

1.0 Background:

Crime Prevention

Crime prevention looks at people who are not involved in criminal activity and asks, “What can we do to make sure they never come into conflict with the law?” Crime prevention also looks at places and situations which are not yet troubled by much criminal activity and asks, “How can we make sure crime never becomes a significant problem here?”

Crime prevention can be broken down into people-, place- and situation-oriented strategies. The people-oriented strategy is usually known as “crime prevention through social development,” or CPSD¹. Place-oriented strategies are known as “crime prevention through environmental design,” or CPTED². When combined with situational approaches, these strategies form a holistic and effective crime prevention package.

Situational crime prevention looks at particular circumstances in which people interact with one another and with the built environment, identifies particular risky combinations, and looks for solutions specific to those situations. Solutions may include:

- Increasing the effort required to commit a crime, making it less attractive;
- Increasing the risk of being caught;
- Reducing the potential rewards of crime;
- Reducing provocations and temptations;
- Removing excuses for committing crime.

¹ CPSD involves long-term, integrated actions that deal with the root causes of crime. It aims to reduce risk factors that start people, particularly children and youth, on the road to crime, and to build protective factors that may mitigate those risks. CPSD works at making people healthy, responsible and resilient and promotes community values about non-violence and respect for other people and their property, and helps young people resist peer pressure and make good decisions.

² CPTED relates to places and things, the “built environment,” which can be either targets of criminal activity or the location where crime takes place. The proper design, effective use and maintenance of the built environment can lead to a reduction in the incidence and fear of crime, and an improvement in quality of life. Through the effective use of CPTED principles, crime, nuisance behaviour and the fear of crime can be reduced.

Some of these solutions involve a combination of people-oriented and place-oriented strategies that overlay with crime prevention through social development or environmental design.

Community Defense Model Program

This model is characterized by a collective effort of neighbourhood residents who can be organized to act collectively in an effort to reduce the opportunity for crime by assuming a more vigilant and proprietary concern over their neighbourhood. Principles include:

- Community-based;
- Informal social control;
- Local collective action;
- Behaviour reinforcement or modification;
- Situational crime prevention measures.

A community was suffering from a number of problems including drug trafficking, vandalism, litter, burglary, derelict housing stocks, etc. A consortium of local residents, community groups, as well as police and city agencies organized a 'block club', established to take ownership, resolve neighbourhood issues and to nurture social cohesion and informal social control. Residents were organized and trained by the police to identify, record and report suspected criminal activity on their blocks. Residents also worked with faith-based group to develop standards of conduct for the community.

2.0 Mandate:

The mandate of the group includes:

- Continuing to advance media messaging around crime prevention and community defense model programs in collaboration with the City's Communication Officer
- Continuing with the "Know Your Neighbour" campaign
- In partner with the Community Police Office, promoting and educating residents about existing RCMP programs such as Block Watch, crime prevention such as CPTED, and community defense model programs such as neighbourhood gatherings

- In partnership with the Community Police Office, Downtown Langley Business Association and Chamber of Commerce, promoting and educating business owners about existing RCMP programs, crime prevention, and community defense model programs
- Requesting presentations from the RCMP and local non-government agencies to educate members about on Crime Prevention and Community Defense Model programs, strategies, and issues.

3.0 Composition:

3.1 Membership:

- One non-voting member of City Council to be appointed by the Mayor
- Five Community-at-Large members to be appointed by City Council
- One member from the Downtown Langley Business Association
- One member from the Greater Langley Chamber of Commerce
- One member from the senior community
- One member from the youth community

The Chair shall be the appointed council member.

3.2 Staff Liaison

- One City of Langley staff to be appointed by the CAO
- One member from the Langley RCMP
- Additional staff and/or consultants may be invited to provide technical advice and assistance

3.3 Affiliated Agencies:

Representative(s) from the Affiliated Agencies will be requested to provide expert advice when deemed appropriate to assist the Task Group to fulfill its mandate.

4.0 Reporting Relationship:

The Group will report to City Council through its meeting minutes and by making recommendations to City Council utilizing Committee Reports to Council.

5.0 Accountability:

The Group is accountable to City Council. The Group will not have the authority to give direction to staff or to commit to expenditures of funds.

6.0 Administration:

The City of Langley will provide administrative support to the Membership to carry out the mandates of the group.

7.0 Meetings:

The Group shall meet monthly, or at the call of the Chair, in a facility provided by the participating partners.

A quorum shall be a majority of the total voting membership.

8.0 Terms:

The terms of the group shall cease on December 31, 2020. The terms may be extended to allow the group to fulfill its mandate.