



**City of Kingston
Information Report to Council
Report Number 16-048**

To: Mayor and Members of Council
From: Lanie Hurdle, Commissioner, Community Services
Resource Staff: Sheldon Laidman, Director, Housing & Social Services
Date of Meeting: January 12 , 2015
Subject: Kingston, Frontenac, Lennox & Addington Community Risk Watch Partnership

Executive Summary:

In late 2015, City of Kingston staff joined the Kingston, Frontenac, Lennox & Addington (KFL&A) collaborative risk-driven community safety and wellness partnership model (Community Risk Watch Partnership) which has been initiated by Kingston Police through grant proceeds.

The purpose of the Community Risk Watch Partnership is to improve the lives of individuals experiencing acutely elevated levels of risk and find greater efficiencies by applying a risk mitigation approach to human service delivery in the community. The intent is to better align the resources and delivery mechanisms of social, health, government and policing services to support a positive and successful integration of individuals at risk within the community. The Community Risk Watch partnership will develop and implement a community safety and well-being plan.

This collaborative model has been implemented in other Ontario communities and is supported by the Ontario Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services. Community partners play a critical role in the development and implementation of this initiative within their respective communities. The objectives of this partnership are in line with City services primarily Housing & Social Services and Recreation & Leisure Services.

Various agencies including Addiction & Mental Health Services KFL&A, Algonquin and Lakeshore Catholic School Board, Limestone District School Board, KFL&A Family, Children's Services and other surrounding police services have joined the City of Kingston and Kingston Police services in this partnership. Training and development of a communication strategy will occur in January 2016 culminating in the formal launch of this initiative in February 2016.

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Recommendation:

This report is for information purpose only.

Authorizing Signatures:

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY COMMISSIONER

Lanie Hurdle, Commissioner, Community Services

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Gerard Hunt, Chief Administrative Officer

Consultation with the following Members of the Corporate Management Team:

Cynthia Beach, Corporate & Strategic Initiatives	Not required
Denis Leger, Transportation, Facilities & Emergency Services	Not required
Jim Keech, President and CEO, Utilities Kingston	Not required
Desiree Kennedy, Chief Financial Officer & City Treasurer	Not required

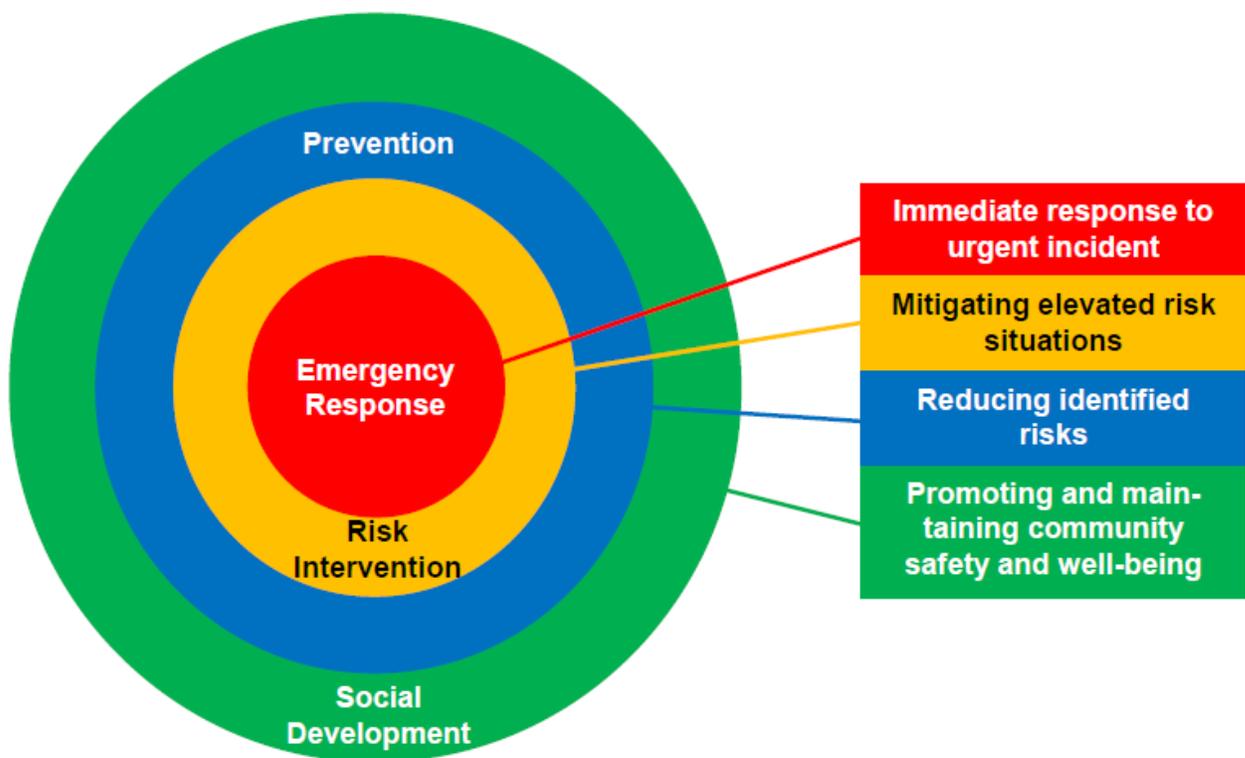
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Options/Discussion:

