Winnipeg

LiveSAFE in Winnipeg Policy Statement
An Interconnected Strategy for Crime Prevention

Purpose:

Winnipeg is a wonderfully diverse city – both culturally and economically. Most Winnipeggers highly value the quality of life they experience in our city and have a strong sense of community. We care about and take tremendous pride in our city, our neighbourhoods and our citizens. We also know that one of our primary concerns is public safety – it is recognized that a sense of safety is one of the most important aspects in continuing to build a healthy and vibrant community.

The intended goal of this policy is to provide a clear and inclusive vision for an interconnected crime prevention strategy for Winnipeg that is focused on collective action – to ***LiveSAFE*** in Winnipeg.

It is increasingly understood that a balanced approach between crime suppression and crime prevention is the best method to a safe community. Prevention is an essential goal and requires a partnership approach. Addressing the root causes of crime involves integrated and strategic actions aimed at promoting the wellbeing of the community through social, economic, health, educational and recreational measures, with a particular emphasis on families, seniors, children and youth at risk.

Evidence suggests that prevention in the form of early intervention in the lives of vulnerable children and families will have positive impacts on reducing crime, victimization and fear. Focusing on the conditions that can foster crime such as poverty, inadequate housing, inconsistent parenting and behavioural problems will result in long term benefits for the community as a whole.

A safe and vibrant Winnipeg is the absolute objective. A safe and vibrant Winnipeg means more than urban safety – it also means thriving social and economic development in our City and an overall enhanced quality of life for Winnipeggers.

An interconnected crime prevention strategy for Winnipeg is a significant element towards that absolute objective. Our efforts in crime prevention must be a true and significant partnership - one that relies on participation and action from all

aspects of our community – citizens, neighbourhoods, business, community organizations and all levels of government.

Guiding Principles:

Prevention

- The City of Winnipeg recognizes that crime prevention employed together with crime suppression efforts will result in enhanced crime reduction in the longer term.
- Preventive efforts will be particularly focused on vulnerable neighbourhoods, families, children and youth, and will be predicated upon evidence-based research.

Leadership and Coordination

- The City of Winnipeg will provide leadership and coordination in the development of an Integrated Crime Prevention Strategy aimed at continuing to build a safe and vibrant Winnipeg.

Interconnectedness and Partnerships

- Successful crime prevention efforts must be interconnected in order to address the multiple root causes of crime. As such, crime prevention strategies should be prioritized and integrated into all relevant economic and social policies and programs including employment, housing, health and healthy living, urban planning, education and literacy.
- The City of Winnipeg will engage citizens, business, community organizations and other levels of government as partners in crime prevention.
- The City of Winnipeg respects the mandates of its service and funding partners and acknowledges their expertise and role in terms of prevention.

Sustainability

- Crime prevention must involve long term action that is responsive to short term needs and that will produce long term community benefit.

Accountability

- Our collective community solutions need to have shared outcome goals as well as be measurable and sustainable in order to affect / achieve any long term results.

Strategic Action Framework:

The City of Winnipeg acknowledges the many efforts that are already underway in our community that relate to crime prevention. The challenge for all of us is to work together in a strategic and collaborative network approach, in order that we can leverage the best results for the safety and vitality of Winnipeg. All partners need to have a clear and transparent role in contributing towards crime prevention efforts, have shared outcome goals and recognize that crime prevention and suppression equate to more effective crime reduction, resulting in a safer Winnipeg with a high quality of life and thriving economy.



Current Inter-sectoral Crime Prevention Initiatives:

Federation of Canadian Municipalities – Standing Committee on Community Safety and Crime Prevention:

The FCM has published a policy statement on Community Safety and Crime Prevention which states that *"The Community is the focal point for effective crime prevention and strategies for preventing crime should be sensitive to local needs.*

Community-based, holistic approaches to combating crime can be developed and delivered most effectively through intergovernmental and community-level partnerships." A Standing Committee on Community Safety and Crime Prevention has also been established and includes elected official representation from the City of Winnipeg.

The Winnipeg Committee for Safety:

Established by Council, this committee, led by a City Councillor has included representation from the Province of Manitoba and the National Crime Prevention Centre as well as eight community members, has a mandate to support community action on citywide safety concerns. Working with citizens, local organizations and governments, the Winnipeg Committee for Safety is helping to make this a safe and healthy city.

