

## **APPENDIX A – City of Toronto Current Violence Prevention Initiatives**

### **Strategies, Programs and Services**

The City has existing strategies, programs and services aimed at risk intervention and the reduction vulnerability of serious violence and crime such as:

- The Toronto Youth Equity Strategy
- Toronto Youth Partnerships & Employment (TYPE)
- Community Crisis Response Program (CCRP)
- Furthering Our Community by Uniting Services (FOCUS)
- Youth Violence Prevention
- Toronto Strong Neighbourhood Strategy (TSNS 2020)

#### **The Toronto Youth Equity Strategy**

- The Toronto Youth Equity Strategy was developed with contributions from Toronto youth and was adopted by City Council in February 2014. The Toronto Youth Equity Strategy identifies 28 key issues faced by youth most vulnerable to involvement in violence and crime that the City and its partners must address. In 2017 the City invested \$476,712 in TYES.
- In 2017, the Ministry of Children and Youth Services funded the implementation of a Youth Pre-charge Diversion program. The program is working with Toronto Police Service and Youth Probation to create an integrated support system for youth.
- Toronto Youth Partnerships & Employment (TYPE) program is a mobile intensive case management program supporting Toronto's MVP youth access the Labour Market. Outreach Youth Counsellors (OYC) conduct assessment interviews and assist youth in developing realistic action plans and link young people to appropriate youth employment resources/services, skill development and educational programs and youth are provided with on-going case management support. In 2017, the City invested \$774,725 in TYPE.

#### **Community Safety & Wellbeing Unit**

- The Social Development, Finance and Administration Division reorganized existing resources to create the Community Safety and Wellbeing Unit to strategically respond to growing community safety and vulnerability needs within the City of Toronto. The Unit is an amalgamation of the following programs:
  - Community Crisis Response Program (CCRP)
  - Furthering Our Community by Uniting Services (FOCUS)
  - Youth Violence Prevention
  - Specialized Program for Interdivisional Enhanced Responsiveness (SPIDER)
  - Policy and Research on Community Safety & Wellbeing

- The Community Safety & Wellbeing Unit hosted a Community Safety Network Forum to discuss safety issues across the City. Recommendations from the forum will advise the unit's work plan.

**Community Crisis Response Program – Toronto.ca/ccrp**

- The Community Crisis Response Program (CCRP) works across the City of Toronto in partnership with community members, agencies, and internal City divisions to enhance community safety.
- The CCRP team supports communities with the development of safety networks that create Neighbourhood strategies which focus on *Crisis Intervention*, *Crisis Prevention*, and *Crisis Preparation*.
- When communities have been impacted by violent and traumatic incidents, the CCRP further supports communities with the recovery and healing process.
- Violent and traumatic incidents include: shootings, shots fired, stabbings/slashing's, swarming, community conflicts, gun/gang related activity, and raids/ execution of major search warrants.

The Community Crisis Response Program has responded to 306 Violent and Traumatic Critical Incidents as of June 26, 2018.

**CCRP Incidents January 1, 2018 - June 26, 2018**

Year	Month	Shooting	Shooting - Shots Fired	Total Firearm Incidents	Stabbing	Swarming	Assault	Other	Total
2018	January	13	14	27	13	1			41
	February	5	14	19	17		2		38
	March	10	10	20	18			2	40
	April	19	18	37	15			2	54
	May	20	26	46	33	1	1	1	82
	June	14	9	23	25		2	1	51
	<b>Total</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>306</b>

In 2017 CCRP responded to 604 Violent and Traumatic Critical Incidents

### CCRP Incidents January 1, 2017 - December 31, 2017

Year	Month	Shooting	Shooting - Shots Fired	Total Firearm Incidents	Stabbing	Swarming	Assault	Other	Total
2017	January	19		19	10	2		1	32
	February	33	4	37	29	2	2		70
	March	16	6	22	13		2	2	39
	April	9	16	25	10			1	36
	May	9	14	23	33				56
	June	9	10	19	17	3			41
	July	21	16	37	17		5	4	63
	August	14	18	32	30	1	6	4	73
	September	21	18	39	22	1	2	1	65
	October	10	13	23	20		4	1	48
	November	10	22	32	13		1		46
	December	7	10	17	11		5		35
	<b>Total</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>325</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>604</b>

