

community, not for profit agencies and the general public, among others. That support has manifested itself in many different ways and continues to be provided in a committed and sincere manner. Surrey is the pilot site for three justice-related Provincial initiatives, has entered into Provincial agreements to address housing and other needs of the marginalized, has received funding through the School District for gang and violence prevention programs and has led numerous initiatives promoting cross-agency working that we believe will provide effective long-term improvements to our quality of life.

Provincial action including funding that would enable us to initiate a Community Court in Surrey has not yet been taken place. We believe that the nature of the crime we see occurring in our community is such that the holistic approach that a community court can offer will have a marked and sustainable impact. While we remain committed to such a court, we are continuing to develop initiatives that support the concept of an integrated response to criminal behaviour. Such initiatives include discussions that are currently taking place to develop a Neighbourhood Justice Centre pilot in Surrey. This centre will initially handle family and civil cases that take up Provincial Court time and space and impact the court's ability to deal with criminal cases.

The City of Surrey will continue to invest in a system that recognizes and responds to the developmental risk factors that exist as early as pregnancy and through all stages of a young person's life. Our Crime Reduction Strategy reflects our belief that we must commit to doing all we can to educate, intervene and prevent individuals from becoming involved in behaviours that present a risk to themselves and the community.

ACHIEVEMENTS

The Strategy contains over 100 recommendations. Some of them are dependent upon Federal or Provincial action while others can be achieved through local collaboration. For continuity purposes, progress is being reported in the remainder of this report under the CRS "strands" as contained in the CRS document.

Reported Crime Statistics

The following table provides statistics regarding the crime rate in each of selected crime types over the past 5 years as well as the first two quarters of 2008 in comparison to the same period in 2007. The category of "violent crimes" is not specific in terms of crime type as it is a gathering of all offences that are "crimes against persons" from minor assaults to more grievous assaults to robberies. Generally, our crime trends are consistent with other areas of the Lower Mainland.

Crime analysis continues to be a critical and integral part of the RCMP operational strategy. Through crime analysis they are able to apply resources to "hot spot areas" and identify current prolific offenders. Crime Analysts work to identify at an early stage links between series of offences and possible suspects. This information and analyses is used by the Detachment Target Teams to proactively engage the suspect through surveillance, looking to arrest the suspect committing another offence. Through post arrest investigation, using the intelligence provided by the analysts, there has been frequent success in presenting a comprehensive package of evidence before the courts resulting in an in-custody remand until trial and then custodial sentence when convicted.

	2003 to 2007 % Change	2007 to 2008 (Qtr 1 – Qtr2) % Change
Violent Crimes	+16	- 7
Property Crimes	-25	-18
<i>Business Break & Enter</i>	-8	+19
<i>Residential Break & Enter</i>	-13	-34
Total Break & Enter	-13	-22
<i>Theft Motor Vehicle</i>	-45	-24
Total Theft	-18	-17

PREVENT AND DETER CRIME

Policing

➤ Introduction of Community Safety Officer Pilot.

In the spring of 2008 a Community Safety Officer (CSO) pilot project began in Surrey. The CSO's primary purpose is to provide the community with additional police resources by engaging in crime prevention activities and reassurance policing. This frees up regular RCMP members to focus on other types of police activities that require the more extensive training that full members receive. In accordance with the Surrey Crime Reduction Strategy, the CSO's are providing a visible and accessible uniformed presence in Surrey's communities with a focus on improving quality of life in the community and offering public reassurance.

As they were recruited locally, are serving locally and are not subject to the transfer policy of regular RCMP members, it is expected that they will be better able to establish lasting relationships with the community.

➤ Numbers of Police Officers Enhanced.

In accordance with the Strategy, City Council has supported a financial plan for the period 2008 to 2012 that will allow for the Surrey RCMP detachment to improve the ratio of police officers to residents. According to the most recent statistical information Surrey provides its residents with more police officers per 100,000 population than is provided by many other municipalities in the Lower Mainland.

➤ Transit Safety Issues.

A plan has been unveiled to radically overhaul the transit system to make it a safer ride and to stop fare evaders.

This plan includes:

- Installing electronic turnstiles at every SkyTrain and Canada Line station before the 2010 Olympics, along with more closed-circuit cameras.

- Launching a smart-card system to be used on trains and buses, which can be recharged at vending machines or on the Internet.
- Boosting security outside SkyTrain stations.
- Improving safety for bus drivers.

These declared improvements together with enhancements to the South Coast British Columbia Transportation Authority Police Service (formerly Greater Vancouver Transport Police Service) will add to the safety of those who use the public transit system. Surrey RCMP work closely with the transport police to ensure that there is a coordinated delivery of service in and around transit exchanges/stations.

