

Frequently Asked Questions: New Legislative Requirements related to Mandating Community Safety and Well-Being Planning

1) What is community safety and well-being (CSWB) planning?

CSWB planning involves taking an integrated approach to service delivery by working across a wide range of sectors, agencies and organizations (including, but not limited to, local government, police services, health/mental health, education, social services, and community and custodial services for children and youth) to proactively develop and implement evidence-based strategies and programs to address local priorities (i.e., risk factors, vulnerable groups, protective factors) related to crime and complex social issues on a sustainable basis.

The goal of CSWB planning is to achieve the ideal state of a sustainable community where everyone is safe, has a sense of belonging, access to services and where individuals and families are able to meet their needs for education, health care, food, housing, income, and social and cultural expression.

2) Why is CSWB planning important for every community?

CSWB planning supports a collaborative approach to addressing local priorities through the implementation of programs/strategies in four planning areas, including social development, prevention, risk intervention and incident response. By engaging in the CSWB planning process, communities will be able to save lives and prevent crime, victimization and suicide.

Further, by taking a holistic approach to CSWB planning it helps to ensure those in need of help receive the right response, at the right time, and by the right service provider. It will also help to improve interactions between police and vulnerable Ontarians by enhancing frontline responses to those in crisis.

To learn more about the benefits of CSWB planning, please see Question #3.

3) What are the benefits of CSWB planning?

CSWB planning has a wide-range of positive impacts for local agencies/organizations and frontline service providers, as well as the broader community, including the general public. A few key benefits are highlighted below:

- Enhanced communication and collaboration among sectors, agencies and organizations;
- Transformation of service delivery, including realignment of resources and responsibilities to better respond to priorities and needs;
- Increased understanding of and focus on local risks and vulnerable groups;
- Ensuring the appropriate services are provided to those individuals with complex needs;
- Increased awareness, coordination of and access to services for community members and vulnerable groups;
- Healthier, more productive individuals that positively contribute to the community; and
- Reducing the financial burden of crime on society through cost-effective approaches with significant return on investments.

4) When will the new legislative requirements related to CSWB planning come into force and how long will municipalities have to develop a plan?

The new legislative requirements related to CSWB planning came into force on January 1, 2019, as an amendment to the *Police Services Act, 1990* (PSA), and municipalities have two years from this date to develop and adopt a plan (i.e., by January 1, 2021). The CSWB planning provisions are outlined in Part XI of the PSA.

This timeframe was based on learnings and feedback from the eight pilot communities that tested components of the *Community Safety and Well-Being Planning Framework: A Shared Commitment in Ontario* booklet (see Question #33 for more information on the pilot communities).

In the circumstance of a joint plan, all municipalities involved must follow the same timeline to prepare and adopt their first CSWB plan (see Question #10 for more information on joint plans).

5) What are the main requirements for the CSWB planning process?

A 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, such as Statistics Canada and local sector-specific data;
- Evidence-based programs and strategies to address those priority risk factors; and
- Measurable outcomes with associated performance measures to ensure that the strategies are effective and outcomes are being achieved.

As part of the planning process, municipalities are required to establish an advisory committee inclusive of, but not limited to, representation from the local police service board, as well as the Local Health Integration Networks or health/mental health services, educational services, community/social services, community services to children/youth and custodial services to children/youth.

Further, municipalities are required to conduct consultations with the advisory committee, members of public, including youth, members of racialized groups and of First Nations, Métis and Inuit communities, as well as community organizations that represent these groups.

To learn more about CSWB planning, please refer to the *Community Safety and Well-Being Planning Framework: A Shared Commitment in Ontario* booklet. The booklet contains practical guidance on how to develop a plan, including a sample CSWB plan.

6) Who is responsible for developing a CSWB plan?

As per the PSA, the responsibility to prepare and adopt a CSWB plan applies to:

- Single-tier municipalities;
- Lower-tier municipalities in the County of Oxford and in counties; and
- Regional municipalities, other than the County of Oxford.

First Nations communities are also being encouraged to undertake the CSWB planning process but are not required to do so by the legislation.

7) Are the lower-tier municipalities within a region also required to develop a local CSWB plan?

