



# Guelph's Community Safety and Well-being Plan

According to the [planning framework presented by the Ontario government](#), community safety and well-being is defined as a sustainable community where everyone is safe, has a sense of belonging, opportunities to participate, and where people and families can meet their needs for education, healthcare, food, housing, income, and social and cultural expression.

As a municipality, it's our responsibility to [prepare and adopt a community safety and well-being plan](#). Guelph's plan focuses on preventing and reducing the effects of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) and building resilience; ending chronic homelessness; and creating the conditions for mental well-being for those with problematic substance use. This plan is guided by the need for equity, inclusion, and the elimination of systemic racism in our community.

## Building on Guelph's Community Plan vision

When we started to develop Guelph's Community Safety and Well-being Plan (CSWP), we recalled the work done for [A United Vision: Guelph's Community Plan](#). We recognized that the Community Plan's vision and the [CSWP framework](#) are embedded. The Community Plan vision is:

"We're grounded in community and our deep connection to the environment. We look out for one another, celebrate our diversity and smile at each other in the streets. We are leaders who shape tomorrow. We tackle local and global challenges through innovation, art and action. And we're committed to inclusive prosperity—because together, we're stronger."

This vision is supported by six broad themes on how we want our future to unfold. For each theme, there's an accompanying outline with the goals we want to achieve and directions to help us realize our community's vision. These themes are:

- We are home
- We protect our environment
- We create value
- We feel well
- We play and explore
- We move around freely

The Community Plan vision and themes have naturally provided a strong foundation with which to build the CSWP.

## What was accomplished in 2021?

In 2021, we accomplished four key initiatives:

1. Created a framework for the CSWP

The framework is a collaborative effort between the advisory group, plan support team and community partners including the City of Guelph, Guelph Police Service,

the Guelph Police Service Board, and local service providers in education, physical and mental health, community and social services, and children and youth services.

2. Identified priorities for local action:

- Prevent and reduce the effects of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) and build resilience.
- End chronic homelessness.
- Create the conditions for mental well-being for those with problematic substance use.

3. Recognized the importance of equity, inclusion, and elimination of systemic racism as a guiding principle of the priorities for local action. This recognition came from the local Guelph community rallies against systemic racism and the resulting creation of a new section in the Guelph Community Plan entitled, "We are Community". This new section focuses on anti-racism and anti-discrimination as a part of the Community Plan.

4. Developed a set of principles that governs the work of the CSWP:

- Accept uncertainty as priorities change and continually recalibrate goals and actions.
- Understand the maturity level and context of each priority as it relates to Guelph's Community Plan vision.
- Engage constantly, consistently and respectfully with stakeholders impacted by, or working to address, the local priorities outlined in this plan.
- Set up a system that measures progress, success and the adjustments needed, and that will hold organizations, agencies and individuals accountable.
- Provide a record of completed work for future planning.

## What's next?

In 2022, we will:

- Determine and seek to understand how equity, inclusion, and elimination of systemic racism will be considered as an overarching value of each of the priorities for local action.
- Analyze the current situation for each priority.

Future work will include:

- Creating a detailed action plan to create a positive impact on the safety and well-being of Guelphites.
- Evaluating and reporting our progress.