



Hamilton

2025–2029 Community Safety and Well-Being Plan

Emergency & Community Services Committee

May 22, 2025

Presenters:

Paul Hamilton, Deputy Chief, Hamilton Police Services
Rachelle Ihekwoaba, Manager Community Strategies, City of Hamilton
Bryan Shone, Executive Director, Hamilton Child and Family Supports

Healthy & Safe Communities Department
Children's and Community Services Division, Community Strategies



Recommendations

1. That the 2025-2029 Community Safety and Well-Being (CSWB) Plan **BE APPROVED**;
2. That staff **BE DIRECTED** to submit the 2025-2029 CSWB Plan to the Ministry of Solicitor General by July 1, 2025, as presented; and
3. That staff **BE DIRECTED** to report back on progress of the CSWB Plan to the Emergency and Community Services Committee in Q2 2026 and annually thereafter.

What is the Province of Ontario's Legislative Mandate?

Established under the Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019, the legislation requires all Ontario municipalities to prepare, adopt, and implement a plan to enhance community safety.

This process includes forming an **advisory committee**, **identifying priority risks**, installing **implementation teams**, and a **data and decision support tool**.

How does CSWB align with Council Priorities?

Safe & Thriving Neighborhoods

Responsiveness & Transparency

Sustainable Development

System Advisory Leadership Table



First plan approved June 2021, with six key priorities:

HATE INCIDENTS

VIOLENCE

**MENTAL HEALTH
AND STIGMA**

SUBSTANCE USE

**HOUSING AND
HOMELESSNESS**

**ACCESS TO
INCOME**

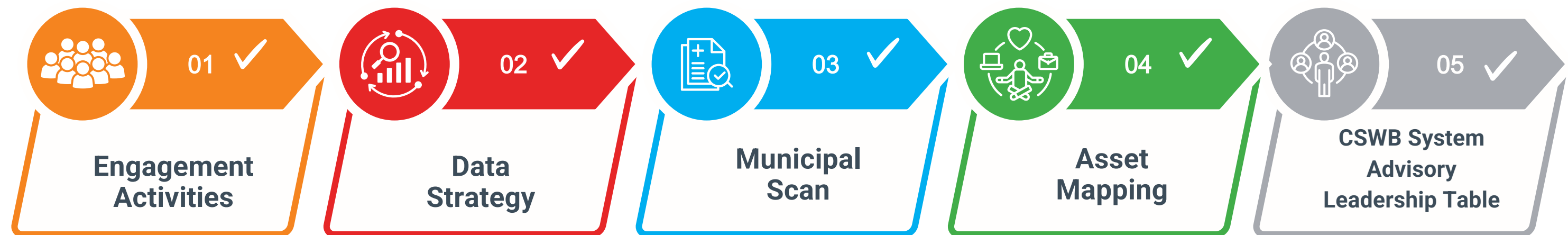
Key Accomplishments

- **Enhancing CSWB Governance**
 - 60% increase in Advisory Committee representation
 - Indigenous leadership and participation enhanced
- **Hamilton C.A.R.E.S.**
 - 20+ community partners, 130+ professionals trained
 - Weekly case discussions for high-risk youth interventions
- **Building Safer Communities**
 - \$2.5M+ invested in 9 collaborative programs
 - 1,100+ youth engaged, 300+ sessions delivered
- **Tackling Gender-Based Violence**
 - \$130K to Women Abuse Working Group
 - \$100K for safety audit
 - Community Safety definition adopted

- **Confronting Hate with Action**
 - WeSupportHamilton.ca platform launched
 - Hamilton for All campaign
 - Anti-Hate Toolkit & Belonging Pledge
- **Leading Mental Health Crisis Response**
 - Service review completed
 - Funding for designated leadership
- **Housing & Shelter Supports**
 - 270+ temporary shelter beds added
 - Tenant Support Team launched

Mandated Revision & Reporting Timelines

As of April 1, 2024, municipalities must review or revise CSWB plans. The revised CSWB Plan will be submitted to the Ministry of the Solicitor General by July 1, 2025, upon Council approval.



Community Engagement Highlights

- **10+ conversations** with City-led or community driven networks and action tables
- **12 agency-led** engagements with equity-deserving communities
- **Nearly 1,000** responses to the public survey via Engage Hamilton
- Art of Belonging creative activity gathered children's perspectives

What We Heard

- All six 2021 priority areas remain relevant – with increased urgency and interconnection
- Community feedback raised additional concerns: food insecurity, social isolation, public safety, encampments
- Strong calls for:
 - Better coordination across systems
 - More equitable access to services
 - Stronger alignment between City and community efforts

CSWB Plan Moving Forward

System Capacity

Align City and community efforts to improve coordination, reduce duplication, and mobilize shared resources

Equitable Access and Service Availability

Remove barriers to critical services like housing, food, mental health, and crisis support

Community Safety

Address violence, hate, and discrimination while fostering inclusion, belonging, and safer public spaces

CSWB Plan Moving Forward

Guiding Principles

- Truth and Reconciliation
- Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility
- Community Engagement
- Data and Evaluation
- Sustainability
- System Collaboration

Capacity and Resource Needs

- **Current staffing:**
 - 0.5 FTE Manager + 1.0 FTE Senior Project Manager
- **Time-limited funding**
 - Building Safer Communities Fund ends March 2026
- **Additional Investment Enables:**
 - Robust data infrastructure
 - Integration of lived experience into planning and delivery
 - Continued work on GBV and anti-hate response



Next Steps

- **July 2025** – Submit 2025 – 2029 CSWB Plan to the Ministry of the Solicitor General
- **Q3 2025**– Host community action planning workshop to co-develop performance measures and implementation strategies
- **Q2 2026** – Report back to Emergency and Community Services Committee with progress update



Hamilton

THANK YOU