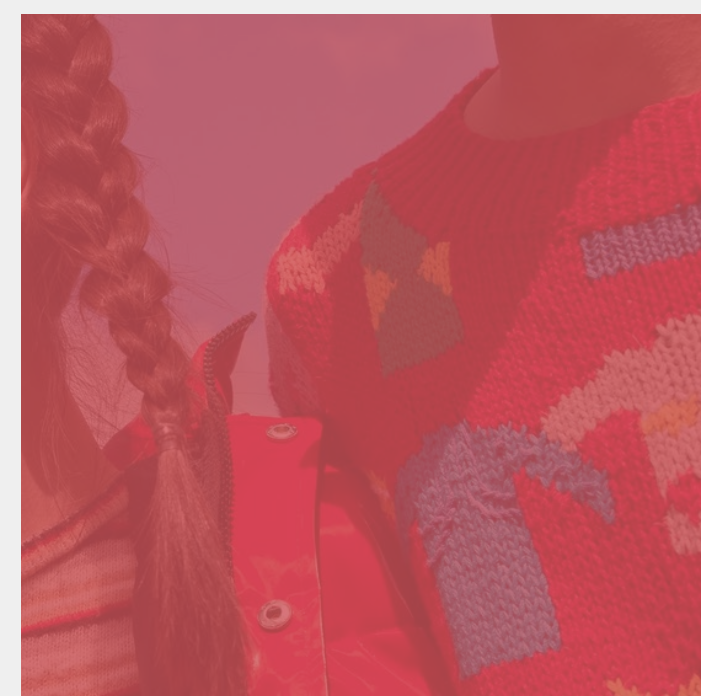
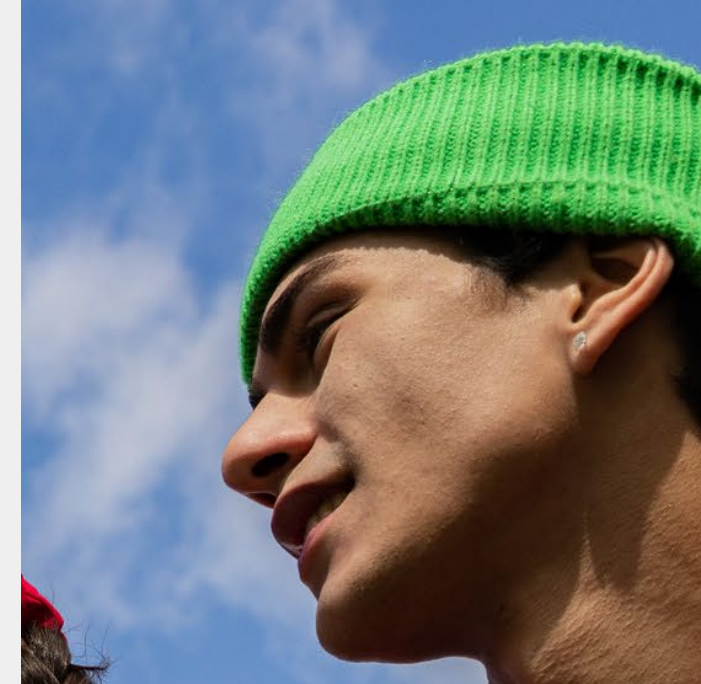




NEW WESTMINSTER



YOUTH RESILIENCE STRATEGY

2024/2025



The New Westminster Youth Resilience Strategy

The New Westminster Youth Resilience Strategy is a comprehensive document and strategy aimed to address challenges faced by youth in New Westminster, British Columbia.

Funded by Public Safety Canada's Building Safer Communities Fund (BSCF), this project was coordinated by the City of New Westminster in collaboration with local non-profit organizations, youth, and key partners .

