

Community Safety and Well-being Plan Update - 2026

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Report Summary

This report and presentation provides an update regarding the Community Safety and Well-Being Plan approved by Council in May 2025.

Relationship to the Strategic Plan, Health Impact Assessment and Climate Action Plans

This report refers to Creating a Healthier and More Vibrant Community as outlined in the CGS Strategic Plan through advancing the Population Health Agenda.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

Background

In May 2025, Council approved the Community Safety and Well-Being (CSWB) Plan update as a requirement under the Ministry of the Solicitor General that all municipalities in Ontario develop a Community Safety and Well-being Plan and update this plan every four years, informed by an advisory committee comprised of local representation from the City, police services, and partners across health, mental health, education, community, social, and children and youth services.

The CSWB model is guided by the Leadership Circle, working in collaboration with priority-specific Action Tables, the Data Working Group, and Backbone Support, to advance implementation, coordination, and accountability. In 2025, the Leadership Circle welcomed the Chief of Police, Chief Cunningham, as the Leadership Circle Co-Chair, alongside Mayor Lefebvre.

Within the updated CSWB plan, eight community priorities were identified following consultation and evidence review:

- Indigenous Safety and Well-being
- Increasing Affordable, Supportive and Transitional Housing, and Housing Security
- Coordinated Mental Health Access, Addictions, Substance Misuse

- Combating Gender-Based, Intimate Partner, and Family Violence
- Developing a Community-wide Traumatic Events Protocol
- Advancing Age Friendly Community Strategy
- Addressing Food Security
- Building Youth Resiliency

Action Tables

A key focus for 2025/2026 was the establishment of priority-specific Action Tables to ensure a coordinated, collaborative, and outcome-driven approach to addressing priority areas identified in the 2025 CSWB Plan. Action Tables are established by, and accountable to, the Leadership Circle to address both urgent and long-term community priorities through shared responsibility and collective action. Action Tables work closely with the Data Working Group and Backbone Support to enable evidence-informed decision-making and serve as the primary mechanism for translating strategic priorities into community-level action.

Each Action Table is led by an appointed agency(s) and brings together representatives from community organizations with relevant mandates and expertise. The following Action Tables have been established to address the identified community priorities:

- Housing & Homelessness
- Mental Health & Addictions
- Traumatic Events Protocol
- Safe Centre
- Greater Together
- Planet Youth Up North (Icelandic Prevention Model)
- Age Friendly Community

The sections below provide an update on community priorities being addressed through the efforts of these Action Tables.

Coordinated Mental Health Access, Addictions, and Substance Misuse

In 2026, the Homelessness and Addictions Recovery Treatment (HART) Hub was launched in partnership with Health Sciences North, Shkagamik-Kwe Health Centre, Monarch Recovery Services, Canadian Mental Health Association – Sudbury/Manitoulin, Northern Initiative for Social Action, and the City of Greater Sudbury. Through funding provided by the Ministry of Health, the HART Hub provides a coordinated, community-based approach to mental health and addictions care. Key components include:

- A community hub located at Shkagamik-Kwe Health Centre providing connections to health, health, and social supports
- Operational funding for the Lotus Program/Lorraine Street Transitional Housing Project
- 48 scattered supportive housing units supported by Monarch Recovery Services and CMHA-S/M
- Mobile outreach operated by Shkagamik-Kwe, providing basic needs support, health, and referrals

In 2026, Council approved supported through the Community Improvement Plan to support the conversion of the former Cyril Varney Public School into the new Compass main site, which will include an eight-bed residential facility for youth experiencing mental health challenges. This location is anticipated to open in 2026.

In addition, the Icelandic Prevention Model was launched in Greater Sudbury in 2025 to respond to increasing substance use among youth, as identified through the Greater Sudbury Summit on Toxic Drugs in 2023. The Icelandic Prevention Model is an internationally recognized, evidence-based upstream approach, that strengthens protective factors and reduces risk factors for youth. Further details are provided below under *Building Youth Resiliency*.

