

# Community Safety and Well-Being Plan

## Background Report



# Lambton County's Community Safety and Well-Being Plan

People and organizations are working together to tackle family violence, mental health and addictions, and systemic discrimination

**Together, we'll make a difference**

Residents in Lambton County struggle to thrive due to family violence, mental health and addictions issues and systemic discrimination. Over the next 4 years, Lambton County's Community Safety and Well-Being Plan (2022-2025) will help us address these challenges collectively.

This plan, with its focus on community support that promotes equity, inclusion and health and wellness, can be transformational for our community. At its foundation, the plan will work to build a culture of fairness, equity, and access to opportunity where individuals and families are able to meet their needs for education, health care, food, housing, income and social and cultural expression.

## Expectations of Local Community Safety and Well-Being Plans

In accordance with Provincial legislation through the Ministry of the Solicitor General, as part of the [Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019](#) and the [Safer Ontario Act \(2018\)](#), municipalities are required to develop and adopt a Community Safety and Well-Being Plan (CSWB). The legislation specifies working in partnership with a multi-sectoral advisory committee comprised of representation from the police service board and other local service providers in health/mental health, education, community social services and children/youth services.

## About the Plan

[Lambton County's CSWB Plan](#) provides a road map for how partners can work collaboratively across different sectors toward a shared commitment of making Lambton a safer, more inclusive and connected community where all residents thrive. The plan provides an opportunity to take collective action and break down silos with a shared commitment towards equity and advancing well-being and safety.

The plan is guided by the [Ministry of the Solicitor General's Community Safety and Well-being Planning Framework](#), which defines community safety and well-being as the ideal state of a sustainable community where everyone is safe, has a sense of belonging, opportunities to participate, and where individuals and families are able to meet their needs for education, health care, food, housing, income, and social and cultural expression.

Over 25 organizations, representing emergency services, education, health and social service providers and governments, came together to develop the plan.

## Working Together

While Lambton County Council was responsible for preparing and adopting the Plan, the Plan was developed, with, by and for the community. Over 1,150 Lambton County residents and 25 stakeholders were consulted through community consultations in 2020 and 2021. Their input helped clarify the top five priorities for Lambton County.

## TIMELINE

### 2020

County Council decides on one CSWB plan

Oversight and Advisory Committees established

### March 2021

Community wide survey launched ( available in English and French)

Data Report developed

### April 2021

Advisory Committee identified CSWB priorities

### May 2021

Priorities confirmed

### June 2021

Priority population survey launched

### Dec 2021

Priority working groups confirm details of strategy

### June 2022

CSWB Plan adopted by Lambton County Council

Plan submitted to Ministry

Partners in government, health, social, policing and justice services, recognized early on the need to work together and focus both on prevention and intervention in a balance approach.

## Guiding Community Work

Identified initiatives and strategies, which align with community safety and well-being planning, have provided Lambton's CSWB Plan with predetermined actions based on current and future needs, best practices and insights from our community. From the large number of plans and strategies identified in the Asset Map section of the Data Report, the following were specifically used in identifying the priorities and the specifics for each priority, such as indicators:

- [Canadian Community Health Survey \(2017-2018\);](#)
- [Lambton County Emergency Response Plan \(2019\);](#)
- [Housing & Homelessness Plan \(2020-2024\);](#)
- Lambton County Drug & Alcohol Strategy (Draft Version)
- [Lambton Detachment OPP Action Plan \(2020-2022\);](#)
- [Mental Health Profile, Lambton County \(2018\);](#)
- [Ontario Health Team Full Application Submission - "Innovating Together for Better Health\\*";](#)
- [Petrolia Community Well-Being Master Plan \(2018\);](#)
- [Sarnia Police Service Business Plan \(2020-2022\)](#)

\* In November 2020, the provincial government approved the Sarnia-Lambton Ontario Health Team as an official Ontario Health Team.

It is important to note that this is not an exhaustive list of initiatives and strategies related to the identified five priorities; other plans and community initiatives that support community safety and well-being will be identified to support future iterations of the plan.

## Stakeholder Collaboration

Stakeholder conversations gathered input from organizations, coalitions and other entities with connections to diverse groups within the community and supported the identification of leadership roles for future CSWB Plan actions.

To provide guidance and oversight to the development of the plan, an Oversight Committee including community organizations, local municipalities, and police were accountable to County Council to ensure the Ministry requirements were met and made the decisions regarding the components of the CSWB Plan.