Education

➤ Website Developed and Launched

The Crime Reduction Strategy website (www.crimereduction.surrey.ca) was recently launched. The website includes information on how to reduce the chances of becoming a victim of crime and provides lists of resources and links to other useful information. It will be a conduit through which we communicate with and receive feedback from the community. The site continues to be developed and updated on a regular basis to keep it relevant and interesting.

➤ Meth Watch Program Expanded

The City of Surrey has published a 'Retailer's Guide to Crystal Meth'. The guide provides detailed, practical information to retailers on what is in Crystal Meth, how it is produced, how to identify a Crystal Meth user and what steps they can take to ensure they do not sell chemicals, which will be used in the creation of Crystal Meth. Other measures include the creation of a Suppression Crew, which identifies locations based on fire inspection where meth may be manufactured. Owners/tenants of these locations are invited to become part of the Meth Watch program and provided with appropriate preventative materials.

➤ Enhanced Youth Education Strategy

The continuing partnership between the School District and Surrey RCMP provides for a pragmatic and proactive approach to reducing crime. Regular interaction through Schools Liaison by the RCMP provides consistent messaging and ongoing contact at school level. In addition RCMP are key partners in a number of initiatives described elsewhere in this document.

➤ Involvement With Seniors

The City convened a committee to raise awareness about elder abuse. In June 2008, with the support of the Surrey Crime Prevention Society, the Focus on Seniors Committee organized a forum, which was the first in a series of community-based forums on elder abuse. The Seniors' Functional Table with staff from the Parks, Recreation and Culture (PRC) Department has been holding Safety Forums for seniors at the Seniors' Centres and Recreation Centres in partnership with the RCMP. The PRC Department also holds a

Seniors Wellness Fair once a year that includes information about health, wellness and safety and leisure opportunities for seniors.

Environment Design/Target Hardening

➤ Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED)

CPTED is a process that reduces opportunity for crime and fear of crime by designing buildings, parks, shopping malls and even our transit systems through the application of internationally recognized crime prevention principles. The application of CPTED is included in a number of recommendations contained within the Surrey CRS. As part of our development planning and approval processes, all proposed developments are considered by the Building Advisory Design Panel, which consider the development in light of CPTED principles and which recommends changes where appropriate to reflect good CPTED design.

In an ongoing commitment to weave CPTED principles into the design of the community, City of Surrey planners and engineers receive formal training to assist with ensuring a crime reduction focus in their work.

➤ Crime Free Multi Housing

The Crime Free Multi-Housing program (CFMH) is an international crime prevention initiative founded in 1992 and designed specifically to assist apartment owners, managers, residents, police and other agencies to work together to keep illegal and nuisance activity off rental property. The program now operates in over 800 cities across North America.

Dedicated staff from the City of Surrey Bylaw Enforcement Section promotes and support the formation of CFMH initiatives. This special emphasis in Surrey compared to other cities, which use police staff for this purpose provides for a more consistent service to our community. To date more than 300 buildings representing over 8,700 units are involved in CFMH in Surrey.

In July 2008 Surrey hosted the International Crime Free Multi Housing Conference. This was the very first time the conference had been held outside of the United States of America and was a great success.

➤ RCMP Robbery Hotspot Initiative

Commercial robberies can be both frightening and violent. It is often the case with this type of crime that if a business has been victimized it is more likely to be re-victimized. Surrey RCMP have developed an information and awareness package that helps address some of the risk factors associated with this type of crime. Through the use of crime analysts Surrey RCMP have identified businesses that are at higher risk of being robbed and initiated a program that includes a personal visit by members to discuss how to make the premises less prone to robbery.

➤ Business Watch Program Established

Business Watch is a project that has been undertaken by the Surrey RCMP Auxiliary Constable (A/Cst) Program. Through visits made by A/Csts, crime prevention presentations

are made to managers, owners and staff concerning robberies, frauds and thefts at small business locations throughout the City. Business people who participated are generally very supportive of the project.

➤ **CPTED in the Home**

Appropriate levels of home security reduce the chances of becoming a victim and also help reduce the fear of crime. Surrey RCMP has developed a CPTED awareness and self audit program that provides guidance on how to properly secure your home. This guide is promoted through RCMP initiatives like Block Watch and through their website. The documents relating to this initiative will also be available through the Surrey Crime Reduction website.

