

# WINDSOR ESSEX REGIONAL COMMUNITY SAFETY AND WELL-BEING PLAN

SUMMARY REPORT



# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Windsor Essex Regional Community Safety and Well-Being Plan (the “Plan”) has been developed in accordance with provincial legislation and with guidance from area municipalities, sector leadership, and historically underrepresented priority populations. The goal of these provincially mandated plans is to re-imagine how we address crime and complex social issues by moving towards more preventative and multi-disciplinary approaches. Key development objectives were to identify priority risk factors in the community, identify strategies to reduce those risks, and set measurable outcomes for the success of those strategies.

To achieve these goals and objectives, the Plan brought together a variety of community stakeholders to inform the identification and prioritization process as well as to leverage existing community strengths when creating strategies to address identified risks.

Through consultations, four priority areas of focus were established: Good Governance and Data, Engaged and Safe Communities, Mental Health and Substance-Use Supports and Financial Security and Economic Equity. (Figure 1.)

## CSWB Planning Benefits



Enhanced communication and collaboration among agencies and organizations



Increased understanding of and focus on priority risks, populations and neighbourhoods

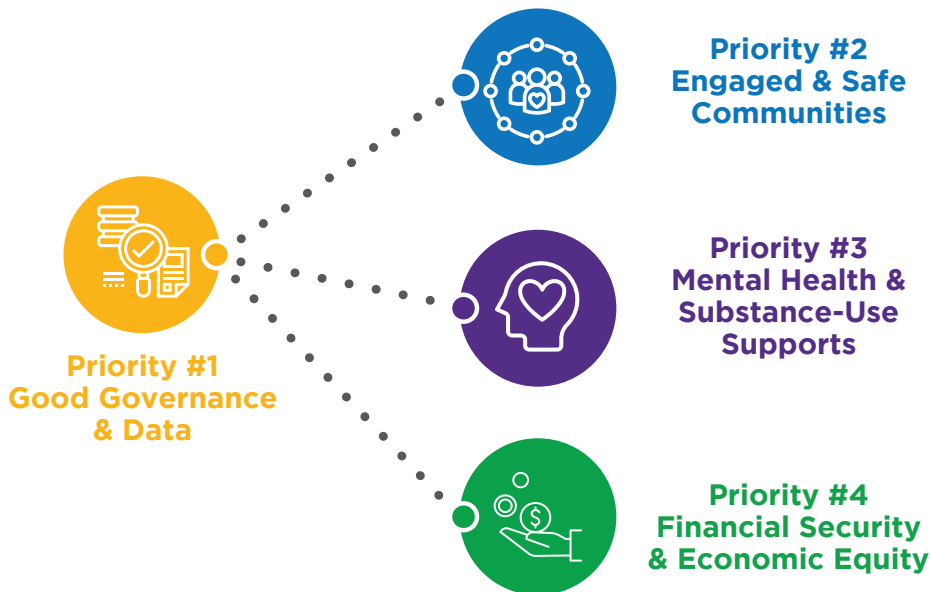


Ensuring services are provided to individuals with complex needs

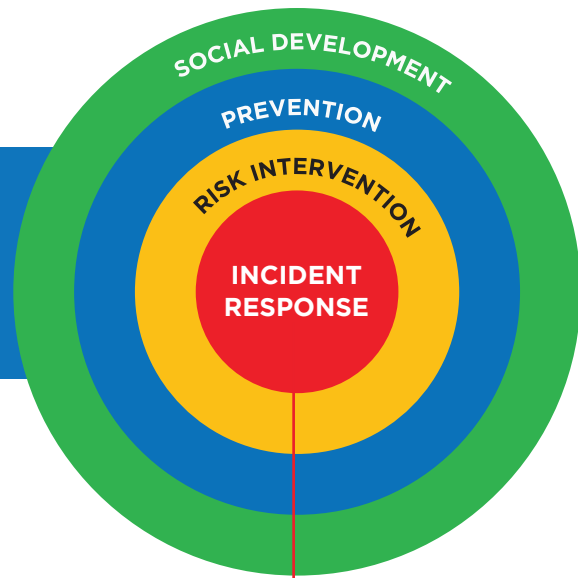


Increased awareness, coordination and access to services for community members and priority populations.

Figure 1. Four Priority Categories



# THE PROVINCIAL CSWB PLANNING FRAMEWORK



The Ministry of the Solicitor General developed the Provincial CSWB Planning Framework to help guide municipalities in their planning efforts.

