

Classification: **PUBLIC**

Meeting: **April 9, 2018**

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: [Signature] Date: APRIL 3, 2018
Chief of Police

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 End of Community Policing relates to Section 1, principle 3 of the *Police Services Act, 1990* – Principle #3 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 in increasing the sense of ownership and pride that our residents have in their neighbourhoods and communities and thereby reducing their levels of fear while enhancing their sense of safety and inclusion. To that end, we have instilled this approach through our training and leadership development practices and supported through the adoption of Problem Based Learning and Problem Oriented Policing tools service-wide.

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.

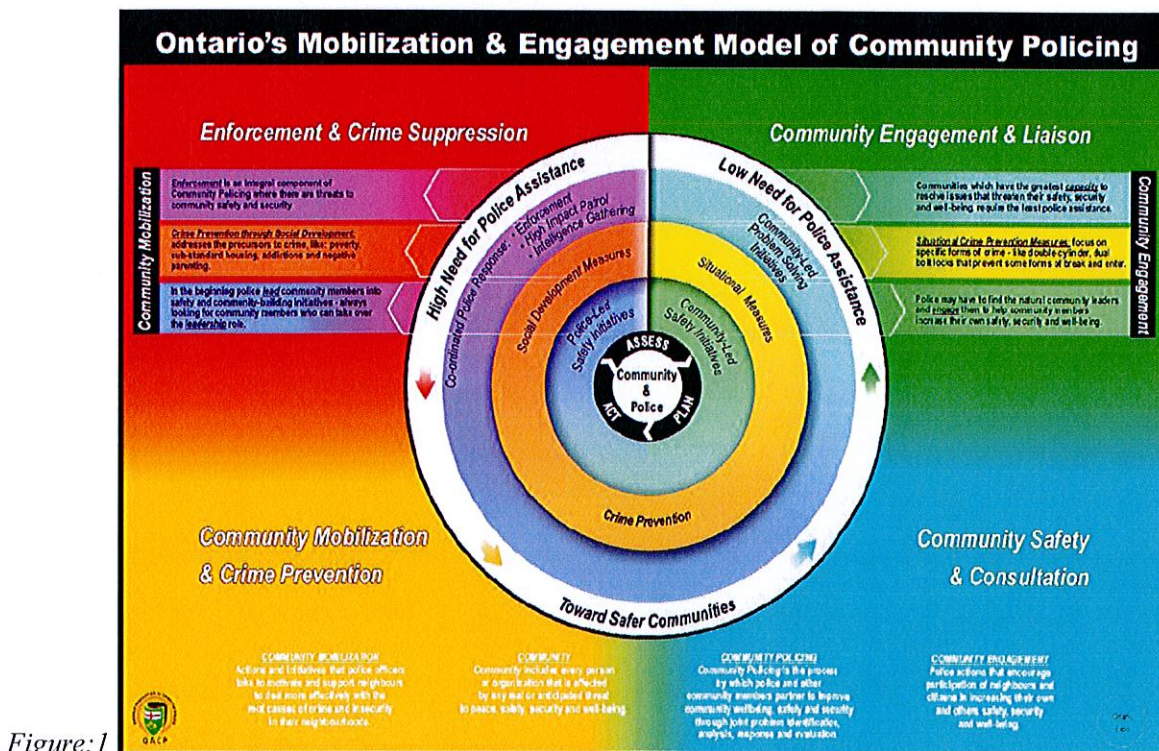


Figure 1:

¹ Figure 1.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION UNIT

Understanding the importance of working with and meeting the needs of *all* the communities we serve, the DRPS maintains a centralized Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Unit. The work of this team focuses on developing and maintaining sustainable and trusting relationships with our racialized, diverse and marginalized communities, with the goal of promoting equity and inclusion for all our citizens.

In addition to providing oversight for the activities within our 2017-2019 DEI Strategic Plan, the Unit serves as the host for our Diversity Advisory Committee (DAC). This Committee has membership from 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 and stakeholders not represented in DAC's membership or with those communities and groups who may not be willing to work directly with the DRPS at this time.

Many of the initiatives that highlight the DEI engagement efforts with our diverse populations have been summarized and presented to the Board in the Community Diversity Monitoring report.

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. And of course, these needs are often based on the communities, stakeholders and characteristics of these communities.

Some of the activity represented in these plans are provided below, grouped by themes.

Community Engagement for Crime Prevention

Notification of Community Crime (N.O.C.C.)

A number of Notification of Community Crime (N.O.C.C.) initiatives were run out of each division in 2017. The program is a crime prevention initiative that is aimed at informing residents of an increase in criminal activity in their neighbourhood. This program, which began in 2016, uses officers and community volunteers to go into neighborhoods that have experienced a marked increase in crime. The goal is to connect with residents on a proactive basis, inform them of current crime trends, and provide them with the opportunity to provide information/feedback to police. The community contact process involves the distribution of a pre-formatted card that contains crime prevention tips and information on how residents can report suspicious activity.