Early Childhood Development Interventions

➤ **First Steps Initiative**

The CRS acknowledges the role that developmental support of a young person plays in their ultimate success as a member of society. An example of Surrey's commitment to this includes the *First Steps – Early Childhood Development Refugee Settlement Program*. In the past, settlement services have primarily focused on settling immigrants and refugees as adults and labour force entrants. There has never been an explicit strategy to settle preschool-aged children. *First Steps* is an innovative Surrey-based pilot project designed to meet the settlement needs of young refugee children from birth to five years old. The intention is to provide an intensive early childhood development (ECD) program that will minimize the trauma of the refugee experience on the growth and development of young children and facilitate their successful transition into mainstream ECD programs and kindergarten. The *First Steps* model was developed by a multi-agency collaboration in Surrey led by the Surrey/White Rock Office of Early Childhood, Development, Learning and Care. The BC Ministry of Attorney General and Minister Responsible for Multiculturalism agreed to be a major contributing funder (\$1.7 million) of the project on condition that other local partners were willing to contribute. In March 2008, the City of Surrey committed \$25,000 per year for three years to the *First Steps* project. Other funders include the United Way of the Lower Mainland, Vancouver Foundation, Surrey School District and BC Ministry of Children and Family Development. The three-year *First Steps* pilot project began in May 2008.

➤ **Literacy**

Surrey Public Library creates a welcoming environment for new Canadians to use the many resources free of charge, learn more about their new homeland and take part in Library programs such as:

- “Storytimes to Help Learn English”, a new program launched to help children and their caregivers learn about the Library and to develop confidence in their English language abilities;
- One-to-one tutorials and classes that provide basic computer literacy skills in English, Punjabi and Mandarin; and
- Continued outreach to the Chinese speaking community with numerous programs offered in Cantonese and Mandarin in partnership with SUCCESS.

The City of Surrey has recently adopted a Literacy Strategy, titled “Learning for Life Strategy”. This is focused on ensuring that citizens of all ages develop strong literacy skills needed for a healthy life and motivating individuals away from negative activities and to productive lifestyles.

➤ **Enhancing Social and Mentoring Programs**

School District and City staff identified an opportunity for the City of Surrey to enter into a career mentorship initiative. The Human Resource Department for the City of Surrey and CUPE 402 supported the concept and in collaboration with the School District a suitable program was designed.

The program gave six (6) students a chance to become involved in work experience with City staff and learn valuable skills. It was intended that students would work alongside an employee (mentor) on a daily basis for a three-week period under their guidance and supervision. The youth was able to view successful people working in a role they enjoyed. The mentor helped guide the student through the workday, allocating appropriate tasks to the student and was a person that the student could ask questions of during their time working with the City. The program provided an opportunity for the student to try a job that they may want to consider as a career. This successful initiative will continue to be supported by the City.

Youth Intervention

➤ **Community Schools**

The Community-Schools Partnership Initiative (C-SP), spearheaded by the Surrey School District and the City of Surrey and which was initiated in 2006, draws together the expertise and resources of key public and community agencies serving children, youth and families in Surrey with the intent of establishing designated schools as neighbourhood centres. Using schools as neighbourhood focal points, the C-SP Initiative seeks to: weave together an array of local services and resources for children, youth and families; provide connections to the broader network of citywide services; build a sense of neighbourhood identity; and promote lifelong learning and overall community livability.

Four C-SP Coordinators have been hired to work with partners to establish community-school hubs in the Guildford, Whalley and Newton communities. While it is envisaged over the long term that the C-SP will become a citywide program, the initiative currently focuses on three clusters of inner-city schools in recognition that families living in these areas often face particular difficulties accessing the services or supports they need. Each of the three current hubs includes one secondary school and between two to four elementary schools.

Community and Leisure Services programs introduced under the C-SP Initiative include the Community-Schools Partnership Leisure Access Program. The City’s Leisure Access Program (LAP) provides an opportunity for residents in financial need to participate in Parks, Recreation and Culture activities at a very low cost. Beginning in March 2008, LAP forms were introduced for the C-SP to allow school officials to assess need and eligibility for the LAP program and improve overall access.

➤ **School Suspension Program**

The *iR3 program* is an alternative school suspension program designed as a resource for youth, their families and their schools when a student is temporarily suspended from school. When a student is suspended from their school, even for a short duration, they often find themselves feeling unsupported and detached. Students then find alternative ways to fill the void and time, which in some cases can be unhealthy to them and others or creates undesirable impacts on the community. The iR3 program offers services to respond to students who are under school suspension by providing them, their families and their schools with tools to make their time away from school more wholesome and productive than may otherwise be the case. Earlier this year the program received additional funding of \$249,488 from the Federal government that will enable it to continue for an additional three years and include an external evaluation component.