In the case of regional municipalities, the obligation to prepare and adopt a CSWB plan applies to the regional municipality, not the lower-tier municipalities within the region. Further, the lower-tier municipalities are not required to formally adopt the regional plan (i.e., by resolution from their municipal council).

However, there is nothing that would prohibit any of the lower-tier municipalities within a region from developing and adopting their own CSWB plan, if they choose, but it would be outside the legislative requirements outlined in the PSA.

8) Why is the Government of Ontario mandating CSWB planning to the municipality?

CSWB planning is being mandated to municipalities to ensure a proactive and integrated approach to address local crime and complex social issues on a sustainable basis. Municipalities will have a leadership role in identifying their local priority risks in the community and addressing these risks through evidence-based programs and strategies, focusing on social development, prevention and risk intervention.

It is important to remember that while the municipality is designated the lead of CSWB planning, developing and implementing a CSWB plan requires engagement from all sectors.

9) If a band council decides to prepare a CSWB plan, do they have to follow all the steps outlined in legislation (e.g., establish an advisory body, conduct engagement sessions, publish, etc.)?

First Nations communities may choose to follow the process outlined in legislation regarding CSWB planning but are not required to do so.

10) Can municipalities create joint plans?

Yes, municipalities can create a joint plan with other municipalities and/or First Nation band councils. The same planning process must be followed when municipalities are developing a joint plan.

11) What is the benefit of creating a joint plan (i.e., more than one municipal council and/or band council) versus one plan per municipality?

It may be of value to collaborate with other municipalities and/or First Nations communities to create the most effective CSWB plan that meets the needs of the area. For example, if many frontline service providers deliver services across neighbouring municipalities or if limited resources are available within a municipality to complete the planning process, then municipalities may want to consider partnering to create a joint plan that will address the unique needs of their area. Additionally, it may be beneficial for smaller municipalities to work together with other municipal councils to more effectively monitor, evaluate and report on the impact of the plan.

12) When creating a joint plan, do all municipalities involved need to formally adopt the plan (i.e., resolution by council)?

Yes, as prescribed in legislation, every municipal council shall prepare, and by resolution, adopt a CSWB plan. The same process must be followed for a joint CSWB plan (i.e., every municipality involved must pass a resolution to adopt the joint plan).

13) What are the responsibilities of an advisory committee?

The main role of the advisory committee is to bring various sectors' perspectives together to provide strategic advice and direction to the municipality on the development and implementation of their CSWB plan.

Multi-sectoral collaboration is a key factor to successful CSWB planning, as it ensures an integrated approach to identifying and addressing local priorities. An ideal committee member should have enough knowledge about their respective sector to identify where potential gaps or duplication in services exist and where linkages could occur with other sectors. The committee member(s) should have knowledge and understanding of the other agencies and organizations within their sector, and be able to leverage their expertise if required.

14) Who is required to participate on the advisory committee?

As prescribed in legislation, an advisory committee, at a minimum, must include the following members:

- A person who represents
 - the local health integration network, or
 - an entity that provides physical or mental health services
- A person who represents an entity that provides educational services;
- A person who represents an entity that provides community or social services in the municipality, if there is such an entity;
- A person who represents an entity that provides community or social services to children or youth in the municipality, if there is such an entity;
- A person who represents an entity that provides custodial services to children or youth in the municipality, if there is such an entity;
- An employee of the municipality or a member of municipal council
- A representative of a police service board or, if there is no police service board, a detachment commander of the Ontario Provincial Police (or delegate)

As this is the minimum requirement, municipalities have the discretion to include additional representatives from key agencies/organizations on the advisory committee if needed.

Consideration must also be given to the diversity of the population in the municipality to ensure the advisory committee is reflective of the community.

As a first step to establishing the advisory committee, a municipality may want to explore leveraging existing committees or groups with similar multi-sectoral representation and mandates to develop the advisory committee or assist in the selection process.

15) Why isn't a representative of the police service required to participate on the advisory committee?

The requirement for a representative of the police service board to be part of the advisory committee is to ensure accountability and decision-making authority in regards to CSWB planning. However, under the legislation a police service board/detachment commander would have the local discretion to delegate a representative of the police service to take part in the advisory committee on their behalf.

