



COMMUNITY SAFETY AND WELL-BEING PLAN



2025 - 2028



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MESSAGE FROM THE WARDEN

On behalf of the County of Dufferin, I am pleased to present Dufferin County's Community Safety and Well-Being (CSWB) Plan for 2025-2028. This is a revision to Dufferin's 2021-2024 CSWB Plan.

Safety and well-being are meaningful to all those in our community. This Plan represents that understanding. The CSWB Plan is a great opportunity to highlight the collaboration and integration of services in Dufferin. Many in our community are engaged in this meaningful work.

This work continues to improve the quality of life for Dufferin residents. The CSWB Plan incorporates lessons learned in the last four years and I am pleased to see the CSWB Integration Table striving to achieve new and exciting goals.

Many community partners across Dufferin County came together to develop this Plan. I would like to thank all partners for their efforts. The County of Dufferin is a vibrant community, and this work supports it.



JANET HORNER
Warden, County of Dufferin

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRS

Dufferin County is a connected community. For many years, service providers, agencies, governments, businesses, community groups and individual residents have recognized the importance of working together to improve the overall quality of life for the people who call this county, its towns and townships home.

There are many aspects that go into making, and keeping, a community safe and thriving, and many things to consider when deciding what to focus on in this moment and for the next few years. What matters most to people right now? What are our strengths locally? Where do we see risks? What can we do? What does success look like?

In a complex ecosystem such as a community, with many layers and many moving parts, we must consider the interconnections and potential impacts of our actions. We must plan at multiple levels, integrate our efforts and invite everyone to see a role for themselves in taking action, so that while we attend to our most urgent needs, we also take steps to prevent them in the future.

The Community Safety and Well-being (CSWB) Plan is a vital framework for ensuring that residents of Dufferin County are safe, healthy, connected, and have access to essential services. We are pleased to present the 2025-2028 Plan, which builds upon the 2021-2024 Plan and outlines the Integration Table's approach for the next four years.

This Plan would not have been possible without the dedication and collaboration of many partners and community members. Throughout 2024, community partners and residents contributed valuable insights through a county-wide survey.

On November 25, 2024, during the Integration Table's Data Deep Dive, we analyzed the survey results alongside key data from trusted sources. Experts from Dufferin O.P.P., Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health, and County of Dufferin Community Services presented on emerging themes and community trends. Attendees examined data, validated survey findings, and provided critical perspectives to shape the Plan.

After extensive planning sessions and collaboration, we are proud to introduce this revised Plan, ready for implementation in 2025. On behalf of the Integration Table, we extend our sincere thanks to the individuals and partners who contributed to its development. We look forward to working together as we transition from planning to action in 2025.



JENNIFER PAYNE
CSWB Co-Chair,
Headwaters Communities In
Action



ANNA VANDERLAAN
CSWB Co-Chair,
Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph
Public Health

COMMUNITY SAFETY AND WELL-BEING IN ONTARIO: An Overview

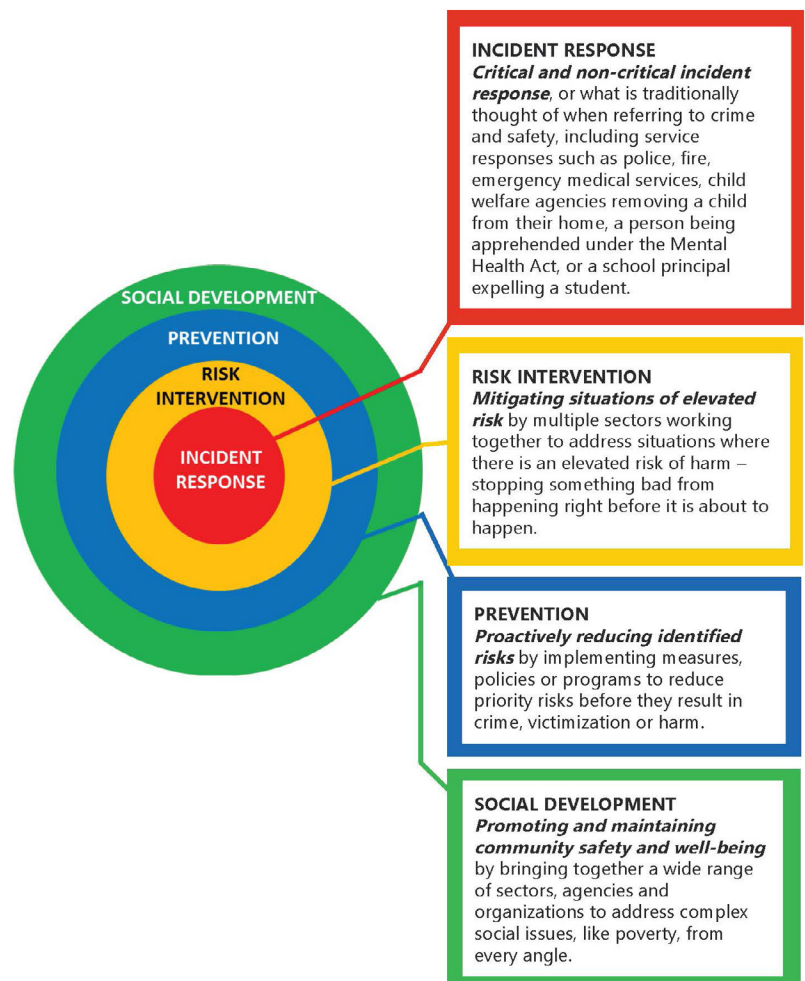
Community Safety and Well-being Plans are mandated by the province of Ontario. Section 248 of the [Community Safety and Policing Act, 2024](#) (formerly the Police Services Act), compels municipalities to “...prepare and, by resolution, adopt a community safety and well-being plan.”