Municipal Network on Crime Prevention:

The City of Winnipeg is a member of the Municipal Network on Crime Prevention. This is a network of municipal administrators who are working together to improve the capacity of cities to develop and sustain crime prevention and community safety initiatives. The municipal network was created by the Institute for the Prevention of Crime at the University of Ottawa which is supported by the National Crime Prevention Council - Canada.

Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police – Crime Prevention Committee

The mandate of the CACP Crime Prevention Committee is 'committed to providing leadership in promoting a comprehensive, inclusive approach to addressing the root causes of crime and social disorder. We support positive social change to ensure the quality of life for our communities'. The City of Winnipeg has a Winnipeg Police Service representative on this Committee.

Citizens for Crime Awareness

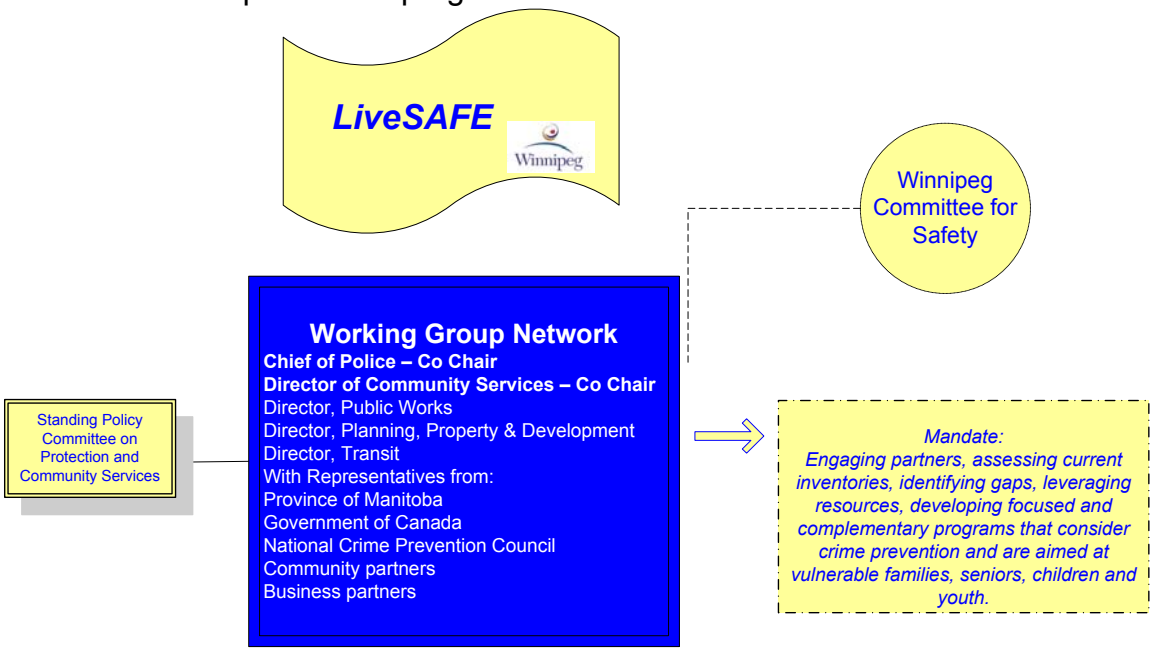
Citizens for Crime Awareness is a volunteer organization, recognized by the Winnipeg Police Service, dedicated to promoting crime awareness and crime prevention in the community. Their goal is to make the community a safer and better place in which to live.

LiveSAFE in Winnipeg Network:

This policy proposes the establishment of a Winnipeg focused cross-sectoral working group whose ***mandate would be to develop, implement and evaluate integrated strategic action plans for programs and services aimed at crime***

prevention, with a particular emphasis on vulnerable families, seniors, children and youth in Winnipeg.

This Working Group would be co-led by the Chief of Police and the Director of Community Services and would include representation from other civic departments, the Province of Manitoba, the Government of Canada, as well as business, academic and community partners. The Working Group would report back to the CAO and Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services with respect to the progress of its mandate.



Measurable Results

Recognizing the interconnected nature that a successful crime prevention effort must take across all levels and sectors within our community, will ensure maximum leverage and synergies.

Providing evidence-based research in support of new programs and services and defining both short and long term performance measures for crime prevention initiatives will justify sustainable partnership funding strategies.

Ensuring complementary programs and services that are focused on assisting the groups most at risk will help to build capacity in our youth, families and neighbourhoods.