In addition, the legislation outlines the minimum requirement for the membership of the advisory committee and therefore it is at the local discretion of the municipality to include additional members, such as police service representatives, should they decide.

16) What is meant by a representative of an entity that provides custodial services to children or youth?

In order to satisfy the requirement for membership on the advisory committee, the representative must be from an organization that directly provides custodial services to children/youth as defined under the *Youth Criminal Justice Act (YCJA)*. The definition of youth custody facility in the YCJA is as follows:

- *A facility designated under subsection 85(2) for the placement of young persons and, if so designated, includes a facility for the secure restraint of young persons, a community residential centre, a group home, a child care institution and a forest or wilderness camp. (lieu de garde)*

The member must represent the entity that operates the youth custodial facility, not just provide support services to youth who might be in custody.

It is also important to note that, under the legislation, if a municipality determines that there is no such entity within their jurisdiction, the requirement does not apply.

17) How does a member of the advisory committee get selected?

The municipal council is responsible for establishing the process to identify membership for the advisory committee and has discretion to determine what type of process they would like to follow to do so.

18) In creating a joint plan, do you need to establish more than one advisory committee?

No, regardless of whether the CSWB plan is being developed by one or more municipal councils/band councils, there should only be one corresponding advisory committee.

At a minimum, the advisory committee must include representation as prescribed in legislation (refer to Question #14 for more detail). In terms of creating a joint CSWB plan, it is up to the participating municipal councils and/or First Nation band councils to determine whether they want additional members on the advisory committee, including more than one representative from the prescribed sectors.

19) Who does a municipality have to consult with in the development of a CSWB plan? What sources of data do municipalities need to utilize to develop a CSWB plan?

In preparing a CSWB plan, municipal council(s) must, at a minimum, consult with the advisory committee and members of the public, including youth, members of racialized groups, First Nations, Inuit and Métis communities and community organizations that represent these groups.

To learn more about community engagement, refer to the *Community Safety and Well-Being Planning Framework: A Shared Commitment in Ontario* booklet which includes a tool on engaging the community. The booklet also includes resources which help to guide municipalities in their engagement with seniors, youth and Indigenous partners, as these groups are often identified as vulnerable.

In addition to community engagement sessions, data from Statistics Canada and local sector-specific data (e.g., police data, hospital data, education data, etc.) should also be utilized to assist in identifying local priorities. Municipalities and planning partners are encouraged to leverage resources that already exist in the community, including data from their multi-sectoral partners or existing local plans, strategies or initiatives that could inform their CSWB plan (e.g., Neighbourhood Studies, Community Vital Signs Reports, Public Safety Canada’s Crime Prevention Inventory, etc.).

Further, the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services also offers the Risk-driven Tracking Database free of charge to communities that have implemented multi-sectoral risk intervention models, such as Situation Tables. The Risk-driven Tracking Database provides a standardized means to collect data about local priorities and evolving trends, which can be used to help inform the CSWB planning process. To learn more about the Risk-driven Tracking Database, please contact SafetyPlanning@Ontario.ca.

20) What is the best way to get members of your community involved in the CSWB planning process?

There are a variety of ways community members can become involved in the planning process, including:

- Attending meetings to learn about CSWB planning and service delivery;
- Volunteering to support local initiatives that improve safety and well-being;
- Talking to family, friends and neighbours about how to make the community a better place;
- Sharing information with CSWB planners about risks that you have experienced, or are aware of in the community;
- Thinking about existing services and organizations that you know about in the community, and whether they are successfully providing for your/the community’s needs;
- Identifying how your needs are being met by existing services, and letting CSWB planners know where there are gaps or opportunities for improvement;
- Sharing your awareness of available services, supports and resources with family, friends and neighbours to make sure people know where they can turn if they need help; and
- Thinking about the results you want to see in your community in the longer-term and sharing them with CSWB planners so they understand community priorities and expectations.

21) What happens if some sectors or agencies/organizations don't want to get involved?

Given that the advisory committee is comprised of multi-sectoral partners, as a first step, you may want to leverage their connections to different community agencies/organizations and service providers.

It is also important that local government and other senior public officials champion the cause and create awareness of the importance of undertaking the planning process to identify and address local priority risks.

Lastly, if after multiple unsuccessful attempts, it may be of value to reach out to ministry staff for suggestions or assistance at: SafetyPlanning@ontario.ca.

