

Kincardine Police Services Board





Priorities for 2024

1. ***Support and advocate for the School Resource Officer (SRO)***
2. Replace OPP bicycles with pedal-assist bicycles
3. Assist with traffic control initiatives (speeding, noisy modified vehicles)
4. Host outreach events for youth
5. Prepare for “One Detachment, One Board”

What are the objectives of the SRO?

The SRO is a dedicated position that:

- acts as a **single point of contact** between schools and police officers, connecting with students, teachers, administrators, truancy officers, student success teachers, mental health social workers, psychologists, in-school nurses, and guidance counsellors;
- promotes a **proactive, collaborative** approach between police, students, parents, teachers, principals, school board administration and community organizations through relationship building, visibility, investigative excellence, education and awareness, and enforcement, and
- establishes **trust** and **positive relationships** between uniform officers and children starting at a young age.

How is the SRO funded?

- From 2007-2019, the position was partially funded through the *Safer Communities Grant – 1,000 Officers Partnership Program* with the remainder funded by municipal tax base.
- Currently funded through the *Community Safety and Policing Grant – Local Priorities*.
 - The grant provides \$32,788.55 each funding year
 - The Municipality provides an additional \$77,007.45
- Current funding cycle ends on March 31, 2025, with option for extension / reapplication for 3-year renewal.
- It is expected the grant program will continue to be renewed, as it is a well-established funding program.

What is the SROs service area?

- The SRO provides service to over **2600 students** who are attending school in Kincardine; or will likely be attending school in Kincardine for grades 9-12.
- Schools serviced: St Anthony's Catholic School; Elgin Market Public School; Kincardine District Senior School (KDSS); Huron Heights Public School; Kincardine Tiverton Township PS (KTTPS); and feeder schools into KDSS: Ripley Huron Community School and Lucknow Central PS.

What does the SRO do?

1. *The SRO is proactive.*

- Makes students safer by providing **resources** and **leading presentations** to JK-12 on age/ grade appropriate safety and awareness Issues including: use of 911; school bus safety; pedestrian safety; bicycle safety; personal safety including sexual integrity and intimate relationships; dangers associated with the internet and social media, including grooming for illegal activities (eg trafficking), and drug, alcohol, and tobacco use.
 - *Conducted 130 education and awareness sessions to grades JK to 12 (3x the number of presentations conducted in 2022)*
- Makes schools safer and students better protected by **leading lockdown drills** and identifying areas of improvement for enhanced safety features in the schools and by conducting **mobile and foot patrol** to help ensure the safety of students arriving/ leaving school.



What does the SRO do (Con't)

2. The SRO is responsive.

- In 2023, the SRO responded to 419 calls for service in the schools.
 - Nearly double calls for service in 2022
- Calls for service are recorded anytime the SRO is called to provide support in the schools including traffic monitoring, attending events, and responding to issues related to: mental health; assaults; threats; and trouble with youth*

*Refer to slides 13 & 14 for details

What does the SRO do? (con't)

3. The SRO is collaborative.

- Maintains a longstanding relationship with YMCA Youth Services – SRO refers students to diversionary programs in an effort to steer youth away from the justice system.
- Connects students with Women's Shelter and Sexual Assault Centre to ensure school aged victims of abuse are put in contact with support services and assistance.
- Connects students and their families with Child and Family Services and Youth Mental Health Services to ensure students are properly cared for and supported outside of school.
- Participates in the Grey-Bruce Situation Table (STAR) – connecting Women's House, MCRT Mobile Crisis Response Team, MHART (Mobile Mental Health and Addictions Response Team), CMHA with youth at risk.

What does the SRO do? (Con't)

4. The SRO is a champion for students.

- Submits applications to the **OPP Youth foundation Funding** on behalf of students in the community.
- SRO finds opportunities to support youth with funding for various things that they cannot afford (attending camp, clothing, basic personal hygiene items, computers for educational support etc).
- Since 2018 our SRO has supported over 30 students with funding, totaling over \$11,000 worth of support.

What does the SRO do? (Continued)

5. The SRO is a trusted resource.

- Participates actively in school activities including: door decorating contests, parades, assemblies, Remembrance Day ceremonies, track and field, and cross country in order to establish a friendly, trusting relationship with students.
- Leads fun and engaging activities with students eg. In 2021, the SRO along with the Community Services Officer organized a Christmas Contest – decorated LCBO bags with safety messages like “Don’t Drink and Drive”. 2000 LCBO bags were decorated and distributed to two local LCBOs.

Why does it matter?

*“The program’s impact is **significant.**”*

*“Having a specific officer as part of the larger school community helps to **develop a positive relationship** with police.”*

*“I have seen programs organized and run by officers—when the officer is attached to only one school—that **engages youth in ways programs run by educators cannot.**”*

*“As an administrator, it is great to have the support of a specific officer whom we are able to **build a working relationship with.**”*

*“We appreciate the support that is given by this program to KDSS and **encourage the continuation of this program.**”*

- Kincardine District Senior School

It matters because they matter.



Background: Calls for Service – Overview

Incident Type	January - April 2021/September – December 2021	January – June 2022/September – December 2022	January – June 2023/ September - December 2023
Sexual Assault	3		1
Mental Health		3	14
Assault	7	3	7
Threats	8	4	5
Theft		1	
Other Criminal/HTA	12	7	10
Trouble with Youth	25	21	15
Other Calls for Service	176	200	367
Total	231	247	419
Diversions	4	7	7
Presentations in Schools	35	46	130

Explanatory Notes of Calls for Service

- Categories based on set coding for OPP Calls for Service reporting.
- ‘Mental Health’ was a new reporting category in 2022 (previously reported as part of Other Calls for Service)
- ‘Other Calls for Service’ include: meetings with teachers, students, administrators, traffic enforcement, attending events/ school activities etc.
 - Anytime the SRO goes into the school for something not captured in an existing category, it is recorded as ‘Other’
- ‘Diversion’ is an Extrajudicial Measure utilized outside of the formal court process that can provide effective and timely responses to youth crime. It is an opportunity to hold a first-time, non violent offender accountable for their actions outside of a formal court process.
- Accounts for all schools. Approximately 85% of calls are for Kincardine schools with less than 15% of time spent in Huron Kinloss schools.
- 2023 calls for service nearly double 2022. Increased calls for service are a result of increased awareness and use of SRO as a school resource by administrators