

Classification: **PUBLIC**

Meeting: **April 16, 2019**

Agenda Item: **Monitoring Report: Community Policing**



Author: **Superintendent Mark Morissette**

Recommended Motion:

THAT the Board finds that all provisions of the Community Policing Ends Policy have been complied with.

Community Policing

I hereby submit my monitoring report on your Ends Policy "Community Policing" according to the schedule set out. I certify that the information contained in this report is true.

I report compliance to all provisions of this policy.

Signed: _____

Chief of Police

Date: _____

08 APR 19

Board Policy Statement:

The mission, philosophy and values of the Durham Regional Police Service emphasize the importance of working in partnership with citizens / communities. Working in collaboration with community partners fosters trust and confidence in the police.

It is the policy of the Durham Regional Police Services Board that police services in Durham Region shall be delivered in partnership with communities and citizens to proactively address and resolve community problems. These partnerships will focus on the root causes of crime, aim to reduce fear of crime, and maintain and enhance high levels of community safety.

Reporting

An assessment of community policing in Durham Region shall rely upon quantitative and qualitative analyses of relevant data, information and public input.

Interpretation of the Chief of Police:

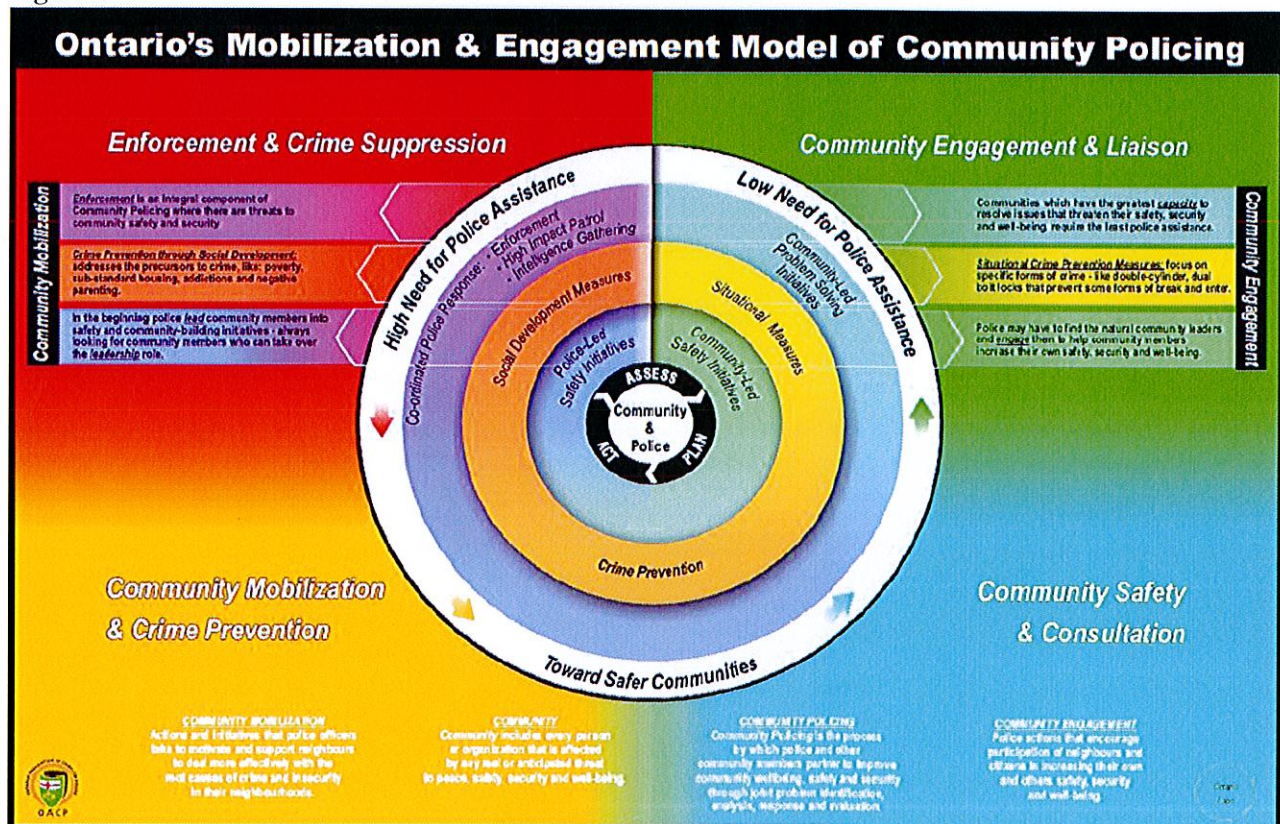
It is my interpretation that the Board's End of Community Policing Policy relates to Section 1, principle 3 of the *Police Services Act, 1990* – Principle #3, which identifies “*The need for co-operation between the providers of police services and the communities they serve*”.

