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Date March 3, 2021 **Report No.** 2021-158

To Chair and Members
Committee of the Whole – Operations and Administration

From Aaron Wallace
Acting General Manager, Community Services & Social Development

1.0 Type of Report

Consent Item	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Item For Consideration	<input type="checkbox"/>

2.0 Topic Community Programs and Social Development Department: 2021 Priorities [Financial Impact: None]

3.0 Recommendation

- A. THAT Report 2021-158 Community Programs and Social Development
Department: 2021 Priorities BE RECEIVED.

4.0 Executive Summary

The Community Programs and Social Development Department (CPSD) was created in October 2020 as part of a corporate restructure, through the merger of the Children's Services and Early Years, Community Recreation and Corporate Initiatives and Community Strategies Departments.

This model provides a unique opportunity to enhance supports, programs and services to Brantford residents. Attached to this report is *Appendix A: CPSD 2021 Priorities*, which details departmental priorities and opportunities for 2021.

5.0 Purpose and Overview

This report provides Council information regarding the 2021 priorities of the Community Programs and Social Development department.

6.0 Background

On October 15, 2020, Council approved the creation of a Community Services and Social Development Commission with the goal of leveraging organizational efficiencies to improve City of Brantford programs and services.

As part of the newly formed Commission, this reorganization merged Children's Services and Early Years, Community Recreation and the Corporate Initiatives and Community Strategies Departments¹ into a unified *Community Programs and Social Development Department*.

To further support this goal, City Council approved the decentralization of community services to better utilize community centres, housing sites and other locations to create increased access to services for residents, and to reduce future costs through the use of existing municipal buildings (Report No. 2020-349, Accommodation Strategy).

As noted in Report 2021-159 (Community Safety and Well-being Plan), staff is working collaboratively with community stakeholders to develop a social development plan for the City of Brantford that closely reflects Council's approved 2021-2022 Priorities.

The development of this plan is in response to Bill 175, Safer Ontario Act, 2018 which legislates that all municipalities develop a *Community Safety and Well-Being Plan* that includes targeted programs for vulnerable groups such as children, youth and seniors, as well as support for other community groups and initiatives. This plan will be presented to City Council in June 2021.

7.0 Corporate Policy Context

2021-2022 Council Priorities:

¹ Note: the position of Manager, Corporate Initiatives, was not transferred during the re-organization and remains within the Office of the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)

All neighbourhoods in the city are safe, vibrant, attractive, and inclusive.

- Work with Brantford Police Service and other community partners to develop long term prevention based approach to community safety that creates opportunities for local youth (Complete a Community Safety and Wellbeing Plan).
- Develop a Youth Strategy, including opportunities for Youth Centre expansion.

Social services support is provided to Brantford residents in need.

- Together with healthcare partners, participate in the continued implementation of the Brantford-Brant Community Drugs Strategy.
- Support the continued implementation of the Elder Abuse Prevention Strategy and other age-friendly initiatives.

8.0 Analysis

As seen in *Appendix A: CPSD 2021 Priorities*, staff have outlined 28 *Actions* that align directly with the proposed priorities of the Community Safety and Well-being Plan, and the approved 2021-2022 Council Priorities:

- 1) Neighbourhoods
- 2) Seniors
- 3) Children and Youth
- 4) Diversity and Inclusion

These *Actions* include continued implementation of key social development initiatives such as Neighbourhood Associations, access to affordable child care, Healthy Kids programming, the Elder Abuse Prevention Strategy, youth leadership programming, EarlyON Child and Family Centres and accessible recreational programming, just to name a few. Additionally, staff will work with community partners to update the City's Age-Friendly Plan and Youth Strategy, lead the Brantford Immigration Partnership, implement the Community Safety and Well-being Plan, and support the goals of the Brantford Regional Indigenous Support Centre (Indigenous Friendship Centre).

The Department will continue to be responsive to community need and Council direction, as demonstrated by its role in the community's COVID-19 Pandemic response that included the launch of the Neighbours Helping Neighbours Campaign, the coordination of a food security response through the Social Services Relief Fund, and supporting the planning for COVID-19 Vaccination Centres.

Accessibility to programs and services remains a key priority, with a number of *Actions* intended to support inclusion of families from diverse ethnic and cultural backgrounds, children with special needs and individuals with reduced mobility. The *Actions* include the coordination of EarlyON Centres with recreational programming, the translation of program and marketing materials and delivery of recreational programming within seniors' affordable housing sites.

The creation of the Community Programs and Social Development Department has also provided an opportunity to use aggregated program data to better understand demographics, accessibility, marketing, and program gaps.

9.0 Financial Implications

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

10.0 Conclusion

The development of the Community Programs and Social Development (CPSD) Department presents a significant opportunity to leverage organizational efficiencies to improve City of Brantford programs including the development and implementation of programs that support children, youth and seniors, enhance accessibility and promote inclusion. Staff will continue to prioritize community partnership and funding proposals to support these priorities, and will report regularly to Council regarding project and program outcomes.



Aaron Wallace, Acting General Manager
Community Services and Social Development

Attachments (if applicable)

Appendix A: CPSD 2021 Priorities

In adopting this report, is a by-law or agreement required? If so, it should be referenced in the recommendation section.

By-law required ☐ yes ☒ no

Agreement(s) or other documents to be signed by Mayor and/or City Clerk ☐ yes ☒ no

Is the necessary by-law or agreement being sent concurrently to Council? ☐ yes ☒ no