention Lead, City of Surrey, and Eugene Semple, Registered Social Worker, Dan's Legacy Foundation

Staff and partner organization representative provided an overview of the Surrey Youth Resiliency Program (SYRP) which has been funded under the Building Safer Communities Fund for four years and was launched in 2023. The following information was highlighted:

- The SAFE Centre in Surrey houses the Community Safety Division and all its subsidiary programs. It is used for program partner collaboration, event functions, research, evaluation of programs, and informing grant applications. The SAFE program model funded by Public Safety Canada has been emulated via the launch of the federal Building Safer Communities Fund (BSCF), that allows similar programs to be built in other Canadian municipalities. Surrey is eligible for nearly \$4 million over four years to implement new prevention programs. SYRP represents a suite of eight new such programs for Surrey residents that started development in Fall 2022.
- SYRP programming was developed in alignment with BSCF objectives and a need to address four key service gaps identified through available data regarding the changing needs of the Surrey community. Specifically, there is a need for additional trauma counselling, mentorship, pro-social after school program for middle years, and additional culturally appropriate services. SYRP developed a comprehensive trauma-informed framework that provides tools to ensure program delivery aligns with trauma-informed practice principles.

- SYRP's proposed programming received approval from Public Safety Canada in May 2023. There are currently eight partners providing eight programs across Surrey with diverse service professionals. Two SYRP programs were highlighted for this presentation: Yo Bro Yo Girl Youth Initiative's "Yo4Youth" pro-social after school program for 9 to 15 year-olds and Pacific Community Resources Society's "Club Utopia" which provides individual, family, and group counselling for South Asian female youth and their caregivers. SYRP provides services beyond what is outlined in the federal contribution agreement such as weekly commitment to the Children and Youth At-Risk Table (CHART) meetings, enhancing collaboration and partnerships, and increasing capacity beyond SYRP funded program.
- Dan's Legacy is a partner that was able to expand clinical counselling capacity through SYRP. As an organization, they provide effective counselling, community resource connections, and develop career skills for youth aged 15 to 25 who have experienced trauma and face a higher likelihood of mental health issues, substance use, financial difficulties, and homelessness. However, clinical counsellors required space to work in. Because Dan's Legacy is a SYRP partner, in kind counselling space has been coordinated in three new locations: SAFE Centre, Cloverdale Recreation Centre, and Black Arts Centre. Their programs include 1-1 outreach services, food hamper program, cooking program, fitness program, and medium to long-term trauma counselling and mental health interventions.

In response to questions from the Committee, staff provided the following information:

- Dan's Legacy can meet clients even if there is no office space available, making the program more mobile.
- CHART is a weekly meeting of all partners where they receive referrals. The meeting allows participants to analyze the referral types and frequency, which can mobilize outreach staff to be responsive to needs in specific communities as needed.

C. NEW BUSINESS

1. 2024 Committee Meeting Schedule

The Committee was requested to review the proposed 2024 meeting schedule. Meetings are proposed to be held in person on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. No meetings are scheduled for March, July, August, and December.

It was

Moved by P. McEvoy

Seconded by P. Richards

That the Public Safety Committee adopted

the 2024 meeting schedule as presented.

Carried

D. OTHER BUSINESS

This section had no items to consider.

E. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Public Safety Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, November 22, 2023.

F. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by P. Richards

Seconded by Councillor Kooner

That the Public Safety Committee meeting

be adjourned.

Carried

The Public Safety Committee adjourned at 6:54 p.m.

Jennifer Ficocelli, City Clerk

Councillor Stutt, Chairperson