The larger Advisory Committee, consisting of 16 community partners, was created to represent the broader community sectors required through the Ministry of the Solicitor General for this CSWB planning process.

## Community Consultation

Ensuring the community's voice and experiences are reflected in the plan was a priority.

Opportunities for discussion, engagement and learning were a crucial component to the development of the CSWB Plan. The engagement process provided an opportunity for the community to ensure that the plan focuses on identified priorities of Lambton County residents.

A large amount of community feedback was obtained:

- 802 Lambton County residents completed an online survey in March 2021;
- 275 individuals with lived/living experience shared their stories through a priority survey. The stories were insightful, passionate and profound;
- 5 working groups were established to assist in identifying gaps in the community and identified effective strategies and initiatives that would enhance the safety and well-being of Lambton County; and

Access the following resources:

- [Lambton County Community Safety and Well-Being Survey](#)
- [Priority Population Survey for Community Safety and Well-Being Plan](#)
- Both the [Priority Population Report](#) and the [Community Safety & Well-Being Data Report](#) serve as a summary report of data accumulated regarding the plan and was developed with the intention to be used by the project's Advisory Committee as they worked to establish Lambton County's recommended priorities.

## Focus Areas

Lambton County's CSWB Plan consists of strategies and actions that fall within the four levels of intervention identified in the Ministry framework while focusing our efforts on social development and prevention. While the plan recognizes there are many topics that impact community safety and well-being, 5 priority areas of focus have been identified locally:

- **Community Safety;**
- **Housing and Homelessness;**
- **Mental Health and Addictions;**
- **Poverty; and**
- **Systemic Racism**

For each priority, a corresponding working group was formed to identify established community strategies and initiatives that will continue to support each priority area, determine specific outcomes and indicators to measure the success of the Plan and to identify new initiatives that ensure Lambton County maintains high levels of safety and enhances the well-being of residents and communities.

Throughout the 3-year course of the plan and in future iterations, the CSWB Plan will continue to be responsive to emerging needs in Lambton County and will create ongoing opportunities for community engagement and involvement.

## Priority 1: Community Safety

Desired Outcomes:

- Reduction and prevention of harm and victimization (violent crime, property crime, illicit drugs);
- Improve the transition process between police and hospital staff;
- Maximization of Mental Health Engagement and Response Team resources; and
- Enhance the delivery of service to and interaction with the public.

### Strategies to Support Community Safety:

- Continue to utilize and support the Sarnia Police and OPP's Mobile Crisis Response efforts for mental health related calls for service;
- Continued use of residential and business assessments, particularly within rural communities as a proven strategy for reducing property related crime and victimization;
- Continue to offer fraud prevention initiatives, for residents and vulnerable populations (such as seniors);
- Continue to provide educational sessions with vulnerable persons and groups relating to cyber and financial crime;
- Increase officer training and exposure through CMHA and mental health nurses assigned to patrol with officers;
- Continued use of crime prevention strategies such as "Lock it or Lose it"; and
- Share information with the community regarding relevant incidents to both raise awareness and assist in solving crime.

## Priority 2: Housing and Homelessness

### Desired Outcomes:

- Increase and sustain supply and appropriate mix of affordable housing;
- Increase supports that meet people's needs to achieve housing stability; and
- Eradicate homelessness

### Strategies to Support Housing and Homelessness:

As this plan is all encompassing for housing and homelessness initiatives, it was identified that two of the four housing and homelessness goals will be incorporated into the CSWB Plan. The Community Safety and Well-Being Plan will work alongside the existing Housing and Homelessness Plan and will aim to address any gaps that are not already considered. As such, the Housing and Homelessness Priority will not include specific goals, strategic objectives or outcomes but rather will support those of existing initiatives.

## Priority 3: Mental Health and Addictions

### Desired Outcomes:

- Increase mental well-being through greater social connections and meaningful involvement;
- Enhance community and organizational capacity for mental health promotion and substance use prevention action;
- Reduce the stigma of problematic substance use and addictions;
- Increase access to problematic substance use and addiction services; and
- Coordinate intake and referral pathways and care delivery amongst community agencies, health care and the community policing and enforcement sector.