Community policing and its basic principles of a shared responsibility for safe and healthy communities, through an informed and engaged citizenry, is at the core of everything we do at the DRPS. This philosophy is based on the legislative requirements of the Police Services Act, the adoption of the OACP's Community Engagement and Mobilization Model¹ and reinforced in the Police Service Board's Business Plan, which directs the DRPS to *Deliver Community Safety through Collaboration*.

As a police service, we recognize that the benefits of a community policing approach helps us prevent and investigate crime, but it also helps increase the sense of ownership and pride that our residents have in their neighbourhoods and communities, thereby reducing their levels of fear while enhancing their sense of safety and inclusion.

This report will highlight a handful of examples that demonstrate how a community policing approach and its emphasis on cooperative, collaborative and trusting relationships is threaded through the work that we do every day, in every Unit and across the communities we serve.

Figure:1



EQUITY & INCLUSION UNIT

The Durham Regional Police Service (DRPS) recognizes, values and takes an active role towards advancing Diversity, Equity and Inclusion within our Region. Building relationships is essential; we value our partnerships as we navigate the historical and topical needs of our Communities. Together, we work towards enriching and positively contributing towards the safety and well-being for all those who live, work and play within our Region. The DRPS has a dedicated Equity and Inclusion (E&I) Unit, which serves to connect, engage, collaborate and empower our members and our communities towards authentic inclusion.

In addition to providing oversight for the activities within our 2017-2019 DEI Strategic Plan, the E&I Unit serves as the host for our Diversity Advisory Committee (DAC). This Committee is representative of a broad spectrum of our community and serves as an advisory body for the Chief of Police. The DAC also serves as an intermediary to link the DRPS to communities, groups and stakeholders not represented in DAC's membership or who may not be willing to work directly with the DRPS at this time.

Many of the initiatives and advancements that are being made to further DEI are summarized and presented to the Board in the Community Diversity Monitoring report provided quarterly.

POLICING OPERATIONS

Every DRPS Division develops a Community Safety Plan in support of our common Business Plan Goals. At the same time, these unique plans provide Divisional Leadership with the ability to address the unique needs and challenges of the communities they serve. Furthermore, these needs are often based on the communities, stakeholders and characteristics of these communities.

Some of the initiatives represented in these plans are provided below.

Community Engagement for Crime Prevention

Central East Division Community Foot Patrol

The Foot Patrol Program was created to address the concerns for a greater police presence in the downtown and surrounding area of Oshawa. Consultation with Oshawa Business Improvement Association (BIA), Mayor's office, local councilors, business owners and the community at large resulted in a pilot project launched in 2017. The project redeployed two foot patrol officers from platoon strength to identified high concern areas based on analysis of property crime and general disorder calls. As the year progressed, we continued to monitor location statistics and redeployed resources as necessary to ensure coverage in areas of concern.

Crime and Disorder calls have been reduced substantially since 2017 and in some call types by over 50%. As a result of this success, we have adopted this configuration as our shift standard.

The Central East Leadership team continues to meet quarterly with the BIA to discuss their concerns and address emerging problems.

Community Safety Day East & North Divisions

One of the strategies employed by our North and East Division is to build on the exiting strong relationships the Service has with the communities through continued participation in community events like our Community Safety Days.

The 2018 the East Division event was held on September 29th and took place on the municipal grounds situated behind the former East Division police office. In a coordinated effort with the Clarington Emergency & Fire Services, sworn and civilian members from East Division spent the day interacting with members of the community, offering advice in areas such as personal safety, the 'Lock-it or Lose-it' campaign, residential property security and pertinent information to those asking about career opportunities in policing. In total, police had the opportunity to engage with thousands of residents during this event.

On September 9, 2018, members of North Division partnered with numerous community safety partners to provide an interactive "open house" at North Division. In addition to the various operational DRPS units, the North Division Community Day included the three Fire Services, by-law officers, animal control, conservation authority and members of OVERT. This day provided the community with open access to the many public safety and volunteer agencies that support the North.

The North division also collaborated with its community partners for the annual "Shred-It" day on November 3 2018. The event provides the community with the opportunity to have their documents shredded and in return are asked to make a food donation for a local food bank. The costs of the shredding service was covered by DRPS and the community partners. The event was well attended by the community and this past year three vehicles were filled with food donations from the community.