22) Are there requirements for municipalities to publish their CSWB plan?

The PSA includes regulatory requirements for municipalities related to the publication of their CSWB plans. These requirements include:

- Publishing a community safety and well-being plan on the Internet within 30 days after adopting it.
- Making a printed copy of the CSWB plan available for review by anyone who requests it.
- Publishing the plan in any other manner or form the municipality desires.

23) How often do municipalities need to review and update their CSWB plan?

A municipal council should review and, if necessary, update their plan to ensure that the plan continues to be reflective of the needs of the community. This will allow municipalities to assess the long-term outcomes and impacts of their strategies as well as effectiveness of the overall plan as a whole. Municipalities are encouraged to align their review of the plan with relevant local planning cycles and any other local plans (e.g., municipal strategic plans, police services' Strategic Plan, etc.). Requirements related to the reviewing and updating of CSWB plans may be outlined in regulation in the future.

24) How will municipalities know if their CSWB plan is effective?

As part of the CSWB planning process, municipalities must identify measurable outcomes that can be tracked throughout the duration of the plan. Short, intermediate and longer-term performance measures need to be identified and collected in order to evaluate how effective the plan has been in addressing the priority risks, and creating positive changes in the community.

In the planning stage, it is important to identify the intended outcomes of activities in order to measure progress towards addressing those pre-determined priority risks. This can be done through the development of a logic model and performance measurement framework. Some outcomes will be evident immediately after activities are implemented and some will take more time to achieve. The *Community Safety and Well-Being Planning Framework: A Shared Commitment in Ontario* booklet provides a resource on performance measurement, including how to develop a logic model.

Municipalities are required to regularly monitor and update their plan, as needed, in order to ensure it continues to be reflective of local needs and it is meeting the intended outcomes.

25) How will the ministry monitor the progress of a local CSWB plan?

New legislation identifies that a municipality is required to provide the Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services with any prescribed information related to (upon request):

- The municipality's CSWB plan, including preparation, adoption or implementation of the plan;
- Any outcomes from the municipality's CSWB plan; and
- Any other prescribed matter related to the CSWB plan.

Additional requirements related to monitoring CSWB plans may be outlined in regulation in the future.

26) How does a municipality get started?

To get the CSWB planning process started, it is suggested that communities begin by following the steps outlined below:

a) Demonstrate Commitment at the Highest Level

- Demonstrate commitment from local government, senior public officials, and leadership within multi-sectoral agencies/organizations to help champion the process (i.e., through council resolution, assigning a CSWB planning coordinator, realigning resources, etc.).
- Establish a multi-sector advisory committee with, but not limited to, representation from the sectors prescribed by the legislation.
- Leverage existing partnerships, bodies and strategies within the community.

b) Establish Buy-In from Multi-sector Partners

- Develop targeted communication materials (e.g., email distribution, flyers, memos, etc.) to inform agencies/organizations and the broader public about the legislative requirement to develop a CSWB plan and the planning process, and to keep community partners engaged.
- Engage with partnering agencies/organizations to ensure that all partners understand their role in making the community a safe and healthy place to live.
- Distribute the *Community Safety and Well-Being Planning Framework: A Shared Commitment in Ontario* booklet to all those involved and interested in the planning process.

Once the advisory committee has been established and there is local buy-in, municipalities should begin engaging in community consultations and collecting multi-sectoral data to identify local priority risks. For more information on the CSWB planning process, please refer to the *Community Safety and Well-Being Planning Framework: A Shared Commitment in Ontario* booklet.

27) What happens if a municipality does not develop a CSWB plan?

Where a municipality intentionally and repeatedly fails to comply with its CSWB obligations under the legislation, the Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services may appoint a CSWB planner at the expense of the municipality. The appointed planner has the right to exercise any powers of the municipal council that are required to prepare a CSWB plan that the municipality must adopt.

This measure will help ensure that local priorities are identified so that municipalities can begin addressing risks and create long-term positive changes in the community.

28) What if municipalities don't have the resources to undertake this exercise?

Where capacity and resources are limited, municipalities have the discretion and flexibility to create joint plans with other municipalities and First Nation band councils. By leveraging the assets and strengths across neighbouring municipalities/First Nations communities, municipalities can ensure the most effective CSWB plan is developed to meet the needs of the area.

