

COMMUNITY SAFETY AND WELL-BEING PLANNING: The Municipalities of Bruce and Grey Counties

Grey County Hanover-Owen Sound Task Force
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Presentation Overview

- To highlight the partners who have been involved in the Community Safety and Well-Being Planning (CSWBP) project.
- To provide details of Phase 1 of the Bruce and Grey CSWBP process.
- To share the Priority Areas of Risk for consideration within the CSWBP for Bruce and Grey.
- To explain the key components of the Bruce and Grey CSWBP Indicator Report and the next steps for this piece of work.
- To outline the plan for sustainability for the Bruce and Grey CSWBP.
- To describe next steps as Phase 2 of the Bruce and Grey CSWBP project begins.

Why CSWBP?

Building on a long history of cross-sector collaboration, the process of Community Safety and Well-Being Planning has allowed community partners in Bruce and Grey – from Municipalities, police services, education, health, community and social services – to come together to discuss resident perceptions and begin to explore local data related to safety and well-being, with the goal of identifying and reducing risk factors that contribute to safety and well-being issues, using cross-sector strategies and focusing on the social determinants of health.

The overarching goal of CSWBP is to achieve sustainable communities where everyone is safe, has a sense of belonging and opportunities to participate, and where individuals and families can meet their needs for education, health care, food, housing, income and social and cultural expression – which will ultimately lead to a reduction in crime across the region.

This process is legislated under the Police Services Act (1990) and the 2 Counties and 16 participating Municipalities entered into an agreement to complete one shared, regional Plan.

The Ontario CSWBP Framework

1. **Social Development: Promoting and maintaining community safety and well-being**, where a wide range of sectors, agencies and organizations bring different perspectives and expertise to the table to address complex social issues, like poverty, from every angle, ensuring all community members are aware of services available to them and can access those resources with ease.

2. **Prevention: Proactively reducing identified risks and implementing evidence-based situational measures**, policies or programs to reduce locally-identified priority risks to community safety and well-being before they result in crime, victimization and/or harm, where people participate more in risk-based programs, feel safe and less fearful, and are more confident in their own abilities to prevent harm.



The Ontario CSWBP Framework (cont'd)

3. Risk Intervention: Mitigating situations of elevated risk, where multiple sectors work together to prevent an incident, whether it is a crime, victimization or harm, from occurring, while reducing the need for, and systemic reliance on, incident response in order to increase access to and confidence in social supports, decreased victimization rates and the number of emergency room visits.

4. Incident Response: Critical and non-critical incident response, or what is traditionally thought of when referring to crime and safety, including service responses such as police, fire, emergency medical services, child welfare organizations removing a child from their home, a person being apprehended under the Mental Health Act, or a school principal expelling a student.



THE CSWBP ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Municipality/Town/ City/County

- Corporation of the County of Bruce
- Corporation of the County of Grey
- City of Owen Sound
- Municipality of Arran-Elderslie
- Municipality of Brockton
- Municipality of Grey Highlands
- Municipality of Kincardine
- Municipality of Northern Bruce Peninsula
- Municipality of South Bruce
- Municipality of West Grey
- Town of Hanover
- Town of Saugeen Shores
- Town of South Bruce Peninsula
- Town of The Blue Mountains
- Township of Chatsworth
- Township of Georgian Bluffs
- Township of Huron-Kinloss
- Township of Southgate

First Nations

- M'Wikwedong Native Cultural Resource Centre
- Neyaashiinigmiing First Nation Police Services

Police Services/Boards

- Collingwood/Blue Mountains OPP
- Grey Bruce OPP
- Hanover Police Services
- Neyaashiinigmiing First Nation Police Services
- Owen Sound Police Service
- Saugeen Shores Police Service
- South Bruce OPP
- West Grey Police Service
- Chatsworth Police Services Board
- Grey Highlands Police Services Board
- Owen Sound Police Services Board
- Town of SBP Police Services Board

