

CRIME PREVENTION A FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION

Crime Prevention Ottawa

Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services



Overview

The purpose of this presentation is to provide:

- Background information on the *Crime Prevention in Ontario: A Framework for Action* booklet.
- An outline next step in the development of an Ontario Crime Prevention Strategy.
- To introduce the Future of Policing Project.

Phase I – Crime Prevention in Ontario: A Framework for Action

- In 2009, the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services (MCSCS) partnered with the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police (OACP) to develop a provincial response to crime prevention. The first step in this process was to raise awareness and to promote the benefits of crime prevention to Ontario communities through the development of the *Crime Prevention in Ontario: A Framework for Action*.

- The Framework for Action booklet is intended to:
 - Raise awareness and generate a dialogue on crime prevention in Ontario;
 - Highlight the work already undertaken by the provincial government in the area of crime prevention;
 - Set the stage for the development of further crime prevention work which will: build and enhance crime prevention partnerships; encourage the development of coordinated, multi-sectoral responses; and promote community leadership and participation in crime prevention.

- The Framework for Action was distributed to all delegates attending the OACP Crime Prevention Conference on February 29 to March 2, 2012. The booklet has also been shared via e-mail with a mailing list of over 600 community organizations and is available in both official languages.

Phase I – Crime Prevention in Ontario: A Framework for Action

- The Crime Prevention in Ontario: A Framework for Action booklet defines crime prevention as:

The anticipation, recognition and appraisal of a crime risk and the actions taken – including the integrated community leadership required – to remove or reduce it.

- Crime prevention seeks to stop crime before it occurs. This can be achieved in various ways including **situational crime prevention** and **crime prevention through social development**.
- **Situational crime prevention** seeks to reduce the opportunity to commit crime in a particular time and place. As part of this approach, situations are altered to make it less likely that the potential offender will commit a crime. Examples of situational crime prevention include:
 - Surveillance and monitoring system
 - Crime Prevention through Environmental Design
 - Car and home alarm systems
- **Crime prevention through social development** involves long-term, integrated actions that deal with the reduction of risk factors that start people on the road to crime, and builds protective factors that may mitigate those risks. Examples of crime prevention through social development include:
 - Teaching parenting skills
 - Improving literacy rates
 - Providing aggression management and counseling
 - Increasing employment opportunities

Phase I – Crime Prevention in Ontario: A Framework for Action

- As found in the Framework for Action, risk factors are the negative characteristics and/or conditions present in individuals, families, communities or society that may increase the presence of crime or fear of crime in a community. These factors may also increase the likelihood that individuals engage in crime and/or become victims.
- The risk factors associated with criminal involvement fall under individual, family, community, societal and systemic categories. Some examples include:

- Poor mental health
- Negative parenting
- Few social services
- Negative media messaging
- Prior criminal behaviour
- Poor peer influences
- High poverty concentration
- Cultural norms supporting violence
- Violent victimization
- Mistreatment during childhood
- Availability of drugs and firearms
- Prior delinquency

- Protective factors are positive elements that can mediate or moderate the effect of being exposed to risk factors and can help to foster healthier individuals, families and communities thereby increasing the safety of a community.
- Like risk factors, protective factors also fall under individual, family, community, societal and systemic categories. Some examples include:

- Personal coping strategies
- Self-esteem/self-efficacy
- Low social tolerance of violence
- Recreational facilities for youth
- Adequate parental supervision
- Positive peer influences
- Parent(s) engaged in child's life
- Strong attachment to adult
- Housing in close proximity to services
- Cohesive communities
- Positive school experience
- Personal sense of responsibility

Cost Effectiveness of Crime Prevention

- The overall financial and social costs of crime are increasingly important for society and government and it places a large financial burden on Ontarians.
- There are both tangible and intangible costs associated with crime:
 - Tangible costs can be assigned a financial value and include medical, mental health, criminal justice, victim services, protective services costs and the value of stolen or damaged property.
 - Intangible, or non-monetary costs, are more difficult to measure and include pain and suffering, fear of crime, hindering economic development and lost quality of life.
- A study released in 2009 showed that for an average municipality of 900,000 people, the estimated annual costs of crime to victims and the public is more than \$1.3 billion.
- Extensive research shows that crime prevention programs have proven to have significant returns on investment and are a cost-effective manner in which to address crime.
 - For every dollar invested now in crime prevention and early intervention avoids seven dollars spent on incarceration, victim services and other associated costs in the future.
 - Another study found that one dollar allocated for enriched child care saves seventeen dollars in criminal justice costs in the future.
 - Thorough economic evaluation has shown that preventing just one career criminal can save society over \$2 million.
- It is fiscally responsible to work collaboratively and allocate resources in a balanced manner to target the risk factors of crime.