➤ **Age of Sexual Consent**

The CRS includes a recommendation that the City advocate for a change in the *age of sexual consent*. The intention of this recommendation was to protect young people from predators who seek to take advantage of their emotional immaturity. Earlier this year Bill C-2, the 'Tackling Violent Crime Act', became law. This bill included a provision to raise the age of consent for sexual activity from 14 to 16 years. At 14 years, Canada's age of consent was among the lowest of Western nations, where it typically varies between an age of 16 and 18 years.

➤ **Enhance School Liaison Programs**

The Surrey School District (SD36) has developed a *Threat Assessment Protocol*. School staff and police liaison officers are trained in its use. If a student threatens harm to another individual by making a threatening statement, writing threatening comments or making threatening gestures, the district reacts according to the protocol. An investigation is carried out to determine any risk from the student who has made a threat and if warranted other support services including police and other associated agencies are engaged in the process to ensure an appropriate intervention plan is designed and implemented. This provides a consistent approach to violence or the threat of violence that protects all involved.

➤ **Support and Enhance RCMP Youth Intervention Programs**

Surrey RCMP has developed a new *Restorative Justice program*. Restorative Justice is a philosophy that views conflict as a violation of people and relationships rather than an act against the state. In this approach, offenders and victims are brought together to repair the harm caused by the incident or crime that was committed and also consider the harm caused to the greater community. A contract is agreed upon that the person who caused the harm must complete. A Restorative Justice Program Coordinator oversees the program. This is a civilian position. During the first quarter of 2008 'best practices' from existing programs in the Lower Mainland were identified and together with other research carried out, an appropriate program for Surrey was designed based upon an assessment of the community's needs. The program takes referrals from the RCMP. Most youth accepted by the program are aged between nine and seventeen years old. The program is volunteer-based and collaborative in nature. As the program matures it will continue to build community relationships with businesses, community associations etc. to provide meaningful

interventions. Volunteers reflect the cultural and ethnic diversity of the City of Surrey, possessing a broad cross section of life skills and experiences. Approximately 85% of Surrey youth between the ages of 10 and 18 who complete Restorative programs do not re-offend during that time. The Surrey RCMP detachment is exploring the possibility of piloting an adult offender component to this process.

➤ **Enhance Youth Activity Programs**

Mobile Youth Outreach Program (MoYO) – The Mobile Youth Outreach Program is an outreach program to engage youth in their environment and foster community connections. Traveling by bus, MoYO Teams go into Surrey Parks and other places frequented by youth to build relationships with youth, provide resource information and encourage positive activity. MoYO began in 2006 when City staff dealing with the issue of unsupervised youth activity in parks found common interest with other community organizations working with youth. MoYO partners now include Surrey School District, OPTIONS, Pacific Community Resources (PCRS), Crescent Beach Community Services, RCMP and Safe Schools. The program has evolved from a six-week pilot project on three evenings per week in the south end of Surrey to a well-developed program that targets all of Surrey on four evenings per week over seven months of the year. In 2007, PCRS officially partnered with Translink to develop meaningful and creative solutions to effectively reach out to youth who congregate at Skytrain stations and Transit bus loops. A decommissioned shuttle bus was donated by Translink to PCRS. This bus has been refitted and serves as another outreach resource for our youth.

Community Outreach Led by Youth (COLBY) – Through the Community Engagement for Crime Reduction initiative with Simon Fraser University, the City has supported the development of a youth-initiated project called Community Outreach Led by Youth (COLBY). With assistance from the City’s Youth Participation Coordinator, this group of young people undertook an outreach program that recognizes that youth engage best with other youth who have shared experiences and backgrounds. COLBY aims to be a point of contact for youth at-risk to reach out for support and initiate change in their lives. In 2008, the COLBY program will be migrated to the auspices of Pacific Community Resources Society (PCRS), a non-profit organization in Surrey.

➤ **Education and Awareness Programs**

In 2007, youth-serving agencies in Surrey, including the City, School District, RCMP and BC Ministry of Children and Family Development, drafted plans for a Community Action Assessment Network (CANN) that targets youth on the brink of gang activity. Beginning in mid-2008, the network has started to assess at-risk youth on an individual basis and then provide program options to deter gang involvement that fit each youth’s specific needs, such as sports programs or one-on-one mentoring.

The Illinois-based National Gang Crime Research Centre has awarded its “Frederick Milton Thrasher Award” to Surrey School District Safe Schools manager Theresa Campbell and Youth Diversity Liaison Rob Rai for “superior service in gang prevention for K-12 schools.”