### Trends and Priorities

- CCRP's current priorities are gun violence and homicides.
- CCRP is working with community partners and local safety committees to support communities impacted by violence. With the support of partners, CCRP has conducted extensive outreach into areas impacted by violence and mobilized Victim/Witness Support, Psycho-Social Support, counselling, safety planning, conflict de-escalation and engagement.
- Notable trends that CCRP has identified are: access to firearms, violation of safe space, cross-community conflicts and escalation on social media.
- CCRP is at capacity and the program is currently modifying prevention activities to support increased intervention. Further increase will have programmatic impact. Further investment will support increased prevention work.
- The Community Crisis Response Fund provides one-time financial assistance to initiatives or activities that address healing and community resiliency from a specific violent incident. 34 projects have been funded in 2017 and applications continue to be processed in 2018.

### Youth Violence Prevention

- The Community Safety & Wellbeing Unit is leading the development of a Youth Violence Prevention Plan which will be developed with City Divisions, Community Partners and Young People most vulnerable to involvement in serious crime and violence.
- A framework has been developed that includes: Youth Equity, Employment and Training, Youth Spaces and Engagement, Violence Intervention and Interruption and Youth Mental Health.

- To date, 5 workgroups and a community advisory committee have been pulled together to identify actions and implementation plans. Community engagement will continue throughout 2018.
- The Youth Violence Prevention Plan development directly responds to the Toronto Board of Health motion that requested the Medical Officer of Health to continue to work with Social Development, Finance and Administration staff and members of affected communities to identify effective approaches for the City of Toronto to provide a comprehensive evidence-informed approach when shooting incidents occur in Toronto, including explorations of programs such as the Chicago-based Interrupters. An update report on the Public Health Research methodology and the Youth Violence Prevention Plan actions to date will go forward to the July 16, 2018 meeting.
- Youth Violence Prevention staff continue to develop the capacity of Youth Serving Agencies to participate in FOCUS Toronto and have assessed expansion of the model.
- Youth Violence Prevention work is funded partially by the Province of Ontario until March of 2019. The current funds will support the development of the plan, but not the implementation.

### **Furthering Our Communities by Uniting Services Toronto (FOCUS Toronto)**

- Furthering Our Community by Uniting Services (FOCUS Toronto) is an innovative community safety and wellbeing initiative co-led by the City of Toronto, United Way Toronto and Toronto Police Service. It aims to reduce crime, victimization and improve community resiliency and wellbeing, through local situation tables that mobilize multi-sector interventions to respond to situations of acutely elevated risk.
- There are over 100 human services providers that have utilized interventions as a prevention mechanism in over 1500 situations of risk since the model launched. In 2017, FOCUS Toronto responded to 479 situations of risk and from January 1 - June 1, 2018, 295 situations in which 93% were connected to services and 88% the overall risk was reduced. The top risk factors responded to include: mental health, housing, anti-social/negative behaviour, criminal involvement and suicide/self-harm.

### **Toronto Strong Neighbourhood Strategy**

- The Toronto Strong Neighbourhoods Strategy 2020 (TSNS 2020) is the City of Toronto's action plan for ensuring that each of our 140 neighbourhoods can succeed and thrive. TSNS 2020 supports healthy communities across Toronto by partnering with residents, businesses and agencies to invest in people, services, programs and facilities in 31 specific neighbourhoods. This will strengthen the social, economic and physical conditions and deliver local impact for city-wide change.
- Local planning and community investment continues to occur in the Neighbourhood Improvement Areas.

### **Toronto Police Service**

- Transformational Task Force (TTF)'s final report Action Plan: The Way Forward (TWF), contains 32 recommendations aimed to create a modern police service that is where the public needs them the most; embraces partnerships to create safe communities; and focuses on the complex needs of a large city.

- An additional recommendation to establish a Neighbourhood Officer Program was added to advance the TWF goal of building safe communities and neighbourhoods. To maximize City and Police collaborations, a staff member from the Community Safety and Wellbeing Unit has been assigned to work with TPS on the development of the neighbourhood strategy on a part time basis.
- Currently the Toronto Police Service is developing an Integrated Gang Prevention Task Force to prevent the increase of gang violence and membership through a multi-sectoral approach that focused on education, prevention, intervention and suppression in partnership with community agencies. The Community Safety & Wellbeing Unit is currently working with TPS to identify City supports and resources to advance this work and link this work to existing City strategies and services.