Engaging with our Youth

Youth in Policing (YIP)

The YIP initiative was founded in 2006 in partnership with the Ministry of Child and Youth Services. The initiative is an employment and personal development opportunity for youth ages 15-18. Each year the YIP initiative employs over 140 youth from around the Region of Durham. As employees of the Durham Regional Police Service, youth will engage in hands-on learning experiences that emphasize the importance of leadership, teamwork, and community engagement. Youth will be exposed to the career of policing and have the opportunity to interact with the many different sectors of the police service. In addition, the YIP initiative helps to empower others to make positive changes within their communities, their lives and the lives of others allowing individuals to develop and enhance critical professional skills, which helps to prepare them for future employment.

In 2018/19 each division had members coach and mentor in the YIP initiative, linking the youth to community partners such as Habitat for Humanity, The Refuge, John Howard Society, YMCAGTA, Future Aces, PEDAN, Ontario Shores for Mental Health Sciences, Special Olympics Ontario and Durham Continuing Education. To date over 1140 local youth have been through our programs. The YIP Initiative also hosts multiple fundraisers within the program. In the 2018 Summer Initiative, students helped build three new homes in Oshawa and raised over \$7000 for Habitat Humanity Durham. They also collected items to fill 550 backpacks, which were donated to the Children's Aid Society of Durham. During the

2018/19 Youth In Policing Initiative, students were the top fundraising team in Durham and the 17th in Canada raising over \$13,395 for the Refuge Outreach Shelter, which assists homeless youth in the region.

School Liaison Officer (SLO)/ Community Resource Unit (CRU)

Each of our five divisions carry a compliment of School Liaison Officers to address the specific needs of their individual communities. Officers are linked directly with their respective school boards, community support agencies as well as our own internal initiatives to provide immediate intervention to support our youth as required.

Throughout the year these members, and many more, participate in a variety of events and initiatives that provide the youth of our community an opportunity to see the Police Service in a positive light. Events such as Gowns for Girls, Suits for Youths, Youth Fairs, Fire House Youth Centre, Pro-Action Cops and Kids, Big Brothers & Big Sisters, school partnerships, as well as our outreach programs to specific communities provide a sample of our commitment to our youth.

Keeping our Roadways & Waterways Safe

Roadway Safety

The number one concern from all of our communities has been and continues to be roadway safety. Each division has dedicated Traffic Safety Officers, who develop strategies to address the specific needs or concerns of the community. The strategies differ for each division; North & East Divisions have a greater focus on the growing commercial motor vehicle traffic in their communities while Central East, Central West & West focus on strategies around high collision intersections. Working with our partners, such as the Ministry of Transportation (MTO), Ontario Provincial Police (OPP), Municipal by-law and Planning Departments, the Region of Durham, Road Watch and our many community volunteers, all of which share a similar goal of a safer Region to commute in by developing lasting solutions beyond strict enforcement. These strong partnerships remain in place and continue to be our focus.

Patrol Operations Support – Traffic Services Branch (TSB)

Traffic Services directly supports the Regional response to driving behaviour that cause serious injury or death on our roadways. The four leading causes in these types of collisions are Impaired Operation, Distracted Driving, Aggressive Driving and not Wearing Seat Belts; the “Big 4 Killers”. Although enforcement is a key tool for deterrence, the Traffic Services Branch is committed to connecting with our community partners to provide education in support of the goal to reduce serious collisions in the Region. Linking with partners such as M.A.D.D, MTO, GO Transit, Region of Durham Transit, cycling coalitions, other policing partners as well as the Media have provided a platform for consistent messaging through a number of means and sources.

Although there are a number of educational initiatives conducted yearly, in 2018 the TSB partnered with the Ministry of Transportation, GO Transit and the Region of Durham Traffic Department in a “**Do the Bright Thing**” campaign, educating daily commuters in pedestrian and cycling safety.

Marine Unit (TSB)

DRPS Marine Unit, a sub-unit of TSB, is responsible with waterway safety for over 300 km/s of Shoreline within our Region. The Marine Unit conducts boating safety education on an ongoing basis while patrolling with our two vessels. They also attend special events during the boating season, including Whitby Harbour Days, Canada Day festivities, Clarington Community Day, Huck Finn Fishing Derby, as well as, Ajax Home Week.

Collision Reporting Centre (CRC)

The Police Service continues to partner with Accident Support Services International (ASSIL) to provide an alternative accident reporting process. Community members involved in minor motor vehicle collisions in our Region can report the incident at one central location as their schedule permits, instead of waiting for a police response, which could be substantial depending on call volume.