Other BSCF Initiatives Funded in New Westminster Include:

- Implementation of the New Westminster Situation Table
- Creating the New Westminster Youth Hub
- Opening Dan's Diner (Youth-Led Social Enterprise)
- Development of Community Programs



Building the Plan by Listening, Contextualizing, and Strategizing

- ◆ Engaging the Project Team - January 2024
- ◆ Interviews and Focus Groups - February 2024
- ◆ Direct Youth Engagement - April 2024
- ◆ Service Provider Workshop - April 2024
- ◆ Youth Week Poster Session - May 2024
- ◆ Purpose Society In -Depth Engagement - May 2024
- ◆ Youth, Family & Stakeholder Design Labs and Youth Engagement - June 2024
- ◆ Robust Data Analysis - Entire Project Timeline
Including Statistical Data, Crime Data, Health Data, and white and grey literature.
- ◆ Aunt Leah's Youth Advisory Council - June 2024
- ◆ Youth Services Leadership Meeting - June 2024
- ◆ McCreary Centre Society - September 2024
- ◆ New Westminster School District - September 2024
- ◆ NWPD Gang Suppression Unit - October 2024
- ◆ Youth Validation Survey - November 2024
- ◆ Queensborough Community, School Admin, and Staff - December 2024



Building on The Best of New West



Youth Centre and
Afterschool Programs

The many parks and
outdoor spaces to gather

The new təməsewtxʷ
Aquatic and Community
Centre



Friendly people around the
city

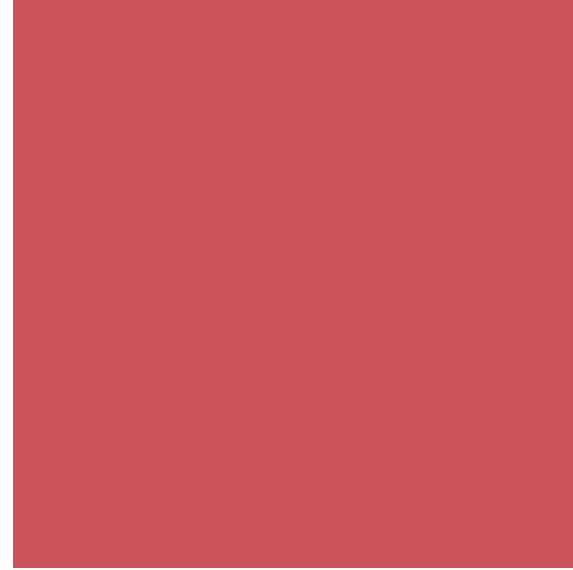
The many positive adults in
their lives (teachers, support
workers, parents, and
friends)



Great and fun community
events - like the craft
markets and events at the
Quay

The public art across the
community

Cool and welcoming local
businesses



Insights Shape Strategy

Youth

“Having someone you can talk to when things feel overwhelming makes all the difference.”

“Parks and stations feel unsafe when there’s no one watching out for you.”

"It's about knowing there are people who have your back".

Service Providers, Educators, and Families

Systemic gaps in coordination and communication

Opportunity for increased alignment across services

Need for trauma -informed practices

Important role for schools in early intervention and as hubs to connect youth to services

Challenge for Queensborough youth to access services in New Westminster

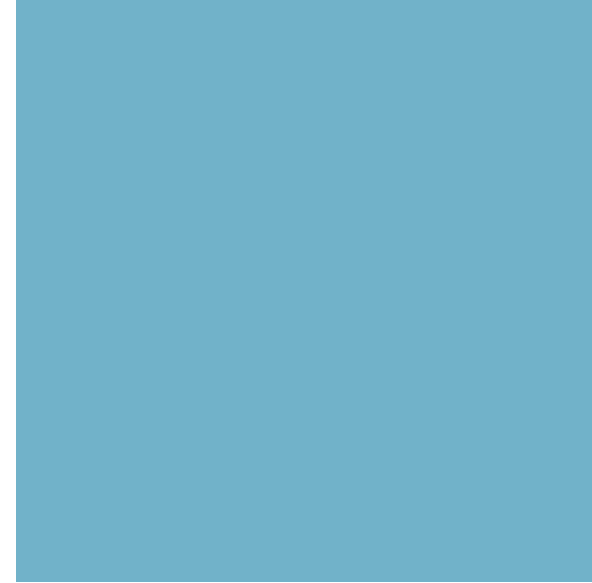
Concerns over regional gang and criminal activities

