



STATUS UPDATE:

2021-2024 Community
Safety & Well-being Plan





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Barrie City Council adopted the City's first Community Safety and Well-being Plan: Our Shared Plan for a Safer Barrie in May of 2021. The purpose of this document is to report on the Plan implementation and the status of 15 action items that were identified in the Plan. Together, partner organizations have provided information related to the status of action items that they are leading or supporting. The group has also provided insights on the implementation of Our Shared Plan for a Safer Barrie and community safety and well-being in general.

Our Shared Plan for A Safer Barrie

Together, 15 partner organizations committed to help implement a shared plan for a safer Barrie.

The Plan has four areas of focus, as follows:



1
**A Safer Barrie
by Working
Together**



2
**Connected
Communities are
Safe Communities**



3
**Safety for
everyone**



4
**Prepared
& Protected**



15 ACTION ITEMS were identified in the Plan with partner organizations either leading or supporting the implementation of the Plan.

ACTION AREA

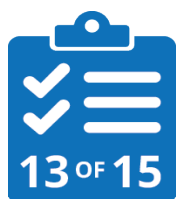
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A SAFER BARRIE BY WORKING TOGETHER



The City of Barrie and the Barrie Police Service will work with partners to launch an Annual Community Safety and Well-Being Forum to review our progress and strengthen working relationships.

- The **first Annual Forum** of the Action Partners was held on March 8, 2022.
- **Partners identified key performance indicators (KPIs)** that were intended to serve as a baseline assessment for the current state and future evolution of the City of Barrie Community Safety and Well Being (CSWB) Plan, discussed status updates and developed questions for a community survey and action partner survey.
- A **community survey was developed** by MASS LBP in consultation with the 15 Action Partner organizations directly involved in implementing the Plan. The survey was launched in December 2022.
- A separate survey was sent to each of the 15 Action Partner organizations that had **committed to leading or helping to implement one or more of the Action Items** in the Plan. The intent of this survey was to determine each organization's view of progress on the Action Items they were leading or helping to implement.
- Many multi-sector table meetings of representatives related to the Plan had **strong levels of engagement with valuable discussions.**
- **Barrie Police Service hosted meetings** with partner organizations to provide updates on specific action items which provided a great opportunity for discussions of safety and well-being in the community.
- **Numerous Action Partner representatives changed since the Plan was prepared** and approved by Barrie City Council, as well as after the KPIs for reporting progress were developed.
- A Forum meeting of the partners was held on February 8, 2024, for the **Action Partners to gather and discuss the entire plan**, the results from the 2022/2023 surveys of the community and Action Partners, as well as the gathering of new data.
- **Over the last few years, there has been an evolution of some of the multi-sector tables** and there is the potential for new partners since the adoption of Our Shared Plan for a Safer Barrie such as the Barrie and Area Ontario Health Team.



Action items from Our Shared Plan for A Safer Barrie are on track to be completed in 2024

The signatories of the new Barrie Health Accord will undertake a community wide planning process that will lead to coordinated and sustainable investments in improving determinants of health.



- October 2020, The City of Barrie, the County of Simcoe, the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit, the Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre, and the Barrie Police Service signed the Barrie Health Accord.
- Barrie Health Accord signatories retained HelpSeekers to provide data-led insights into the social, economic, and health challenges affecting the community.
- In 2023, The Signals of Wellbeing Report was published highlighting key trends and issues related to population growth, income distribution, housing, family composition, and community diversity.
- Information is being used to inform decision-making as feasible.

The Barrie Police Service will work with partners to develop a proposal and build community support for a Community Justice Centre in Barrie.

The Barrie Police Service and partners will work towards creating a Community Service Campus where individuals can access a range of health and social services from multiple providers.