Although updated, this legislation speaks to similar requirements that led to the development of Dufferin’s 2021-2024 CSWB Plan. In the new Act, a review of the Plan is required before July 1, 2025. The County of Dufferin has not only completed a review but has chosen to revise the Plan. The revised Plan now speaks to the next four years (2025-2028).

CSWB Planning Framework

The province provides guidance on CSWB planning. Guidance can be found here: [Section 2 - The Community Safety and Well-being Planning Framework | Community safety and well-being planning framework: Booklet 3 - A shared commitment in Ontario | ontario.ca](#). The province continues to guide municipalities to develop their plans around the four areas of Social Development, Prevention, Risk Intervention, and Incident Response.

The Framework specifically mentions that efforts should be focused on Social Development, Prevention, and Risk Intervention. In other words, the Plan is to concentrate on upstream planning.



THE DUFFERIN CONTEXT



Total Population:

2016 → 61,735
2021 → 66,257

>7.3% increase



Population Across Urban Centres:

2016 → 65%
2021 → 64.6%

- Grand Valley
- Shelburne
- Orangeville



Median Household Income:

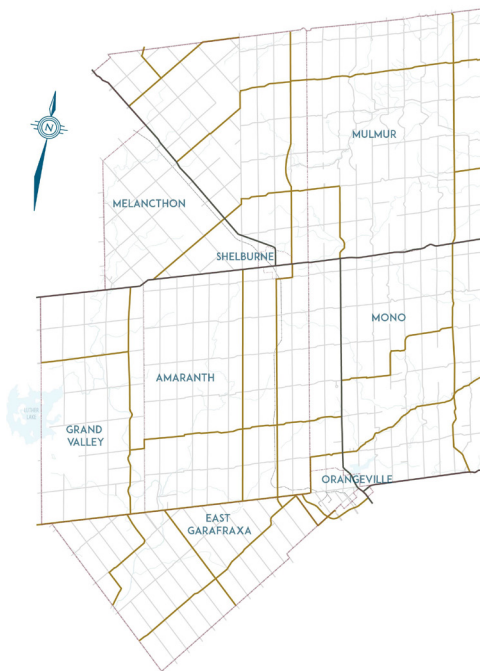
2016 → \$89,600
2021 → \$108,000

Population Who Travel Outside of Municipality to Work:



2016 → 73%
2021 → 69.3%

Located in Central Ontario, Dufferin County offers an exceptional quality of life, combining picturesque landscapes with a welcoming community.



*Data source - Census 2016, 2021.

Visible Minority:

2016 → 8%
2021 → 15.8%

Median Age in Dufferin:

2016 → 41 years
2021 → 40.4 years

Children 5 & Under Who Live in Low-Income Households:



2016 → 11%
2021 → 7%



Average Cost of Dwelling:

2016 → \$496,451
2021 → \$877,000



BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE JOURNEY: METHODOLOGY

Community Engagement Survey Findings

In December 2023, the Dufferin County Community Safety and Well-Being Integration Table launched a comprehensive Community Safety and Well-being (CSWB) Survey aimed at gathering insights to improve quality of life in the community.

The information gathered through this survey played a crucial role in Community Safety and Well-being. This was a rare opportunity to go beyond census division stats and get very local data and perspectives that can be used by anyone to find local solutions.

Ten CSWB elements were covered in the Survey: Health, Standard of Living, Housing, Activities, Learning and Education, Sense of Belonging, Community Safety, Democratic Engagement, Accessibility of Programs, Services, and Supports, and the Environment. Members of the Integration Table and its partners distributed the CSWB Survey and facilitated a response across all the communities of Dufferin. The data was analyzed and distributed to the Integration Table for input. The Integration Table noted the respondent profile in this survey was more diverse than the previous survey. They would like to seek additional engagement of specific demographic groups next survey

Five emerging themes were identified in the CSWB Survey. The following were analyzed as the top priorities (Order from 1-5):

1. **Criminal Activity**
2. **Housing and Homelessness**
3. **Mental Health and Well-being**
4. **Family Support**
5. **Food Insecurity**

These emerging themes were examined further at the CSWB Data Deep Dive.

Data Deep Dive

For the first time, the Integration Table held a Data Deep Dive on November 25, 2024. The event was attended by Integration Table members, as well as partner organizations. Jennifer Payne, the Co-Chair of CSWB, gave opening remarks to kick things off.

The event explored the results of the community survey and added relevant data from key sources. County of Dufferin CSWB Consultant, County of Dufferin Community Services, Dufferin O.P.P., and WDG Public Health, presented on a variety of emerging themes and community contexts.

In Conversation Circles, attendees examined trends and interpreted, validated, and challenged survey results to establish new insights. This was led by individuals across the Integration Table and concluded with the entire group participating in sense-making discussions. This experience was valuable in creating our next plan and marks a key moment of collaboration.

Perceptions - Sensemaking

The Integration Table shifted to monthly meetings to end 2024 and begin 2025. Meetings were set to prioritize the establishment of the 2025-2028 CSWB Plan. Two sense-making meetings were held to discuss the Data Deep Dive. These sessions helped transition our focus from sense-making to prioritizing and planning.



2025-2028 PLAN STRUCTURE

From 2021-2024, five priorities were actioned in the CSWB Plan. Mental Health and Well-being, Housing and Homelessness, Substance Use and Addiction, Discrimination Marginalization and Racism, and Community Safety and Violence Prevention. Established community working groups led each of these priorities as Lead Tables.

The Integration Table included members from these Lead Tables as well as other community partners with various roles. Within the Integration Table, a Chair Table assisted with facilitating Integration Table actions, scheduling, progress reporting, and navigating challenges. The Integration Table, Chair Table, and Lead Tables came together regularly to implement the CSWB Plan.

