Multi-school Resource Officer Pilot Project Proposal

Parents for an Aware Community, South District
October, 2006

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Multi-school Resource Officer (MSRO) is a proposed pilot project to be undertaken by the community and the police service to provide a strategic preventative resource for the youth in South District high schools and feeder schools. The major focus of the pilot project will be to re-establish and strengthen the partnership between the police, the schools and the community through the deployment of a police officer in our four South District high schools (Churchill High School, College Churchill, Grant Park and Ecole secondaire Kelvin) and two junior high schools (Earl Grey and River Heights). The pilot project will fund 1 officer to be stationed in one of the high schools and provide direct liaison with all six schools at a cost of approximately $100,000.00 for each of the years of the pilot project. The Multi-school Resource Officer initiative will be funded on a cost shared basis with the Winnipeg Police Service, Winnipeg School Division, and the Province of Manitoba.

REPRESENTATION

The Parents for an Aware Community, South District is made up of direct representation from the Parent advisory groups from Churchill High School, College Churchill, Grant Park High School, Ecole secondaire Kelvin and River Heights Junior High School as well as ongoing support from South District Advisory Council and South District Parent Councils. The Parents for an Aware Community, South District is currently seeking to establish partnerships with Winnipeg School Division #1 and the Province of Manitoba – Department of Justice.

BACKGROUND

Our Junior High and Secondary schools have experienced a significant loss with the establishment of the Tiered Response model adopted by the Winnipeg Police Service in recent years. Prior to the current organizational model, secondary schools were able to develop long term relationships with their community police officers. These relationships were more proactive and less reactive in addressing the issues of crime and safety in our community. Though schools have access to an educational resource officer from the police force for scheduled events, an ongoing, consistent presence in the schools has been lost as only 2 police officer positions service tier 1 responses in all of South End Winnipeg from the Forks through to Charleswood and Fort Garry. The current service delivery model provides police support to schools in times of crisis but lacks a coordinated and proactive approach to building relationships with youth and schools. Frequent turnover of staff and infrequent contact with schools outside of times of crisis has a limited impact with regards to building a safer community. It is not the intent of this proposal to address police response in times of crisis in a school, but rather to recognize the importance of locating police personnel in Junior High and Secondary schools in order to promote community safety through strategically building relationships with youth in the community.

PROPOSED SERVICE DELIVERY MODEL

Parents for an Aware Community, South District proposes that a Multi-school Resource Officer (MSRO) position be created to develop strong working relationships with youth, schools and communities. The service model would reflect the current School Resource Officer positions currently in place in north end schools. The focus of the MSRO would be with the four high schools and the two junior high schools in South District. Support would be offered to the feeder schools as needed.

As in the north end model, the role of the School Resource Officer would focus on prevention, education and maintaining the peace in the schools and adjacent neighbourhoods. An appendix is attached that reflects the proposal made for the North End School Resource Officer Pilot Proposal.

PILOT PROJECT EVALUATION

A management committee would be struck to oversee the evaluation component of the pilot project. The stakeholders involved in the pilot project including students, parents, community residents, school staff, Winnipeg Police Service and the Province of Manitoba will meet at the beginning of the pilot project to identify mutually agreeable outcomes that will be evaluated on an annual basis over the period of the pilot project. This annual outcome based process will assist all stakeholders to establish realistic, measurable outcomes that will guide continuous improvement strategies regarding the implementation and impact of the pilot project on the youth, community, education system, police service, social service system, and justice system.

APPENDIX

POSITION DESCRIPTION OF SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS

The School Resource Officers would be funded on a cost shared basis with the Winnipeg Police Service, Province of Manitoba and the Winnipeg School Division. A management committee consisting of representatives from the police, schools and community would oversee the pilot project.

The School Resource Officers would be selected to work in the schools based on the recommendations of a joint police and school selection advisory committee. School Resource Officers will be assigned to work in the local school sites.

Job Summary

To work cooperatively with school administrators, staff, students, parents and the community to identify and address school/community concerns or problems. To present a learning environment through counseling, structured classroom lectures and distribution of educational resource materials. Assist in the development of after school events and activities which promote crime prevention and community safety. Enforce the law and conduct investigations as the need arises. Prevent crime by being visible peace keeper in the school. Report to and be evaluated by identified supervisor within Winnipeg Police Service.

Description of Duties

1. Daily Duties:

   Provide visible presence in the school, feeder schools and the community. Maintain open lines of communication with staff, students, parents, the community and police members. Identify and resolve problems involving students, school and the community.

2. Regular Periodic Duties:

   a) Provide lectures about social, health, legal and police related subjects. Make resource materials available as required. Provide counseling and interventions as required. Work with student organizations on safety related issues. Work with school and community on developing safety audits; community justice forums; community based mediation programs; after school related events and activities that promote crime prevention and community safety; and youth peer leadership strategies to assist young people to identify safety programs designed by youth for youth. Act as a police officer liaison with Crown Attorneys that handle youth cases.

b) Enforce breaches of the Criminal Code, Provincial Statues and municipal by-laws as they relate to the assigned schools. Submit reports as required by the Winnipeg Police Service and attend Police Service and school meetings as required.

3. Occasional Duties:

Work with local businesses and residents to intervene when students are involved in community issues. Liaise with divisional police members and other School Resource Officers on matters of mutual concern.