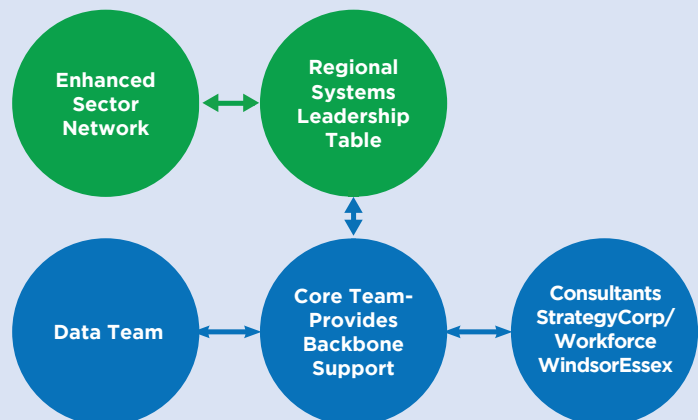
The CSWB Planning Framework consists of four areas of intervention:



## WHO WE ARE: PROJECT TEAMS

Figure 2. RCSWB Project Team Structure

Windsor and Essex developed a comprehensive team structure to efficiently gather information and develop the plan (Figure 2). The team included data resources and integral sector voices.



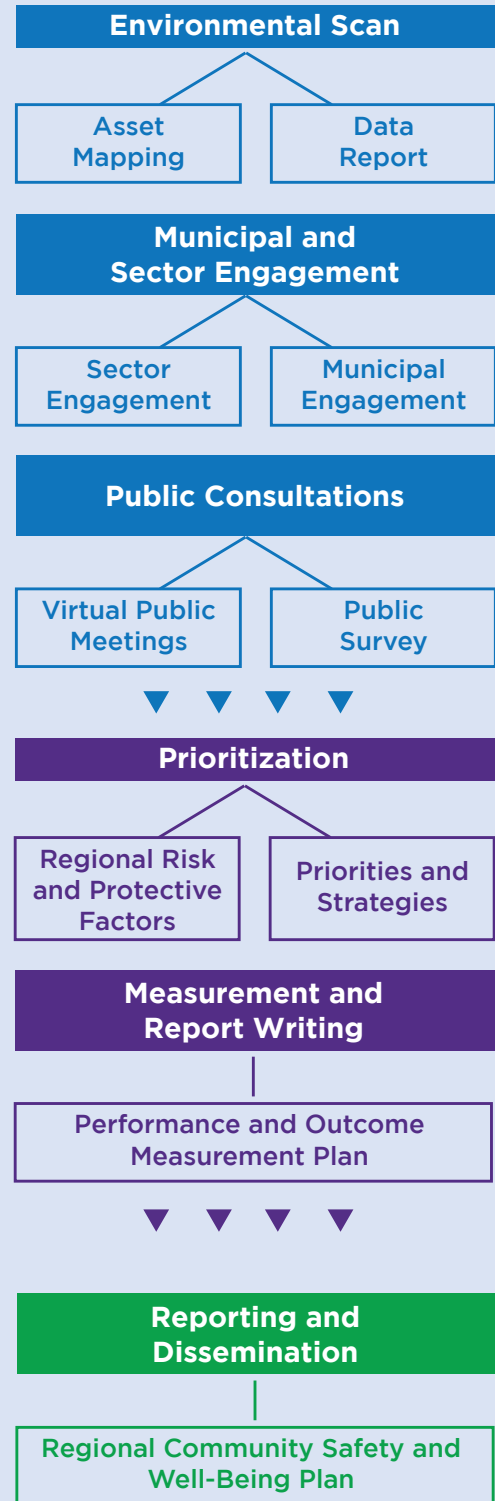
# WHAT WE DID

The team developed a comprehensive process that relied on data and cross-sector engagement.

- An Environmental Scan:** A review of local data and community assets was conducted to establish key population indicators for review and assess existing community strengths and resources.
- Municipal and Sector Engagement:** Presentations and focus groups were conducted with municipal and sector leaders. Importantly, engagements with committees and individuals working alongside priority populations were conducted through the Enhanced Sector Network. These engagements informed the contextualization of local data through qualitative and quantitative means.
- Public Consultations:** Residents across each municipality in the region were informed and engaged through virtual public meetings and an online and print survey.

A mixed method approach (the use of both measurable and narrative data) was used to ensure our prioritization process was informed by a variety of stakeholders and data. Importantly, this type of approach is widely considered to provide a more comprehensive understanding of a given topic. By pairing numeric data trends with people’s stories of real-world experiences, the true impact of social issues on people- their lives, livelihoods and opportunities- can be better understood. For a breakdown of the Engagement Strategy, please refer to Figure 3.