Mental health remains a key contributor of community risk. In 2025, mental health was the most frequent risk category among situations presented to the Rapid Mobilization Table (RMT), identified in 87% of situations involving both individuals and families.

Increasing Affordable, Supportive, and Transitional Housing, and Housing Security

In alignment with the *Roadmap to End Homelessness by 2030*, key housing and homelessness updates in 2025/2026 demonstrate continued progress across prevention, housing development, and system planning. These updates include:

- Securing operational funding for the Lotus Program through the launch of the HART Hub
- Completion of the Peace Tower Affordable Housing Project anticipated in 2026, adding 38 affordable units to the housing supply
- The submission of a funding application to Build Canada Homes for the development of a 40-unit supportive housing project
- Launch of the Lived Experience Advisory Group to inform system planning through lived and living experience of homelessness

Housing also continues to be a significant factor contributing to community risk. In 2025, housing-related risk factors were identified in 60% of situations of elevated risk presented to RMT across both individuals and families.

Combating Gender-Based, Intimate Partner, and Family Violence

In March 2026, an Action Table was formed to support the development of a Safe Centre in Greater Sudbury, building on evidence-informed, hub-based models implemented in other municipalities. A Safe Centre is intended to provide a coordinated, trauma-informed approach by bringing together multiple services and supports in one location, reducing barriers to access and improving outcomes for individuals and families experiencing violence.

The Action Table formally began in early 2026 and includes representation from key sector partners. In March 2026, a Steering Committee was launched to guide the initiative forward. Next steps for the initiative include formalizing governance structures, establishing a shared mission and vision, and identifying sustainable funding opportunities to support planning and implementation.

In 2025, 64 situations of elevated risk were presented to RMT related to violence risk. Of these situations, mental health was a significant contributing factor, presenting in the majority of violence related discussions (92%).

Developing a Community-Wide Traumatic Events Protocol

The Traumatic Events Protocol Action Table is leading the development of a systems-based crisis and trauma response protocol to coordinate how the community responds to traumatic events. The protocol is intended to address impacts across individuals, organizations, and the broader community, and is structured around four phases: initial response, strategic assessment, community interventions, and long-term recovery. The protocol is currently under review, with work focused on ensuring clarity of roles, alignment with existing emergency and service responses, and readiness to support coordinated, trauma-informed action when traumatic events occur.

This work builds upon existing community-based risk response models, including the Rapid Mobilization Table (RMT), which responds to situations of acutely elevated risk through immediate, coordinated intervention, and the Violence Threat Risk Assessment (VTRA) table, which focuses on assessing and managing youth-related risk through early identification, information sharing, and preventative intervention. Together, these tables operate across the continuum of risk: RMT addresses urgent, high-risk situations requiring rapid action, the VTRA table intervenes earlier in potential pathways to violence, particularly among youth, and the Traumatic Events Protocol provides a coordinated framework for community-wide response and recovery following significant traumatic incidents.

The RMT table includes over 40 participating agencies and addressed 162 situations of acutely elevated risk in 2025. VTRA includes 40 protocol partners with 160 situations presented in 2025, highlighting ongoing individual and community risk and continued need for coordinated, multi-sector responses.

Greater Together

The Greater Together Action Table supports a coordinated approach to newcomer, refugee, and international student integration and inclusion in Greater Sudbury. Guided by a shared vision of economic, social, and cultural prosperity, the Action Table focuses on strengthening economic and workforce participation, fostering social integration and social belonging, and promoting public understanding of the contributions newcomers make to the community. Through collaboration across municipal teams, and community partners, including the Sudbury Local Immigration Partnership (SLIP), the Greater Together Action Table aims to build systems that support successful integration and contribute to a stronger, more inclusive community.