Clarington Joint Community Safety Day

One of the strategies employed by members of East Division to build on the strong relationship the Service has with the community is through continued active participation in community events such as the Clarington Joint-Community Safety Day.

The 2017 event was held on September 30th 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 timely advice to those asking about career opportunities in policing. In total, police had the opportunity to engage with approximately 6000 residents during this event.

Neighborhood Watch (NW)

There are currently 207 endorsed Watches in the Durham Region, (96 active, 111 inactive). The program is growing most steadily in Ajax, which added a new Neighborhood Watch to the program in 2017. Together with the seven new Watches established in 2015 and 2016, the program continues to grow with 33 watches in various stages of development, and 22 attempting rejuvenation.

The NW Program Coordinator participates in numerous community events all over Durham Region, where she engages and trains groups of community members in crime prevention, home security, and NW communication strategies. In 2017, she attended 62 community events, and gave 27 community safety lectures. This includes everything from attending the spring and Fall Fairs, Canada Days and Heritage and Community Safety Days across the Region to the dozens of smaller community-based events in each of our municipalities. In addition, she has participated in a number of shared events with various DRPS Divisions and Units. The NW Coordinator also took part in a Community Safety Symposium held in conjunction with West Division and the Town of Ajax.

The Public Safety Unit

The PSU partnership with the Alzheimer's Society of Durham Region continued throughout 2017. Members of the PSU co-presented at different locations throughout Durham Region on the importance of calling 9-1-1 if a loved one goes missing. The PSU also assists the Senior Support Unit with the completion of flag records (including obtaining current photographs) of vulnerable residents that have or may wander from their residence.

The PSU continues to attend numerous events and presents to special interest groups in discussion around lost & missing persons

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 youth in policing initiative employs over 100 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 2017 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, YMCA and Durham Continuing Education. To date over 1000 local youth have been through our programs.

School Resource Officer (SRO) Pilot Project

As a part of our commitment to youth and community collaboration, the Durham Regional Police Service is connecting with youth in our Regional schools through the School Resource Officer (SRO) program. This program is a partnership between the Durham District School Board (DDSB), the Durham Catholic District School Board (DCDSB) and the Durham Regional Police Service. SROs work in partnership with students, teachers, school administrators, school boards, parents, other police officers and the community to establish and maintain a healthy and safe school community.

The SRO's focus on early intervention and prevention, allowing a shift from a reactive policing model to proactive policing in our schools. The overall goal is to create an environment that will assist in creating a safer community now and in the future. We currently run this program in West, Central West & Central East Divisions.

Durham College/ UOIT

Traditionally, the back to school period in September, commonly known as "*Frosh Week*", causes concern with regards to calls for disorder and *Liquor License Act* infractions. In 2017, Central West Division conducted a proactive initiative in partnership with campus officials, the City of Oshawa Municipal Law Enforcement and Licensing Services Department. An educational component included the creation of DRPS flyers with over 400 of them ultimately being delivered door-to-door in the student housing areas explaining the fines for various offences as well as encouraging alternate means of transportation for those leaving the campus area. The Housing Director for on-campus residences put residents on notice as well, advising them that they would receive one warning for disorder then face eviction for any further infractions. The Manager of Campus Safety and Security ensured that all events on campus had a zero alcohol policy.

In addition to this, the Central West Division officers work with UOIT/DC administration and student representatives throughout the year to support a safe environment to learn.

Keeping our Roadways 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 from each division; North & East Division have a greater focus on the demand to 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.

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.

Supporting Our Vulnerable Persons

Mental Health Support Unit

In 2017 the DRPS Mental Health Support Unit entered into a new partnership with the Central East Local Health Integrated Network (LHIN) and Lakeridge Health. Under the new partnership the Central East LHIN and Lakeridge Health would provide nurses who ride on patrol with members of the Mental Health Support Unit. On August 21st 2017 the new program went live and two nurses began working with the Mental Health Support Unit. After some initial orientation and training the teams began daily deployment on the front line. The teams attend mental health related calls for service in support of the front line. They also conduct follow-ups with members of the community, who have been identified through interactions with the police, as being in need of support. This follow up is done in person or through follow-up calls to the identified persons and their families.

The Mental Health Response Officer course continues to run with classes remaining full. With the completion of October's 2017 class, there will be over 230 officers trained to effectively respond to calls involving persons in crisis. Of these officers, over 130 are deployed on the front line with the remainder being assigned to support and specialized units within the Service.

In 2017 the DRPS partnered with Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) on a pilot project to bring mental health professionals, advocacy groups, people living with mental illness, police and university researchers together to investigate frameworks for and outcomes of educational and training methods designed to enhance interactions between police and people with mental illness. Moving forward in 2018 the DRPS will work with its partners to develop the project which is anticipated to begin in October 2018. The project will assist in the development of training in the best practices of police response to people in mental health crisis.

Durham Connect/ Durham Connect (North)

Durham Connect is a collection of 32 human services agencies in Durham that meet weekly to link people or families in a recognized state of acutely elevated risk with support. By using a collaborative information sharing protocol, Durham Connect provides a forum to share information across sectors and between organizations to ensure people are safe, stable and connected to services.

