



REPORT

REPORT TO: Mayor Bonnette and Members of Council

REPORT FROM: Warren Harris, Commissioner of Recreation and Parks

DATE: June 11, 2018

REPORT NO.: RP-2018-0021

RE: Community Safety and Well-Being in Halton Update

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Report RP-2018-0021 regarding the Community Safety and Well-Being in Halton Update be received;

AND FURTHER THAT staff report back on the healthy communities public engagement process related to the Community Safety and Well-Being in Halton initiative.

BACKGROUND:

In March 2018, **Bill 175 – The Safer Ontario Act** received royal assent and will be proclaimed in January 2019. The legislation is designed to improve police oversight, transparency and accountability, enhance civilian governance, respond to the needs and realities of Ontario's diverse communities and mandate local community safety and well-being planning.

One of the key objectives of the legislation is to promote collaborative partnerships between municipalities, police and other sectors.

Under Part XIII (Community Safety and Well-Being Plans) of The Safer Ontario Act, Municipal councils are required to prepare and adopt a community safety and well-being plan. These plans must identify risk factors to the community and identify strategies to reduce prioritized risk factors, in addition to other requirements. Municipal councils that have adopted such a plan must monitor, evaluate and report on the effect it is having.

The Province has indicated that in the case of regional municipalities, the regional municipality and local municipalities must have a Plan or be part of a Plan, but the responsibility rests with the regional government.

In anticipation of the legislation, the "Community Safety and Well-Being in Halton:

A Plan for Collaboration and Action” was approved by Halton Regional Council on November 7, 2017 through Report No. SS-30-17/MO-39-17 and Regional staff were directed to work with community partners to implement the Plan.

The Community Safety and Well-Being in Halton framework encourages communities to work collaboratively across sectors to identify and address local risks, with a focus on prevention and social development.

The concept of well-being was also supported by Council through approval of Resolution 2016-0070 that highlighted the objectives of the **Framework for Recreation in Canada 2015** related to the development of practices in recreation to improve the well-being of individuals and the community.

Building on its role in the development of the local Youth Services Network, Recreation and Parks Department staff have been a key member of the System Leadership Group since its inception in Spring 2017, providing oversight and guidance on how to deliver on key initiatives locally.

COMMENTS:

The purpose of this report is to provide an update to Council on Community Safety and Well-Being in Halton, its purpose, and the continuing role of Recreation and Parks Department staff in delivering key initiatives.

Purpose

Halton Region and the Halton Regional Police Service have developed a Community Safety and Well-Being Plan to enhance collaboration with community partners on issues that impact safety and well-being in the Region

The Plan establishes a process for local municipalities, community partners and organizations with planning responsibilities in areas like policing, social services, healthcare, education and public health to work together to identify and address key issues that impact safety and well-being in the community.

The Town’s model for the Youth Services Network is a working example of how collaboration between local/Regional government and social services agencies can provide a clear framework for “who does what” and then identify gaps in services and a means to improve local service delivery.

Halton’s Model for Collaboration, Planning and Action

The model developed has been created to facilitate two core functions; provide a framework where issues can be identified, prioritized and addressed; address barriers and gaps in the human service delivery that negatively impact local residents.

By using evidence based issue identification through data analytics or issues raised at local situation tables, the System Leadership Group provide the necessary oversight to direct specific “action tables” to respond to planning priorities and emerging issues. The key outcomes of this model will include:

- Increased coordination and collaboration between services;
- Improved access to services;
- Greater alignment on key safety and well-being initiatives;
- Reduced demand on emergency and crisis services;
- Enhanced systems planning.

Currently the Town representation has been through the Commissioner of Recreation and Parks with support from the Manager of Recreation Services. Going forward, the Department’s role in Community Development could be strengthened to address more of the social planning initiatives that engage the broader community.

Key Issues to Date

The Canadian Index of Wellbeing, as referenced in the **Framework for Recreation in Canada 2015** defines well-being to the highest possible quality of life focused on good living standards, robust health, a sustainable environment, vital communities, an educated populace, balanced time use, high levels of democratic participation and access to and participation in recreation and culture.

Recreation is further defined as having a role in the delivery of physical, social, intellectual, creative and spiritual pursuits that enhance individual and community wellbeing.

The “Healthy City” initiative being launched as part of the Community Safety and Well-Being in Halton framework later this year will address the emerging issues related to community health. A number of these core principles align with the Recreation and Parks Department mandate: community engagement, mixed use spaces and places, making healthy options easy, access to healthy affordable food, maximizing physical activity, accessibility and inclusion, and measuring impacts.

