



STRATFORD POLICE SERVICE

BOARD POLICY

Issued: January 15, 2025

Revised:

Expires: Indefinite

Rescinds:

CP-001SPSB-001 Community Safety and Well-Being

Community Safety and Well-Being:

The Ministry of the Solicitor General has been working with multi-sectoral government partners and local community and policing partners to develop the Provincial Approach to Community Safety and Well-Being.

This work began in 2009 with a partnership between the Ministry and the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police (OACP) – together, these two groups initiated the development of a provincial response to crime and victimization.

A new legislative requirement came into force on January 1, 2019, and municipalities had until January 1, 2021, to prepare and adopt a plan. The current *Community Safety and Policing Act (CSPA)* mandates every municipal council to prepare and adopt a Community Safety and Well-Being Plan (CSWB). Under the legislation [s. 248(1)], the responsibility to prepare and adopt a CSWB applies to:

- a) Single-tier municipalities;
- b) Lower-tier municipalities in the County of Oxford and in counties; and
- c) regional municipalities, other than the County of Oxford.

Municipalities have the discretion and flexibility to develop joint plans with surrounding municipalities or First Nation communities [s. 248(2)], although First Nation band councils are not required to engage in Community Safety and Well-Being Planning by legislation.

Given their close proximity within the centre of Southwestern Ontario and their shared services and supports, the City of Stratford, Town of St. Marys, Municipality of North Perth, Municipality of West Perth, Township of Perth East, and Township of Perth South, have opted to create a joint Plan, that will help them respond to the unique needs of the area.

The Ontario Community Safety and Well-Being Plan provides a guide for partners to communicate, collaborate and coordinate interventions and initiative aimed at reducing risks and improving safety and well-being for residents. The CSWB Plan provides a roadmap for the six partner municipalities to work together to support a more inclusive, connected and coordinated approach to safety and well-being. It presents a model collaboration, planning and action that helps determine how we respond to current and emerging issues in our communities. The framework identifies the four levels of intervention that must be included in each plan to ensure it is efficient and effective as possible in making communities safer and healthier,

- a) Social Development;
- b) Prevention;
- c) Risk Intervention; and
- d) Incident Response.

The development of the Plan was guided by an Advisory Committee that included 24 representatives from Stratford, St. Marys, and Perth County. Key priorities were identified based on survey responses, engagement with service providers, and people with lived experience. They are listed below by level of importance beginning with the most important:

- a) Adequate, affordable and attainable housing;
- b) Mental health and addictions supports;
- c) Poverty
- d) Systems planning and integration;
- e) Access to health, social/community and recreational services;
- f) Affordable and accessible transportation;
- g) Social isolation;
- h) Community belonging; and
- i) Community safety.

To ensure an integrated approach to community safety and well-being promotion, proactive risk prevention, risk intervention and incident response occurrences, the implementation of the CSWB Plan will be led by a Partnership Council.

The goals of the Partnership Council are to:

- a) Implement the Community Safety and Well-being Plan;
- b) Build supportive systems that identify effective linkages to relevant programs and services; and
- c) Enhance coordination across municipalities and service providers.

It is the policy of the Stratford Police Service Board (the Board) with respect to Community Safety and Well-Being that:

- a) As a legislative requirement, a member of the Board will participate as an Advisory Committee member to undertake the Community Safety and Well-being planning and the subsequent implementation of a Community Safety and Well-being plan; and
- b) As a legislative requirement, the Chief of Police or designate will participate as an Advisory Committee member to undertake the Community Safety and Well-being planning and the subsequent implementation of a Community Safety and Well-being plan.

"Steve Cousins"

Chair

Approved January 15, 2025

Date