2017 marked the introduction of the North to the table. North Durham is unique in that many of the community services that are readily available in the south are not as accessible in the North. Therefore, certain supports are not available at all, or are obtained from neighbouring communities, such as York

Region or Lindsay. A group of core agencies in the north have joined together with Durham Connect and through remote video conferencing have access to each meeting in the south table and the collaborative support it provides.

Supporting our Seniors in the North

Since a large percentage of the population in North Durham is made up of seniors, North Division has endeavored to address the needs of this segment of our community. North Division has taken a proactive approach and great attention to address the needs of this vulnerable community by linking our seniors with needed services as well as facilitating numerous crime prevention initiatives with key partners.

All initiatives are supported through our Regional Senior Support Coordinator who coordinates the efforts of 48 front-line officers specifically trained in dealing with elder abuse. Our program is linked directly with Central East LHIN, Community Care Durham as well as many other support services.

Supporting the Investigation of Crime and Disorder

Intelligence Operation Section (IOS)

The Intelligence Operations Section (IOS) remains the conduit for the collection, analysis and dissemination of intelligence internally, as well as externally, to member agencies. The IOS has maintained excellent working relationships with agencies across Ontario and Canada. As a respected member of CISO, IOS members work closely with both policing and non-policing members, on a regular basis. IOS utilizes these positive interactions, in order to advance investigations and intelligence gathering. The IOS supervisors are voting members of CISO and attend all quarterly District and quarterly Operational Body meetings, throughout the year. This exchange of intelligence and networking between agencies is pivotal to the success of disrupting and dismantling organized crime and other serious crime throughout Canada.

The Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) portfolio is a significant focus for the Intelligence Operations Section (IOS) and continued to be advanced by the development of a Countering Violent Extremism Strategy, in 2017. The CVE Strategy focuses on two basic components (Training/Education and Collaboration), both Internally and externally. Internally, the training has and continues to be developed for members of the DRPS. We currently have 57 officers trained as Counter Terrorism Information Officers (CTIO) who act as a conduit for information to their individual units. The collaboration/partnerships with other law enforcement and non-law enforcement partners will assist the DRPS in the detection and prevention of violent extremism. Externally, educational components are being developed for distribution to the many communities that make up the Region of Durham.

Drug Enforcement Unit (DEU)

The DEU remains very active in Drug Prevention and Awareness initiatives within the community. Working alongside Durham Public Health & Durham Harm Reduction Coalition, the focus on these initiatives have shifted to the growing public health issue related to opioid/fentanyl abuse and the impact that these drugs have had on our community. The Intelligence Branch has been tracking the overdose/sudden death rates relating to opioid abuse including illicit Fentanyl and Heroin since 2014. These statistics have been used in a number of educational and awareness presentations to inform our health care officials, emergency services personnel, the judiciary and the general public on the status of the opioid health crisis and the dangers of Fentanyl.

Threat Assessment Unit (TAU):

Threat assessment is best explained as criminal profiling for violence. The Durham Regional Police Service, Threat Assessment Unit (TAU) consists of a Detective who has experience in the investigation of violent crime and has received specialized training in the field of Threat Assessment and Risk Management. There are only three other police services in Ontario with threat assessment accredited investigators.

The Threat Assessment Coordinator is actively involved in the development and implementation of the current threat assessment protocol followed by the Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board, the Durham Catholic District School Board (DCDSB), the Durham District School Board (DDSB) and le Conseil Scolaire Catholique MonAvenir. The process, named the Community Threat Assessment and Intervention Protocol (C-TAIP), involves the collaboration of community partners to: identify individual(s) or situations that are a threat to the safety of the school population; assess the threat and level of risk posed; develop appropriate intervention strategies to stop the threat and provide a safe environment for students, staff and the community.

In 2017, the TAU delivered training to the DDSB and the DCDSB on four separate 2-4 day sessions. Also present for that training were other community partners (youth services, CAS, Lakeridge Health, law enforcement services, etc.). Instruction addressed the current concepts and research in the field of threat assessment, risk indicators and identification of individuals moving along a pathway towards targeted violence and the application of the protocol. Over 200 community partner members were trained in 2017 in threat and risk assessment and intervention. An additional 2-day new component of Crisis/Trauma Response was added to the training model beginning in 2016 and a third component is being developed for 2019.

The Threat Assessment Coordinator is an active member of the C-TAIP Steering Committee, which meets quarterly to review the protocol. There are currently in excess of 25 community agencies signed on as C-TAIP partners including, but not limited to, law enforcement, school boards, mental health, youth services, corrections, victim services, child welfare, health services, etc.

The TAU consulted with DDSB and DCDSB on 378 individuals in 2017, a considerable increase from the 92 consultations in 2016.

Lessons Learned and Continuous Improvement

The activities and lessons learned from our decades of community policing experience are inventoried and maintained in order to inform future initiatives and to develop our newest leaders. Furthermore, the support of our Strategic Planning Section ensures that we use evidence-based approaches in our decision-making and in the evaluation of our results.

Conclusion

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