

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.

Crime Reduction

Crime reduction starts with assessing the current problem and developing strategies to decrease the amount of criminal activity, or minimize the harm it causes.

Because crime reduction is focused on existing criminals, crime locations and situations, it relies heavily on information or intelligence which describes those people, places and situations in great detail. Examples of crime reduction include:

- Prolific offender management;
- Targeting crime “hot spots”;
- Managing major public gatherings.

Local governments experience the problems of crime firsthand but don’t have all the tools or resources needed to address them. Collaborative and problem-solving relationships through community mobilization are essential to the success of an intervention. The long-term success and sustainability of action plans are linked to the degree of community involvement and ownership of strategies.

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:

- Continue to work on media messaging around Crime Prevention and work with the City's Communication Officer to develop messaging to the public in the monthly newsletter.
- Continue with the "Know Your Neighbour" campaign including promotion during Public Safety Week and Anti-Fraud Week.
- Advocate for an increase in RCMP foot and bike patrol in the downtown core and at crime hot spots.
- Promote and educate the public about existing RCMP programs.
- Work with the Youth Committee and the RCMP to discuss and educate the public about issues such as cyber bullying. Host community building programs, such as sports day, hockey games, and basketball games, targeting high risk youth and their parents.
- Partner with the Community Police Office to develop strategies such as CPTED reviews at geographic locations where there are high levels of crime, a bike registration program, bike safety training, scooter safety training, etc.
- Partner with the Downtown Langley Business Association and Chamber of Commerce to introduce an incentive program for property owners to implement crime prevention initiatives including CPTED.
- Partner with the Langley Seniors Resource Centre to create strategies to educate the public on how to address senior related issues such as elder abuse.
- Conduct presentations with the RCMP to different stakeholders on crime prevention and reduction strategies.

3.0 Composition:

3.1 Membership:

- One 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 elected from amongst its members.

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 notes and by making recommendations to City 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, 2019. The terms may be extended to allow the group to fulfill its mandate.