



Report to County Council

From: Carolyn Krahn, Manager of Economic Development, Tourism and Strategic Initiatives

Date: June 24, 2025

Subject: Community Safety and Well-Being Plan Update

Recommendation(s):

THAT the report titled “Community Safety and Well-Being Plan Update” from the Manager of Economic Development, Tourism and Strategic Initiatives dated June 24, 2025 be received and filed; and

THAT the Council of the County of Elgin hereby endorses the Aylmer-Elgin-St. Thomas Community Safety and Well-Being Plan update; and

THAT a copy of the Aylmer-Elgin-St. Thomas Community Safety and Well-Being Plan and the 2025 update be posted on the County website; and

THAT staff be directed to submit the Community Safety and Well-Being Plan Update to the Ministry of the Solicitor General.

Introduction:

Under the *Community Safety and Policing Act*, all municipalities must adopt a Community Safety and Well-Being (CSWB) Plan. These plans use local data and community feedback to identify key risks and take steps to address the root causes of those risks—reducing the need for responses by emergency services.

The Town of Aylmer, County of Elgin, and City of St. Thomas developed a joint plan, which was adopted by all local municipalities and submitted to the Ministry of the Solicitor General in June 2021. Ontario Regulation 414/23 requires municipalities with CSWB Plans approved before July 1, 2021, to review and update their plans by July 1, 2025.

Background and Discussion:

The original CSWB Plan identified five local priorities:

- Education and Skills Development
- Housing Security
- Mental Health and Well-Being
- Public Safety
- Substance Use and Addiction

An Action Table was formed for each priority area, and an Integration Table was created to oversee the plan and share updates between sectors. The current members of the Integration Table are:

- Warden Grant Jones, County of Elgin (Co-Chair)
- Mayor Joe Preston, City of St. Thomas (Co-Chair)
- Mayor Jack Couckuyt, Town of Aylmer
- Chief Marc Roskamp, St. Thomas Police Service (Public Safety)
- Chief Kyle Johnstone, Aylmer Police Service (Public Safety)
- Acting Inspector Tyler Holmes, Elgin County OPP (Public Safety)
- Danielle Neilson, Housing and Homelessness Action Table (Housing Security)
- Heather Sheridan, Housing and Homelessness Action Table (Housing Security)
- Christine Sansom, Elgin Mental Health and Addiction Network (Mental Health and Well-Being)
- Deanna Huggett, Elgin Ontario Health Team (Mental Health and Well-Being)
- Marcia Van Wylie, Elgin Community Drug and Alcohol Strategy Steering Committee (Substance Use and Addiction)
- Petrusia Hontar, Elgin St. Thomas Workforce Development Network (Education and Skills Development)
- Meagan Lichti, Age-Friendly Strategy for Elgin and St. Thomas
- Lisa Higgs, City Manager, City of St. Thomas
- Blaine Parkin, CAO, County of Elgin
- Carolyn Krahn, Manager of Economic Development & Strategic Initiatives, County of Elgin

In 2024, the Integration Table began reviewing the original plan. The group confirmed the five priorities are still relevant but identified a need to go further—focusing more on root causes and prevention, not just response. Members also agreed that better community engagement is needed, both in sharing updates and collecting input.

To support this, a Community Safety and Well-Being Forum is planned for fall 2025. Local councils, senior staff, and community organizations will be invited to take part. This will be a chance to hear updates and help shape the next phase of the plan.

Financial Implications:

There are no financial implications from endorsing this update.

Advancement of the Strategic Plan:

This work supports Strategy 5: Community Well-being and Inclusivity. Specifically:

Goal 1: Supporting Housing Needs for Diverse Populations,
Goal 2: Provide Specialized Services for Youth, Seniors, and Diverse
Populations, and
Goal 3: Improve Public Health and Social Services across the County.

Local Municipal Partner Impact:

All municipalities must endorse the update. A copy of the plan and a letter from the Warden (as Integration Table Co-Chair) has been sent to each local municipal partner. This is a shared plan, and local municipalities will play a more active role moving forward—including participation in the fall forum.

Communication Requirements:

Once approved, the update will be submitted to the Ministry of the Solicitor General, posted to the County website, and shared with all municipalities. The Integration Table will also begin work on better communication and engagement with the broader community.

Conclusion:

The CSWB Integration Table and Action Tables reviewed the progress made in each priority area, confirmed that the priorities are still relevant, and recommended next steps to improve community safety and well-being. These findings are summarized in the updated plan. Endorsing the plan is required so it can be submitted to the Ministry of the Solicitor General by July 1, 2025.

Attachments:

- Updated CSWB Plan – June 2025
- Original CSWB Plan – 2021
- CSWB Data Package – July 2020

All of which is Respectfully Submitted

Approved for Submission

Carolyn Krahn
Manager of Economic Development,
Tourism & Strategic Initiatives

Blaine Parkin
Chief Administrative Officer/Clerk