Children/Youth, Youth Justice

- Bruce Grey Child & Family Services
- Grey Bruce Children's Alliance
- Grey Bruce Youth Engagement Network
- Keystone Child, Youth & Family Services
- Saugeen Valley Children's Safety Village
- Ministry of Children, Community & Social Services

Education

- Bluewater District School Board
- Bruce Grey Catholic District School Board
- Conseil scolaire catholique Providence
- Georgian College, Owen Sound Campus

Community/Social Services

- Bruce County Human Services
- Community Connection - 211 Central East Region Contact Centre
- Four County Labour Market Planning Board
- Grey Bruce Community Legal Clinic
- Grey County Social Services
- Ministry of Children, Community & Social Services
- United Way of Bruce Grey
- Victim Services Bruce Grey Perth
- YMCA of Owen Sound Grey Bruce

Health/Mental Health

- Canadian Mental Health Association Grey Bruce Mental Health & Addiction Services
- Grey Bruce Health Unit
- Grey Bruce Integrated Health Coalition
- Grey-Bruce Ontario Health Team Planning Committee
- South West Local Health Integration Network

Community Committees/ Collaboratives

- Bruce Grey Poverty Task Force
- Bruce Peninsula Safe Communities Committee
- Community Drug & Alcohol Strategy
- Council on Aging Grey Bruce
- Southern Bruce County Safe Communities Committee
- Violence Prevention Grey Bruce

**COMMUNITY SAFETY AND WELL-BEING
PLANNING
FOR THE MUNICIPALITIES OF BRUCE & GREY**

The creation of the CSWBP required:

- The participation of almost 2000 residents from across Bruce and Grey who took part in the public consultation process that has helped to determine the priorities for action found within this Plan;
- The financial support of both Counties and the sixteen participating Municipalities, used to hire a Coordinator for the project;
- The hundreds of hours of employee time each participating Municipality, organization and committee donated to Phase 1 of the project through Steering and Advisory Committee participation and consultation;
- The in-kind support of Grey County in the development and launch of the project website cswbp-brucegrey.ca;

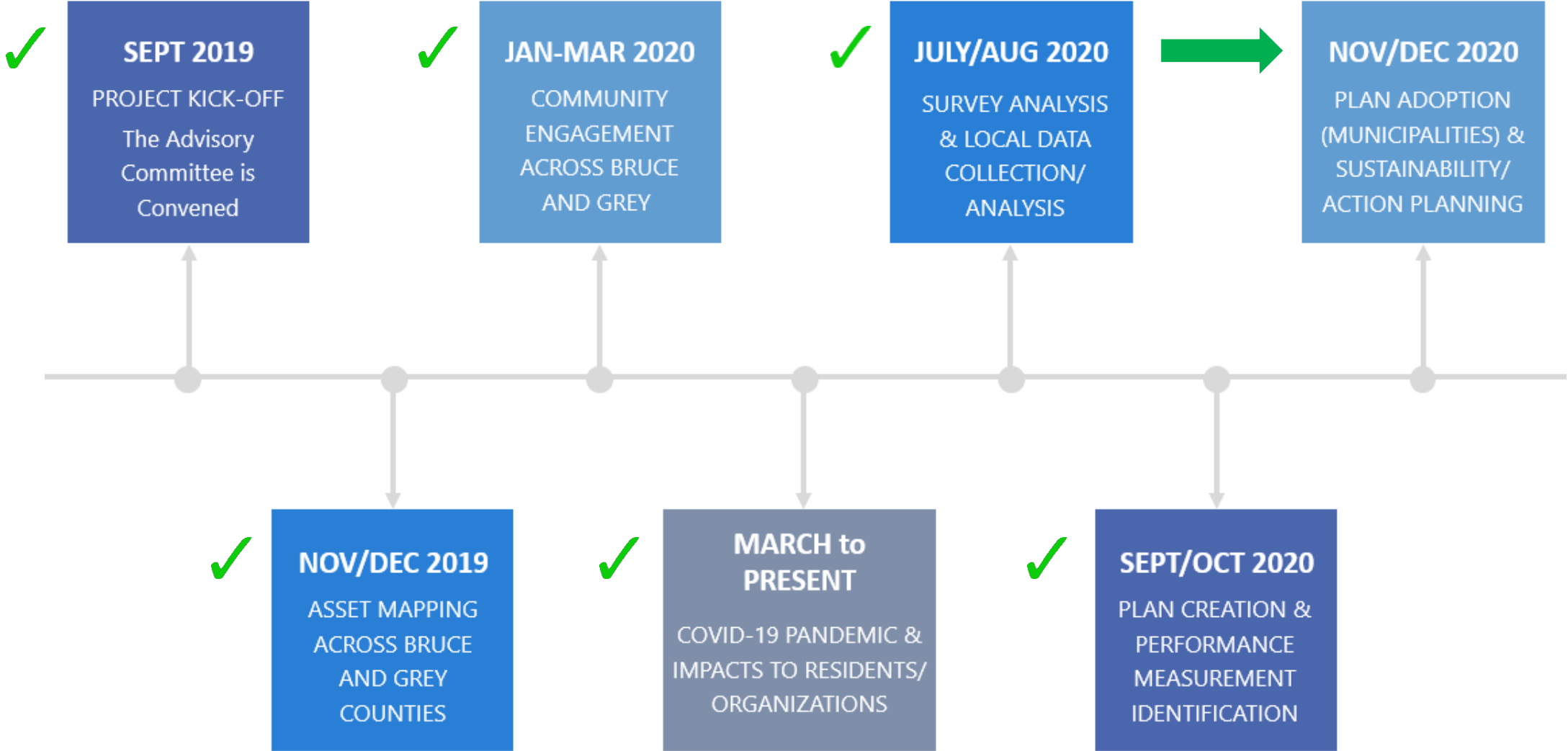
The creation of the CSWBP also required:

- The assistance of Alanna Leffley (Epidemiologist), and CCI Resources (Orangeville), who led the analysis of the Bruce and Grey CSWBP Community Engagement Survey that highlighted resident perceptions of priority risks related to safety and well-being. Bruce County also provided time for a placement student to support the survey qualitative analysis, and Grey County and the Grey Bruce Health Unit provided in-kind staff time to assist with survey initiation;

and

- The advice and support of the Canadian Municipal Network on Crime Prevention (CMNCP), the Halton Region Community Safety and Well-Being collaborative, and the Ontario Municipal Social Services Association (OMSSA) who were integral throughout the process of developing the Bruce and Grey model for collaboration, planning and action.

CSWBP Timeline 2019-2020



Community Safety and Well-Being Planning

Governance Structure for the Municipalities of Bruce and Grey



*Action Tables will be identified/formed in Phase 2 of the Bruce and Grey CSWBP Project.

The Bruce and Grey CSWBP Model

The model is designed to enable the following key functions:

- To provide an established mechanism through which emerging or known safety and well-being issues can be identified, prioritized and addressed in collaboration with the community;
- To ensure a focus on social development and preventative solutions (upstream interventions); and
- To address system-level barriers and gaps in the human services system that negatively impact people who are vulnerable and result in an increased demand on emergency and crisis-driven services (downstream interventions).

The Bruce and Grey CSWBP Model (cont'd)

The model will also:

- Convene executive leaders from organizations with system planning accountability in Bruce and Grey;
- Achieve greater coordination and collaboration between existing issue and planning tables and support consolidation where appropriate;
- Strengthen how the community plans and deploys resources to address priority issues;
- Create opportunities to align resources and efforts to achieve collective impact for the identified community safety and well-being priorities;
- Anticipate issues and service gaps through enhanced data and knowledge sharing; and
- Ensure that Bruce and Grey are ready to respond when emerging issues are identified.