Data Insights

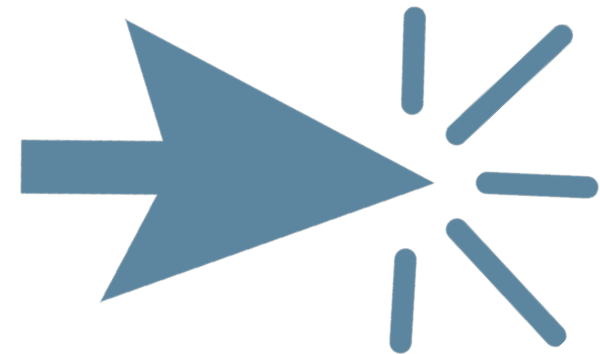
Rates of youth involvement in all criminal violations have trended downwards over a 20 year period, with slight increase from 2019 - 2023 with a decrease in 2024. Rates are still among historic lows in both counts and rate per 100,000.

There have been no youth charged or not charged with any firearms related criminal code violations in New Westminster.

Youth involved in gang related police files have decreased 79% from 2019.



Youth and Community Defined Priorities

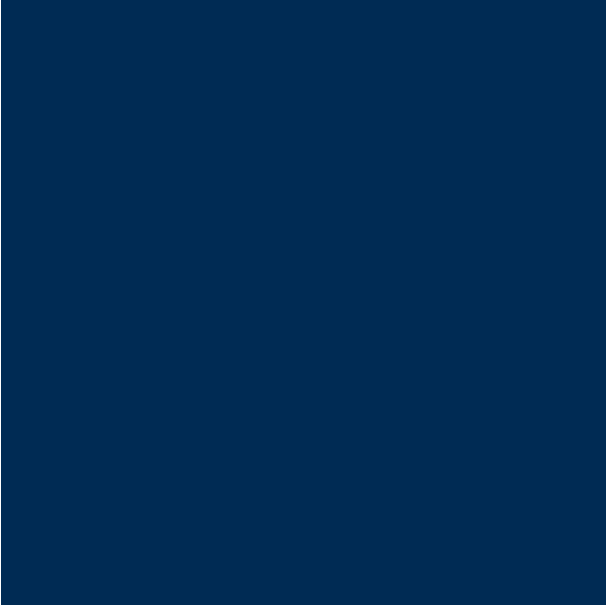


Safety in Schools and Public Spaces

Personal Safety for Youth

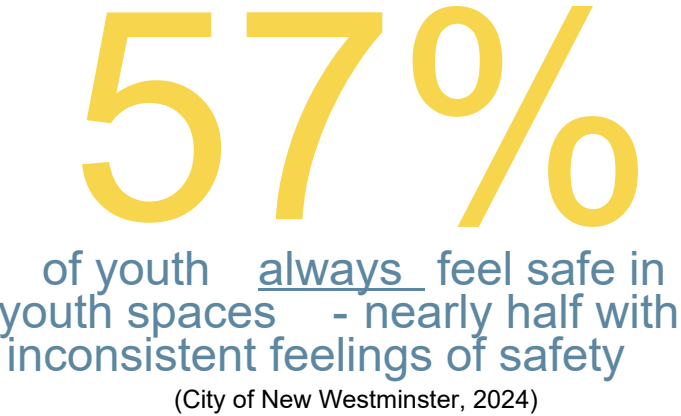
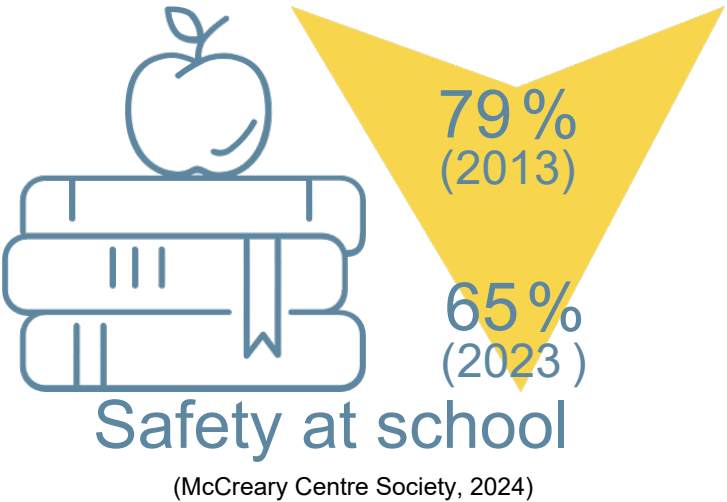
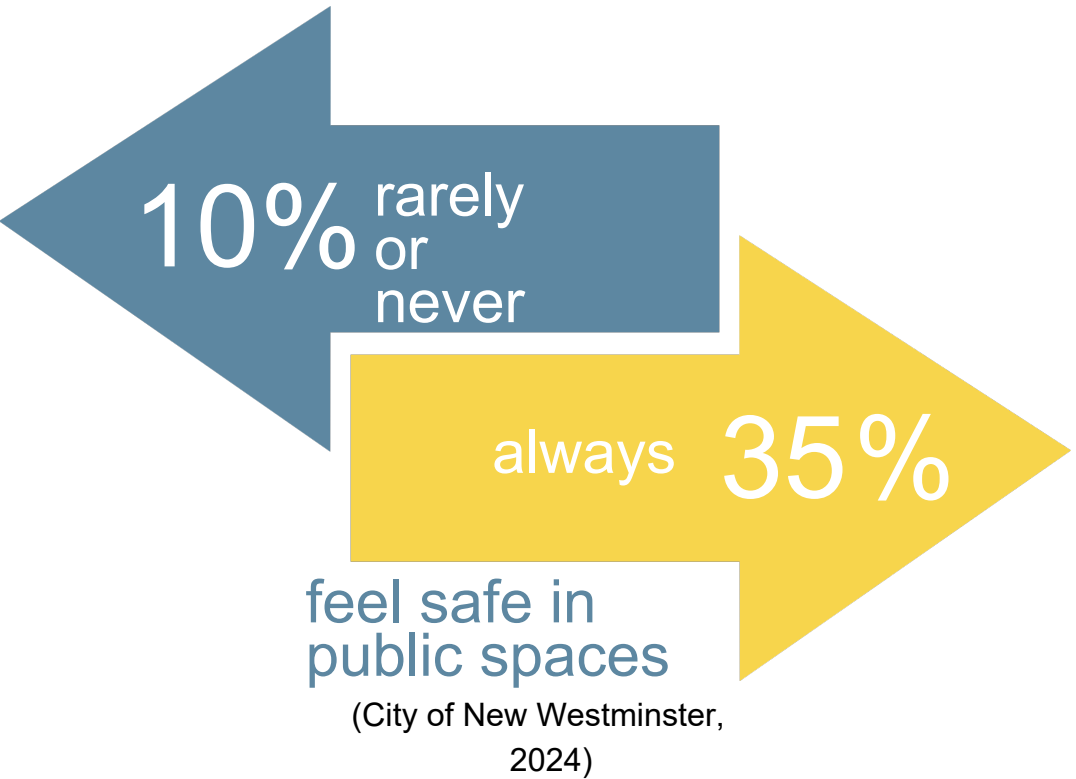
Positive Adult Connections and Role Models

Access to Programs and Services



Safety in Schools and Public Spaces

A recent student voice project indicates **80 %**
of youth feels safe at the Secondary School
(Student Voice, 2024)



“Knowing I have a community I can rely on keeps me feeling safe.”



Positive Adult Connections and Role Models

Teachers, family, and youth workers were the top three adults youth said could make them feel safer

(City of New Westminster, 2024)

67 % of youth said more trained adults in schools would help them feel safer

(City of New Westminster, 2024)



25% of youth felt they didn't have a single adult in the community who cared about them

(McCreary Centre Society, 2024)

43% of youth had low agreement with the statement: "An adult in my neighborhood really cares about me"

(Samji et al., 2023)

Only 38% of youth reported strong adult connections in the community, compared to 69% at home

(Human Early Learning Partnership, 2023)



Access to Programs and Services



35% of youth who needed mental health services didn't access them

(McCreary Centre Society, 2024)



36% said cost was a barrier to joining programs

(City of New Westminster, 2024)



47% of youth said fear of judgment stopped them from getting help

(City of New Westminster, 2024)



18% of youth reported not participating in any extracurricular activities

(Human Early Learning Partnership, 2023)



19% of youth are not confident they know where to go for help

(City of New Westminster, 2024)



A Community Vision of Youth Resilience

New Westminster is a community where every young person feels safe, valued, and empowered to thrive—connected to caring adults, inclusive spaces, and opportunities that build resilience and inspire a brighter future.