In 2018 the CRC investigated 4331 accidents, serving on average 20 drivers a day.

This partnership supports the Service's ability to meet the expectations of the community in other areas in a more timely manner.

Supporting Our Vulnerable Persons

Mental Health Support Unit (MHSU)

In 2018, the DRPS Mental Health Support Unit continued its partnership with the Central East Local Health Integrated Network (LHIN) and Lakeridge Health. We continue to deploy two teams, each consisting of an officer and a mental health nurse. In 2018, the teams attended 396 calls for service as well as conducted follow ups on reports filed by front line officers and requests by investigative units such as CIB, Major Crime, Durham Connect and Intelligence. As a result, the officers and nurses have had a great deal of interactions in our community.

The Mental Health Support teams continue to conduct presentations throughout the year. These include platoon parade presentations, as well as, presentations to outside agencies and community groups. Unit members were also involved in the instructing of the MHRO courses at the PEIC. These are run twice a year and unit members participate in various aspects throughout the week. At least one member is there for the full week assisting with course instruction.

The Mental Health Response Officer course continues to be a priority for the Service. With the completion of October's 2018 class, there will be over 250 officers who have taken the training, of which over 140 are deployed to front line duties while the remainder being assigned to support and specialized units within the organization.

In 2018 members of MHSU continued to assist with and participate in the Police Mental Health Response (PMHR) Research Program with the PEIC. Several members were involved in the development of the scenarios for the training and also participated with the 4-day session in October.

Vulnerable Persons Outreach Program (VPOP)

In December of 2017, the Police Service submitted a Proceeds of Crime grant proposal to the Ministry for funding to establish a Durham Region Outreach Support Team. Upon approval of the grant in 2018, the Vulnerable Person Outreach Program (VPOP) was established as a multi-sectorial team comprised of a nurse, social worker, police officer and researcher.

The focus of the team is to identify, locate and triage vulnerable members of our community with the goal to connect them to individualized supports. These supports include mental health, housing/shelter, income, addiction counselling, employment counseling, mobility needs (transit etc.) and primary health care.

These teams deploy two days a week and operate out of a vehicle that is equipped to triage identified individuals in high risk areas. They would be provided access to any necessary support or set up with appropriate contacts with social and health agencies for future assistance. With client consent, appropriate data is being collected and can provide the researcher at UOIT data to measure identified target goals.

VPOP allows a collaborative outreach program that supports individuals in our community before emergency service providers are required to intervene in a crisis. This team vastly improves efficiency with the coordination of police, health and social services within the Region of Durham.

VPOP is complimented and supported by our collaborative table, Durham Connect.

Durham Connect

Durham Connect is a partnership made up of 38 inter-disciplinary agencies that represent Provincial, Regional, local and community-based organizations. Each of the agencies have a proven ability and mandate to serve and support vulnerable individuals within Durham Region.

Trained members of Durham Connect work through a disciplined four filter process where individuals or families facing levels of acutely elevated risk are identified, risk factors are presented to the multi-sectorial team, and a customized intervention plan to mitigate risk is created. This allows professionals to share information in a structured approach, while adhering to mandatory Ontario Privacy Legislation.

Through collaboration and respecting each agency's professional assessment, Durham Connect is able to provide rapid mobilization of resources and services to minimize the trajectory or probability of harm occurring and ultimately improving community safety and well-being in Durham Region. In 2018 Durham Connect reviewed 65 cases, linking a 121 individuals to services.

Supporting our Seniors (SSU)

The Senior Support Unit (SSU) consists of one Sergeant who works closely with a Social Worker from the Region of Durham. They conduct follow up support related to senior concerns identified through interactions with members of the Service, as well as the community.

In 2018, the Senior Support Unit liaised with the numerous nursing homes and Senior's residences throughout the Region and perform thousands of phone and email interactions yearly. The SSU also provides educational seminars to Seniors on a regular basis, including the participation in a TV show on Rogers's cable. In 2018, as part of the outreach commitments, the Senior Support Coordinator conducted 18 presentations, attended 11 different Senior's events and hosted 10 Seniors Talk episodes on Rogers Cable and internally assists our education centre in facilitating the Elder Abuse Course.

The Public Safety Unit (PSU)

The PSU continues to support the Alzheimer's Society within Durham Region by delivering presentations alongside their community outreach team. PSU members also contribute to Alzheimer Durham fundraising initiatives including the annual Walk for Memories.

PSU members also attend to speak with families that have had a loved one wander off to obtain up to date photographs and details in case they go missing in the future.