The Surrey Youth Gang Strategy is designed to provide an integrated and robust response to youth gangs in our community. Firstly it provides an assessment tool that assists in identifying those at risk of becoming gang involved. It also provides for the establishment of

working relationships with those youth and their families to support them in reducing the risks. Finally it provides sustainable solutions by providing youth and their families with not only access to relevant services but tools and knowledge that assist in maintaining long term positive links into the community and the resources available.

“Safe Communities” Interventions

➤ Graffiti

In support of a “zero tolerance policy” in relation to graffiti in Surrey, a Graffiti Task Force has been established. Led by the Beautification Coordinator and comprised of representatives from City Departments and the RCMP, the Task Force has established priority areas within the City and is developing consistent working practices to combat this type of vandalism. In addition, agreement has been reached with certain utility companies to trial the use of decorative wraps on some of their street kiosks. Surrey Crime Prevention Society continues to provide assistance to private property owners in dealing with incidences of graffiti and received a grant from the City to support this work.

APPREHEND AND PROSECUTE OFFENDERS

Research and Analysis.

The use of crime analysts in Surrey in their present role commenced in 2004. Since then their role has been refined and numbers of staff increased. The Crime Analysis Unit supports and guides the activities of the Target Teams and the District Offices. It employs a range of academically tested analytical techniques that identify crime hot spots, crime series, prolific offenders and crime patterns. On a daily basis, information is analysed with a view to guiding police operations and prioritising offenders and hot spots for targeting and/or intervention.

The use of research and data analysis within the context of crime and crime reduction is continuing to evolve. Its effective use has already been proven in Surrey particularly within the context of the work that has been carried out by the RCMP to address Prolific Offenders. The RCMP Surrey Detachment regularly receives delegations from around the country that seek to learn from the knowledge that has been built here. The City will continue to explore ways in which it can work with its partners to enhance the effectiveness of information gathering and sharing.

Detecting Crimes and Apprehending Offenders

➤ Automatic License Plate Recognition (ALPR) systems.

In addition to the regular use of ALPR by the Surrey RCMP, staff from Surrey Crime Prevention Society regularly deploys this system. These dedicated, trained volunteers operate ALPR on the streets and car parks of Surrey. They continue to experience considerable success in the identification and recovery of stolen vehicles.

➤ **Dedicated Crown Counsel**

For a number of years Surrey RCMP have been developing strategies that target Prolific Offenders. The provision of dedicated Crown Counsel to deal with files generated as a result of the targeting of Prolific Offenders was a recommendation of the CRS. Using funding provided by Surrey RCMP such a post has now been created at Surrey Provincial Court. This will further enhance the focus already provided to such offenders by facilitating timely responses to files involving them.

➤ **Enhance the Electrical Fire Safety Inspection (EFSI) program**

The development of the EFSI program stemmed from the recognition that grow operations pose a significant fire risk and public safety threat and as such deserve serious attention by fire and electrical safety officials in addition to the police. The EFSI initiative operates under the Safety Standards Act, which permits an inter-agency team to conduct electrical inspections of houses that are consuming higher than normal levels of electricity. This team consists of one electrical inspector, one fire fighter, and two police officers, whose role is to keep the peace and ensure the security of the inspection team.

The City of Surrey has emerged as a leader by pioneering the development of the EFSI concept, implementing the pilot study and accelerating its progress through assisting with training for staff in other jurisdictions. To further increase the effectiveness of the program Surrey staff were instrumental in the development of legislation related to the release of Hydro consumption information for specific properties (Bill 25) and the revision of the Controlled Substance Property Bylaw. Bill 25 enables all local governments to obtain residential power consumption records from BC Hydro and other electricity distributors for residences where unusually high power consumption is recorded in the most recent billing period.

In January of 2007 the Surrey EFSI team was expanded to address nearly 1,000 addresses obtained from BC Hydro that met the criteria of unusually high consumption as defined by Bill 25. Additionally, the revision of the Controlled Substance Property Bylaw in 2006 has enabled recovery of the costs incurred by the City and remediation of homes to ensure health and safety of the occupants of these residences.

From a public safety perspective the following statistics demonstrate how this initiative protects those most vulnerable:

- In 2006 1 in 4 residences inspected had a child or children residing in it;
- In 2007 this figure fell to 1 in every 15; and
- In 2008 to date the figure stands at 1 in every 50.

The EFSI teams work closely with the Ministry of Children and Family Development. These statistics evidence the fact that those involved in the direct management of grow operations began to realize they faced having their children taken into care if they remained in these dangerous environments.