### Strategies to Support Mental Health and Addictions:

- Lambton OPP and Sarnia Police will continue to provide mental health screening to assist officers responding to people experiencing a mental health crisis and support interactions with Mental Health professionals;
- Continue to advocate for withdrawal management programs and facilities;
- Continue to see community partners work together to implement the Working Together for Kids Mental Health Strategy to support better outcomes for children and youth with mental health needs;
- Identify opportunities to support the development of ACCESS Open Minds Sarnia-Lambton, mental health and addictions youth space for youth 11 to 25 years old and their families who are seeking fast access to education, assessments, counseling and treatment; and
- Lambton County's Drug and Alcohol Strategy, currently in draft version, will lead community efforts according to the three identified pillars: Harm Reduction and Treatment, Demand Reduction and Supply Reduction. Many existing initiatives fall within these pillars that are focused on the strategic priorities of:
  - Communities that are safe, resilient and support healthy choices.
  - People who are compassionate and trauma informed.
  - Services that work for everyone.

## Priority 4: Poverty

### Desired Outcomes:

- Reduce the number of individuals and families living in poverty; and
- Increase food security for all those in Lambton County.

### Strategies to Support Poverty:

- Identify information sharing opportunities regarding community resources and support available to those in need, for example since the start of COVID-19, an ongoing community resource has been developed highlighting categories of services for Basic Needs (Income, Shelter and Food), Food Banks, Transportation, Safety & Security, Employment Services, Mental Health & Wellness, Legal & Advocacy, Education and Literacy, General Websites & Information);
- Continue to support the sustainability and expansion of the Huron Shores Area Transit that links rural communities between Sarnia and Grand Bend;
- Identify opportunities to advanced rural connectivity (Internet access, transportation options);
- Identify opportunities for further community programming fostered around Circles® poverty reduction strategies: crisis management, life stabilization, increased education, job placement and job retention;
- Continue the operation of the Mobile Market; a small network of organizations addressing food insecurities for vulnerable individuals during the summer and fall season; and
- Continue to provide community training opportunities such as, Getting Ahead and Bridges out of Poverty, both of which analyze the impact of poverty.



## Priority 5: Systemic Racism

### Desired Outcomes:

- Increase awareness of and address racial discrimination issues;
- Increase awareness of the historical roots of racism and discrimination; and
- Increased public awareness of the barriers and challenges faced by racialized communities, religious minorities and Indigenous Peoples.

### Strategies to Support Systemic Racism:

- Expand the coordination and promotion of anti-racism, diversity, inclusion and anti-oppression related events, education and awareness;
- Collaborate with the Sarnia-Lambton Local Immigration Partnership Council to develop forums aimed to address anti-racism practices within organizations (e.g., hiring practices, training);
- Identify opportunities to support Indigenous specific programming, such as Red Path, a healing circle addressing the needs of living life without violence and addictions management and AKWE:GO (All of Us), a program that provides support to meet the immediate needs of the Indigenous child through client-based activities that focus on social support, health and physical development, institutional intervention;
- Continue and build upon anti-racism strategies within local school boards;
- To align with the [Canadian Coalition of Municipalities Against Racism and Discrimination](#), the Sarnia-Lambton Anti-Racism, Diversity and Inclusion Committee is working to develop a framework for addressing racism and discrimination; and
- Support the Sarnia-Lambton Local Immigration Partnership in the development of a framework for being welcoming and inclusive that municipalities across Lambton County can implement.

## Next Steps for Lambton County

There is an important transition period pending as the group responsible for the CSWB planning process evolves into the group that will provide leadership to the Implementation Phase. Partners are working together to develop a detailed implementation plan which includes outlining key activities and working groups, establishing performance measures and ongoing community engagement. As we move into implementation, we will track our progress with monitoring and evaluation through robust data collection and data sharing.

The Oversight Committee has identified the following next steps that will assist with the implementation of the plan:

- Recruit the Leadership Team for the Implementation Phase;
- Identify leadership capacity for both the Community Safety and Poverty groups and build on those who have come together during the CSWB planning process;
- Determine what the accountability requirements will be for the CSWB Plan (e.g., annual update to County Council, progress reports to the Ministry as required (i.e., every 3-5 years));
- Develop an Evaluation Framework for the overall plan;
- Ensure there is a designated work group for each of the five CSWB priorities;
- Meaningfully engage the populations with lived/living experience and build their experiences into the development of new strategies; and
- Undertake community-wide awareness/education efforts to increase the understanding of the need for the CSWB initiatives overall.