CSWBP PRIORITY AREAS OF RISK

Priority Risk Area 1 – Addiction/Substance Use

Key Indicators/Concerns:

- Regular heavy drinking remains a known issue in our community, with self-reported use in Bruce and Grey tracking higher than Ontario.
- Alcohol use has been recognized as a long standing, serious public health issue for many years in the Bruce and Grey region and has been the focus of several interventions/projects.
- School student alcohol and cannabis use is increasing.
- Of Emergency Department visits, over half (57%) are linked to alcohol, and there has been a 2.5-3 times increase for opioid-related visits.
- This concern is not necessarily reflected in some of the local police data for drug offences because of the legalization of cannabis in October 2018; it is difficult to note trends at this point in time.
- Cause of increasing hospitalization and death in the region.

This category includes the health condition of addiction related to alcohol use, cannabis use, illegal drug use, prescription drug use, gambling (online, racetrack, casino, etc.), access to addiction services, and coordination between addiction services in the community.

Addiction/Substance Use – Community Perceptions

- Addictions/Substance Use category ranked highest (#1) overall in the Bruce and Grey CSWBP Community Engagement Survey (overall, by Bruce County, by Grey County and by 13 of the 16 participating municipalities).
- It was ranked in the top 3 areas of importance by 58% of survey respondents (BC 56%, GC 59%).
- When asked which areas were of particular concern in this category, illegal drug use, alcohol use, access to addiction services and prescription drug use were the top areas of concern.
- Several comments in the survey mentioned concern about the availability of illegal drugs in their community and the negative impact that it appears to have on crime rates, mental health and employment.

This category includes the health condition of addiction related to alcohol use, cannabis use, illegal drug use, prescription drug use, gambling (online, racetrack, casino, etc.), access to addiction services, and coordination between addiction services in the community.

Priority Risk Area 2 – Mental Health

Key Indicators/Concerns:

- Self-rated mental health indicators show approximately one quarter of Bruce and Grey residents rate their mental health as excellent or very good, with approximately 20% experiencing a lot of stress and 15% seeking help for mental health issues.
- More than one in three students Grade 7-12 experience moderate to severe psychological distress and a third want to talk to someone about their mental health but don't know where to turn.
- Both EMS and Police Services in the region have seen increases in calls related to mental health concerns; 211 calls have also increased.
- Self-harm Emergency Department visit rates have tripled among young females locally (comparable to the province).
- Bruce and Grey males 25-44 yrs have higher hospitalizations and deaths by suicide than Ontario.
- Suicide is the leading cause of death for 25-44 yr olds (higher than Ontario) and is the second leading cause of death for 15-24 year olds (same as Ontario).

This category includes mental health conditions (such as depression, anxiety, bipolar disorder), emotional or psychological trauma, suicide, access to mental health services, availability of mental health services, affordability of mental health services, and coordination between mental health services in the community.

Mental Health – Community Perceptions

- The Mental Health category ranked second highest (#2) overall in the Bruce and Grey CSWBP Community Engagement Survey (overall, by Bruce County, #3 for Grey County and #2 by 10 out of 16 participating municipalities).
- It was ranked in the top 3 areas of importance by 41% of survey respondents (BC 42%, GC 41%).
- When asked which areas were of particular concern in this category, availability of mental health services, access to mental health services, mental health conditions (such as depression, anxiety,) and affordability of mental health services were noted.
- Several comments in the survey identified concern about the need for more mental health services for children, long wait times, and more/better crisis services.

This category includes mental health conditions (such as depression, anxiety, bipolar disorder), emotional or psychological trauma, suicide, access to mental health services, availability of mental health services, affordability of mental health services, and coordination between mental health services in the community.

Priority Risk Area 3 – Crime Prevention

Key Indicators/Concerns:

Although it is difficult to get a clear picture of police crime statistics for the Bruce and Grey region as a whole because of the differences in reporting between the OPP detachments and the 4 local Police Services, individual statistics are available for each OPP detachment and Police Service, and a review of this information will be of utmost importance as action planning in this area begins.

- Criminal Court cases show trends are increasing over time for most offences (2017 vs 2019-20 - 17% to 27% increase).
- Overall, assault injuries are comparable to Ontario rates except that Bruce and Grey rate of Emergency Department visits due to assault is higher than Ontario rate.