This initiative continues to prove its effectiveness and is an example of how alternative approaches can reduce crime and add to broader public safety. The message has clearly been

heard and as a result the EFSI teams have seen a reduction in suspicious electricity usage. This has meant that for January to September 2008 a total of 212 homes were inspected and 107 required electrical upgrades.

Prosecuting and Sentencing Offenders

➤ Community Court

Working in partnership with provincial and local agencies the City of Surrey has developed a model to enhance justice, public safety and public confidence, through co-ordinated contributions by the Province, the City and the private sector.

The proposed plan has a staged implementation over a three-year period and includes nine elements. These elements are not focussed upon the court process itself, but rather on increasing addictions, mental health and housing services in the community, integrating the application of those services to offenders, and providing more timely and complete information to the court to facilitate better decisions about offenders. Supported by the Criminal Justice Reform Secretariat (Ministry of Public Safety & Solicitor General) a funding submission was made to Provincial Treasury Board for inclusion in the 2007/8 budget considerations; however, no funding was provided. The partners are committed to proceeding with the initiative and during the course of this year have taken opportunities to progress elements of the model so that when funding is made available it can be expediently used in implementation. Elements that are currently being explored or piloted include:

- Enhanced assessment of offenders prior to court appearance;
- Dedicated Crown Counsel for prolific offenders;
- Prolific Offender Management Team;
- Enhancing outreach services for those who are homeless; and
- Establishing an integrated sobering facility with attached stabilization, transitional and supportive housing.

➤ Prolific Offender Management Teams

According to the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General, about 50% of reported crimes in British Columbia are committed by about 10% of all offenders (prolific offenders). Prolific offenders are those offenders who are criminally active, have a history of numerous criminal offences and most likely have been in jail at some point in their lives. They are generally considered a high risk to re-offend.

The Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General (Criminal Justice Reform Secretariat) has identified Surrey as one of five pilot sites for the establishment of a Prolific Offender Management Team (POMT). This pilot project provides an opportunity to engage in a more meaningful way the key agencies that that can have an impact on these individuals' lives. These agencies include:

- Surrey RCMP;
- Provincial and Federal Corrections Services;
- Provincial and Federal Crown counsel;
- Ministry of Children and Family Development (youth justice);
- Fraser Health Authority (mental health and addictions);

- Ministry of Employment and Income Assistance;
- BC Housing; and
- Adult Forensic Psychiatric Services.

The POMT is led by the Community Corrections Manager, Corrections Branch, Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General and who coordinates monthly meetings to plan for both enforcement actions and the provision of services to assist prolific offenders in the following key areas:

- sustained supervision;
- services to address physical and mental needs and to support behaviour change; and
- timely and robust response to relapse or re-offending.

Initially the Surrey POMT is working with approximately 30 prolific offenders. The pilot is scheduled to run for a minimum of two years.

REHABILITATE AND REINTEGRATE OFFENDERS

Treatment

➤ Pretrial Centre Programs

Surrey Pretrial Centre recently carried out a review of the programs available to those in detention. Included in that review were programs that supported those who wished to address their addictions. The programs now available are a combination of staff delivered initiatives together with those offered by community organizations based within Surrey. The benefit of such programs is that they can still be accessed within the community upon the detainee's release.

➤ Information Regarding Licensed Treatment and Recovery Facilities.

A list of treatment and recovery facilities is now available on the Surrey Crime Reduction website.

➤ Recovery House Accreditation

An inter-governmental committee has been established led by the City of Surrey to identify a method of appropriately accrediting and monitoring these facilities. The purpose of accreditation is to ensure that these facilities provide a reasonable standard of services to clients and do not create significant community impact as a result of their operation.

Housing

➤ Information Regarding Second Stage/Transitional Housing.

A list of second stage/transitional housing is now available on the Surrey Crime Reduction website.

Establishment of a Sobering Centre.

In 2008, the City committed to partnering with the Fraser Health Authority and BC Housing to respond to the need for additional addictions treatment services and housing in Surrey. In March 2008 the City of Surrey signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with BC Housing for the development of a new addictions treatment facility, the “Provincial Partnership Project”. The Provincial Partnership Project, which is proposed to contain, among other uses, a 25 bed “sobering centre” will be developed on a City-owned site adjacent to Surrey Memorial Hospital, the Phoenix Centre and the new Creekside Withdrawal Management Centre (detox facility).

➤ Prolific Offender Access to Transitional Housing

The Prolific Offender Management Team works closely with outreach workers from local non-profit organizations to facilitate access to appropriate housing. The ability to supply reasonable housing to the prolific offenders is challenging and will be a matter raised as part of the evaluation process.

