



NIAGARA REGIONAL POLICE SERVICE

Police Service Board Report

PUBLIC AGENDA

Subject: Annual Report - Youth Crime - January 1 to December 31, 2024
Report To: Chair and Members, Niagara Police Service Board
Report Date: 2025-12-05

Recommendation(s)

That the Niagara Police Service Board (Board) receive this report for information.

Key Facts

- The purpose of this report is to advise the Board that the Niagara Regional Police Service (NRPS) is compliant with Board By-Law 463-2024, Youth Crime.
- By-Law 463-2024 is in response to the adequacy and effective policing regulations that require the Board to have a policy with respect to investigations into youth crime.
- The Chief of Police is required to make a written annual report to the Board with respect to youth crime.

Financial Considerations

There are no financial implications relating to the recommendation contained within this report.

Analysis

The Chief shall make a written report to the Board on or before August 30 of each year in respect of investigations into youth crime. The report shall include:

- a) a summary of the written procedures concerning youth crime investigations;
- b) the status of Service compliance with the said procedures;
- c) a summary of steps taken by the Service to monitor and evaluate youth crime;
- d) reference to the requirement in section 4.3.1.

This report will outline each of the above and confirm compliance with the By-Law.

- a) *"...a summary of the written procedures concerning youth crime investigations..."*

General Order (GO) 085.06, Young Persons, is the GO related to this portion of the By-Law and focuses on 3 complimentary areas for action: prevention, meaningful consequences, and rehabilitation/re-integration. The GO emphasizes the responsibility of all officers to participate in and support crime prevention.

The GO ensures officers consider pre-charge (extrajudicial measures) and post-charge diversion (extrajudicial sanctions) options, interviewing considerations, detention, appropriate community collaborations, school related concerns, and specific legal requirements when responding to incidents involving youth.

b) *“...the status of Service compliance with the said procedures...”*

Presently, investigation of school related occurrences is performed by Uniform Patrol Officers (including Community Oriented Response and Engagement (CORE) officers), District Detectives, and Special Victims Unit Detectives, depending on the seriousness and nature of the occurrence. Both the CORE Unit Supervisors and Speciality Unit Supervisors act as points of contact for the school boards in a liaison capacity.

The Service continues to participate in established programs and initiatives relating to youth including the following:

- The Arson Prevention Program for Children (TAPP – C)
- Niagara Violence Threat Risk Assessment Protocol

The Niagara Violence Threat Risk Assessment Protocol is a collaborative agreement that serves to assist community partners in identifying the risk enhancers in a youth's life, which may increase the threat of violence to self or others. This protocol also recognizes that early identification and intervention are essential components to a proactive and comprehensive systems response to meet the needs of high-risk youth in our community.

This protocol includes the following community partners:

- Contact Niagara;
- Family and Children Services Niagara;
- Conseil Scolaire Catholique Mon Avenir;
- Conseil Scolaire Viamonde;
- District School Board of Niagara;
- Niagara Catholic District School Board;
- Niagara Health System;
- Pathstone Mental Health; and
- Niagara Region Public Health

c) *“...a summary of steps taken by the Service to monitor and evaluate youth crime...”*

The success of our youth strategy relies on officer referrals and the ability for officers to recognize the need for referrals against criminal charges. Contact Niagara controls the intake of NRPS referrals and diverts youth to appropriate programming, tracks progress and provides a written report to the NRPS regarding outcomes. These reports include the number of youths referred, the programs that are utilized, and the success rate for completion. By better identifying referral opportunities, the more likely youth will be successfully integrated back into society.

Referrals

In 2024, 120 young persons were charged criminally with 275 charges laid. A total of 26 young people were afforded extrajudicial measures, allowing them to complete the program in lieu of being processed through the criminal court system. The following table is provided for comparison purposes, detailing the statistical information from 2022 to 2024.

Year	2024	2023	2022
Young Persons Charged	120	299	260
Number of Charges	275	542	397
EJM Referrals	26	14	36

d) *“...reference to the requirement in section 4.3.1...”*

This section of the By-Law directs that “the Chief shall consider the need for a multi-agency strategy to prevent or counter the activities of youth gangs in the community in accordance with the Service’s procedures on crime prevention and problem-oriented policing.”

The NRPS continues efforts to take a proactive approach towards addressing issues that arise with guns and gangs. This includes monitoring trends and disseminating relevant information to uniform patrol and speciality unit officers. These efforts also include programs to educate community partners, new police recruits, and other local agencies who may encounter youth gang activity. The NRPS also maintains membership in a Provincial Guns & Gang Enforcement Unit, which draws on information and resources from across the province to help combat gangs that can have youth involvement.

GO 085.06 meets the expectations set-out by LE-044 of the Policing Standards Manual (2000).

The NRPS recognizes the significant impact officers have when dealing with youth and remains proactive in identifying ways to positively engage with local youth from all communities.

Alternatives Reviewed

Not applicable.

Relationship to Police Service/Board Strategic Priorities

To comply with the provisions of Board By-Laws and to maintain compliance with the Adequacy and Effective Policing.

Relevant Policy Considerations

- Police Service Board By-Law 463-2024, Youth Crime
- General Order 085.06, Young Persons

Other Pertinent Reports

8.21 - 2024-07.25 - Annual Report – Youth Crime – January 1 to December 31, 2023

This report was prepared by Jeff Bootsma, Staff Sergeant, Community Engagement, and reviewed by Rob LaPlante, Inspector, 2 District Commander, and Shaun Parrent, Superintendent, Community Services. Recommended by Mario Lagrotteria, Deputy Chief, Community Services.



Submitted by:

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Chief of Police

Appendices

Not Applicable.