New Structure

For 2025-2028, The CSWB Integration Table moved forward with a similar structure of Lead Tables, Integration Table, and Chair table. Through sense-making exercises and planning sessions, further collaboration and integration, and performance measures, were identified as areas of focus for the Integration Table. Members sought ways to integrate further than the 2021-2024 CSWB Plan. In 2025-2028, the CSWB Plan will include outcomes and performance measures for the Integration Table, as well as Lead Tables. This new component of the Plan will encourage further integration across the priority areas and provide a goal-oriented approach for all the members of the Integration Table.

The current structure of the Integration Table utilizes existing community working groups. These working groups represent each of the current priority areas. Each table has its own Co-Chairs. Priority areas in the Plan are subject to change, and the Terms of Reference will be updated to reflect this. The Lead Table duties include:

- Providing data and updates as needed to the Integration Table.
- Bringing information from the Integration Table back to their Lead Tables.
- Representing the identified priority area for the Integration Table.
- Responding to communications from the Integration Table.
- Reviewing reports.
- Notifying the Integration Table of changes to the Lead Table (Chair change etc.).
- Sharing funding opportunities.

Priority Areas

The Integration Table elected to move ahead with five priorities that were congruent with data gathering and sense-making findings.



FIVE PRIORITY AREAS

The five priority areas for the 2025-2028 Community Safety and Well-being Plan are:

COMMUNITY SAFETY



HOUSING & HOMELESSNESS



MENTAL HEALTH & WELL-BEING



FAMILY SUPPORT



FOOD INSECURITY



Following these, a new Integrated Efforts section highlights ways that the Integration Table itself can best support the priority areas, as well as Intersecting Priority Areas showing some of the ways that the priority areas impact each other.

COMMUNITY SAFETY



SITUATION	<i>What we heard, and what we know</i>
STRENGTHS <i>What is working well?</i>	Groups such as (not complete list): Domestic Assault Review Team (DART), Drug Strategy, Police Detachment Boards, Anti-human Trafficking Community of Practice and Mobile Crisis Response Teams. OPP programs such as: CamSafe, Project Lifesaver, Community Watch, Safe Guard, Dufferin Detachment's Community Response Unit (CRU) presentations. Community programs such as: The Arson Prevention Program for Children (TAPP-C), Youth Anti-Trafficking. Availability of crime statistics: - Actual criminal activity appears lower than public perception, and overall crime rates in Dufferin County are much lower than provincial or national rates. The Crime Severity Index is a measure of police-reported crime that considers both the volume and severity of crimes, assigning weights based on the seriousness of offenses. The Crime Severity Index in 2023 was 36.56 in Dufferin County, 60.88 in Ontario, and 80.45 in Canada. - Crime rates and severity are down in nearly all categories in Dufferin, over the past 3 years.
RISKS <i>What we heard.</i>	Media coverage and communication about policy and legislation affect public perception. Social determinants of health (like food insecurity) correlate with certain types of crime. Perception that crime is up in general; stigma of "criminal activity." Concerns from the survey included opioids (mainly fentanyl), auto thefts, concerns from marginalized community members. Increase in violent crime categories - Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) was recently declared an epidemic by the County of Dufferin. - Data interpretation requires fuller context. Growing communities impacting road/mobility safety. Mobility safety (see specific measures on page 11).

COMMUNITY SAFETY CONT.

PLAN	<i>What we'll do, and what we aim to see</i>
LEAD <i>Who holds knowledge in this area?</i>	Dufferin OPP, on behalf of Detachment Boards
OUTCOMES <i>What does success look like?</i>	• The public has an improved understanding of policing and justice systems. • Continued proactive police engagement with our communities. • Building on outcomes from the previous plan. • Municipal Infrastructure that is ready for growth and improves mobility safety.
MEASURES <i>How will we know we are successful?</i>	Dufferin County residents have improved perceptions of personal and community safety Measured by CSWB Community Survey, Well-Being and Health Youth (WHY) Survey, Crime Severity Index and OPP data • Percentage of residents who are very satisfied or satisfied with personal safety in their community • Percentage of residents who feel very safe or safe from hate and prejudice • Percentage of youth involved in risky behaviours (carrying a weapon, harming others, etc.) • Percentage of youth who feel safe in their community • Percentage of youth who say their neighbours care about them • Trends in local crime severity index and OPP data Dufferin County residents have decreased mobility related injuries and deaths Measured by CSWB Community Survey, IntelliHEALTH Ontario data sources and OPP data • Percentage of residents who feel very safe or reasonably safe when asked about different components of mobility safety in their community (e.g., pedestrian infrastructure, roadway design, driving under the influence, distracted driving, speeding) • Number of injury related emergency department visits, hospitalizations and mortality in Dufferin County (these statistics can be further broken down by pedestrian and cyclist injuries, motor vehicle, falls etc.) • Number of pedestrians, cyclists and motor vehicle collisions • Number of road safety countermeasures introduced (e.g., automated speed enforcement, community safety zone, traffic calming measures)
ACTIONS <i>What will we do to ensure success?</i>	Integrated efforts on preventive measures through addressing social determinants. Continue efforts to engage with the community on issues of crime, including intimate partner violence (IPV), and mobility safety. Continue to advocate for road and mobility safety through infrastructure solutions and injury prevention efforts. Continue to participate in national, provincial and local traffic safety initiatives.

COMMUNITY SAFETY CONT.

Statement of Change:

If the Dufferin OPP and Detachment Boards, with support from CSWB partners, continue to share information and engage with the public about crime and safety issues, we expect that the community will better understand local crime and available programs, so that people feel safer.