➤ Homelessness Outreach Workers

The number of Homelessness outreach workers in Surrey has been increased to five. These positions are funded by the Provincial government and are employed through two local non-profit organizations. Workers engage with the homeless population in order to assist them into permanent housing. The agencies funded to provide outreach work in Surrey report that 512 individuals have been provided with housing since 2006.

➤ Information Regarding Supportive Housing For People With Mental Health and Other Disorders

A list of such housing is available on the Surrey Crime Reduction website

➤ Partner to Address Capacity Shortfalls

The availability of appropriate and affordable housing is key to a stable lifestyle. The CRS acknowledges that the lack of appropriate housing can be a significant factor in a persons criminality and that a ‘housing first’ approach to people with multiple challenges in their lives is an effective and sustainable way to effect positive changes.

In June 2007, Council approved the establishment of a Surrey Homelessness and Housing Fund to support “made in Surrey” solutions to homelessness and housing issues in the Surrey and approved a transfer of the City’s Homelessness Reserve Fund of \$9.5 million to the Fund. To minimize administration costs, a fund within an existing Foundation was established, rather than establishing a new Foundation. The Surrey Homelessness and Housing Society was established to oversee the Fund. A public event was held on April 1, 2008 to officially launch the new Surrey Homelessness and Housing Fund and an announcement was made at that time by the Society regarding a Call for Letters of Intent from non-profit organisations for a one-time, \$1 million grant for a new project to address core housing and homelessness needs in Surrey. This Call was intended to be a launch of the new Fund and Society. Atira Women’s Resource Society with their project Maxxine Wright Place was awarded this grant in October. This project will address homelessness among at-

risk women who are pregnant and/or parenting. The facility will include 12 housing units for short-term stays, 24 units of longer-term transition housing, a 49-space childcare centre and a community health clinic. It will be capable of housing 36 families at a time, and is expected to serve 200 people a year, with the community health clinic providing services to an additional 5,000 person visits annually.

In 2007/8 there has been a significant increase in the number of new social housing projects in Surrey. Most of these are being funded by BC Housing, with some funding also coming from the Federal government's Homelessness Partnering Initiative. These projects are discussed in more detail in the June 2008 City of Surrey annual report 'Action Plan for the Social Well-Being of Surrey Residents'.

Education and Skills Development

➤ Agencies Delivering Training

Information regarding various types of skills training is available on the Surrey Crime Reduction website.

REALITY AND PERCEPTIONS OF CRIME

➤ Crime Reduction Website

As previously referenced in this report, the Surrey Crime Reduction website provides information on ways in which residents and businesses can help reduce opportunities for crime. In addition there are links to partner agencies including Surrey RCMP, Surrey Crime Prevention and other non-profits that provide related services to the community. The website will continue to be developed in order to meet the needs of the community.

In addition to this website the Surrey School District (SD36) has developed a website seeking to engage youth and provide advice and support. The SD36 website 'Protecting Surrey Schools Together' (www.psst-bc.ca) is an innovative medium that *enhances education and awareness* of safety issues for young people. It promotes and provides many opportunities for young people to get involved in positive pastimes. It also includes components that address gang issues and provides for anonymous reporting of troublesome or violent behaviours including bullying, graffiti, gang behaviour etc. The feedback from youth regarding this website is very positive.

➤ RCMP Website

The Surrey RCMP Detachment have recently redesigned their website to provide timely and relevant information regarding crime in Surrey to residents. Included in their website is a mapping component that enables citizens to see the actual allegations of crime in any neighbourhood on a month-to-month basis.

➤ CRS Printed Material.

In addition to personal presentations to many community and business groups leaflets and brochures that explain the CRS Strategy have been published and widely distributed within the community. In addition, as previously stated a specific brochure titled 'Retailer's Guide

to Crystal Meth' has been printed and distributed within our business community. The Surrey RCMP have recently published and distributed a number of crime prevention brochures that provide citizens with advice and support on how to protect themselves.

➤ **Prioritizing Actions to Address the Most Vulnerable**

The establishment of a Domestic Violence Unit by Surrey RCMP has provided dedicated resources to the prevention and investigation of this type of abuse. Together with a media campaign supported by the City, the RCMP endeavour to raise the profile of the issue and reduce the stigma attached to reporting such violent crime. Recently the City partnered with Surrey RCMP to host a seminar exploring how agencies can work more effectively together. This seminar has facilitated both a better understanding of the roles played by different agencies and more effective working relationships.