This category includes animal cruelty, arson, break and enter, child abuse, drug trafficking, elder abuse, gang activity, homicide, human trafficking, intimate partner or domestic violence, physical assault, theft, sexual assault, and threats.

Crime Prevention – Community Perceptions

- This category ranked third (#3) overall in the Bruce and Grey CSWBP Community Engagement Survey (overall, by Bruce County, 2nd by Grey County, and in top 3 by 12 out of 16 of the participating municipalities).
- It was ranked in the top 3 areas of importance by 44% of survey respondents (BC 42%, GC 46%).
- When asked which areas were of particular concern in this category, break and enter, drug trafficking and theft were the top areas of concern followed by intimate partner or domestic violence and human trafficking.
- Several comments in the survey mentioned concern about the road safety issues, drug related property crimes and violence as well as the need for greater proactive/ preventative policing.

This category includes animal cruelty, arson, break and enter, child abuse, drug trafficking, elder abuse, gang activity, homicide, human trafficking, intimate partner or domestic violence, physical assault, theft, sexual assault, and threats.

Priority Risk Area 4 – Housing & Homelessness

Key Indicators/Concerns:

- Compared to Ontario and Canada, this region has more owned dwellings and fewer rental dwellings.
- Some areas have more subsidized housing (Owen Sound, Meaford, Kincardine, Southgate).
- Over 15% of homeowners and almost 50% of renters in Bruce and Grey spend more than 30% of their monthly income on shelter costs, a situation that leaves them only 1-2 paychecks away from homelessness.
- Core Housing need (% in housing that is overcrowded, unaffordable, in need of repairs) – region is lower than Ontario but higher than Ontario in our region.
- Average housing prices are increasing but are lower than Ontario.
- Seasonal housing numbers are high in North Bruce Peninsula, Town of The Blue Mountains and South Bruce Peninsula.
- Very low rental vacancy rates in our region are similar to Ontario.
- Housing Wait Lists are increasing as are calls to 211 for housing issues.

This category includes access to housing, availability of housing, affordability of housing, safety of housing, quality of housing, and homelessness.

Housing & Homelessness – Community Perceptions

- This category ranked fourth highest (#4) overall in the Bruce and Grey CSWBP Community Engagement Survey (overall, by Bruce County, by Grey County).
- It was ranked in the top 3 areas of importance by 29% of respondents overall but especially in Owen Sound, North Bruce Peninsula and Kincardine.
- When asked which areas were of particular concern in this category, affordability of housing, availability of housing, and access to housing were noted, followed by homelessness.
- Several comments in the survey mentioned concern about the lack of affordable housing in communities, the lack of variety (e.g., smaller, more affordable homes), need for more education of tenants and landlords on rights, and the concern that many individuals or families stay in unfit, unsafe housing because there are no other options available to them.

This category includes access to housing, availability of housing, affordability of housing, safety of housing, quality of housing, and homelessness.

Priority Risk Area 5 – Poverty & Income

Key Indicators/Concerns:

- Median household incomes in our region are lower than Ontario (lowest in Owen Sound, Hanover, South Bruce Peninsula).
- Overall, about 1 in 5 children in the region live in poverty (Low Income Measure-After Tax); highest in Huron-Kinloss (30%), Chatsworth (28%) and Owen Sound/Southgate/Arran-Elderslie (all approximately 25%).
- Trends from various organizations are showing increasing needs for support such as Ontario Works, Ontario Disability Support Program, United Way Backpack Program, Utility Assistance, 211 calls for food/meals and utility assistance.
- Over a quarter of residents report spending more than 30% of income on housing and 5% in past year had not paid rent/mortgage on time; 18% report not paying other bills on time and 9% ate less because they did not have enough money.

This category includes ability to pay bills and meet basic needs, ability to enjoy life and participate in leisure activities, stress related to financial concerns, availability of financial supports, and access to financial supports.