If governments continue to invest in road infrastructure and traffic calming technologies (e.g., speed enforcement, red light cameras etc.), we expect that increases in traffic anticipated from the growing population will be better accommodated so that mobility safety will improve.



HOUSING & HOMELESSNESS



SITUATION	<i>What we heard, and what we know</i>
STRENGTHS <i>What is working well?</i>	Significant attention on the issue at all levels and a well-coordinated system of services and programs utilizing a “no wrong door approach.” Committees and Workgroups: • Dufferin County Equity Collaborative (DCEC) Housing & Homelessness Work Group • Dufferin Homelessness Task Force • Coordinated Access Table (CAT) • Community Advisory Board (CAB) County of Dufferin: • Dufferin Master Housing Strategy • Economic Development Strategy • Reaching Home • Homelessness Prevention Program (HPP) • Dufferin County Supportive Housing • Rent supplements and allowances • Home Ownership Program • Housing Access Dufferin (HAD) • Coordinated Access Transitional Housing (CATH) Choices Shelter and Support Services • Men’s Shelter • Out of the Cold program • Youth Shelter Family Transition Place • Emergency Shelter • Second Stage Housing • Support Within Housing Programs Services and Housing In the Province • 236 First Street • Dufferin Services Team Dufferin OPP/Headwaters Health Care Centre Mobile Crisis Response Team (MCRT)

HOUSING & HOMELESSNESS CONT.

SITUATION	What we heard, and what we know
RISKS <i>What we heard.</i>	Increased Shelter Use In 2023, 0.3% of Dufferin’s population accessed one of the three community shelters. Both the Men’s and Women’s Shelter are facing longer-than-average stays due to a lack of safe and affordable housing options for transition, placing additional pressure on an already vulnerable emergency response system. For women accessing the shelter, this issue is compounded by the fact that many women are accompanied by children and may require more space. Encampments Encampments are a national crisis as a result of the lack of safe and affordable housing. In 2024, Dufferin County experienced 12 encampments with 14 people, mostly located in Orangeville. This is a marked increase in our community. As a result of service interventions this number has been reduced to one encampment with two people. Lack of Affordable Housing Options Average market rents have been steadily increasing over the past decade in Dufferin. Only half (50%) of the households in the County can afford the average market rent. In Dufferin County there are currently over 670 applicant households on the Housing Access Dufferin Centralized Waiting List, with an average wait of five years. Approximately 45% of renters and 21% of homeowners spend more than a third of their household income on shelter. Approximately 2,120 households currently have unmet housing needs based on core housing need data because they are below the affordability standard. Vacancy rates are falling. Approximately 85% of the existing housing mix in Dufferin County are detached houses, and many households cannot afford the average resale price. With the lack of rental options, individuals and families may be forced into home ownership situations that are beyond their budgets. In addition, lack of alternative housing influences these individuals to migrate to urban areas in search of adequate and supportive housing.

HOUSING & HOMELESSNESS CONT.

SITUATION	<i>What we heard, and what we know</i>
RISKS Continued <i>What we heard.</i>	Increased use of more costly services Those who are unhoused tend to use emergency services more frequently due to several factors such as lack of primary healthcare, exposure to harsh conditions, mental health crisis, safety concerns, substance use issues and chronic health problems. The frequent reliance on these services is more costly and less effective than preventative care such as stable housing and social support programs. However, without adequate support in place, emergency services will continue to be a first point of contact. The Dufferin County PiT Count suggested that in comparison to the general population, local people experiencing homelessness were: 11x more likely to use ambulatory services 10x more likely to visit the emergency room 6x more likely to be hospitalized overnight



71.8% of survey respondents indicated that more affordable housing is needed and 42.9% said that more housing support is needed for people to keep housing.



HOUSING & HOMELESSNESS CONT.

PLAN	<i>What we'll do, and what we aim to see</i>
LEAD <i>Who holds knowledge in this area?</i>	DCEC Housing & Homelessness Work Group
OUTCOMES <i>What does success look like?</i>	Individuals and households will have equitable access to safe and attainable housing. Increase understanding and awareness of: • the lack of safe and attainable housing • homelessness • the impact on the community
MEASURES <i>How will we know we are successful?</i>	Housing affordability increases, and waitlists are reduced. Measured by CSWB Survey, Realtor Data, other sources as listed: • Access to Affordable Housing Metric • Annual Average Home Cost Dufferin County • Percentage of households in Core Housing Need • Housing Access Dufferin - waitlists and wait-times for housing • SHIP - waitlists and wait-times for supportive housing Reported reductions in homelessness. • Monthly average of individuals on the BND list • Point In Time (PIT) Count • Shelter Usage – HIFIS
ACTIONS <i>What will we do to ensure success?</i>	• Strengthen housing as human right declaration • Engage developers for affordable housing • Create housing/homelessness services dashboard • Secure additional funding • Improve service coordination • Enhance public awareness of available services Continue to explore: • How to track displacement from the area • Accuracy of point-in-time counts and By-Name Data Lists • True extent of rural homelessness

Statement of Change:

If all levels of government recognize housing as a human right and commit funding to meet the housing needs of Dufferin County, we expect that all members of the community will have equitable access to safe and affordable housing.