Crime Prevention Approaches

- Crime prevention can be achieved in various ways and at various points in time.
- From the preventative perspective, the two key stages are:
 - Prevention prior to occurrence; and,
 - Post-incarceration/community supervision

	Prevention prior to occurrence of crime	Arrest and Post-Arrest*	Sentencing	Incarceration	Post incarceration/ community supervision
Crime Prevention Opportunity	Target risk factors of crime	Identify and suppress crime	Identify opportunities for alternative measures, diversion programs and mandatory programming	Rehabilitate and treat offenders	Reduce recidivism and influence offender decisions
Actions	Predict Intervene Treat	Enforce Investigate Apprehend	Applying the appropriate sentencing option	Incapacitate Control Rehabilitate	Reintegrate Predict Intervene Treat
Scope	Risk factors of crime	Criminal Act	Criminal act & risk factors of crime	Criminal act & risk factors of crime	Risk factors of criminality Recidivism
Focus	Potential victims and potential offenders	Accused/Actual Offender	Actual offender	Actual offender and actual victim	Actual offender and actual victim

*refers to the period between being arrested and being sentenced (if applicable). For example, being held in remand falls within the post-arrest category.

Phase II – Consultation Phase

- The Consultation Phase is the second step towards the development of a crime prevention strategy and involves the strategic engagement of various stakeholders, including the public. A stakeholder refers to any individual or group who has a vested interest in crime prevention and who has significant influence on or is significantly impacted by crime prevention.
- The immediate goals of the consultation phase are to:
 - Build relationships with stakeholders in an effort to:
 - Raise awareness about existing crime prevention policies and programs;
 - Review and enhance existing policies and programs where required.
 - Identify key risk factors, crime issues, promising practices, and challenges faced by Ontario's communities as they relate to establishing local, multi-disciplinary crime prevention strategies.
 - Increase cooperation and collaboration at the local level to establish/enhance local crime prevention programs/activities.
 - Identify value for money.
 - Develop effective metrics and identify any barriers that might exist to measure those metrics.
- The long-term goals of the consultation phase are to:
 - Increase efficient spending of funds by working collaboratively and sharing information.
 - Provide focussed, targeted crime prevention responses to local crime issues.
 - Work to eliminate silos between ministries, organizations and sectors to provide multi-disciplinary crime prevention solutions.
 - Long term goals will be measured through an on-going relationship with stakeholders, communities and other ministries to ensure goals are being met.

The Future of Policing Project

- MCSCS hosted a Summit on the Future of Policing on Tuesday, March 6, 2012 and Wednesday, March 7, 2012.
- The Summit was an opportunity to bring together police leaders and other partners to discuss the current challenges facing police services in Ontario and their sustainability into the future.
- Coming out of the Summit, there was agreement that the time was now to study and guide what policing in Ontario would look like in the future.
- Subsequently, a new stakeholder advisory committee, the Future of Policing Advisory Committee (FPAC), was struck to oversee the Project and to:
 - Provide strategic direction with respect to the recommendations/outcomes of each working group;
 - Recommend changes to legislation/regulations and/or policy matters to the Ministry, based on outcomes of the working groups; and
 - Provide advice and guidance to the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services respecting guidelines and policing policy matters already under review, on an as needed basis.
- FPAC is the governance body to four working groups that are reviewing core police services, which are:
 - Crime Prevention;
 - Law Enforcement and Victims' Assistance (LEVA);
 - Emergency Response and Public Order Maintenance (ERPO); and
 - Administration and Infrastructure.

Questions?

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