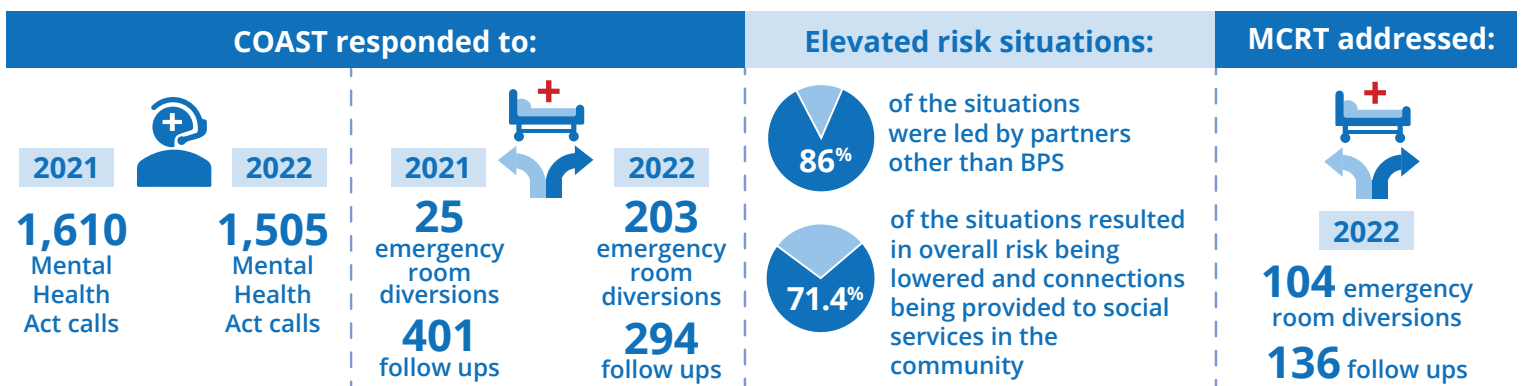
- The project is in process.
- Preliminary work has involved discussions with the Provincial Attorney General's Office and Crown Attorneys.
- Grant funding has been received from the Province of Ontario.
- Community agency partners are being consulted regarding their potential involvement in the Justice Centre/ Community Service Campus.



The Barrie Police Service and partners will strengthen the 'Collaborate Barrie' Situation Table to improve responses to situations where an individual is at significant risk of harm.

The Canadian Mental Health Association Simcoe County and Barrie Police Service will work together to identify and implement actions that increase access to the mental health services that have the greatest impact on community safety.

- In July 2022, the Barrie Police Service and Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre began a six-month pilot project to launch a Mobile Crisis Response Team (MCRT).
- 11 acutely elevated risk situations were brought to the Collaborate Barrie Situation Table in 2022.
- CMHA Simcoe County Branch (SCB) has introduced several new programs such as:
 - the in-home mobile withdrawal management services,
 - opioid outreach counsellor,
 - justice safe beds – new 6 bed unit in addition to existing 6 beds with occupancy anticipated end of April 2024,
 - increased MCRT/COAST positions,
 - increased housing supplements,
 - food security programs,
 - CMHA recently received a funding letter for a pilot in 2024 with County Paramedics and Barrie Police Service.
- The creation of these teams, has offered additional supports for referrals prior to an individual being brought before/to the Collaborate Barrie Situation Table.
- The Barrie Police Service in conjunction with the Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) introduced a Crisis Outreach and Support Team (COAST).





The Barrie Public Library and partners will strengthen community by spearheading a coordinated effort to increase the number of active volunteers in Barrie.



Increase in the number of postings per month
circulated through the Volunteer Database in 2023 VS 2022



730
community members applied to volunteer in Barrie
using the Volunteer Database



6,224
hours of community service
were volunteered with the Barrie Public Library alone

- Some organizations reported that they still require more volunteers.

Georgian College and partners will launch a Barrie Inclusion Network that helps coordinate efforts to involve every resident in creating a safe and welcoming Barrie.

- Barrie Inclusion Network (BIN) was launched in 2021.
- 4 meetings held in 2022.
- 5 meetings in 2023.
- BIN developed a charter, guiding principles and Terms of Reference, built strategies to attract new partners, gathered and discussed the demographics of the population in Barrie, needs related to anti-discrimination work, and benefits the BIN can support as well as information sharing among the members to facilitate better collaboration and community support.
- Developed a logo for BIN to showcase inclusivity and community collaboration, created an events calendar with a focus on equity, with inputs from the City of Barrie and Georgian College departments.
- Created and executed a survey to other agencies/organizations to gather views and opinions of the community to understand how the Network can support and identify new parties/members.
- In the process of creating partnership with the Ethnic Mosaic Alliance of Simcoe County to support its organizational efforts in bringing the community together and promoting diversity through cultural celebrations and education.
- The BIN is also actively researching and seeking to collaborate with more community partners and organizations to support activities, with a focus on avoiding duplication of efforts and maximizing the collective impact on the community. This approach reflects the BIN's dedication to strategic and purposeful collaboration with the community to achieve its goals.



The Mayor’s Office and the Barrie Police Service will convene the Barrie Anti-Racism Task Force, which will help guide anti-racism action throughout Barrie.

- Barrie Anti-Racism Task Force is promoting a stronger, more positive understanding and representation of Barrie’s racialized peoples.
- barrieantiracism.ca website was created.
- Barrie Anti-Racism Task Force has researched and participated in public engagement, public awareness and education opportunities including sharing insights with Barrie Police, Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre and the Barrie and Area Ontario Health Team Planning Table.
- March media campaigns including the ITSTARTS public awareness campaign led by the County, designed to take a proactive step towards addressing racism and discrimination, and embracing acceptance, inclusion, equity and diversity.

Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit will work with partners in Barrie to reduce harms from drug use by increasing access to Naloxone, advancing plans for other harm reduction services, and creating an updated Simcoe Muskoka Drug Strategy.

- A small decrease in the Barrie opioid poisoning deaths occurred between 2022 and 2023*.
- Opioid poisoning deaths remain higher than they were in 2018-2019.
- 36 opioid-related deaths in Barrie in the first three quarters of 2023.
- The Simcoe Muskoka Drug Strategy (SMDS) is a large partnership of agencies, organizations and individuals committed to working together to address the harms associated with the current drug toxicity crisis being experienced throughout our region.
- SMDS has established initial priorities and will incorporate local community needs and emerging trends as they arise.
- The SMDS will build on the work achieved by the Simcoe Muskoka Opioid Strategy (SMOS) from 2017 to 2022.



8,342

Naloxone kits dispensed by Barrie pharmacies between August 1, 2022 – July 30, 2023

263%

Increase in naloxone kits distributed by Barrie pharmacies between 2022 – 2023



2,786

Naloxone kits dispensed by Barrie community partners participating under the Ontario Naloxone Program in 2023

193%

Increase compared to 2022

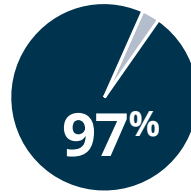
* Note: this is the most current data available from the first 3 quarters of 2023 (Jan-Sept) from the Coroner’s Office.

The Women and Children’s Shelter of Barrie, Barrie Public Library, and partners will expand training about how to provide trauma-informed services.

- In 2022, the Women and Children’s Shelter of Barrie in conjunction with the Barrie Public Library hosted three levels of trauma informed training for members of the community.



People attended these trauma informed training events



Participants in the Level 2 and 3 sessions reported having a clear sense of how to adapt their behaviour or practice as a result of the training

- The Women and Children’s Shelter of Barrie continues to offer trauma informed training in the community.

The County of Simcoe will continue to collaborate with the City of Barrie and local stakeholders in efforts to reduce and ultimately end homelessness in Barrie and surrounding areas.

- The County of Simcoe introduced its Homelessness Prevention Strategy 10-Point Plan in June 2023; a strong, data-driven strategy to help the most vulnerable in our communities through initiatives that have been proven effective in other regions.
- The County consistently collaborates on the 10-Point Plan initiatives with the City of Barrie.



361 people counted as experiencing homelessness in Barrie as part of the 2022 Point in Time Count;
722 people in the County of Simcoe



170 people on the By-Name List in **chronic homelessness** in Barrie; **386** people County of Simcoe-wide
(Recorded Jan 25, 2023)