MENTAL HEALTH & WELL-BEING



SITUATION	<i>What we heard, and what we know</i>
STRENGTHS <i>What is working well?</i>	Hills of Headwaters Collaborative Ontario Health Team Mental Health and Addictions Working Group brings together organizations from across Dufferin County working on this issue. The Community was recently successful with campaigns to bring both a Homelessness and Addiction Recovery Treatment (HART) Hub and a Youth Wellness Hub. Dufferin OPP and Headwaters Health Care Centre have an established Mobile Crisis Response Team (MCRT) According to the 2024 WHY Survey: • 83% of youth in Dufferin report knowing where to get help with problems. This has increased dramatically compared to 2020 rates (53%). • 77% of Dufferin youth report their mental health as good, very good, or excellent. This has increased compared to 2020 (72%).
RISKS <i>What we heard.</i>	• Approximately 18% of CSWB Survey respondents rated their mental health as fair or poor; which was similar to 2020 results. • Approximately 1 in 3 Dufferin youth report low resilience and 25% report not seeking professional support for a mental health concern when it was needed. • Nearly a quarter of Dufferin youth report struggling with pressure from peers. This rate has increased compared to 2020 (15%). • The current mental health system focuses on reacting to mental health concerns rather than fostering resilience and preventing issues proactively.



MENTAL HEALTH & WELL-BEING CONT.

PLAN	<i>What we'll do, and what we aim to see</i>
LEAD <i>Who holds knowledge in this area?</i>	Hills of Headwaters Ontario Health Team Mental Health and Addictions Community Working Group
OUTCOMES <i>What does success look like?</i>	Dufferin residents have improved mental health and wellbeing. Mental health services in Dufferin County are available and effective.
MEASURES <i>How will we know we are successful?</i>	Adults in Dufferin County report improved mental health and belonging. Measured by CSWB Survey and the Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS): - Percentage of Dufferin residents who report good, very good, or excellent mental health. - Percentage of Dufferin residents who describe their feeling of belonging to their local community as strong or very strong. Youth in Dufferin County report improved mental health and wellbeing. Measured by WHY Survey: - Percentage of youth who reported good, very good, or excellent mental health - Percentage of youth who reported low resilience - Percentage of youth who did not seek professional help when it was needed - Percentage of youth who know where to get help for a problem
ACTIONS <i>What will we do to ensure success?</i>	- Develop clear definition of mental health for the community. - Promote community awareness of the importance of building resilience in order to improve overall mental wellbeing. - Establish better data collection on service usage and effectiveness. - Focus on youth mental health services. - Continue to evaluate the future needs of Dufferin's growing population to ensure that local services are designed to meet those needs.

Statement of Change:

If the Hills of Headwaters Ontario Health Team Mental Health and Addictions Working Group and other community partners work together to gather local data and improve coordinated action, we expect that Dufferin County residents will have improved access to information and services that will enable them to improve overall rates of mental health and wellbeing.

FAMILY SUPPORT



SITUATION	<i>What we heard, and what we know</i>
STRENGTHS <i>What is working well?</i>	• Strong organizational support from Dufferin Child & Family Services, Dufferin Parent Support Network and other local organizations • The Dufferin Coalition for Kids (DuCK) is a local collaborative of community service providers working together to develop a community plan to enable children and youth in Dufferin County to achieve their full potential. • The majority of CSWB Survey respondents (84%) strongly agreed or agreed that they had people in their life to support them when they needed it most. • According to the 2024 WHY survey: ◦ 59% of Dufferin youth report high levels of family communication ◦ 70% of Dufferin youth report high levels of family support ◦ 69% of Dufferin youth report spending quality time with their families ◦ All three indicators have increased when compared to 2020 rates.
RISKS <i>What we heard.</i>	• One-third of CSWB Survey respondents struggle with program or service access. The most commonly reported challenges were related to service awareness and accessibility • Service providers report a lack of family-centered services • The CSWB Survey highlighted resident concerns about community belonging: ◦ 11% of survey respondents report a weak or very weak sense of belonging. This number has increased compared to 2020 results (8%). ◦ 25% feel out of place some or most of the time based on their identity or a physical or mental condition. These rates have also increased compared to the 2020 CSWB Survey.



FAMILY SUPPORT CONT.

PLAN	<i>What we'll do, and what we aim to see</i>
LEAD <i>Who holds knowledge in this area?</i>	Dufferin Child and Family Services
OUTCOMES <i>What does success look like?</i>	Adults in Dufferin County report feeling supported by their local community and community service providers. Youth in Dufferin County report improved connections with family and peers.
MEASURES <i>How will we know we are successful?</i>	Adults in Dufferin County report feeling supported by their local community. Measured by CSWB Survey and the Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS): - Percentage of Dufferin County residents who agree or strongly agree with the statement "I have people on whom I can call for help when I need it most" - Percentage of Dufferin County residents who feel out of place some or most of the time based on their identity or a physical or mental condition Youth in Dufferin County report improved connections with family and peers. Measured by the WHY Survey: - Percentage of youth who report high levels of family communication. - Percentage of youth who report high levels of family support. - Percentage of youth who spend quality time at home with family members.
ACTIONS <i>What will we do to ensure success?</i>	- Local organizations continue to increase their focus on building family-centered care models. - Create service awareness campaigns. - Consider the neighborhood support network model. - Establish grassroots parent outreach programs. - Analyze program access data and identify if there are populations who are underutilizing community supports. - If there are gaps in program usage, consider how to better reach missing populations. - Share information among services providers about pathways to access different types of family supports.

Statement of Change:

If local community partners who support families work together to improve coordinated action and monitor local data trends, we expect that Dufferin County residents will have improved will have more resources to help them build stronger connections with family and neighbours, and overall feel better supported by their community.