## Frequently Asked Questions

### Q: What is a CSWB Plan?

A: A Community Safety and Well-Being (CSWB) Plan is a tool to address key social priorities and goals for safety and well-being. These can include a wide range of issues from mental health to poverty, to building inclusive communities and much more.

Developing a CSWB Plan is about working together to ensure the right services get to the right people at the right time. It involves an integrated approach to service delivery by working with a wide range of agencies and organizations (including but not limited to local and regional government, police service, public health and mental health providers, education, social services, community and custodial services for children and youth).

A CSWB Plan involves identifying risks and proactively developing and implementing evidence-based strategies and programs to address local priorities related to crime and complex social issues.

### Q: Why is having a CSWB plan important?

A: Community safety and well-being is integral to providing a high quality of life.

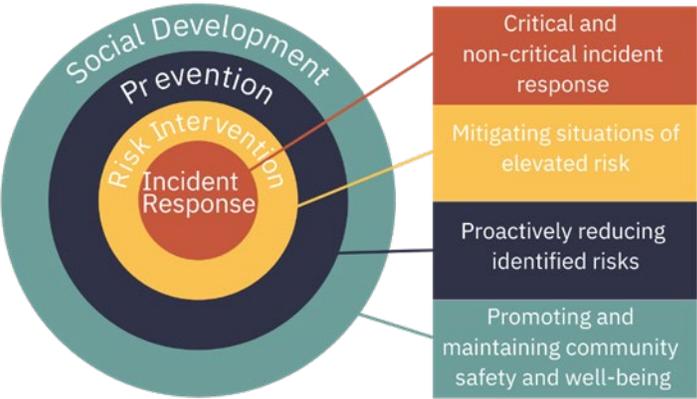
The ultimate goal of this type of planning is to achieve a sustainable community where everyone is safe, has a sense of belonging, opportunities to participate and where individuals and families are able to meet their needs for education, health care, food, housing, income and social/cultural expression. The success of society is linked to the well-being of each and every individual.

### Q: Why are we developing a CSWB Plan?

A: In accordance with Provincial legislation through the Ministry of the Solicitor General, as part of the Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019 and the Safer Ontario Act (2018), municipalities are required to develop and adopt a Community Safety and Well-Being Plan (CSWB). The legislation specifies working in partnership with a multi-sectoral advisory committee comprised of representation from the police service board and other local service providers in health/mental health, education, community social services and children/youth services.

The Provincial CSWB Planning Framework was released by the Ministry of the Solicitor General and outlines the provincial approach to community safety and

well-being. The framework, consisting of four levels of community safety planning intervention (Social Development, Prevention, Risk Intervention and Incident Response), is intended to guide municipalities, First Nations communities and partners in developing local plans. According to the Ministry of the Solicitor General, developing and implementing strategies that are proactive and focused on social development, prevention and early intervention reduce the financial burden of crime.



**Social Development:** Addressing the underlying causes of social issues through upstream approaches that promote and maintain individual and community wellness. This includes opportunities for employment, income, adequate housing, access to education and other supports that promote social and economic inclusion.

**Prevention:** Applying proactive strategies to known and identified risks that are likely to result in harm to individuals or communities if left unmitigated.

**Risk Intervention:** Identifying and responding to situations of acutely elevated risk and mobilizing immediate interventions before an emergency or crisis-driven response is required.

**Incident Response:** Circumstances that require intervention by first responders such as police, paramedics and other crisis-driven services in the human services system.

### Q: What are the benefits of having a CSWB Plan?

There are many benefits of developing a CSWB Plan, including:

- Enhanced communication and collaboration across sectors, agencies and organizations.
- Effective alignment of resources and responsibilities to better address local priorities and needs.
- Better understanding of local risks and vulnerable groups.
- Increased awareness of and access to services for community members, including vulnerable groups.
- An opportunity to keep Lambton County safe and ensure its residents enjoy a high quality of life.

### Q: What are the CSWB Plan identified priorities for Lambton County?

A: The CSWB Oversight Committee approved priorities based on community input are:

- Community Safety;
- Housing and Homelessness;
- Mental Health and Addictions;
- Poverty; and
- Systemic Racism

### Q: How is a CSWB plan different from other plans Lambton County already has in place?

A: CSWB planning recognizes that complex risks to safety and well-being cannot be addressed in isolation by any one organization, agency or sector. The goal of CSWB planning is to achieve greater coordination and collaboration on issues and situations before they escalate.