In 2013, police services of a number of municipalities in Ontario formed the “Ontario Working Group” which shared best practices and lessons learned to mitigate elevated risk of harm or victimization within their jurisdictions. This Working Group received the support of the Ontario Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services, which was leading the province in related discussions on the concept of community safety planning for municipalities in Ontario. The Ontario Working Group expanded and received support from the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police (OACP) by becoming a sub-committee of the AACP’s Community Safety and Crime Prevention standing committee.

This sub-committee produced a Framework for Planning Community Safety and Well-being. This Framework encourages municipalities to plan for community safety and well-being at four levels of intervention: social development, prevention, risk intervention and emergency response. The graph below depicts the four levels of intervention within the Framework.



The goals of planning for community safety and well-being are to reduce harm and victimization for the community and to reduce the demand for, and costs of emergency response. The development and implementation of a community safety and well-being plan requires collaboration and information sharing from a number of agencies within the community. A number of municipalities in Ontario have now developed a community safety and well-being plan which is primarily led by the local police services.

Community Services staff joined the Community Risk Watch Partnership in Kingston in late 2015 to start working on the development and implementation of a local community safety and

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well-being plan. The local partnership covers the area of Kingston, Frontenac, Lennox & Addington. Housing & Social Services have been the lead community services from the City involved so far due to their regular interaction with a number of vulnerable individuals within the community and their role in coordinating homeless and housing service agencies. It is anticipated that Recreation & Leisure Services may also play a role in the development and implementation of the community safety and well-being plan, especially through projects such as the Rideau Heights community hub. Many other community social services agencies have also committed to the KFL&A Community Risk Watch Partnership which will aim at proactively reducing risk and harm/victimization of the most vulnerable population in Kingston.

The Community Risk Watch Partnership will have to establish priority risk factors and focus actions to reduce those risks and protect the vulnerable groups from them. The Community Risk watch partnership will have a governance model that includes an Executive Committee which provides strategic direction; a Working Group which develops and implements policies, terms of references and training; and a Situation Table which meets more frequently and makes concrete intervention plans for high risk situations in the community.

The Situation Table will allow for agencies and organizations to identify at risk individuals and families who would benefit from a multi-agency intervention. The intent of the intervention is to reduce demand on all parts of the system by focusing on risk factors and ensuring the rapid mobilization of resources and service connections. This type of intensive and collaborative approach has been shown to be highly effective in reducing incidents that lead to harm, social disorder, victimization, and crime. Based upon data and experience from other similarly sized municipalities, it can be anticipated that the Kingston Situation Table would develop interventions for approximately 250-300 households per year.

Additional information will be provided to Council as the community safety and well-being plan is developed.

Notice Provisions:

Not applicable

Accessibility Considerations:

Not applicable

Financial Considerations:

Not applicable

Contacts:

Lanie Hurdle, Commissioner, Community Services 613-546-4291 extension 1231

Other City of Kingston Staff Consulted:

Luke Follwell, Director, Recreation & Leisure Services

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Others Consulted

Antje McNeely, Deputy Chief, Kingston Police

Exhibits Attached:

Not applicable