CSWB planning is not about reinventing the wheel – but rather recognizing the work already being made within individual agencies and organizations and build from their progress. Specifically, CSWB planning is about utilizing existing resources in a more innovative, effective and efficient way. Municipalities are encouraged to use collaboration to do more with existing resources, experience and expertise. The *Community Safety and Well-Being Planning Framework: A Shared Commitment in Ontario* booklet provides a resource on asset mapping to help communities identify existing strengths and resources that could be leverage during the planning process.

In addition, the ministry offers a number of different grant programs that are mostly available to police services to support crime prevention and CSWB initiatives. Please visit the ministry's website for additional information on available grant programs:

<http://www.mcscs.jus.gov.on.ca/english/Policing/ProgramDevelopment/PSDGrantsandInitiatives.html>

Funding programs are also offered by the federal government's Public Safety department. For more information on their programs and eligibility, please visit <https://www.publicsafety.gc.ca/cnt/cntrng-crm/crm-prvntn/fndng-prgrms/index-en.aspx>.

29) How will the ministry support municipalities and First Nation band councils with CSWB planning?

As part of the work to develop a modernized approach to CSWB, the ministry has developed a series of booklets to share information and better support municipalities, First Nations communities and their partners with their local CSWB efforts.

Specifically, the *Community Safety and Well-Being Planning Framework: A Shared Commitment in Ontario* booklet consists of the CSWB Planning Framework as well as a toolkit of practical guidance documents to support communities and their partners in developing and implementing local plans. The booklet also includes resources that can guide municipalities on their engagement with vulnerable groups such as seniors, youth and Indigenous partners. This booklet can be accessed online at: <https://www.mcscs.jus.gov.on.ca/english/Publications/MCSCSSOPlanningFramework.html>.

The other two booklets developed as part of the series includes:

- **Crime Prevention in Ontario: A Framework for Action** – this booklet sets the stage for effective crime prevention and CSWB efforts through evidence and research – <http://www.mcscs.jus.gov.on.ca/sites/default/files/content/mcscs/docs/ec157730.pdf>.
- **Community Safety and Well-Being in Ontario: A Snapshot of Local Voices** – this booklet shares learnings about CSWB challenges and promising practices from several communities across Ontario – <http://www.mcscs.jus.gov.on.ca/sites/default/files/content/mcscs/docs/ec167634.pdf>.

Another resource that communities can utilize is the *Guidance on Information Sharing in Multi-sectoral Risk Intervention Models* document (available on the ministry website - <http://www.mcscs.jus.gov.on.ca/english/Publications/PSDGuidanceInformationSharingMultisectoralRiskInterventionModels.html>). This document was developed by the ministry and supports the CSWB Planning Framework by outlining best practices for professionals sharing information in multi-sectoral risk intervention models (e.g., Situation Tables).

Further, the ministry also offers the Risk-driven Tracking Database which provides a standardized means of gathering de-identified information on situations of elevated risk for communities implementing multi-sectoral risk intervention models, such as Situation Tables. It is one tool that can help communities collect data about local priorities and evolving trends to assist with the CSWB planning process.

Lastly, ministry staff are also available to provide direct support to communities in navigating the new legislation related to CSWB planning through interactive presentations and webinars. For more information on arranging CSWB planning presentations and webinars, please contact SafetyPlanning@ontario.ca.

For information on funding supports, please see Question #31.

30) What is the ministry doing to support Indigenous communities with CSWB planning?

Although First Nations communities are not required by legislation to develop CSWB plans, the ministry continues to encourage these communities to engage in this type of planning.

Recognizing the unique perspectives and needs of Indigenous communities, the ministry has worked with its Indigenous and community partners to develop an additional resource to assist municipalities in engaging with local Indigenous partners as part of their municipally-led CSWB planning process (refer to Appendix D of the *Community Safety and Well-Being Planning Framework: A Shared Commitment in Ontario* booklet).

The ministry is also continuing to work with First Nations community partners to identify opportunities to better support First Nations communities in developing and implementing their own CSWB plans.

31) Will any provincial funding be made available to support local CSWB planning?