Poverty & Income – Community Perceptions

- This category ranked fifth highest (#5) overall in the Bruce and Grey CSWBP Community Engagement Survey (overall, by county and by several municipalities).
- It was ranked in the top 3 areas of importance by 32% of survey respondents (BC 31%, GC 34%).
- When asked which areas were of particular concern in this category, ability to pay bills and meet basic needs, stress related to financial concerns, access to financial supports, ability to enjoy life and participate in leisure activities as well as availability of financial supports were highlighted.
- Several comments mentioned concern about lack of affordable housing in the region, lack of quality/stable employment including the challenges of seasonal work, the need for living wage and/or basic income plan, and food insecurity concerns.

This category includes ability to pay bills and meet basic needs, ability to enjoy life and participate in leisure activities, stress related to financial concerns, availability of financial supports, and access to financial supports.

A Focus on Local Solutions & Collective Impact

In response to Priority Risk issues, the Advisory Committee will consider:

- Identifying an Action Table;
- Forming an Action Table;
- Planning for future action;
- Gathering more data and information, or creating a plan to gather data; and/or
- Providing information/education about the issue to organizations or the community at large.

Collective planning across sectors and between collaborative committees will need to occur in order to ensure that responses and actions are systems-based and are tied to project outcomes that can then be evaluated.

The plan is to leverage the good work already being done across Bruce and Grey by enhancing the collaboration and coordination of the various organizations, committees and initiatives.

CSWBP INDICATOR REPORT

Facilitating Outcome Evaluation

An Indicator Report for the project is currently under development. This Report will explore:

- The Municipalities of Bruce and Grey Data/Indicator Framework – a description of the process involved in the identification of priority areas of risk; the use of local data sources for confirmation of priority risks and a description of the community engagement survey utilized to collect resident perceptions.
- An Overview of Safety and Well-Being in Bruce and Grey – for each of the Priority Risk Areas, baseline data will be presented (including the sources), a summary of what the community perceptions were within that category will be shared, identification of areas where action could be taken for improvements will be identified.

Ultimately, this Report will facilitate outcome evaluation for CSWBP using locally available data, acting as a resource for the Advisory Committee and Action Tables.

SUSTAINABILITY OF CSWBP

Sustainability for the Bruce and Grey CSWBP

- The Counties and local Municipalities are all in various stages of 2021 budget planning; there is discussion underway regarding a need for resources for implementation which of course is contingent on approval at each of the 18 organizations.
- The current discussion for forming a 2021 budget for implementation involves continuing the shared funding model that was created for Phase 1 of the project. This would allow for leveraging a pool of funding that would be sufficient to continue to resource the CSWBP initiative.
- Without resourcing, the momentum gained in Phase 1 of the project is at risk; by pooling resources there will be a reduction in duplication of work and overall implementation costs for individual local municipalities, allowing for a streamlined approach.

NEXT STEPS FOR THE BRUCE AND GREY CSWBP

Phase 1 Completion/Phase 2 Initiation for The Municipalities of Bruce and Grey CSWBP

- Presentation to County Councils for endorsement, and then Municipal Councils for approval by resolution;
- Posting of the Plan on County/Municipal websites and cswbp-brucegrey.ca;
- Annual budget confirmation for sustainability of the CSWBP project;
- Recruitment of a Coordinator to continue to drive the CSWBP work forward;
- Identification/creation of Action Tables for Priority Areas of Risk;
- In-depth review of local data and further community engagement to support Action Plan development; and
- Implementation, monitoring, evaluation and revision of the Plan, with Annual Progress Reports to the Advisory Committee, Councils and the Ministry.

QUESTIONS?

***For more information on
The Municipalities of Bruce and Grey CSWBP,
please visit:
cswbp-brucegrey.ca***

THANK YOU!

The Steering Committee greatly looks forward to publicly sharing the Municipalities of Bruce and Grey CSWBP and to continuing to work alongside both counties, the 16 lower-tier municipalities and the 41 community partners as Phase 2 of the CSWBP project begins.

Should you have any questions about today's discussion, please don't hesitate to contact any of the Steering Committee members noted here:

- Anne Elliot director@victim-services.com
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- Krista Miller krista.miller@opp.ca
- Ian Reich i.reich@publichealthgreybruce.on.ca