The aim of the CSWB Plan is not to duplicate efforts underway but to support and complement this work and address gaps. As part of the development of the CSWB Plan identified initiatives and strategies, which align with community safety and well-being planning, have provided Lambton's CSWB Plan with predetermined actions based on current and future needs, best practices and insights from our community. From the large number of plans and strategies identified in the Asset Map section of the Data Report, the following were specifically used in identifying the priorities and the specifics for each priority, such as indicators:

- Canadian Community Health Survey (2017-2018);
- Lambton County Emergency Response Plan (2019);
- Housing & Homelessness Plan (2020-2024);
- Lambton Detachment OPP Action Plan (2020-2022);
- Mental Health Profile, Lambton County (2018);
- Ontario Health Team Full Application Submission - “Innovating Together for Better Health”<sup>\*</sup>;
- Petrolia Community Well-Being Master Plan (2018);
- Sarnia Police Service Business Plan (2020-2022)

*\* In November 2020, the provincial government approved the Sarnia-Lambton Ontario Health Team as an official Ontario Health Team.*

It is important to note that this is not an exhaustive list of initiatives and strategies related to the identified five priorities; other plans and community initiatives that support community safety and well-being will be identified to support future iterations of the plan.

**Q: Are there specific requirements that a CSWB Plan must include?**

**A:** The CSWB Plan must include the following core information:

- Local priority risk factors that have been identified based on community consultations and multiple sources of data including data from Statistics Canada as well as local sector-specific information.
- Evidence-based programs and strategies to address those priority risk factors.
- Measurable outcomes with associated performance measures to ensure that the strategies are effective and the outcomes are being achieved.

**Q: Who is leading the development of the CSWB Plan?**

**A:** The Corporation of the County of Lambton retained DU B FIT Consulting to conduct community consultations and devise the contents of the plan. To provide guidance and oversight to the development of the plan, four groups were established to develop a plan that builds on the levels of intervention for community safety and well-being:

1. The Oversight Committee was the accountable group to County Council to ensure the Ministry requirements were met and manage the budget for the planning process. This group also made the decisions regarding the

components of the CSWB Plan. The Community Safety and Well-Being Oversight Committee:

- City of Sarnia; *Emergency Management and Corporate Security*
- County of Lambton; *Emergency Management Services Division, Public Health Services Division, Social Services Division*
- Lambton County Council
- Lambton Police Services Board
- Municipality of Lambton Shores
- Ontario Provincial Police, Lambton Detachment
- Sarnia Police Services
- Village of Point Edward

2. The larger Advisory Committee was created to represent the broader community sectors required through the Ministry of the Solicitor General for this CSWB planning process. The Advisory Committee:

- Bluewater Health
- Canadian Mental Health Association, Lambton-Kent
- Chippewas of Kettle and Stony Point First Nation
- Conseil scolaire catholique Providence
- County of Lambton; Public Health Services Division, Social Services Division
- Lambton-Kent District School Board
- Sarnia- Lambton Ontario Health Team
- Sarnia-Lambton Children's Aid Society
- Sarnia-Lambton Native Friendship Centre
- Sarnia Police Services Board
- St. Clair Catholic District School Board
- Town of Petrolia
- Township of Warwick Recreation Services
- Village of Point Edward Fire and Rescue
- Village of Point Edward Police Services Board

3. A Data Collection Group was established to compile and review local data sets and identify indicators for Lambton County's Data Report. The Data Gathering Group:

- Canadian Mental Health Association, Lambton-Kent

- County of Lambton; Public Health Services Division, Social Services Division
- Lambton-Kent District School Board
- Ontario Provincial Police, Lambton Detachment

4. A working group was developed for each identified Priority. Working groups played a pivotal role in identifying gaps in the community and identified effective strategies and initiatives that would enhance the safety and well-being of Lambton County.

Q: Where can I read Lambton's CSWB Plan?

A: Lambton County's Community Safety and Well-Being Plan will be available on the official websites of municipalities within Lambton County. In addition, the Plan will be hosted on the County of Lambton's website. To review the plan, visit: <https://www.lambtononline.ca/communitysafety/>

Q: Who can I contact for more information?

A: To learn more about Lambton County's Community Safety and Well-Being Plan, or for general inquiries, please email: [administration@county-lambton.on.ca](mailto:administration@county-lambton.on.ca)