FOOD INSECURITY



SITUATION	<i>What we heard, and what we know</i>
STRENGTHS <i>What is working well?</i>	Headwaters Food Charter outlines food access and equity goals. DC Equity Collaborative Health Equity Work Group established a Food Access Subcommittee in early 2024. Members are exploring innovative ideas across a continuum of actions from root causes to immediate needs, informed by input from people with lived experience of food insecurity. WDG Public Health is conducting needs assessment research in Dufferin to help direct efforts for best impact. The work of Headwaters Food & Farming Alliance and its 17 Hub members aligns with this priority. Dufferin has local programming that reduces barriers and stigma. E.g. universal access student nutrition programs, community gardens/meals, gift cards vs. vouchers, and home delivery. Dufferin has a strong local food environment and infrastructure for growing and cooking.
RISKS <i>What we heard.</i>	• 26.3% of CSWB survey respondents have eaten less at least once in the last year (9% do so at least once per month) because of a lack of food or money for food. • 23.4% of households in WDG are food insecure, and research estimates that only 20.6% of food insecure households access food banks. (University of Toronto). The true scale of the problem is hidden, yet the food bank system is already strained under increased demand. • 5-9% Low-income measure in communities throughout Dufferin. (Rural Ontario Institute) • Cycle of poverty and Food Insecurity starts early in life. 1/3 of food bank recipients are children. • Widening impacts: more homeowners and full-time workers are requiring food support than ever before. Orangeville Food Bank reports that 15% of clients are employed. Individuals particularly at risk for food insecurity include: • Low-income households • Renters and households with limited assets • Black, Indigenous households and other cultural/racial groups • Female-led lone parent households • Households reliant on income supports (other than public pensions)¹

1. Li T, Fafard St-Germain AA, Tarasuk V. (2023) Household food insecurity in Canada, 2022. Toronto: Research to identify policy options to reduce food insecurity (PROOF). Retrieved from <https://proof.utoronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/Household-Food-Insecurity-in-Canada-2022-PROOF.pdf/>

FOOD INSECURITY CONT.

“ Addressing food insecurity requires a multi-faceted approach that includes community-based solutions, supportive policies, and empowerment of individuals. By focusing on sustainable practices, fostering community engagement, and advocating for systemic change, we can create a future where everyone has access to nutritious food. ”

- VOICES of Lived Experience Framework (unpublished),
Chapter 10 Creative Food Approach

PLAN	What we'll do, and what we aim to see
LEAD <i>Who holds knowledge in this area?</i>	Dufferin Food Access Subcommittee (DCEC-Health Equity Working Group)
OUTCOMES <i>What does success look like?</i>	• Community members are aware of the issue of food insecurity. • Food insecure community members do not experience stigma. • Food insecure community members gain a sense of social connection through food access initiatives. • Food insecure community members can access food barrier free. • Local food infrastructure (e.g., inspected community kitchen, food storage) supports food access programs across Dufferin County. • Growing opportunities exist across Dufferin County to grow food for food programs and for those facing food access challenges and have an interest in growing food. • Families are not financially constrained and can afford foods that meet their households needs.



FOOD INSECURITY CONT.

PLAN	<i>What we'll do, and what we aim to see</i>
MEASURES <i>How will we know we are successful?</i>	Prevalence of food insecurity is reduced Measured by Canadian Income Survey, CSWB Survey, WDGPH research - Percentage of households in WDG that are food insecure decreases. People are better connected to and aware of a range of options to alleviate food access challenges - Percentage of survey respondents who eat less because of lack of food or money for food decreases. - Increase in awareness of the issue of food insecurity in Dufferin County. - Reduction in stigma experienced by food insecure community members. - Increase in community connection and a decrease in social isolation through food access initiatives. - Decrease in the number of barriers experienced by food insecure community members when accessing food programs. - Food infrastructure is sustained and/or expanded across Dufferin County to better support food access. - Sustained and/or increased growing opportunities exist across Dufferin County to grow food for food programs and for those facing food access challenges who have an interest in growing food. - Increase in awareness and action by decision makers on policies that are proven to reduce food insecurity. The measures above are general. Once the work plan has been developed specific metrics will be collected that connect to these measures above.
ACTIONS <i>What will we do to ensure success?</i>	Collect and review data ongoing. - Conduct Dufferin County Food Insecurity Needs Assessment to inform regional planning. Develop a work plan of key activities based on recommendations. Continue to meet as a subcommittee and move the work forward: - Advocate for income-based solutions. - Bring attention to broader impacts of food insecurity on social connections and well-being. - Expand programs that protect dignity like universal access school food programs and community growing/meals. - Identify immediate actions that can be taken to meet outcomes. Continue to explore - Need for culturally appropriate food data and local statistics - How to gather data from most affected populations - Definition and availability of local food - Consider tracking youth food insecurity using the WHY survey - Enhancing surveys to better understand root causes of food insecurity and further inform local planning.

FOOD INSECURITY CONT.

Statement of Change:

If members of the DFAS take action by gathering more local data and facilitating groups to work together, we expect that programs and conditions will improve so that people experiencing food insecurity in Dufferin will have better access to the food they need as well as social and community connectedness.



INTEGRATED EFFORTS



SITUATION	<i>What we heard, and what we know</i>
STRENGTHS <i>What is working well?</i>	Commitment of the CSWB Integration Table members to collaborate and integrate efforts. Active participation from more than 30 organizations to build the 2025-2028 CSWB Plan. This work leverages existing collaborative networks in Dufferin County (e.g., DC MOVES) and avoids duplication of efforts.
RISKS <i>What we heard.</i>	This impetus for this work is based on the provincial mandate to create local CSWB plans. This work may rely on that mandate staying in effect. No additional funding has been allocated to municipalities to help with convening the CSWB Integration Table and enacting the local CWSB plans. CSWB partner priorities could shift over time based on external environmental and political factors(e.g., the need to respond to new emergencies such as was done during the COVID-19 pandemic).



"In order for local plans to be successful in making communities safer and healthier, municipalities, First Nations and their partners need to refocus existing efforts and resources in a more strategic and impactful way to enhance collaboration, information sharing and performance measurement."