This work aligns with the CSWB Plan guiding principles including trauma informed practice and a commitment to cultural responsiveness, diversity, equity and inclusion, by supporting system planning and community responses that reflect the needs of diverse communities.

Age Friendly Community

In 2025, The CSWB Leadership Circle approved the City's Age Friendly Working Group as the Action Table for advancing age-friendly strategies in Greater Sudbury. The Working Group is currently developing action plan informed by feedback received through the Age Friendly Coffee Chats held in 2025.

Recent highlights demonstrate ongoing progress and commitment to supporting older adults. In 2026, the City of Greater Sudbury was recognized as an Age-Friendly Community at the Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) conference, reflecting leadership and continued investment in age-friendly planning. The City also introduced free transit rides for seniors on the first Tuesday of each month in 2026, responding directly to accessibility barriers identified by older adults. Additionally, Greater Sudbury hosted the Ontario 55+ Summer Games in 2025 with over 800 participants, promoting active living, social connection, and community inclusion for older adults.

In 2025, there were 54 individuals presented to RMT with acutely elevated risk aged 60+. The most frequent contributing risk factors for individuals within this age group included physical health (93%), mental health (89%), and basic needs (81%).

Building Youth Resiliency

In 2025, the Planet Youth Up North (Sudbury/LaCloche) - Icelandic Prevention Model project was established. The Icelandic Prevention Model is a community-based, data-driven approach that builds healthier social environments and reduces youth substance use by strengthening protective factors across family, school, peer, and community settings. The project is co-led locally by Shkagamik-Kwe Health Centre (SKHC) and Sudbury District Restorative Justice (SDRJ). A voluntary survey is currently being administered to Grade 10 students through participating school boards to identify local risk and protective factors influencing youth health and well-being. Survey findings will inform next steps and the development of community-wide prevention initiatives.

In 2025, there were 9 individual youth presented to RMT with elevated risk (ages 0-24). The most frequent contributing risk factors for youth included mental health (100%), anti-social/negative behaviour (89%), and basic needs (78%).

Indigenous Safety and Well-Being

Indigenous Safety and Well-Being is advanced through multiple Action Tables that embed Indigenous leadership, partnership, and culturally informed approaches across priority areas. Action Tables actively engage Indigenous organizations, service providers, and knowledge holders to ensure planning and implementation reflect Indigenous perspectives, strengths, and lived experience.

Efforts related to housing and homelessness, youth resiliency, mental health and addictions, trauma response, age friendly, and violence prevention are informed by Indigenous-led approaches. This integrated approach recognizes the interconnected nature of safety, health, housing, and community belonging, and supports progress toward reconciliation by addressing systemic barriers and strengthening outcomes for Indigenous individuals, families, and communities across Greater Sudbury.

Next Steps

In 2026, key priorities include the implementation of the CSWB Dashboard to support accountability, transparency, and monitoring of progress across priority areas. Action Tables will continue foundational work, including the development of terms of reference, actions plans, and performance measurement frameworks, to support coordinated implementation and measurable outcomes. Progress on CSWB priorities will continue to be reported to Council on an annual basis.

Resources Cited

Community Mobilization Sudbury – [Rapid Mobilization Table Annual Report \(2025\)](#)

City Council – February 24, 2026 – [Roadmap to End Homelessness Implementation Plan](#)

City Council – February 10, 2026 - [Greater Sudbury Community Improvement Plan Application – 1545 Gary Avenue, Sudbury](#)

Community & Emergency Services Committee – January 19, 2026 – [The Sudbury-Lacloche Icelandic Prevention Model](#)

Finance and Administration Committee – January 20, 2026 - [Housing Revitalization Funding Plan](#)

Community & Emergency Services Committee – November 24, 2025 - [Community Drug Strategy Report on Opioid Use](#)

City Council – September 23, 2025 – [Older Adults Advisory Panel Update](#)

City Council – May 27, 2025 – [Community Safety and Well-Being 2025 Plan Update](#)