

The Regional Municipality of York

Committee of the Whole
Community and Health Services
May 5, 2022

Report of the Commissioner of Community and Health Services

Community Safety and Well-Being Plan for York Region

1. Recommendations

1. Council approve the Community Safety and Well-Being Plan for York Region (Attachment 1).
2. Council direct Commissioner of Community and Health Services to submit the Community Safety and Well-Being Plan for York Region to the Ministry of the Solicitor General in accordance with requirements set out under the *Police Services Act, 1990*.
3. The Regional Clerk circulate this report to Clerks of local municipalities, York Regional Police Services Board and Human Services Planning Board of York Region.

2. Summary

Under the *Police Services Act, 1990*, the Region is required to develop a Community Safety and Well-being Plan (Plan). The proposed Plan is attached for Council approval.

- The Province requires plans identify and assess risks to community safety and well-being, and include strategies to reduce priority risks
- To develop the Plan, the Region engaged with residents and collaborated with community partners, including the Human Services Planning Board of York Region, York Regional Police, local municipalities, school boards and service providers
- The Plan's goal is to enhance safety and well-being through proactive, targeted, community-driven actions
- The Plan focuses on communities that can benefit the most, leverages and enhances community assets, and strengthens local capacity to drive change
- The Human Services Planning Board of York Region, approved by Council as the Advisory Committee to the Plan, as required under the *Police Services Act, 1990*, supports approval of the Plan

3. Background

Preparation and adoption of a Community Safety and Well-Being Plan is required under the *Police Services Act, 1990*

A Community Safety and Well-Being Plan is a long-term tool to enhance safety by focusing on social development and preventative actions to improve well-being. In preparing Plans, the Province requires municipalities to consult with an Advisory Committee and members of the public to develop a plan and has published a planning framework to guide municipalities in this process (see pages 8 to 9 of the Plan for details). In [June 2018](#) Council designated the [Human Services Planning Board of York Region](#) as the Advisory Committee for the Plan.

Council direction informed preparation of the Plan, including taking a place-based approach, prioritizing risks and establishing Community Action Tables

Development of the Plan has been underway for several years, including during—and leveraging lessons learned from—the COVID-19 pandemic. The following outlines key components and phases of the process to prepare the Plan.

1. **Using data to inform planning:** Data, such as the [Ontario Marginalization Index](#), showed that while only 4% of York Region census tracts scored in the highest level of marginalization, there are areas that could benefit from more support.
2. **Adopting a place-based approach:** In [November 2019](#) Council approved a place-based approach. Based on data and supported by consultations, northern Georgina, central Newmarket, south-central Richmond Hill and south-central Markham were identified in [June 2020](#) as “focus areas” for the first iteration of the Plan.
3. **Engaging and listening to the community:** Over 700 stakeholders, including residents and community agencies, were engaged. A clear and consistent feedback was that solutions are more effective when developed by and alongside communities.
4. **Identifying priority risks for action:** Data and consultations identified mental well-being, housing stability and economic stability as priorities for the focus areas.
5. **Establishing Community Action Tables to develop action plans and drive change:** In [May 2021](#) Council approved Community Action Tables for each focus area to develop possible solutions to address the top risks in their community. Community Action Tables were established in Fall 2021 and have engaged with residents, service providers and other partners to develop local action plans, attached as appendices to the proposed Community Safety and Well-Being Plan.

See pages 12 to 26 of the Plan for more information on the process used to develop the Plan.

4. Analysis

Six key objectives underpin the Plan and set strategic direction for how the Region will work with communities to enhance safety and well-being

Table 1

Community Safety and Well-Being Plan Strategic Objectives

Objective	Key Components
1. Bringing partners together and strengthening community capacity	Community Action Tables will be supported to design, develop and deliver local actions through their Community Action Plans
2. Leveraging strengths, and bridging gaps where they exist	Existing plans and programs will be leveraged, and if needed strengthened, to address risks and improve service alignment and navigation
3. Targeting efforts to communities that can benefit most	Place-based actions will be advanced in the focus areas; data and consultations will inform possible future areas of focus
4. Focusing on top opportunities for action, and prioritizing preventative initiatives	Actions will take a preventative approach, and will focus on priority risks of mental well-being, housing stability and economic stability
5. Setting up for success by mobilizing resources and collaborating to drive change	The Region, with partners, will align resources, pursue funding and advocate to senior levels of government for required policy change
6. Delivering the Plan and building on success	The Region, with partners, will implement and evaluate the Plan while providing strategic direction and oversight

See pages 28 to 41 of the Plan for more information on the strategic objectives and actions.

To implement the Plan, the Region will build on momentum established, partnerships forged and lessons learned over the past few years, and will look to scale up successes to maximize impact

The Region will play a stewardship role, working with partners including York Regional Police, local municipalities, and agencies and residents on Community Action Tables (see pages 40 to 43 of the Plan for more information on implementation). Regional staff will track progress and engage with York Regional Council and the Human Services Planning Board of York Region as the Plan is implemented. Refresh of the Plan will be informed by provincial regulations, when released.

The Plan aligns with Council’s [Vision](#) of strong, safe, caring communities and York Region’s 2019 to 2023 Strategic Plan: From Vision to Results

It is a key activity referenced in [York Region’s 2019 to 2023 Strategic Plan: From Vision to Results](#): “develop a community safety and well-being plan to enhance collaboration, engagement and outreach with our community and policing partners.”

5. Financial

No dedicated provincial funding to support Community Safety and Well-being Plans has been identified or committed. However, to support implementation of the Plan for York Region, proactive steps and partnerships have been, or will be, established.

Through the 2021 and 2022 budget processes, Council approved three staff resources (\$440,952 in total salary and benefits funded through tax levy) to support the development and implementation of the Plan. Council-approved changes to the Region’s [Community Investment Fund](#) (100% tax levy-funded) made the program more flexible and nimble, further enabling it to serve as a possible source of funding to support initiatives under the Plan. The Region has also partnered with United Way Greater Toronto to flow up to \$140,000 in United Way Quick Action Grants until March 2023 for smaller-scale community projects, and with York Regional Police to explore access to policing grants. A Funders Table will be established by the Region to mobilize resources for Community Action Table initiatives and other activities.

The Region will continue to pursue opportunities through senior levels of government to obtain additional funding to support Plan initiatives. Any additional resources that may be needed will be identified as part of future budget processes.

6. Local Impact

Local municipal staff have provided valuable support and insight into the development of the Plan and will be key partners in implementation. The Plan’s place-based approach further enables planning and action to be focused where they are needed most. As the Plan evolves, there will be opportunities to scale up successful initiatives to other areas.

7. Conclusion

The Plan provides a foundation for proactive, locally-driven actions that respond to the unique and evolving needs of York Region communities. Taking a place-based and collaborative approach provides an opportunity to build on the strengths of diverse communities, leverage Regional and local municipal initiatives, and develop targeted strategies that reflect community needs and address specific service gaps. The Plan provides opportunities to learn from initiatives and scale up successes, to help create strong, caring, safe communities across all of York Region.

For more information on this report, please contact Joseph Silva, Director, Strategies and Partnerships Branch at 1-877-464-9675 ext. 77201. Accessible formats or communication supports are available upon request.



Recommended by:

Katherine Chislett
Commissioner of Community and Health Services



Approved for Submission:

Bruce Macgregor
Chief Administrative Officer

April 14, 2022
Attachment (1)
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