Youth Resilience Framework

THE RIGHT ROLE AT THE RIGHT TIME

Matching the best fit role for the municipality across all strategies and actions now and into the future.

A COLLABORATIVE MODEL

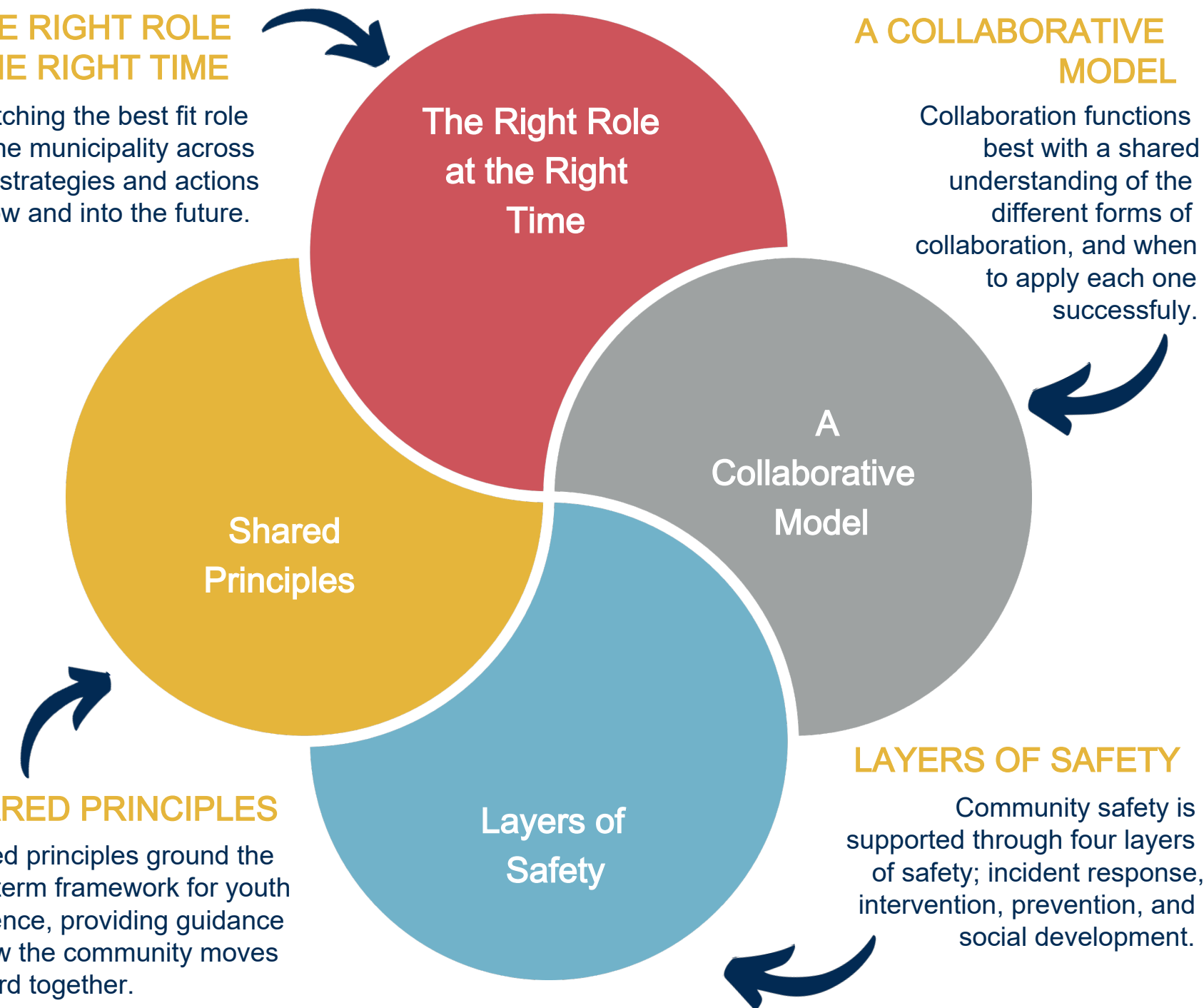
Collaboration functions best with a shared understanding of the different forms of collaboration, and when to apply each one successfully.