Figure 3. Engagement Strategy



# THE PLAN



**Priority #1**  
**Good Governance & Data**



**Priority #2**  
**Engaged & Safe Communities**



**Priority #3**  
**Mental Health & Substance-Use Supports**



**Priority #4**  
**Financial Security & Economic Equity**



Through consultations, a total of four categories were prioritized for inclusion in the Plan; three designed around addressing key risks in the community, and one designed around building the organizational structures necessary to execute the Plan successfully.

Each priority category consists of two goals and up to three initiatives per goal. In total, eight goals and 17 initiatives were established (Table 1).

To achieve the goals and action the initiatives

identified in Table 1, the Region will need to leverage all the levers of change it may influence through its municipal and sectoral partners. Proposed actions necessary to advance the goals in this plan include capital investment, service delivery changes, regulatory updates, advocacy, collaboration, and partnership building through the stakeholders.

Table 1. RCSWB Goals and Initiatives

Goals	Initiatives	CSWB Framework
<b>Good Governance &amp; Data</b>		
<b>1. Improve collaboration between CSWB partners for better data and service outcomes.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1.1</b> Establish a permanent table of CSWB partner organizations to institutionalize cross-sectoral collaboration to address systemic and specific service delivery opportunities.</li> <li><b>1.2</b> Develop a Data Consortium of partner organizations to support ongoing CSWB planning and service delivery.</li> </ul>	All
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>2.1</b> Increase representation of priority populations and those with lived experience at RCSWB leadership table and partner advisory/leadership tables.</li> <li><b>2.2</b> Include consultations with priority communities early in planning stages of CSWB activities.</li> </ul>	

Goals	Initiatives	CSWB Framework
<b>Engaged &amp; Safe Communities</b>		
<b>3. Increase access to safe and affordable housing.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>3.1</b> Increase awareness and utilization of existing housing supports and programs.</li> <li>• <b>3.2</b> Review and assess planning and growth-related policies to promote a larger and more diverse housing supply.</li> <li>• <b>3.3</b> Increase advocacy to provincial and federal levels of government to support more affordable housing through capital and operating investments in housing projects, as well as supports to obtain and retain housing.</li> </ul>	<b>Prevention</b>
<b>4. Promote safe, healthy, and connected neighbourhoods and communities.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>4.1</b> Increase access to organized programming in communities.</li> <li>• <b>4.2</b> Promote community-led projects and initiatives – including neighbourhood building initiatives to help increase feelings of safety, strengthen social capital with neighbours and promote ongoing, sustainable engagement within communities.</li> <li>• <b>4.3</b> Increase access to safe community spaces.</li> </ul>	<b>Social Development</b>
<b>Mental Health &amp; Substance-Use Supports</b>		
<b>5. Increase frequency of preventative care and early interventions to reduce overall service need and crisis intervention.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>5.1</b> Promote de-stigmatization of mental health and addiction issues and raise awareness of existing supports to promote early intervention and overall wellbeing.</li> <li>• <b>5.2</b> Leverage and support the mental health services sector around harmonized communications and intergovernmental advocacy to increase and improve available mental health supports.</li> </ul>	<b>Prevention</b>
<b>6. Safe and effective emergency response to those in crisis.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>6.1</b> Expand and strengthen programs that leverage crisis response teams that include both police and mental health workers (e.g. COAST, Youth Crisis Response Team (YCRT), Mobile Crisis Rapid Response Team etc.).</li> <li>• <b>6.2</b> Improve community trust in the emergency services and improve community outcomes, especially for priority populations, by building stronger relationships between service providers (e.g. Community workers and police) and communities.</li> </ul>	<b>Crisis Response</b>
<b>Financial Security &amp; Economic Equity</b>		
<b>7. Identify existing gaps in the social safety net for those facing income insecurity and poverty with a lens of equity and inclusion for priority populations.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>7.1</b> Conduct a social policy review of support services available to residents of Windsor-Essex, including federal, provincial, and local initiatives to determine where there are gaps in services or supports.</li> </ul>	<b>Risk Intervention</b>
<b>8. Promote local employment and increase participation in local education and training.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>8.1</b> Expand or develop new grant and bursary programs to promote local institutional partnership, internship, and apprenticeship opportunities for targeted geographies and priority populations to keep people in their neighbourhoods.</li> <li>• <b>8.2</b> Leverage, expand or develop targeted economic development and workforce strategies in priority neighbourhoods.</li> </ul>	<b>Prevention</b>

**To access the full Plan,  
please visit our website at  
[www.cswbwindsorsex.ca](http://www.cswbwindsorsex.ca).**



Windsor Essex Regional  
Community Safety and Well-Being Plan  
2022-2026