In 2018, the PSU assisted with 36 missing persons searches throughout the Region. Five public order events also had PSU in attendance to monitor crowd dynamics. PSU search managers were consulted 52 times to provide expertise to DRPS personnel in regards to missing person incidents. This ensures DRPS response to missing persons is timely and all avenues are explored to realize successful outcomes.

Supporting the Investigation of Crime and Disorder

Domestic Violence Investigative Unit (DVIU)

DVIU was formed in 2016 and since then has played a key role in supporting those members in our community who are victims of domestic violence.

In 2018, there were 6523 domestic related incidents reported to our service unfortunately a 7% increase from 2017. The DVIU investigated and case managed 1523 cases in 2018.

DVIU has formed many close partnerships with external partners such as Victim Services, Domestic Violence Sexual Assault Care Centre (DVSACC), Durham Region Intimate Violence Empowerment Network (DRIVEN), Ontario Domestic Violence Coordinators Network (ODVCN), Violence Prevention Coordinating Council (VPCC) and Domestic Violence High Risk Assessment Team (DVHART.)

DVIU ensures the Service applies a consistent approach to the investigations of domestic violence through its external partnerships, as well as, providing direct support to front line members.

Human Trafficking Unit (HTU)

The Human Trafficking Unit is six-member team dedicated to eradicating the sexual exploitation of victims and providing awareness and education. Human Trafficking is a growing issue in communities along the 401 corridor. In most cases, human trafficking is a clandestine, transient business, making it difficult for investigators to identify and track. The Human Trafficking Unit has engaged in several community partnerships, with the main network identified as the Human Trafficking Coalition. The Coalition is an organization consisting in excess of 25 local community groups, including the Children's Aid Society, Victim Services, VWAP, Safe Hope Home and the Rape Crisis Centre. Between 2017 and 2018, the Human Trafficking Unit conducted awareness presentations to over 2600 grade 9 students from across the Region of Durham.

By way of example, in May of 2018, a highly publicized enforcement campaign occurred. The Human Trafficking Unit commenced Project Chestermere, a two-week undercover investigation targeting "Johns" who were seeking sexual services from underage girls. Undercover officers, posing as underage girls, posted explicit ads on social media. The response from "Johns" were overwhelming. The undercover officers informed the "Johns" that the girls were underage and subsequently gave them three opportunities to back out. Over the two-week operation, 11 child predators were arrested and charged with seeking the sexual services of a minor.

Gun Violence and Gang Strategies

Youth gang tracking and intervention - This initiative is in its infancy and proposes a collaboration between the Guns and Gangs Unit (G&G), Regional Youth Officer, Target Teams, as well as, High School Liaison Officers to identify current and emerging youth gangs and their members. The G&G will provide support and education to the Target Team and school officers to help them identify gang members within the public school system and develop prevention strategies for at risk youth exposed to youth gang activity. This initiative involves a working relationship with the Durham Family Court Clinic, assisting them with the development of social programs and intervention strategies.

Retail Firearm Trafficking initiative – In an effort to curb domestic firearms trafficking, G&G members have been meeting with and delivering presentations to several retail firearms outlets in the Region and surrounding area. Members are educating sellers about the trends in domestic gun trafficking, identifying “red flags” in the firearm acquisition process and forging solid working relationships to share information moving forward.

Violent crime reduction strategy – The G&G is working collaboratively with Probation and Parole Services, Intelligence Analysts and neighbouring Police Services to better account for and track accused who are on release conditions, probation or parole stemming from firearms crimes and are residing in the Region as a condition of their release or parole. This information is then shared accordingly with Divisions and the Offender Management Unit (OMU) to monitor compliance.

Education- Along with the presentations to five retail firearms outlets in the Region and neighbouring jurisdictions the G&G also delivered gun and gang related presentations at Durham College, GL Roberts High School, Oshawa Probation and Parole, Youth Diversion Committee and at a Youth in Policing event.

Cannabis Implementation Team

The team was busy in 2018 and into 2019 facilitating Federal and Provincial training for most DRPS members while conducting enforcement of Cannabis legislation and educating the public, private business and governmental agencies. Members investigated and executed search warrants at two illegal dispensaries, one a relentless problem, which continued to re-open. There was a total of eight warrants executed at this illegal dispensary in Whitby. A total of \$70,000 in currency and \$200,000 worth of illegal cannabis was seized.

The team delivered a public information campaign through media and Twitter leading up to legalization. The team also provided presentations and met with municipal governments (bylaw offices), Conservation Authority and the Durham Region Association of Realtors to prepare our community to meet the change in Legislation.

Conclusion

The DRPS is exceptionally proud of our community policing results and appreciates the strong engagement of the communities we serve as a result.