



## **SASKATOON** \_\_\_\_\_ **POLICE SERVICE**

**TO:** Shirley Greyeyes, Chairperson  
Board of Police Commissioners

**FROM:** Cameron McBride  
Office of the Chief

**DATE:** 2024 June 10

**SUBJECT:** Options for Community-Based Procurement

**FILE #:** 2,017-1

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### **ISSUE:**

During the April 18, 2024 Board of Police Commissioners meeting, Commissioner Gough moved the following:

That the Saskatoon Police Service review the findings and consider opportunities for social procurement such as community-driven outcomes purchasing and report back to the Board.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

This report be received as information.

### **STRATEGIC PRIORITY:**

This concept falls within the Saskatoon Police Service (SPS) goals to;

- Develop and implement effective prevention, intervention and suppression strategies to combat the changing facets of crime and its causes.
- Ensure sustainability by developing leading practices and maintaining an innovative service

### **BACKGROUND:**

At the April 18, 2024 Board meeting, Aaron Timoshyk presented an overview of the work being done by Build Up, a project of Quint Development Corporation. Within the summary, there was an acknowledgement of the potential social value of Build Up.

Programs similar to Build Up are designed to provide stability to individuals who benefit from a work placement. The work provides an income, skills training, and an inherent peer group. Ideally, this environment will decrease the likelihood that the individual will fall into, or revert back to, criminal behavior. Therefore, creating a net societal benefit, that can also be quantified through a cost analysis of services that are not required or utilized.

For example, the stabilization of an individual previously immersed in criminal behavior, can result in significant savings, including:

- Correctional costs
- Policing costs
- Court costs
- Social assistance costs

The Johnson Shoyama publication, Working it Out, estimates savings realized by Build Up in the hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Therefore, an argument can be made that a financial investment in programs like Build Up can provide value to the individual, and lead to less required expenditures by government.

## **DISCUSSION:**

The SPS believes in programming that serves to build desirable qualities into individuals. While the intention of the service is to help individuals realize their full potential, we also believe through education and connection there is a stabilizing effect that can occur within individuals that are at risk of criminality or a lifestyles that could make them vulnerable. This belief has resulted in the creation of several programs that offer significant personal benefit to each participant. Some of these include:

- Peacekeeper Cadet Program
- Community Police Academy
- Cadet Orientation Police Studies Program
- SRO Summer Youth Program
- Restorative Action Program

While these programs are not specifically designed for individuals at risk, it is acknowledged that focused interaction with police within a safe and supportive environment, has significant benefits. The predominant investment is time; however, clothing and equipment are supplied on an “as needed” basis.

The Service also provides scholarship opportunities for students from SIIT and SIAST, for the purpose of enabling individuals to pursue justice related studies. It is believed that providing opportunities within this area of study helps individuals to understand the justice system, and potentially spark an interest in pursuing employment within the field.

As part of the public sector, the SPS is cautious regarding outcomes purchasing, given our responsibility to carefully manage public funds. Within the realm of outcomes purchasing, there is never a guarantee that a return on investment will be realized. There is also a risk that a net gain will be realized within the budget of another organization, while the cost is incurred elsewhere.

For example, the Annual Social Value Estimates found within the document, Working it Out, states that a broad estimate of net benefit realized by Build Up, is \$629,142, at the high end. This benefit to the system is significant, yet the net benefit in reduced policing costs is projected to be only \$26,116, or just over 4% of the total benefit. Therefore, depending on the input costs, a significant investment in outcomes purchasing by police could be detrimental to the overall policing budget, and disproportionate to the net reduction in policing services.

**CONCLUSION:**

The SPS will continue to invest in programming that seeks to build into individuals. This work has many benefits, that may include a risk reduction for individuals who could be susceptible to behaviors that require police interactions.

**Written, approved and submitted by by: Cameron McBride, Chief of Police**