Of the primary issues identified by the System Leadership Group to date, the following are most aligned with the **Framework for Recreation in Canada 2015**:

- Enhancing access to mental health supports for adolescents and youth;
- Support to youth exiting child welfare services;
- Addressing isolation among older adults.

In addition, the System Leadership Group has proposed objectives and next steps for a data analytics and decision support function to support the identification of issues for consideration by action tables. The three key objectives are to:

- a) Support evidence based issue identification and action table response process.
- b) Develop and monitor Community Safety and Well-Being indicators in Halton.
- c) Support data sharing to enhance human services planning.

In addition, work on the Youth Services Network has demonstrated the Town's role in advocating for the necessary support services as part of our role in the social planning framework:

- Proactive response to harmful alcohol consumption;
- Coordinating efforts to reduce homelessness.

Next Steps

Staff will continue to participate in the System Leadership Group and support the identification of key actions required to achieve the objectives of the Community Safety and Well-Being Plan. The increasing role in social planning issues and how they align with the **Framework for Recreation in Canada 2015** will be brought forward to Council and Budget Committee. A broader view of community wellness and the proactive role of recreation will continue to allow the Town to be a leader in:

- Working with partners to increase the use of space and places for multiple purposes;
- Proactively securing sponsorship, revenue generating or alternative funding sources to aid service delivery;
- Strengthening partnerships with schools, social service agencies and community organizations;
- Increasing recreation education;
- Implementing policies, guidelines and business plans that facilitate social action.

RELATIONSHIP TO STRATEGIC PLAN:

This report aligns with the following top corporate priorities and corporate Strategic Plan:

Top Eight Corporate Priorities

1. Municipal Service Delivery
The efficient, effective and economical delivery of the Town's existing services

5. Sustainability
E. Address the social pillar of sustainability by focusing on the improving services for youth, seniors and the disabled

Foster a Healthy Community

- A.2** To attract and retain a suitable range of health and social services.
- A.3.** To provide a broad range of educational, recreational, and cultural services that meet the needs of our residents.

Provide Sustainable Infrastructure & Services

- G.1.** To provide infrastructure and services that meet the needs of our community in an efficient, effective and environmentally sustainable manner.

Provide Sustainable Infrastructure & Services

- H.1.** To provide leadership and advocacy on issues of importance to our community.
To encourage community participation in decision-making.
- H.5.** To expand opportunities for communication with our community

Provide Responsive, Effective Municipal Government

- I.6** To participate fully in Region-wide initiatives to protect and promote the Town's objectives

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

There is no direct financial impact associated with this report. Consideration for funding of a Manager of Community Development , which was recommended in the Recreation and Parks Strategic Action Plan, to assist with the implementation of the emerging role of Recreation and Parks in the Community Safety and Well-Being framework would be referred to future Operating Budget discussions.

CONSULTATION:

Staff consulted with the Strategic Planning and Continuous Improvement division of the CAO's office during the preparation of this report.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT:

An initial symposium was held in November 2017, and the System Leadership Group has consulted with Halton Healthcare to lead a Healthy Communities Engagement Process that will be initiated in November 2018. Staff will report back on further public engagement related to the strategy.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS:

The Town is committed to implementing our Community Sustainability Strategy, Imagine Halton Hills. Doing so will lead to a higher quality of life.

The recommendation outlined in this report advances the Strategy's implementation.

This report supports the Social Wellbeing pillar of Sustainability and in summary the alignment of this report with the Community Sustainability Strategy is Good.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Staff will coordinate communications with the outcomes of the Healthy Communities Engagement Process that will be initiated in November 2018.

CONCLUSION:

Recreation and Parks Department staff have had a key role in delivering initiatives Community Safety and Well-Being in Halton, building upon the experience and expertise demonstrated through the development of the Youth Services Network. In order to continue with this increasing role in the social planning side of the **Framework for Recreation in Canada 2015**, staff are recommending that consideration be given for a Manager of Community Development position as part of future Operating Budget discussions, as identified in the Recreation and Parks Strategic Action Plan. Further updates on the work of the Community Safety and Well-Being in Halton System Leadership Group will be brought back to Council as part of the anticipated public consultation to be done in November 2018.

Reviewed and Approved by,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Brent Marshall". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Brent Marshall, CAO