MATTERS UNDER DEVELOPMENT

➤ **CCTV Project Targeted at Reducing Autocrime**

The City has established a partnership with SkyTrain with the intention of installing a surveillance system at the Scott Road car park. It is intended that this pilot initiative will inform future decisions regarding the broader application of this crime reduction tool within the City. The Ministry of Public Safety and the Solicitor General and the Ministry of the Attorney General announced in late October of this year, a grant of \$333,000 to the City of Surrey to assist with the costs of implementing pilot CCTV projects within Surrey.

➤ **Regulation of Certain Hydroponics Equipment**

A process has been commenced (led by Surrey Fire Department) to regulate the sale and distribution of certain electrical items that are precursor to the indoor cultivation of marijuana plants and often sold by hydroponics shops. These items are 'non-domestic' in type and when improperly installed and maintained pose a considerable safety risk.

➤ **RCMP Cell Block Outreach Initiative**

In partnership with Provincial Ministries, social service agencies and the Surrey RCMP, the City is exploring the opportunity to establish an 'arrest referral' initiative. The intention of this initiative will be to provide appropriate medical and social needs assessments to those in RCMP cells and link these individuals to resources to reduce potential for criminal recidivism.

➤ **Psychiatric Assessment Pilot Scheme at Surrey Court**

The ability to provide the Court with relevant and timely information regarding an offender's health and related matters is important. It ensures that appropriate and effective measures can be included in sentencing should an accused be found guilty. The provision of resources at or prior to attendance at Court is part of the framework for the proposed Surrey Community Court. A pilot project has recently commenced at Surrey Provincial Court that provides opportunity for voluntary psychiatric assessment of an accused person to take place prior to the court hearing to assist judges in their deliberations. This service is provided by

the Forensic Psychiatric Services Commission that is part of the Provincial Health Services Authority.

➤ **Integrated Approach to Addressing Graffiti in Surrey**

The City of Surrey has established a single telephone number ‘Help Desk’ for residents to report all types of graffiti in our City. The Graffiti Task Force identified that a barrier to timely response is that there are various points of contact for the public to complain about incidents of graffiti depending upon ownership of the property that has been damaged. The City (through the Bylaw Enforcement Section) has designed a single point of contact and will monitor the timeliness of follow up to complaints. This is a key element of the City’s declared intention to have a zero tolerance of graffiti.

➤ **Strongly Advocate for Changes Within the Justice system**

There are a number of recommendations contained with the Strategy that require changes in the way the justice system works. Examples include:

- The provision of lengthier periods of incarceration for offenders who do not proceed with treatment;
- The reduction or elimination of ‘credit time’ in remand;
- The allocation of additional resources to reduce the amount of time between arrest and determination at trial; and
- Treatment to be mandatory for Prolific Offenders with addictions.

The City intends to continue to pursue these recommendations through dialogue with Provincial and Federal Ministers with a view to assisting in the delivery of a more ‘just’ and effective justice system.

➤ **Expand Neighbourhood Involvement in Producing Integrated Problem-solving Approaches to Local Crime**

There are a number of different mechanisms by which local involvement to community safety matters is obtained. Acknowledging that there may not necessarily be a universal solution for all of Surrey’s communities, City staff will work to identify good practices and incorporate them into the delivery model.

➤ **Victimization Survey**

Police statistics are just one method of identifying levels of crime in an area. Preliminary work has taken place to identify an effective way of capturing victimization information from the citizens of Surrey. This will be further developed to design a cost effective tool that adequately reflects the public safety issues in our community. The development of a victimization survey is currently being considered.

➤ **Community Support Teams**

The ability to effectively engage the broader community in supporting those involved in the criminal justice system is being explored. This will initially be through liaison with Community Corrections agencies.

➤ **Crime Free Business Initiative**

The City plans to launch an additional arm to the Crime Free Multi Housing initiative that will complement the Surrey RCMP Business Watch. This will bring the principles of our Crime Free program to the business community in Surrey.

CONCLUSION

The Surrey CRS has provided opportunities to forge new working partnerships and enhance those that already existed with a focus that resonates at both organizational and community levels. It has been clear at a service delivery level there has been tremendous ‘buy in’. Organizations and agencies have been very supportive of the goals of the CRS and the question that is continually asked is “How can we help?”.

The challenges are in addressing the more systemic issues that frustrate the delivery of crime reduction and criminal justice services. These include the difficulty in making changes in legislation or ministerial policy. This is to be anticipated and the City will continue to seek support for changes to assist in making the City an even more safe place to live, work and recreate. The concepts that are embodied within the CRS are internationally recognized as having credibility and the City looks forward to expanding cooperation with Federal and Provincial leaders to further acknowledge the role they can play in achieving a better quality of life for the citizens of Surrey. Much of what is being implemented in Surrey can be used as a model for other communities across the Province and the country.

Lance Talbott
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