- Ontario's Community Safety and Well-being Planning Framework

PLAN	<i>What we'll do, and what we aim to see</i>
LEAD <i>Who holds knowledge in this area?</i>	CSWB Integration Table, led by Co-Chair Team
OUTCOMES <i>What does success look like?</i>	CSWB Integration Table Membership is reflective of current priority areas and ongoing community action. Member organizations report improved information sharing and use of local data sources as a result of their participation in the CSWB Integration Table. Increased alignment of efforts related to the CSWB framework across Dufferin County.

INTEGRATED EFFORTS CONT.

PLAN	<i>What we'll do, and what we aim to see</i>
MEASURES <i>How will we know we are successful?</i>	Attendance remains consistent or grows year-over-year. Measured by: • Number of members and number of organizations represented • Number of meetings and average attendance • Number of new partners added CSWB Integration Table members are actively engaged in meetings and other information sharing activities. Measured by: • Number of presentations given to socialize the CSWB plan • Number of members reporting that their membership on the Integration Table or involvement with Lead Tables adds value and alignment to their existing work (gathered through survey of CSWB members and other relevant partners) • Number of members reporting an expanded understanding of priority areas (gathered through survey of CSWB members and other relevant partners)
ACTIONS <i>What will we do to ensure success?</i>	Build understanding and connection within the CSWB Integration Table • Provide a place for connection, sharing information, breaking silos, promoting programs and updating data. • Identify points of alignment among priority areas and action plans. Support information sharing between CSWB Integration Table partner organizations • Engage all CSWB Integration Table members in sharing stories highlighting their ongoing work and potential areas of alignment and intersection across the CSWB framework. • Support data sharing and evidence-informed decision making. Build relationships and advocate for community-wide action • Socialize the plan to municipalities, police detachment boards, community groups and individuals.

Statement of Change:

If the CSWB Integration Table takes action by championing for implementation of the plan and facilitating integrated efforts, we expect that strategies and work plans will be more aligned so that communities feel safer and well-being will improve for the people of Dufferin County.

INTERSECTING PRIORITY AREAS



Intersections

It is important to consider that the priority areas identified in this report are very interrelated and impact each other. For example:

- Policing is primarily a response, with involvement in risk intervention and prevention efforts as well. Crime prevention should take an approach rooted in the social determinants of health.
- Crime can correlate with food insecurity (e.g. shoplifting)
- Perceptions of crime correlate with mental wellbeing.
- Mental wellbeing can be improved through family support and housing stability.
- Food insecurity affects mental, emotional and physical health including stress, worry, and weakness from lack of nutrition.
- Income levels correlate with food insecurity, crime, mental health and housing.

“Living with food insecurity affects my health in so many ways. I constantly feel tired and weak because I’m not getting the nutrients I need. It also takes a toll on my mental health. The stress of not knowing if I will have enough to eat is overwhelming. I developed anxiety and depression, which makes it even harder to take care of myself and my family. It feels like a never-ending cycle of struggle and despair.”

– VOICES Member

NEXT STEPS - ACTION PLAN

New to this Plan, the Integration Table will provide an annual report to Council, that also includes an annual Action Plan for the subsequent year. Action Plans will provide a brief outline of current Plan actions and/or updates for the year to come.



INTEGRATION TABLE MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

- Alzheimer's Society - Dufferin County
- Caledon/Dufferin Victim Services
- Canadian Mental Health Association Peel Dufferin - CMHA
- Community Living Dufferin - CLD
- County of Dufferin
- Domestic Assault Review Team - DART
- Dufferin Area Family Health Team - DAFHT
- Dufferin Child and Family Services - DCAFS
- Dufferin Community Foundation - DCF
- Dufferin County Managing Organizing Validating Engagement Strategy - DC MOVES
- Dufferin Ontario Provincial Police - OPP
- Dufferin OPP Detachment Boards:
 - Mono/Mulmur/Melancthon
 - Orangeville
 - Shelburne
 - Southwest (East Garafraxa/Amaranth/Grand Valley)
- Dufferin Paramedic Services - DPS
- Family Transition Place - FTP
- Headwaters Communities In Action - HCIA
- Headwaters Ontario Health Team - OHT
- Polycultural Immigrant & Community Services
- Services and Housing In the Province - SHIP
- Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health - WDG Public Health

Our Municipal Partners:

- Town of Grand Valley
- Town of Mono
- Town of Orangeville
- Town of Shelburne
- Township of Amaranth
- Township of East Garafraxa
- Township of Melancthon
- Township of Mulmur

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

BND List: Formerly the BNL (By-Name List), the By-Name Data List provides an accurate account of individuals experiencing homelessness in Dufferin County.

CAB: Community Advisory Board is a steering committee with members from public, not for profit and private sectors. The CAB develops plans to end homelessness in Dufferin County.

CamSafe: A security video and CCTV registry program. Police may utilize registered cameras within the community to investigate crimes.

CAT: The Coordinated Access Table works together to assess people's housing related needs and connect them to available supports to find and keep housing.

CATH: Coordinated Access Transitional Housing provides those who are identified as chronic on the BND List with a transitional unit for up to three months.

CCHS: The Canadian Community Health Survey covers general health, and specific health topics. It is a joint effort between Health Canada, the Public Health Agency of Canada, Statistics Canada, and the Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI).

Community Watch: A Partnership between community and police that includes information sharing and assessments.

COHB: Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit is a portable housing benefit that can be used throughout Ontario. In exchange for this benefit, recipients agree to be removed from the wait list.

Core Housing Need: A situation where a household's housing falls below at least one of the following standards:

- Adequacy: The housing doesn't have enough bedrooms or needs major repairs.
- Suitability: The housing is not suitable for the household's needs.
- Affordability: The household would have to spend 30% or more of its before-tax income to access local housing that meets the above standards.