The ministry currently offers different grant programs that are mostly available to police services, in collaboration with community partners, which could be leveraged for implementing programs and strategies identified in a local CSWB plan.

The Government of Ontario is currently in the process of reviewing expenditures to inform service delivery planning as part of the multi-year planning process. In support of this work, the ministry is reviewing its grant programs to focus on outcomes-based initiatives that better address local CSWB needs, and provide municipalities, community and policing partners with the necessary tools and resources to ensure the safety of Ontario communities.

The ministry will continue to update municipal, community and policing partners regarding any changes to our grant programs.

32) What is Ontario's modernized approach to CSWB?

Over the past several years, the ministry has been working with its inter-ministerial, community and policing partners to develop a modernized approach to CSWB that addresses crime and complex social issues on a more sustainable basis. This process involved the following phases:

- Phase 1 – raising awareness, creating dialogue and promoting the benefits of CSWB to Ontario communities through the development of the ***Crime Prevention in Ontario: A Framework for Action*** booklet, which was released broadly in 2012. The booklet is available on the ministry's website: <http://www.mcscs.jus.gov.on.ca/sites/default/files/content/mcscs/docs/ec157730.pdf>
- Phase 2 – the strategic engagement of various stakeholders across the province, including the public. This phase concluded in November 2014, with the release of the ***Community Safety and Well-Being in Ontario: A Snapshot of Local Voices*** booklet. This booklet highlights feedback from the engagement sessions regarding locally-identified CSWB challenges and promising practices. The Snapshot of Local Voices is also available on the ministry's website: <http://www.mcscs.jus.gov.on.ca/sites/default/files/content/mcscs/docs/ec167634.pdf>
- Phase 3 – the development of the third booklet entitled ***Community Safety and Well-Being Planning Framework: A Shared Commitment in Ontario***, which was released in November 2017. The booklet consists of the Community Safety and Well-Being Planning Framework (Framework) and toolkit of practical guidance documents to assist communities in developing and implementing local CSWB plans. The Framework encourages communities to work collaboratively across sectors to identify local priority risks to safety and well-being and implement evidence-based strategies to address these risks, with a focus on social development, prevention and risk intervention. The Framework also encourages communities to move towards preventative planning and making investments into social development, prevention and risk intervention in order to reduce the need for and investment in and sole reliance on emergency/incident response. This booklet is available on the ministry's website: <https://www.mcscs.jus.gov.on.ca/english/Publications/MCSCSSOPanningFramework.html>.

33) Was the CSWB planning process tested in advance of provincial release?

The *Community Safety and Well-Being Planning Framework: A Shared Commitment in Ontario* booklet was developed using evidence-based research, as well as practical feedback from the eight pilot communities that tested components of the Framework and toolkit prior to public release. Further, learnings from on-going community engagement sessions with various urban, rural, remote and Indigenous communities have also been incorporated. The booklet was also reviewed by the ministry's Inter-ministerial CSWB Working Group, which consists of 10 Ontario ministries and Public Safety Canada, to further incorporate multi-sectoral input and perspectives. As a result, this process helped to ensure that the booklet is a useful tool that can support communities as they move through the CSWB planning process.

34) What is a risk factor?

Risk factors are negative characteristics and/or conditions present in individuals, families, communities, or society that may increase social disorder, crime or fear of crime, or the likelihood of harm or victimization to persons or property in a community.

A few examples of risk factors include:

- Risk Factor: Missing School – truancy
 - Definition: has unexcused absences from school without parental knowledge
- Risk Factor: Poverty – person living in less than adequate financial situation
 - Definition: current financial situation makes meeting the day-to-day housing, clothing or nutritional needs, significantly difficult
- Risk Factor: Sexual Violence – person victim of sexual violence
 - Definition: has been the victim of sexual harassment, humiliation, exploitation, touching or forced sexual acts

Municipalities and First Nations communities have local discretion to address the risks that are most prevalent in their communities as part of their CSWB plans, which should be identified through consultation with the community and by utilizing/leveraging multiple sources of data.

The *Community Safety and Well-Being Planning Framework: A Shared Commitment in Ontario* booklet includes a list of risk factors and their associated definitions to assist communities in identifying and prioritizing their local priority risks.