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# Chatham police to use provincial funding to fight sexual abuse, trafficking

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(Getty Images)

With the latest round of provincial funding announced, Chatham-Kent police plan to put it towards fighting sexual abuse and human trafficking in the community.

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The Ontario government stated it will invest approximately \$2.8 million over two years provincewide through the Community Safety and Policing Grant program.



Chatham-Kent police will receive \$195,476 while \$200,000 will go to Windsor police.

Chatham-Kent police Chief Gary Conn told The Daily News he welcomed the new funding.

“We are very pleased to be receiving the additional funds associated to the Community Safety and Policing Grant,” he said in a email on Monday. “Our service will be partnering with Chatham-Kent Victim Services and other key local and provincial community partners in undertaking a comprehensive approach to the serious issues of sexual violence, human trafficking and harassment in our community.

Conn added police will be “implementing a holistic strategy that is multi-faceted, victim-centred and engages both the larger community and our officers, through education and training.”

The following services are eligible under the grant:

- Education and awareness targeting the public and youth about gun and gang violence, substance abuse, and human trafficking;
- Enhanced training for officers to handle sexual violence and harassment investigations, identify signs of human trafficking and interact with victims;
- Crime prevention initiatives for at-risk youth and other vulnerable groups;
- Specialized units that provide a comprehensive, survivor-focused approach to human trafficking;
- Support services for survivors of sexual violence and harassment;
- Intelligence gathering and sharing, including surveillance of organized crime, covert operations and social media monitoring of gang activity;
- Intervention and diversion strategies focused on youth and young adults who are at risk of entering gangs, as well as exit strategies for victims of human trafficking; and
- Equipment purchases that support policing operations and activities, such as enhanced software and technology or new vehicles.

“Public safety is a necessity and, thanks to our police services and their partners, we are able to combat crime and hold offenders accountable,” Chatham-Kent—Leamington MPP Rick Nicholls said in a release.

“This investment will keep our much-needed front-line heroes safe so they may continue to make a difference in our communities by taking action when needed.”



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