CSI: The Crime Severity Index is a measure of police-reported crime that considers both the volume and severity of crimes, assigning weights based on the seriousness of offenses.

CSWB Survey: A survey developed and utilized by the CSWB Integration Table to gather local data within Dufferin County.

Dufferin County Supportive Housing: A collaboration with SHIP, 10 units at 236 First St.

Dufferin Housing and Homelessness Task Force: In late 2024, County Council adopted a motion for the creation of the Dufferin County Homelessness Task Force. The mandate of the Dufferin County Homelessness Task Force is to identify innovative and sustainable options that will provide housing and support services to the unhoused in Dufferin County.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS CONT.

Dufferin Services Team – Services and Housing In the Province: A multi-service team of 11 staff, supporting over 150 clients (including 67 units of supportive housing), across 6 programs providing counselling and case management for individuals with mental illness and addictions concerns.

Economic Development Strategy: The County's Economic Development Strategy and Action Plan serves as an integral extension of the County's broader Strategic Plan, which emphasizes sustainable growth, enhanced quality of life, and fostering community resilience.

Emergency Shelter- Family Transition Place: A safe and comfortable place to stay for women (16 years of age or older) and their children who have experienced abuse or homelessness. Pets are also welcome.

Food Insecurity: Inadequate or insecure access to food because of financial constraints. Refers to the inability to acquire or consume an adequate diet (quality, quantity, and uncertainty).

HPP: Homelessness Prevention Program provides a wide range of programs that offer financial support to stop people losing their housing or to help them get housing.

Home Ownership Program: Provides moderate income individuals and families with an interest-free down payment assistance loan to help them in purchasing their own home.

HAD: Housing Access Dufferin is the service which maintains the Centralized Wait List for community housing in Dufferin.

HART Hub: Homeless and Addiction Recovery Treatment hubs are designed to connect individuals experiencing homelessness, addiction, and/or mental health issues with comprehensive services.

HIFIS: Homeless Individuals and Family Information System is a comprehensive data collection and case management system allowing multiple service providers to access real-time homelessness data.

IPV: Intimate Partner Violence refers to multiple forms of harm caused by a current or former intimate partner or spouse.

Low Income Measure: A household is considered low income if its income is below 50% of median household incomes. It is, therefore, a relative measure of low income. In the 2021 census, median household income in Dufferin was \$108,000, so the low income measure would be \$54,000.

Master Housing Strategy: A comprehensive plan designed to address the evolving housing needs of Dufferin's residents.

Men's Shelter - Choices: In the spring of 2023, Choices opened a shelter for male identifying individuals experiencing homelessness aged 25 and older.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS CONT.

MCRT: A Mobile Crisis Response Team is a police-led crisis response model, in which a police officer and a mental health worker respond together when police are called to respond to a person in crisis.

OPHI: Ontario Priorities Housing Initiative provides funding to ensure housing retention, greater self-reliance, and social inclusion for tenants.

Out of the Cold - Choices: Choices offers a program for all Dufferin residents who wish to access a low barrier emergency program between November 1 to March 31.

PiT Count: A Point-in-Time Count is a coordinated event where persons experiencing homelessness are counted at a given time.

Police Detachment Boards: Oversee how policing is provided in their local community. They contribute to their community's safety and well-being by working with local citizens and organizations to make sure their community receives the appropriate policing it needs.

Project Lifesaver: A program that assists families with those who may wander. This might include individuals living with Alzheimer's, autism, or other cognitive impairments.

Project Safeguard: A community-based crime prevention program to reduce break and enters and provide "target hardening" to community members.

Reaching Home: Reaching Home is a federal initiative under Canada's Housing Plan and the National Housing Strategy that provides funding and support to communities to address their local homelessness needs. Dufferin County is a Designated Community and is the Community Entity that flows funding from the Federal government to projects that have been approved by the Community Advisory Board as initiatives to reduce and eliminate chronic homelessness in Dufferin County. This funding is currently being utilized to provide Housing Support Workers, Community Outreach, and a Landlord Liaison in collaboration through Choices, Family Transition Place, and the County of Dufferin.

Second Stage Housing – Family Transition Place: Supportive, temporary housing (up to one year) to help with the transition to independent living.

Social Determinants of Health: The non-medical factors that influence health outcomes.

Support Within Housing Programs – Family Transition Place: Support for women who have experienced trauma due to abuse who are also managing moderate to severe mental health issues that are impacting their ability to find or maintain housing.

TAPP-C: The Arson Prevention Program for Children involves community agencies and fire departments. It provides strategies to deal with fire play amongst children.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS CONT.

Visible Minority: A term used in the Canadian Census defined by the Employment Equity Act as “persons, other than Aboriginal peoples, who are non-Caucasian in race or non-white in colour.” The main groups designated as visible minorities are South Asian, Chinese, Black, Filipino, Arab, Latin American, Southeast Asian, West Asian, Korean and Japanese.

VOICES: VOICES of Lived Experience Dufferin is an equity-based poverty advocacy group consisting of people with lived experience of poverty.

WHY Survey: The Well-being and Health Youth Survey collects information from youth, parents, and school staff about youth health and well-being. These surveys identify issues to be addressed by schools, school boards, and local service providers.

Youth Shelter - Choices: Supports youth aged 16-24.

Youth Wellness Hub: A hub that connects youth aged 12 to 25 and their families in the community to mental health and primary care services, close to home.

236 First Street – Services and Housing In the Province: The newly developed site that opened in May 2024 provides a crucial response to housing and homelessness. The 27-unit building includes 25 studio units for individuals and 2 two-bedroom units for families. The residents have access to onsite services designed to support stability and well-being through collaboration between SHIP, County of Dufferin and Family Transition Place (FTP).