SHARED PRINCIPLES

Shared principles ground the long-term framework for youth resilience, providing guidance to how the community moves forward together.

LAYERS OF SAFETY

Community safety is supported through four layers of safety; incident response, intervention, prevention, and social development.



Foundational Principles



Collective Approach

We go together and work as a whole



Anti -Racist and Inclusive

Solutions account for diversity and are responsive to needs



Research -Based

Grounded in local and external research

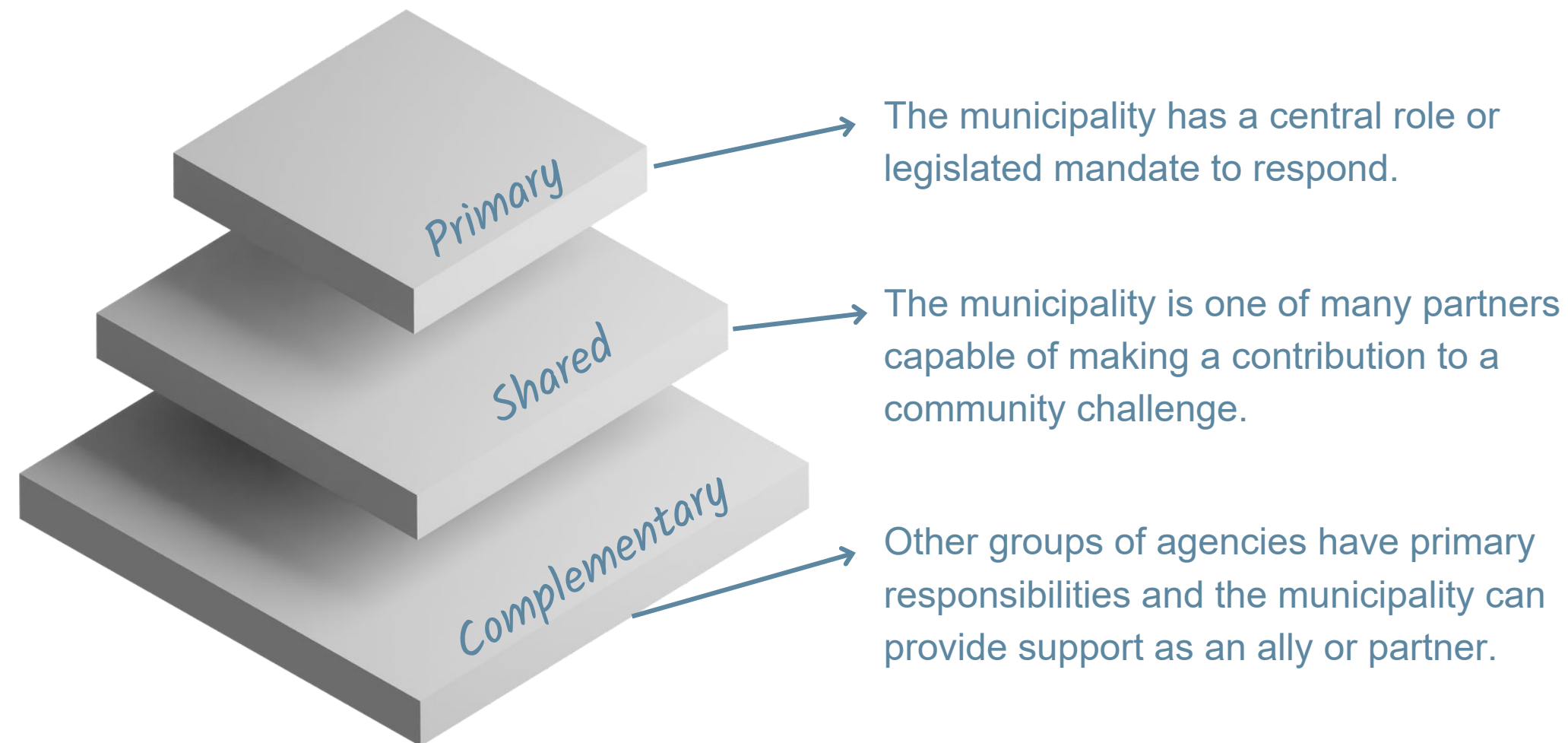


Informed by Youth

Youth drive design and implementation



Roles and Responsibilities



High Leverage Strategies



EMPOWERING YOUTH LEADERSHIP

Transform the role of youth in New Westminster by supporting their power to shape, influence, and thrive in their communities.