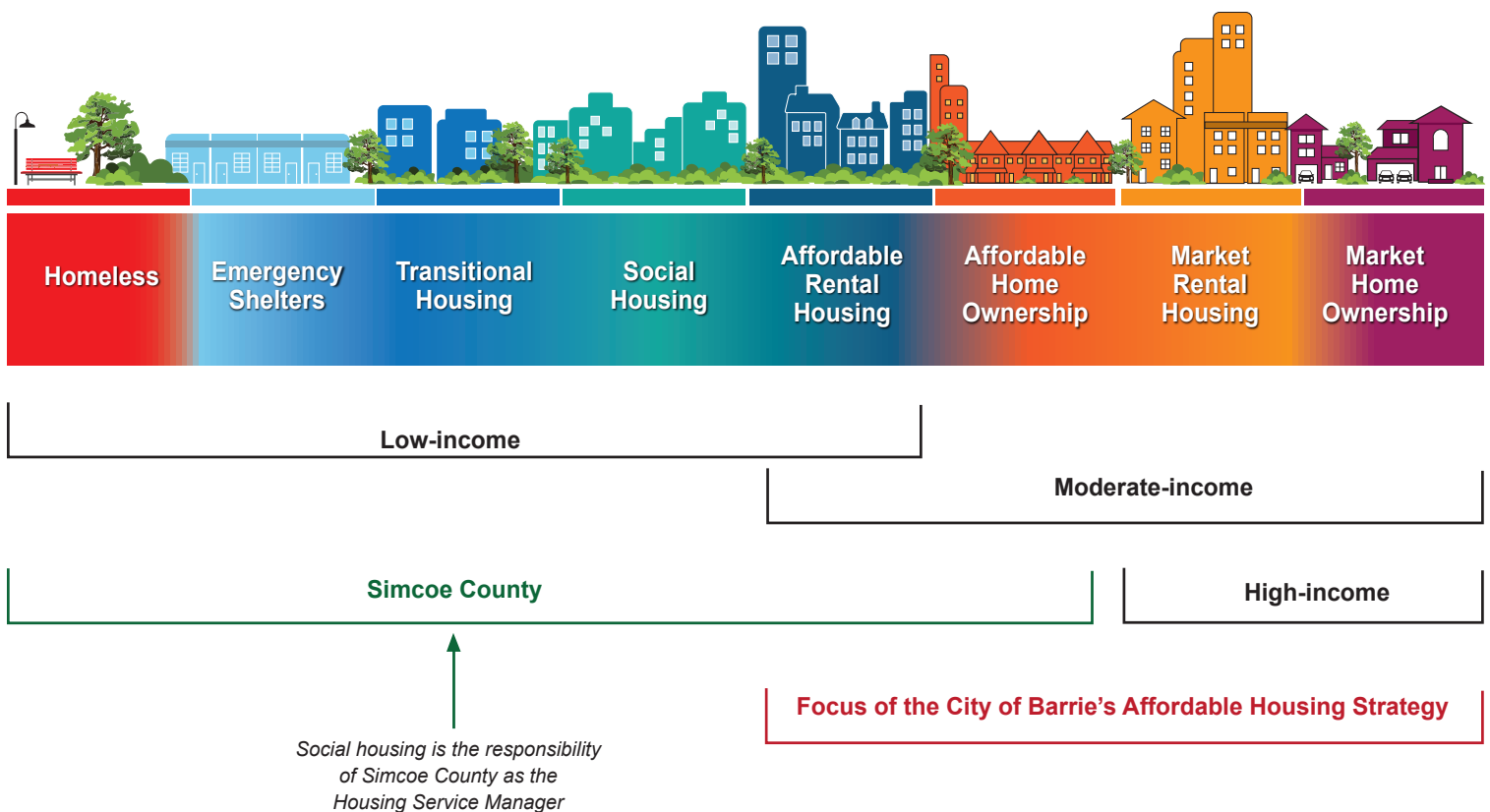


565 people in Barrie on the By-Name List;
1,040 people County of Simcoe-wide
(Recorded Jan 25, 2023)

603 people in Barrie on the By-Name List;
1,217 people County of Simcoe-wide
(Recorded Apr 19, 2024)

The City of Barrie will consult the Community Safety & Well-Being Plan (CSWB) partners about how to best improve community safety when the City updates its 10-year Affordable Housing Strategy.

- The process to update the City's 10-year Affordable Housing Strategy involved extensive consultation including an Affordable Housing Symposium, public surveys and on-line discussion forums, technical advisory committee meetings and an Open House.
- City Council approved the updated Affordable Housing Strategy on January 17, 2024.
- Barrie's Affordable Housing Strategy will be the guiding strategy for the City to act on housing affordability in 2024 and beyond.
- The City's Affordable Housing Strategy outlines nine actions to be taken to address affordability.
- An implementation plan for the Strategy is being prepared incorporating feedback of CSWB partners and the community for a report back to the Affordability Committee by June 2024.





The Barrie Police Service and partners will work to protect residents vulnerable to online threats and phone scams.

- Barrie Police Service has conducted numerous social media campaigns to educate residents about on-line threats and phone scams.
- Multiple presentations are conducted annually by Community Engagement Unit members.

The City of Barrie and partners will develop an updated City of Barrie Pandemic Plan so that organizations in Barrie build off work done together during the current pandemic in order to be ready for potential future pandemics.

- Barrie Fire and Emergency Service has completed initial enhancements to the City of Barrie’s emergency plan to incorporate insights and lessons learned during the global COVID-19 pandemic.
- As the requirements related to a pandemic will be informed by the nature of the specific pandemic, planning documents are high level.
- Further insights will be gathered from community partners as the emergency plans are finalized.

Community Survey Results



Replies were received in response to the community survey launched in December 2022

90%

of Community members respondents reported **FEELING BELONGING** or a sense of **BELONGING**

54%

reported **FEELING WELCOME** and **BELONGING** in Barrie

36%

reported **FEELING WELCOME** in **SOME PARTS** of Barrie

10%

reported **WEAK BELONGING**

20%

of respondents reported **ATTENDING A PUBLIC EVENT** related to the CSWB Plan



The City of Barrie sincerely appreciates the collaboration and dedication of the 15 Action Partner organizations in the development and implementation of Our Shared Plan for a Safer Barrie. As the City's first Community Safety and Well-being Plan, a number of lessons have been learned throughout the process.

The Provincial requirement for Community Safety and Well-being Plans was not accompanied by any funding. Through the hard work, dedication and collaboration of the Action Partners solid progress was achieved on the Plan despite the challenges from the lack of funding and resources to implement action items.

Over the 2021 to 2024 period, partner organizations have evolved and new organizations have formed that would be beneficial partners in future Plans. In addition, within the period of the Plan, different safety and well-being risks have been identified and the approaches to address risk factors in the community have evolved.

As the community looks forward and revises its Plan for the future, there are opportunities to build on the successes from the first Plan and lessons learned.