TRUSTED ADULTS AND POSITIVE RELATIONSHIPS

Ensure youth have ongoing access to safe, trusted adults in both formal and informal settings.



YOUTH ACCESS TO PROGRAMS, SUPPORTS, AND SERVICES

Foster protective factors through accessible, meaningful programs and services that build resilience.



COORDINATED SYSTEMS FOR SAFETY AND INTERVENTION

Build a responsive, integrated system that enhances youth safety through crosssectoral collaboration.



EMPOWERING YOUTH LEADERSHIP

Transform the role of youth in New Westminster by supporting their power to shape, influence, and thrive in their communities.

Seek Innovative and Informal Ways to Increase Youth Voice and Engagement Across Municipal Engagement Projects

Explore permanent opportunities to formalize civic leadership opportunities for youth.



TRUSTED ADULTS AND POSITIVE RELATIONSHIPS

Ensure youth have ongoing access to safe, trusted adults in both formal and informal settings.

Build Community Capacity Through Targeted Investment and Action

Expand Access to and Use of Restorative Justice Practices



YOUTH ACCESS TO PROGRAMS, SUPPORTS, AND SERVICES

Foster protective factors through accessible, meaningful programs and services that build resilience.

Further Identify Barriers and Gaps Experienced by New Westminster Youth

Reduce or Eliminate Barriers to Youth Access

Invest in Social and Recreation Prescription for Youth

Build Capacity for Program and Policy Design



COORDINATED SYSTEMS FOR SAFETY AND INTERVENTION

Build a responsive, integrated system that enhances youth safety through crosssectoral collaboration.

Explore and position the Municipality to lead and convene systems - level coordination for the youth resilience strategy.

Explore the formation of a short -term action committee to improve non -policing intervention systems for youth.

Consider the establishment of a Youth Social Development position at the City of New Westminster

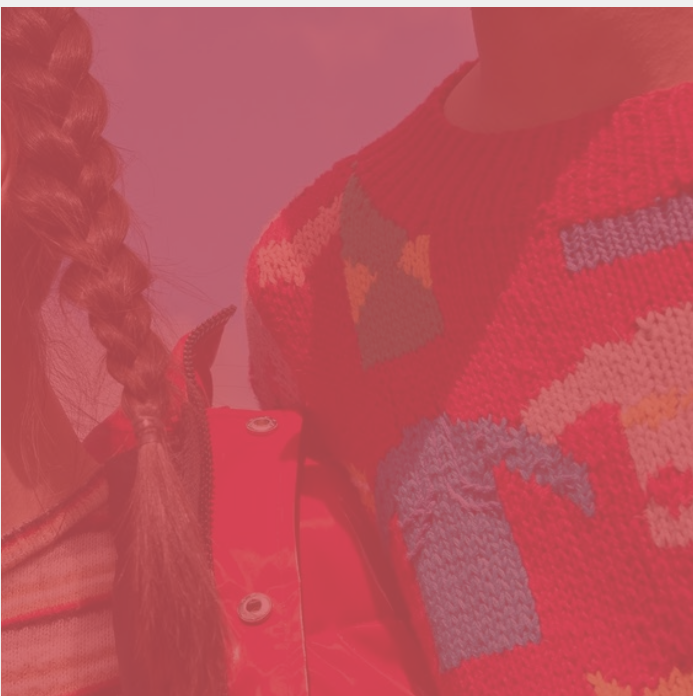


Evaluating the Strategy

- Host an annual youth resiliency summit
- Invest in third -party evaluation toward the following outcomes
 - Increased safety in schools and public spaces
 - Enhanced access to programs and services
 - Strengthened positive adult connections
 - Reduced youth vulnerability to violence and gang involvement
 - Increased youth engagement and empowerment
 - Increased interagency collaboration



NEW WESTMINSTER



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2024/2025